



## VISION

WE ARE A HISTORIC PLACE



WE VALUE HEALTHY MINDS AND HEALTHY BODIES



WE HAVE A SPECIAL CHARACTER



# FY 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF CHOICE



WE HAVE FIRST-CLASS GOVERNMENT

**W**e are pleased to present the James City County Fiscal Year 2012 annual report which covers achievements, projects and other initiatives from July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012. During the year, the Board of Supervisors and County staff continued to maintain a delicate balance between services and fiscal responsibility. Your County government was able to meet those demands, plan for the future and maintain a positive fiscal report card. This year, updated values and visions were adopted and used to drive decisions and shape our future with the ultimate goal being the County's mission: **We work in partnership with all citizens to achieve a quality community.**

## Vision #1

### WE ARE A HISTORIC PLACE

**James City County recognizes its unique historic identity as the site of the first permanent English speaking colony in 1607, the first business enterprise and the beginning of representative government in America. We are a community that preserves and protects its irreplaceable assets for current and future generations and for visitors from around the world.**

1. We opened a new interpretive center in [Freedom Park](#) which features exhibits of artifacts recovered during the construction of the Park and includes an interactive kiosk highlighting the history and wildlife. It includes community meeting space with a kitchen and an outdoor patio and grilling area.
2. We re-opened Jolly Pond Dam after its closing in 2006 due to weather related damage. The County helped develop appropriate restrictions that would allow access to homes, businesses and schools located along the road while preserving the integrity of the dam.
3. Preservation and protection of the historic Norge Train Depot (circa 1906-08) became a reality as the building

## VALUES

### INTEGRITY

Earning confidence and respect by aligning our values, words and actions

### COLLABORATION

Making better decisions by building partnerships and sharing knowledge and resources

### EXCELLENCE

Providing outstanding customer service by striving to be the best in everything we do

### STEWARDSHIP

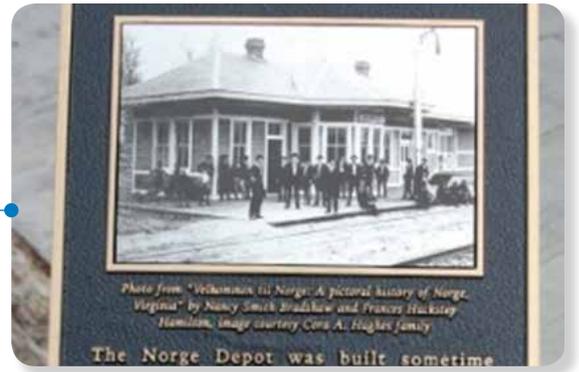
Improving our quality of life by safeguarding and enhancing the resources entrusted to us



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Jolly Pond Dam dates to the American Revolutionary period and has remained in continuous use since 1782. The original wagon trail that crosses over the top of the dam is now used as part of Jolly Pond Road.

was meticulously restored by a team of County staff, local businesses and residents. A cultural resource and source of community pride, it will be used by the community for exhibits, special events and meetings.



## Vision #2

### WE VALUE HEALTHY MINDS AND HEALTHY BODIES

James City County is a community that values and supports a high-performance education system for its children and adults as well as lifelong learning opportunities for all. We have easy access to a range of quality health care and a quality park and recreation system and leisure opportunities to promote wellness.

1. The [Powhatan Creek Trail](#) opened as part of the [Greenway Master Plan](#). This two-mile, eight-foot-wide multi-use trail provides a safe connection for neighborhoods, schools and historic sites. It was funded through the approved 2005 bond referendum and Federal and State grants.
2. To contribute to active, healthy lifestyle choices by promoting walking, we completed a [Pedestrian Accommodations Master Plan](#) and revised our Zoning Ordinance to more effectively and efficiently connect activity centers with sidewalks and multi-use paths throughout the County.
3. For the fifth consecutive year, the national publication *Library Journal* rated the [Williamsburg Regional Library](#) (WRL) as one of the best public libraries in the U.S. by giving it four stars, the only four-star rated library in Virginia. WRL is one of 111 public libraries nationwide, out of more than 7,500 measured, that have received a star rating in all five editions of the publication. WRL serves more than 85,000 people in the area, and the County funds over \$4.06 million for Library operations.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- More than **28,000 building inspections** were performed in FY 2012 to assure that buildings and structures meet minimum standards for public health, safety and welfare.
- **Thirteen neglected buildings** were removed and **eight buildings** were secured against unauthorized entry. **Twenty-three owners** of derelict buildings have been cited under the County's Unsafe Structures Ordinance.
- Over **2,600 diverse recreation programs** were conducted for citizens of all ages.



4. The [Mid County Park Master Plan](#) was completed and the process began to replace the aging Kidsburg playground, improve safety and offer self-paced, community recreation. The replacement of the playground included opportunities for public input into the design and vendor selection. ●
5. The [Williamsburg-James City County Schools](#) (WJCC) received over \$78 million from the County during fiscal year 2012 to support operating and capital activities. Expenses increased by 0.8 percent from Fiscal Year 2011, primarily as a result of an increase in employee retirement costs for professional staff and the purchase of school buses. ●
6. County firefighters installed 252 smoke alarm assist devices in eligible County residents' homes through a Federal Fire Prevention and Safety grant. The assist devices are a new and more effective type of smoke alarm that listens to traditional smoke detectors already installed in a home and emits a more effective low-frequency alarm along with vibration and visual alarms. Additional fire safety information and free smoke alarms were also provided.
7. A contract was finalized with [Eco Discovery Park](#) to continue operation of the Jamestown Marina and development of an environmental education park area. Consistent with the County's [Shaping Our Shores Master Plan](#), the Park encourages ecotourism, promotes adventure, recreation and demonstrates sustainable living practices.
8. "Kids Can Cook Too!", a video produced by the County and the WJCC School's School Health Initiative Program (SHIP), followed two Berkeley Middle School students as they learned to cook a healthy meal with a local chef. SHIP is a multi-faceted program that promotes better nutrition and physical activity for students at school and at home. The video program aired on local access channels and on [youtube.com/jamescitycounty](http://youtube.com/jamescitycounty). ●



### DID YOU KNOW?

- **739 students** completed the 4th Grade Learn to Swim Program in partnership with the WJCC Schools.
- JCC has **41 miles** of trails and **1,622 acres** of parks and facilities.
- **300 volunteer hours** were used to develop a trail connection between the recently completed Powhatan Creek Trail and the Church on the Main historic site which previously could only be accessed through one neighborhood.



## Vision #3

### WE HAVE A SPECIAL CHARACTER

James City County is known for its beauty as reflected in open spaces, vistas and the health of its ecosystems. We have a sense of community because there is a range of quality housing that is thoughtfully and logically placed and developed with sustainability in mind. Our community feels safe in its neighborhoods, which are attractive, pleasant and welcoming places to live.

Business and industry add to our character and want to locate and grow here. We are economically strong with a stable tax base and meaningful jobs. We have a safe, efficient multimodal transportation network that is interconnected with the rest of Hampton Roads and Virginia.

1. Busch Gardens Williamsburg received the Captain John Smith Award at the 18th Annual Celebration of Business held at Jamestown Settlement. The annual award is given by the Economic Development Authority to a business, organization or individual for exemplary contributions in the County business community.
2. Planning staff worked with officials from the City of Williamsburg and York County on a coordinated review of the region's Comprehensive Plans. The collaborative process included the completion of joint studies, a combined Board of Supervisors/City Council meeting, a meeting of all three localities' Planning Commissions and community forums throughout the Historic Triangle.
3. Fifty-three certified volunteers, trained and equipped to help monitor local waterways and watch for trends in water quality, evaluated water quality conditions at 21 sites. Two volunteers monitored bacteria levels in waterways at three locations in the Powhatan Creek watershed. Overall, the results for our County waterways are mixed with some sites showing acceptable water quality and some needing improvement.

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### In Energy

- **Thirty-six energy audits** were performed, **14 energy retrofits** and **4 Earthcraft renovations** were completed using the Climate Showcase Communities Grant Program received by the County from the Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Two LEED Certified County buildings** were constructed and opened, the Law Enforcement Center and Fire Administration.
- An **8 percent electricity reduction** was realized in County facilities and greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by **4 percent** compared to the previous year.



**HISTORIC TRIANGLE** James City  
Williamsburg  
York  
COORDINATED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### In Public Safety – Police

- **7:22 (min/sec)** – average response time to high priority police calls.
- Over **30 neighborhoods** participated in the National Night Out Program.

4. To enhance our special character, amendments were made in the County's Zoning Ordinance by adding landscaping treatment guidelines for each type of Community Character Corridor, dark sky principles for all outdoor lighting requirements and phased clearing requirements to discourage clear-cutting of sites.
5. The Zoning Ordinance Update included development of a Housing Opportunities Policy and the addition of provisions that offer a developer the incentives to increase affordable and workforce housing in a neighborhood development.
6. Ware Creek is the second largest watershed in the County and is a significant tributary to the York River. To protect the health of the ecosystem and irreplaceable natural resource, a baseline assessment and stakeholder meeting for a [Ware Creek Watershed Management Plan](#) was completed and the results will act as a guide for recommendations to improve water quality and stormwater issues.
7. Through a partnership with [Virginia Cooperative Extension](#), we received a grant to promote residential stormwater management practices in neighborhoods. The grant-funded [Garden Love](#) program installed two rain gardens as demonstration projects at the County Government Center and began to recruit volunteers for private rain garden installations. Rain gardens reduce the amount of storm runoff and recharge groundwater.
8. The [Building Safety and Permits](#) division was awarded special recognition by the [Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development](#) (DHCD) for participation and leadership in their Energy Assessment and Code Compliance Program. The County, one of twenty in the State, helped to gather data to benchmark compliance of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Virginia is a national leader in the enforcement of the IECC.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### In Public Safety – Police

- Clearance rate for violent crimes was **73.1 percent** compared to 54 percent nationwide for a similar population. Clearance rate for property crimes was **26.8 percent**, compared to 18.3 percent nationwide. (Clearance rates are reported by the FBI.)
- Crime rate: **3,447 crimes** (per 100,000 population), **down 4.2 percent** from 2010. James City County has the lowest crime rate on the peninsula. (Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Section, Department of State Police)



## DID YOU KNOW?

### In Water and Sewer

- Over **419 miles of sewer pipe** was maintained by the James City Service Authority (JCSA).
- **1.9 billion gallons of drinking water** was produced by JCSA.

9. Working with [Sports Williamsburg](#), we continued to grow our leadership in sports tourism events by hosting the nationally recognized [Football University](#) at [Wanner Stadium](#) for the second year. The County also hosted a State softball tournament and [Virginia Legacy Soccer](#) events.



10. Our commitment to strengthen the local tourism economy continued this year as the County was designated as a [State Tourism Zone](#). The designation provides local and State incentives to assist tourism businesses.

11. [Go Ape USA](#), a tree top adventure course, was constructed within [Freedom Park](#) without added taxpayer expense. The new public/private partnership includes the creation of new jobs, a three percent annual revenue share and reduced admission fees for residents.



12. [Economic Development](#) worked with 18 new or existing County businesses leveraging \$7.3 million in capital investment and creating 171 new jobs. Nine of these businesses including [Leebcor](#), [Virginia Packing LLC](#) and [American Pride Automotive](#) are located in the County's recently expanded Enterprise Zone. Businesses outside the Zone such as [The Pavilion at Williamsburg Place](#), [Habitat Re-Store](#) and [Williamsburg Pottery](#) also expanded.



13. The County invested in the marketing and development of [Christmas in Williamsburg](#), a joint venture between the [Williamsburg Area Chamber and Tourism Alliance](#), [Busch Gardens](#) and [Colonial Williamsburg](#). We saw a 30 percent increase in room nights, a 24 percent increase in meals tax and almost an 11 percent increase in sales tax over the previous year.

14. The [JCSA](#) completed construction of several projects adding distribution and water production capacities to our water system. Improvements to the Ironbound Road Water Storage Facility and Stonehouse Water Production Facility were completed. The installation of a major water transmission line on Longhill Connector Road was followed by a second phase of improvements from Ironbound Road to Monticello Avenue.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### In Public Safety – Fire

- **5:40** (min/sec) **average response time** for first arriving unit, **down 3 seconds** from FY 2011.
- **9,185 Fire/EMS emergency calls** dispatched **up almost 6 percent** from FY 2011.
- **6,147 calls** for emergency medical services, a **3 percent increase** over FY11.

# Vision #4

## WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF CHOICE

James City County is the County of choice for people of many income levels, cultures and ethnicities.

1. Three homes were rehabilitated and one structure was demolished as part of the [Forest Heights Community Development Block Grant](#), provided by Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD), and other local, private and Federal funds to build infrastructure and rehabilitate housing.
2. In an effort to serve our diverse community, the [County Police Department](#) offered special programs that reached over 300 seniors, minorities and non-English speaking residents to educate and inform about crime prevention. Other targeted programs include Rape Aggression Defense (RAD), RADKids, programs aimed at protecting children from online predators, a Child ID program, identify theft/fraud protection programs and Project Lifesaver.
3. Over 200 families received discounts for [Parks and Recreation](#) programs and services during the year through the department's [Financial Assistance Program](#).



### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Housing

- **40 new lots for homes** for mixed-income homebuyers were created in Ironbound Square. **Six new homes** were completed.
- **176 families** found homes under the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8), funded under Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- **55 households** were assisted through the Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) funded by the VDHCD.
- **41 future homeowners** were educated on the process of buying their first home through the Homebuyer Education Class, funded by the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA).

## Vision #5

### WE HAVE FIRST-CLASS GOVERNMENT

James City County Government focuses on the needs of the community by fostering citizen participation and involvement in local government. By maintaining a well-trained, professional and ethical staff, we continually strive to make James City County the best community to live, work and visit.

1. Our new County logo and brand, inspired by the 2007 public art sculpture “Voyage” displayed in Legacy Hall, was introduced. The updated look was designed internally and better reflects the mission, vision and values of the County organization.
2. The County retained its Triple-A bond rating on previously issued general obligation debt from both Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor’s (S&P) Rating Service. In addition, Moody’s Investors Service affirmed its Aa1 rating for General Obligation Bonds and revised its outlook to positive.
3. Zoning Ordinance revisions were drafted to streamline the development review process to provide greater transparency and predictability, improve communications and foster a positive perception of the review process for all parties involved.
4. A [building permit tracking database](#) was introduced on the County website to provide better customer access to permit and inspection status information, reduce the number of inquiries processed by front counter staff and maximize the amount of time inspectors can spend in the field.
5. A new Fire Administration building was opened after renovating the former Law Enforcement Center on John Tyler Highway. The facility houses the Fire Marshal offices, a state-of-the-art training area for [Emergency Medical Services](#) and [Fire Department](#) operations.

### JCC: THE NUMBERS

- Satellite Services assisted **10,897 citizens** and collected **\$1,136,355** in transactions.
- Over **89 percent of County households** participate in the curbside recycling program. Household recycling materials collected reached **6,146 tons**.



### JCC: THE NUMBERS

- County public meetings were viewed on line almost **40,000 times**.
- Over **19,000 followers and subscribers** used the County’s social media sites, [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#) or [email lists](#).
- After Hurricane Irene hit the area in August 2011, the public damage assessment was **\$2.75 million** for County and JCSA facilities.



6. Sixty County employees in leadership roles completed training that focused on building and sustaining trust, important to maintaining a professional and ethical staff.
7. The Police Department's [Volunteers in Police Service](#) (VIPS) volunteered approximately 800 hours of service to the community and thousands of citizens received educational and crime prevention materials.

## FY12 Snapshot

- The 2010 U.S. Census indicates that James City County is the 17th fastest growing locality in the Commonwealth.
- Over 200 disabled citizens were accommodated in programs and facilities and over 100 staff members were trained in the new Americans with Disabilities regulations to ensure citizens with disabilities are able to participate in programs and access facilities.
- An estimated 6,000 residents received Medicaid services each month.
- Over 7,200 residents enrolled in the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#).
- More than 200 children were served each month in the [Child Day Care Assistance Program](#).
- [Child Protective Services](#) completed 62 investigations and 204 family assessments.

## FY12 Capital Projects Completed

- Police Department building
- Fire Administration building
- Longhill and Centerville Roads' intersection improvements
- Government Center Buildings D and E renovation
- Merrimac Trail stormwater improvements
- Warhill and Jamestown High School ball field lighting
- Warhill trail dam decommissioning
- Whistle Walk's stream restoration
- Woodland Farms drainage improvement

## AWARDS, HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

### Police

- **First Place** – “Law Enforcement Challenge” program through the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP) for traffic safety and enforcement.
- **Second Place** – International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in a national competition for the same programs above.
- **“Best Team” Marine Patrol** – Awarded by the United States Coast Guard at the Sixth Annual Search and Rescue forum.

### Development Management

- **2012 Achievement Award** – National Association of Counties (NACo) for 2009 Comprehensive Plan.
- **Best in Category** – NACo Best Rural Program award for 2009 Comprehensive Plan.
- **Planning Innovation Award, Technology** – Awarded by the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association for the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Tracking tool.

### Parks and Recreation

- **2012 Gold Medal Award Finalist** – Presented by the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration.



### Communications

- **2012 Honorable Mention** – From the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors for two videos, “Every 30 Minutes” and “Curbside Recycling”.