

Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee 2006 Report to the General Assembly



Sponsored by Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr. and Delegate Vincent F. Callahan, Jr.

In less than 120 days, Virginia will begin inviting the world to commemorate America's 400th Anniversary – an 18-month series of events and programs designed to honor the legacies of Jamestown and educate the nation about Virginia's significant role in the country's development. Planning for the anniversary began nearly a decade ago, and today, citizens, communities, businesses and organizations across the state - by volunteering thousands of hours of their time and expertise - are putting the final touches on a spectacular array of programs and events that will reach every region of the Commonwealth.

Godspeed Sail May - August 2006

When the new replica *Godspeed* leaves Jamestown this May traveling to six cities along the Eastern Seaboard, the ship and its accompanying "Landing Party" will serve as ambassadors of Virginia. In Alexandria, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, New York and Newport, Rhode Island, visitors will be welcomed to the "Landing Party," a 30,000-square-foot festival created to entertain and engage while educating visitors about the significance of Virginia's role in American history. "The Landing Party" includes interactive displays on multiple stages; and, Anniversary Village – a tented area spotlighting our national and statewide partners and Virginia destinations.



Photo Courtesy of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

Educational and entertainment components of "The Landing Party" include "Anniversary Voices," a 16-member group of singers and dancers performing songs written expressly for the commemoration and a whimsical play for children telling the Jamestown story through the eyes of animal characters. Displays and educational exhibits including an exhibit entitled, *American People American Progress* will highlight the three original cultures - Virginia Indian, European and African - and compelling chapters in our nation's history. With performances, ship tours and exhibits the "Landing Party" and *Godspeed* will serve as beacons - paving the way for increased tourism and awareness - by showcasing exciting reasons for visiting Virginia in 2007 and beyond.

Mark Your Calendar for America's Anniversary Weekend



Virginia's centerpiece event in 2007 will be America's Anniversary Weekend, a three-day commemoration on the 400th anniversary of Jamestown's founding. Anniversary Weekend, May 11 – 13, 2007, will take place in three special locations, Jamestown Settlement, Historic Jamestowne and, "Anniversary Park" – a performance venue that will be located next to Jamestown Settlement.

Commemorative festivities, cultural events highlighting the three original cultures, pageantry, musical performances, a children's stage, celebrity appearances and much more are being planned to highlight this milestone American moment. Plans are currently being made through the federal 400th Jamestown Commemoration Commission to extend invitations to President Bush, Queen Elizabeth II of England and other international dignitaries. This exciting weekend is expected to attract 100,000 visitors as millions more learn about it through international media attention.

Virginia 2007 Community Program

More than 150 communities and organizations throughout Virginia, including one in Georgia and East Lindsey County, England are planning hundreds of anniversary programs and events as part of the Virginia 2007 Community Program. Through the community program, 2007 communities are helping ensure the commemoration reaches every corner of the Commonwealth and beyond, stimulating economic growth, tourism and awareness of Virginia's significant impact on modern America.



Statewide and National Partners



Governor Tim Kaine participates in planting ceremony for Anniversary Gardens.

The work of over 60 partners organizations, including NASA, the National Education Association and the U.S. Department of Education, has provided critical educational, marketing and outreach benefits that help support the commemoration on a local, statewide and national level. Statewide partner initiatives including "Anniversary Gardens," a statewide planting program and the Jamestown Commemorative Stamp Art contest involving students kindergarten through college in designing a cachet (envelope) for the first-issue Jamestown Commemorative Stamp, help to promote awareness and pride in Virginia, its history and all of its assets.

The next 18 months promise to be exciting and action filled. Each of the 10 signature events planned by Jamestown 2007 as well as Jamestown 2007's partner and community events are designed to provide a unique opportunity for Virginians and Americans to appreciate the legacies of Jamestown. Each is an opportunity to showcase Virginia as a sought-after tourism destination for visitors from across the nation and the world not just during the commemoration but for years to come.

Jamestown 2007 invites you to find out more detailed information about each of our events, partners, communities and related programs by visiting our Web site, www.americas400thanniversary.com.

2007 SIGNATURE EVENTS

