Verizon Joins Team

America’s 400th Anniversary organizers welcome Verizon Communications aboard as the commemoration’s third “Founding Colony” sponsor. Verizon joins the ranks of Norfolk Southern Corporation and Colonial Williamsburg as substantial investors in the commemoration honoring the 1607 founding of Jamestown as the first permanent English settlement in the Americas. Verizon is the official telecommunication’s provider of long distance, wireless, directory services and data communications for the commemoration.

U.S. Senator George Allen and Jamestown 2007 Executive Director Jeanne Zeidler joined state Delegate Vincent F. Callahan, to thank Verizon’s Bob Ingalls, executive vice president and chief marketing officer, for joining the commemoration team at a ceremony held in Old Town Alexandria.

Former Supreme Court Justice to Serve as Honorary Chair

Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor has agreed to serve as Honorary Chair of America’s 400th Anniversary. Justice O’Connor, the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, recently retired from the court after serving for more than 25 years as an associate justice.

As honorary chair, Justice O’Connor will participate in key events and programs that make up the 18-month commemoration, including America’s Anniversary Weekend in May 2007 and the Forums on the Future of Democracy conference in September 2007.

“America’s traditions of representative government, free enterprise, and cultural diversity have their roots at Jamestown. I’m honored to be associated with this important milestone marking the 400th anniversary of the first settlement there,” Justice O’Connor said. “The commemoration is a rare opportunity for all Americans to better understand the foundations of our nation as we work together to shape our country’s future.”

Justice O’Connor’s participation strengthens the commemoration’s status as an event of national and international significance. Her years of service on the court provide a unique perspective on the legacies that began at Jamestown.

Tavis Smiley to be a Key Player in America’s 400th Anniversary

National television and radio host Tavis Smiley, dubbed one of the nation’s “captains of the airwaves” by Newsweek magazine, has signed on to be a part of America’s 400th Anniversary. Smiley, one of the country’s most prominent African-American leaders, will host his “State of the Black Union” in Virginia next February as part of the 18-month commemoration honoring the 1607 founding of Jamestown, Virginia.

Since its inception in 1999, the “State of the Black Union” symposium has brought together many of today’s greatest African-American thought leaders to discuss key issues of importance to the American (Continued on page 4)
NASA’s Langley Research Center has joined America’s 400th Anniversary family through an official Space Act Agreement to develop educational resources, exhibits and support materials focusing on themes of exploration past, present and future.

“Exploration is the essence of the human spirit,” said Langley Director Lesa Roe. “As evidenced by Jamestown’s stature as the first permanent English settlement in America and NASA’s missions beyond this world, the drive to explore the unknown has been one of the constants in the history of the nation.”

Collaborative efforts will link exploration leading to the 1607 founding of Jamestown with NASA’s Vision for Space Exploration taking us to the moon, Mars and beyond.

Millions are expected to participate in the educational, public outreach and cultural events being planned for the 18-month commemoration.

NASA will join Jamestown 2007 in a series of signature events, including America’s Anniversary Weekend and the goodwill sail of the newly commissioned Godspeed, a replica of one of the three ships that landed at Jamestown in 1607.

“The spirit of exploration that brought European settlers to the Americas lives on today through the work being done by the men and women at NASA,” said Jeanne Zeidler, executive director, Jamestown 2007. “The Space Act Agreement links both groups of explorers by tying the founding of Jamestown nearly 400 years ago to new worlds that have yet to be explored.”

New Artifacts Being Purchased for Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation’s New Gallery

The Virginia African-American Forum, a Jamestown 2007 statewide partner, presented the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation with a $10,000 gift on February 18 for the purchase of African artifacts to be exhibited at the new exhibition galleries opening this fall at Jamestown Settlement. The new galleries will tell the story of the Virginia Indian, European and African cultural origins that converged at Jamestown in the 17th century.

As part of commemoration planning, the Forum is hosting a gala on October 14, 2006, to showcase the African-American elements of the new galleries and to give a preview of events planned for 2007. The gala will include a keynote speaker with expertise in African-American history and culture.

Proceeds from the gala will go toward additional African artifact purchases and scholarships for students in African history and museum studies. The Forum’s gift complements its mission to create international awareness of African-American influence on modern American society.

TowneBank Supports America’s 400th Anniversary

Williamsburg-based TowneBank presented Jamestown 2007 organizers with a $250,000 check on March 16 to support America’s 400th Anniversary. Virginia state Senator Thomas K. Norment and Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO and Vice Chair of the Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee Colin Campbell accepted the gift on behalf of Senator Thomas K. Norment during the grand opening of the bank’s new Monticello Avenue branch.
There is a simple way for Americans to honor the nation’s 400th anniversary. It doesn’t take much money and can be completed in as little as an afternoon. Governor Timothy M. Kaine built one even after professing to the world that his skills lie elsewhere.

So what did he do?

Governor Kaine planted America’s first official anniversary garden near Jamestown Settlement as part of his pre-inaugural festivities in January to show his support for the 400th anniversary.

Planting an anniversary garden doesn’t take much of a green thumb or a degree in landscape design. It involves nothing more than planting a red, white and blue-themed garden. Planting lists and suggested designs are available through the America’s 400th Anniversary and Virginia Tech web sites.

“This is an exciting time in Virginia. Planting an anniversary garden is yet another way to get the word out about this defining moment in our nation’s history,” said Kaine. “Over the next year and a half, we will educate people across the country – and across the globe – about Jamestown’s legacy as the cradle of our democracy and we will host tens of thousands of visitors who will come to Virginia to take part in the events marking this historic anniversary.”

The Anniversary Garden program is being led by Virginia Tech’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and its Cooperative Extension Service. Other participating groups include The Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association, The Virginia Flower Growers Association, The Virginia Green Industry Council, The Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, The Virginia Society of Landscape Designers and The Virginia Master Gardener Association.

The Tidewater Builders Social Services and the Southern Women’s Show in Richmond are the newest anniversary garden partners.

The program is designed to encourage people across the Commonwealth and the nation to show their support for America’s 400th Anniversary.

For planting lists, resources and other information visit http://www.ext.vt.edu/americasgarden/.

Jamestown Live!

Bringing Education to Life through a Free Web Event for 4th – 11th Grades

Join teachers and students throughout the nation and the world online and at Jamestown for an interactive Web cast on the legacies of Jamestown, our nation's birthplace.

November 9, 2006 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. EST
Live from Jamestown

Educators can register today at www.America’s400thAnniversary.com.
Commemorative Events Showcasing the African-American Imprint on America:

- October 2006: Preview Gala showcasing African-American artifacts at Jamestown Settlement
- February 2007: Tavis Smiley’s “State of the Black Union”
- February 2007: Voices from within the Veil, Norfolk State University
- March 2007: African-American Trailblazer Awards Gala sponsored by Richmond Region 2007 to recognize the contributions of key African-Americans to today’s society
- August 2007: African-American Commerce and Cultural Exposition showcasing the many areas of significant contributions of Africans and African-Americans during the past 400 years
- November 2007: Spiritual Imprint, Virginia Union University
- Spring-Fall 2007: Virginia African-American Music Conference, Virginia State University

Tavis Smiley

 важно отметить, что событие 2007 года: Унион Американский Совет, организованный Virginia Union University, с ко-президентом за Африкано-Американский Совет.

“America’s 400th Anniversary will focus the world’s attention on the Jamestown story, said Dr. Anderson. “Mr. Smiley’s participation ensures the African component will receive the emphasis it deserves. This symposium is the perfect vehicle for addressing today’s issues while we contemplate the past.”

February 25, 2006: Tavis Smiley, here with a panel of experts on economic empowerment, addresses a crowd of more than 5,000 at the State of the Black Union 2006, held at St. Agnes Church in Houston, Texas.

Photo courtesy of Photovisions Inc.

Advisory Council. Dr. Belinda Anderson, president of Virginia Union University, serves as co-chair of the African-American Advisory Council.

Jamestown, the settlement where the first Africans arrived and the site of the first permanent English settlement in the Americas.

“Jamestown changed the world in many ways, but perhaps it shaped our nation most profoundly the day Africans arrived,” Smiley said. “I can’t think of a more relevant place to talk about the issues facing our community today than the place where African culture became American culture.”

The 2007 State of the Black Union is part of a series of events that are being planned by the Jamestown 2007 African American
Virginia Indians View Commemoration as a Platform to Tell Their Story

— By Karenne Wood —

Virginia’s Indian tribes believe that 2007 provides a critical opportunity to reflect on and understand the "Virginia Experiment" that began in 1607, a time to acknowledge all that has been accomplished as well as what has been lost or left behind. Most of all, it is an opportunity for the Virginia Indian peoples to speak for themselves, to tell a part of our collective story that has not been told adequately before now. Our shared history is compelling: sometimes exhilarating, other times uncomfortable. For Virginia Indians, it is time to speak up, to celebrate their survival, their tenacity, and their adaptability, and to continue speaking until they believe they have been heard.

The eight state-recognized tribes of Virginia are working with Jamestown 2007, the organizers of America’s 400th Anniversary, to plan two major events related to the commemoration of the founding of Jamestown. The first event will be the Tribal Leaders' Symposium, which will take place Oct. 5-6, 2006. During this event, tribal leaders and American Indian experts from across the country will convene at the Williamsburg Lodge.

On Thursday, Oct. 5, a public seminar will address such topics as American Indian law and government policy, historic and environmental preservation, and prevalent myths and stereotypes confronting Indian people today.

On Oct. 6, members of the public can visit the Virginia tribes in their present-day locations and learn more about the historic and contemporary contributions of the Powhatan tribes and their allies. The group will travel to Amherst on Oct. 7 to visit the Monacan Nation's Annual Homecoming Festival, which has been held for more than 30 years on tribal homeland at Bear Mountain. This event promises to be an unprecedented exploration of contemporary issues facing American Indian people.

The Virginia tribes are also planning a public Intertribal Festival to be held at the Hampton Coliseum July 21-22, 2007. Tribes from across the country will be selected to join in this memorable event, which will highlight the Virginia tribes' history and cultures while demonstrating both the diversity and commonalities of American Indian experience. Programs will be geared to all ages. Visiting tribes will demonstrate their unique arts and dances and will talk about their historical experiences during the past 400 years.

American Indian artists will demonstrate and sell their work in pottery, basket weaving, beadwork, leather craft, and other skills. This event will provide an entertaining format for teaching the public about the contributions of American Indians to the formation of our country.

Karenne Wood is Chair of the Virginia Council on Indians

HIGHWAY MARKER DEDICATION

A new highway marker honoring Opechancanough, chief of the Powhatan Confederacy during the early years of the Jamestown settlement, was unveiled on March 22, 2006 along U.S. 360 in King William County.

The sign marks the location of an Indian town between the Pamunkey River and Moncuin Creek where Opechancanough lived.

Dozens attended the ceremony along the stretch of U.S. 360 heading toward Central Garage. It was the first of 10 historical markers being installed along Virginia roads to tell the story of the Virginia Indian tribes present here long before the arrival of Europeans.

Virginia 2007 Community Program Update

Virginia’s 2007 Communities are as varied as the projects being planned to promote America’s 400th Anniversary. Virginia’s largest counties, its smallest towns and even some private groups are developing ambitious community-wide projects that stand to benefit each region for years to come.

While the definition of what makes a community varies, all of the Virginia 2007 Communities have a common goal. Each group is made up of dedicated volunteers and supporters who are excited to be involved in promoting their community during America’s 400th Anniversary.

More than 157 participating communities represent every corner of the Commonwealth. Committees are working on nearly 1,000 initiatives for projects and special events. Many groups are planning legacy projects that will last far beyond the commemoration, including historic building renovations, new museums and special exhibits, streetscape improvements, hiking trails, parks, and other initiatives designed to increase tourism and promote economic development opportunities.

Consider Page County.

“The goal with our planned programs is to emphasize the vast amount of history, resources and talent in Page County and perhaps discover new and exciting potential, people and places in the process,” said Sharon Sampsell, chair of the Page County 2007 Community Program.

Residents are connecting with their heritage and engaging diverse groups of people as they look at their past, consider the present and make plans for the future. Students throughout Virginia are conducting oral history projects, writing booklets on local history or participating in library reading programs focused on Virginia’s past. Historical societies are making special efforts to preserve archival material, writers and photographers are publishing coffee table books, and theaters are commissioning new plays about Jamestown or local history.

Communities are also working on special events that will begin this spring and will last through 2007. Several are using “Theme Months” created by Jamestown 2007 or developing new events such as “Remembrance Days,” reunions, poster or essay contests, lectures, or reenactments. Others are using the “Come Home to…” theme, or adapting existing festivals and fairs to include commemorative ideas. Some communities are joining together to create larger events.

With creativity, initiative and a lot of enthusiasm, Virginians are highlighting the unique history and cultures of the Commonwealth for visitors and residents alike. For a complete list of Virginia 2007 Communities and their proposed legacy projects and special events, please log on to the Web site at www.Americas400thAnniversary.com
America’s 400th Anniversary launches with an 80-day sail of the newly commissioned replica Godspeed, bringing a bit of American history to six major ports along the eastern seaboard.

Join in the excitement of the "Landing Party Festival" - featuring live musical performances, family entertainment, historical and cultural displays highlighting the legacies of Jamestown and the growth of America -- free to the public, at a port near you.
Jamestown 2007, a sub-agency of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, is coordinating efforts to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, the first English settlement in the Americas. Jamestown is also the site of the nation’s first representative, free enterprise and multi-cultural society. State, national and international commemorative events to salute these legacies begin in May 2006 and continue into 2008. Major corporate sponsors of America’s 400th Anniversary include Norfolk Southern Corporation, (NYSE: NSC) and Colonial Williamsburg. More information about the commemoration is available at www.Americas400thAnniversary.com.

Visit Our Website at www.Americas400thAnniversary.com

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America’s 400th Anniversary
The Journey That Changed the World