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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-hampton-fort-monroe-retreat-20160317-story.html>

Fort Monroe board approves more land for National Park Service

By Ryan Murphy
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March 17, 2016

Should Fort Monroe become a state park? Could the Fort Monroe Authority start some kind of lifelong learning center at the historic fort in cooperation with major universities? Maybe both?

Plenty of ideas came out of the wide-ranging discussion at the Fort Monroe Authority's Board of Trustees retreat held at the George Washington Birthplace National Monument in Northern Virginia Thursday.

One of the central questions of the meeting — whether the authority wants to sell off properties at the fort, lease those properties or some mix of the two — still seems unresolved.

An economic analysis presented by FMA Executive Director Glenn Oder last year indicated that some property sale, primarily of residential properties, would be needed for the board to reach financial sustainability.

Most board members said they were opposed to sales in general — state Sen. Mamie Locke said the idea gave her "heartburn." But Jay Joseph, vice president of real estate firm Harvey Lindsay, said no matter who owns them, many of the fort's properties will be used as private residences or businesses.

"My concern, quite honestly, is we have 110 buildings, 1.2 million square feet of space.... Unlike other state property, probably half of those have no public use," Joseph said. "The question is, How do you deal with these buildings we want to save? ... I don't want to be here in 10 years and having 500,000 square feet of rotting buildings."

He argued that private ownership could lead to better preservation of those properties than if the authority had to prioritize some properties over others because it didn't have enough money to address every crumbling property at once.

Joseph and other board members agreed that preservation of the historic properties, whether sold or leased, would be a priority.

"My vision of this place is completely controlled — think of the strictest covenants and historic easements," Joseph said.

Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward advocated implementing an entry fee for the park as a means to financial sustainability.

"This is essentially a very complicated state park at the end of the day," Ward said. "There's no other state park in the system that you can drive onto without paying a fee by car."

Ward said that between entry fees and retail sales, state parks earn back 60 percent of their operating expenses. She said she could work with FMA staff to explore getting Fort Monroe — already mostly owned by the state — officially designated as a state park.

Destry Jarvis, who has a long history working with parks and conservation groups, said "you could probably balance the budget" just with entry fees. "It's a peninsula that has controlled access. Virtually every significant national park in the country has an entrance fee," he said.

He also argued that development of Fort Monroe should be a hand-in-glove partnership with the National Parks Service

"If the bottom line is, can this place be economically successful and not permanently dependent on appropriations from the General Assembly, I think the only way that's true is if this is operated as a wholly unified monument complex that is a federal-state joint venture," Jarvis said.

John Hutcheson, the FMA's deputy executive director, said there's more to the economic sustainability puzzle than meets the eye — for instance, the estimated \$75 million to \$100

million to update the fort's utilities to the point where the FMA can turn them over to the appropriate municipal providers and "get out of the utilities game."

No decision was made on admission fees.

Board chairman and former congressman Jim Moran pitched an admittedly off-the-wall idea: an educational institution at the Fort Monroe geared toward baby boomers.

He said it would capitalize on the existing layout and original uses of many of the buildings on what he called the Fort Monroe "campus," along with attracting a population with plenty of disposable income.

"Kids tear up a campus ... but they don't have the money we're looking for," he said. "I think this could be a really exciting campus for lifelong learning."

Moran said he's got interest already from the presidents of Virginia Tech, George Washington University and others and said he wanted to get those presidents to Fort Monroe so they could see it for themselves. The board overall seemed intrigued by the idea and instructed Oder to explore the possibility.

The board did make some concrete moves Thursday. The trustees gave Oder permission to move forward with plans for a \$5.3 million visitor center at the post library.

The board also approved the transfer of a wide swath of land along the eastern edge of the FMA's property — roughly between Fenwick Road and the shoreline, from the NPS property in the north to the southeast corner of the property — to the National Parks Service in the interest of uniting the inner fort property with the large NPS-owned area to the north of the main fort.

The FMA and the NPS will enter into negotiations soon to see what that transfer will look like — whether the FMA retains control of the buildings while the NPS takes over the green spaces, for example.

Murphy can be reached by phone at 757-247-4760. Copyright © 2016, Daily Press

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/hampton-matters-blog/dp-bridge-naming-dispute-brings-flood-of-suggestions-20160315-post.html>

Bridge naming dispute brings flood of suggestions

By Ryan Murphy

March 15, 2016

When a group of people calling themselves Citizens for Fort Monroe announced last week that they would push to name a bridge in Phoebus for Fort Monroe's history rather than the Hampton City Council's choice – civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. – the next logical question was, "Well, what do we call it, then?"

The petitioners have suggested Union General Benjamin F. Butler, black educator Mary Peake or the trio of escaped slaves named as contraband in Butler's famous decision as potential namesakes for the bridge to Fort Monroe at the end of Mercury Boulevard.

As they say, everyone's got an opinion, and many of our readers shared them online. Plenty asked why the name was even at issue and advocated keeping the name to memorialize King. Others offered up the following alternatives:

- Abraham Lincoln — Michelle B. Pascucci notes on Facebook that the nation's 16th president "was the one who locked up (Confederate President) Jefferson Davis in Fort Monroe after the Civil War.

- Robert E. Lee – Facebook user Lynn Sparrow says "he was the engineer that oversaw the fortification of the fort."

- Fallen police/fire/military personnel – Jamie Graves cites Airman 1st Class Lee Bernard Chavis or Marine Lance Cpl. Darrell J. Schumann, two servicemen from Hampton who died in Iraq in separate incidents in 2005 and 2006.

- Simon Bernard – Benjamin Buzard suggests the French general who designed Fort Monroe in the wake of the War of 1812.

- Marcellus Spencer "Boo" Williams Jr. – Nick Booker says the youth sports organizer should get the honor. "The revenue from basketball speaks for itself," he says.

Groups for and against the MLK name plan to speak at the City Council's meeting next Wednesday.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/letters/dp-nws-edt-letsthu-03017-20160316-story.html>

March 17 Letters: One City Marathon, Fort Monroe bridge

March 16, 2016

The bridge to Fort Monroe should be named Butler Bridge. Gen Benjamin Butler the commanding officer at the fort who provided sanctuary for escaped slaves, which led directly to the formation of Hampton Institute.

William Melgaard

Hampton

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/editorials/dp-edt-hampton-bridge-20160315-story.html>

Editorial: Bridge near Fort Monroe should be named after someone with closer ties to Freedom's Fortress

March 16, 2016

A heated battle is now brewing in Hampton over the naming of a bridge leading into Fort Monroe.

The nondescript crossing, about 2,000 feet long, spans Mill Creek and connects the easternmost part of Mercury Boulevard in Phoebus to the former Army post. The bridge has been nameless for its 27-year history.

Now comes the question: Should this bridge be named after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?

A citizens group, tasked by the Hampton City Council in 2010 with coming up with ways to honor the late civil rights icon, has recommended naming the crossing the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Bridge.

A bridge makes perfect sense, the group says, because of Dr. King's ability to bridge divides.

The NAACP, Hampton University, the Southern Christian Leadership Council and some other local groups also backed the idea. And the City Council agreed, voting unanimously on Feb. 24 to name this bridge after Dr. King.

Not so fast, another group of citizens says.

Nothing against Dr. King, they say, but what did he have to do with Fort Monroe? It would be better, they assert, to name the bridge after someone who actually had a connection to the historic fort, or at least someone with a closer tie to Hampton.

That group has amassed more than 1,300 signatures to change the council's mind. While the bridge naming was on the council's agenda five days before the meeting, the group says it first learned of the decision after reading about it in the Daily Press.

Then they suggested other possible honorees.

What about Mary Kelsey Peake, who, at 16 years old, taught slaves to read and write before the Civil War, in defiance of law? A member of an elite black Hampton family, Mrs. Peake then taught scores of children and adults — many of them former slaves — at a school she founded at the Emancipation Oak, now at Hampton University.

The citizens group also suggested naming the bridge after three escaped slaves — Frank Baker, James Townsend and Shepard Mallory — who sought freedom at Fort Monroe. Under this idea, the bridge would be named in a hyphenated fashion, such as the Baker-Townsend-Mallory Memorial Bridge.

Then there's the late Army Gen. Benjamin Butler, whose decision to treat slaves as contraband of war allowed many of them to seek freedom at Fort Monroe.

We like the idea of naming this bridge after someone who had an impact at Fort Monroe and its rich history as Freedom's Fortress.

After all, if we don't honor our local heroes, who will? This region is rich in African-American history, and we do that history a disservice when we don't even consider recognizing the people who shaped it.

As for Dr. King, we should honor his legacy by naming something even bigger after him, perhaps something with a strong connections to the local African-American community.

This isn't meant to slight the great civil rights leader. Dr. King, of course, is one of the most transformative figures of modern times.

But Dr. King has hundreds of streets, schools or monuments across the country named in his honor, and a federal holiday, too. We wonder if he would feel much rewarded by having a nondescript bridge so offhandedly and casually named for him. It's a move that almost seems to diminish his legacy.

Moreover, Dr. King always believed in sharing the credit. "Everybody can be great ... because anybody can serve," he said. "You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

While organizing the Montgomery Alabama bus boycott, he credited Rosa Parks by calling her "one of the finest citizens in Montgomery ... taken from a bus and carried to jail and because she refused to get up to give her seat to a white person."

Andrew Shannon, who leads the local chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the group founded by Dr. King, is steadfast in wanting the bridge named after him.

Fair enough. But then Mr. Shannon contends that those who disagree with the council's previous decision "want to relive the Civil War."

That language isn't helpful. Those who want to name the bridge after someone else don't want to relive the Civil War. They merely want to do right by Hampton's great history. There's nothing wrong with asking the council to reconsider.

This could come to a head on March 23, when both sides of this fight attend that night's council meeting.

There's clearly a compromise to be made here. We should honor Fort Monroe's legacy with this bridge over Mill Creek. Then we could name something bigger and better after Dr. King, thereby strengthening our local ties to this nationally known icon.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-hampton-bridge-update-20160314-story.html>

Groups back Hampton council on King bridge naming as renaming efforts gather steam



A group of Hampton residents have taken issue with the city's decision to name the bridge between Mercury and Fort Monroe after MLK. The supporters say it should honor Fort Monroe historical figures instead. The group have pick up over 300 names on their petition.

(Joe Fudge)

Ryan Murphy rmurphy@dailypress.com

March 14, 2016

HAMPTON — A civil rights group is looking to rally local residents against an effort by some Hampton citizens to reverse the Hampton City Council's decision to name a bridge in Phoebus for civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In the meantime, physical and digital petitions to name the bridge for a figure historically associated with Fort Monroe rather than King have garnered around 1,300 signatures by Monday.

Often known colloquially as the Mercury Bridge or the Fort Monroe Bridge, the span at the end of Mercury Boulevard has been without a formal name since it was built in 1989.

Andrew Shannon, leader of the local chapter of the King-founded Southern Christian Leadership Conference, says only now that the name of a civil rights icon is being put on the bridge is the identity of the bridge an issue.

"Once they came up with that name, now people want to relive the Civil War. If they do, I'm going to let them know we won the Civil War," Shannon said.

The SCLC will hold a rally at next week's city council meeting in support of the council and their decision to name the bridge after King. Hampton NAACP President Gaylene Kanoyton said her group would be encouraging members and community residents to show up to support the decision as well.



Hampton residents push to name Phoebus bridge for local history, not MLK

Petitions also are circulating among the community gathering support for the King name.

Several Hampton citizens said last week that the decision to name the bridge between Phoebus and Fort Monroe had not included enough public input and are pushing to have the bridge named in honor of local historical figures rather than King.

The group is now operating under the name Citizens for Fort Monroe, not to be confused with the Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park group, which advocates for joining of the two sections of National Parks Service land at the fort.

There's a street between Hampton University and the Hampton VA Medical Center named Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, which the detractors pointed to as even more reason to name the bridge something else.

Shannon said Monday that the SCLC has been pushing for a more prominent memorial for King in Hampton for 15 years, working through government channels and not through demonstrations in Hampton as it had in Newport News in its campaign to have memorials named for King in that city.

"We could have come out and advocated against taking Confederate names off of schools in Hampton, but we said we want to take the high road," Shannon said.

Hampton has two schools — Jefferson Davis Middle and Robert E. Lee Elementary — named for prominent Confederate figures.

Last week, Councilman Will Moffett pointed to the school names as well as a prominent monument to Confederate soldiers who died during the Civil War located at St. John's Episcopal Church in downtown Hampton as evidence of the city's willingness to highlight different views.

"Hampton has always been tolerant of its diversity of opinion," he said. "It's my hope that (the bridge name) issue doesn't become divisive."

Phoebus residents Kim Vaughn, Angela Rich and others involved in the group have said that it has nothing to do with race and they'd be happy to see something else named for him in the city.

"We are not saying we are opposed to anything Martin Luther King stands for and are in agreement that his legacy needs to be remembered," Vaughn said. "But the biggest thing is this is leading to historical Fort Monroe. There are so many different stories of history, not just one."

Vaughn said for every person that weighs in on the name, there's a different part of the fort's history that appeals to them. She said the group wants more citizen input and another vote on the name.

The group gathered about 1,000 signatures during the weekend in their effort to find a different moniker. A handful of alternative ideas have circulated among the citizen group, including naming the bridge for Union Gen. Benjamin Butler, famed black educator Mary Peake and others.

Vaughn said the group plans to present the petition to the council and ask them to reconsider.

Mayor George Wallace has made clear that he believes the case is closed on the issue after the council adopted the resolution at its meeting in late February and would not be in favor of renaming. He's said if citizens have ideas about naming other landmarks or infrastructure for historical figures that the council would be more than receptive to those proposals.

The Hampton City Council will meet on March 23. An afternoon work session will be followed by a citizen's spotlight segment at 6 p.m. and the regular council meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Murphy can be reached by phone at 757-247-4760.

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/general-assembly/article_9b7a2130-11ed-541b-92b0-13f014a21956.html

\$2.1 billion bond bill ties new capital spending to completing Capitol Square project

March 11, 2016

By MICHAEL MARTZ Richmond Times-Dispatch

A \$2.1 billion bond agreement adopted Friday would tie new capital spending to state contracts for a major Capitol Square overhaul, including the replacement of the General Assembly Building, which Gov. Terry McAuliffe has said he won't allow to be built until the legislature expands health care coverage for uninsured Virginians.

The bond bill approved on a 38-1 vote by the Senate and a 91-3 vote by the House of Delegates would prohibit the release of money raised by new bonds for projects backed by McAuliffe — including a new state park in Stafford County, expansion of Western State Hospital in Staunton, and construction of a parking deck at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond — until the

state signs construction contracts for projects authorized in a special session of the General Assembly in 2014.

“In essence, if we do not proceed with what we enacted two years ago, none of the projects ... can proceed,” House Appropriations Chairman S. Chris Jones, R-Suffolk, told the House. During that special session, the governor and leaders of the assembly money committees shook hands on a \$300 million Capitol Square overhaul that McAuliffe had suspended in a bitter budget standoff over his unsuccessful attempt to expand health coverage with billions of dollars in federal funds under the Affordable Care Act.

A year ago, McAuliffe formally allowed state funds to pay for planning and engineering of a new General Assembly Building at North Ninth and East Broad streets and a parking deck on the opposite corner, but the governor’s office said again this week that he would not sign bonds to pay for construction of the project until the legislature expands health coverage for the uninsured.

The Capitol Square plan also includes renovation of Old City Hall.

State parks

The bond compromise reached Friday would raise about \$300 million less than McAuliffe had proposed last fall, but the deal restores almost \$40 million for state parks, including the initial phase of the new Widewater State Park on Aquia Creek in Stafford County, that the House had eliminated entirely in its proposal.

McAuliffe had sought \$140 million in new capital spending for parks, including Biscuit Run in Albemarle County, which is not part of the final package.

Juvenile corrections

It also provides money only for planning a new juvenile correctional center the state wants to build in Chesapeake. It is part of a plan to transform Virginia’s juvenile justice system to rely more on community-based programs and smaller state facilities as a way to reduce the number of youths returning to the correctional system.

The new center most likely would replace the Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center in Powhatan County. McAuliffe had sought up to \$90.5 million to replace both Beaumont and the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center in Chesterfield County.

The package does not include more than \$100 million that McAuliffe had sought to renovate and expand the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation, which houses civilly committed sex offenders. However, Jones said the assembly could revisit the issue during the so-called veto session next month.

One of the bond issues authorized under the legislation also would allow construction of a \$20.3 million expansion of Western State, a state mental hospital that could be crucial in an impending study to restructure the state's mental health facilities.

It also would allow expansion of the state's central forensic lab and chief medical examiner's office in Richmond and replacement of the air-handling system at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

VCU projects

The largest of the bond issues, almost \$1.4 billion through the Virginia College Building Authority, would pay for planned projects at colleges and universities, including Virginia Commonwealth University's top two priorities: construction of a new building for the School of Allied Health Professions and expansion of the School of Engineering.

It also would pay for construction of the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Logistics Systems in Prince George County through a VCU-led consortium.

The bond package includes money to plan for a new STEM laboratory building at VCU, as well as renovation of Sanger Hall on the medical campus and the Raleigh Building on the Monroe Campus.

The legislation does not specify dollar amounts for projects to protect the competitive bidding process, but VCU said last year that it is seeking about \$120 million in state funds for the allied health sciences building and engineering school expansion, and \$76 million for the STEM lab.

Colleges and universities

The higher education bonds also include money to expand the Nicholas Center and renovate Bird Hall at John Tyler Community College in Chester; build the first two phases of a fine arts center at the College of William and Mary; renovate academic buildings at the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech; and build an addition to the Jepson Science Center at the University of Mary Washington.

Richmond-area projects

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Richmond-area projects

Two other small bond issues include money for renovation of the Robinson House and construction of an art conservatory laboratory at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; a supplement for the Virginia War Memorial; and construction of event space at the Science Museum — all in Richmond.

In addition, the package would allow planning to proceed for expanding the Division of Consolidated Labs; renovating Morson Row on Governor Street at Capitol Square; replacing the Daniel Gym at Virginia State University in Ettrick; and building a Center for Innovation and Educational Development at Richard Bland Community College near Petersburg.

Port of Virginia

The biggest initiative under the bond package provides \$350 million that McAuliffe had sought to expand capacity of the Norfolk International Terminal at the Port of Virginia. The Senate had proposed to use \$135 million in transportation trust funds in addition to bonds to pay for the project, but the House prevailed in financing the expansion entirely through bonds.

The package also includes: \$59 million to pay for wastewater facilities to reduce direct pollution of waterways; \$20 million for local stormwater assistance grants the Senate had sought in its proposal; and \$5.25 million to turn a library at Fort Monroe into a visitor center.

Those projects, as well as expansion of the port and the two small bond issues, would not be tied to contracts to replace the General Assembly Building.

In addition to restricting release of bond money until the state secures contracts for the Capitol Square projects, the proposal would limit the amount of debt the state could issue in a year and expand legislative oversight of how the money is spent. It would require quarterly reports to the leaders of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-hampton-bridge-renaming-20160311-story.html>

Hampton residents push to name Phoebus bridge for local history, not MLK

By Ryan Murphy rmurphy@dailypress.com
March 11, 2016

HAMPTON — A group of Hampton residents are questioning the City Council's recent move to name a bridge in Phoebus for civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., saying there wasn't

enough chance for citizen input and the bridge's name should reflect a piece of Hampton's history.

Phoebus resident Kim Vaughn is part of a loose group of Hampton citizens who have been gathering support over the last week to try to halt the renaming name of the bridge, which spans Mill Creek and connects the easternmost part of Mercury Boulevard in Phoebus to Fort Monroe.

"Martin Luther King was a great man and he did great things, but he didn't have any history with Fort Monroe and that's the bridge into Fort Monroe," Vaughn said. "We want to stay true to the history of Fort Monroe."

The City Council approved a resolution on Feb. 24 to name the bridge for King, backed by a petition with 132 signatures, as well as letters of support from groups including the NAACP, Hampton University and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The bridge, built in 1989, does not have a name. The resolution was based on the recommendation of the Martin Luther King Jr./Hampton Heroes-First Citizens Memorial Committee, a group of citizens created by the City Council in 2010 and tasked with exploring ways to honor King and others.

Vaughn and several others have said they didn't know anything about the name change until they read it in the newspaper and think Hampton residents needed more of a chance to weigh in on the name.

The resolution appeared on the agenda posted online five days before the Feb. 24 meeting. The citizen committee meets infrequently, doesn't have a set meeting schedule and doesn't appear online in the city's roster of boards, commissions and committees. City officials said the committee finalized its recommendation to rename the bridge at a meeting last June.

Naming the bridge for someone or something directly related to the historic fort — which traces its history back more than 400 years and was recently declared a national monument — would be a better fit and help tourism efforts, said Angela Rich.

"It's a shame to name it just to name it. It's an insult to people like Mary Peake," the educator who taught black people in Hampton in defiance of law ahead of the Civil War, Rich said.

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"There's a whole lot of true history here."

The group says this isn't an issue of race, but of honoring local history over someone who already has wide recognition. It has many suggestions. Union Gen. Benjamin Butler, who's decision to treat slaves as contraband of war sparked a wave of men and women seeking freedom at Fort Monroe, was one of the most common mentions for a new namesake.

Freedom's Fortress Bridge, Mary Peake Bridge or simply the Fort Monroe Bridge also came up repeatedly, as well as an idea for a hyphenated bridge name to recognize the three escaped

slaves who were part of Butler's landmark decision — Frank Baker, James Townsend and Sheperd Mallory.

Vaughn and Rich said there is broad support for a more Hampton-centric name for the bridge — she and others have collected more than 300 signatures in the last week and expect to get more.

The group said there is already a road dedicated to King and the civil rights leader will feature prominently in a memorial in the works to go up in front of the Hampton Roads Convention Center.

MLK memorial committee member Lillie Mae Jones said she thinks a prominent memorial to King — more prominent than the street tucked back between Hampton University and the Hampton VA Medical Center — is long overdue.

As for King not being part of local history, Jones said King's impact is as evident in Hampton as anywhere.

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As for King not being part of local history, Jones said King's impact is as evident in Hampton as anywhere.

"He's here because I'm here," said Jones, who is black. "They might want someone to represent Phoebus (or Fort Monroe) but we picked someone who is represented globally."

Hampton Mayor George Wallace and Councilman Will Moffett met with members of the Partnership for a New Phoebus, a civic association for the area, to let them know about the recommendation from the memorial commission in February.

"They wanted to know if the train had already left the station," Moffett said. He and Wallace told them it had.

Efforts to reach Partnership for a New Phoebus president Faith Jones were unsuccessful Friday.

"I would be open to it if there's something else specifically we can name, but you're asking us to overturn several years of citizen work and the resolution of the council," Moffett said. "There may be a park or a public street."

Wallace said there were plenty of opportunities for people to get involved in the process before the vote was taken.

"Nobody else came up with other requests or asked to name it. It's been sitting there (unnamed) for however long it's been sitting there," Wallace said. "It's sitting there and nobody surfaced and asked for anybody until this group asked to do it for Martin Luther King."

As far as Wallace is concerned, the renaming is a done deal.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/dp-nws-ga-budget-20160310-story.html>

Surprise Fort Monroe language in more-than \$100 billion Va. budget

March 10, 2016



A collection of photos from a special session of the Virginia General Assembly that began on Aug. 17, 2015 as well as photographs from January 14, 2015.

(Kaitlin McKeown/Daily Press; Bob Brown, Richmond Times/Dispatch)

It goes without saying that Virginia's first \$100-billion-plus state budget includes an awful lot of things.

But it doesn't go without cataloging.

Beyond the employee raises, record-setting education funding and other big-ticket items are new policies that will affect tolling in Hampton Roads, spending changes that will hit local institutions and a surprise addition that affects Fort Monroe directly.

Here's a partial rundown, with a caveat: Though the General Assembly is expected to give its approval to this 2-year plan Friday, or Saturday morning, the budget doesn't become final until Gov. Terry McAuliffe signs it.

McAuliffe, who has seen his own spending plan morphed significantly by the legislature's Republican majority this session, can also suggest amendments, or veto portions of the budget outright.

Fort Monroe ...

The General Assembly seeks to settle a trio of long-running issues at Fort Monroe in this budget: Ownership of the marina, ownership of the Chamberlin Hotel property and the city of Hampton's ongoing beef with the money it gets from the Fort to cover city services.

The Army has already agreed in principal to turn over the Fort's marina and a slice of land in return for about \$23 million in state funding for infrastructure work around Virginia military bases. The legislature's budget tells the Virginia Department of Transportation to ask the Army whether it can simply spend this money along Ft. Eustis Boulevard, improving the traffic flow around Eustis' Interstate 64 exit.

Language referencing the Chamberlin Hotel surprised Fort Monroe officials Thursday when it cropped up in the Assembly's final budget.

There are plans to renovate the hotel, but the Army held onto the property when other land was transferred to the state years ago, citing an apparently forgotten state law that said the property wouldn't revert to the state until 2087.

This budget states that the Chamberlin property should have been transferred to the state when the Army handed over the rest of Fort following closure.

"Basically (the new budget) removes an impediment that the Army was using to hang on to the Chamberlin property," said Glenn Oder, executive director at the Fort Monroe Authority.

Hampton has long held that the Payment In Lieu Of Taxes the state budgets each year for the Fort doesn't cover the services Hampton provides, forcing city taxpayers to subsidize things. The city has placed "an unenforceable lien" against the Fort Monroe Authority as a result, Oder said.

This budget states that Hampton won't get any of its annual PILOTs until it removes the lien and promises not to file new ones in the future.

Also of local interest ...

The General Assembly showed The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation a lot of love, adding more than \$11.5 million to the \$34.6 million that the operator of these Virginia landmarks was already slated to get over the next two years.

Much of the new money would go toward marketing a 400-year anniversary at Jamestown, which officials hope will spur tourism.

This 2019 commemoration will celebrate four milestones, per the foundation: the 1619 meeting of the first representative legislative assembly in British America, the arrival of the first Africans in Virginia, efforts to recruit single women the colony and the arrival of instructions for the observance thanksgiving.

The legislature also agreed to fill a Newport News judgeship that had been in doubt, though it declined funding for one in Hampton.

Instead, the new General District judge in Newport News will also help out in Hampton, the budget states. Both seats are vacant, or were slated to become so this year.

The General Assembly elects judges, but hasn't chosen anyone yet for the Newport News district. That vote could come in April, during the Assembly's annual veto session.

The budget tinkers with a number of education programs that operate locally. The Achievable Dream would continue to get \$500,000 a year. But Project Discovery, which operates in at least 14 schools on the Peninsula, would lose more than \$300,000 over the next two years, compared to what McAuliffe wanted, and have to supply the legislature with a "comprehensive evaluation of program metrics" by Oct. 1.

"Just never seen very good metrics on it," House Majority Leader Kirk Cox, a former teacher who called for this report, said Thursday.

The program would still get \$1.37 million from the state over the coming two years, level with its current funding.

The Newport News Aviation Academy at Denbigh High School will get \$100,000 a year in this budget, but not the millions Del. David Yancey, R-Newport News, had hoped for to expand the school.

The Virginia Air & Space Center would get more than \$1.5 million for a science, technology, engineering and math program for 4th through 7th graders.

The Hampton University Proton Beam Therapy Institute took a cut in the final budget, losing \$300,000 over the two year period. That will eventually take the institute back to the state funding it got in fiscal 2015: \$510,000 a year.

The legislature added \$500,000 to the budget for a new library on the Eastern Shore. Local government will put in another \$2 million and private donors \$2.5 million, the budget states.

The basics ...

The budget totals more than \$105 billion over the two years it covers, about a \$4 billion cut from what McAuliffe called for.

Of that, about \$40.6 billion would come from the state's general fund. Nearly all the rest comes from federal taxpayers, and state officials don't have near as much control over that funding because of all the federal regulations attached.

There are no significant tax or fee increases in the budget.

State employees would get a 3 percent pay increase in fiscal 2017, which starts July 1. Teachers would get a 2 percent pay increase, but only if their locality matches the state's contribution, which covers about half the cost.

There is no Medicaid expansion in this budget, making this the third year the Republican majority has stripped that priority out of McAuliffe's budget. Removal set off a series of

changes, starting with a need to strip out more than \$2.9 billion in federal money, which would have covered health care for several hundred thousand poor people.

Republicans also had to add state spending in other places, because McAuliffe had assumed expansion would roll back general fund spending as expansion covered people's health care needs.

Example: The legislature's budget adds \$34.6 million in Department of Corrections spending to cover health care for inmates McAuliffe expected to qualify for Medicaid.

There are a number of incremental increases in Medicaid, including an increase in waivers for disabled Virginians, a program that is always in high demand and will still have a long waiting list even under this budget. There's also a 2.5 percent boost in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families payouts, which is only the third such increase since 1995, the budget states.

"Long overdue and very welcome," said Jill Hanken, an attorney at the Virginia Poverty Law Center. "It's still far behind inflation."

Legislative pay ...

Budget writers signed off on a request from Senate Majority Leader Thomas K. "Tommy" Norment to increase off-session per diems by \$100.

Legislators will now get \$300 to come to meetings outside of session, in addition to hotel and mileage reimbursements. The increase would cost \$213,000 a year.

The budget also includes a \$500,000 increase in the House described only as "for operating and maintenance expenses in the House of Delegates."

This and that ...

A proposal to study using inmates to help demolish old state buildings survived budget negotiations.

The state has actually done this before, and there's a team of inmates that does the work that may be put to use again soon.

The legislature cut \$9 million McAuliffe wanted for a long-acting contraceptive program modeled after a Colorado pilot that reduced pregnancy rates. They added a program that provides mentors for first-time teenage mothers.

There are a couple of potentially major efforts in the budget to look for drug cost savings. One study would look closely at high-cost medications. Another would analyze pharmacy claims data to ferret out price changes as drugs move from the producer, through middlemen, and to the state's Medicaid and employee health plan.

Del Keith Hodges, R-Urbanna and a pharmacist, has been pushing for this second study.

There's a pilot program in the budget to study using long-action injections to treat addiction in people who run afoul of the law. One pilot would be in Norfolk, another in Henrico County. The state Supreme Court would identify other drug courts around the state to participate as well.

The budget also directs the Supreme Court to study its office space needs in this budget, a potential step toward replacing its decaying building on Capitol Square in Richmond.

There's also \$373,000 a year in the budget for a "first of its kind" grants program to help farmers with domestic marketing and writing business plans. Grants would total \$5,000 each and go to 30 companies, with two new state employees to run the program and put on workshops.

The Assembly cut \$10 million McAuliffe wanted in grants to help bring grocery stores to food deserts. It halved funding to help private companies expand broadband service in rural areas.

It moved up money to redesign the state's school report card, which lays out school test scores and other information. That project is slated to cost \$405,000 over two years.

ABC stores could open on New Year's Day and for an additional hour on Sundays once this budget becomes law. Legislators are counting on the \$2.1 million a year this is expected to generate.

The budget also includes about \$2 million for grants to systems willing to pilot teacher merit pay programs, which would move away from tenure and step pay programs and base salaries, in part, on student test scores.

Legislators cut funding McAuliffe wanted to study adding WiFi in state parks. They also want a closer look at whether public-private operations in parks could save the state money.

Transportation ...

House Appropriations Chairman S. Chris Jones won his battle over transportation tolls and taxes, including in the budget his quasi-ban on new highway tolls.

The new rule: Tolls on existing roads will generally require General Assembly approval. Tolls on new lanes and bridges, or the conversion of HOV lanes to toll lanes, will not.

The House shot down a Senate proposal for a broader toll ban, as well as a Senate-approved increase in the gasoline tax for Hampton Roads.

The Assembly also gave the Virginia Department of Transportation a portion of the staffing increase it asked for in this budget, approving 240 new positions instead of 315.

That would take VDOT up to 7,725 people.

Economic development ...

The legislature seriously tinkered with McAuliffe's economic development grant proposals.

For starters, they cut a new \$60 million biotechnology spinoff program he wanted, though they did increase by \$7.5 million an existing bioscience grant program.

They also called for the General Assembly's auditing arm to "oversee and evaluate" executive branch grant programs. Budget language gives these auditors deep access to job-creating project files, and it calls for a new analysis of the effectiveness of these taxpayer funded programs.

McAuliffe has chafed at this incursion, and like other items in the budget, he could attempt to veto or amend this section.

Though lawmakers cut a number of development funds, they doubled funding for the state's Motion Picture Opportunity Fund, taking it up to \$6 million.

They also cut \$2 million McAuliffe wanted for solar development and \$3 million for biofuel grants.

Fain can be reached by phone at 757-525-1759.

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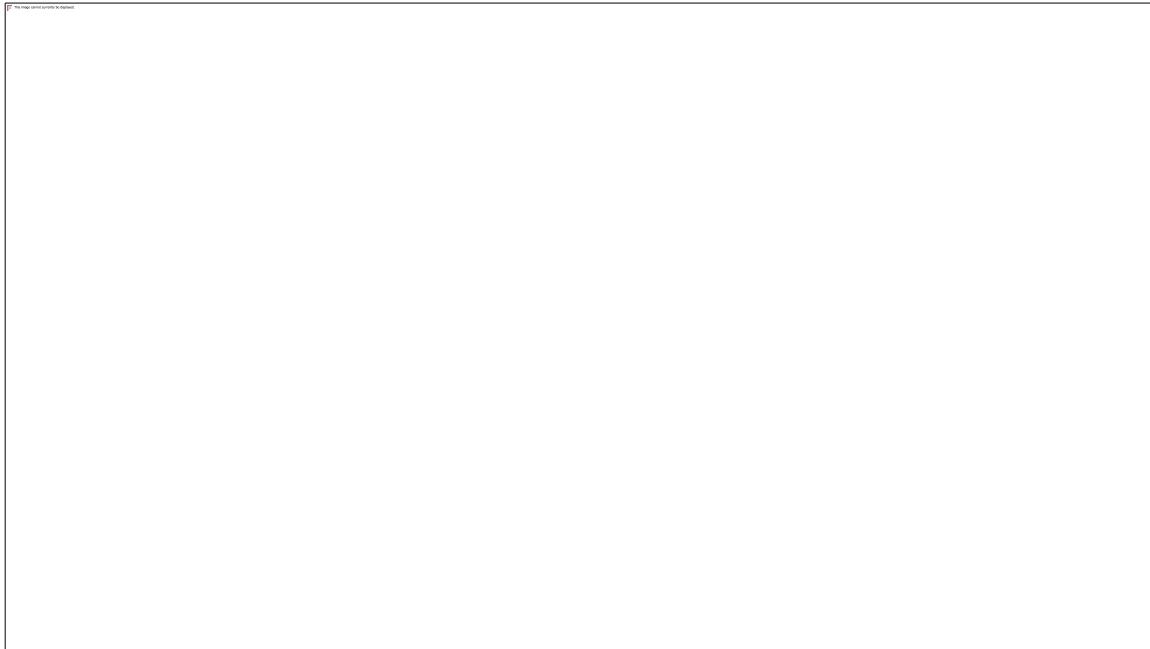
Media Coverage as of 3/28/16

<http://wavy.com/2016/03/25/ft-monroe-considers-visitor-fee-as-revenue-idea/>

Ft. Monroe considers visitor fee as revenue idea

By [Erin Kelly](#)

Published: March 25, 2016, 5:56 pm Updated: March 25, 2016, 6:02 pm



FT. MONROE, Va. (WAVY) – The Boykin family comes to Fort Monroe almost every weekend in the summer. It's a free spot to visit the beach and look for seashells.

Butch Boykin doesn't like the idea of adding a fee for visitors.

"I could afford a dollar, or three dollars, or seven dollars. It's the principle of the thing. This should be an open usage for the people that live in this area," Boykin said.

Trustee Destry Jarvis brought up the idea of a visitors fee last week at the Board of Trustees' retreat. He said the fort is part of the National Park Service and most parks charge entrance fees for use in management and restoration of the parks. His idea was one of several tossed around to help eventually make Fort Monroe self-sufficient when it comes to its budget, he said.

"If there was going to be any kind of a fee system, it doesn't have to be an entrance fee. It could be a charge for parking. It could be a charge only for people who visit the fortress itself," Jarvis said. He said the board had not discussed how much any fee would cost, but it would likely be a few dollars.

Retired accountant John Moulton lives on Fort Monroe, and said a fee would not drive away visitors.

"We've gotta have revenue if they want these amenities...I don't believe that would occur at all. Ma'am, would a \$5 fee deter you from coming to see this?" Moulton asked.

"No one has done any analysis, no one has done, to my knowledge, any serious consideration of this, except it was an idea brought up at the board meeting," Jarvis said.

Baxter Simmons, Jr., owner of the Paradise Ocean Club on Fort Monroe, called it a "horrible" idea that would hurt his business significantly.

"If the idea moves forward, it would likely be years away from implementation," Jarvis said.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/editorials/dp-edt-notes-notables-0325-20160324-story.html>

Notes and notables: Corporate pay and generosity, educating inmates, the future of Fort Monroe

March 25, 2016

Keep the fort free

There is significant talk about making Fort Monroe a state park, and that has naturally raised the question about charging an admission fee (which is standard at most state parks).

Our initial thought is to leave the fort open with no fee, even if it is designated a state park.

Fort Monroe, a bright star in our area's historical constellation, would be a wonderful state park and a unique one. There are businesses on those grounds that depend on customers having easy access, and residents who have visitors coming and going. The fort offers beach access; unless there is an obvious reason, public shorelines should be free.

We are looking forward to where this discussion will go, but at this point we lean toward keeping Freedom's Fortress free.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-hampton-fort-monroe-entry-fee-20160324-story.html>

Fort Monroe entry fee concept hits wall

By Ryan Murphy
rmurphy@dailypress.com

March 24, 2016

Travis Tynes travels across the [James River](#) Bridge from his home in Isle of Wight County five or six days a week to fish off the Engineer's Pier at Fort Monroe, rain or shine.

Tending to a half-dozen fishing rods on the pier on Thursday afternoon, 31-year-old Tynes said he's fished from pier since he was 2 years old.

He may have to find a new spot, he said, if the Fort Monroe Authority implements an entry fee at the front gate of the historic fort.

"I'm a regular here, but that would hold me back some," Tynes said. And he's not alone in saying a fee for every trip to Fort Monroe may deter visitors.

The admission fee idea came up at a retreat last week of the Fort Monroe Authority's Board of Trustees — the group that has overseen the state's management of the area following its closing as an active Army post in 2011.

The board was talking about avenues to financial sustainability for the fort, including possibly selling off some properties controlled by the FMA.

Destry Jarvis, a trustee with a long history of working with parks and conservation efforts, opposed selling any property at Fort Monroe and said an admissions fee — which nearly every National Park has — could be enough to make the group self-sufficient if it leverages and promotes tourism correctly.

Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward, a former mayor of Hampton and a trustee for the FMA, noted that just about every state park has an admissions fee by way of daily parking fees. She said it was worth exploring the option.

A schedule of fees listed online by Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation shows that Virginia parks charge \$3 to \$7 per vehicle — it varies by park and time of year and is often more expensive for people visiting from outside of Virginia.

Critics of the proposal say Fort Monroe can't be treated just like any other state or national park — the fort boasts several private businesses, many homes that are leased as private residences and the Chamberlin, a historic hotel that is now a senior living community with more than 100 apartment-style units.

Gary McIntyre said any fee would hurt business for the Deadrise, a seafood restaurant near the fort's marina that McIntyre owns with two other local restaurateurs.

"I think it's a terrible idea. It would impact my business and I know dozens of people who would bypass it just on principle — not just because they can't afford it," McIntyre said, irritated.

He said it amounts to another tax on diners just visiting Fort Monroe to grab a bite.

"On top of that, there's a 13.5 percent meals tax," he said, referring to the total local, regional and state sales and meals taxes. "It's not fair to me. It would truly rub me the wrong way. It's the principle, it's not the dollars. (Fort Monroe) should be open to the public and free to the public."

Jenny Kutsch has leased a house on Fort Monroe for nearly two years and said she didn't like the idea, even if the FMA handed out passes to residents of the fort to bypass the fee as they come and go.

"I've got lots of friends and family who come and visit us," she said. "It's a little ridiculous to ask people to pay to come and see us at our house."

She said if a fee were put in place, it would definitely be a consideration in her decision to continue living at Fort Monroe.



Patricia O'Connell explains what she thinks about the idea to institute an admission fee at Fort Monroe.

However, some thought a fee may help the fort. Patricia O'Connell leases a house on Fort Monroe and runs the Colonies RV and Travel Park on the fort. She whole-heartedly supports the idea.

"I think it's something we desperately need, if it helps us preserve the fort," she said. "It's beautiful and I don't want to see it get too commercial."

She said she didn't think an admissions fee would hurt her business at the RV park, although O'Connell conceded that there would be an awful lot of sticking points to work out — for instance, whether RV campers who are already going to pay to camp could have their admission fee waived.

Nothing was decided about the admission fee at the FMA board's retreat last week — the topic is something the board agreed it would like to explore but nothing concrete was put in place.

Murphy can be reached by phone at 757-247-4760.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-hampton-council-bridge-20160323-story.html>

Hampton City Council OKs bridge name compromise, but process causes rift

By [Ryan Murphy](#)

rmurphy@dailypress.com

March 24, 2016

The Hampton City Council's attempt at a compromise over the naming of a bridge in Phoebus has led some citizens to double down on complaints that the city council isn't interested in hearing from them.

The Hampton City Council passed a resolution amending the name of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Bridge on Wednesday at a crowded and contentious meeting. The new name will be the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge in Honor of Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory and James Townsend."



A group of Hampton residents have taken issue with the city's decision to name the bridge between Mercury and Fort Monroe after MLK. The supporters say it should honor Fort Monroe historical figures instead. The group have pick up over 300 names on their petition.

(Joe Fudge)

The council voted in February to name the previously unnamed bridge in Phoebus as the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Bridge. Since then, segments of the community have sought a name

with closer ties to Fort Monroe's history, saying they didn't believe there had been enough citizen input.

The three men referenced in the name were escaped slaves who fled to Fort Monroe and were named contraband of war by Union Gen. Benjamin Butler in a landmark decision that paved the way for thousands of escaped slaves to seek freedom at Fort Monroe.

The council moved to take a vote on the resolution amending the name to include both King and the trio of escaped slaves ahead of the citizen's comments portion of the meeting.

The move was met with cries from the crowd — mostly those who were pushing to reconsider the name — that the council wasn't interested in hearing the people speak.

Hampton citizens Katherine Clark and Mendel Williams both called the council "arrogant" for the move.

The resolution and discussion of the issue was not listed on the city council's agenda, however dozens of people interested in the bridge issue were assembled, with two dozen signed up to speak directly to the council during the public comment period.

The discussion leading up to the vote, and the vote itself, underscored divisions within the council. Councilman Donnie Tuck registered a protest vote against the process after Wallace sought to take a vote on the resolution to amend the name immediately after it was seconded.

Tuck said ahead of the vote that the council should listen to those assembled before making the decision.

Councilman Will Moffett said council members had been speaking to people, had read the petitions and social media posts during the last several weeks and were prepared to vote.

"It would be disingenuous to sit here and listen to you when we already know what we're going to vote," Moffett said to the crowd Wednesday night before the vote was called.

Tuck said he'd only heard of a possible compromise a week ago and of the idea for the new name earlier Wednesday.

Bridge naming dispute brings flood of suggestions

"I don't want people to think there are decisions made prior to us coming here for a vote," he said.

Mayor George Wallace moved ahead with the vote, which was 6-1 in favor of renaming the bridge. Tuck was the dissenting vote.

Assistant City Manager Laura Fitzpatrick said the council and city staff had thought the connection between King and the history of Fort Monroe was clear, but that the amended name would make it clearer.

Angela Harris, one of the organizers of the Citizens for Fort Monroe group that sought reconsideration of the bridge's naming, was one of several who expressed frustration about the process during public comments.

"It wasn't a compromise by any means. It was a way to shut us up," she said following the meeting.

Groups back Hampton council on King bridge naming as renaming efforts gather steam

The group has gathered about 2,000 signatures on petitions seeking to rename the bridge. Harris said she's not sure where the group is going to go from here.

Several citizens, including the leaders of several area churches and civil rights groups, lauded the council's naming of the bridge for King and said they supported the amended name as well.

After the meeting, Tuck said he's talked to people saying they didn't feel like they're being heard by the council.

"You've got 20-some people signed up to speak ... all you did tonight was come across as imperious," Tuck said.

Hampton residents push to name Phoebus bridge for local history, not MLK

Wallace said after the meeting that the council had felt like they had heard the concerns ahead of the meeting and thought it best to go ahead and vote on it before the assembled citizens spoke.

"As people sit and reflect on it they will see the wise council and the wise deliberation that's reflected in this decision."

Murphy can be reached by phone at 757-247-4760.

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<http://thenewjournalandguide.com/2016/03/24/rivals-spar-over-name-for-fort-monroe-bridge/>

Rivals Spar Over Name For Fort Monroe Bridge

March 24, 2016

By Leonard E. Colvin
Chief Reporter
New Journal and Guide

Since it was built 29 years ago, the 2,000-foot bridge which commuters use to cross Mills Creek to access the eastern part of Mercury Boulevard in Phoebus to Fort Monroe, has not borne the name of any dead or living figure.

But the Hampton City Council changed that on February 24 when it voted 7-0 to accept a recommendation from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr./Hampton Heroes-First Citizens Memorial Committee to name the span after the civil rights leader.

The group was formed in 2010 to determine ways to honor Dr. King throughout the city.

But a group of residents from Phoebus and other parts of the city are seeking to stop the city from carrying out its decision. The residents believe, instead of naming the bridge for Dr. King, it should be named for some historic figure connected with Fort Monroe.

On the dissenting group's list of names to be used are Mary K. Peake, who, at 16, taught Black children how to read before the Civil War.

Another is Civil War General Benjamin Butler, who commanded "Fortress Monroe" during the conflict, and refused to return escaped Black slaves who ran to the fort seeking freedom. Butler's decision was a strategic one. Slaves were very valuable "property" of plantation owners, many of whom supported the Confederate cause.

The rebel army used slaves to build fortifications in other supportive roles.

The Union Army confiscated valuable assets called "contraband," including escaped slaves, to keep the southern rebels from using them.

Three of the first slaves who sought refuge at Fortress Monroe are also among the names on the opponents' list of alternative names.

But members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), NAACP and officials at Hampton University support the council's move.

Last Friday (March 18) the NAACP held a press conference to give reasons to highlight their stand in support of naming the bridge for Dr. King.

Also, the city's manager office has sent an application to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change to get permission to use the civil rights leader's name on the bridge. Race is playing a role in this controversy because the people who support naming the bridge for Dr. King are African-Americans.

The group which opposes it are mostly white.

"Martin Luther King was a great man and he did great things, but he didn't have any history with Fort Monroe and that's the bridge into Fort Monroe," said Kim Vaughn in a recent article in the Newport News Daily Press. She is the leader of the group opposed to the council's decision. "We want to stay true to the history of Fort Monroe."

She told the Daily Press that she and others who oppose the council's move were unaware of the name change until they read it in the newspaper and think Hampton residents needed more of a chance to weigh in on the name.

Vaughn also told WAVY-TV in an email, "I mentioned it on Facebook, everyone was outraged. They had not heard about this bridge being named MLK and believed it was wrong as Dr. King has no part of any history to Fort Monroe."

The proposal was on the council's agenda and posted online five days before the Feb. 24 meeting.

The committee voted to make its recommendations to the council during a meeting last summer.

"The bridge has not had a name on it since it was built in 1989," said Gaylene Kanoyton, President of the Hampton NAACP. "No one was running up to name it. Now the council does, and there is a problem. Dr. King was a bridge builder and we think his name fits well on it."

The Peninsula SCLC President Andrew Shannon said that he other leaders in that group, first proposed naming the bridge to honor King 15 years ago when Mamie Locke was mayor of Hampton. Locke is now a state senator representing the city.

"We started lobbying Mayor Locke and every other mayor since and the council agreed to form the committee which endorsed this idea," said Shannon.

Shannon said he is concerned because opponents are trying to rename the bridge by picking and choosing from a list of noteworthy people of color. But a committee of local citizens has already chosen a noteworthy person.

"There are always others who try to tell us who our heroes are," Shannon said. "What I'm saying is in our community we see, for example, the New Journal and Guide as our hero because they have reported on the heart of our community and we hold it in high regard."

“So when we say this newspaper is our hero, others can say there are other heroes such as the mainstream media,” Shannon said. “My point is we selected Dr. King to be honored and none of those who oppose it (renaming the bridge after the Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr.) are African-Americans. We have not seen one opponent who is African-American.”

“I can’t think of a better person to name that bridge for. He led the Civil Rights Movement. He advocated for freedom and justice,” said Shannon. “They had almost 30 years to name that bridge. Now that citizens worked to name it, they want to deny us this opportunity. But we are steadfast in doing so.”

Opponents of the council’s decision to name the bridge for King have launched a petition drive and have collected over 1300 plus signatures, hoping to get the city’s governing panel to reverse their decision.

Opponents and supporters of the naming proposal squared off this week at a March 23 city council meeting to voice their rival views on the issue.

Associate Editor Rosaland Tyler contributed to this article.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/hampton-matters-blog/dp-supporters-opponents-of-mlk-bridge-renaming-expected-to-pack-hampton-city-council-meeting-wednesday-20160322-post.html>

Supporters, opponents of MLK bridge renaming expected to pack Hampton City Council meeting Wednesday

By [Ryan Murphy](#)

March 23, 2016

It's not on the Hampton City Council's official agenda, but the renaming of a bridge in Hampton for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is expected to be the biggest topic of conversation at Wednesday night's council meeting.

The council approved a recommendation from a citizen committee in February naming the bridge between East Mercury Boulevard and Fort Monroe in honor of King.

Later, a group of Hampton residents registered their discontent about the naming. There hadn't been enough public notice or input, they argued, and the bridge should be named in honor of someone or something from Hampton and Fort Monroe's abundant history.

That group, now going by the name Citizens for Fort Monroe, have gathered [around 1,200 signatures from an online petition](#) and hundreds more from hard-copies seeking a reconsideration on the naming of the bridge, which they plan to present to the council on Wednesday as they make their case.

Other segments of the community have spoken out in support of council's decision and against the efforts by Citizens for Fort Monroe. The Southern Christian Leadership Coalition is holding a rally at Hampton City Hall before the council's evening legislative session starts.

Follow Hampton reporter [Ryan Murphy on Twitter](#) for live updates from the council's meeting. Check back at [DailyPress.com](#) and in Thursday's edition for the full story.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/letters/dp-nws-edt-letswed-0323-20160322-story.html>

March 23 Letters: Fort Monroe bridge, Mike Petters

March 22, 2016

Freedom Bridge

While there are many notable names that have been suggested for the bridge to Fort Monroe, history clearly shows that it should be called the Freedom Bridge.

In 1861, when three runaway local slaves sought protection, the fort's Union commanding officer, Gen. Benjamin Butler, the general refused to release them to their owner. He classified the fugitives as contraband of war and utilized them as workers at the fort. Learning of this, others seeking freedom sought refuge at Freedom's Fortress.

Elizabeth M. Alexander
Newport News

<http://www.13newsnow.com/news/local/mycity/hampton/oppostion-presses-on-with-rally-to-be-held-in-support-of-bridge-named-after-dr-mlk-jr/95010834>

Hampton City Council renames bridge to Fort Monroe

Arriane LeBeau, WVEC 10:14 PM. EST March 23, 2016

HAMPTON, Va. (WVEC) -- Community members gathered at a rally Wednesday evening to support Hampton City Council members in naming the historic bridge that connects the city to Fort Monroe.

Several petitions circulated after residents calls of displeasure arose about the bridge name having no connection to Fort Monroe.

Wednesday night all but one council member voted in favor of renaming the bridge the "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge in honor of Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory and James Townsend."

Council members said this is a compromise to unite the people in the community.

Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory and James Townsend were all slaves who escaped to Fort Monroe from Confederate-occupied Norfolk County and were leased by their masters to the Confederate Army.

The bridge has been unnamed, so last month council members voted unanimously to name it the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Bridge.

A commemorative committee found a way to honor Dr. King in the area, since Hampton was the only city in the region that have not done so.

Council members voted Wednesday night to honor both the civil rights leader and the three slaves.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/letters/dp-nws-edt-letsmon-0321-20160320-story.html>

March 21 Letters: Fort Monroe bridge, presidential season, Hillary Clinton

March 20, 2016

Local, historic ties

I agree with those who think Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has sufficient recognition and honors and that the bridge should be named after a person of local distinction.

I would like to propose that the bridge be named after Hampton native Cesar Tarrant who, while born a slave, distinguished himself during the Revolutionary War as a river pilot and was greatly admired for his skill and coolness under fire.

The General Assembly purchased his freedom after the war, issuing a citation to his gallantry. He purchased property in Hampton and continued to work as a ship pilot until his death.

He certainly was no stranger to the waters around Old Point Comfort.

Patrick M. Wright
Newport News

<http://www.dailypress.com/dp-nws-edt-letsmon-0328-20160327-story.html>

March 28 Letters

I propose naming the bridge entering Fort Monroe as the Annabel Lee Bridge to honor the memory of [Edgar Allan Poe](#), who was assigned to Army service at Fort Monroe and, according to local history, may have composed this famous poem while visiting the Hygeia Hotel there.

The city of Hampton should appreciate that Fort Monroe is a national historic landmark and an important tourist attraction located in the city of Hampton. As a tourist attraction, Hampton should understand that it needs to honor a nationally known historic figure who has a broad appeal and name recognition as well as a connection to Virginia and Fort Monroe.

The poem "Annabel Lee," is a wonderful and justly famous romantic poem by Edgar Allan Poe that is known to many people around the world. It is a remarkable literary creation epitomizing the romantic era of American poetry.

While Annabel Lee is a fictional character created by Poe, she evokes the spirit of romance that characterizes the era during which the Hygeia Hotel at Fort Monroe was the center of antebellum romantic culture in Virginia and indeed the entire United States.

Harry Ricker III

Norfolk

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Media Coverage as of 4/11/16

<http://www.dailypress.com/entertainment/dp-fea-summer-camps-0410-20160409-story.html>

Guide to Peninsula summer camps

[By Mike Holtzclaw](#)

April 9, 2016



YMCA day campers try their hand at crab fishing off the end of Engineers Wharf on Fort Monroe Thursday. The YMCA has been using the fort for many of their summer camp activities this summer.

(Rob Ostermaier / Daily Press)

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/editorials/dp-edt-hampton-bridge-20160406-story.html>

Editorial: Take note Hampton City Council: Listen first, then vote

April 6, 2016

It's sad when the public doesn't take much of an interest in the issues of the day.

It's particularly unfortunate when meetings of important government boards — such as city councils — are only sparsely attended.

So when something does pique the interest of the people and they actually turn out to voice their concerns, the board or council should take that as an opportunity for civic engagement that's both warranted and welcome.

It certainly isn't helpful to treat citizen input at these public meetings as irrelevant.

But that's exactly the message the Hampton City Council sent when it recently renamed a new bridge heading into Fort Monroe.

It all began Feb. 24, when the council voted to rename the bridge, over Mill Creek, after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. That came six years after the council appointed a citizens' committee to find ways to honor the late civil rights icon.

The bridge makes perfect sense, the group said, because of Dr. King's ability to "bridge divides." That was backed by Hampton University and local civil rights organizations, and the council's vote was unanimous.

But some in the community — most of whom first learned about the decision from a Daily Press story — disagreed. Nothing against Dr. King, they said, but better to name the crossing after someone with historical ties to the fort.

They amassed more than 2,000 signatures petitioning for a different name. Several of these signatories came out a later City Council meeting, on March 23, to complain.

But even before the meeting, council members had a "compromise" at the ready. They would not retract the honor to Dr. King — thereby respecting the work of the citizens' committee. But in a nod to those who wanted a stronger tie to Fort Monroe, they would also honor three escaped slaves who sought refuge at the Army post.

To that end, the council renamed the bridge, "The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge in Honor of Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory and James Townsend."

Before the vote, Vice Mayor Linda Curtis said that linking Dr. King with the three escapees made perfect sense: That their escape paved the way for the Emancipation Proclamation, and that Dr. King "continued the work that these brave men began." The new name, she said, would be a "win-win" for all.

As we previously opined on these pages, we would have preferred that Dr. King be honored elsewhere in the city, perhaps with a grander gesture, and that this bridge be named for someone with historical connections to Fort Monroe.

But the larger issue is how this was handled. There were 20 people signed up to speak that night, a mixture of those wanting to keep the honor to Dr. King and those pushing for another name.

Yet in a seeming rush to stifle the debate, the council approved the resolution before these citizens had a chance to talk. Only one council member, Donnie Tuck, objected.

"The process would warrant that we honor the people who took their time to come out this evening," Tuck said. "The appropriate thing to do would be to listen to the people, allow them the opportunity to speak ... and to at least let the people feel like we heard them."

But council member Will Moffett contended it would be "disingenuous" to hear from the public first, "when we already knew what vote we are going to take." Mayor George Wallace said after the meeting that the council knew what the objections were, so there was no need to wait.

All except Tuck seemed intent on moving to a vote, and the bridge renaming passed 6-1.

People then came to the podium to weigh in. Some thanked the council for keeping Dr. King in the name. A couple liked the compromise. But several voiced frustration that the council had already voted.

"You don't want to hear our voices," said one.

"It's very arrogant to ask people to come to give their opinion" and then vote first, said another.

"Thank you for my wasted evening," said a third.

One man asserted that Dr. King himself would have insisted that all views be heard first.

We have no doubt that the council read the petitions and social media posts from those opposed to naming the bridge after Dr. King. Indeed, the idea for honoring the three escaped slaves came from a petitioner.

And the final vote might well have been the same no matter when the citizens spoke.

But it would not have been "disingenuous" to listen first, and vote later. What if a citizen raised an issue that changed the debate? What if someone argued so well that it changed minds? What about simply letting someone express a view before the action?

After the meeting, Mayor Wallace said people would come to appreciate the name of the new bridge. "As people sit and reflect on it, they will see the wise council and the wise deliberation that's reflected in this decision," he said.

But it would have been a far "wiser council" to have let the people speak first. Voting first and listening later bespeaks a council not truly open to hearing from its citizenry — and missing a perfect opportunity to encourage participation in Hampton's governance.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/letters/dp-nws-edt-letstue-0405-20160404-story.html>

April 4, 2016

Appropriate choice

Re: Naming the Fort Monroe bridge.

I read the March 28 "Poetic solution," to the naming of the Fort Monroe Bridge by Harry Ricker III, and I wholeheartedly agree. Naming it the "Annabel Lee" is absolutely perfect.

I love Martin Luther King Jr. — greatly, in fact. He is a true hero and he has had a huge impact on my life. I have recordings of his speeches that I listen to, and video recordings that I watch. He inspires me so much, and I thank God for him. I would really like to see a worthy tribute made to him here on the Peninsula. I just think that naming the Fort. Monroe bridge after him isn't the way to go about it.

For one, I think a more significant tribute to Dr. King could be done (more than naming a bridge after him) by highlighting his achievements for humankind and educating people on all the wonderful things that he did.

I also think it could be done in a more relevant manner. Fort Monroe is not a place with which he was affiliated. However, it is a place that was significant to Edgar Allen Poe, who was stationed at Fort Monroe and was also a local resident. His poem, "Annabel Lee" is a beautiful and appropriate, as it takes place in her "kingdom by the sea."

Everything Mr. Ricker pointed out is meaningful and accurate, and I hope his suggestion will be seriously considered.

*Melody J. Gardner
Hampton*

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/letters/dp-nws-edt-letsmon-0404-20160403-story.html>

April 3, 2016

Watching the recent Hampton City Council meeting about the Fort Monroe bridge name, I was quite concerned about how our council members seem to be detached from what their responsibilities are to the legal voting citizens of Hampton.

Our City Council and other city officials have perhaps forgotten that the council chambers, is our front porch. A place where friends and neighbors come to talk to our leaders. A place where our voice is supposed to be heard and our differences are supposed to be made whole.

There is an absence of fair play and an attitude of elitism with this council. We, the legal voters of Hampton, can do better.

Councilman Donnie Tuck is the exception. A fair and trustworthy representative with the values and beliefs that can bring this city back to the "All American City" rating we once held.

There is but one just use of power and it is to serve the people. City officials should be held accountable and remember that our votes keep them in power. .

On May 3, take back our city government, elect Donnie Tuck mayor and throw out all the others up for re-election.

Make Hampton an "All American City" once again.

Ronald Young
Hampton

Media Coverage as of 4/18/16

<http://www.dailypress.com/features/home-garden/dp-fea-diggin-garden-week-fort-monroe-20160416-story.html>

Historic Garden Week in Virginia: Sweeping porches, majestic old trees and soothing bay breezes featured on Fort Monroe tour



Historic Garden Week in Virginia, April 23-30, features 250 private homes and gardens open for public tours statewide including Williamsburg, Hampton and Gloucester locations. It is sponsored by the Garden Club of Virginia. Visit vagardenweek.org

(Contributed photos)

By [Kathy Van Mullekom](#) Diggin' In

April 16, 2016

Glenn Oder lives and works in a special place — historic Fort Monroe.

"Everywhere you look you see water and you are constantly reminded of the unique proximity to the Chesapeake Bay — from the smell of salt in the air, the charming sound of the seagulls to the dron of fog horns during times of low visibility," says Oder, executive director of the Fort Monroe Authority and Fort Monroe Foundation.

He and wife, Mary, live at 51 Fenwick Road, a 1910-constructed house that features sweeping porches with stately two-story Tuscan columns. Their home, which is filled with family heirlooms, and a collection of Fort Monroe memorabilia, including 1860s Harper's Bazaar

covers, and artwork by Oder, will be featured on a Historic Garden Week in Virginia tour 10 a.m.-5 p.m. April 27. Sponsored by the Hampton Roads and Huntington garden clubs, the tour includes four other homes along, as well as a garden marketplace, after-hours reception and garden-related talks at The Chamberlin.

"We have so much planned at Fort Monroe on tour day," says tour chairwoman Sidney Jordan.

Promoted stories from CELEBChatter.com

"We know visitors will enjoy looking at the beautiful flower arrangements in the five houses on tour. We hope they will visit The Casemate Museum, Chapel of the Centurion and Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, as well.



Gloucester 'Under the Trees' theme spotlights historic specimens and 'Remarkable Trees of Virginia' author

"And, The Marketplace, in the former Arsenal Building, will offer artwork, garden accessories, home décor, jewelry and clothing for sale."

As you walk along Fort Monroe's sidewalks, or stand inside the bayside bandstand, you can just imagine yourself living the life that so many military personnel enjoyed during their assignments at the scenic fort. Now that the property is no longer a major military command, the site is taking on its own brand of community for the families who occupy residences where generals and colonels once lived.

"Life in a coastal community has unique sounds and rhythms and they are all ever present at Fort Monroe," says Oder.



'Art and the Garden' theme combines for a day of talks, tours and treats in Williamsburg

"The coastal breeze is ever present.

"Additionally, everything is walkable at Fort Monroe. Residences are close to beaches, office spaces for work, restaurants, Hampton Community Center, YMCA fitness building, marina, soccer and ball fields, churches and the opportunity to walk the top of the fortress.

Additionally, the retail portion of Phoebus is just over the bridge and also is in easy walking distance."

The Oders have lived in the Fenwick Road house since November 2011. The house, with its easy access to parking, spacious foyer and large kitchen, was chosen because it functions best for what the executive director does often — entertains numerous people for informational and fundraising needs.

"The kitchen features a very large work island," says Oder of his favorite room.

"Everything from meal preparation to wrapping holiday presents takes place on the island."

Before the Oders moved in, the house was painted with neutral colors to highlight the home's extensive wood trim, heart pine floors and four fireplace mantels. Harper's Ferry framed drawings of Fort Monroe are seen throughout the house.

Life in an old house, especially one so historic and one so open for fort business, can be challenging. For instance, the Oders carefully respect the historic heart pine walls and plaster walls. They pay close attention to any high foot traffic on the floors during entertainment occasions, and use carefully placed picture rails to avoid putting new nail marks in walls. And, they found a wireless cable system so they don't have too many exposed wires operating the TV over the mantel in the family room.

On April 27, the Oders hope visitors enjoy the homes and imagine how special it would have been to be an Army general living in one of the royal-looking residences.

"We also want visitors to become even more aware of the unique history of the property," says Oder.

"This property is over 400 years old, and remnants of our country's history are present throughout the property.

"The Fort Monroe Authority sees the partnership with the National Park Service expanding with more recreational and educational programming occurring on the property. In addition to the current and growing mixed use community that Fort Monroe is becoming, the site boasts some of the greatest history in our country. The recent decision by the FMA Trustees to create a visitor center at Fort Monroe is a giant step forward by putting the history of Fort Monroe within reach of the visitors to this great historic site."

Contact Van Mullekom at kvanmullekom@aol.com.

About Historic Garden Week

Historic Garden Week in Virginia, April 23-30, features 250 private homes and gardens open for public tours statewide. Sponsored by the Garden Club of Virginia — gcvirginia.org — since 1929, the annual event raises funds for the restoration and preservation of public gardens at historic sites, including Monticello, Mount Vernon and Montpelier.

The garden club estimates the cumulative economic impact of the country's only statewide home and garden tour for the past 45 years is \$425 million, according to a news release. The

event attracts 30,000 visitors, and includes local residents and out-of-state tourists. For more information, including a downloadable guidebook and tickets, visit vagardenweek.org.

Isle of Wight tour

What: Isle of Wight Historic Garden Week in Virginia tour.

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. April 23.

Details: Historic homes open include: Six Oaks, circa 1750, a Tidewater cottage that was occupied by Gen. Cornwallis' army in 1781; Boykin Tavern, circa 1780, furnished in 18th-century antiques; Oak Level, an 18th-century house, owned by generations of the Young family that saved court records during the Revolutionary and Civil wars; Thomas Darden House, a two-story Federal home with a tree-lined lane, has the original detached kitchen and Darden family cemetery; and Davis Day House, a two-story Flemish bond cottage circa 1809, surrounded by pastures for the Gypsy Vanner horses that are the family business.

Special events: Smoked ham demonstration and bluebird trail discussion at Darden homestead.

Cost: Advance tickets \$30 at vagardenweek.org or \$35 day of tour at Boykins Tavern Lawn, 17146 Monument Circle, Isle of Wight. Sponsored by Franklin, Elizabeth River and Nansemond River garden clubs.

Fort Monroe tour

What: Hampton-Newport News Historic Garden Week in Virginia tour at Fort Monroe in Hampton, sponsored by the Hampton Roads and Huntington garden clubs.

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. April 27.

Details: Five houses, built between 1884 and 1910, will be open. Four sit on "Generals Row" with views of the Chesapeake Bay. In addition, the Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, Chapel of the Centurion and the Casemate Museum will be open to visitors.

Special events: Shop for garden-related items at The Marketplace in the Old Arsenal Building; sip and nibble at the "Flowers After Hours" reception at the former commanding general's house; and attend lectures presented by local cut flower farmer Lisa Mason Ziegler and National Park Service staff at The Chamberlin.

Special sightings: See the 500-year-old Algernourne Oak, which is featured on the cover of this year's Historic Garden Week in Virginia guidebook, available in Virginia Tourism Corp. Welcome Centers throughout the state. Dozens of decades-old live oaks also populate the fort's property.

Food: The Chamberlin, Paradise Ocean Club and The Deadrise will be open for lunch on tour day; lunch locations are also available in nearby Phoebus.

Special tickets: Purchase specially priced, two-day and three-day combination tour tickets for the Fort Monroe, Williamsburg and Norfolk tours through April 24 and download the guidebook at vagardenweek.org.

Cost: Advance \$30 tickets in Hampton at Barry's for Hair, Hampton Stationery and Countryside Gardens; in Newport News at Anderson's Home and Garden Showplace, Rooms, Blooms and More and Chaffin Interiors; in York County at Ken Mathews Garden Center and Colonna and Co. Tour day \$40 tickets at the Fort Arsenal Building at Fort Monroe. Tickets also at vagardenweek.org.

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Courtesy of Ben Greenberg

Several buildings at Fort Monroe in Hampton are open for the tour.

As the earth reawakens after winter, daffodils bloom and trees blossom, another rite of spring descends upon the region April 23-30.

That's when nearly 250 of Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks open to visitors during Virginia Historic Garden Week, a spring tradition since 1929 hosted by 47 Garden Club of Virginia members.

Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program and a new partnership with Virginia State Parks.

From the Eastern Shore to the Middle Peninsula, from Virginia Beach to Northern Virginia, Historic Garden Week allows people to get a glimpse at amazing gardens, stunning vistas and exquisitely designed and decorated homes. This year, some local tours even offer bike rentals to visit sites on two wheels.

"I'd say, it's kind of a Goldilocks (tour)," said Ellie Gordon, co-chairwoman of the Eastern Shore tour. "It's not too much of this, not too much of that: it's just right. There's really something for everybody. There's some older houses with a lot of history, there's some newer, contemporary styles. Honestly, it could appeal to just about anybody."

Gordon said the tour allows people to get off the beaten path and see what life on the Eastern Shore is all about.

"You get a better idea of why people would choose to stay here."

In Virginia Beach, all homes are Lynnhaven River Now Pearl Homes, "places where people care about our community and our environment and want to do what they can to live responsibly and help protect our resources," according to www.LynnhavenRiverNow.org.

People on the tour also will see homes that are using the outdoors as additional living spaces, said Emily Mills, Virginia Beach tour chair.

The following represent tours in The Virginian-Pilot's readership area, with descriptions taken from the Guidebook. Advance tickets, which cost less than those sold on the days of the tours, are available for most areas; see www.vagardenweek.org for details. Tours occur rain or shine.

EASTERN SHORE

Hosted by The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

When: Saturday, April 30, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$45, which includes admission to the five locations; \$15 single-site admission

Salt Grove, 19489 Robin Road, Cheriton

On the banks of Cherrystone Creek and Eyre Hall Creek, you can almost smell the history of this two-story structure, once used for shucking clams and oysters. Built in 1931 and purchased in the 1990s by Eyre Baldwin, Salt Grove is the only shucking house still standing on the creek of the seven that operated in the 1940s and 1950s. Inside, the bottom floor is Baldwin's "loose interpretation" of that old oyster house with contemporary living quarters upstairs.

Brownsville, 11322 Brownsville Road, Nassawadox

This seaside farm dates to 1652 when John Browne received a patent for the 1,250-acre property. John Upshur, a Browne descendant, built the three-story, Federal-style brick house in 1806. Additions were made in 1809 and 1850. In 1978, the Nature Conservancy purchased the farm. It's now a Virginia Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Chatham, 9218 Chatham Road, Machipongo

Built in 1818 by Brig. Gen. Maj. Scarborough Pitts, Chatham takes up nearly 300 acres with a mile of waterfront on Church Creek. It was put in the Virginia Land Trust in 2008. The handmade wallpaper in the dining room, by Zuber, was created from wood blocks carved in Alsace before 1830. The family-run Chatham Vineyards, which produces 5,000 cases of wine a year, opened on the property in 2005.

Edgewater at Bay Creek, 638 Carousel Place, Cape Charles

This contemporary coastal home is located between the dunes of a private beach on the Chesapeake Bay and the banks of Plantation Creek. Every room provides a view of stunning sunsets. This land was a battle site in 1676 when Gov. Berkeley fled to the Eastern Shore during Bacon's Rebellion. An authentic replica of the Old Plantation Flats Lighthouse is situated on the southwest corner of the property.

Eyre Hall, 3215 Eyre Hall Drive, Cheriton

Eyre Hall was recently honored as a National Historic Landmark. The home and property have been in the same family for eight generations, dating to the mid-1700s. The garden also provides a wonderful history with crape myrtles that tower above parterres enclosed by ancient boxwood and set off by colorful mixed borders.

FORT MONROE: HAMPTON-NEWPORT NEWS

Hosted by The Hampton Roads Garden Club and The Huntington Garden Club

When: Wednesday, April 27, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$40, which includes admission to Fort Monroe and all featured properties onsite; children ages 6-12 are half price and must be accompanied by an adult.

Located on the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, Fort Monroe's history dates back to when English explorer Captain John Smith recognized the newly named Point Comfort "for defense upon the arrival of the Virginia Company in 1607." The former U.S. Army post is the largest stone fort constructed in the United States. It was named in honor of President James Monroe. Visitors will get a first-hand look at the grounds, streetscapes, gardens and homes of this place, which was designated a National Monument in 2011.

Ticket price includes admission to the following 10 properties, museums, gardens and demonstrations throughout the day:

Fort Monroe Building No. 118, 29 Fenwick Road.

Fort Monroe Building No. 119, 33 Fenwick Road. General's home.

Fort Monroe Building No. 141, 51 Fenwick Road

Fort Monroe Building No. 60, 67 Fenwick Road. Lighthouse keeper's quarters.

Old Point Comfort Lighthouse

Fort Monroe Building No. 93, Commanding officer quarters, 75 Ingalls Road

Fort Monroe Chapel of the Centurion, 61 Bernard Road

The Algernourne Oak, on the drill field within the fort

Casemate Museum, 20 Bernard Road

The Chamberlin Hotel, 2 Fenwick Road

ISLE OF WIGHT

Hosted by The Franklin Garden Club, The Elizabeth River Garden Club and The Nansemond River Garden Club

When: Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$35 for admission to eight sites, children 6 and under free; available tour day at the Information and Ticket Headquarters Tent at Boykin's Tavern Lawn, 17146 Monument Circle, Isle of Wight

Boykin's Tavern, 17146 Monument Circle, Isle of Wight

Don't be surprised when you're greeted by the man for whom the tavern is named – Maj. Francis Boykin as portrayed by local historian Albert P. Burckard. Boykin served with Patrick Henry and later with Gen. George Washington at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War. He acquired the property in 1780, and began construction in 1790. In 1800, Boykin donated 2 acres of his property for the Isle of Wight Courthouse and jail. The current owner, Isle of Wight County, bought the property in 1973 and later renovated it and opened it as the Boykin's Tavern Museum. The tavern is on the National Register of Historic Places and The Virginia Landmarks Register.

Col. Thomas Darden Home, 20485 Orbit Road, Windsor

Enjoy the tree-lined path leading to this Federal-style home built in 1834. Col. Darden's son and daughter ran a small school in the front yard in the 1800s. Darden later served on the School Board after public schools opened in the county. The home was restored in the late 1900s during four phases of building and renovations.

Woodland United Methodist Church, 20051 Orbit Road, Windsor

Lunch for \$15 will be served at this site, a country church that dates to 1873. The church has been expanded or remodeled at least five times during its history, including the creation of a fellowship hall from an old schoolhouse relocated to the church site.

The 1850 Darden Farmstead, 19614 Orbit Road, Windsor

If you're hankering for some freshly smoked ham, this is the place to be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or from 2 to 4 p.m. when the smokehouse is open for ham-cooking demonstrations. The old kitchen also will be open for loom-weaving demonstrations. For bee enthusiasts, hives will be open for inspection, and a beekeeper will talk about the importance of bee colonies .

Oak Level, 15107 Courthouse Road, Smithfield

Oak Level was formerly known as the Young House in honor of one of its previous owners, Nathaniel P. Young. Young, along with his ancestors, served as clerks of court for 118 years. The family saved precious court documents from destruction during the Revolutionary War and again during the Civil War. An aging, one-room school stands on the property. It's where former owner John Godwin Jr. educated his children before county schools opened.

Six Oaks, 14470 Great Springs Road, Smithfield

This quiet, country location with a Tidewater cottage circa 1750 maintains its rich history, which includes its front-row seat to the first skirmish in the Battle of Smithfield in 1864, and its link to Scott's cotton factory, which existed nearby.

St. Luke's Church, 14477 Benn's Church Blvd., Smithfield

Once known as the "Old Brick Church," St. Luke's stands for "the complex American narrative of spirituality, community, and freedom with a focus on the pursuits of religious freedom and separate of church and state." It is the oldest church building in Virginia, built in the last half of the 17th century. The church is a National Historic Landmark and a Virginia Landmark

Davis Day House, 15400 Mokete Trail, Smithfield

Davis Day built the original house in 1809 of Flemish bond brick made in a kiln nearby. The current owners spent two years making sure expansion plans complemented the original structure. The house is surrounded by 21 acres of pastures for the Gypsy Vanner horses that are the heart of the family business.

NORFOLK

Hosted by The Harborfront Garden Club and The Garden Club of Norfolk

When: Thursday, April 28, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$40, which includes admission to six properties and gardens in West Ghent and Chelsea; \$15 single-site admission at designated homes

1111 W. Princess Anne Road

Built in 1925 by Virginia architect John K. Peebles, who designed many of the homes in West Ghent, this three-story, brick-and-stucco house was inspired by the English Arts and Crafts tradition. The home's character and its garden layout occurred in the mid-1980s, when previous owners remodeled the inside and changed the garden's configuration.

1336 W. Princess Anne Road

Light shines brightly into this Georgian-style home building in 1922 for \$15,000. The house features two floors, an attic and full basement. The bucolic setting also contains a self-contained guest quarters.

1211 Langley Road

This 4,200-square-foot, three-story home features a gabled roof and the original hardwood floors from the time it was built in 1925. The sunroom also sports the original ceiling and columns from when it doubled as a screened porch. The multiseasonal garden features a pond and fireplace.

1400 Graydon Place

See how the owners of this home have gone green with a yard free of pesticides and harmful chemicals, and a rain barrel water recovery system. The construction of the home was started in 1918 but not completed until 1923. It was the first house built on Graydon Place.

1501 Armistead Bridge Road

Discover this “little bit of wilderness” in the middle of Norfolk with the Weyanoke Bird and Wildflower Sanctuary. This 8-acre property with forest, meadow, marshland and a creek was established in 1979 when the Norfolk and Western Railroad, now Norfolk Southern, gave land to the Cape Henry Audubon Society with the help of the Nature Conservancy. Guided tours will be offered here at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (See Mary Reid Barrow’s Greener Living column on Page 12 for more information on Weyanoke.)

1004 Graydon Ave.

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church started in 1911 in a small wooden chapel, To accommodate the growing parish, architect John K. Peebles designed the current church, which was built in 1921. St. Andrew’s serves as a place for community outreach and a center for sacred music and the arts. The church, also, has held an annual Flower Festival for 20 years. Visit the church sanctuary during the tour for a flower-arrangement show depicting the “Circle of Life.”

Big Yellow House, 1231 Boissevain Ave., Chelsea

GARDEN ONLY: Find out more about sustainable urban gardening with “native and adaptive edibles and pollinator-friendly plants.” The owner uses reclaimed pallet wood, concrete and yard and kitchen waste in the garden, as well as captured gray water to shape and feed the garden.

VIRGINIA BEACH

Hosted by The Virginia Beach Garden Club and The Princess Anne Garden Club

When: Wednesday, April 27, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Cost: \$40, which includes admission to six properties (five homes and one garden) in the Linkhorn Park and Bay Colony neighborhoods, available tour day at the Princess Anne Country Club, Flowers – Wayne Jones and Willis Wayside

Bike rentals available; free shuttle at Princess Anne Country Club

1208 Cedar Point Drive

This Colonial-style home is reminiscent of Williamsburg, but inside is a nice mix of traditional and contemporary styles. The furniture adds an uptown flair, but the home boasts old-school architectural flourishes such as crown moldings and chair rails. The large kitchen overlooks a wide bluestone terrace that descends to the redesigned pool and, beyond, to Crystal Lake.

1421 Crystal Pkwy. (dead-end street, no parking)

Take in the breathtaking views from this Cape Cod-inspired home surrounded by water. From the living room, admire Rainey's Gut, the link between Crystal Lake and Linkhorn Bay. Large, unfinished beams from an old Norfolk pickle factory help support the living room ceiling.

1204 N. Bay Shore Drive

This home is meant for year-round entertaining, with an open-air living room with a fire pit. The newly installed swimming pool is surrounded by beds of garden flowers, and is located beside the family room and sunroom. These two rooms share a double-sided fireplace and open to the large kitchen.

809 Linkhorn Drive (dead-end street, no parking)

This traditional brick home stands on a cove of Linkhorn Bay. The brick-floored interior hallway was once a porch, and the flagstone-floored living room was once a sunroom. This home has a basement, a rarity in Virginia Beach. The property also contains a cozy guest cottage, and a linear garden that runs along the upper edge of the expansive lawn bordering the bulkhead.

103 S. Dogwood Road

GARDEN ONLY: This plant collector's garden is filled with rare specimens and original landscaping – such as hollies and camellias — circa 1950 when the house was built. An old wild cherry dominates the back garden. Numerous pine trees provide a shaded retreat and a thriving environment for ferns, hostas and more. A series of outdoor rooms offers many spots to enjoy the views.

405 Cavalier Drive

This brick home built in 1998 showcases a quintessentially Southern aesthetic, from its white, columned portico to its central hall – that visually connects the front door to the secluded garden retreat. A gate at the rear of the gardens leads to the 17th tee of the Princess Anne golf course.

Toni Guagenti, tguagenti@cox.net

http://pilotonline.com/entertainment/hampton-heritage-day-on-saturday-will-honor-the-city-s/article_8541f3ae-546f-5a4d-a447-3731fe7d0a0b.html

Hampton Heritage Day on Saturday will honor the city's Native American, African and English roots

[By Denise M. Watson](#)
[The Virginian-Pilot](#)

Apr 15, 2016



Photo courtesy of the Hampton History Museum Photographer Brennan Matthews Griffith

Greg Nekdinekane Nithvgwa Stephenson at the 2013 Hampton Heritage Day. Stephenson, a member of the Meherrin tribe and a Hampton resident, will give a traditional Native American Thanksgiving blessing at the festival.

Three years ago, Greg Nekdinekane Nithvgwa Stephenson and his wife went to a festival in Hampton after he'd read that people like him would be participating. People who were Native American.

He didn't like what he saw.

“A non-native person was speaking for native people,” the Hampton resident said. “My wife and I said this needed to stop. I applauded them for their efforts. It just needed some work.”

Stephenson said he approached organizers to support and expand Hampton Heritage Day, which takes place this year on Saturday.

The free event celebrates the Native Americans, English and Africans who have co-mingled during the years to create Hampton.

For decades, the city had a “Landing Day” event that honored the English settlers who arrived in Kecoughtan in 1607. It glossed over the Native Americans who existed thousands of years before, and the Africans who were brought to the area to labor for the English.

“Our goal with Hampton Heritage Day is to broaden the story and provide a deeper context of the early formation of Hampton: to honor the people who were already here ... as well as the Africans who arrived soon after in 1619, and who, in a very real sense, built the city and whose labor had a major economic impact,” said Luci Cochran, executive director of the Hampton History Museum, in a news release.

“The confluence of these groups is a key moment in our history and the nation’s past.”

The festival will take place in and around Carousel Park and include hands-on family activities, food, storytelling and traditional arts and crafts. Among the entertainment will be Native American dancers, African drumming, and songs from the English, Irish, Welsh, Scottish and Appalachians.

Organizers said the festival has grown so much that they’ve had to move it from its former location at Fort Monroe to downtown.

Stephenson will give a Thanksgiving address in the Meherrin language, which he learned while growing up in Surry County, Hampton and Ahoskie.

“This is what Hampton heritage is about,” Stephenson said. “All three cultures, for whatever reason, were brought together. It’s about heritage and healing.”

Denise M. Watson, 757-446-2504, denise.watson@pilotonline.com

<http://www.dailypress.com/entertainment/thisweekend/dp-fea-hampton-heritage-day-0415-20160414-story.html>

Hampton Heritage Day a celebration of cultures



Zamani Wilson performs traditional African dance with the group Shekinan Shakinah Glory Dance Ministry at the Hampton Heritage Day Saturday on Fort Monroe. The annual event celebrates the African, American Indian and European cultures coming together in Virginia. (Rob Ostermaier / Daily Press)

By [Andrea Castillo](mailto:acastillo@dailypress.com) acastillo@dailypress.com

April 14, 2016

A day of healing, reflection and understanding among Native Americans, Europeans and Africans in Hampton will begin and end in thanksgiving.

The city's Hampton Heritage Day event Saturday celebrates the contributions of the three groups and their impact on centuries of history in Hampton.

The day will start with a thanksgiving address, or kanonyok, or "the word spoken before all else," by Greg Nekdinekane Nithnvgwa Stephenson, a member of the Meherrin Nation. The Native American tribe is based in North Carolina and Virginia and one of four Iroquois groups in the Southeast, he said.

Some think of the address, delivered in the Skarure language, principally as a prayer, but, "it's actually giving thanks for everything above and everything below, everything in between," he said.

"It's very inclusive and it also allows everyone to, as we say, be of one mind and be on the same page. ... It brings forth unity."

Meherrin Chief William Brown will deliver the keynote address and give a presentation of a wampum belt, which has three white beaded stripes and two purple stripes in alternating colors. The purple stripes represent European and Native American cultures that do not intersect, that is, do not interfere with each other, but live peacefully side by side.

Hampton Heritage Day provides the members of the Meherrin Nation to share their story and their experiences with others, Stephenson said.

"Our story been told by others for a long time," he said.

His wife Diane thinks Hampton is setting an example for other cities in bringing cultural understanding among its citizens.

"It's a beautiful concept," said Diane, whose mother came from the Ojibwa tribe in Canada. "I haven't seen that anywhere else."

Along with the presentations by members of the Meherrin Nation, Hampton Heritage Day includes performances and demonstrations from other Native American groups, as well as African storytelling and drumming, colonial music and traditional Appalachian music, hands-on activities and living history presentations.

The event started in 2013 as a way to share the stories and traditions of the different groups that made Hampton the city it is today, said Mike Cobb, retired curator of the Hampton History Museum, which hosts Hampton Heritage Day.

A Paleo point, considered to be city's oldest manmade object, found at an archaeological dig at the Virginia Air and Space Center shows that Native Americans were in the area 12,000 years

before Europeans arrived. The Kecoughtan tribe welcomed the English when they arrived in Virginia in the early 1600s.

Africans who were brought to the area as slaves starting in 1619 have also transformed the city's history, Cobb said.

"It's important to understand how we came to be," he said. "That's what we want to celebrate."

Members of the Hampton-based The Sankofa Project, which hosts cultural and educational programs focused on the African diaspora, will take part in the event.

During Hampton Heritage Day's opening ceremony, Sankofa founder and executive director Chadra Pittman Walke will host a libation, a spiritual practice in which ancestors are called to be with and watch over the people.

Attendees also will get to learn about African culture through storytelling, crafts, drum ensemble and a historical reenactment by Walke of Mary Peake, who taught African-American students at Fort Monroe during the Civil War.

"We have to look at that history and learn from it," she said.

Understanding the past is critical to shaping the future of Hampton, Cobb said.

"The process of shaping and making history continues," he said. "There are new groups coming to these shores and making this land."

Castillo can be reached by phone at 757-247-4635.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/hampton-matters-blog/dp-weigh-in-on-city-s-bike-and-pedestrian-plan-20160414-post.html>

Weigh in on city's bike and pedestrian plan



Hampton won a \$65,000 grant last year from the Virginia Department of Transportation's Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment to study how to make walking and biking easier and safer in Hampton.

(City of Hampton)

By [Ryan Murphy](#)

April 14, 2016

Do you bike or walk to work? How often? Or why not?

This is what Hampton's city planners want to know from residents to help guide a future plan to make Hampton more cyclist- and pedestrian-friendly.

The city won a \$65,000 grant last year from the Virginia Department of Transportation's Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment to study how to make walking and biking easier and safer in Hampton.

Planners have said citizen feedback helped lead them to explore the idea in the first place. Now, they're asking for more input via an online survey that quizzes residents on their cycling and walking habits – how often people bike or walk, whether they pedal to work or just for fun, what gets them out of their cars or what stops them from biking or walking at all.

City planners are looking Fort Monroe and the city's six master plan areas – Buckroe, Downtown, Coliseum Central, Kecoughtan, King Street and Phoebus – to figure out ways to improve or install bike paths, sidewalks and other pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure.

City gets grant to develop bike, pedestrian plan

Presentations viewable online include a trove of information about the project, drafts of concepts to connect the city via strategic corridors and the challenges of getting around.

Those presentations also include a map showing all the places around the city where pedestrians and cyclists were hit by cars in recent years, which may be an eye-opener to those Hamptonians who do try to get around without a car. For instance, pedestrians and cyclists should be particularly careful on Mercury Boulevard and in Coliseum Central, which stand out on the map with around two dozen accidents and several fatal incidents.

To read more about the effort, see plans and take the survey, visit <http://hampton.gov/bikewalk> The deadline for the survey is April 15.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-hampton-council-fort-monroe-20160413-story.html>

Hampton adopts Fort Monroe zonings, prevents residential in Wherry Quarter



By [Ryan Murphy](#) rmurphy@dailypress.com

April 14, 2016

In a big win for long-time advocates of the unification of Fort Monroe's national park territory, the Hampton City Council unanimously approved a series of zoning changes Wednesday that changes the land use of parts of the historic fortress and prevents residential development in the controversial Wherry Quarter area.

The city has created four special zoning districts with specific land use allowances for areas at the 565-acre decommissioned Army post, which was closed in 2011 and ownership is split between the state through the Fort Monroe Authority and the federal National Park Service, which maintains the Fort Monroe National Monument.



Map: Fort Monroe land use plan

The measures included an amendment to prevent residential use in an area known as the Wherry Quarter, to the north of the old fort, which will be zoned for hospitality purposes, such as hotels. Proponents of an expanded national park have claimed residential development in that area, between two swaths of NPS-owned land, would prevent the unification of the park.

The historic village area, which includes the western parts of Fort Monroe around Ingalls Road, calls for maintaining and building up the residential community there with limited potential for nonresidential uses such as retail sales and office space.

The North Gate area, to the north of the old fort, would focus on commercial employment with limited opportunities for residential development. The area inside the walls of the old fortress would remain residential and geared toward institutional uses such as those of the National Parks Service.



Hampton Planning Commission backs Fort Monroe zoning plan

The North Gate and Wherry Quarter areas are the only parts of the fort where there's enough room for substantial new development.

Much of the property also is tagged with parks and open space zoning.

Citizens speaking to the council, generally in favor of the zoning plan and pushing to keep residential uses out of the area known as the Wherry Quarter, reminded the council that any development at Fort Monroe should be approached with caution.

"Are you going to sit back and let this ship float or are we going to let it drown us?" asked Johnnie Carroll, pointing out that the draw of tourism there could provide many benefits, or could be misused and sink the city's hopes for the site.

The Fort Monroe Authority's Board of Trustees has gone back and forth over how the body wants to approach the development of the area and its position on whether it would sell off properties or lease them for private use remains undetermined.

Earlier Wednesday, City Manager Mary Bunting gave a brief preview of the fiscal year 2017 budget she will recommend to the City Council later this month.

Improving property values in the city and growing sales and meals tax revenues have enabled the growth of the budget by 2.8 percent over the current year, to a total of \$463 million in spending for the next year with no tax or fee increases.

Bunting foreshadowed increases to education and public safety funding, which she said were in response to resident desires for "reinvestment in the community."

The few details Bunting shared included plans for two new hires under the new budget: one neighborhood specialist and one employee relations manager for the human resources department.



Public weighs in on proposed Fort Monroe Authority waterfront park concept

The budget also includes pay increases for city staff — a 2 percent increase city-wide, plus another \$1 million set aside to address compression, which is when a worker with several years on the job doesn't receive raises and makes the same as a recent hire.

"Many employee salaries were stuck at the beginning of the scale," Bunting said, but added that it's "not realistic or financially feasible" to give people a raise based on every year they didn't get one. How that \$1 million will be apportioned still is being hashed out.

The full budget will be made available to the public, online and at the city's libraries, on April 15. Bunting will formally present her budget to the city council for consideration on April 27. A vote on the budget is slated for May 11.

Murphy can be reached by phone at 757-247-4760.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/military/langley100/dp-hampton-langley-impacts-20160418-story.html>

Modern-day Hampton shaped by influence of Langley

By [Ryan Murphy](#)

April 18, 2016

Every aspect of daily life in Elizabeth City County changed after the arrival of the planes and airships at what is now known as Langley Air Force Base.

The City of Hampton, as Elizabeth City County is now known, would look like a very different place if not for the influence of the military installation that started as a modest testing field for propeller-driven planes and eventually played a critical role in getting Americans into space and to the moon.

Industry, transportation, culture, the landscape and even the dating scene took a dramatic turn in the decades that followed the birth of Langley Field, which celebrates its centennial this year.

“At the turn of the century, Hampton was a prosperous center of the seafood world, and it was pastoral. You had farms surrounding the town,” said Mike Cobb, the former curator of the Hampton History Museum.

Promoted stories from PoliticsChatter.com

“There were five or six major antebellum plantations where Langley is today — large farms,” Cobb said. “Almost overnight, pastures are transformed into fields of flight and space exploration. Where once there were barns, now there were huge facilities for aircraft,” such as the hangar for the massive airship Roma.

Langley Field, then a test site for the newly conceived U.S. Army Air Corps, began organizing in the north end of Elizabeth City County in December 1916. [NASA](#)'s predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, broke ground on its first laboratory there seven months later.

A changing landscape

John Quarstein, a local historian and author, said what started as a landing strip and a handful of propeller-driven planes would change the face and the soul of Elizabeth City County forever.

“It was a big deal in every matter. Langley changed the landscape for the city of Hampton, and in many ways prompted it to become a city and not just a town in a county,” Quarstein said.

Villages at Buckroe, Fox Hill and elsewhere in Elizabeth City County eventually melded into one city, largely due to the unseen forces at work from

“The future of Hampton has rested in the expansion of the military,” Quarstein said.

In 1916, the heralded seafood industry that had nourished Hampton for decades was in decline, according to local historian and retired University of Alabama professor Wythe Holt Jr.

The area’s other major economic driver — the tourism attracted by huge hotels such as the original Chamberlin Hotel at Fort Monroe and Hampton’s sandy beaches — was about to take a huge hit.

“The real main second industry after seafood was alcohol, because the alcohol fueled the tourism,” Holt said.

A statewide prohibition, passed in 1914, was set to take effect on Nov. 1, 1916. On that day, the many famed saloons of Phoebus that served the men stationed at Fort Monroe shut their doors.

But Holt’s grandfather, Hampton Clerk of Court Harry Howard Holt, had a plan already in motion. Pulling political strings, Holt attracted a forward-looking federal facility that had far-reaching impacts on the area.

Into the modern age

With farming and aquaculture on the way out and the tourism business looking at a dry spell, the overhaul at Langley Field was the epicenter for a transformation in Hampton’s economy.



Historian John Quarstein talks about the relationship between the city of Hampton and Langley.

“By the time the industries start to leave us, the future comes. The future knocks on the door. It brings prosperity — a lot of money comes from Washington, from NACA/NASA, from the Air Force,” Cobb said. “When Langley and later NACA comes, it brings Hampton into the modern age.”

Langley and NACA both attracted technically skilled people — some traditionally educated engineers and mathematicians, others pilots and mechanics — most of whom made a lot more money than the farmers and crabbers living in Elizabeth City County.

Quarstein says getting from point A to point B in Hampton also underwent a virtual revolution with the advent of Langley Field.

Hampton had to extend King Street to the gate of Langley, and the LaSalle and Mercury corridors are also products of the need to move people — largely military personnel — around the Peninsula. More often than not, point A was Fort Monroe and point B was Langley.

The extension of King Street also paved the way for Hampton’s suburban development.

“Really after World War I is where you see the tremendous suburban growth that outpaces everything else that ever happened from a housing standpoint in Hampton and Newport News.” Quarstein said.

Places such as Riverdale and Elizabeth Lakes were built to satisfy a new-found need for housing.

“The flyboys had to live somewhere. The NASA people had to live somewhere. Most of them lived here. ... These were folks who, essentially, could afford it because they worked for the government,” Holt said. “Suburbs bloomed around here. We became much more urban and much less rural.”



Attitudes on race, integration changed gradually - aided by Langley

But it wasn't just undeveloped corridors that got a boost — the towns of Hampton and Phoebus were suddenly flush with federal money.

As families moved in, the need for schools increased. Hampton's educational atmosphere was forced to keep up with the steady stream of children coming from families associated with the new air base, opening more and better public schools, Quarstein said.

“If you think about the impact of these military bases, you just have to look toward road construction, school construction, educated workforce,” Quarstein said. “Whenever you have an improved workforce, it changes the upward mobility of a community and it strengthens the growth of new industries in the area.”

Culture shock

The social climate and some modes of thinking shifted dramatically when personnel for Langley, and later NACA, arrived en masse.

“There was a social clash because as these newcomers came in, the locals stepped back a little bit because the engineers and such were very precise and there were all kinds of stories about the engineers and their different style of living,” Cobb said. “There was a whole different language of technology that before this was really not familiar in Hampton. This language of engineering and technology was a far stretch from the language and the culture of the water and of the land.”

“This cutting-edge culture of innovation was just far different from what existed before.”

Different names for the educated engineers and mathematicians who started popping up in local hardware stores and corner grocers – “eggheads” and “NACA nuts” were two favorites – were tossed around by locals. It was half humor and half derision, but the casual interactions between scientists and pilots and native Hamptonians left an indelible impression.



Purchased from Italy in order to jumpstart the Army Air Service's lighter-than-air aviation program, the giant airship Roma crashed and exploded in Norfolk on Feb. 21, 1922 during a test flight from its hangar at Langley Field. -- Mark St. John Erickson

Holt recalled one instance when famed German rocket scientist Wernher Von Braun — a one-time Nazi scooped up by Americans in the aftermath of the fall of Berlin who became known as the father of modern rocketry — came to speak to his eighth-grade class at George Wythe Junior High School in the mid-1950s.

And it wasn't just young boys in science classes being dazzled. The young women of Hampton and Phoebus suddenly had new dating options when relocated bachelors with government paychecks in their pockets descended on the area's dance halls.

"It brought in eligible males in their 20s who were going to be flyboys and provided a great deal of leavening for the local social and genetic scene," Holt said. "Grandview, I think, grew up in no small part because of this — they had a dance hall at Grandview."

"There were a lot of things for them to do locally and it made a more melded civilization. Less insulated. Less still fighting the Civil War," Holt said. "This helped overcome the antagonism toward the North."

Social interaction with people from across the country — predominantly from the Midwest and Northeast — altered the outlook of many in the area.

This was far from the first time Yankees had come to Hampton. Following the Civil War, many who arrived to establish the seafood industry were from north of the Mason-Dixon Line, so there had been exposure, but tensions remained.

Hampton, which Holt calls a "dyed-in-the-wool" Southern town, viewed the town of Phoebus with hostility.



Langley Field became the center of a long campaign to redefine the role of air power in the 1930s, with Brig. Gen. Frank M. Andrews using General Headquarters Air Force and the 2nd Bombardment Group to stage a series of long-distance flying demonstrations showcasing the potential of the big, four-engine B-17 as a coastal defense and offensive weapon. -- Mark St. John Erickson

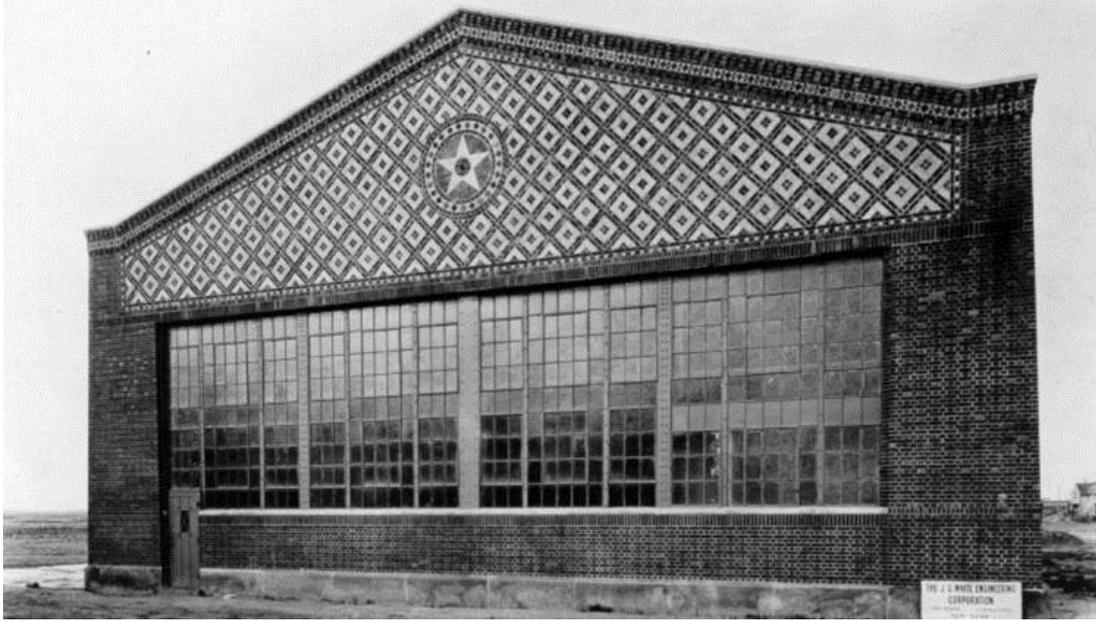
“The then-town of Hampton had its greatest enemy in the town of Phoebus — a town born of the Union army occupation and an extension of Fort Monroe,” Holt said.

The coming of the NASA people eventually eased these local tensions.

Before long, marriages between locals and the newcomers make NACA and Air Force personnel an integral part of the social and political landscape in Hampton.

“They didn’t come with a vision to change things — the fact that they were here changed things,” Cobb said. “(Langley Field) changed the entire tenor of Hampton, and all for the better.”

Murphy can be reached by phone at 757-247-4760.



A pictorial look back at the forces and figures that led to the founding and early history of Langley Field, which was envisioned in late 1916 as a permanent hub of Army aviation but soon enveloped by the urgency of the effort to fight World World I. -- Mark St. John Erickson

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<http://www.13newsnow.com/news/local/historic-garden-week-at-ft-monore-in-hampton/156124342>

Historic Garden Week at Ft. Monroe in Hampton

Spring is in full effect in the backyard of the Commanding Officer's home for Historic Garden Week.

Andre Senior, WVEC 3:18 PM. EST April 27, 2016



(Photo: 13News Now)

HAMPTON, Va. (WVEC) -- The weather is holding up just fine for a unique outdoor event that is taking place at Fort Monroe in Hampton.

Spring is in full effect in the backyard of the Commanding Officer's home for Historic Garden Week.

The event is taking place across Hampton, but the displays at Fort Monroe are done by the "Hampton Roads" and "Huntington Garden" Clubs.

Tours are available right now until 5 p.m. throughout the grounds of the historic military base. Visitors can also tour several homes along "general's row."

Tickets can be purchased at the Old Arsenal Building and cost \$40. Historic Garden Weeks kicks off the Spring and Summer events at Fort Monroe.

For more information, click the links below:

[Historic Garden Week](#)

[Fort Monroe Authority](#)

<http://hamptonroads.www.events.wipld941.cbslocal.com.eventful.com/events/bodacious-boardwalk-bazaar-wine-festival-/EO-001-091680411-7>

Bodacious Boardwalk Bazaar & Wine Festival in Fort Monroe



April 29, 2016 - May 1, 2016

Fort Monroe

151 Bernard Road
Fort Monroe, Virginia
Map

BODACIOUS BOARDWALK BAZAAR & WINE FESTIVAL

Bodacious Boardwalk Bazaar & Wine Festival is happening on 29 Apr 2016 at Fort Monroe Hampton, United States Of America. Its a premier event in Wine & Spirits industry.

<http://wtkr.com/2016/04/25/fort-monroe-hosts-historic-garden-week/>

Fort Monroe hosts Historic Garden Week

POSTED 10:11 PM, APRIL 25, 2016, BY WEB STAFF, *UPDATED AT 10:12PM, APRIL 25, 2016*

HAMPTON, Va. – The Hampton Roads and Huntington Garden Clubs are hosting a Historic Garden Week at Fort Monroe National Monument.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27. Attendees will be able to explore five homes of former high-ranking Army officers.

Four of the homes are on Generals Row, located at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Each tour home has unique architecture that showcases the historical significance of each home.

PHOTO GALLERY



[VIEW GALLERY \(5 IMAGES\)](#)

Attendees will also have the opportunity to tour The Casemate Museum and The Chapel of Centurion.

Other activities include shopping for garden items at The Marketplace in the Old Arsenal Building, attending the “Flowers After Hours” reception in the former Commanding General’s

house and watching lectures presented by local cut flower expert Lisa Mason Ziegler and National Park Service staff at The Chamberlin.

Tickets will be available the day of the tour for \$40 per person at the Old Arsenal Building at Fort Monroe. Children ages 6-12 are half price and must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, go to www.vagardenweek.org.

http://pilotonline.com/news/military/local/new-superintendent-named-for-fort-monroe-national-monument/article_2c1270b1-39a0-50b2-974b-654ea59002b0.html

Fort Monroe National Monument names new superintendent

By Cindy Clayton
The Virginian-Pilot

Apr 25, 2016

Fort Monroe National Monument has a new superintendent.

Terry Brown, a 24-year veteran of the National Park Service, will take the helm June 13, succeeding Kirsten Talken-Spaulding who will lead Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, according to a news release.

Brown has been serving as chief of visitor experience and engagement for the National Parks of Boston, the release says. He also has worked as site manager of Boston African American National Historic Site among other posts.

Brown, a native of Columbus, Ga., grew up as part of a military family, the release says. He holds a degree in criminal justice from Grambling State University.

Cindy Clayton, 757-446-2377, cindy.clayton@pilotonline.com

<http://wavy.com/2016/04/25/new-superintendent-named-at-fort-monroe-national-monument/>

New superintendent named at Fort Monroe National Monument

By Kevin Green

April 25, 2016, 1:36 pm Updated: April 25, 2016, 3:38 pm



Photo Courtesy: Terry Brown

FORT MONROE, Va. (WAVY) — The National Park Service has named Terry Brown as the new superintendent at Fort Monroe National Monument.

The park service says Brown has worked for the National Park Service for 24 years, at places including Boston National Historical Park and Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area.

He is succeeding Kirsten Talken-Spaulling, who is going to be the superintendent at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park.

NPS Northeast Regional Director Mike Caldwell said in a statement Monday, “Terry is a leader who is a proven collaborator and knows the benefits of partnerships in all that we do.”

Brown stated, “I look forward to bringing my passion and energy for our national parks to the management of ‘Freedom’s Fortress’ and one of the nation’s most historic harbors.”

<https://www.npca.org/events/128-annual-clean-the-bay-day-at-fort-monroe-national-monument>

Annual Clean the Bay Day at Fort Monroe National Monument

Join NPCA and the National Park Service at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's 28th Annual Clean the Bay Day at Fort Monroe National Monument on Saturday, June 4!

Each year thousands of volunteers at hundreds of locations across Virginia give back to our local waterways by picking up litter that spoils the areas where we live and recreate. Bring the whole family to Fort Monroe to help comb the beach and collect debris from the Bay shoreline that would otherwise pollute the water.

Please contact Stephanie Heidbreder with any questions at sheidbreder@npca.org.

Media Coverage as of 5/23/16

<http://www.dailypress.com/entertainment/thisweekend/dp-nws-memorial-day-events-2016-20160521-story.html>

Memorial Day weekend events

May 21, 2016

HAMPTON

May 30: A Memorial Day ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at Hampton National Cemetery. The public is invited to partake in this one-hour gathering to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

May 30: A flag retirement ceremony will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Colonies RV and Travel Park on Fort Monroe, 501 Fenwick Road. Boy Scout troops 99 and 29 will honorably retire worn U.S. flags. Turn in any flags needing retirement at a drop box available onsite. The ceremony will be held at pavilions 3 and 4.

WILLIAMSBURG

May 30: Join Colonial Williamsburg and the Sons of the American Revolution as they honor military veterans who died in service to the country. At three locations, the Fifes and Drums and military programs present a modern ceremony in recognition of fallen soldiers. The presentation of wreaths will be held at 9:45 a.m. at Palace Green, Bruton Church and South Side Capitol to honor French soldiers' graves.

GLOUCESTER

May 28: The 7th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line will return to the Gloucester Courthouse from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a trip into the life of a Revolutionary War soldier. The program includes re-enactors as soldiers and their families, and visitors can see camp life, military drills, black powder firing demonstrations, presentations by a 1700s pharmacist and favorite children's games of the period. The free event takes place on the historic court circle on Main Street. For more information, call 804-693-2355 or visit gloucesterva.info/ParksandRecreation.

MATHEWS

May 27: A World War II exhibit will officially open over Memorial Day weekend at the Mathews Maritime Foundation Museum. It runs through November. The museum is located at 482 Main St. in Mathews and is opened by volunteers on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., or on request. For more information, call 804-725-4444.

May 29: The American Legion Post 83 will host its annual Memorial Day program from 2 to 4 p.m. at the American Legion Building at 73 Hookemfari Road. For more information, call 804-725-7422 or email ewisatl@va.metrocast.net.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/entertainment/dp-fea-national-parks-0522-20160521-story.html>

It's a centennial summer at the national parks



A cavalry unit provides a demonstration at the Colonial National Historic Park's Yorktown Battlefield Saturday morning. The event commemorated Yorktown's Civil War history and featured cavalry and infantry re-enactment units, tactical and surgical demonstrations. The event continues through Sunday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

(Jonathon Gruenke / Daily Press)

By Mike Holtzclaw

May 21, 2016

It's a birthday party that will stretch across the country and go on all year long. Everyone is invited and no gifts are required.

The National Park Service turns 100 this year.

The concept is much older than that. The artist George Catlin wrote in 1832 about the idea of preserving "a nation's park ... containing all the wild and freshness of nature's beauty." Three decades later, President Abraham Lincoln signed off on a plan transferring Yosemite Valley to the state of California to be "held for public use."

Various national parks and monuments were declared in the ensuing years, but it wasn't until Aug. 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson formally created the National Park Service

(which, under President Franklin Roosevelt, would later come to include national parks, monuments, military parks, cemeteries, memorials and other sites).

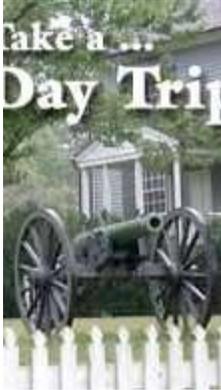
This year the NPS will mark its centennial with events at its hundreds of sites across the U.S., with a specific emphasis on reaching a younger audience that will come to embrace national parks in their second century.



Pioneering female colonists changed Jamestown

"There has been a lot of discussion leading up to 2016 about how to engage the next generation," said Liz Davis, public information officer for the Assateague Island National Seashore along the Eastern Shore. "With the millennials, there's a disconnect from nature with that population. The Baby Boomers love our parks, but we're getting older now. How do we get that next generation engaged in caring about these places? That's the focus."

The park service has worked hard in recent years to make its sites more interactive and appealing, using social media and virtual tours to lure an audience that seeks its entertainment digitally.



Day Trips

A White House initiative this year, the "Every Kid in a Park" plan, zeros in on fourth-graders. Any student in that grade can download a voucher that can be exchanged at any national park for a card that will gain free admission — for the student's entire family — at all national parks throughout the entire year. (The annual pass generally sells for \$80.)

Michael Byrd, public information officer for the Colonial National Historical Park, believes that initiative could have the desired effect of developing new fans of the park service.

"By making that money available in educational grants, we can get more families in," Byrd said. "We're always trying to develop new advocates of the park environment. The goal of the centennial is to be inclusive with everyone."

The Colonial National Historical Park, located in Hampton Roads, includes Historic Jamestowne and the Yorktown Battlefield, as well as the 23-mile Colonial Parkway that connects them. It also includes the Cape Henry Memorial.

"We're very proud to have both Jamestown and Yorktown here in such close proximity," Byrd said. "It's an amazing educational opportunity for kids to visit the place where America actually got started, and then travel 23 miles down the parkway to see the place where we actually won our independence."

Add in Fort Monroe, a newly designated national monument, and the region's significance grows even deeper.

Three hours to the west on Route 460, another national historic park marks the place where the Civil War ended. It was in the living room of a small private home at Appomattox Court House that Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his Army of Virginia to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. On that site today, guests can see the not only that historic residence, but also the nearby battlefield and the spot where the final shots of the Civil War were fired before Lee's surrender.

Ernie Price, chief of education and visitor services at Appomattox, calls it "big history in a little place." With interpreters to bring a century and a half of history to life, the staff at Appomattox has been working in recent years to make it more real for a young audience.

"One of the big stories here, beyond the Lee-Grant surrender, is the story of the Confederates marching up to stack their weapons so they could be paroled and go home," Price said. "One of our volunteers here in the work, a woodworker, made wooden muskets with bayonets that stack, just the way Civil War rifles had been stacked.

"So now the kids can be taken down to the river, exactly where the Confederates had camped, and then we can teach them how to move as a unit into the village. While other students are playing the Union troops, these students can stick their guns exactly where they did 151 years ago. It's so tangible, and it really makes the understand what happened right at this very spot."

Other national parks in Virginia range from the Blue Ridge Parkway and the natural beauty of Shenandoah, to battlefields in Richmond, Petersburg, Spotsylvania and other locations. For a full list of National Park Service sites in the state, go online to nps.gov/state/va.

Price said he hopes the 100th anniversary will cast a spotlight on parks and historic sites across the country.

"You get to one of those big anniversaries and it gives you pause to think about why it's important, why we're fortunate to have this," he said. "What if some of these places had not been set aside? They could have been developed in a way that might have seemed good at the time but that we would have regretted later. The centennial is a time to reflect on that.

"These national parks are a gift that our grandfathers and our great-grandfathers set aside so that our grandchildren can see them the way we saw them. It's all part of the family culture."

Holtzclaw can be reached by phone at 757-928-6479.

Looking for a day trip?

Here are some of the national parks and historical sites in Virginia that are less than three hours away from the Peninsula (according to Google Maps):

Appalachian National Historic Trail: 187 miles to Markham

Appomattox Court House National Historic Park: 163 miles to Appomattox

Arlington House Robert E. Lee Memorial: 168 miles to Arlington

Assateague Island National Seashore: 121 miles to Assateague, on the Eastern Shore

Cape Henry Memorial: 40 miles to Fort Story

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historic Park: 198 miles to Strasburg

Claude Moore Colonial Farms: 174 miles to McLean

Colonial Parkway: connects James City County to York County in Hampton Roads

Fort Monroe: in Hampton

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Battlefield Park: 120 miles to Fredericksburg

George Washington Birthplace National Monument: 97 miles to Colonial Beach

Great Falls Park: 170 miles to McLean

Green Springs: 121 miles to Louisa County

Historic Jamestowne: in James City County

Maggie L. Walker Historic Site: 64 miles to Richmond

Manassas National Battlefield Park: 164 miles to Manassas

Petersburg National Battlefield Park: 81 miles to Petersburg

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail: 175 miles to McLean

Prince William National Park: 139 miles to Triangle

Richmond National Battlefield Park: 73 miles to Richmond

Shenandoah National Park: 161 miles to Luray

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts: 173 miles to Vienna

Yorktown Battlefield: in York County

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<http://www.dailypress.com/entertainment/thisweekend/dp-fea-ticket-top-10-0520-20160519-story.html>

Art shows and orchestra among top 10 things to do this weekend



"Rhapsody in Blue" will be among the paintings on display at this year's Virginia Watercolor Society exhibition in Gloucester from Friday through June 25. (Courtesy Rose Nygaard)

May 20, 2016

POSTPONED: Jam Concert Series in Isle of Wight

UPDATE | Isle Jam is postponed to July 23 because of weather.

The concert series hosts its inaugural show at the Isle of Wight County Fairgrounds with country singer Easton Corbin as headliner and Boot Rooster as the opening act. Gates open at 5 p.m., Boot Rooster performs at 7 p.m. and Easton Corbin goes onstage at 9 p.m. Lawn seats are \$25, premium seats are \$30, VIP seats are \$45 and student seats are \$15. Beer, wine and concessions will be available and there's a cornhole tournament in the gaming area. Info: 757-357-5959 or islejamva.com.

Art exhibits open in Hampton Roads

Peninsula Fine Art Center's Biennial exhibit, featuring works from Virginia artists, as well as those of seven other states and China, opens Friday with a reception at 5:30 p.m. It will be on display through June 26 (pfac-va.org). The Virginia Watercolor Society also opens its annual exhibition at Gloucester Arts on Main on Friday with a reception at 6 p.m. and will be there until June 25 (viriniawatercolorssociety.org) and the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art opens "Turn the Page: The First 10 Years of Hi-Fructose" with a public opening reception at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, with the display through Dec. 31 (viriniamoca.org).

Women's gymnastics championship in Hampton

The 2016 USA Gymnastics VA Women's XCEL State Championship takes place Friday through Saturday at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. The competition, which includes balance beam, floor, vaulting and uneven parallel bars events, is expected to draw 1,650 gymnasts and 8,000 spectators — the largest in Virginia. Info: vausag.com or 757-723-4966.

Community sales throughout the Peninsula

Gates of Praise WOTC Church at 3116 Kecoughtan Road in Hampton hosts a community yard sale from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. Info: 757-912-6908. St. Olaf Catholic Church in Williamsburg hosts its spring flea market from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at 104 Norge Lane in Williamsburg. Info: 757-564-7624. Breakthrough Worship Center has a sale, food and crafts from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. 1709 Hampton Highway, Yorktown. Info: 757-826-1862.

Tidewater Comicon in Virginia Beach

Meet comic book creators and celebrities, drop by a panel discussion or Q&A session, visit the game zone or take part in cosplay. Passes start at \$20, and children under 12 get in free with a paid adult. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Virginia Beach Convention Center. tidewatercomicon.com.

Catch local talent in Williamsburg and Hampton

Local performers compete for cash prizes and a trophy in Williamsburg's Got Talent at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Kimball. On Sunday, catch the Teens Got Talent competition show at 4 p.m. at Kecoughtan High School. Tickets and info: \$10 adults, \$5 kids; 757-303-2101.

Jump, Jive and Woof! benefit in Gloucester

The Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society hosts a benefit for homeless animals that includes an outdoor concert with Bob Boyer and the Carroll Bailey Monday Night Big Band, as well as dancing, wine, beer and a grilled outdoor buffet. Tours of the shelter will be given every half hour. Tickets are \$50 per person. Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society, 6620 Jackson Lane, Gloucester. Info: gmhumanesociety.org.

Hampton Roads Philharmonic performs at Fort Monroe

The Hampton Roads Philharmonic will perform at the Fort Monroe Theater at 4 p.m. Sunday. The program will include Rossini, Bartok, Dvorak and a new work by conductor Mel Lauf. Admission is \$20, with discounts for students, seniors, military and groups. Info: 757-726-7369 or hrphil.org.

Virginia Beer Festival in downtown Norfolk

Sample more than 125 beers and catch some live entertainment 2-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Town Point Park. Advance tickets, which include sampling privileges and a souvenir glass, are \$30 Saturday and \$25 Sunday. Prices go up \$5 at the gate and must be paid in cash. Info: festevents.org.

WWE Smackdown at the Norfolk Scope

Catch your favorite Smackdown stars, including WWE World Heavyweight Champion Roman Reigns and The Usos vs. The Club. Also appearing are Dean Ambrose Live and other stars. 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Norfolk Scope Arena. Tickets start at \$15. For more, visit sevenvenues.com.

Paradise Ocean Club, located on Fort Monroe at 490 Fenwick Road, offers a tiki bar and fast-serve food bar, as well as pools and a private beach. The tiki bar has a variety of food options, including seafood and burgers, and the snack bar features sandwiches, fries and chicken tenders. The club hosts a Sunday brunch weekly from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, visit paradiseoceanclub.com or call 757-317-1234.

Surf Rider at 105 Rens Road in Poquoson is one of seven Surf Riders in Hampton Roads and is located at Whitehouse Cove Marina. The menu features sandwiches and burgers, as well as seafood. **The Hampton Surf Rider** is located at 1 Marina Road, near Blue Water Yachting Center, a full service marina with 200 boat slips for rent. For more information, visit surfriderrestaurant.com. Call the Hampton eatery at 757-723-9366 and the Poquoson restaurant at 757-868-0080.

Riverwalk Landing in historic Yorktown puts you in easy walking distance to a variety of restaurants, including Water Street Grille, the Carrot Tree, Duke of York Island Grille, Umi Sushi, Riverwalk Restaurant and Yorktown Pub. And for dessert, there's even a Ben & Jerry's. You can also expect to find shopping and events nearby. Check yorkcounty.gov/tourism for more information.

York River Oyster Co., at 1809 Yacht Haven Road in Gloucester Point, overlooks the York River and is located at the York River Yacht Haven. The menu offers plenty of oysters, of course, other seafood items, as well as pasta and pizza dishes. The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays, and 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Visit yorkriveroysterco.com or call 804-993-7174.

Owens Marina in Poquoson at 259 Mingee St., in Poquoson, is right off Bennett Creek and White House Cove. The casual dining restaurant serves breakfast, seafood and burgers, according to their Facebook page. Outdoor seating is available, as well as inside. Hours are from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Reach them at 757-868-8407.

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