Holiday 2010

Upcoming Events for The Historic Triangle

Star of Wonder: The Mystery of the Christmas Star
Virginia Living Museum, Newport News
Nov 25 - Dec 31
Experience the journey of the Magi in this amazing state-of-the-art digital planetarium theatre

Celebration of Lights
Newport News Park, Newport News
Nov 26 thru Dec 31
Drive thru Newport News Park and view hundreds of thousands of lights decorating the drive with displays of historical and holiday nature.

Waterman's Museum Oyster Roast
Waterman's Museum, Yorktown
Dec 4
Enjoy oysters, clam fritters, clam chowder and a variety of beverages

Downtown Hampton on Ice
Virginia Air & Space Center, Hampton
November 26 – March 6, 2011
Over 5,000 square feet of icy surface for public skating and special events. Bring skates or rent on site

Toyland Parade
Riverwalk Landing, Yorktown
Dec 11
Decorate a stroller or wagon, or even yourself and join in the parade - Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand to greet the guests and Mrs. Claus will host her own storytelling show -- as an added treat the Polar Express will be chugging along through Riverwalk Landing

Colonial Williamsburg hosts a wide variety of programs featuring historic re-enactors, plays, films and concerts. Call 1-800-HISTORY and check the Daily Schedule upon arrival. All events noted are subject to change without notice.

The Lamplighter

Your Colonial Crossings Newsletter

All of us at Colonial Crossings wish you the very best this holiday season. May the truly important blessings in life take added significance this year.....friends, family, health and the hope that the best is yet to come!

The holiday season in Colonial Williamsburg is like no other in the country. America's hometown begins the festivities with very special Thanksgiving celebrations at taverns all around the city, including Christiana Campbell's, King's Arms and Shields taverns. The Christmas season begins immediately thereafter and continues through January 1, with greenery and Colonial decorations bringing the holiday spirit to the historic area. Enjoy a Christmas decorations walking tour, or be brave and join Ghosts Among Us (a ghastly night time stroll that explores Williamsburg's haunted past). The Grand Illumination is a holiday highlight that occurs on Sunday December 5th. Colonial Williamsburg rings in the season with candles, fireworks and period music, beginning at 4:45 p.m. at various locations around the Historic Area. The Fifes and Drums will provide entertainment as groundworks (Colonial fireworks) explode in celebration. New this year is Christmas Dreams, an enchanting presentation of the Institute for Dance, to be held at the Kimball Theatre on December 11-12. Kid's Holiday Memories Tour is a special event for children ages 6 – 12 that includes games, visiting with colonial characters and constructing their own holiday decorations. The Governor's Palace is the setting for Lady Dunmore's Ball on December 11th (reservations please), a gala that features music, dancing and the opportunity to mingle with 18th century high society. Various holiday concerts include music from such varied genres as Big Band, Appalachian, brass and classical. Other programs include breakfasts with Santa, special museum events and fine dining experiences. Join in on December 24th for the lighting of the town Christmas Tree on the courthouse steps and the traditional Firing of the Guns, a Colonial salute to the Christmas season. These and many more uniquely American holiday treats are awaiting you and your family, so plan your visit now. Again, from all of us at Colonial Crossings.....Happy Holidays!!!!

Colonial Crossings Activities

We are proud to bring you our **Preferred Merchants Program**, another benefit created exclusively for our owners! All you have to do is present your owner card and/or their coupon and local merchants will provide discounts and/or free services . Each participating merchant will be displaying the Colonial Crossings Preferred Merchant logo; categories include restaurants, entertainment and services. We will continue to add to our merchant list, so check our Preferred Merchants page at www.colonialcrossings.com .

Colonial Crossings is a proud partner of the R.F. Wilkinson **YMCA** and supports the Peninsula YMCA. As a benefit to our "active" members (and those wishing to unwind a little on their vacation) we offer free passes to our neighborhood Y, located just a short distance from Colonial Crossings. Guests staying in 3 bedroom units will receive 10 complimentary passes, those in 2 bedroom units will receive 6 passes, and those residing in 1 bedroom units will receive 4 passes. Whether you want to limber up for a golf match or some serious shopping, the Y is a great place to start!

There will be collection bins in the main lobby for **The Food Bank of Williamsburg** during the month of November and for **Toys 4 Tots** in December. If you are visiting us during this time and wish to participate we welcome your donations. Thank you!

Beginning November 15th Colonial Crossings of Williamsburg will be "sprucing up the place". In an effort to better serve our owners and their guests we have partnered with the Southern Service Corporation to outsource our housekeeping services. With this alliance we will be improving productivity and maintaining a higher and consistent level of customer service to you our valued owners. We look forward to your endorsement on your next visit and we're very excited to welcome SSC to our family!

Jan 22 is **Casino Night** ! Owners and guests, come play your favorite game of chance then bid on great prizes with your winnings. It's all to benefit the Avalon Shelter for Women.

Upcoming Tidewater Events

Weekends thru Dec 31	Christmas Town: A Busch Gardens Celebration	Busch Gardens, Williamsburg
Dec 1- March 6	Downtown Hampton on Ice	Hampton
Dec 1 – 31	The Mystery of the Christmas Star	Newport News
Dec 1 – 31	Santa Sleuths Holiday Science Camps	Hampton
Dec 1 – 31	Newsome House Christmas	Newport News
Dec 1 – 31	Laser Holidays at the VA Living Museum	Newport News
Dec 1 – 31	Winter Wonderland at Courthouse Galleries	Portsmouth
Dec 4 – 18	Nautical Holidays at Naval Shipyard Museum	Portsmouth
Dec 1 – Jan 3	Colonial Christmas at Jamestown Settlement	Jamestown Settlement (Wmsbg)
Dec 4 – Jan 1	Christmas at Berkeley Plantation	Charles City
Dec 4	Waterman's Museum Oyster Roast	Yorktown
Dec 4	Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade	Yorktown
Dec 8 – 31	Antebellum Holiday Season at Lee Hall	Newport News
Dec 8 – 31	Christmas Time at Endview Plantation	Newport News
Dec 11 – 25	Illumination of the Palace Green	Colonial Williamsburg
Dec 11	Toyland Parade at Riverwalk Landing	Yorktown
Dec 11	Holly Days Parade at 7 pm	Hampton
Dec 11	Here Comes Santa Claus Parade at 5 pm	Portsmouth
Dec 11	Handel's Messiah at Regent University	Virginia Beach
Dec 16	George Whitfield Re-enactment Day	Colonial Williamsburg
Dec 17	Caroling at the Courthouse	Colonial Williamsburg
Dec 18	Holiday Pops! at the Sandler Center	Virginia Beach
Dec 21	Kenny Rogers Holiday Show/Sandler Ctr	Virginia Beach
Dec 27	Masonic Procession	Colonial Williamsburg
Dec 31	Noon Year's Eve at VA Living Museum (Noon)	Newport News
Dec 31	First Night Williamsburg	Colonial Williamsburg

Breaking News From The Historic Triangle

At the turn of the 20th century, the J. Thomas Newsome family moved to Newport News. In this industrial city, he established a law practice and prospered as part of the postwar South's new urban, black middle class. Newsome (1869-1942) became a respected attorney, journalist, churchman and civic leader. His elegant Queen Anne residence served as the hub of the local black community and the restored 1899 Victorian landmark continues to be devoted to the expression of black cultural and historical themes. Throughout the holiday season, the **Newsome House Museum and Cultural Center** will feature special programs and activities. On December 11 from Noon until 4 p.m., the specially-decorated home will offer a family day complete with selections from area youth choirs, local craft gift ideas and, of course, Santa! Visitors will also have the opportunity to give back to the community by donating to Toys-4-Tots. Additional activities and events may be found at www.newsomehouse.org .

The holiday season marks the return of **Busch Gardens'** yuletide celebration **Christmas Town** ! Beginning November 26th and lasting through December 31st, Christmas Town is a family-friendly, fun-filled exploration of holiday tradition combined with thrill rides and exciting shows. The country of Germany hosts Mistletoe Marketplace, an outdoor marketplace that features hand-made gifts crafted by local artisans. Polar Pathway, located in France, allows guests to meet live penguins as they stroll through an "icy" winter wonderland. Make your dining reservations early for Santa's Fireside Feast in Castle O'Sullivan, the crowning jewel of Christmas Town. Guests will enjoy a feast prepared by Ms. Claus and served by elves as Santa recounts a classic Christmas tale in an unforgettable evening. Das Festhaus is the setting for a live musical tribute to the magic of Christmas; follow that with O Tannenbaum, a lightshow that is headlined by a spectacular 50-foot Christmas tree. Guests of all ages will enjoy a production of "A Sesame Street Christmas" where Abby Cadabby learns about giving and sharing with friends and family during the holiday season. This high-energy presentation takes place in England's Globe Theatre for Children. In addition to the festivities, the park will operate several of its signature thrill rides, such as Curse of DarKastle and the world's tallest dive coaster Griffon. Don't forget to bring your Christmas list; Irish crystal, German clocks and unique pottery are among the selections available for purchase. For further details, go to www.christmastown.com.

A Virginia tradition is gearing up with **100 Miles of Lights**, a holiday extravaganza that spreads across Central and Southeast Virginia from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day 2011. Seven cities (Williamsburg, Richmond, Newport News, Hampton, Portsmouth, Norfolk and Virginia Beach) will be regaled in spectacular holiday fashion. For example, Newport News will feature prancing reindeer and snowflakes among its 750,000 – light Celebration of Lights., as well as opportunities to learn about Christmas in the nineteenth century at Lee Hall Mansion, Endview Plantation and The Newsome House Museum. Virginia Beach joins in the festivities with its **Holiday Lights at the Beach** (one of the Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 November Events), a nautical and holiday-designed light display at the oceanfront. Another special happening is that cars are allowed to drive on the 30-block long boardwalk during this time! More details are available at www.100milesoflights.com.

Colonial Crossings of Williamsburg
A Land'or Resort:
200 English Garden Way
Williamsburg, VA 23188
(757) 941-1540
www.colonialcrossings.com

Exclusive Hotel Discounts from Quality Time!

Quality Time is excited to announce that owners are able to receive a 20% discount on the "best available rate" with 11 different brands and over 7,000 hotels worldwide! The discount is available ONLY to owners of the Quality Time program. Participating hotels and resorts include:

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Wyndham Hotels and Resorts
Baymont Inns and Suites®
Microtel Inns and Suites®
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Horseshoe Bend, AR – 3 Bedroom from $310.00 per week
Holly Lake Ranch, TX – 1 Bedroom from $325.00 per week

**Destinations and travel times are subject to availability and confirmed on a first come, first served basis. Price includes only accommodations and specifically excludes travel costs and other expenses that may be incurred. Price does not include tax, unless otherwise indicated. Promotional discounts may not apply to all properties. Some resorts may charge a mandatory all-inclusive fee. Offer may not be combined with any other promotion, discount, or coupon. Other restrictions may apply. Offer void where prohibited by law.*

Christmas Trees

If we had to choose the one outstanding symbol of Christmas, of course it must be the gaily decorated evergreen tree with a star at the very top. German in origin, *Tannenbaum* gained acceptance in England and the United States only very slowly. The first written reference to a Christmas tree dates from the seventeenth century when a candle-lighted tree astonished residents of Strasbourg. I have found nothing recorded in the eighteenth century about holiday trees in Europe or North America. By the nineteenth century a few of the *German toys*, to use Charles Dickens's phrase, appeared in London. But these foreign oddities were not yet accepted. When a print of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's very domestic circle around a decorated tree at Windsor Castle appeared in the Illustrated London News in 1848, the custom truly caught on.

At about the same time, Charles Minnegerode, a German professor at the College of William and Mary, trimmed a small evergreen to delight the children at the St. George Tucker House. Martha Vandergrift, aged 95, recalled the grand occasion, and her story appeared in the Richmond News Leader on December 25, 1928. Presumably Mrs. Vandergrift remembered the tree and who decorated it more clearly than she did the date. The newspaper gave 1845 as the time, three years after Minnegerode's arrival in Williamsburg. Perhaps the first Christmas tree cheered the Tucker household as early as 1842.

By Emma Powers. Excerpt of article, "Christmas Customs" reprinted from The Colonial Williamsburg Interpreter, vol. 16, no. 4, winter 1995-96.