



The Lamplighter

Your Colonial Crossings Newsletter

Autumn 2008

Upcoming Events for The Historic Triangle

**Colonial Williamsburg's
"The Revolutionary City"**
2:30 – 4:30 pm daily

Howl-O-Scream
Busch Gardens Williamsburg
Weekends 10:00 am – 10:00 pm
September 19 – October 26, 2008

Annual Military Vehicle Show
Virginia War Museum, Newport News, VA
September 27-28, 2008

A variety of vintage military vehicles will be displayed including jeeps and military motorcycles. Vendors will sell insignia, books, uniforms, etc. Sponsored in conjunction with the Hampton Roads Militaria Society, this free event is fun for the entire family.

An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe
Lee Hall, Newport News, VA

October 4, 2008 7 pm
Spend an evening with the master of terror and the macabre. The great writer talks about his life and philosophy of writing in addition to reciting some of his more notable works. \$15 per person. Reservations required.

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.

Land'or International

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Dear Colonial Crossings Owners,

The seasons are again changing, and the cool mornings of autumn will begin to replace the bright, humid days of summer in the Virginia Tidewater. Most years this is a gentle transition period, with children returning to school and the most exciting thing on the calendar the still-remote holiday season. In any season, it is an accepted axiom that in social gatherings it is unwise to discuss politics. However, this fall brings an election cycle and America (indeed, the world) is anxiously trying to figure out who will soon lead the most powerful, giving nation on earth. The two major parties, as well as numerous smaller ones, are touting the characteristics that would make their candidate the ideal one for the position of president. We've all grown up hearing the mantra that any child can grow up to be president someday, and that paragon of comedy Adlai Stevenson once said, "That's one of the risks you take!" Of course the presidential election is serious stuff, and we as a nation are unique; we've had the same government in power since the 1780's, as compared to other nations such as France which has experienced numerous "republics" in place since their revolution in the 1790's.

Our area of Virginia is unique in that it is the birthplace of the American political system. The first representative assembly in America convened in a Jamestown church in 1619 "to establish one equal and uniform government over all Virginia" which would provide "just laws for the happy guiding and governing of the people there inhabiting." Known as The House of Burgesses, this assembly governed Virginia affairs first from Jamestown and later from the famous Colonial capital of Williamsburg. Our nation found its breath with George Washington's victory at nearby Yorktown (see page 3) and four of our first five presidents were Virginia natives. The Virginia Declaration of Rights (written by George Mason in 1776) influenced such documents as the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights and was passed right here in Williamsburg. The Historic Triangle witnessed the bloody founding of our nation and the struggle to keep it together in the 1860's. How fortunate we are to be able to visit the sites where our right to vote in the upcoming election was secured, places like the Capitol in Colonial Williamsburg's 300-acre Historic Area and the Yorktown Victory Center. It's always fun to visit Busch Gardens, Water Country USA, etc. but it is a rare opportunity indeed to have daily access to a place that helped make our country great, to be able to visualize the sacrifice made by other generations on our behalf. Please make sure and visit the Historic Triangle this fall and don't neglect to use that powerful tool our Founding Fathers left to you – the right to vote!

Manager's Corner:

Dear Owners,

The summer heat still has its moments, yet there is a new crispness to the mornings. The days are slowly becoming shorter as autumn starts to peek its head around the corner. Overwhelmed freshman are finding their way around the William & Mary campus as the nation's second oldest college, chartered in 1693, starts its 316th academic year. Wily old veterans, also known as seniors, flaunt their three year residency as they strut around campus. Such are the sights and sounds of a college town.

Unlike many of our summer guests who spend a large portion of their Williamsburg vacation exploring the thrills of Busch Gardens and the watery kingdom of Water Country, our autumn guests for the most part are here to immerse themselves into the living history of Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown, the plantations of the "Old South" and the hallowed grounds of Civil War battlefields. Many will be traveling from other countries to Williamsburg, Virginia's Colonial Capital, to experience first hand what unfortunately many of us take for granted. I urge everyone who has not already experienced the unique feeling of walking through a major slice of American history to take this opportunity to plan a vacation to your home resort and truly play the role of a tourist.

As always, and on behalf of the staff and management of Colonial Crossings, we thank you for this continuing opportunity to be of service.

Sincerely,

Tony Conti
General Manager

Fun Construction Facts:

Interesting facts about our newest building currently under construction called "The Governor's Building":

1. A football field is roughly 19,800 square feet. In comparison, The Governor's Building has a foot print of 16,000 square feet.
2. The Governor's Building has enough PVC piping to stretch from the resort to Colonial Williamsburg, which is approximately 4.3 miles.
3. There is approximately 4,000 cubic yards of structural fill (which some would call dirt), used in the site development for the building, parking lot, bridge and pump station.



Introspection:

Everyone has potential. It is an infinite resource that cannot be exhausted, but can be lost in the clouds of fear and complacency. It may take courage to embrace the possibilities of your own potential, but once you have flown past the summit of your fears, nothing will seem impossible.

Breaking News From The Historic Triangle

Virginia Beach has a long history of being Virginia's favorite seaside playground. Things will heat up on the oceanfront this September 19th-20th as **Festa Italiana** returns to the Beachstreet Starfish Pavilion (17th Street Park). Food, food and more food will be served, such as pizza, lasagna, chicken parmesan, espresso and just about any other Italian specialty! Seating and serving lines will be located under a big tent as well as in the boardwalk village. The World Pizza Champions will also make an appearance, demonstrating tricks and acrobatics that have landed them appearances on The Today Show, ESPN, Good Morning America and others. Admission is free and food dishes will be under \$10. Great music, fine food and Virginia Beach...a winning combination!

Colonial Williamsburg is not slowing up with the change of seasons. America's hometown (just a short distance from your front door at Colonial Crossings) has a full schedule of events that last through the holiday season, many of which are repeated on a routine schedule. For example, on the first Tuesday each month, chocolate lovers may attend **Secrets of the Chocolate Maker** to learn how colonists turned cocoa beans into a rare treat. The **Fourth Annual Storytelling Festival** takes place September 19 – 21 with the theme **“Spinning Stories–Spanning Time: A Weekend of Stories Old and New”**. Several renowned storytellers will converge on Colonial Williamsburg to relate tales from the 18th to 21st centuries that will dazzle listeners, whether they're five or ninety five. You'll also want to make plans to attend **Prelude to Victory: Washington Prepares for Yorktown** on the weekend of October 11 – 12. Be a part of history as General Washington rallies his Colonial Army for the final push on Lord Cornwallis' British forces in nearby Yorktown, a decisive battle which will settle the fate of the fledgling nation. A word of caution: you may want to cover your ears ...those artillery demonstrations are powerful! More special events, a daily schedule and the 2008 holiday schedule of events are available at www.history.org.

The **MacArthur Memorial** in Norfolk, Virginia features a museum housed in Norfolk's nineteenth-century City Hall, which is both a Virginia Historic Landmark and a National Historic Place. The MacArthur Memorial's extensive collection of military and personal artifacts allows visitors to discover the compelling story of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur and the millions of American men and women who served our nation during the Civil War, Indian Wars, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War. The Memorial goes beyond a timeline of one man's life; it explores the times in which he lived and the culture and heritage that all Americans share.



Busch Gardens Williamsburg's annual scare-a-thon **Howl-O-Scream** begins its tenth season on September 19th and runs each Friday, Saturday and Sunday through October 26th. Started as a three-weekend concept in 1999, the event has grown to a seven-weekend extravaganza of family-friendly fright. This Halloween-themed festival has become so popular that Howl-O-Scream accounts for nearly 15 percent of the park's annual attendance. Using universally scary environments like caves, haunted houses, mazes and cemeteries (as well as smells, sounds and temperature changes), park designers and engineers are able to place visitors in situations that will make even the bravest guest feel uneasy about what may be around the next corner. The creepy Fall festival at the world's most beautiful theme park is a sure hit with Colonial Crossings visitors...don't miss it!

Saturday, October 4th is a date to remember for wine connoisseurs. Historic Yorktown at Riverwalk Landing will be the site of the **Yorktown Wine Festival 2008** – “The Best of Virginia in Yorktown.” This event will showcase some of Virginia's finest wineries and promises to be outstanding. Go to Saturday's Wine Festival and the concluding dinner for food, wine, and lots of fun. The festival begins at 11 am; food and art vendors will be on-site, rain or shine. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the gate. Further details are available at 757-877-2933.

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By The Numbers

According to the American Resort Development Association (ARDA), vacation ownership continues to lead in the hospitality sector with steady growth, due in large part to the industry's constant innovation developed in response to consumer lifestyle needs and vacation preferences. Combined direct, indirect, and fiscal impacts in 2005 by the U.S. timeshare industry contributed an estimated \$92 billion to the U.S. economy in 2005. This included \$62 billion in consumer and business spending; 565,300 full- and part-time jobs; over \$21 billion in salaries, wages, and related income; and approximately \$8.5 billion in tax revenue.



Colonial Trivia:

Jamestown Settlement is recognized as the first permanent English settlement in the New World, having an official founding date of May 14, 1607 and serving as the Colonial capital until the government moved to the more temperate climate of Williamsburg. After learning that they would not be able to live off food bought from local Native Americans, a majority of the settlers quit looking for gold and started farming to avoid starving. Here are a few of the other occupations that were part of Jamestown Settlement:

Council

--Person chosen by the King to advise and assist in the governing of the colony.

Preacher

--Person responsible for the spiritual health of the colony. He conducted services and performed religious rites for settlers.

Gentleman

--A man of the upper-middle class (below the royal family, titled and lesser nobility) who was entitled to display arms (been granted a heraldic shield by the College of Heralds). The gentlemen settlers were all men who could afford and bought shares in the Virginia Company while still in London. A gentleman might hire laborers to work for him or pay the passage of others in hopes of building an estate in the New World.

Colonial Crossings of Williamsburg

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