

Media Clips—August through October 2016

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-officials-residents-mark-the-significance-of-african-arrival-day-at-fort-monroe-20160820-story.html>

### **Officials, residents mark the significance of African Arrival Day at Fort Monroe**

Community members and dignitaries gathered together to celebrate African Arrival Day in Fort Monroe in Hampton. The celebration recognizes the August 1619 landing of a Dutch ship carrying "20 and odd" Africans who were traded for provisions and supplies and was the first documented landing of indentured or enslaved Africans in English-occupied North America.

By [Jane Hammond](#)

August 20, 2016

HAMPTON — With the blast of a cannon resounding across the Chesapeake Bay, Gov. Terry McAuliffe formally commemorated African Arrival Day Saturday afternoon at Fort Monroe.

The moment was one in a weekend full of events in Hampton to pay tribute to the first Africans who were brought to what was then known as Point Comfort.

The first Africans arrived aboard the English ship the Dutch Lion in 1619, and several organizations are spearheading recognition of the history in advance of the 400th anniversary in three years.

“As we gather here today, let us all remember our history, and acknowledge the truth that we still have a great amount of work to do to right the wrongs of the past as we move forward in the present,” McAuliffe said. “We recognize that all of us are equal citizens of the commonwealth, and equally entitled to exercise our fundamental rights as Virginians and as Americans.”



Community members and local dignitaries gathered together to celebrate African Arrival Day on Fort Monroe in Hampton. The celebration recognizes the August 1619 landing of a Dutch ship carrying "20 and odd" Africans who were traded for provisions and supplies and was the first documented landing of indentured or enslaved Africans in English-occupied North America.

(Aileen Devlin/Daily Press)

Several other speakers, such as Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Sen. Thomas K. Norment, Jr. and Del. M. Kirkland Cox, spoke about the significance of the weekend.

Speakers read letters from President Barack Obama, who signed the declaration in 2011 to make Fort Monroe a national monument, and Sen. Tim Kaine, who sent their well wishes for the weekend.

Roland Martin, a journalist and syndicated columnist, delivered fiery remarks that challenged those in attendance to help right social wrongs that persist long after African-American slaves were emancipated.

Interactive Map: African Arrival Day

“What I want us to do whether we're black or white, male or female, Asian, native American, is to understand that we cannot talk about being a United States of America and having a more perfect union if we are unwilling to break down and get rid of the invisible shackles that still bind this country,” Martin said.

Saturday afternoon's speeches were among a number of events. The day began with an African naming ceremony and prayer service that was followed by a commemoration of the landing of the first Africans with dancing and drumming. Living history tours, interactive demonstrations and live music capped off the day.

The Casemate Museum at Fort Monroe unveiled a new exhibit dedicated to the escaped slaves who were declared contraband at Fort Monroe.

Public tours of the Godspeed, a re-creation of one of the three ships that brought settlers to found Jamestown in 1607, were available Friday. It was the Godspeed that McAuliffe signaled to set off the celebratory cannon shot.

Coming together on 'sacred ground' in Hampton

“Today was a tremendous honor,” National Park Service Superintendent Terry Brown, who began his work at Fort Monroe earlier this summer, said. “I think I landed here on the right day. Being African-American, being able to connect to my history, it's just so important. And it's an American story. The sooner and the more available we make that to the American public, it makes for a better world.”

Lifelong Hampton resident Vanessa Howard also said she was moved by the day.

“It's beautiful. It brings back memories, books that I've read, stuff coming in my head,” Howard said. “I just enjoyed it. It was really nice to listen to people talk about things that happened, things that are going on now. It just makes you think, and you wonder why the world just can't be one world.”

***Hammond can be reached by phone at 757-247-4951.***

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-tucker-burial-site-0820-20160819-story.html>

## **Coming together on 'sacred ground' in Hampton**

### **Music and memories rang forth at the Tucker Family Cemetery dedication**

By [Mike Holtzclaw](#), mholtzclaw@dailypress.com

August 19, 2016

HAMPTON — History came to life on Friday morning at, of all places, a graveyard.

More than two dozen members of the Tucker family gathered on a small plot of land in Hampton's Aberdeen Gardens section to formally dedicate a cemetery honoring a bloodline that they trace to the first child of African descent whose birth was recorded in English North America.

Verrandall Tucker of Virginia Beach has taken pride in the historic roots his family claims, but he felt that legacy even more deeply as he stood with his relatives atop the soil where so many of their ancestors are buried — perhaps even William Tucker, born in 1624 to Anthony and Isabella, who are believed to have arrived at Point Comfort in Hampton in 1619.

"This is sacred ground," Tucker said. "Being here today makes me reflect back on those who came before us, and the whole history of the sacrifices they made.

"This is a piece of history that is never talked about. It's not in history books and it's not in schools, but it needs to be talked about. It's so important that the next generation understands the history of this family. A lot of history gets lost to the years, and we can't afford to lose this."



**CAPTION**Video: African Arrival Day at Fort Monroe



**Video:** African Arrival Day at Fort Monroe



## **Video: Scenes from Fort Monroe**

The 2-acre cemetery, just off Sharon Court, had become overgrown and badly cluttered, but in recent years family members and neighbors staged a major clean-up project. On Friday, the site looked lovely, and many Aberdeen Gardens neighbors sat out in their backyards to take in the ceremony.

The dedication served as the kickoff to a full weekend of African Arrival Day events marking the 397th anniversary of the first slaves to be brought to the new country. The weekend itself is the launch of the 2019 Commemoration, which will eventually mark the quadricentennial.

Mayor Donnie Tuck said the Tuckers' tale plays a big role in Hampton's significance in the story of black history in the United States.

Family works toward second life for historic Hampton cemetery

"This isn't just Hampton's story, and it's not just Virginia's story — this is America's story," Tuck said. "We're here to see that it's told properly and fully."

Several members of Hampton's City Council and School Board attended, as well as former Mayor George Wallace and U.S. Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott.

Former Mayor Molly Ward, who now serves as the state's secretary of natural resources, was on hand and said it would be her mission to see that significant African-American cemeteries in Virginia receive as much state financial support as the graveyards of Confederate soldiers.

"For many decades, Virginia has invested state tax dollars in Confederate gravesites, which I support," Ward said. "But we also need to recognize the need for the care and maintenance of African-American and slave cemeteries. It's time for equality and fairness here."

The dedication ceremony included prayer, spiritual songs and stories that provided a historical context to the site. Michael Cobb, senior curator at the Hampton History Museum, spoke of

finding African cowrie shells and what appeared to be "a sliver of a shackle" near the spot where the Virginia Air & Space Center stands today.

Cobb's detailed description of 17th-century Hampton was fascinating to Jonathan and Malcolm Jones, who traveled from Michigan to attend this weekend's events. Jonathan, 23, and Malcolm, 20, grew up with stories of their roots in the Tucker family, but felt even more connected on Friday.

This was Malcolm's first trip to Virginia, and after the ceremony, the two brothers took a few moments to walk the grounds of the cemetery and reflect at some of the graves.

"We're the 20th generation," Jonathan Jones said. "You think of that in terms of everyone who came before us, and you think about how a lot of families don't make it that far. They die out, or they lose track of their history. It's very humbling to think about it."

Malcolm Tucker added: "It's also about paying respect. Without William Tucker, I'm not here. None of us are here."

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

African Arrival Day events

## **SATURDAY**

**8:30 a.m.:** Commemorative Ceremony at Fort Monroe's Continental Park Bandstand

**10:30 a.m.:** Casemate Museum opens new contraband slave exhibit

**11 a.m.:** A full day of music, dance, historical interpretation and other presentations related to African-American history in Hampton

## **SUNDAY**

**5 p.m.:** Project 1619 African Diaspora Film Project at the American Theatre in Phoebus

**Info:** Go online to [africanarrivalday.com](http://africanarrivalday.com) or [hamptonva2019.com](http://hamptonva2019.com)

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-hampton-fort-monroe-august-20160818-story.html>

## **Fort Monroe board considers potential waterfront park, signs to help people find their way around**

Video clips from historic Fort Monroe in Hampton, VA.

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

August 18, 2016

The Fort Monroe Authority Board of Trustees seemed to like the look of a proposed series of waterfront parks at the historic fort Thursday — but whether those will become a reality any time soon is unclear.

Landscape architect Billy Almond presented conceptual designs for a series of park locations, beaches and amenities that would be linked by trails surrounding the fort.

None of the many amenities shown are in line for funding or construction at the moment.

"Look at this as a vision for the future," Almond told the board.

Some of the moves would address longstanding issues, like the confusion many visitors face when they reach the awkward four-way intersection at the fort's front gate. The presented plans included cutting off part of McNair Drive at the entry to leave an obvious entry to the fort along Ingalls Drive.

Images trace the history of Fort Monroe from the era of the Civil War to present.

The plans are a result of months of work — including public comments from a February meeting. Many of the plans looked almost identical to those shown at that meeting.

Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director Glenn Oder told the board that the presentation would be part of a larger final report, which would also include a cost estimate that would be brought again at a later date.

In addition to the discussion of the proposed parks, a series of remarks and presentations made it clear that people are having trouble finding their way around Fort Monroe.



National Park Service Superintendent Terry Brown, who's been overseeing Fort Monroe National Monument for about a month and a half, told the board that it's one of the big things he's noticed in his short time here.

"I see a need for signage," Brown said. "I think the public, when they come through the gates, are struggling to find our resources."

Showing people how to find Outlook Beach or Canon Park is one thing, but the lack of some signs could pose a safety hazard, according to John Crank from The 1717 Design Group.

A signage study by the design consultant indicated that illegible or hard-to-find address signs on many buildings — particularly the fort's residences — can make it hard for emergency responders trying to quickly find the site of a call. Inconsistent placement of addresses and placards listing building numbers, not street addresses, on the walls of several properties add to the confusion.

"That's a pretty serious problem that wasn't apparent until we started looking at it," Crank said.

A presentation from Virginia State Parks Director Craig Seaver said directional problems start even before visitors near the fort.

"That first impression when you drive up to Fort Monroe — that experience starts on the interstate," Seaver said. "It's very difficult for the outside observer" to navigate from I-64, he said.

And when you arrive, confusion reigns with no one manning the guard stand at the front of the fort and no signage.

Seaver also shared some ideas for how to help Fort Monroe meet its goal of financial sustainability — the General Assembly wants the state-run group to arrive at a point where it no longer needs money appropriated from the state.

At a board retreat in March, a couple of board members suggested some kind of admissions or parking fee – something state parks use to bring in cash. But Seaver said that's not the only way.

"You never want to miss a chance to let a guest leave some money behind," he said, "using that merchandise to expand that experience."

Seaver said the state's park system brings in millions each year from merchandise shops selling food, drinks, supplies and souvenirs. For Fort Monroe, he suggested things like fish and tackle shops at the fishing pier or stands selling sunscreen and cool drinks at the beaches.

No decision was made on anything related to generating revenue.

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

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<http://www.williamsburgfamilies.com/african-arrival-day-fort-monroe-weekend-remembrance-activities-honor-first-african-arrival-point-comfort-august-19-20-21/>

**‘African Arrival Day at Fort Monroe’, a Weekend of Remembrance Activities in Honor of the First African Arrival at Point Comfort – August 19, 20 & 21**

16 August, 2016 by Karen [Leave a Comment](#)



African Arrival Day commemorates the first arrival of Africans in English North America at Point Comfort (site of Fort Monroe) in 1619. You are invited to these community events that have been organized by the Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission, the Virginia 2019 Commemoration, City of Hampton, Fort Monroe Authority and the National Park Service.

[AFRICANARRIVALDAY.COM](http://AFRICANARRIVALDAY.COM) | [#AFRICANARRIVALDAY2016](https://twitter.com/AFRICANARRIVALDAY2016)



Join us August 19th, 20th & 21st for a weekend of remembrance activities in honor of the First African Arrival at Point Comfort. The tribute begins at 9 a.m. on August 19 with free, public tours of the ship Godspeed and wraps up Sunday evening with a film festival at 5:00 p.m.

Representatives from five African nations attended the 2015 ceremony to unveil the official Virginia Department of Historic Resources marker located near Engineer Wharf. It commemorates the anniversary of the first “20 and odd” Africans who landed in English-occupied North America.

**Website: [hamptonva2019.com](http://hamptonva2019.com)**

Review the Full Weekend List of African Arrival Day Special Events:

Friday, August 19th

**Public Tours of the Godspeed**

Step aboard one of the re-created ships from Jamestown Settlement that brought America's first permanent English colonists to Virginia.

Hampton Maritime Center, Hampton Public Pier

9:00 am – 2:00 pm (*Free Admission*)

[View More Details](#)

**Dedication of the William Tucker Family Cemetary**

11:00 am – William Tucker Cemetery Dedication, located at 1 Sharon Court in Hampton's Aberdeen Gardens neighborhood

[View More Details](#)

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Saturday, August 20th

**Traditional African Naming Ceremony**

Performed by an African spiritual leader based on the individual's spirit and social conscientiousness of their ancestry.

Continental Park

8:30 am – 9:00 am

[View More Details](#)

**“Pilgrimage Prayer”**

6th Annual “Pilgrimage Prayer” sponsored by the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation

Continental Park

9:15 am – 9:45 am

[View More Details](#)

**Commemorative Ceremony**

Annual African Landing Day Commemoration including Libation, Ethiopian African Drummers & Dancers

Continental Park

10:00 am – 11:00 am

[View More Details](#)

### **Family Activities in Continental Park**

Youth activities featuring African Drummers & Dancers, jewelry making, blacksmithing, storytelling, and much more.

Continental Park

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

[View More Details](#)

### **Live Musical Entertainment**

Live regional musical artists will perform throughout the afternoon

Continental Park

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

[View More Details](#)

### **Juneteenth Jazz Concert** *(Tickets Required)*

Special guest performance, theatrical dance performance and local favorite musicians

American Theater

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

[View More Details](#)

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Sunday, August 21st

### **African Diaspora Film Festival** *(Tickets Required)*

“Bound: Africans versus African Americans” addresses the little known tension between Africans and African Americans, including the moments that divide and bind the two.

American Theater

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

[View More Details](#)

<http://www.dailypress.com/entertainment/thisweekend/dp-fea-african-arrival-day-0819-20160818-story.html>

## **African Arrival Day events planned for weekend in Hampton**

African Arrival Day will be held this weekend with a number of events including commemorative ceremonies, free museum openings and live music.

By [Jonathan Black](#) [joblack@dailypress.com](mailto:joblack@dailypress.com)

August 18, 2016

Hampton History Museum curator Allen Hoilman knew he wanted to dedicate a space in the museum to the arrival of the first Africans to the United States at Old Point Comfort, what is now Fort Monroe.

So he went to the museum's director, Luci Talbot Cochran, with an idea of dedicating a space to the story. He expected to be given a typical 18-month time frame to develop the exhibit.

"Luckily, her response was, 'That sounds great; can you have it done by Aug. 19?'" Hoilman said. "It was mid-June."

Hoilman and the museum immediately set to work creating a permanent space for to commemorate the historical event.

The Hampton History Museum is just one of many Peninsula organizations coming together this weekend to commemorate African Arrival Day, which is recognized as Aug. 20.

### **Hampton History Museum**

With such a quick turnaround to develop an exhibit dedicated to the arrival of Africans to the American colonies, Hoilman concentrated on specific details from the event.

One of those is the juxtaposition the Africans would have experienced compared to their homeland of Ndongo, located within Angola.

"The Angolans that were brought here came from a vibrant, sophisticated civilization," Hoilman said. "If they survived that terrible voyage, they would have been brought to this culture that is barely surviving and hanging on."

The exhibit focuses on a four-year timeline of the Africans' journey beginning with them being brought over on the ship San Juan Bautista in 1619 and ending in 1623.

Interactive Map: African Arrival Day

"I chose 1623 as the stopping point because that's when we have the fairly comprehensive list of the living," Hoilman said. "The Jamestown colony went through all manner of convulsion: massacres, wars, disease and famine."

The installation will open as part of the 17th century section of the museum, but Hoilman said he hopes to use it as a jumping off point to expand upon the story that began in 1619.

"In its historical implications, that is as stunning as the 1607 establishment of Jamestown or the 1620 arrival of the pilgrims in Plymouth or the 1594 arrival of the colonists at the Roanoke Colony," he said. "We've got to tell this story."

The exhibit opens to the public Saturday.

### **Looking ahead**

Calvin Pearson has been working toward 2019 for more than 30 years.

Pearson is the founder of Project 1619, which has worked to increase recognition of African Arrival Day for the past 10 or so years.

"We think the arrival of the first Africans in English North America is one of the most important events in the United States," he said. "This is a national story."

Project 1619 will lead the opening event of African Arrival Day on Saturday, a commemorative ceremony and prayer service to discuss the sacrifices the first Africans made.

Due to Old Point Comfort's location, the Fort Monroe Authority has worked closely with Project 1619 as African Arrival Day continues to grow, according to its executive director Glenn Oder.

"What we hope to do is transcend the arrival to an understanding of this new culture having positive impact on our country," Oder said. "We can begin to tell this story like it has never been told before."

The Hampton History Museum, the Fort Monroe Authority and Project 1619 all hope to awaken awareness and excitement surrounding the arrival of the first Africans.

"We see this, not as African-American history but as American history," Pearson said. "It needs to be commemorated. It needs to be remembered."

*Black can be reached by phone at 757-247-4607.*

African Arrival Day events

### **Friday**

- Public Tours aboard the Godspeed ship at Hampton Public Pier: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- A formal dedication of the William Tucker Family Cemetery, the namesake of the first child of African descent to be born in English North America: 11 a.m.
- WHRO taping of "Another View" at Fort Monroe: noon.

### **Saturday**

- Commemorative Ceremony at Continental Park Bandstand presented by Project 1619: 8:30-11 a.m.
- 2019 Commemoration Official Launch: noon to 1 p.m., at Fort Monroe-Continental Park: Featuring Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Sen. Thomas K. Norment, Jr. and Del. M. Kirkland Cox, U.S. Rep. Robert "Bobby" Scott, State Sen. Mamie Locke, former Gov. L. Douglas Wilder and guest



speaker, journalist and host of TV One's News One Now, Roland Martin, who will provide special remarks on this history's importance.

- Free admission at Hampton History Museum for "1619: Arrival of the First Africans Exhibit:" 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

- Casemate Museum opens featuring a new Contraband Exhibit: 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

- Continental park and other areas in Fort Monroe will feature a variety of performances and activities including live musical performances, dance performances and living history tours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

- Juneteenth Jazz Concert at The American Theatre, presented by Project 1619: 7 p.m.

## **Sunday**

- Worship services, First Baptist Church of Hampton: 10:30 a.m.

- Free admission at Hampton History Museum for "1619: Arrival of the First Africans Exhibit:" 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

- Project 1619 African Diaspora Film Program at The American Theatre: 5 p.m.

For more information, visit [africanarrivalday.com](http://africanarrivalday.com)

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<http://thenewjournalandguide.com/2016/08/18/1619-arrival-of-africans-is-theme-for-2019-event/>

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **1619 Arrival of Africans Is Theme For 2019 Event**

By Leonard E. Colvin Chief Reporter New Journal and Guide On August 20, 1619, according to American history books, the first “20 and odd” Africans walked off a ship and joined the inhabitants of the British Colony of Jamestown on the shores of what would become the Commonwealth of Virginia. They were not slaves, but [...]

By Web Staff Aug 18, 2016

By Leonard E. Colvin  
*Chief Reporter*  
*New Journal and Guide*

On August 20, 1619, according to American history books, the first “20 and odd” Africans walked off a ship and joined the inhabitants of the British Colony of Jamestown on the shores of what would become the Commonwealth of Virginia. They were not slaves, but “indentured servants,” and as such, could buy their freedom with their labor as could Whites under the same conditions.

But within a short time, the value of Africans as slaves to build the nation’s economic legacy was recognized, beginning their importation as slaves.

Despite the enslavement of Blacks in America until 1865, their presence contributed significantly to the social, economic, artistic and political heritage of the United States of America.

In 2019, the nation will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the first Africans to land at a British Colony. This weekend, on August 20, the nation will officially launch the commemoration of this key event in 1619 starting at 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Historic Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia. “The year 1619 is a landmark for the United States and especially for Virginia. Three cultures (American Indian, English and African) began forging the seeds of democracy, diversity and opportunity,” said 2019 Commemoration co-chair, Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr.

Partnering with the City of Hampton, Fort Monroe Authority, and the U.S. Department of the Interior’s National Park Service, the 2019 Commemoration Steering Committee is presenting a day of educational and informative events commemorating African Arrival Day. The launching

program, “American Evolution: Virginia to America 1619-2019,” will observe several events that took place in 1619, to include the impact of women on the Virginia Colony. Along with the arrival of the first recorded Africans to English North America in 1619, it also was the year of the first representative legislative assembly in the New World; and, it was the year of the first English Thanksgiving.

“The Virginia story is the first chapter of the American story. The year 1619 is a seminal moment in our history and the commemoration will take a holistic view, appropriately acknowledging the full history of our commonwealth,” said Delegate M. Kirkland Cox, 2019 Commemoration co-chair. State Senator Mamie Locke, who represents Hampton in the Virginia legislature, said August 20 is annually observed as “African-Americans Landing Day” by local residents.

She said Fort Comfort, where the first White Colonists arrived and where Blacks arrived as indentured servants and were later enslaved, is near Fort Monroe. Fort Monroe is where the first Blacks were freed during the civil war. “While the first Blacks were indentured servants and had the option to buy their freedom,” said Locke, “in “1624, laws were imposed which made Blacks slaves for life.”

Locke said years later during the Civil War, two Black slaves escaped to Fort Monroe (near Fort Comfort). The commanding officer at the facility, General Benjamin Butler, noted that since Virginia was part of the Confederacy, he would not comply with the Fugitive Slave Act. Thus, the escaped Blacks, who were deemed property in the southern states, would not be returned to their masters and would be deemed contraband. Other escaped slaves found freedom there during the war.

While renowned vessels such as the Santa Maria, Susan Constant, or Mayflower are anchored to the maritime narrative of the “New World,” few know of the White Lion. This ship transported the “20 and odd” Africans, natives of the Kingdom of Ndongo in what is now Angola to the British Colony of Jamestown. They were taken as captives aboard the White Lion from a Portuguese slave ship. These first Africans to English North America were sold there as involuntary laborers or indentured servants.

Their story has largely gone untold, obscured by the history of enslavement that beset Africans in America over the subsequent centuries. Leading the Opening Ceremony will be Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and Roland S. Martin, national journalist, author, and host of TV One's News One Now, who will provide special remarks on the importance of this history. The ceremony will also feature an exhilarating cannon presentation from Jamestown Settlement's Godspeed, a replica of one of the three ships that carried settlers to the Jamestown colony in 1607.

On African Arrival Day, there will be a variety of activities meant to recognize the dignity of the men and women while revealing more about their role in the colony, their customs and what vestiges of their heritage remain today. "The long and painful journey that began in 1619 is Hampton's story; it is Virginia's story. But, most importantly, it is America's story," said Hampton Mayor Donnie Tuck.

Visitors will get to experience the history, culture and contributions of Virginia's early Africans through a variety of interactive events. Terry E. Brown, Superintendent, Fort Monroe National Monument, National Park Service, acknowledged America's painful past when he said, "We have to be intentional about making sure our parks and programs build relevancy for all Americans, which sometimes requires linking people to the most difficult period of our history. African Arrival Day will be a great opportunity for all audiences to explore our shared history at Fort Monroe.

Glenn Oder, executive director of the Fort Monroe Authority, is a lifelong resident of the Hampton Roads community. He and his team are committed to "...encouraging conversations regarding our country's great African-American heritage and serving as a catalyst for improving relations in our community, state and country."

*For more information about the African Arrival Day events, [www.africanarrivalday.com](http://www.africanarrivalday.com).*

<http://www.13newsnow.com/features/african-arrival-commemoration-happening-in-hampton-this-weekend/300686666>

## **African Arrival commemoration happening in Hampton this weekend**

Staff , WVEC 12:03 PM. EST August 19, 2016



### **CONNECT TWEET LINKEDIN GOOGLE+ PINTEREST**

HAMPTON, Va. (WVEC) -- The City of Hampton is hosting several activities this weekend in honor of African Arrival Day.

Happening August 19-21, the public is invited to participate in African Arrival Day commemoration activities at Fort Monroe and other Hampton sites in recognition of the first arrival of Africans in English North America.

The community event will feature a commemoration ceremony presented by Project 1619, musical performances from the Jae Sinnett Trio, Rhythm Project, and Strictly Bizness; tours of the Godspeed; dance performances from Iris Middleton Academy Dance and Beauty for Ashes Dance Theater and Company; historical tours; storytelling with Dylan Pritchett and Dr. Margaret Bristow; youth activities; and a feature film entitled "Motherland."

A limited amount of free items will be given away including DNA tests sponsored by Family Tree DNA, historical children's books, and ice cream. A Juneteenth jazz concert and presentation of the film "Bound" will take place at The American Theatre, also presented by Project 1619.

For more information, [click here](#).

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060041649>

**NPS@100:**

**Parks struggle to attract next generation of supporters**

[Corbin Hiar](#), E&E reporter

Greenwire: Tuesday, August 16, 2016



Five years after Fort Monroe was protected by President Obama as a national monument, the National Park Service is still developing signage and interpretative materials for the site of the beginning and beginning of the end of slavery in America. Photo by Corbin Hiar.

HAMPTON, Va. — After more than 175 years guarding the entrance to Hampton Roads harbor, the Fort Monroe Army base was decommissioned in September 2011 as part of a broader military force realignment.

The next month, President Obama unilaterally designated the largest U.S. stone fort — a key refuge for slaves during the Civil War — as a national park site in his first use of a century-old conservation law.

But recent visitors to Fort Monroe National Monument were hard-pressed to find much evidence of that historic action.

#### **SPECIAL REPORT**



*Greenwire* explores the challenges facing the National Park Service as it launches its second century. [View](#) the report.

Nearly five years since it was created, the monument is almost completely devoid of any National Park Service signage. Some tourists and locals interviewed by *Greenwire* inside the park last month had little idea they were on NPS land.

Yet the monument hiding in plain sight is central to the agency's push under Obama to present a broader vision of the American story.

"I am looking forward to not only visiting myself but also taking Malia and Sasha down there so they can get a little bit of a sense of their history," the president said in the Oval Office when signing the proclamation establishing the park.

But with NPS still working to build up the monument, neither Obama nor his daughters have visited, underscoring the difficulty the Park Service may have in getting younger, more diverse groups of visitors to support the park system in its second century.

The president's designations of Fort Monroe, César E. Chávez and Stonewall national monuments briefly focused the national spotlight on the civil rights struggles of African-Americans, Latinos, and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Turning that attention into functioning parks that can create new NPS patrons, however, is another challenge altogether.

At Fort Monroe, arrowhead emblems are set to begin going up across Old Point Comfort, the peninsula the U.S. Army used to run, later this month — a year after the military formally handed control of the fort and much of the shoreline to the Park Service.

But current and former NPS leaders say one of the main barriers the agency faces in its attempt to connect with the next generation of parkgoers is a lack of diversity in its workforce, in the parks it protects and in the interpretation at those sites.

### **Changing demographics**

For the past few decades, NPS has been buoyed by the success of its "Mission 66" campaign, an effort to revitalize the national park system after its first 50 years. In the post-World War II era, many middle-class, white Americans grew up visiting the parks with their parents — a habit they have carried into adulthood.



Those seniors are currently the Park Service's strongest base of support. They frequent the parks; belong to advocacy groups including the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), which pushes Congress for larger NPS budgets; and donate to organizations that provide supplementary assistance to the agency, such as the National Park Foundation and friends' groups of individual parks.

Replacing that fading demographic group is the top priority of the Park Service's "Find Your Park" centennial effort.

"We cannot take the future of conservation for granted," NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis said in [a speech](#) earlier this month at the National Press Club. "We must use the magic of our parks and public lands to inspire and empower a new generation of conservation and historic preservation" supporters, he said.

NPS and the Interior Department, its parent agency, have long understood that part of the way to increase support for public lands is to make the people running them look more like the general public.



Robert Stanton led the Park Service from 1997 until 2001 and now serves on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent board established by Congress in 1966. Photo courtesy of the U.S Department of Interior.

Robert Stanton, chosen by President Clinton to be the first African-American to serve as NPS director, credits President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Interior secretary, Harold Ickes, with putting the first cracks in federal land management agencies' color barriers.

"Interestingly enough, he had two prominent African-Americans who served as adviser to the secretary for Negro affairs," Stanton said in an interview.

Later, during the height of the African-American civil rights movement, Interior Secretary Stewart Udall "said he didn't see any black faces among the professional and technical staff to

any large degree, and that's when he directed that there would be active recruiting at sources where there were African-Americans."

Stanton, who grew up picking cotton in the segregated state of Texas, was one of the early beneficiaries of Udall's recruiting push. Soon after graduating in 1963 from what was then known as Huston-Tillotson College, a historically black university in Austin, Texas, he joined NPS — despite having never visited a national park.

"When I grew up, we had very limited economic means," he explained. "I did not even know the term 'vacation.'" Stanton's first park experience was riding in the back of a bus to Texas' Gateway Park in Fort Worth.

Decades later, a similar recruitment effort at Louisiana's historically black Grambling State University brought Fort Monroe Superintendent Terry Brown into the Park Service.

Outside groups have urged NPS, whose workforce is still around 80 percent white, to redouble its commitment to hiring more minority job candidates. An influential 2009 [report](#) from the Second Century Commission — an independent group of academics, former government officials and business leaders convened by NPCA — called for the agency "to actively recruit a new generation of National Park Service leaders that reflects the diversity of the nation."

The United States is growing more diverse by the year. Non-Hispanic whites now make up less than 62 percent of the population and are projected to fall below 50 percent sometime in the next three decades, according to the Census Bureau.

### **Opportunity ahead?**

In the coming years, the Park Service will have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to change the makeup of its workforce, according to Dan Chu, the director of the nonprofit Sierra Club's wild lands protection campaign.

"There are a lot of the older baby boomers who came up enjoying the parks in the '50s and early '60s, and now they're retiring," he said in the midst of a cross-country national parks road trip with his family. "We see that as a real opportunity to make sure that the Park Service and other agencies are recruiting in people with diverse perspectives as well as promoting up from within leaders who can bring those diverse perspectives and create more welcoming and inclusive experiences in the parks."

The Park Service estimates that 2,800 of its roughly 14,900 permanent employees are already eligible to retire; another 2,800 will qualify in the next five years. That means that more than a third of the agency's core workforce could turn over in a decade or less.



Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) thinks the Park Service could do more to promote diversity within its ranks. Photo by Corbin Hiar.

Arizona Democratic Rep. Raúl Grijalva, the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee, is concerned that the agency is not prepared to take advantage of the coming retirement wave.

NPS should "not just speak to the need to diversify but begin to put together the strategies that will accomplish that," the parks advocate said during an interview in his Capitol Hill office. "I think that's lacking."

Speaking more broadly about the Park Service's need to attract minority and millennial visitors, Grijalva asked, "How do you reach urban Americans and our communities of color and integrate them, and make them as passionate about the parks as the rest of us are?"

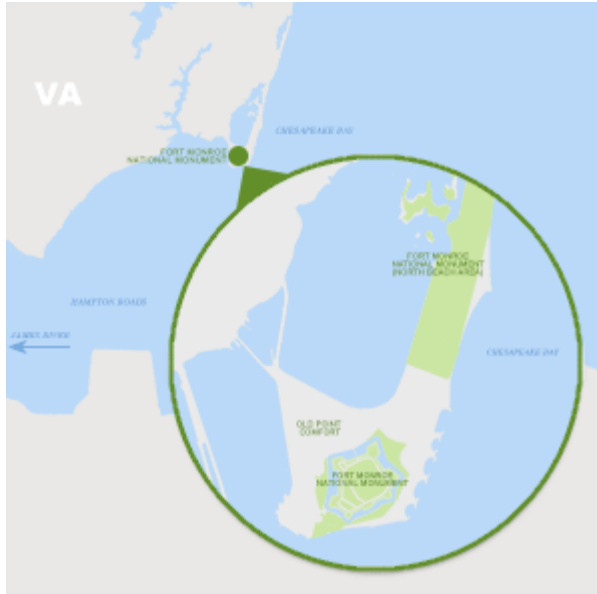
"I think that can be done," he said. "But without measured growth, goals, timetables that are a priority to the agency, you run the risk of having hit-or-miss efforts."

### **NPS is 'not a business'**

One tactic the Obama administration has embraced to draw new faces into the parks is protecting sites like Fort Monroe that "broaden the diversity of our national narrative and reflect our nation's evolving history," as the Second Century Commission put it. But will these new monuments strengthen or burden a park system stretched thin by some sites that were pet projects of long-dead politicians and a maintenance backlog of around \$12 billion?

The initial data are mixed.

### **Fort Monroe National Monument**



**[+]** Sitting at the intersection of the James River and Chesapeake Bay, English explorer John Smith described Old Point Comfort as a "little Isle fit for a Castle." Map by E&E Publishing.

The Park Service does not yet have official annual visitation figures for most of the 11 parks Obama has created using the 1906 Antiquities Act, which allows presidents to protect lands of historic or scientific significance without the approval of Congress. But Fort Monroe officials estimate at least 100,000 visitors came to the monument's beaches, fort and museum last year.

In spite of the Park Service's low profile in the community, Obama's first national monument also seems to have had some success attracting young people and minorities.

On a steamy weekday in late July, more than two dozen children of color from a nearby YMCA toured Fort Monroe's Casemate Museum, which was created in 1951 to showcase the cell where Confederate President Jefferson Davis was held for two years after the Civil War. Run by Virginia's Fort Monroe Authority in consultation with NPS, the museum now includes an exhibit on how Old Point Comfort was in 1619 the first recorded place where Africans were brought to the English colonies as slaves.

Families also walked atop the sod-covered walls of the 63-acre fort, which earned the nickname Freedom's Fortress for protecting slaves during the war, and lay out on the monument's 262 acres of undeveloped sandy coastline.

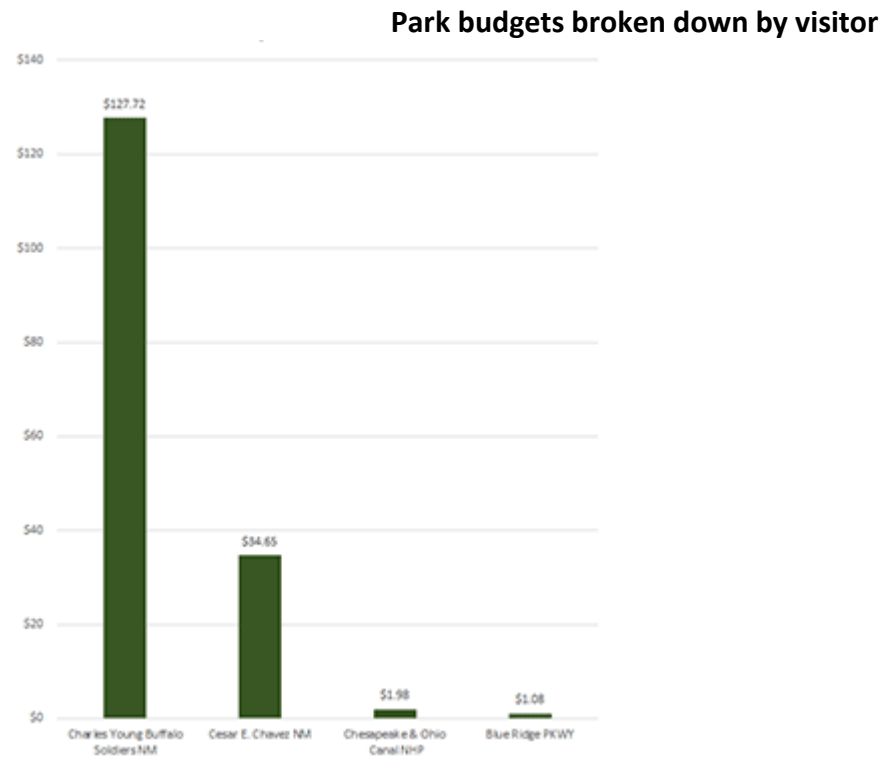
NPS statistics suggest that other Obama-designated sites, which have fewer natural resources than Fort Monroe, have been less popular with visitors.

The 4-year-old Chávez park in California's San Joaquin Valley, which was home to the revered labor leader from the early 1970s until his death in 1993, welcomed just over 10,400 people last year. In its third year of operation, the Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument

— an Ohio park that includes the home of Col. Charles Young, the first black national park superintendent — attracted fewer than 4,000 tourists.

The rest of the parks Obama created through the Antiquities Act either are still determining the best way to estimate visitation levels, are less than a year old or — in the case of the park designated in 2013 to honor Harriet Tubman — have yet to officially open.

With few visitors and annual budgets totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars, the Obama-created monuments are spending significant sums as part of the agency's effort to create new park system supporters.



**[+]** Obama-created monuments get more money per guest than popular parks. Graph by E&E Publishing.

The Chávez park received \$369,000 from Congress in the last fiscal year, the equivalent of \$34.65 per guest. The Young park's budget of \$510,000 means it essentially saw \$127.72 for each visitor. And the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Cambridge, Md., is on track to spend around \$1.1 million before it even begins welcoming visitors in March 2017.

By comparison, Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and North Carolina — the most popular attraction in the park system, with nearly 15.1 million visitors in 2015 — had a budget just over \$16.2 million, or \$1.08 per person. The most popular historic site — the Chesapeake & Ohio

Canal National Historical Park, which extends from Washington, D.C., to Cumberland, Md. — welcomed almost 4.8 million visitors on a budget of a little more than \$9.5 million, or \$1.98 for each visitor.

Supporters of the new parks point out that their budgets are used for more than just visitor services. They also say it is wrong to think of them in purely financial terms.

"It's not a business," Dwight Pitcaithley, the former chief historian of NPS, said of running a park. "The Park Service is not expected to make money. The Park Service is expected to preserve things and create interpretive programs."

Furthermore, he argued, the sites Obama has protected are necessary to represent the full range of experiences of American taxpayers.

Should NPS "tell only the story of white Americans?" asked Pitcaithley, who retired from the agency in 2005 and is now a professor at New Mexico State University. "Or shouldn't it — because all of our tax dollars go into it, whether we're gay, straight, Hispanic, Chinese-American, whatever — reflect all shades of color in the history of this country?"

### **'Tell the bad parts'**

A bigger concern for Pitcaithley and current Park Service leaders is that when minorities come to a park, they may be turned off by outdated or inaccurate interpretation.

For example, Fort Monroe Superintendent Brown and Park Ranger Aaron Firth — the only other NPS staffer there at the moment — must deal with plaques from the United Daughters of the Confederacy that some could find offensive.

One posted in 1939 outside the cell Davis was held in refers to "the monotony, the loneliness and the physical suffering" he dealt with while a "prisoner of war." Another at the base of a memorial park to the Confederate president says the area was created in 1956 "for the pleasure of military personnel and their families."



The site honoring the former Confederate president is on top of a picturesque point of the fort wall that overlooks the Chesapeake Bay. Photo by Corbin Hiar.

The museum, which was dedicated during the Jim Crow era by Davis' grandson, now explains that he was held on charges related to the assassination of President Lincoln, abuse of Union soldiers and treason.

Its exhibit on Davis also shows that he quietly disputed the authenticity of "The Prison Life of Jefferson Davis," a myth-making account of his allegedly harsh imprisonment that was a best-selling book in the 1860s. In the margins of his personal copy, Davis repeatedly wrote that many of the stories were "not true," "infamously false" or a "gross misrepresentation."

The memorial park is marked by an ornate, wrought-iron archway with Davis' name in capital letters, which Brown has no plans to remove.

"I look at it every day and I'm reminded of what it means for my community, but I don't want to take it down," he said. "It's history, and you don't just wash away history. You have to tell the bad parts of it, too."

Because of lingering resentment over the "War of Northern Aggression" — as some Southerners referred to the conflict — NPS struggled to interpret parks related to that period "for generations, really," Pitcaithley said. "But the superintendents decided in the late '90s that, with the sesquicentennial of the Civil War coming up, they needed to step up to the table and embrace new scholarship. And they did it."

Similar changes are now necessary at the Park Service's Western forts, which "almost across the board don't do a very good job," he said. "The interpretation there speaks mostly to the military adventures and very little on the Native American side of what was going on."

Some of the national historical sites singled out by Pitcaithley and other experts as particularly insensitive to American Indians include Fort Laramie in Wyoming and Fort Larned in Kansas.

### An 'interesting turning point'

But the challenges of addressing poor interpretation or a lack of diversity in the NPS workforce should not prevent the agency from adding new parks that expand the American narrative, argued Alan Spears, NPCA's director of cultural resources.

"History doesn't stop, and sometimes you have these fantastic opportunities when things align," he said, referring to the string of monuments Obama has designated during his final term in office.

"Do you wait until circumstances are completely perfect, or do you try to get the resources protected in perpetuity by having them added to the park system?" Spears asked. "Our choice has been, let's get them added and then we'll just continue to work our butts off to see if we can't get the resources that the parks deserve."



Fort Monroe Superintendent Terry Brown standing next to a state historic sign, which notes the point at which enslaved Africans were first brought to the English colonies by a Dutch man-of-war. Photo by Corbin Hiari.



Speaking about larger parks like Fort Monroe, with both natural and historical resources, "it's a little bit more difficult to place that undergirding underneath the National Park Service — the support that they need," he said.

Spears blamed the monument's slow pace of development on a lack of funding. "The Park Service will need more assistance and personnel to get that place up and running," he said.

Fort Monroe's budget in fiscal 2016 was \$509,000. In the Park Service's latest budget request, it asked Congress to give an additional \$490,000 to "support interpretative operations and visitor services, provide beach lifeguards, and support facility operations and maintenance." The increase is necessary, NPS said, because last August the agency finally officially received from the Army the land Obama set aside for the monument.

Now that the Park Service has more control of the fort and the Old Point Comfort coastline, Brown, who took over as superintendent in June, can move ahead with posting arrowhead emblems and other interpretive NPS signage around the peninsula. That process should begin by the end of this month, according to the Fort Monroe Authority, which is helping with the transition and managing most of the residential and office buildings left behind by the Army.

Although Fort Monroe and Obama's other new parks are just getting up and running, "I think we can still be concerned about the fact that we haven't seen a better uptick in numbers," Spears said.

"We have perhaps reached an interesting turning point in relevancy, diversity and inclusion as it relates to federal lands," said Spears, who is African-American. But if the Park Service does not "see an increase — and a significant one — in the participation of people of color as visitors and employees in the next 10 to 15 years, we will have failed."

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## OPINION COLUMN

### **'Arrival Day' brings chance for unity**

Published 9:48 pm Tuesday, August 16, 2016

By Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam and Sen. Mamie Locke

One year ago, we gathered at Fort Monroe to dedicate a new historic marker that recognized Old Point Comfort in Hampton as the site of the first landing of Africans in English North America. The dedication was done in a spirit of recognition, commemoration and victory as historic facts came together to recognize this location as the first arrival of Africans to the future country.

President Barack Obama declared Fort Monroe a national monument, recognizing the need to preserve and promote the historically significant site. As he signed the proclamation, he looked forward to the day that he would bring his daughters to visit.

Especially as we approach the 400th anniversary, many families from all over the nation will visit Fort Monroe to learn about the roots of African American heritage found in Hampton.

As we prepare to commemorate the significant event this year, we find ourselves facing a great challenge. We are fractured as a country, divided along political, cultural and economic lines. Angry rhetoric, discord and images of acts of violence fill our consciousness. The need for understanding and unity is greater now than at any time in recent memory.

African Arrival Day on Aug. 20 at Fort Monroe provides us all an opportunity to come together as a community to commemorate this first arrival and recognize nearly 400 years of contributions the African culture has made on this land.

The time has come for all of us to find common ground in the appreciation of the strength of spirit African people displayed, thriving despite being forced into bondage, while maintaining their heritage despite being uprooted from their homeland.

America is a country of immigrants — some of us by our own free will, others forcibly — but here we are, together, many cultures melded together into one. And that is what makes America special.

There is, perhaps, no place better to begin the dialogue of understanding and unity than Fort Monroe. For this site, where the first Africans were traded for supplies, is also where three enslaved men, Frank Baker, Shepard Mallory and James Townsend, escaped the bondage of slavery by seeking freedom and asylum within the confines of Fort Monroe in 1861 at the onset of the Civil War.

Their actions inspired others to follow and eventually thousands of escaped slaves sought their emancipation at Freedom's Fortress, the very same land where the first Africans arrived and were traded as property.

The Fort Monroe Foundation is committed to encouraging dialogue that leads to unity and educating our community about the stories too often left out of history books.

When we gather on Aug. 20 for the Commemorative Ceremony near the site of the first landing, may we do so recognizing not only the spirit of the event from a historical perspective, but from a contemporary standpoint, as well.

The hope is that an event such as this, offering a chance to share our collective heritage and diversity, will open our hearts and minds to each other and we will use this as a source of historical grounding and a catalyst for healing going forward.

For more information on African Arrival Day at Fort Monroe, please, visit [www.americanevolution2019.com](http://www.americanevolution2019.com).

*Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam is the vice chair of the Fort Monroe Authority Board of Trustees. Sen. Mamie Locke is a member of that board.*

<http://www.anotherviewradio.org/index.php/196:another-view-live-from-fort-monroe>



### **Another View LIVE from Fort Monroe**

"The year 1619 is a landmark for the United States and especially for Virginia. Three cultures - American Indian, English and African - began forging the seeds of democracy, diversity and opportunity." That quote comes from Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr., co-chair of the 2019 Commemoration. The official launch of "American Evolution Virginia to America 1619-2019" begins this weekend with the commemoration of African Arrival Day at Fort Monroe in Hampton.

**Another View will be LIVE from the Gazebo at Fort Monroe on Friday, August 19 at noon and you are invited to attend!** Come watch us live as we discuss the history of the landing of the first Africans to English America and the significance of that landing at Fort Monroe. Our guests include **Glenn Oder**, Executive Director, Fort Monroe Authority; **Terry Brown**, new Superintendent of the Fort Monroe National Monument; **Tina Rollins**, Director of the Hampton University Library; and **Vanessa Thaxton-Ward**, Director of the Hampton University Museum.

**Bring a lawn chair as seating is limited. Wear comfortable shoes as it's a bit of a walk to the Gazebo. Plan to arrive no later than 11:45 am. It's FREE and we would love to have you in our audience!**

**If you cannot join us in person, tune in to Another View, Friday, August 19 at noon on 89.5 WHRV-FM!**

*The views and opinions expressed in "Another View the Radio Show" are those of the host of the program and its guest. They do not necessarily reflect the views of opinions of WHRO Public Media or Hampton Roads Educational Telecommunications Association, Inc. We encourage conversation about our stories and hope you will share your thoughts. Comments that are obscene, sexual in nature, racist, personally offensive or otherwise inappropriate are not permitted.*

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[http://pilotonline.com/inside-business/news/tourism-and-hospitality/african-arrival-day-event-planned-for-fort-monroe/article\\_e1c7c4eb-8302-5c0a-9e25-e5f5a90355d3.html](http://pilotonline.com/inside-business/news/tourism-and-hospitality/african-arrival-day-event-planned-for-fort-monroe/article_e1c7c4eb-8302-5c0a-9e25-e5f5a90355d3.html)

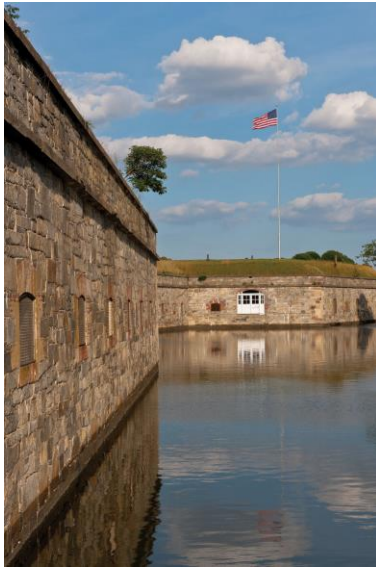
Sunday, August 21, 2016

## **African Arrival Day event planned for Fort Monroe**

[By Nate Delesline III](#)

[nate.delesline@insidebiz.com](mailto:nate.delesline@insidebiz.com)

Aug 15, 2016



Courtesy of Ben Greenberg

An African Arrival Day event is planned for Fort Monroe on Aug. 20.

[nate.delesline@insidebiz.com](mailto:nate.delesline@insidebiz.com)

A website, logo and the first of many events to honor and commemorate the 400th anniversary of the region's role in America's founding have been recently introduced.

The Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation touted a recently introduced website, [AmericanEvolution2019.com](http://AmericanEvolution2019.com), saying it's designed to engage stakeholders while supporting education, tourism and economic development initiatives being developed for the commemoration.

The General Assembly in 2013 designated the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation as Virginia's official executive branch agency charged with planning the commemoration. State Sen. Tommy Norment and Del. Kirk Cox are co-chairmen of the commemoration steering committee, which includes citizens and elected officials.

"Much more than a state event, American Evolution is a commemoration of America and its history, democracy and culture," said Kathy Spangler, the 2019 Commemoration Executive Director. "America has been in constant evolution over this arc of 400 years, and our goal is to promote contemporary engagement as we discuss current issues and America's future."

The committee introduced the official commemoration logo during in July and describes the American Evolution logo as "graphically depicted with a transformational red, white and blue 'compass rose to star and stripes' illustration." The graphic elements are intended to convey strength, democracy and ingenuity.

"The Virginia story is the first chapter of the American story," Cox said in an announcement. "The commemoration will bring together political leaders, educators and citizens to mark the four-century long influence of 1619 complete with initiatives focused on education, tourism and economic development. The year 1619 is a seminal moment in our history. The commemoration will take a holistic view, appropriately acknowledging the full history of our commonwealth. I look forward to working with my fellow commemoration committee members on marking this historic occasion."

The events are set to commence on Aug. 20 with African Arrival Day at Fort Monroe. The event is produced in collaboration with the city of Hampton, the Fort Monroe Authority, the National Park Service and the 2019 Commemoration.

More information about the African Arrival Day event is available at [africanarrivalday.com](http://africanarrivalday.com).

<http://www.dailypress.com/business/dp-tidewaterbiz-oozlefinch-20160814-story.html>

**Fort Monroe craft brewery Oozlefinch opening in September**

The Oozlefinch Brewery is set to open on Fort Monroe on September 3rd.

By [Tara Bozick](#), tbozick@dailypress.com

Fort Monroe craft brewery opening in September

August 14, 2016

The wait is soon over. The Oozlefinch Craft Brewery at Fort Monroe is brewing beer and plans to open Sept. 3.

"We're excited," said owner-operator Russel Tinsley. "It's kind of surreal right now."

The craft brewery plans to have a half-dozen beers on tap in its tasting room for its grand opening, he said. Oozlefinch began brewing at the end of July using a 15-barrel system at 81 Patch Road.

Oozlefinch is leasing 4,700 square feet now, and Tinsley would like to eventually expand into the additional 12,000 square feet of space in Building 12, Tinsley said.

Oozlefinch will sell 32-ounce sealed cans with its crowler machine in addition to growlers, or resealable beer jugs. The brewery plans to distribute kegs through Hampton-based M. Price Distributing to restaurants and growler stations, starting with two beers at first — a hefeweizen called Lady in White and a pineapple grapefruit IPA called Sergeant Patches.



Oozlefinch Brewery will open on Fort Monroe in September 2016.

Purchase [pictures by Daily Press photographers.](#)

(Rob Ostermaier/Daily Press)

The names of Oozlefinch's brews allude to Fort Monroe stories. In fact, the brewery's name hails from the mascot of the original Fort Monroe officers' club and of the Coastal Artillery Corps.

The story goes that a captain in the early 1900s, after imbibing, supposedly saw a large-eyed, featherless backward-flying bird outside the club, said John Hutcheson, Fort Monroe Authority deputy director. After hearing the tale, the colonel's wife bought a small statue matching the description. The statue of the bird, dubbed the Oozlefinch, was kept by the bar for a while at the Casemate Club.



The Oozlefinch Craft Brewery is negotiating to possibly lease a building at Fort Monroe. Here is a rendering, shown in June 2015, of what the building could look like after renovations.

(Jen Stringer, owner of For The People Projects, LLC)

A look-alike Oozlefinch statue will perch behind the bar at the Fort Monroe brewery, and Tinsley also hopes to adorn the building's exterior with a mural of the creature along with its story.



"We certainly hope that he'll be widely successful and bring lots of people to Fort Monroe," Hutcheson said. "In addition to operating a brewery, he'll be helping us tell the story of Fort Monroe."

Tinsley, along with wife Rebekah, had been looking to open a brewery at Fort Monroe since December 2012, but the concept gained more momentum when they joined up with investors Tony and Allison Carter in early 2015. Owner Steve Walters of Smoke BBQ in Newport News introduced them to each other, they said.

Tony Carter, a Newport News orthopedic surgeon, said he knew within 10 minutes of talking to Russ Tinsley that he had the passion and commitment to get a brewery on Fort Monroe.

"We want to make great beer that people really like," Tony Carter said. "It's such an awesome concept."

He and Allison are self-described foodies who plan to be actively involved partners, working in the tasting room and pouring beers. They've learned a lot about Fort Monroe in the startup process.

"What better way to learn history than over some beer?" Allison Carter said.

Another invaluable piece was finding brewmaster Austin Shawinsky of Newport News, Tony Carter said. Shawinsky had brewed at St. George Brewing in Hampton and studied brewing science and engineering at the American Brewers Guild's school in Vermont.

He's spent the past year or so perfecting the recipes, Tinsley said.

Shawinsky said he's been influenced a lot by the hoppier West Coast-style beers and that while he likes strong flavor and aromas, he wants beers that are still balanced and smooth.

"I'd say our beers are very approachable, very flavorful and unique," Shawinsky said.

Folks can view the bright tanks and fermenters from the tasting room, which boasts a waterfront view of Mill Creek. Fort Monroe Authority is working to find businesses who could

use the unique spaces at the former Army base, Hutcheson said, adding Fort Monroe's commercial space is about 20 percent leased.

"I love Fort Monroe," Tinsley said. "We all believe in the potential this place has."

Sean Pepe, partner in The Deadrise restaurant at Fort Monroe's Old Point Comfort Marina, is looking forward to having Oozlefinch beer on tap. He said the brewery could help more folks find the restaurant and vice versa.

Pepe said he likes the direction Fort Monroe is going, and he and his partners are exploring the idea of opening another restaurant there.

The Hampton-based Stuft food truck plans to be at the grand opening, which is planned for 1 p.m. Casey Haas, who owns Stuft with brother Alex, said he anticipates local restaurants in Phoebus would get a boost from brewery visitors, too.

"We live in Buckroe — it's pretty cool to see something like that in our backyard," Haas said.

For more information, call the brewery at 757-224-7042 or visit [oozlefinchbeers.com](http://oozlefinchbeers.com).

*Bozick can be reached by phone at 757-247-4741. Sign up for a free weekday business news email at [TidewaterBiz.com](http://TidewaterBiz.com).*

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Proceeds from sales of the furniture will be split between the Fort Monroe Authority, which manages the property, and the state's Department of General Services. About \$18,000 in sales were made Wednesday. But the real goal is to help make the stately brick office buildings more appealing to would-be commercial tenants, which likely won't have a use for the furniture.

"Hopefully, as we clear out these buildings, potential business owners can come in here and help us transform Fort Monroe into a lively economic center," said Nancy Rodrigues, Virginia's secretary of administration.

Brock Vergakis, 757-222-5846, [brock.vergakis@pilotonline.com](mailto:brock.vergakis@pilotonline.com)

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-office-furniture-sell-off-at-ft-monroe-20160824-premiumvideo.html>

### **Office Furniture Sell off at Ft. Monroe**

Fort Monroe and the State of Virginia are selling off buildings of office furniture to State Government groups at garage sale discounts inside six old TRADCO complex buildings at Ft. Monroe today.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/features/history/dp-nws-katherine-johnson-qa-0827-20160903-story.html>

### **Q&A with NASA pioneer and 'Hidden Figures' inspiration Katherine Johnson**

By [Mike Holtzclaw](#) mholtzclaw@dailypress.com

SEPTEMBER 3, 2016

Former [NASA](#) mathematician Katherine Johnson celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on Aug. 26 by attending a ceremony dedicating a park bench and a historical marker in her honor at Carousel Park in downtown Hampton.

Afterward Johnson, the inspiration for the book and upcoming film adaptation "Hidden Figures," answered some questions about her life and career.

**Q:** Your mathematical computations were vital to the missions that sent men into orbit and to the moon. Did you realize at the time how important your work was?

**A:** I did it because it's what you do. My job was to answer questions for people. For engineers. They were working on a problem and they would bring me the question. I would answer it. They took a certain amount of math in college and went into engineering. We worked entirely in mathematics. It was so much pure math. Pure geometry.

**Q:** What was it that drew you to math and made you want to devote yourself to it so completely?

**A:** All the time, I looked at the mathematic side of everything. If I had a problem, I asked until I found it. There's a lot of geometry in space. I worked on it the same way that I worked out math problems. I would just work on it until I had the answer.



Katherine Johnson's sister in law Dr. Mildred F. Johnson, right, stands with author of "Hidden Figures" Margot Lee Shetterly, left, after the Katherine Johnson bench dedication ceremony in Hampton on Friday, Aug. 26, 2016.  
(Aileen Devlin / Daily Press)

**Q:** What advice would you give to young women, or for that matter young men, thinking about careers in math or technology?

**A:** If you like it, get into it. Go into something you like. I run into a lot of women who started out in math and they ended up becoming teachers, because they thought teaching was the only thing they could do with it. In fact, that's what I started out doing. I taught for several years. Of course, I had to teach everything, not just math. But I enjoyed teaching.

**Q:** It must have been exciting, then, when you came to work at NASA and could really dedicate yourself completely to math, which is what you enjoyed the most.

**A:** Every day I got to do what I love. The harder it was, the better I liked it.

**Q:** When they came to you and asked you to do calculations to send a man into space, or to the moon, what did you think?

**A:** I wasn't especially thrilled. It was my job. They gave me questions and I worked on them. They wanted to go to the moon, so I looked up the distance to the moon and worked up the equations about how long it would be in space before it got there. It was my job, and I did it.

**Q:** You recently got photographed by the famous portrait photographer Annie Leibovitz for Vanity Fair magazine. What was that like?

**A:** She took pictures of me for hours (at Fort Monroe). She was interested in the look on my face. She was looking for a certain expression. She kept asking me questions until I was thinking like she wanted me to think.

**Q:** What was it like receiving your Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama?

**A:** It was very nice. I also got to be kissed by the president. That was as exciting as getting the medal.

**Q:** Your work was instrumental in sending astronauts to the moon. If you could have gone to the moon yourself, would you have wanted to do that?

**A:** (thinks about it long and hard) Yes, I probably would. I think I would. But you would be gone from home a lo-o-ong time!

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

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<http://elm.washcoll.edu/index.php/2016/09/adam-goodheart-honored-as-historian/>

THE ELM

The Student Newspaper of Washington College since 1930

**Adam Goodheart Honored as Historian**

by [The Elm](#)

[SEPTEMBER 11, 2016](#)

By Cassandra Sottile  
Elm Staff Writer



Goodheart, director of the C.V. Starr Center was recognized for his work as a historian.

History is in good hands at Washington College. Director of the C. V. Starr Center, Adam Goodheart, was elected to the Society of American Historians earlier this year.

Along with the annual dinner and the various programs that come with this prestigious election, Goodheart is now eligible to possibly receive one of the myriad of literary prizes, like the Francis Parkman, Allan Nevins, and the Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. awards, given out by the society.

The now 400 strong society elected Goodheart along with 18 other inductees, this year. Among the other inductees were two of Goodheart's inspirations: Marcus Rediker, scholar of maritime and labor history and the 2008 winner of the George Washington Book Prize, and essayist Ta-Nehisi Coates, who wrote "The Case for Reparations" and most recently, "Between the World and Me."

Of his election, Goodheart said, "It was really awe-inspiring to look at the list of members and see the names of some of my college professors, as well as authors whose books I've been reading since I was in high school."

Goodheart has been serving as the director of the C.V. Starr Center since 2006. Located in the Custom House in historic downtown Chestertown, it provides opportunities for students to fully embrace the American experience for its history and culture. Students are able to collaborate on research projects, both locally and beyond, and work with the visiting fellowship writers. Through his position at the Starr Center, Goodheart has been very active in getting students involved in history. Under his leadership, the Center recently launched a new program called Quill and Compass, designed to provide students with opportunities unavailable elsewhere. From road trips, to internships, to dinner conversations with visiting historians, Quill and Compass gives students an exclusive window into the history that can be found not only in Chestertown, but all over the United States.

When considering the idea of Quill and Compass, Goodheart said, “We wanted to make it open to all students, no application required. Anyone who wants to join is able to and welcome.” In addition to the Quill and Compass program, a new research project that has partnered with the Smithsonian Institute, will open in the spring of 2017 called Museum on Main Street, in partnership with the Smithsonian Institute.

Goodheart has been heavily involved in history outside the Starr Center, but he said it is hard to pick one moment that embodies his passion. “Growing up in Philadelphia gave me a lot of opportunities to visit historical sites there and those are some of my earliest memories. During the Bicentennial in 1976, I was probably the only six-year-old begging my parents to go to the Jacob Graff House where Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence. That’s probably what started it,” he said.

Now, Goodheart is a distinguished lecturer at the Organization of American History; has lectured at prime locations like the Smithsonian, National Archives, and Library of Congress; has served as deputy editor of the Op-Ed page for The New York Times; and has authored the national bestselling and book of the year winner “1861: The Civil War Awakening,” which received widespread acclaim.

Part of the book is centered on the first African-American slaves who freed themselves during the Civil War by stumbling upon Fort Monroe, which was full of Union troops; in fact, “1861” helped to secure national park status for the base in Virginia. Prior to the release of the book, Fort Monroe was decommissioned as a U.S. military base. Four months after publication, Goodheart received an invitation to the White House to witness President Barack Obama signing the executive order elevating Fort Monroe to national park status.

Goodheart has also written numerous articles that have appeared in major publications such as The New York Times, National Geographic, Smithsonian, and The American Scholar.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-hampton-fort-monroe-5-year-20160915-story.html>

**Five years into its civilian life, Fort Monroe remains a work in progress**



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

September 24, 2016

Here's a look at what's happened at Fort Monroe in its first five years of civilian life.

HAMPTON — To the public, the transfer of historic Fort Monroe from the Army to the state of Virginia looked pretty simple.

On Sept. 15, 2011, garrison commander Col. Anthony Reyes announced that the mission of Fort Monroe had ended and handed a big ceremonial key to then-Gov. [Bob McDonnell](#). McDonnell turned and handed that key over to former state Del. [Glenn](#) Oder, who had been tapped to lead the newly created state arm that oversees Fort Monroe.

Stripped of the pomp and circumstance surrounding the hand-off and the emotional goodbyes from the soldiers who had served at Fort Monroe, the key ceremony had all the appearance of a done deal.

The real story isn't that quick and clean. Officials say a lot has happened behind the scenes at Fort Monroe in the five years since the official transfer, when the fort was decommissioned after 188 years as a military installation and opened to the public, but visible progress on the landscape seems to be moving at a glacial pace.

**Tangled up**



To hear Oder tell it, walking onto the 565-acre Fort Monroe property five years ago and getting it up and running over the last several years has been like untangling a Gordian knot.

"Five years ago it was, 'You mean we're going to be running all the utilities?'" Oder said. The state was suddenly responsible not only for buildings and natural resources, but for water lines, sewer and even cutting the lawns. Other challenges were obvious as well.

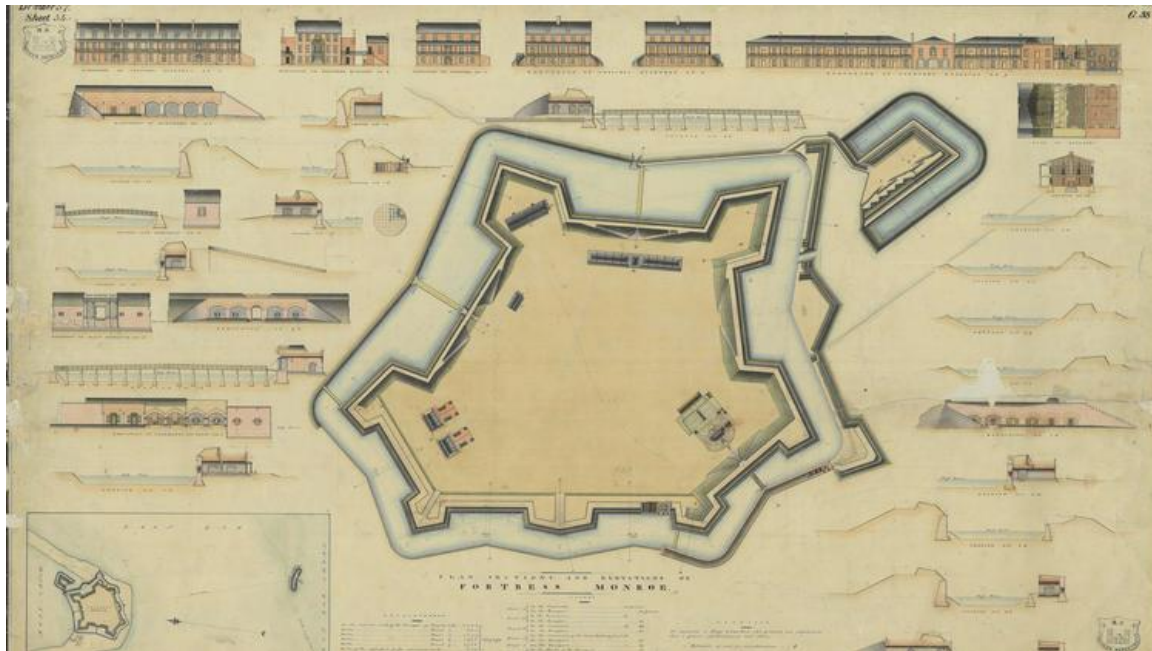
"When we started this process, residential occupancy was declining, around 40 percent and headed for 30 percent," Oder said.

The biggest problem — one that's still not fully resolved — is land ownership, that tricky thing that made that ceremonial key-passing a bit ironic. Fort Monroe is a unique case among the closures that followed the Base Realignment and Closure decisions made in 2005.

A centuries-old agreement between the Army and the commonwealth of Virginia that gave the Army the land for the fortress included a "reverter clause," which meant that when the time came that there was no more military use for Fort Monroe, the Army had to pass control of the land back to the state instead of shuttering and trying to sell the property to the highest bidder or a regional redevelopment group, as most other facilities were.

This also led to disputes. For several years before and after the base's closure, the Army argued that land the Army had filled and added to the spit of land that makes up Fort Monroe was not subject to the agreement, having been created after the document was signed.

When the transfer happened, large pockets of land remained under the technical control of the Army, like the area around the marina on the western shore of the post.



Casemate Museum historian Robert Kelly will talk about the design and construction of historic Fort Monroe -- the nation's largest stone and masonry fort -- at noon Wednesday, March 18 at the Hampton History Museum. These archival images document that process. -- Mark St. John Erickson

This led to some odd situations — the Fort Monroe Authority still leases and operates some buildings on Army land, including some partial buildings that fall on the dividing lines. The stage and seating area of the post theater and half of an apartment building are on Army land, while the theater's lobby and the other half of the apartments are on the state side, Oder said.

However, all of the territorial claims have finally been set aside. The state agreed to pony up \$23.1 million, roughly the assessed value of the disputed land, in road improvements around the state's military bases in exchange for the Army giving up its claim.

The property is still divvied up like a tabletop puzzle, but nearly all the remaining Army-controlled land is supposed to be turned over to the FMA in the next few months. Mountains of paperwork await the requisite signatures and stamps.

Oder said that's one of the authority's biggest wins to date.

"With the Army, it's really been legal issues," Oder said. "That's part of the accomplishment of Fort Monroe, where a lot of the changes are subtle and behind the scenes."

Former U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, now chairman of the board of trustees for the Fort Monroe Authority, is more blunt about the delays in land transfer, which he says have also delayed potential development at the fort.

"(One challenge) was the Army's slow-motion attitude with regard to clearing up the environmental problems," Moran said.

Even after the pending land transfer goes through, there are still areas flagged as polluted that the Army will be responsible for cleaning up.

"The Army has been the biggest challenge, and frankly the biggest disappointment," Moran said. "As far as I'm concerned they haven't been particularly helpful or efficient in their processes."



Hermine can't stop Oozlefinch opening

### **The Chamberlin**

Moran is also critical of the decision of the Army to hold onto the Chamberlin property — the waterfront luxury-hotel-turned-assisted-living-facility is under a lease with the Army that extends until 2087.

"There are some frustrations that are evident and we're going to have to deal with, but on the whole things are moving along and I'm fortunate to be put on at the point where things were starting to gel," said Moran, who was named to the board in early 2015.

Moran said some differences in opinion on how to approach the fort's future were evident when he joined the board, but says he believes the board is now together on a mission. He says preservation is the number one consideration but the board has an eye toward getting some of the hundreds of thousands of vacant square-footage worth of buildings under FMA control leased.

Larger visions, however, aren't exactly in tune. Moran has pushed for what he's called an "end-of-life learning campus" for the site that once housed the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, or [TRADOC](#).

"I think that a lot of baby boomers would love to retire on a college campus, to learn the things we didn't learn when we goofed off in our college years," he said. "I think that since TRADOC was a campus — they're campus buildings, they're auditoriums, there are dorms on this property — we could get a consortium of universities to turn it into a campus."

The fort and surrounding areas include lots of opportunities for exercise, recreation and dining — which in Moran's mind translates to a lot of places for baby boomers to spend their money.



Video clips from historic Fort Monroe in Hampton, VA.

Hampton City Manager Mary Bunting, also a trustee, has a different take. Her ideal is more business-focused, with a Google-style professional campus and a live-work-play environment for a working-aged population.

The aim is to bring back some of the money that left the area when the base closed — and took its 3,500 military and civilian employees to Joint Base Langley-Eustis or even further afield.

"There was a huge loss — I think Phoebus felt it the most," Bunting said of the gateway community to Fort Monroe. Several long-standing restaurants closed when a built-in customer base of thousands suddenly dried up, but several new eateries have taken their place in the last couple of years.

"One of the thoughts was that Hampton would be able to recover pretty quickly because of the natural beauty of the site," Bunting said, "but what people didn't understand was the complexity of the transfer, which is still not complete."

In many BRAC closures, a local or regional authority took charge to sell off land and entice private development.

Brunswick Naval Air Station in Maine, for example, was closed during the same BRAC round as Fort Monroe.

In the three years after the air station closed, more than 50 businesses moved in. Then, in 2014, developers announced a \$21 million mixed-use development at the air station, according to reports from the Portland Press Herald.

The mixed-use development came a year after a \$47 million investment from a Swedish manufacturing firm at the Maine airfield and a few months before the announcement of a \$12 million project to turn an old base hotel into a senior living facility.

Bunting pointed to a different base as an example — the former Williams Air Force Base in Mesa, Ariz., which was decommissioned in 1993 after an earlier BRAC round. Bunting said development had mushroomed at the base after the closing, even though the process of overhauling the military site continues two decades later.

Fort Monroe is on the right track, she said.

"Fort Monroe holds tremendous promise and we've seen some of that fulfilled, but the full realization of the promise has yet to be seen — I don't know why it takes so long but that's the process," Bunting said.

### **Making a national monument**

Many officials agree that the biggest events over the last five years have to do with the National Park Service taking control of land at Fort Monroe.

President Barack Obama declared Fort Monroe a National Monument less than two months after the post's deactivation in 2011 and NPS staff were on site laying the groundwork for the country's newest national park.

However, it was almost four years after the decommissioning before the park service had anything it could call its own at Fort Monroe.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed over 121 acres to the Park Service in August 2015, including a large swath of undeveloped land north of the main fort, three historic buildings and the parade ground within the stone fortress.

NPS brought in Kirsten Talken-Spauling, a veteran ranger with experience getting new parks off the ground.

"Come mid-September of 2011, it was very quiet on the landscape. You could feel almost a shadow on the land — there was a question of what the future would bring," Talken-Spauling said.

She said that started to change and a vibrancy and excitement was palpable as soon as a year after the decommissioning, as people started repopulating the fort.

Over the nearly five years she was in charge at Fort Monroe — Talken-Spauling moved to oversee the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in February — she said many of the important changes were incremental and often invisible.

"Those minute decisions build a pattern of what the park will look like. The joke that I've sometimes said, and there's some truth, is it moves at a glacial speed," Talken-Spauling said. "It moves with very slow progress but we're doing it in perpetuity. We may move slow like a glacier, but the impacts are long-lasting."

The slow-going is partly because as a new park, one that didn't actually have any property to manage until a year ago, the funding stream from the federal government was more of a trickle. Talken-Spauling and new Fort Monroe superintendent Terry Brown expect that to change in the immediate future.

Brown said he's got ideas and an agenda. "The only problem I have is I don't have enough arms," he said.

There's one other ranger currently on the NPS payroll at Fort Monroe, though Brown expects additional staffing within a year.

"This was a military base from 1819 to 2011. To all of a sudden make a shift, it's not an overnight process. There's a mosaic of land and deeds," Brown said.

### **More parkland**

A new patch in that mosaic and one of the biggest moves at Fort Monroe in the last year has been the announcement that the FMA would sign over land along the fort's eastern edge to the NPS, connecting the two portions of the national monument and helping to assuage some of the concerns of preservationists and park advocates worried that the area would be developed in a way that would leave a divide between the NPS zones.

Brown also expects agreements with the Army on the areas still in need of environmental cleanup at the North Beach property by the end of the year, which may finally allow some use of an area that was popular with folks from Buckroe who walked their dogs on the beach.

Brown said it's too early to know what he's going to do with the soon-to-be-transferred beach area, but he'll be talking to people to reassess what the community wants and expects out of Fort Monroe.

"What people may have thought of its use five years ago may be different now," Brown said. "I know the public is probably impatient."

Beyond the big issues of the direction of the park's future and hashing out the land puzzle, there are day-to-day irritants.

Brown's office is in one of the NPS' three buildings, where Robert E. Lee stayed during his tenure at the fort as an Army engineer in the early 1830s. A small sign out front says "private residence," which may lead wandering visitors to think it's one of the many scattered living spaces on the fort. There's no National Parks Service logo to be found anywhere outside the building.

In fact, you'd be hard pressed to find much in the way of signage to tell you about the National Park Service presence at Fort Monroe.



Brown says that's one of the big things he wants to change within the next year. There's a National Park Service arrowhead out at the front gate now — it wasn't there a month ago — and the FMA is putting together a comprehensive signage plan after a study came back from consultants recently.

Even with the day-to-day challenges and the continuing efforts to establish the park, Brown's looking down the road to when there is an established order out at Fort Monroe.

"This is fantastic because I get to build the park from the ground up," Brown said. "Here, we can start our own traditions."

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

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/hampton-matters-blog/dp-fall-festivals-and-hampton-hauntings-all-next-month-20160921-post.html>

## **Fall festivals and Hampton hauntings all next month**

By Ryan Murphy

As the nights get longer, the leaves turn and the trademark Tidewater humidity slowly changes to a chill, lovers of scares will have plenty to choose from in Hampton over the next month.

Several events with serious – even historical – fright factors will happen throughout October.

The Zombie Contagion [haunted house](#), put on by volunteers from the Peninsula Jaycees, runs every weekend starting on Sept. 30 at Peninsula Town Center. The event is recommended for people 13 and older. Anyone under 15 has to be accompanied by an adult. Tickets are \$12.

There's also a connected escape room game – you've got three minutes to solve a puzzle or face a horde of brain-eating corpses. That's \$5 per person.

Two walking tours will show off Hampton's haunted history.

At Fort Monroe, get a peek one step beyond the fort's 400-year history with guided ghost walks. The 45-minute tours start every 20 minutes between 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Oct 21 and 22. Fort Monroe advises that the tours aren't recommended for kids under 12.

The Hampton History Museum's downtown history walking tours will run two per night between Oct. 24 and Oct. 28. Each of those tours is about an hour and includes grisly historical scenes from several eras of Hampton's past.

Those who prefer the more playful side of the paranormal may seek out a pair of older films at [the American Theatre](#). The American Theatre's Throwback Thursday film series will show the original "Ghostbusters" at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 13 – presumably to teach a whole new generation to fear the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man.

The Phoebus Film Club will host a screening of costumed camp-fest “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” at the American Theatre on Oct. 28. Tickets to both movies are \$8.

If you’re looking to dodge the Draculas altogether, Bluebird Gap Farm will host its inaugural fall festival between Oct. 21 and 23.

The rain-or-shine weekend-long event includes a pumpkin patch, kayak rides, hay rides and live entertainment. The event is free – the food and craft beer available at the farm are not.

Bluebird Gap Farm is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily for the festival.

On the Friday before Halloween, catch some good old ghost stories at the Storytelling Spooktacular at Mill Point Park, which is free and open to the public between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The next night, Hampton’s downtown will play host to a street fair and block party, including two costume contests – one for humans, one for dogs – and music from U.S. Air Force band Full Spectrum. The block party runs from 6 p.m. to 10:30.

On the night of Halloween, Peninsula Town Center’s restaurants and retailers will indulge the ghouls and goblins under 12 looking for tricks or treats between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Children must be accompanied by adults.

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

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<http://www.dailypress.com/entertainment/thisweekend/dp-fea-southern-fried-festival-preview-2-20160922-story.html>

### **Southern Fried Festival's car show to rev up Fort Monroe**

Hundreds of people gathered at Langley Speedway Saturday during the Southern Fried Festival which featured a barbecue competition, car show and live music.

September 22, 2016

By [Natalie Joseph](mailto:njoseph@dailypress.com) njoseph@dailypress.com

Hot rods, motorcycles, muscle cars and classics make up the Southern Fried Festival's core.

Although the name may be tricky, most aspects of the annual festival are not fried at all. Instead, the two-day, family friendly festival features the Virginia Car Show, live music and food — all in a scenic location.

This year Fort Monroe serves as host Saturday and Sunday to a show featuring more than 300 vehicles.

"You will see everything from wild to mild," said festival owner and creator Brad Hoffman "From a perfectly classic restored '64 Impala, to a street car that almost looks like a race car with a nice paint job and chrome motor, on over to a muscle car like a new Mustang or Camaro."

The main attraction allows car and motorcycles owners to show off their vehicles. Registration online before Saturday ranges from \$45 to \$80, depending on vehicle size and includes general admission for two adults and children under 6. There also will be on-site registration starting at \$50.



See the Southern Fried Festival in Hampton in pictures.

Each automobile is judged based on class, and overall best in show awards will be given. Judges will look at aspects like the motor, paint and interior.

Vehicles will begin rolling onto Fort Monroe at 8 a.m. Saturday and the festival is open to the public 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

In its third year, the Southern Fried Festival has become a place to showcase American muscle and bring together the community and families, Hoffman said. It's expected to bring in more than 3,000 attendees and 400 vehicles.

"The core of the event are the car clubs, the car builders and the owners. Then adding in the entertainment component and it is a really fun place to hang out with your family," said Hoffman. "Families can bring their chairs, listen to music, check out the cars, cruise around Fort Monroe a little bit and look at the amazing history."

Local entertainment this year includes The Tiki Bar Band playing beach tunes and classics on Saturday and country music band Mason Brown and the Shiners headlining Sunday.

In conjunction with the car show, owners will have a chance to receive on-site consultations from companies on how to build, paint and restore cars.

Included in the admission price are some food items, including barbecue and sandwiches. There also will be other food vendors with items such as ice cream and blended drinks available for purchase.

Tickets are \$12 for a day and \$15 for the weekend. Military, senior citizens and families receive discounts. Children under 7 are free.

The festival has circled around the area, from the Hampton Coliseum's parking lot, the Langley Speedway and now Fort Monroe.

"It is a really great location with the beach 50 feet away from the venue overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. People can cruise Fort Monroe and take pictures of their favorite cars next to the national monument-type of sites that sit on Fort Monroe," Hoffman said.

*Joseph can be reached by phone at 757-374-3134.*

### **Want to go?**

When: Saturday 10-6 p.m. and Sunday 10-5 p.m.

Where: Fort Monroe, Hampton.

Cost: One day pass \$12, weekend pass \$15, children under 7 are free.

Info and tickets: [vacarshow.com](http://vacarshow.com).

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<http://www.dailypress.com/sports/olympics/dp-spt-adapted-sports-day-1002-20161001-story.html>

### **Adaptive Sports Day at Fort Monroe a huge success**

By Jim McGrath Correspondent

October 1, 2016

In the spirit of promoting adaptive sport and physical activity awareness, the Hampton Athletics Division sponsored an Adaptive Sports Day on Saturday at the Fort Monroe Community Center.

Co-sponsored by the Community Center and the Sitting Volleyball Warriors, Adaptive Sports Day served as a free event that allowed participants to enhance their own experiences with sports such as power soccer, sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball.

Linda Gomez, who, along with Andy Pai, coaches the Sitting Volleyball team and Special Operations Wounded Warrior teams, has been instrumental in bringing the movement to Hampton Roads. Gomez brings 28 years of volleyball coaching experience from youth to the college levels in her native Florida. Last year, she came to visit Fort Monroe as a tourist and came to a life-changing decision.

“I was teaching at a university (in Florida) and coaching men’s volleyball, I had been a coach with USA Volleyball for a while, and with the university I was traveling to the Warrior Games and I happened to come to this area last fall. (Fort Monroe) looked like a great place to bring our program. It’s now a national park. So I resigned in April as a professor and volleyball coach and started this program here.”

While the program has its foundations with the military, she found ways to expand the program through research.

“Our objective was to bring awareness to the military, to the adaptive community as to what is available. It’s branching out to special populations and people with unique abilities.”

Through her own efforts, she has merged with programs such as Power Soccer and Virginia Beach Adapted Water Sports, among others.

There is a constant, Gomez added.

“They start out in a team, and then got wounded, and then they weren’t part of the team, they felt.” Her service, she feels, is “my way to serve my country in a different way.”

There were many shining personal examples of the program's success in attendance on Saturday. Nicky Nieves, a gold-medal athlete with the U.S. Paralympic volleyball team, was on hand to give demonstrations of sitting volleyball to the dozens of youths and adults on hand for the five-hour program.

Her own introduction to the sport was unusual.

"I was playing (volleyball) at Queens College in New York, and there was a recruiter who came and talked to our (athletic director) and said I should try it. At first I was a little hesitant because I was scared, and it was completely brand-new to me, but I stuck at it, and I'm glad I did."

Nieves had her gold medal from Rio de Janeiro on display, and she spoke of her experience at the games.

"We were there for 16 days, and played from the 7th through the 17th." The team's schedule was rugged, with six matches, starting with Iran, followed by Rwanda, Brazil and China before reaching the semifinals, and then the gold-medal round. Nieves was thrilled that the Games were covered on a world stage through NBC Sports.

"It's the world's biggest stage; it's where it really matters and everybody gets to see all of the hard work you put in," said Nieves, who played middle blocker for the gold-medal squad.

Army Staff Sergeant Carlton Duncan and SFC Michael D. Smith were also representing the Warrior Care and Transition Command, which is headquartered in Arlington. Duncan was wounded in Iraq and sees his new position as part of the transitional role for affected veterans.

"We work with active duty and veterans, and newly retired vets. I use adaptive sports, such as cycling, BMX bikes, which helped me when I was recovering at Fort Bragg. That's what led me to the job where I'm at now."

Duncan sees his role as a way that the military is able to connect with the community.

Smith's injury wasn't combat-related. In 2011, he was involved in a gruesome motorcycle accident.



“I had come back from deployment, and I was riding my motorcycle. A driver that was texting and driving ran into me from behind. (The impact) threw me over the guardrail, and a car ran over my arm and severed it right there on the spot. I was conscious for the whole thing.”

Smith holds the distinction of being the only Army soldier ever to remain on active duty after losing a limb above the elbow, he said.

“I’m the first and only ‘above the elbow’ amputee in the history of the military.”

Speaking of his injury, Smith feels it was a blessing in disguise.

“I truly believe that God put this on me for a reason. It’s the best thing that ever happened to me in my entire life.”

Smith has excelled as a Paralympic athlete and keeps busy between his own training and the requirements of his position.

But he never hesitates to attend an event like Saturday’s.

“I come as often as the Army lets us,” adding that sometimes he has to hold his twice-a-day workouts at 5:30 AM and 10 PM.

As he watched the guests try out the different adaptive sports with varying degrees of success, Smith shared the philosophy that he tells his new clients.

“You have been knocked down, but you’re not out.”

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/feedback/dp-nws-a2-feedback-0926-20160926-story.html>

## **Facebook feedback Sept. 26: Charlotte shooting, Fort Monroe**

September 25, 2016

### **Doubts remain after police release video of shooting**

Charlotte police released a dramatic video Saturday that shows officers with guns drawn surrounding [Keith Lamont Scott](#), a black man, with his hands at his side before shots are fired and he buckles and falls. It's unclear if there was anything in the man's hands in the footage, which has done little to assuage his relatives.

**Harold Jackson:** This was an unnecessary shooting. No wonder they didn't want to release these videos.

### **5 years into civilian life, fort remains work in progress**

Officials say a lot has happened behind the scenes at Fort Monroe in the five years since the official transfer, when the fort was decommissioned after 188 years as a military installation and opened to the public, but visible progress on the landscape seems to be moving at a glacial pace.

**Lindsay Hooks:** Too many hands in the pot hoping to make money off of it. It should be made a state park with some business and entertainment that fit the image of its historical value.

**Ruth Ann Davison:** Fort Monroe is one of the best places to take your family even if just going for a walk, taking in all the history or enjoying the fishing pier or relaxing on nice clean beaches, to camping at the campground. Fort Monroe is simply just a beautiful place.

**Gerald Chiappazzi:** Too long to make good decisions with too many political entities in the pot. RV park needs upgrades and expansion. Many areas, and at least one building, could be developed and used for local and national field hockey and softball teams and tournaments, bringing year-round sports and families to a nice complex.

**Jim Pingitore:** Build a hotel and casino. City of Hampton and state could take in a lot of money, give our police officers, fire departments and teachers a good raise and still have some left over. Thousands of Virginians go out of state daily to casinos.

**Gary Beasley:** Too many politicians in the mix. Should have kept it in the Military. I am sure anything to do with history of civil war will be destroyed.

*Compiled from the Daily Press Facebook pages. To be part of the discussion, visit [facebook.com/dailypressnews](https://facebook.com/dailypressnews).*

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