

Media Clips from December 2015 through March 2016

<http://www.dailypress.com/entertainment/thisweekend/dp-fea-ft-monroe-events-1211-20151210-story.html>

**Fort Monroe expands its holiday event offerings with home tour, concert and tree lighting this weekend**



[Andrea Castillo](#)

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December 11, 2015

If the leaders at Fort Monroe have their way, a series of Christmas-themed events will help make the area a destination for visitors during the holidays and all year round.

On Saturday there will be a tour of homes and buildings of community interest throughout Fort Monroe and a holiday market at the Chamberlain, while Sunday there will be a concert and tree lighting.

"When the sun goes down and the lights go on it looks like a Dickens Village during the holiday season," said Glenn Oder, the executive director of the Fort Monroe Authority.

This weekend's events are intended to draw community interest in Fort Monroe. After it was decommissioned as an Army base in 2011, leaders have been working to draw residential and business tenants to the area.



From Celebration in Lights in Newport News to Garden of Lights in Norfolk and neighborhood displays, there are plenty of Christmas lights to be seen across Hampton Roads. If you can't get to them all, don't worry. Here are plenty of pictures from the events through the years.

(Daily Press)

Saturday's ticketed Mistletoe Homes Tour is making a comeback after starting last year, Oder said. The Army hosted its own home tours occasionally, with the last taking place about 15 years ago.

There are five homes on this year's tour, but with 176 on the property, there are plenty more to show for years to come, Oder said.

"Our goal is to show the houses to people, share the history of the homes and let people know it's open," he said.

Among the homes on the tour are that of Casemate Museum historian Robert Kelly, who lives in a duplex built in 1875 on Bernard Road inside the moat on the property, and that of Lorri Halenkamp, a three-story home built in 1907 on Ingalls Road.

"What makes each home unique are the residents," said Susan Lineberry, Fort Monroe's director of special events.



Colonial Williamsburg dresses its famous Carolina Room up in period holiday garb for a charming look back at a late-19th-century Christmas. -- Mark St. John Erickson

Visitors will be able to attend free open houses at the Casemate Museum, the Chamberlain, the YMCA, the Chapel of the Centurion and Saint Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

Visitors will also get a glimpse into the Old Point Comfort Lighthouse at Fort Monroe, though they won't be able to go inside.

Barbara Bauer, a volunteer who decorates the lighthouse for Christmas every year and cleans the windows once a month, will provide a brief history about it.

Bauer began her efforts with the lighthouse 15 years ago with permission from the Coast Guard because she felt it had gotten overlooked over the years. She got the lighthouse opened in 2002 and gives tours to visiting groups.

"It's just a really neat place," she said. "If the lighthouse could talk, the history would be tremendous."

The Chamberlain will host a holiday bazaar from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, featuring more than 60 local crafters. There also will be a lunch buffet.



In 1997 the Northside Church of Christ music and drama department and the Hilton Village Merchants Association presented an up-close-and-personal version of "A Christmas Carol" in Hilton, which was transformed into Dickens' Christmas Village. Here are photos of a rehearsal for the production from the Daily Press archives.

On Sunday, the Hampton Roads Philharmonic, Fort Monroe's Orchestra in residence, will put on a Holly Days concert at 4 p.m. at the Fort Monroe Theatre, followed by a tree lighting at Cannon Park at 5:30 p.m. that will include a visit from Santa Claus.

"We're trying to bring in as many people in the area as possible," said Steven Brindle, the philharmonic's music director.

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**Want to go?**

**What:** Fort Monroe Mistletoe Homes Tour.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-hampton-fort-monroe-meeting-december-20151218-story.html>

**Fort Monroe Authority begins a new vision quest**



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

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

December 18, 2015

It's a park! It's real estate! It's ... yet to be determined.

HAMPTON — The Fort Monroe Authority Board of Trustees is preparing to tackle how Fort Monroe moves into the future, after a presentation at Friday's meeting teed up a discussion about the direction of Fort Monroe's economic development efforts.

David Shiver, a consultant with BAE Urban Economics, gave an overview of an economic model developed in 2013 to help the Fort Monroe Authority achieve financial sustainability for the former military base, which was handed over to the state-supported authority after the Army base closed in 2011.

The 2013 model concerned what parts of the Fort Monroe land would be developed, how and whether the authority was interested in the selling or leasing properties based on a need for immediate or longer-term income.

Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director Glenn Oder said a lot has changed since that study, which found that several plans suggested at the time would fail to get the FMA to sustainability. Oder said the authority has had to adopt a hybrid model as it learned more about what it inherited from Uncle Sam.

"We know more about the properties today than we did in the past ... Six months ago, the National Park Service didn't even have ownership of any of the land here," Oder said after Friday's meeting. He said because the situation is so fluid, it's appropriate to revisit how things are approached.



### [Historic Fort Monroe post office gets makeover](#)

"Fort Monroe is still in a process of evolution. It's still very much in its infancy," Oder said.

Oder described the 2013 development plan as the playbook the FMA was using, however some board members expressed a desire to draft some new plays, with disagreement over how to look at and approach not only future development, but also the FMA's mission.

Board member Destry Jarvis, who has worked nationally with parks and conservation groups, said the 2013 survey has it all backwards.

"The flaw in this analysis is this looks at this as a real estate development with a little park attached," he said. "In the future, this should be looked at as a national park with a small residential component attached.... What's important here is less about breaking even and more about preserving the historic place that makes this significant."



Jarvis said future tourism, if properly managed, will more than make up for sales of properties.

Board Chairman Jim Moran, a former U.S. representative, said he had questions as to whether there's any practical fee structure that could make Fort Monroe self-sustaining as a park.

"I'm determined, as far as I can influence, that the priceless aspects of the historic park and even beyond the historic park to the natural resources, have got to be protected," he said. "The real question is, How do we do that? How can we make the most realistic assumptions to pass on to the the next authority?"

Moran said he doesn't view the choice as an either-or.

"I don't think it's either a park with some economic development opportunities or an economic development opportunity with some historic resources. I think it's going to have to be a symbiotic relationship to be self-sustaining."

Moran said he had many thoughts, but would save them for a day-long retreat in March, where the board will focus on the strategic vision for the fort's future. He said the retreat could be "a decisive turning point" for the future of Fort Monroe.

"We very much have the ability to shape the future of Fort Monroe. It's not predetermined. But we want to shape it, not choke the process," he said.

In the first part of next year, the City of Hampton will put forward a revised zoning plan for Fort Monroe. That too will be considered at the March meeting.

Seperately, the FMA Board approved a capital improvement plan aimed largely at revamping the fort's utility systems in the hopes of starting to turn them over to local utility companies.

The spending plan includes \$11.4 million between the current fiscal year and next year. The current year's funding is mostly earmarked for utility design, with the construction of those projects paid for under next year's plan.

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## **City gets grant to develop bike, pedestrian plan**

[Ryan Murphy](#)

December 15, 2015

The City of Hampton is set to start the first step in making walking or biking to the corner store a little easier for local residents with money from the state meant to get a plan in place for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

A grant is worth up to \$65,000 from the Virginia Department of Transportation's Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment.

Essentially, it will pay for the city to take a good, hard look at the Fort Monroe and the city's six master plan areas – Buckroe, Downtown, Coliseum Central, Kecoughtan, King Street and Phoebus – to start planning how to improve or install bike paths, sidewalks and other pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure.

There are already some efforts in place – path improvements are made or added as roads are redone, a segment of Pembroke Avenue will be narrowed from four lanes to three to make room for a bike lane and the city is revamping Mallory Street's curbsides.

“We have heard from citizens that we need sidewalks in certain areas,” says City of Hampton senior planner Alison Alexander. “Being able to bike and walk to where you need to be is part of making (Hampton) more livable.”

The city will be looking to get more focused public input on the issue, including a citizen steering committee for the project and a public input meeting, likely slated for some time in February.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/editorials/dp-edt-dominion-project-editorial-20151220-20151219-story.html>

### **Editorial: Peninsula power play**

December 19, 2015

We continue to support plans by Dominion Virginia Power to build a 500-kilovolt power line over the James River, connecting a switching station in Surry to one proposed for Skiffes Creek in James City County.

It was not a conclusion we reached easily, and it was one made more complicated by the general lack of public trust the company enjoys. We, like many residents of the area, are skeptical of the company's claims, since Dominion has shown a willingness to do whatever it must to serve shareholders.

Obviously, we share the concern voiced by the project's opponents that the power line will damage the landscape, detracting from the region's celebrated history and the tourism that serves as an economic engine here.

However, we continue to believe this project is vital to sustaining the Peninsula population and that economic growth depends on the stable, reliable power supply the line will provide.

The director of the National Park Service this month became the most recent high-profile opponent of Dominion's a plan for another power line over the James. Jonathan Jarvis sent the letter, dated Dec. 11, to Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, who leads the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is reviewing Dominion's permit application.

Ultimately debate over the project has been marked by a lack of trust and the type of absolutist, intransigent rhetoric that frustrates honest communication and inhibits cooperation.



On the one hand, there is Dominion.

The commonwealth's electricity monopoly is used to getting what it wants. It spends lavishly on political campaigns and is the largest corporate donor each election cycle. As a result, nearly every request it makes of the legislature advances with little or no question or complaint.

In 2014, for instance, Dominion successfully lobbied to write off investments toward a power plant that may never be built in order to avoid the likelihood of a state-mandated rate cut. Earlier this year, it lobbied to effectively exempt itself from the regulation process altogether, a move that could ultimately harm consumers.

The company has no reservation about throwing its weight around, without regard to how it affects public perception. Small wonder, then, that Dominion is having trouble convincing citizens that this line, in this location, is the only solution to the Peninsula's long-term power needs.

The company insists that not only is a suspended line crossing the James the region's best option, it's the only feasible choice. It says a line that powerful cannot be buried beneath the riverbed and that the environmental impact of an elevated line would be less than an underground one.

It also argued, earlier this year, that construction had to begin by August to avoid rolling blackouts across the region by 2017. Since that deadline has passed, we'll be watching to see if Dominion's alarmist warnings come to fruition.

But because the public doesn't trust the company, Dominion has struggled to win support for its position. Residents don't believe arguments that a buried line is impossible. And they scoff when Dominion says the line cannot be seen from historic Jamestown.

But then there is the opposition, which is fighting tooth and nail to halt the project or at least relocate it away from Jamestown and Hog Island.

A coalition of environmentalists and historic preservation groups maintain that the power line would be an eyesore and would forever sully the scenic vistas that greeted Capt. John Smith and the first European settlers here.

Of course, the Virginia Peninsula is so rich in history that it's almost impossible to turn a shovel of dirt without finding some treasure from the past. Yorktown, Williamsburg and Fort Monroe are among the region's popular tourist destinations because they help explain who we are as a nation.

That's also the case in Jamestown, where every reasonable action should be taken to preserve the surrounding areas. However, the path traveled by Capt. Smith is already starkly different than what his eyes would have seen upon arrival.

From the coal yards at the southern tip of Newport News to the James River Bridge, from the large houses and docks along the water to the towering roller coasters and rides at [Busch Gardens](#), the landscape no longer resembles how it looked in 1607.

These additions are not bad. In fact, they are signs of progress. And progress requires concessions and adaptability. That was true in Capt. Smith's time as it is true now.

So where does that leave us? Dominion suffers from a lack of public trust, which cast doubt on some of its claims about this project. Its critics put forth arguments that, while well intentioned, ignore facts on the ground. We doubt these proposed towers will so dramatically undermine the Jamestown experience as activists claim.

What we know is this: The Peninsula's residents need power. Its major industrial employers, its military bases and its infrastructure similarly need power.

The project on the table has won approval at every turn. It has been picked over and debated. And if the Army Corps gives it the OK, it should press forward.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/features/history/dp-nws-evg-ft-monroe-lighthouse-20151224-story.html>

### **Old Point Comfort Lighthouse gets spruced up for the holidays**

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

December 24, 2015

Every year, Barbara Bauer climbs up the steps of the Old Point Comfort Lighthouse at Fort Monroe, crawls into a small space that gives her access to the top, and during the Christmas season, hangs a garland along the railing of the lighthouse and red bows and wreaths in the windows.

Bauer said putting the Christmas decorations on the lighthouse takes her about half an hour to 45 minutes.

She did first began decorating the lighthouse about 15 years ago.

"The first time I was so excited," she said.

Not long before she started hanging up the Christmas decorations, she had taken it upon herself to wash the windows of the lighthouse, which is owned and maintained by the Coast Guard.

She joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary to get permission to go into the 54-foot lighthouse built in the early years of Thomas Jefferson's presidency.

Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Carlos Hernandez, who oversees the lighthouses in Virginia, said Old Point Comfort is the only one in the state which gets decorated at Christmas.

"I don't know of any other lighthouse that's getting that type of attention," he said.

Hernandez said Bauer has been enthusiastic about the endeavor in the six years he's known her.

"It adds just a little personal touch," he said.

When she first decided to help take care of the lighthouse, she felt it was getting little attention compared to others in the area, including those at Cape Henry in Virginia Beach and Cape Hatteras in North Carolina.

"It has so much history behind it, and it's important in its own way," she said. "I felt like it was overlooked a lot of (the) time."

During the War of 1812, the British used the lighthouse as an observation post, indicating the need to protect the entrance to Hampton Roads and prompting the construction of Fort Monroe, according to Daily Press archives.

Bauer said she helped facilitate a tour of the lighthouse in 2002, the bicentennial of its construction, offering locals a rare chance to go inside. Today, it is considered too much of a liability for members of the general public to climb. Moss on the steps make them slippery, she said, although moss also has permeated into the building to the point where it's helping keep the walls together, she said.

Earlier this month, those taking part in Fort Monroe's Mistletoe Tour of Homes were able get a glimpse of the inside of Old Point Comfort Lighthouse, with Bauer providing a brief history of the facility.

Bauer, of Hampton, heard positive feedback from the dozens who stopped by for the event, with many never having gotten to look inside before.

"It's nice to do something for the public," she said. "It's just a good feeling."

She's also heard her share about the history about the lighthouse and those who lived in the lighthouse keeper's home, including a ghost story or two.

A neighbor once told Bauer she had seen a woman in a long dress in the lighthouse window during a time when neither Bauer nor anyone from the Coast Guard, who owns the lighthouse and makes sure the lighthouse bulbs are functioning, would have been there.

"I didn't believe in ghost stories, but now I do," she said.

In the years to come, Bauer hopes the lighthouse will continue to be preserved as a historic landmark.

"I'd like to see it the same as it is," she said. "That makes it important to me."

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

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<http://www.dailypress.com/visuals/video/dp-video-molly-ward-20151223-premiumvideo.html>

**Video: Molly Ward**

Former Hampton Mayor and current state Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward is celebrated as York County Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Distinguished Citizen for her efforts in convincing President Obama to make Fort Monroe a national monument and park.

This video is featured in these articles:

[TIDEWATERBIZ](#)

[Molly Ward named Chamber's 2015 Distinguished Citizen](#)

<http://www.dailypress.com/business/dp-nws-evg-molly-ward-20160103-story.html>

### **Molly Ward named Chamber's 2015 Distinguished Citizen**

Former Hampton Mayor and current state Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward is celebrated as York County Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Distinguished Citizen for her efforts in convincing President Obama to make Fort Monroe a national monument and park.



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January 3, 2016

#### **Molly Ward named Chamber's Distinguished Citizen. What makes her tick?**

Molly Joseph Ward can be tenacious when it comes to community work.

"You have to walk a fine line between stalking and advocacy," Ward told attendees of the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting on Dec. 7 after accepting the 2015 Distinguished Citizen Award. "It's hard to find that spot where people don't think you're crazy."

After graduating from law school at the College of William and Mary and wanting to get involved with the community, the Hampton native recalled realizing just how persistent she could be when selling Christmas trees at Newmarket South for the Jaycees' summer camp program.

"I got to the point I wasn't going to let people leave without buying a tree," Ward said. "I couldn't sell anything for myself, but I could sell for other people."

That tenacity served Ward well when, during her time as Hampton mayor, she led the bipartisan coalition that persuaded President Barack Obama to designate Fort Monroe as a national monument and park through the Antiquities Act on Nov. 1, 2011. Ward remembers helping preserve the historic waterfront fort and ensuring public access to Fort Monroe as one of her proudest moments.



Former Hampton Mayor and current state Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward is celebrated as York County Chamber of Commerce's 2015 Distinguished Citizen for her efforts in convincing President Obama to make Fort Monroe a national monument and park.

(Aileen Devlin/Daily Press)

Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park had been instrumental in carrying the torch for the effort when then Gov. Bob McDonnell, lawmakers — especially Sen. Tim Kaine — and other supporters helped tee up an opportunity that Ward drove others to seize, she said. She convinced folks Fort Monroe could really become a national monument despite the naysayers.

"The people who don't give up are the ones that are successful," Ward said in an interview. "I think there's a lot to be said for continuing to pursue something when you know it's right."

And that's where "walking the fine line between stalking and advocacy" comes in. When President Obama came to Hampton in October 2011, Ward canceled a trip to Washington, D.C. to lobby him in person, according to a Daily Press report at the time.

Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director Glenn Oder recalled that Ward found out where the national media would be staying and waited past 10 p.m. until their buses pulled up to pass out packets of information making the case for a national monument.

Ward's brother Jay Joseph recalled that she had folks lining the streets with matching T-shirts advocating for the national monument along the route of the presidential motorcade.

"It's a testament to her ability to build a big coalition of supporters to do it," said Joseph, an executive at Harvey Lindsay Commercial Real Estate who also serves on the Fort Monroe Authority Board. "When she feels passionate about an issue, she really doesn't rest until she makes a difference."

But tenacity alone doesn't do it. Joseph said it's also his sister's ability to connect with people on a personal level and build relationships that makes her effective.

"She's real. She's sincere," he said.

Conway Sheild III, a professional mentor to Ward when she was practicing law, said she had "a lot of stick-to-it-ive-ness," capability and good people skills.

Another professional mentor, lawyer E.D. "Buddy" David, said Ward's parents raised her to be a caring and compassionate person. David acknowledged it's not easy to serve the public, but said society found a "jewel" in Ward, who serves for the right reasons and with a sense of humor.

Ward, who was on the board of the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank for more than nine years, didn't just sit there, said Foodbank board member Andy Cohen. She questioned everything to gain understanding, worked food drives and brought other valuable people on board, he said.

And in focusing on results, she takes after her late father Edwin Joseph, who was awarded the Chamber's Distinguished Citizen Award in 1992.

Joseph said one of their father's favorite sayings was "Results count."

Ward repeated that phrase when mentioning how someone wanting support from others needs to be willing to compromise and not let pride or ego get in the way.

"Don't worry about who's going to get the credit or whether it was seamless, but instead focus on the results," Ward said. "Focus on getting from Point A to Point B."

Ward focused on results when, after nearly 15 years as a lawyer, she was elected treasurer for the city of Hampton. Serving 2002 through 2008, she turned around the ineffective office, eliminated lines and increased collection rates by nearly 100 percent, helping shore up the city budget.

Then, in 2008, she was elected mayor and won a second term in office in 2012 before stepping down in October 2013 to take a White House position as deputy director of intergovernmental affairs and special assistant to President Obama. Not three months later, though, she was tapped by Gov. Terry McAuliffe to be the state Secretary of Natural Resources.

Her current state secretary position jibed well with her public service in conservation, most notably with Fort Monroe, but also with helping get a conservation easement for Buckroe Beach and serving on the board of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. Ward again serves on the Fort Monroe Authority board, giving the group direct access to the governor's administration.

As her parents Edwin Joseph and Susan Bentley Joseph set the example for her to help make the world a better place, Ward would like others to instill that in the next generation. While she said she finds the Distinguished Citizen recognition humbling and heartwarming, Ward noted that no effort is too small.

"The Virginia Peninsula would not be the lovely place it is to work and live without the volunteer base in our community," she said. "It all makes a difference. It all adds up."

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<http://www.dailypress.com/entertainment/food/dp-fea-kismet-profile-20160123-story.html>

## Trio extending footprint to Newport News' restaurant scene

By Emily Carrigan

January 23, 2016

When Gary McIntyre, Sean Pepe and Joe Illes put their heads together, they make things happen. Now, the three who have fed the Peninsula at The Barking Dog and The Deadrise are at it again, working to open Kismet Bistro at 99 Main in Hilton Village by February.

McIntyre and Pepe hit the restaurant scene together first in 2013 with The Barking Dog off Kecoughtan Road in Hampton, but McIntyre has been in the restaurant business since the 1970's, he said.

During his career, McIntyre said one of his most proud accomplishments was what he and his partner Peter Pittman were able to bring to Ghent when they opened The Wild Monkey on Colley Avenue in the '90's.

"What I was proud of more than anything is we breathed a little life into the business district and the collateral effect was good for everybody," McIntyre said.

In a video interview with the City of Hampton published on YouTube on June 30, 2014, Pepe said part of their decision to bring The Barking Dog to Hampton was how McIntyre viewed it as "the final frontier of the seven cities."



Local business owners plan to open a bistro-style restaurant called Kismet along Main Street at Hilton Village in Newport News in February.

(Aileen Devlin/Daily Press)

"Everything's been done," Pepe said. "Norfolk downtown's been done, Ghent's been done, so this is kind of the final frontier where people are making some changes here in Hampton, making it a fun place to visit, to go out, to eat."

Since opening in 2013 with Pepe and Trish Laclawski, The Barking Dog has served more than 50,000 hot dogs.

"I feel confident that they'll agree one of the things I'm most proud of is how The Barking Dog has been embraced by the neighborhood," McIntyre said. "It's a gathering spot for the neighborhood and that's humbling."

Neighborhood patrons included Joe Illes, who became partners with McIntyre and Pepe on The Deadrise at Fort Monroe's Old Point Comfort Marina.

"I've known them for probably seven or eight years from downtown Hampton because I live in downtown Hampton and Gary's worked down there for many years with Peter (Pittman) at Conch and Bucket and Marker 20 and the Taphouse, so I knew him from there and when (The Barking) Dog opened up I got to know Sean real well because that's right around the corner from my house," Illes said.

Illes recalls being approached by McIntyre and Pepe about opening a new restaurant.

"My big reason was I wanted to do something on Fort Monroe and this location was perfect for a restaurant and Gary and Sean were the perfect partners to do it," Illes said.

The Deadrise opened in May 2015, and Glenn Oder, Fort Monroe Authority executive director, said seeing the creativity the trio put into The Deadrise was amazing.

Oder detailed how they transformed the "vanilla envelope" of the building using old pallet wood, oak panels, aluminum corrugated from old fish sheds and black walnut wood.

"The investment that they made in that building is incredible. It's just the most unique dining experience and it's because of their creativity and that carries into their food," Oder said.

Oder said The Deadrise added a new element to Hampton's mantra of being a great place to live, work and play. The Deadrise helped add dining to that.

"Sometimes the wait this past summer on a Friday or Saturday evening was 90 minutes to get in, and people waited," Oder said.

The Deadrise also has helped contribute to the overall experience people have when visiting Fort Monroe.

"I often go and speak to everything from Rotary Clubs and church groups about Fort Monroe and I often ask them what have been their experiences, and more and more of what I'm hearing is people proclaiming their satisfaction of eating at The Deadrise," Oder said.



When Illes joined the partnership for The Deadrise, he played a key role, serving as the full investor, which he did again for Kismet, but McIntyre and Pepe have distinct roles, too.

"Gary is really good at being creative and running a restaurant," Pepe said.

McIntyre's assessment of himself supported this statement.

"The things I do are typically left of center and I don't mind rolling the dice, and when it comes to money, most people aren't willing to do that but these guys have been and fortunately it's worked out pretty well," he said.

Pepe, a former financial adviser, deals with the insurance, banking and payroll side of the business.

"I enjoy this. It's just nice to be involved in a business where you can see people genuinely happy and having a good time," Pepe said.

When it comes down to their dynamic, Illes says overall, it's simple.

"This has been a phenomenal partnership," Illes said. "A lot of partners, you can butt heads a lot but we all have a chemistry and a role and our chemistry is just spot on and it blows me away how well it works."

Currently, the three are setting their sights on opening Kismet in Newport News, taking home in what was formerly 99 Main.

"Sean saw the property for sale and then all three of us went to look at it and saw that it was a no brainer to get involved in it," Illes said.

The spot already was on Pepe's radar, as he knew former owners Christine and Jimmy Ferguson from eating at 99 Main.

"I've got to say, the Fergusons we just delightful to deal with. There was no hardness, it was just fair and polite and enjoyable," Pepe said of negotiations. "I hope they eat at the restaurant."

The Fergusons retired after owning their restaurant for close to 16 years, closing 99 Main in March 2015.

"I miss the place terribly and we get people every day texting and emailing about how much they miss 99 Main, so I'm hoping (Kismet) will make everyone happy," Jimmy said.

The word Kismet, which has Turkish origins, deals with destiny and fate. McIntyre sees it as having a sort of romantic connotations, which will be matched with "simple, rustic, handsome food" made with "classic cooking techniques" and "quality ingredients."

"The accurate term is a term I'm not always comfortable with, but it's going to be a bistro in the most faithful and honest interpretation of that term there is," McIntyre said.

The menu will include items such as duck, short rib, lamb shanks, and flat iron stake, all served under "controlled chaos."

"What you see on the plate is all there for you to see. Sea salt, cracked black pepper, animal fat minimally processed," McIntyre said. "You might think there's someone's European grandmother in the kitchen."

Illes also detailed physical changes to the previous restaurant, which include making a bigger bar, changing the appearance of the dining room and bringing in "phenomenal chefs."

"I travel all over the country and try a lot of fine restaurants," Illes said. "We just wanted something that people would really appreciate and we've got a great little spot to come to."

When thinking back on the impact The Wild Monkey had on Ghent in the '90's and how The Barking Dog has served its surrounding neighborhoods, McIntyre thinks it's realistic to have a similar impact on Hilton Village, a gem of an area he says seems to be hiding in plain sight.

"People embraced The Wild Monkey, and obviously, that's humbling and gratifying, but it also breathed new life into the community and other business opened up and I would feel very happy and fortunate and proud if we could, in some small way, help that happen in Hilton Village," McIntyre said.

Illes agreed with this sentiment.

"We wouldn't mind doing more in Hilton Village if the opportunity exists," he said. "That should be like a little Ghent or a little Carytown."

McIntyre says he also puts a lot of emphasis on service, and wants to give the neighborhood something that's for them.

"It's not going to be a restaurant that's just for birthdays or special occasions or for people with disposable income," McIntyre said, adding he doesn't want it to suffer from elitism. "It's really important to me that customers understand our product and that's done through servers who can tell you how the sauce is made or what wine to pair with it."

Oder, a former delegate who represented Newport News, said he plans on frequenting Kismet.

"I'm very happy for my Newport News constituents," he said. "Ninety-nine Main was a great place for Newport News, and I'm happy that these guys are going in there and I fully expect those guys will have the same respect they get here."

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<http://thenewjournalandguide.com/2016/01/28/town-hall-meetings-encourage-constructive-dialogue-on-race/>

## **Town Hall Meetings Encourage Constructive Dialogue On Race**

By Leonard E. Colvin  
Chief Reporter  
New Journal and Guide

January 28, 2016

Race has always been a very complex and persistent presence in the cultural, social, economic and political DNA of the United States during its 240-year evolution.

It may foster either great love and pride or cancerous angst, violence, debate and confusion, in the body of a nation which has a spectrum of blood strains from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Deportation of illegal immigrants, prevention of Syrian refugees in our country, and closing our borders dominate the debate among those seeking the Republican nomination for President. Race and ethnicity which have always been a part of the American political system loom largely in the 2016 presidential race.

The staff of the WHRV FM-89.5 weekly radio program, "Another View" has been hosting a series of town hall meetings since last fall, featuring a panel discussing various aspects of the issue of race.

According to Lisa Godley, the co-producer of Another View and the "Race: Let's Talk About It" town hall meetings, the next gathering will be "We the People: Race and Politics in America" on Thursday February 4, 2016 at the Fort Monroe Theater, Fort Monroe, Hampton, Virginia.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the discussion begins promptly at 6:30 p.m.

According to Godley, "Race: Let's Talk About It" is an initiative in partnership with Virginia Wesleyan's Center for the Study of Religious Freedom and the Fort Monroe Authority.

Godley said two previous gatherings have allowed people to challenge their perceptions and ideas about race, based on their personal and racial background and experiences.

"Even as an African-American female, I have discovered that people who look like me have different perceptions about race," said Godley. "All we do is provide awareness about the differences, to allow people to come together, heal and discover more about the issue."

Godley said during a previous forum, two White men challenged the idea of "White privilege" because they were not wealthy and had no political or social power.

But one of the panelists pointed out to them that it was not about power or money but the color of their skins and the privilege they enjoy because of it, compared to a Black man driving while Black and being pulled over because of racial profiling.

The issue of race and politics is a timely subject considering the contest being waged for the White House between the Democratic and Republican parties.

Often, people shy away from conversations about race because such conversations can be difficult to have.

Opinion polls show a growing divide when it comes to issues of race in this country. Some surveys show that America's racial climate is worst now than it was when the country's first Black president took office almost seven years ago!

However, this growing separation is a strong indicator that conversations about race are needed more now than ever before and are the driving force behind the public radio's series.

A distinguished panel conveys their views on the subject during the meeting which is moderated by Another View host and executive producer, Barbara Hamm Lee. The upcoming February town hall meeting will feature Michele Woods-Jones of the Hampton Unity Commission, Jonathan Zur from the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, Hampton University Professor Eric Claville and Virginia

Wesleyan Professor Mavel Velasco.

The first "Race: Let's Talk About It" community forum was held at Virginia Wesleyan College during the annual "One Love" Festival.

The second forum on November 19 was at WHRO's Public Media studios where a video presentation looked at how everyday people respond to situations where one race is given a pass while another is penalized simply because of skin color. It was called "Privilege, Power and Difference."

Like all town halls in this series, the third one will be preceded by a discussion on an Another View radio program. The show broadcasts live at noon on WHRV 89.5FM. The series slated four town halls: two on the Southside, and two on the Peninsula at Fort Monroe.

"When you think about the history of race in America, it is not a love story. It is not an easy story. It's a painful story," said panelist Michele Woods-Jones. "These are very difficult topics and they're multi-dimensional. Often when we talk about race, we talk about it without the understanding that we experience it through a wide variety of different lenses, based upon our experiences," she added.

Woods-Jones goes on to say, "Not discussing this problem is destroying us. Every child who is left behind is a loss to this country. The deficit models in which we communicate get in our way of being truly the best we can be in all of the various arenas."

Shannon Bowman, Social Media Editor at WHRO, said, "Throughout Another View's seven-year history, the staff has worked diligently to provide an open and safe environment for productive conversations about our differences. We believe, and listener feedback confirms, that such conversations are key to developing a better understanding of one another. The four community conversations are yet another way to allow these needed talks to continue.

"The idea is that knowledge brings about understanding which results in a better environment for everyone. We believe that the "Race: Let's Talk About it" can start a chain reaction to bring about change.

Eric Claville added, "I believe if we can solve the race problem here in America, we can solve the race problem around the world."

[http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/local/park-service-names-new-superintendent-for-fredericksburg-and-spotsylvania-national/article\\_db439670-cb90-11e5-81cc-f33f8d1cb64d.html](http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/local/park-service-names-new-superintendent-for-fredericksburg-and-spotsylvania-national/article_db439670-cb90-11e5-81cc-f33f8d1cb64d.html)

### **Stafford resident named local Park Service superintendent**

FREDERICKSBURG-AREA PARK WILL WELCOME NEW LEADER IN APRIL; SHE HAS BEEN AT FORT MONROE

Posted: Thursday, February 4, 2016 11:44 pm



Kirsten Talken-Spaulding

BY DAWNTHEA PRICE/THE FREE LANCE-STAR Posted on Feb 4, 2016

A Stafford County resident with 28 years of National Park Service experience will take the helm as superintendent of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

Kirsten Talken-Spaulding, who is now superintendent at the Fort Monroe National Monument in Hampton Roads, will start at her new position in April.

Talken-Spaulding, who was announced as the new superintendent on Thursday, fills the vacancy left by Superintendent Lucy Lawliss' retirement in December.

"Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park is a park of rich history and resources, embedded in communities that not only help to tell the park stories, but share in those stories," Talken-Spaulding said in a news release announcing the move. "I am excited to work with those inside and outside of the park who have cared for this hallowed ground for decades."

Park Service Northeast Regional Director Mike Caldwell praised Talken-Spaulding, saying her "outstanding work in leading the startup operations at Fort Monroe demonstrates her ability to work with partners and stakeholders to preserve our shared history."

Talken–Spaulding began her career with the National Park Service at Shenandoah National Park and has worked at numerous sites in the agency’s Capital Region, including Prince William Forest Park and the National Mall.

A graduate of the College of William Mary with a master’s of divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, she has lived in Stafford County since 2003 and is a member of the Fredericksburg Area Runners Club.

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Park includes four battlefields — Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House. Its headquarters is Chatham Manor, a historic home overlooking the Rappahannock River that served as a Union army headquarters during the Battle of Fredericksburg.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/hampton-matters-blog/dp-fort-monroe-authority-seeks-input-on-waterfront-park-trail-plan-20160202-post.html>

## Fort Monroe Authority seeks input on waterfront park, trail plan



This April 2013 rendering from the Fort Monroe Authority website shows areas that would be dedicated to parks space and, in purple, a 7-mile long trail around the perimeter of the historic fort.

(Fort Monroe Authority)

[Ryan Murphy](#)

February 4, 2016

Curious locals will get a chance to peek into one potential future of the historic Fort Monroe next Tuesday, when the Fort Monroe Authority hosts a public session to get comment on a park and trail proposal.

The public will get a look at the design for Waterfront Park and the 7-mile trail which would ring the perimeter of the fort. The Authority will have detailed concept drawings of specific parts of the park, including Continental Park, Outlook Beach and the kayak launch area.

Staff will give a slideshow presentation at the Fort Monroe Theater outlining the idea for the project starting at 6 p.m. on Feb. 9.

That will be followed by an open house with displays on the proposed park and trail. Fort Monroe Authority staff and representatives from the design consultant will be on hand to answer questions until 8 p.m.

Members of the public will be asked to submit comment forms, which can be filled out and returned in person at the meeting or can be sent by mail or email until Feb. 19.

The meeting sets the stage for a work session for the Fort Monroe Authority's Board of Trustees in early March, where discussions are expected to center around the future development path and goals of the historic Fort.

The event is free to attend, but anyone who wants to show up will need to register online by noon on Monday, Feb. 8. Head to [bit.ly/1Q9Nh4S](http://bit.ly/1Q9Nh4S) to sign up.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-hampton-fort-monroe-park-public-meeting-20160209-story.html>

## **Public weighs in on proposed Fort Monroe Authority waterfront park concept**

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

February 10, 2016

Of more than 100 local residents who turned out to the Fort Monroe Theatre Tuesday night, some lauded the waterfront park concepts on display, while others called some of the proposals outright stupid. So goes many a conversation about progress at Fort Monroe.

Tuesday night's presentation gave the public a first look at proposed updates to nearly all the green space under the control of the Fort Monroe Authority.

The plan includes measures to bolster accessibility for people with disabilities, address traffic-flow problems where vehicles and pedestrians meet, and install more amenities including parking and public restrooms.

The plan also includes a trail linking the scattered waterfront park sites.

Hampton resident Lynn Wayman called the proposal a good start.

"There's still some kinks to work out," he said, looking over one of many large boards highlighting parts of the park proposal.





## FORT MONROE WATERFRONT PARK

February 09, 2016

[View the PDF of the waterfront park presentation](#)

Wayman, a kayaker, said he still has issues with the kayak ramp that puts into Mill Creek — specifically that those with kayaks have to cross a road from the parking area to get to the put-in. As it stands, he uses a ramp at the southern end of the fort.

"I'd like to use the ramp where it's more protected," he said. "I've got an 11-year-old son who I kayak with."

Some of the concept's big ideas had already been publicly pitched by Fort Monroe Authority Director Glenn Odersuch as a major renovation of the old library to make the 106-year-old building into a proper visitor's center.

An overhaul to the entrance, a new boardwalk cafe and a complex of new athletic fields are among other notable proposals in the new material. The proposal has been in the works for more than a year and Oder said a more detailed and concrete plan will be developed, along with the first cost estimates, after the authority gathered public input.

After an hour-long presentation, those in attendance were invited to weigh in via comment card on any and all of the many proposals.

Larry Svihla lives on Fenwick Road on Fort Monroe, in one of a string of historic homes known as General's Row, next door to Oder. On the other side, the proposal calls to stand up a public restroom.

"Totally stupid," Svihla said about the idea. He noted that where the new bathroom would be is near a flagpole in front of the east side of the fort, which he says is one of the most photographed spots at Fort Monroe.

He also said he thinks many of the concepts will cost too much money to save buildings not worth saving, such as a Wherry Quarter housing unit slated to be converted into a beachside cafe.

Mark Perreault, the president of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, called the plan premature because some of the authority's land may yet become National Park Service property.

"The good thing about it is we're talking about public use, not privatization," he said. Perrault's group has long called for limits on development at the fort.

The historic fort was used as a U.S. Army base from the early 1800s until it was closed in 2011. President Barack Obama designated Fort Monroe as a national monument in 2011 and last August, the fort and a wide swath of additional land was signed over to the National Parks Service.

The Fort Monroe Authority Board of Trustees is set to meet for a retreat in March to discuss the future of the fort's development.

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

More online

To see the full presentation and renderings of the proposed parks projects, visit [dailypress.com](http://dailypress.com) or [fmauthority.com](http://fmauthority.com). Readers can submit comments on the proposal to [comments@fmauthority.com](mailto:comments@fmauthority.com).

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<http://www.tidewater.aaa.com/home/publications/tidewater-traveler/local-outings/2016-hampton-fort-monroe-national-monument.html>

## **Hampton's Fort Monroe National Monument Tells a Fascinating Saga that Changed History**

*By Larry Bleiberg | Photos by Eric Van Eyke*

Published February 2016

Looking across the water as you head into the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel, it's hard to imagine the terror that must have gripped three men in 1861 as they commandeered a stolen boat from Norfolk and headed to Fort Monroe in the dead of night.

The escaped slaves knew the brutal punishment they would face if they were caught and returned to their master. But they also sensed a chance at freedom.

Virginia had formally left the Union that same day. And the men had been tasked to build artillery batteries for the Confederate army in the month-old Civil War. When the work was done, they would be shipped to North Carolina, away from family and home, to construct fortifications there. Instead, they pointed the boat to Fort Monroe.

Even in a state such as Virginia, where historic markers sprout like dandelions and it's hard to cross the road without encountering a battlefield or a birthplace, Fort Monroe commands attention.

"This fort is a symbol of freedom," says Kirsten Talken-Spaulding, superintendent of the Fort Monroe National Monument in Hampton. "You can't touch a period of U.S. history without it touching Fort Monroe." A visit here provides surprising insights into our country's heritage of liberty.

## **Making History**

On a tactical level, Fort Monroe's importance is obvious, even to someone without military training. It's located on the southern tip of the Virginia peninsula, overlooking Hampton Roads and the entrance to the bay. When Captain John Smith stopped here on the way to settling Jamestown, he called the site "fit for a castle."

The U.S. belatedly recognized the site's strategic importance after British ships blithely sailed up the Chesapeake to attack Washington, D.C., and Baltimore during the War of 1812. Congress subsequently authorized the construction of Fort Monroe as part of a series of coastal defenses reaching from New England to the Gulf of Mexico. Work on the fort lasted from 1819 to 1834, and when complete, the moat-circled, six-sided garrison with 10-foot-thick walls was the largest stone fort in America.

The fort's visitor list reads like a who's who of American history. Edgar Allan Poe served rather poorly as a soldier here, and General Armstrong Custer was stationed here years before his ignominious encounter at Little Bighorn. As a U.S. army lieutenant, Confederate General Robert E. Lee helped build Fort Monroe's ramparts and perhaps never returned to attack it because he knew its strength. And the list of presidential guests includes Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Jackson.

But Fort Monroe's biggest claim to fame has nothing to do with any of that.

It was those three men—Frank Baker, James Townsend, and Sheppard Mallory—who would change history. They dodged frigates and steamers on their flight from Norfolk and beached their boat at the federal fort, requesting sanctuary. The next morning, they were taken to the still-standing Quarters No. 1 building to meet with the fort's new commander, General Benjamin Butler. He inquired about their plight but left the field hands unsure of their fate.

Confederate Major John Baytop Cary soon arrived, demanding that Butler return the slaves to their owner. The Southerner appeared to make a sound legal request under the controversial U.S. Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Butler, it would seem, would have to return the men.

But the Union officer was a gruff New England attorney, who had made a fortune exploiting technicalities in the law. Because Virginia had voted to secede, he said, U.S. laws no longer applied in what was now a foreign power. Cary was no longer legally an officer of the federal government and therefore could not claim the slaves. The men, he noted, had been building fortifications, which was aiding and abetting the Union's enemy. The escaped slaves, Butler said, would remain at the fort because they were "contraband of war," legally no different from intercepted arms or ammunition.

## **Broad Implications**

It's not clear if the general appreciated the implication of what came to be known as his Contraband Decision. "He had a hundred things on his mind," says Hampton History Museum historian Mike Cobb. "This was something that came up during the day, and he had a way to solve it." It meant, however, that the three escaped slaves and any other slaves who could make it to Union territory were safe.

Word spread quickly among slaves throughout the South. Fort Monroe became known as "Freedom's Fortress," and within days more escaped slaves arrived.

"The faucets started to open then," says Robin Reed, director of the fort's Casemate Museum. "By the time the war ended, tens of thousands had come."

And the phenomenon spread beyond Hampton. Contraband camps in places such as the North Carolina coast, Alexandria, and Washington became sanctuaries. The phrase "contrabands" gained national recognition.

"We recognize them today as freedom seekers, not as possessions," says Talken-Spaulding, the park superintendent. "They were really refugees."

For the North, the escaped slaves were also a resource. They worked to support the war effort, many joining the United States Colored Troops to battle the South.

Mary Smith Peake, a free black woman, established a school for the escaped and newly freed slaves that led to the founding of Hampton University, the city's historically black college that later educated Booker T. Washington. Her first classes were held under what has become known as the Emancipation Oak, which still stands on campus.

### **Visiting Fort Monroe**

Today, you can get a sense of the fort's heritage when you visit. After driving across the moat and through a narrow opening in the stone walls, you'll find a largely quiet place: a seawall favored by joggers and stately brick buildings arranged around a graceful lawn that once held a tiny three-hole golf course. "This is where generals learned to be generals," Talken-Spaulding jokes.

At the Casemate Museum, you can walk through a series of interconnected rooms in the thick walls that once held huge guns trained on the Chesapeake. You pass through a series of dungeon-like chambers filled with exhibits covering the site's history beginning before European exploration.

You can stand in the room where, after the Civil War, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was held prisoner, after being charged with treason in Richmond. Here, he was shackled in leg irons and watched over by guards 24 hours a day, compelled to gaze at a nearly floor-to-ceiling American flag attached to the wall.

Other displays inform about the fort's various military roles, serving as the home of the coastal artillery school during the world wars, and later as home to the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, which oversees the military's training programs.

Perhaps the Casemate Museum's most notable exhibit is its final one, devoted to the closure of the fort on September 15, 2011. A photograph of the event shows garrison commander Colonel Anthony Reyes, a now-retired black officer and graduate of Hampton University, saluting a lowering flag. Less than two months later, on November 1, 2011, President Barack Obama, the nation's first black president, declared the site a national monument.

Admission to Fort Monroe National Monument and the Casemate Museum is free. Hours vary. [nps.gov/fomr](http://nps.gov/fomr). National Monument: 1-757-722-3678. Casemate Museum: 1-757-788-3391.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/letters/dp-nws-edt-letsthu-0225-20160224-story.html>

## **Feb. 25 Letters: May 3 elections, Fort Monroe**

### **Fort Monroe**

Gov. Terry McAuliffe recently called Fort Monroe a "gem." It is, indeed, a jewel in Hampton's crown. As with any jewel, it needs care, polish and protection. Right now, it needs your protection.

Hampton is currently engaged in zoning state-owned parts of Fort Monroe, since any property sold to private owners there must be zoned by the city. At present, the plan tags for development 30 acres of the land called Wherry Quarter that splits the National Monument. Almost 9 acres of that land is designated for residential.

This plan contradicts the clear intention of Hampton City Council's 2012 resolution that limited development to tourism, hospitality, recreation and open space concepts. It also undercuts what is best for Hampton. A beautiful and public Fort Monroe will bring in tourists and tourism revenue and attract those much-needed millennials, who value recreational opportunities, as the city's recent economic study indicates.

Gov. McAuliffe has expressed his desire to see a unified Fort Monroe National Monument, as do many of us. I urge my fellow Hamptonians to ask City Council to hold fast to their August 2012 resolution.

Billie Paxton Einselen

Hampton

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-nws-hampton-planning-commission-fort-monroe-20160302-story.html>

### Hampton Planning Commission backs Fort Monroe zoning plan



Fort Monroe on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2015. (Aileen Devlin/Daily Press / Daily Press)

[Ryan Murphy](#) Rmurphy@dailypress.com

March 3, 2016

HAMPTON — Hampton's Planning Commission has given the thumbs up to a series of new zoning types and rezoning measures to dictate how land can be used at Fort Monroe — but not without dissent over uses for the controversial Wherry Quarter.

The provisions would create four special zoning districts for areas at the decommissioned Army post. Closed in 2011, part of the 565-acre property was transferred to the state and part was named a national monument and handed over to the National Parks Service.

While each proposed zoning area has a specific focus like residential, employment or hospitality, several include provisions that provide some flexibility.

Commissioner Gay LaRue broke with the rest of the present board members on provisions on rezoning the Wherry Quarter, an area north of the historic fortress between the two areas owned by the National Parks Service.

LaRue supported the originally proposed plans for the area, which aimed at tourism-enabling hospitality uses like hotels and restaurants with the potential for residential development. City staff offered a last-minute revision removing the residential development, which has long been a topic of contention for people who think residential development there could hinder efforts to unite the two halves of the national monument.

Several people associated with Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Monument expressed support for the change, but LaRue said she didn't agree with their concerns.

"We need more high-end housing (in Hampton). We know that. There is, in my opinion, no fear of residential development (in the Wherry Quarter) that would not be compatible with Fort Monroe," LaRue said.

All 12 zoning measures before the commission were adopted Thursday, with LaRue casting the only dissenting vote for three items that were modified to remove the residential option from Wherry Quarter. City Manager Mary Bunting abstained from voting due to her position as a city representative to the Fort Monroe Authority.

The measures will go to the City Council for final approval in April. Passage by the council will pave the way for private development that the city hopes will add many properties to the city's tax rolls.

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

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

Keith Cannady, the city of Hampton's planning services manager, said the North Gate and Wherry Quarter areas are the only parts of the fort where there's enough room for substantial new development.

Cannady said the zoning ordinances are notable for what they leave out — specifically, design standards for renovation or new construction.

The proposals defer to the Fort Monroe Design Standards, a series of regulations like building height and setbacks that would usually appear in the city's zoning ordinances and are meant to safeguard the historic landmark's character. The Fort Monroe Authority will have the legal authority to enforce those.

The plan also specifically tags much of the property with the Parks and Open Space zoning type, including areas to the west of the old fort and the land that stretches to the north toward Buckroe Beach.

Fort Monroe Authority Chairman Glenn Oder has expressed a desire to stimulate private development on the property, even as some members of the authority's Board of Trustees have bucked, saying the top priority should be protecting the historic and natural assets.

The authority has scheduled a daylong retreat later this month to hash out the direction of the fort. The proposed zoning revision will be a part of that conversation.

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

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/hampton-matters-blog/dp-hampton-plans-to-name-bridge-for-mlk-20160301-post.html>

Hampton plans to name bridge for MLK



The council unanimously approved a motion at its meeting last week to dedicate the bridge as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Bridge, but Assistant City Manager Laura Fitzpatrick said the city still has to hash things out with the King Center in Atlanta, which manages King's estate and rules on the use of his name.

(Handout)

[Ryan Murphy](#)

March 3, 2016

The City Council voted to name a bridge in the city after civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. – but it hasn't happened just yet.

The bridge that spans Mill Creek and connects the easternmost part of Mercury Boulevard to Fort Monroe has been nameless since it was constructed in 1989.

The council unanimously approved a motion at its meeting last week to dedicate the bridge as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Bridge, but Assistant City Manager Laura Fitzpatrick said the city still has to hash things out with the King Center in Atlanta, which manages King's estate and rules on the use of his name.

Fitzpatrick said the turnaround for approval should be a couple of weeks and shouldn't cost the city anything because the city won't be using King's image or anything from his speeches, which the King Center licenses.

The idea came out of a citizen committee exploring ways to memorialize King, the same group that put forward a memorial dedicated to King and local Hampton heroes planned to go up outside the Hampton Roads Convention Center.

The design of that memorial design has not been finalized. The city has brought in Hampton University architecture students to develop ideas for the memorial.

Fitzpatrick said the group has been looking at naming a bridge or street after King since 2010 and said picking a bridge has special meaning when it comes to the civil rights leader's legacy.

"He was known for bridging divides," she said.

The city had heard a lot of positive feedback on the idea from the community, according to city manager Mary Bunting, including letters from the NAACP, Hampton University and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference – a group King founded. A petition of support had north of 130 signatures.

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<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/letters/dp-nws-edt-letswed-0302-20160301-story.html>

## **March 2 Letters: Bike trails**

Worthy destination

About two decades ago I attended the first public meeting for Virginia's proposed Capital to Capital Trail. The major point that I made then was that it should be a trail separate from the roadway of Route 5, which it was to follow most of the way from Richmond to the Williamsburg area.

The trail is open from Richmond to Jamestown and Williamsburg, and indeed it is an off-road trail for bicyclists and pedestrians. It is time to target completion of the trail at its logical terminus, the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay at Fort Monroe National Monument.

With its Hampton Bike/Walk initiative, which held its first public meeting on Feb. 23, the city has begun to plan for better bicycle and pedestrian access between and within its major development areas.

A network of trails will be another way to enhance the attractiveness of the Virginia Peninsula as a tourist destination, while providing a healthy recreational outlet. Let's begin cooperating now. Then maybe we won't have to wait two more decades to take that bike trip from Fort Monroe to Richmond.

*Adrian Whitcomb*

*Newport News*

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<http://www.suffolknewsherald.com/2016/02/29/steam-academy-plans-camps/>

## **STEAM Academy plans camps**

Published 8:12pm Monday, February 29, 2016

The Virginia STEAM Academy is expanding its summer camp programs this year, including offering one session just for girls.

The academy is offering three one-week camps focused on STEAM — an acronym for science, technology, engineering and applied mathematics — at colleges around Virginia, said Judy Stewart, president of the Virginia STEAM Academy and an educational consultant from Suffolk.

Stewart and M. Caroline Martin, a former Riverside Health System executive and Suffolk First Citizen winner, founded the academy in 2010, with a goal of establishing a statewide residential high school that specializes in STEAM curricula.

The camps will be at Old Dominion, Washington and Lee and Shenandoah universities. Each will include a different focus, such as the environment, robotics, rockets, lights and lasers, computers or health.

Organizers planned the girls' camp to boost female participation, Stewart said. She stressed that girls can apply and attend any of the camps.

"Oftentimes, girls excel at a higher rate when they are in an environment where they can share ideas and work together," Stewart said.

It's the fourth year the free Summer STEAM camps have been offered, she added.

Applicants should be rising sixth, seventh and eighth graders with interests in science, technology, engineering, or applied mathematics. The openings are for students in public and private schools, as well as homeschoolers.

The camp sessions being offered are:

4July 10-16, Old Dominion University, Norfolk

4July 17-23, Washington and Lee University, Lexington

4July 24-30, Shenandoah University, Winchester (for girls only)

All applications must include a teacher recommendation and be received by March 30. The online application, as well as details on each camp, is available at [www.vasteam.org/summer-steam](http://www.vasteam.org/summer-steam). Mailed applications can be sent to the Virginia STEAM Academy, P.O. Box 324, Suffolk, VA 23439.

Decision letters will be sent out by April 29.

It can be competitive vying for the 180 camp openings, Stewart said.

"This is for students who love to wrestle with challenges and thrive on problem solving, design building and learning," said Stewart. Students will spend roughly five hours a day in class.

In the past, roughly 70 percent of participants have come from Hampton Roads or Northern Virginia, Stewart said. She hopes a more aggressive marketing campaign to public and private schools and youth-related nonprofit organizations statewide will draw more students from other parts of Virginia.

“We have a nice mix ... and each of the state’s eight school regions have been represented (at past camps), but it’s not equitable yet,” Stewart said.

The camps are paving the way for an eventual public boarding school for high school students focusing on STEAM curriculums, Stewart said. She hopes the academy will be able to move forward on a planned site at Fort Monroe, although an earlier lease agreement has expired.

The academy concept also includes online courses and professional development courses, both of which are in the works.

The academy will launch the online course in Henry County — an underserved area of the state — next year, Stewart said. The third component, professional development, is scheduled for later this year at the Science Museum of Virginia, she said.

Over the years, the Virginia Steam Academy has received \$400,000 in grants from Virginia’s General Assembly. The organization has matched that funding with corporate donations and in-kind contributions, Stewart said.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/letters/dp-nws-edt-letsmon-0229-20160228-story.html>

**Feb. 29 Letters: Patriot Act, Fort Monroe, salt marshes, General Assembly**

February 28, 2016

Abridging the past

As we mark the culmination of another Black History Month celebration, I want to share with the citizens of Hampton Roads a quiet historic moment in the city of Hampton which took place on Feb. 24.

There were no marches, no protests and no sit-ins but the outcome was symbolic.

As a result of countless communications with Councilman Will Moffett, Hampton City Council liaison for the Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Committee, the Hampton City Council voted and approved the proposal to name the bridge to Fort Monroe the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Bridge.

Naming the bridge after Dr. King the "Dreamer" supports the narrative of Fort Monroe as "Freedom's Fortress" where some historians believe that slavery began in 1619 with the first landing in British North America of the first Africans and ended with Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler's contraband decision of 1861.

On behalf of the Virginia state unit of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Peninsula District Chapter SCLC, I would like to convey Mayor George Wallace and the Hampton City Council our sincere appreciation for your ongoing support, diligent work and tireless efforts.

*Andrew Shannon*

*Newport News*

















