

Media Coverage August through October 2013

## August 2013

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-fort-monroe-assessment-20130730,0,3770221.story>

### **Park service to evaluate Lincoln quarters at Fort Monroe Park service eyeing Old Quarters 1 inside stone fort**

National Park Service is assessing buildings on Fort Monroe to determine what needs work.

By Robert Brauchle, [rbrauchle@dailypress.com](mailto:rbrauchle@dailypress.com) | 757-247-2827

*6:37 a.m. EDT, July 30, 2013*

HAMPTON — [Fort Monroe](#)'s Old Quarters 1 has been renovated, expanded and repurposed time and time again since it was built in 1819.

The National Park Service will soon control the large white building inside the iconic stone fort that surrounds it.

So what will the agency do with the 194-year-old building that has housed generals, presidents and at least one French aristocrat?

The agency is determining when the home played its most significant role, and how the existing building can best be used to recreate an experience that helps visitors understand the building's role in Fort Monroe's past.

"There were a lot of cool folks in history to pass through," Park Superintendent Kirsten Talken-SpaULDing said. "One of the things the park service is well known for is not just going about repairs in a haphazard fashion.... We want to be sure that things are done in both a sustainable way, but also in a way that maintains as much of the building's historic fabric as possible."

The park service will spend more than a year compiling a historic structure report that looks at the building's physical evolution and the ways it was used. Once complete, the document will be used to create and prioritize renovations and maintenance projects.

"This document is extremely important in helping us and the public understand the state of this building," said Eola Dance, the park service's chief of visitor services and resource management.

As history would have it, the build may also contain harmful chemicals once popular with home construction, including asbestos and lead-based paint. Those materials will need to be removed as a part of the agency's renovations.

Old Quarters 1 — found just inside the fort's East Gate — has also hosted some of the nation's most notable historic figures.

In 1862, [President Abraham Lincoln](#) stayed in the building as he organized the attack on Norfolk. Marquis de Lafayette stayed in the home during an 1825 tour of the U.S.

The park service has the funding to research the building's history and current state. More money will be needed to perform maintenance or any other significant projects.

Similar reports have been created at other historic sites throughout the country including the Lincoln Cabin at Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in Kentucky; and the Bodie Island Lighthouse and Oil House at Cape [Hatteras](#) National Seashore.

For the Lincoln site, the 119-page report recommends much of the original construction — using historic methods of creating them — be returned to the site, including the flooring and foundation materials.

Old Quarters 1 is now being used as the Fort Monroe Authority headquarters. The state entity overseeing portions of Fort Monroe eventually plans to eventually move its operations to a building on Ingalls Road. A timetable for that move has not been set.

At Fort Monroe, historic structures reports will be created for Building 17 (known as Lee's Quarters because it housed Robert E. Lee prior to the Civil War), Chapel of the Centurion and the historic stone fort, Dance said.

"The key to all of this right now is the collaborative work between the land owners and the leaseholders of these properties," Spaulding said. "It's really encouraging that the current owners are extremely willing to work with us before the entirety of the land has transferred."

### **Old Quarters 1**

**What:** A two-story structure build in 1819, the same year construction began on the stone fort

**Where:** In the fort's inner grounds, across Bernard Road from the East Gate.

#### **Historic facts:**

- Built in 1819, Quarters 1 has the distinction of being the first permanent set of quarters at Fort Monroe.
- Historically formal gardens and parterres had surrounded Quarters 1.
- It is the first permanent set of quarters at Fort Monroe.
- For many years, Quarters 1 was the largest residence and was home to the highest ranking officer on post.

#### **Building highlights:**

- A staircase rises from the second floor entry hall in an elliptical curve. An oval dome in the ceiling echoes the curvature of the stair and is painted sky-blue with 27 gold stars.
- The original plan does not include porches. The porches with their carpenter Gothic railings were added between 1871 and 1890.
- In 1871 an octagonal solarium was added to the west elevation.

*Source: National Register of Historic Place*

### **Open government group: Fort Monroe subject to public information laws**

By Robert Brauchle, [rbrauchle@dailypress.com](mailto:rbrauchle@dailypress.com) | 757-247-2827

*August 6, 2013*

HAMPTON — The **Fort Monroe** Authority and its various committees should follow the state **Freedom of Information Act** concerning public records requests and open meetings, according to an opinion issued by the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

The July 30 opinion written by council Executive Director Maria J.K. Everett states that laws pertaining to open meetings and public records must be followed as long as the committee or board is working on behalf of the board of trustees or the authority as a whole.

The only time such group may veer from open meetings laws is when the body is created to advise an individual on the authority's board of trustees.

"You also noted that 'an area of concern is that these groups and committees are created by a public body to advise it on matters specifically related to the business of that public body,'" wrote Everett. "If that is the case for each of these bodies, then all of them would be public bodies subject to FOIA."

Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director **Glenn Oder** asked the council to draft an opinion on the matter.

"The bottom line is we just want to do it right, and that's why we asked the questions," Oder said.

Oder said the authority will need to set up proper meetings rooms and provide some additional training to committee members.

"Everything the Fort Monroe Authority does is subject to public disclosure, that was never a question," he said. "We just wanted to know if committee meetings should be treated as public meetings."

The Fort Monroe Authority was created by the state to oversee the redevelopment of Fort Monroe as a public community now that the military has decommissioned the base and is in the process of transferring land back to Virginia. The authority's board of trustees has created at least three other subcommittees to help advise the larger group on topics such as finances, planning and other economic activity. The authority is now creating a master plan that will outline uses for its portion of the property. The National Park Service is creating its own set of guidelines for the national monument areas.

This isn't the first time the authority has sought help to resolve questions about its operations.

An opinion issued by **Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli** in mid-April has already changed the make-up of the authority board of trustees. Cuccinelli ruled that Hampton Mayor Molly Joseph Ward and Vice Mayor George Wallace could no longer serve on the Fort Monroe Authority Board of Trustees because while serving on the authority board, City Council members are representing two public offices at the same time, which is forbidden in Virginia.

The decision sent the City Council scrambling to find replacements on the authority board. The city named Lawrence Cumming and James "Jay" Joseph to fill the gaps left by Ward and Wallace.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2013/08/upcoming-concerts-paradise-beach-fort-monroe>

### **Upcoming concerts at Paradise Beach, Fort Monroe**

The Virginian-Pilot

© August 7, 2013

Whisper Concerts will present the Military Concert Series at Paradise Beach, Fort Monroe the weekends of Saturday, Aug. 17 and Friday, Sept. 6.

From the press release, Multi-platinum country music group Lonestar, who recently reunited with original lead singer Richie McDonald, will take the stage on Saturday, Aug.17 as part of the Lonestar Reunion Tour. The Texas-bred band, known for merging their country roots with strong melodies and rich vocals, boasts sales in excess of 10 million album units since their national launch in 1995. They also achieved 10 #1 country hits including "No News," "Come Crying To Me" and "Amazed." The band's awards include a 1999 ACM Single of The Year for "Amazed" and the 2001 CMA Vocal Group of the Year.

Rising star Justin Moore, a country music singer and songwriter signed to Big Machine Records, part of Valory Music Company and home to pop-country stars Taylor Swift, Band Perry and Tim McGraw, will perform on Friday, September 6th. Moore has released two albums for Valory: Justin Moore in 2009 and Outlaws Like Me in 2011. A third album, Off the Beaten Path, is slated for release later this fall. He has charted eight times on the Hot Country Songs charts, including the number one hits "Small Town USA", "If Heaven Wasn't So Far Away", "Til My Last Day" and the top 10 hit "Backwoods."

Headliner information:

**Lonestar Reunion Tour** Saturday, Aug. 17 at 7 p.m. Gates open at 5 p.m. VIP General Admission: \$25, advance plus fees General Admission: \$15, advance plus fees

**Justin Moore** Friday, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. Gates open at 5 p.m. VIP General Admission: \$30, advance plus fees General Admission: \$20, advance plus fees

Ticket Information:

Tickets are on sale at all Ticketmaster locations, online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or by phone at 800-745-3000.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-fort-monroe-helicopters-20130813,0,1194772.story>

### **Fort Monroe lands helicopter parts manufacturer Carson Helicopters works with Sikorsky helicopter**

By Robert Brauchle, [rbrauchle@dailypress.com](mailto:rbrauchle@dailypress.com) | 757-247-2827  
*August 13, 2013*

HAMPTON — A helicopter parts manufacturer that had operated in Pennsylvania for 50 years is moving to **Fort Monroe**.

Carson Helicopters rebuilds and updates the Sikorsky S61 transport helicopter and other aircraft while also researching, designing and developing aircraft parts.

The Carson Composite Main Rotor Blade is used on Marine One, the helicopter that carries the president, according to a news release from the Fort Monroe Authority and city of Hampton.

The company will occupy an existing building along Fenwick Road in Fort Monroe's Wherry Quarter. No aircraft will land or take off from the property.

"**Hampton Roads'** business-friendly environment, the area's diversity and its strong workforce were all incentives for our coming here," Carson Helicopters president Frank Carson said in a

news release. "We're very satisfied with our new location and believe it's an ideal fit with both our current criteria and our plans for the future."

Carson officials did not return phone and email messages requesting details about the new facility.

In June, the U.S. Department of Labor's **Occupational Safety and Health Administration** cited Carson for eight alleged serious violations, including exposing workers to hazards involving hexavalent chromium at the company's base facility in Perkasie, Penn.

OSHA proposed penalties totaling \$40,500 after a December 2012 inspection of the facility was launched because of a complaint. The company has addressed the cause of those citations, according to a report about the proposed fines on <http://www.phillyburbs.com>.

It was unclear Monday if the company is packing up its Perkasie, Penn., facility and moving the operation to Fort Monroe, or if the Hampton Roads facility will become an additional location. Also unclear is how many jobs will be created at the Fort Monroe facility.

"A project that will repurpose a portion of Fort Monroe to create jobs and investment is great news for Hampton Roads and Virginia," Gov. **Bob McDonnell** said in the news release.

Hampton Mayor Molly Joseph Ward said Carson's presence will add to the city's existing aerospace industry. She called the company "a pioneer in the rotor craft industry."

[http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/open-government-public-body-committees-subcommittees-subject-to-va-foia/article\\_a6de9133-7001-5de5-86ed-181377b2bd90.html](http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/open-government-public-body-committees-subcommittees-subject-to-va-foia/article_a6de9133-7001-5de5-86ed-181377b2bd90.html)

### **Open Government: Public body committees, subcommittees subject to Va. FOIA laws**

Posted: Sunday, August 11, 2013 12:00 am

Committees and subcommittees that serve on behalf of a public body are subject to both open meetings and open records laws, according to an opinion released July 30 by the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

In response to the request by former Del. Glenn Oder, R-Newport News, who is now the executive director of the Fort Monroe Authority, the council added that when a committee or

subcommittee serves to advise one person on a public body, the open meetings laws do not apply, but the open records laws would.

“Everything the Fort Monroe Authority does is subject to public disclosure; that was never a question,” Oder told the Daily Press. “We just wanted to know if committee meetings should be treated as public meetings.”

The Fort Monroe Authority oversees the redevelopment of the former military base as a public community. The state-created authority is a public body and is subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, but Oder wanted to clear up confusion regarding the status of the entity’s internal divisions, particularly those that mainly consist of private citizens.

The FOIA council’s executive director, Maria J.K. Everett, emphasized that the makeup of any internal committee did not play a role in determining whether the subgroup is subject to the open government laws.

“One must count citizen members as well as (board) trustees when determining whether a sufficient number is present for the gathering to constitute a meeting under FOIA,” Everett wrote.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-ts-q-hpt-notebook-0808-20130808,0,7114584.story>

### **Fort Monroe's "skinny model"**

*10:36 a.m. EDT, August 8, 2013*

The **Fort Monroe** Authority and its consultants are still putting the finishing touches on the historic property's master plan, and tea leaves are becoming clearer to read even before that plan is presented to the public.

The authority will more than likely sell as much property as it can – and is legally allowed to – to help reduce operating costs it bills to the state.

The governor signed off on legislation in early 2012 allowing the authority to sell land in the Historic Village and North Gate areas of Fort Monroe, although no sales can take place until both the Fort Monroe Authority and the governor approve a master plan being assembled by Sasaki Associates Inc. Based on the legislation, the Wherry Quarter will remain in the state's hands and can not be sold without the General Assembly's approval.

The authority refers to those sales as the property's "skinny model." The smaller the property the authority maintains, the fewer expenses associated with those responsibilities. Reports staff has presented to the authority's board of trustees has shown the authority will operate with a multi-million dollar budget gap unless it can find new revenue or a way to cut expenses.

Selling property on Fort Monroe brings up a variety of questions I think neither the state or city are fully ready to answer.

For instance, if the Fort Monroe Authority sells any chunk of the property, then does the city have the right to designate zoning for the land? After all, it is private property within the city. If the answer is yes, then what impact does that have on the property's master plan?

Lets see where this conversation goes in the next few years.

### **Hampton Cup Regatta**

The Hampton Cup Regatta will be held throughout the day Saturday and Sunday on Mill Creek.

Billed as "North America's oldest continuously-run hydroplane boat race," the regatta begins at 11 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. on both days.

The Bash at the Beach party will be held at 6 p.m. Friday at Paradise Ocean Club on Fort Monroe.

The boats and regatta's operations are also staged on Fort Monroe, along Stilwell Drive.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/dp-nws-edt-letsthu-0815-20130815,0,6722501.story>

Aug. 15 Letters: Fort Monroe, Oyster Point, Buzz Bailey

*9:47 a.m. EDT, August 15, 2013*

### **Focus on access**

Your Aug. article, "Public to get more access to bay watershed," indicates just how little access there currently is: "only 2 percent of the bay has public access points," resulting in "the world's biggest gated community."



[Fort Monroe](#) is one of those points of entry. Much of the shoreline and the beaches of Fort Monroe National Monument are now open to the public, and so is the seawall promenade on the state-owned part of the site. But if the proposal of the Fort Monroe Authority's master planners is approved, some of that access may well disappear.

The plan calls for residential development not only in Wherry, the land between the two parts of the Monument, but also near Wherry's bay shoreline. And the people who can afford to live in such a flood-prone area, paying higher flood insurance rates or doing without insurance, will doubtless be inclined to further restrict access. This won't just decrease the public's right of entry to the bay; it will likely discourage visitors from entering the Monument parkland north of the new development — which means that Fort Monroe would lose a lot of its appeal to visitors, and Hampton and the region a lot of potential tourism revenue.

The Fort Monroe Authority should focus its efforts on opening up Fort Monroe to the public, not giving the green light to development that would create a de facto gated community on Chesapeake Bay.

*Scott Butler*  
*Newport News*

[http://articles.dailypress.com/2013-08-13/news/dp-nws-fort-monroe-helicopters-20130813\\_1\\_fort-monroe-authority-carson-helicopters-sikorsky-s61](http://articles.dailypress.com/2013-08-13/news/dp-nws-fort-monroe-helicopters-20130813_1_fort-monroe-authority-carson-helicopters-sikorsky-s61)

## **Fort Monroe lands helicopter parts manufacturer**

### **Carson Helicopters works with Sikorsky helicopter**

**August 13, 2013** | By Robert Brauchle, [rbrauchle@dailypress.com](mailto:rbrauchle@dailypress.com) | 757-247-2827 | Daily Press

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<http://www.thenewjournalandguide.com/en/community/item/3222-city-of-hampton-hosts-african-landing-day>

### **City of Hampton Hosts African Landing Day**

Tuesday, 13 August 2013 14:30

#### **HAMPTON**

**Come help us to REMEMBER the first arrival, and our ancestors who lost their lives through the Middle Passage, and endured 246 years of bondage.**

August 16 – 20, 2013 Third Annual African Landing Commemoration Day

This year, honor the arrival of the First Africans in Colonial America on English occupied territory at Point Comfort (Fort Monroe). This program is presented by the City of Hampton; Project 1619 Inc.; National Juneteenth Foundation; The Sankofa Projects; the Historical Contraband Society, and the Fort Monroe Authority.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-african-landing-day-20130820,0,1594773.story>

[http://articles.dailypress.com/2013-08-20/news/dp-nws-african-landing-day-20130820\\_1\\_first-africans-point-comfort-fort-monroe-authority](http://articles.dailypress.com/2013-08-20/news/dp-nws-african-landing-day-20130820_1_first-africans-point-comfort-fort-monroe-authority)

## **Residents commemorate anniversary of first Africans brought to Hampton**

**August 20, 2013** | By Andrea Castillo, [acastillo2@dailypress.com](mailto:acastillo2@dailypress.com) | 757-247-4635

About 100 people gathered at Fort Monroe's Continental Park on Tuesday at the site where the first African slaves arrived to British-occupied Virginia nearly 400 years ago.

In 1619, a Dutch ship carrying "20 and odd" slaves from Angola arrived at Point Comfort — where Fort Monroe is now located — and the captain of the ship traded them with the British for a bushel of corn, Calvin Pearson, founder of Project 1619, said at Tuesday's African Landing Day event. Pearson's organization aims to raise awareness about the history of the first Africans in the area.

The city of Hampton has already declared Aug. 20 African Landing Day, and Pearson seeks to have a national monument marking the occasion built by its 400th anniversary in 2019.

"From those '20 and odd' Africans ... those Africans are the ones who planted the seeds for America," Pearson said.

Representatives from the Angolan embassy in Washington, D.C., also attended the event and received a greeting from Hampton City Councilman Donnie R. Tuck.

Sofia S. Pegado da Silva, minister counselor at the Angolan embassy, also taught the crowd how to say "Good evening," in Portuguese, which is spoken in the African nation.

The event was also put together by The Sankofa Projects, an organization that hosts events including an event at Buckroe Beach held every June, said Chadra Pittman Walke, who is with the organization. Other sponsors include the City of Hampton and Fort Monroe Authority.

The event also included a prayer from Khemetic tradition of ancient Egypt, a drum procession, and dances performed by girls who are part of local dance group Ubuntu Dance Collective.

Hampton resident Ghana Smith and her 14-year-old son were among those who attended the event.

"It's important for my son to learn the history of the city outside the four walls of the classroom," Smith said.

<http://www.dailypress.com/business/tidewater/dp-reed-fort-monroe-casemate-0819,0,6888494.story>

<http://www.virginiabusiness.com/index.php/companies/article/fort-monroe-authority-hires-new-director-for-the-casemate-museum/>

Reed hired as Fort Monroe Casemate Museum director

### **Fort Monroe Authority hires new director for the Casemate Museum**

August 16, 2013 10:50 AM

Robin Edward Reed has been hired by the Fort Monroe Authority as director for the Casemate Museum.

He was president of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation in Bedford.

Reed is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations, which includes programming, the development of exhibits and marketing.

The Casemate Museum, which opened in 1951, houses the jail cell where Jefferson Davis was incarcerated after his capture during the Civil War. It also features many other artifacts and exhibits related to that period in American history, including items related to Gen. Benjamin Butler's Contraband Decision, which many say precipitated the end of slavery.

Before his position with the National D-Day Memorial Foundation, Reed was a senior director in the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, where he oversaw the Department of Public History. He also was a project director for the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History.

Before that, he held several positions with the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, including the executive director's post for nine years.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/dp-nws-edt-letsmon-0819-20130818,0,2200517.story>

### **Aug. 19 Letters: Fort Monroe, governor's race**

*7:52 p.m. EDT, August 18, 2013*

#### **Fort Monroe plans**

Re "Monroe Plan will go before **Bob McDonnell**" (Daily Press, July 26), the Fort Monroe Authority executive director defends his plan to permanently divide the National Monument by building a subdivision in its midst by claiming it is necessary for "economic sustainability". He alleges the subdivision will help close a \$3.3-\$4.8 million gap projected for 2027.

But economic sustainability does not mean all revenues to balance the books must come from activities on the Fort Monroe peninsula itself. A successful private foundation, energized by a high public vision for Fort Monroe, is one tool for covering a \$5 million-a-year gap. The **Colonial Williamsburg** Foundation covers tens of millions of costs each year by drawing from its endowment and annual donations of supporters. But such donors will not come forward at Fort Monroe unless it adopts a big vision for its future, rather than the lackluster conception now being peddled.

There are of course other ways to assist in covering the gap, other than a subdivision: shifting some costs to the National Park Service, some continued state funding in recognition of public benefits of a grand public place at Fort Monroe, reducing costs, and increased business activity in the historic village supported by the greater visitation the big vision will produce, etc.

Further, the executive director says the people cannot have everything they want at Fort Monroe. This is an amazing statement for a public servant to make. Despite upwards of 95 percent of citizens wanting a unified National Monument at Fort Monroe, the director says they cannot have it, presumably because anonymous real estate developers need to get their piece of a national treasure.

*Mark Perreault*  
*President, Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park Norfolk*

<http://www.wvec.com/news/local/Historic-copper-stolen-from-buildings-on-Fort-Monroe--221657471.html>

Historic copper stolen from buildings on Fort Monroe

Associated Press

Posted on August 29, 2013 at 12:26 PM

Updated Thursday, Aug 29 at 12:26 PM

HAMPTON (AP) -- Hampton police are looking for those responsible for stealing historic copper from Fort Monroe.

Authorities say someone snuck into the moat area of the former Army base and stole copper and aluminum gutter piping from 10 buildings.

The Virginian-Pilot reports that two buildings were completely stripped of their gutters and downspouts. An additional eight buildings had some of the metal removed.

The copper, which has developed a patina over time, likely dates to between 1889 and 1909. Its value isn't yet known.

Police say the theft was bold because Hampton has a police officer who patrols the fort 24 hours a day.

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Information from: The Virginian-Pilot, <http://pilotonline.com>

<http://hamptonroads.com/2013/08/historic-copper-stolen-10-fort-monroe-buildings>

### **Historic copper stolen from 10 Fort Monroe buildings**

By [Cindy Clayton](#)

The Virginian-Pilot

© August 29, 2013

#### **HAMPTON**

It was a bold heist pulled off late last Thursday night or early Friday morning.

Someone snuck into the moat area of Fort Monroe and stole copper and aluminum gutter piping from 10 buildings.

The thief or thieves targeted the 100 block of Bernard St. There are no residents near that area of the former Army base.

“Not only is this a loss for the base, but from a historical nature,” said Hampton police Sgt. Jason Price. “The manufacturing techniques and the grade of copper...that’s just unheard of in this day and age.”

Two buildings were completely stripped of their gutters and downspouts, Price said. An additional eight buildings had some of the metal removed.

The copper likely dates to between 1889 and 1909 and was installed with copper clips, Price said. Some was replaced with aluminum through the years.

The copper has developed a patina over time. Its value isn’t yet known.

“Some of it is rather beautiful,” Price said.

But it could be spotted at local businesses where scrap metal is routinely sold. Price said police are asking residents to look out for the material, which could be under a tarp in the back of a pickup truck or in someone’s back yard.

“That would be a prime opportunity to call Crime Line,” Price said.

The theft was bold because Hampton has a police officer who patrols the fort 24 hours a day, Price said. The department has a field office there along with its police academy. The Virginia State Police also have an office there.

"It really was a risky crime to try and commit," Price said.

Anyone with information can call Crime Line at 1-888-LOCK-U-UP.

<http://www.wavy.com/news/local/hampton/thieves-steal-history-from-fort-monroe>

## **Thieves steal history from Fort Monroe**

By Jason Marks

Updated: Tuesday, August 27, 2013, 11:35 PM EDT

Published: Tuesday, August 27, 2013, 11:35 PM EDT

HAMPTON, Va. (WAVY) - Hampton Police are looking for the thieves who stole copper guttering and down spouts from historic Fort Monroe early Friday morning.

"I can't believe they hit that many buildings," said Hampton resident Cato Reaves.

But police say overnight Thursday into Friday morning someone took advantage of the openness of the National Park that's open to the public 24 hours a day.

"Based on the gutter clips we see, this is probably the older more historical copper grade that was taken off this building," added Sergeant Jason Price with the Hampton Police Division.

Ten buildings inside the moat -- the most historic part of the fort, with buildings dating back the late 1800s -- had copper gutters and down spouts ripped right off the brick walls and stolen.

"It is a shame," Price said. "It really is a beautiful piece of architecture."

The theft happened in a section of the old post used for office buildings.

"There are no residents that live in this area," Price added. "These buildings are not currently occupied, but hopefully they will be soon. Unfortunately, they took advantage of the placement, the location and the time of day."

Police say it's hard to tell how much copper guttering was stolen because there were sections already missing before the crime. That also makes it hard to figure out how much the stolen copper was worth. One thing police say is for certain -- the gutters are very distinctive.

"Some of the particular guttering that was taken is a gage, a very thick copper. So, somebody might notice it in the back of a pick up truck, behind somebody's house or even somebody who might work at a salvage or metal yard might see it's unique," Price said.

"I'm surprised they got away with it," Reeves added.

The crime is even more offensive to Reeves, who spent 26 years in the Air Force.

"I'm assuming you make noise when your are banging on pipes," Reeves said.

WAVY.com was told Hampton Police officers patrol the fort 24 hours a day. There is also a Hampton Police field office at Fort Monroe.

## September 2013

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/dp-nws-oder-oped-0915-20130914,0,7806738.story>

### Two years of progress at Fort Monroe

By Glenn Oder

5:47 p.m. EDT, September 14, 2013

On September 15, the **Fort Monroe** Authority (FMA) completed our second full year of operation since the Army decommissioned the historic post. This year we are pleased to report increases in residential leases, several new commercial tenant announcements, increased attendance at public programs, and a partial transfer of property from the Army to the Commonwealth of Virginia. These accomplishments are examples of the positive direction and adaptive reuse that are vital to the future of Fort Monroe.

On June 14, 2013, the Army transferred 312 acres of land at Fort Monroe back to the Commonwealth of Virginia. The recordation of this deed is a milestone for the authority and represents a remarkable achievement in such a short period of time. Over the past 200 years, the Army constructed a fortress, installed miles of utilities, built hundreds of buildings and trained our military to defend our freedoms. The process of transferring these assets back to the Commonwealth of Virginia required extensive negotiations to insure environmental compliance and public safety measures were adequately addressed.

The result of this transfer means the historic stone fortress and many of the buildings and grounds at Fort Monroe now belong to the Commonwealth of Virginia. We look forward to the



transfer of the remaining acres as the commonwealth and the Army work to resolve the remaining environmental and disputed property ownership issues.

Although the transfer of the property is a major milestone in the future of Fort Monroe, the success of the Fort Monroe Authority in bringing people here is also significant. During the past year, the authority continued the tradition of the Thursday night Music by the Bay concert series and concluded with an enchanting performance by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, the Fort Monroe Authority created a full day of activities for Independence Day, concluding with the return of the fireworks display. More than 30,000 people came to Fort Monroe to celebrate the Fourth of July. Increased attendance at the Casemate Museum, visitors on the beaches, and general observations of people on the piers and boardwalks are indicators that people are discovering Fort Monroe.

The authority is pleased to report that housing at Fort Monroe reached new heights; occupancy is approaching 90 percent . Additionally, we announced several new businesses that are bringing jobs here and the Paradise Ocean Club was filled with beach goers enjoying the sand, water, numerous concerts and good food throughout the summer.

As we consider our remarkable success during these past two years, we must acknowledge our partnership with the National Park Service, the financial support from the **Virginia General Assembly** and the spirit of cooperation that exists with the City of Hampton. Those relationships have been vital to our success.

Looking to the future, the Fort Monroe Authority will strive to meet our stated goals of preserving the property, telling our great stories, and meeting our legislative mandate to become economically sustainable. These laudable goals are all achievable. With the continued support of the community and our established partnerships, we believe the positive direction of Fort Monroe will continue.

We hope to see you again soon at Fort Monroe.

<http://helihub.com/2013/09/12/carson-helicopters-to-locate-at-fort-monroe-in-hampton-roads/>

12 Sep, 13

The Fort Monroe Authority and the City of Hampton are pleased to announce that Carson Helicopters has selected Fort Monroe for its new location.

Based in Pennsylvania, Carson Helicopters has been in the helicopter business for more than 50 years. The company rebuilds and updates the S61 helicopter and other aircraft and holds over 35 STC's (supplementary type certificates) for improvements and modifications to Rotor Wing Aircraft.

Carson's capabilities also include research, design, and development. The Carson Composite Main Rotor Blade, which was certified by the FAA in 2003, is used on Marine One, the helicopter that carries the President of the United States.

"Hampton Roads' business-friendly environment, the area's diversity and its strong workforce were all incentives for our coming here," said Frank Carson, President of Carson Helicopters. "We're very satisfied with our new location and believe it's an ideal fit with both our current criteria and our plans for the future."

"We are extremely pleased with Carson Helicopter's decision to take advantage of the buildings that are ready to move in at Fort Monroe," said Glenn Oder, Executive Director of the Fort Monroe Authority. "The FMA now controls commercial buildings, homes, beaches, boardwalks, restaurants, and public programs that create a great quality of life for employers who locate at Fort Monroe." Fort Monroe was granted national monument status in 2011 and its historic buildings are preserved and managed by the Fort Monroe Authority, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The City of Hampton first identified the project last year. "We are excited to welcome Carson Helicopters, a pioneer in the rotor craft industry, to Hampton," said Mayor Molly Ward. "They are a testament to our established aerospace industry and emerging composites initiatives. We look forward to their future success." With an investment of millions and numerous new jobs expected, Carson plans to manufacture S61 Helicopter Composite Tail Rotor Blades and focus on composite rotor blade manufacturing process research at the new facility.

"A project that will repurpose a portion of Fort Monroe to create jobs and investment is great news for Hampton Roads and Virginia," said Governor Bob McDonnell. "We welcome Carson Helicopters to the Commonwealth, and are confident that the company will be a great addition to the composites manufacturing industry cluster in Hampton Roads."

The Fort Monroe Authority and the City of Hampton worked with the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Divaris Real Estate in bringing Carson Helicopters to the region.

*Oder is executive director of the Fort Monroe Authority*

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-tsq-hpt-sea-scouts-0912-20130912,0,1035828.story>

## **SeaScouts offer sailing opportunity Youth program offered at Old Point Comfort Yacht Club**

By Robert Brauchle, [rbrauchle@dailypress.com](mailto:rbrauchle@dailypress.com) | 757-247-2827

*10:01 a.m. EDT, September 12, 2013*

HAMPTON — The Old Point Comfort Yacht Club is looking for young people interested sailing to join its Sea Scouting program.

Sea Scout Ship 1610 is hosting an open house each Tuesday in September at the club on [Fort Monroe](#) for people ages 13 to 20 who would like to learn more about sailing, cruising, motor boating, and swimming.

While youth can join the program any time of year, the September recruiting drive gives participants six months of training in navigation, seamanship and safety before starting the sailing season.

The program includes hands-on instruction in piloting, coastal navigation, cruising, racing, meteorology, hydrology, and radio communications.

During a typical year, the crew undertakes four weekend cruises, at least one week-long cruise, a snow skiing trip, two weekends at local Coast Guard stations, and four weekend camp-outs.

Open houses are held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday in September at the Old Point Comfort Yacht Club, 100 McNair Drive on Fort Monroe.

Anyone who would like more information about the program email [ship1610@cox.net](mailto:ship1610@cox.net) or visit <http://www.scoutlander.com/publicsite/unithome.aspx?UID=16727>.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/dp-nws-edt-letswed-0918-20130917,0,1287604.story>

In "Two years of progress at [Fort Monroe](#), (Sept. 15) " Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director [Glenn Oder](#) describes a number of significant achievements during his tenure. He also puts a good face on the Army's belated transfer of 312 acres to the state, mentioning that some parcels are still being negotiated. But the Army's claim to these parcels—the marina and a big slice of the North Gate area—is extremely disappointing. The commonwealth should not have to buy property vital to its role in preserving Fort Monroe's history and natural treasures.

Mr. Oder goes on to "acknowledge our partnership with the National Park Service, the financial support from the [Virginia General Assembly](#), and the spirit of cooperation that exists with the

City of Hampton." With this in mind, it should be noted that the Hampton City Council unanimously passed a resolution against residential development in Wherry (the land between the two parts of the national monument), and that the monument would be ill served by a new neighborhood that fragments it, degrades the site's historic ambiance, and inhibits access to monument parkland. As for the General Assembly's support, Mr. Oder should use his considerable charm and prestige to make the case for no development in the Wherry core when he solicits the state funding he will need over the next several years in any event.

The FMA has made remarkable progress, but it still lacks a far-sighted vision of Fort Monroe's potential for the region and for America.

*Scott Butler*

[Newport News](#)

<http://www.defensecommunities.org/headlines/plans-advance-to-turn-ft-monroe-into-monument-commercial-property/#>

### **Plans Advance to Turn Ft. Monroe into Monument, Commercial Property**

September 16, 2013

Twin planning efforts to turn the former Fort Monroe into a unit of the National Park Service and a mixed-use campus are expected to come to fruition shortly. Next week, the Fort Monroe Authority's planning advisory group will review a draft master plan for the historic post located on the Virginia shore of the Chesapeake Bay. The document will outline a plan to preserve the property's character, chronicle the site's history and help make its operation economically sustainable, Executive Director Glenn Oder told the Daily Press. "There should no surprises with the direction the master plan is heading," he said. "We've held numerous public meetings, design charrettes and public comment periods." The plan could be approved by Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) in several months. The National Park Service meanwhile is scheduled to complete its own set of guiding principles this winter. "We want to ensure that our footprint is one that is complementary in nature at Fort Monroe and not something that is a shoehorn," Park Service Superintendent Kirsten Talken-Spaulding told the paper.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-fort-monroe-anniversary-20130916,0,1840950.story>

## **Fort Monroe: 2 years after Army deactivation, property plans gaining momentum**

By Robert Brauchle, [rbrauchle@dailypress.com](mailto:rbrauchle@dailypress.com) | 757-247-2827 Daily Press

*September 16, 2013*

HAMPTON — For more than 150 years, [Fort Monroe](#)'s mission was simple and direct: protect [Hampton Roads](#) and guard the Chesapeake Bay from invasion.

State and federal officials overseeing the property are finding civilian rule comes with its own complexities.

Two years after the Army deactivated the historic post, the property's overseers are pushing a mission to win the hearts and minds of the public. Fort Monroe can become a tourist hot spot, residential waterfront community and a recreation destination — but only if planners encourage the proper growth.

"Fort Monroe is a very complicated puzzle," said John Lawson II, chairman of the Fort Monroe Authority Board of Trustees. "With more than 200 buildings and 565 acres of land, there are a lot of potential uses."

Two years have passed since the Sept. 15, 2011 Army deactivation ceremony at Fort Monroe, and 22 months have passed since the president created the National Park Service monument.

"It's a very exciting time, and it takes time to build a vision," Park Service Superintendent Kirsten Talken-Spaulling said. "So far, there's been close to two-years of visioning and talking about what is most important at Fort Monroe."

The series of public meetings held by the park service and Fort Monroe Authority will soon begin to bear fruit as a master plan that prioritizes projects and programs. The authority's Planning Advisory Group is scheduled to review a draft master plan on Sept. 26. The park service will come out with its own draft plans this winter.

Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director [Glenn Oder](#) points to the summer concert series, Independence Day festivities and youth summer camp as significant events and activities taking place, even as planners mold the property's long-term vision.

Close to 90 percent of the available residential units and more than 100,000 square feet of commercial space are being leased, creating about \$2.5 million for the authority this year.

Oder said state and federal funding will soon wane, forcing the authority to find revenue to help pay the bills.

"How do we bridge that gap?" Oder asked. "There's no silver bullet and no single way to become sustainable."

Some groups are demanding that the authority make economic decisions without compromising the property's unique character.

Keeping a close eye on Fort Monroe is the Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park. The group has pushed for the a park-like vista to be created between the northern National Park Service monument and the stone fort in an area known as the Wherry Quarter.

The citizens group wants the national park monument to be extended through the Wherry Quarter so the fort and northern beach area are connected. The roughly 70-acre area separating the park service monument areas is now state owned.

Scott Butler, of the citizens group, said the group fears decisions to make the property economically independent — such as building homes in vacant areas — could devalue the property as a destination for visitors.

"The public has constantly wanted park land" in the Wherry Quarter, said Butler, who is also a member of the Fort Monroe Planning Advisory Group.

"If the Fort Monroe Authority creates a plan that only addresses the short-term economics, then I don't know how the property could ever recover," said Louis Guy, an active member of the Fort Monroe group and the Norfolk Historical Society.

"They have to plan for the next 100 years," he said.

Lawson — who was elected board of trustees chairman in July — said the board's foremost goals should be to adopt an acceptable master plan and continue negotiations with the Army to transfer the remaining portions of land into the state's hands.

The state accepted ownership of 312 of the fort's 565 acres in early June, well behind a schedule initially expected when the post was deactivated.

"Owning those 312 acres puts us in a very good place," Oder said.

The state authority can now plan events and make decisions with property on those 312 acres without having to consult with the Army.

Ownership also comes with its own heartburn. The state must maintain vacant buildings and grounds, address residents' concerns and fix unexpected problems.

Lawson said the authority needs to focus on projects that help reduce costs, even if the changes are out of the public's eye. Aging water and sewer pipes need to be cataloged and improved, water meters need to be installed and buildings must be maintained.

"We can't do it all at one time, but we have residents who still need to be taken care of," he said. "We need to rent the existing buildings and build new buildings that are complementary to the architectural style of what is out there. We want this to be a living, active community."

### **What to expect**

Some of the most significant plans revealed for Fort Monroe likely won't take shape for at least a few more months, when Gov. **Bob McDonnell** is expected to approve the property's master plan.

A math and science school is planned for buildings in the inner moat; vacant office buildings could be converted to residential space; and a walking trail outlining the property are all expected to be part of the master plan being reviewed by the Fort Monroe Authority Planning Advisory Group on Sept. 26.

Oder said that document will outline a plan to preserve the property's character, tell visitors about the history that took place there and make its operation economically sustainable.

"There should no surprises with the direction the master plan is heading," he said. "We've held numerous public meetings, design charrettes and public comment periods."

The National Park Service will also ramp up its presence in the upcoming months when it completes its own set of guiding principles.

"We're talking about what makes the site nationally significant ... and we're creating a landscape so that people can come out here and enjoy themselves," Talken-Spaulling said.

Visitors will soon see National Park Service signs with the agency's signature arrowhead logo.

"We want to ensure that our footprint is one that is complementary in nature at Fort Monroe and not something that is a shoehorn," she said.

Decisions made at Fort Monroe will also reach into the abutting neighborhoods.

### **Neighboring impact**

Laura Sandford sat on a bench along Mellen Street in front of the antique store she operates with her husband Jeff on a recent week day.

Lately, more cars and pedestrians are visiting downtown Phoebus, and that means more business for Sandford's store, Robert's Antiques and Collectibles.

"There's a wonderful sense of purpose that has been building here," she said. "This is what people have been talking about for the past five years. There's more energy down here, for sure."

Robert's Antiques is named after Laura's father. The business has existed for more than 40 years, although Laura and Jeff have operated it for about nine years.

Sandford said more people are coming in to her store both looking for furniture to buy for their homes on Fort Monroe, and to sell pieces that do not fit in the new space.

Down the street, Matt Wallace and his brother, Dustin, opened screen printing business The Prince Ink Co. in February 2012. The pair have since outfitted the space at 120 E. Mellen St. with antiques and memorabilia from Phoebus and Fort Monroe.

"When we were looking for space here, we had the pick of the litter — I think there were six buildings we could look at," Wallace said. "Now I think there might only be two vacant spaces available."

Wallace said he heads to Fort Monroe when he needs a breather from work and to the nearby restaurants on Mellen Street for business meetings.

"A lot of people just don't know it's open to the public," he said. "They need to let people know what's out there."

Fort Monroe master plan

What: The Fort Monroe Authority Planning Advisory Group will review the property's draft master plan

When: 1 p.m. Sept. 26

Where: Bay Breeze Conference Center, 490 Fenwick Road

Why: The advisory group is expected to review the draft, then either suggest changes or recommend the plan to the board of trustees.



[http://articles.dailypress.com/2013-09-26/news/dp-nws-edt-letsfri-0927-20130926\\_1\\_fort-monroe-national-park-wherry-sept-27-letters](http://articles.dailypress.com/2013-09-26/news/dp-nws-edt-letsfri-0927-20130926_1_fort-monroe-national-park-wherry-sept-27-letters)

## **Sept 27 Letters: Fort Monroe plans**

**September 26, 2013**

### **A reasonable approach**

When will the Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park realize that Fort Monroe has a noteworthy but limited place in American history?

Should Fort Monroe be considered hallowed ground? I think not. When compared to the battlefields of Gettysburg, Antietam, and Shiloh, where thousands of troops perished, Algonon, George, and Fort Monroe had few if any war related deaths. Of course it was never attacked during its 400-year history. Granted, it served us well during the Civil War and — in later years — as a coastal defense, training and headquarters site, and now in retirement, as a prime example of late medieval moated fortresses of stone and earth construction.

How about keeping things in perspective? Now that the argument for needing more public recreational property on the Peninsula has been debunked, citing the numerous existing salt water beaches (developed and undeveloped) as well as parks, to include the largest east of the Mississippi. Let us now eliminate the last argument: to add 70 Wherry acres to the existing fort's moated monument connecting it to the remaining, separated monument acreage to the north.

On the contrary, we must negotiate the acquisition of the few remaining northern monument acres containing "Dog Beach" as well as the 70 acres of Wherry, to insure maximum flexibility in the pursuit of future economic stability. The moated fort can "stand alone." With its nearby water and harbor views it should draw thousands of tourists to Hampton and its historic surroundings.

*Thomas S. Brzozowski*  
*Newport News*

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/dp-nws-fort-monroe-master-plan-20130927,0,2008754.story>

## **Dispute over homes versus park land persists as Fort Monroe's master plan progresses**

By Robert Brauchle, [rbrauchle@dailypress.com](mailto:rbrauchle@dailypress.com)

*September 27, 2013*

HAMPTON — The [Fort Monroe](#) Authority and its consultants received the first nod Thursday to proceed with a plan outlining future uses on the historic property.

But the plan has done little to quell a nearly decade-old debate over the fate of a roughly 70-acre area known as the Wherry Quarter.

Thursday afternoon, the Fort Monroe Authority Planning Advisory Group placed an informal seal of approval on a draft plan allowing residential uses for the quarter, which is north and east of the stone fort and vaguely outlined by North Gate Road, Stilwell Drive and the Chesapeake Bay.

The draft plan emphasizes the authority's push toward creating more places for people to live on the property. That includes converting existing buildings into 400 new units and building an additional 720 units, which could include apartments, single-family homes and town houses.

That would bring an additional 2,500 to 3,000 residents to Fort Monroe, said Fred Merrill, a Sasaki Associates principal. The Fort Monroe Authority now leases 149 units, close to 90 percent of the total space available.

Merrill and Fort Monroe Authority Executive Director [Glenn Oder](#) said the draft plan focuses on reusing buildings in the North Gate and historic village areas, and new development will only be built in Wherry Quarter as a last resort.

Members of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park have said the Wherry Quarter should remain park area and existing buildings should be demolished when they no longer are usable. Such a green area would make the National Park Service monument areas more desirable for tourism.

"Why bring this controversial plan to the governor unless there's true consensus moving forward?" asked Mark Perrault, the group's president.

Advisory group members said the draft plan guides future uses while providing flexibility for decision-makers.

"I've talked with neighbors, and I'm not getting a lot of push-back on development in Wherry," said Chris Davidson, an advisory group member and Fort Monroe resident. "There's a lot of talk about preservation ... but there's a lot of opportunity for creation here, too."

State officials running Fort Monroe ultimately must make the property economically self sustaining, Oder said.

Raising revenue and decreasing expenses will be a burden for the authority as it moves forward. The authority is spending about \$11 million annually to run the property while generating just \$3 million from leases. The remaining \$8 million is subsidized by the state and federal governments. The public till, though, is expected to dry in the coming fiscal years.

To raise revenue, the draft plan recommends creating separate dues for businesses and home owners.

Facing close to \$30 million in improvements to the underground sewer and water pipes and other utilities, the authority would like to donate that infrastructure to utility companies. The willingness of those companies to accept equipment, conduit and meters considered not up to existing standard is unlikely though, Oder said.

The draft plan creates parking fees and asks the National Park Service and city of Hampton to renegotiate cost-sharing agreements.

Some significant opportunities for development and revenue have already been made public.

The state Department of Veterans Affairs is considering building a veterans care center on the fort.

And the Virginia STEAM Academy — a nonprofit organization that is working in partnership with several Virginia colleges — has preliminarily agreed to create a new residential school for science, technology, engineering and math at Fort Monroe that founders say could eventually accommodate 1,000 high school students. The exact timeline of that project is still in the air.

*Brauchle can be reached by phone at 757-247-2827.*

Fort Monroe master plan

What's next?

The Fort Monroe Board of Trustees is expected to consider the Planning Advisory Group's recommendation and public comments when it decides whether to endorse the draft master plan at its next meeting.

When: 1 p.m., Oct. 24

Where: Bay Breeze Community Center, 490 Fenwick Road

If the board of trustees approves, the draft master plan will be sent to Richmond for the governor's approval.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/hampton/hampton-matters-blog/dp-hampton-master-plan-being-unveiled-thursday-20130925,0,6563848.post>

### **Fort Monroe master plan being unveiled Thursday**

5:33 p.m. EDT, September 25, 2013

Consultants hired to create a master plan for the [Fort Monroe](#) Authority are scheduled to unveil the document during a meeting Thursday evening at the Bay Breeze Community Center.

The authority and Sasaki Associates have worked on this plan since February 2012. Sasaki, of Boston, has periodically updated the authority and the public with nuggets of information about what this plan will entail.

The document is expected to outline land uses, recreational venues and opportunities to make the property economically sustainable.

The firm is presenting a draft version of its plan to the Fort Monroe Authority Planning Advisory Group. That group is expected to make some comments and pass the draft along to the authority's Board of Trustees.

The document must also be signed off by the governor.

The meeting will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday at the Bay Breeze Conference Center, 490 Fenwick Road on Fort Monroe.

An update outlining the progress and challenges in front of the Fort Monroe Authority with the property can be found [here](#).

<http://hamptonroads.com/2013/10/escape-fort-monroe-beginning-slaverys-end>

### **Escape to Fort Monroe, beginning of slavery's end**

By Paul Clancy

© October 6, 2013

Hampton was, by all accounts, a sleepy Southern town. No longer a thriving port - as it was before losing out to Norfolk - it had settled into a plantation mode. As one account has it, streets were unpaved and wheat waved along King Street.

"The west end, down toward Little England Road, was taken up by cornfields and pleasant orchards."

By another reckoning, Hampton "looked as though it were sleepy and indolent in the best of times, having oysters for its chief merchandise... Few houses were new, and, excepting St. John's Church, the public edifices were mean."

Slaves "lived in small wooden shanties, generally in the rear of the master's house, rarely having more than one room on the lower floor, and that containing an open fireplace where the cooking for the master's family was done..."

Supposedly, there wasn't much overt cruelty toward slaves, although there was that locust tree in front of the jail that had been used as a whipping post for the few that tried to run away. In at least one instance, slaves that were plotting to escape had been sent to Richmond to be sold at public auction.

Hanging over every would-be runaway was the Fugitive Slave Law, which required anyone coming in contact with runaways to return them to their owners.

Legally, they were property, "owned" by masters all their days, and Union commanders had honored this code by refusing to shelter runaways.

President Lincoln was not yet ready to threaten this system. As a missionary who was soon to work in Hampton put it, the president and "members of the Cabinet were busy with their fine jugglery of explanation, endeavoring to persuade the rebellious South that in fighting them they intended no harm to their favorite institution."

In his inaugural address, Lincoln had made it clear, "I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it exists."

But on one night in late May 1861, the wheel of history turned.

It was chaotic at that point. Virginia had just voted to secede from the Union, and whole families were fleeing, in some cases leaving their slaves behind to watch over their homes - assuming they wouldn't be gone long.

Looming over them was a huge buildup of federal troops at Fort Monroe. They all knew that Hampton could not be defended.

And yet, over on Sewell's Point on land now occupied by the naval base in Norfolk, slaves were being used to erect a battery. Among them were three men who were the property of a plantation owner, Col. Charles King Mallory. They were stung by the news that they were about to be sent, away from their families, to other Confederate locations in the South. And desperate.

Desperate enough to escape in the middle of the night. By one account, they stole a skiff and rowed across Hampton Roads, undoubtedly crossing the channel in the midst of Union warships, and approached guards at the gates of Fort Monroe.

They were taken into custody and the next day brought to the office of the new commanding general, Benjamin Franklin Butler.

The balding, slack-joweled lawyer from Massachusetts had been at his new post for only a day. Some would call him a beast, a silverware thief, a coldblooded murderer, but there was something shrewd, unpredictable and ambitious about him.

Butler questioned them at length, learning who their master was, what they were doing at Sewell's Point, why they had fled. And a plan emerged that would shake the foundations of slavery forever.

On Saturday, the Hampton History Museum opened a new exhibit, "Contrabands: Toward Freedom." Within sight of what used to be the Grand Contraband Camp near downtown and the grave of Charles K. Mallory, the exhibit tells the story of what was to be the beginning of the end of slavery.

Next week: The "mysterious spiritual telegraph" that heralded "Freedom's Fortress."

Paul Clancy, [paulclancy@msn.com](mailto:paulclancy@msn.com), [www.paulclancystories.com](http://www.paulclancystories.com)

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/dp-edt-fort-monroe-editorial-1003-20131003,0,71214.story>

### **A viable Fort Monroe will require a mix of money, compromise and patience**

*9:59 a.m. EDT, October 3, 2013*

Two years after the decommissioning of **Fort Monroe**, the attempt to mesh its historic past with a solvent future remains a delicate balancing act.

The Fort Monroe Authority, tasked by the state with outlining a strategy to develop the former Army installation, spent more than a year on economic studies about how to turn the land into a self-sufficient combination of public and private property. The authority unveiled its master plan last week. The blueprint shows an acceptance of the economic reality that pursuing self-sufficiency will be an ambitious undertaking requiring decades to truly reach fruition.

The plan emphasized the development of more private residences on the property. Existing structures would be used to create 400 units, and another 720 apartments, homes and townhouses would be built. All of it would be done in accordance with strict guidelines for new construction on the property. This would develop a strong residential tax base for the land, which is the foundation of the plan.

Fort Monroe is undeniably a piece of American history, and a vital part of our commonwealth's background. The 179-year-old fort, which remained in Union hands even after Virginia seceded, was a planning site for **Abraham Lincoln**, a prison cell for Jefferson Davis and a home to freed slaves. It played a role in the legendary battle of the ironclads between the **USS Monitor** and the **CSS Virginia**.

All of that is true, but its appeal as a tourist destination remains limited. Regardless of its history, Fort Monroe has never drawn the same kind of crowds that visit the **Yorktown Victory Center** or the **Jamestown Settlement**. For that reason, the purists who believe that every historic inch of the fort is sacrosanct must understand that it will not be able to support itself simply as a national monument.

One of the major points of contention in the development plan revolves around the Wherry Quarter, a 70-acre section along the north end of the property. A group called Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park want the entire Wherry Quarter to remain green space. When currently buildings become obsolete, this group wants them to be razed and not replaced in order to expand that green area and make the national park more appealing to tourists.

The Fort Monroe Authority's draft plan allows for residential use along the Wherry Quarter. These residences would bring in revenue that is critical to the goal of making Fort Monroe financially feasible – revenue not only from the purchase and rental of homes, but also from the increased opportunity for businesses created by the additional population in the area. The plan still calls for considerable green space on the Wherry Quarter, but not as much as some would like to see.

This is where that balancing act comes in – trying to achieve historic preservation and natural resources while creating enough residential and commercial opportunities to pull in sufficient revenues. It's not easy, and the authority's draft plan reflects that.

The authority's annual operating expenses are about \$11 million, and that does not include costly renovations that will need to be done. Leases on the property currently generate about \$2.5 million in revenue. The state and federal governments currently supply the rest, but that subsidy will be gradually reduced until it disappears altogether. This need for self-sufficiency will require some, if not a lot, of dealmaking.

Turning this into a profitable enterprise – or, preliminarily, one that breaks even – is not going to be easy. Yes, the fort is historic and it has a lot of beautiful acreage to offer. But companies that would develop it for residential and commercial use must deal with a lot of obstacles including limited access, the threat of flooding and a shortage of parking. The underground utility system needs about \$30 million in upgrades.

Former delegate **Glenn Oder**, who heads the Fort Monroe Authority, points to the historic Chamberlin Hotel – once set for demolition, now renovated into a thriving retirement community – as a business model. But saving the Chamberlain cost a lot of money, and the development of Fort Monroe will, too.

The draft plan unveiled last week doesn't please everybody, but that is no surprise. This is a process that will involve compromises, and not everyone is ready to accept that.

This blueprint represents enough progress that the General Assembly should continue to support the Fort Monroe project. That support should not be permanent, but as long as a feasible plan is moving forward, the legislature should provide the short-term funding needed to make this plan functional.

Fort Monroe is an invaluable part of this region's past. We would like to see it remain a part of our future.

[http://articles.dailypress.com/2013-09-30/news/dp-nws-white-house-hampton-mayor-20131001\\_1\\_fort-monroe-authority-board-interim-mayor-ward-and-wallace](http://articles.dailypress.com/2013-09-30/news/dp-nws-white-house-hampton-mayor-20131001_1_fort-monroe-authority-board-interim-mayor-ward-and-wallace)

### **Hampton mayor resigns to take White House post**

#### **City Council will appoint interim mayor**

**September 30, 2013** | By Robert Brauchle, [rbrauchle@dailypress.com](mailto:rbrauchle@dailypress.com) | 757-247-2827 | Daily Press

HAMPTON — Molly Joseph Ward is resigning as the city's mayor on Friday to take a position within President Barack Obama's administration.

As long as the federal government is operating, she will begin a job as the Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director for the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs on Monday. A federal shutdown would delay that start date.

She will work under Director of Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew to engage mayors and municipal leaders across the country concerning issues facing localities. The position will force her to move to Washington, D.C.

Ward leaves the city's top elected post with nearly three years left on her term, meaning the city council will need to appoint an interim mayor within 60 days.

Throughout her mayoral term, Ward has focused on state and regional issues while pushing senior-level staff to coordinate neighborhood curb-and-gutter issues.

She most recently won reelection in May 2012 scooping up nearly two-thirds of votes while beating challenger Councilman Donnie Tuck. She framed that campaign around her willingness and ability to push state and regional officials to advance projects that benefit the city.

Ward has also hung her hat on the community rallies that supported the National Park Service monument at Fort Monroe.



On Nov. 1, 2011, she stood in the White House's Oval Office, just behind Obama's right shoulder as the president signed a proclamation creating the national monument.

"We are thrilled and grateful that the president has chosen to use his authority under the Antiquities Act ...," said Ward, at the time of the proclamation.

At the City Council dais, Ward took office in July 2008 just months before the Great Recession began strangling property values in Hampton Roads. The economic downturn has forced the city to scale back services while increasing the property tax rate. Property taxes are the city's largest single sources of revenue. The City Council is now considering a series of programs and reforms to improve the quality of the city's housing stock.

Ward's participation in Fort Monroe's evolution from a military post into a public community and tourism destination hasn't always been smooth sailing.

In April, Attorney General (and Republican gubernatorial candidate) Ken Cuccinelli issued an opinion booting Ward and Vice Mayor George Wallace from the Fort Monroe Authority Board of Trustees, citing a conflict of interest because the pair are also members of the City Council.

Ward and Wallace, both Democrats, decried the decision as being politically motivated. The attorney general's decision forced the City Council to appoint new representatives on the authority's board.

For the past two years Ward has served as chairwoman of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, the group which steers the region's transportation policy and interests.

Her term was scheduled to end this month. Ward was known for her conciliatory, consensus building style while leading the board, which will face critical decisions soon as to how to spend hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for roads.

Ward is known for praising her colleagues in both parties, including Virginia Beach Mayor Will Sessoms, a Republican and State Sen. Tommy Norment, who also sit on the board.

On Monday, Ward said the City Council will need to "nurture" downtown and Coliseum Central, plan for sea level rise, and maintain its strong relationships with NASA, Joint Base Langley-Eustis and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center after she resigns.

She also highlighted the city's need to maintain a partnership with the Fort Monroe Authority and National Park Service as the historic property continues its transition.

Ward will need to move to Capital Hill, an area that is not uncharted territory for her. She has been asked to attend several White House related events in the past two years.

In March 2012, she addressed the White House Conference on Conservation concerning the community's effort to lobby for the Fort Monroe monument.

On March 19, Ward tweeted that she was at a White House "Celebration of Ireland" with Obama and Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny.

Prior to being elected mayor, Ward served as the city treasurer from 2002 until 2008. She is also an attorney and "of counsel" with the law firm of McDermottWard, in Hampton.

Ward received her undergraduate degree at the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, and her law degree at the College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg.

Staff Writer [Austin Bogues](#) contributed to this report.

*Brauchle can be reached at 757-247-2878.*

Hampton mayor resigns

What happens next?

Vacancies in the office of mayor and councilmen from whatever cause arising shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the council, or if the council shall fail to act within sixty (60) days of the occurrence of the vacancy, by appointment of a majority of the judges of the circuit court of the City of Hampton, Virginia. The person so appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office until the qualified voters shall fill the same by election and the person so elected shall have qualified. Such election shall be held and conducted in accordance with the general laws of the Commonwealth relating to the filling of vacancies in the office of mayor and city councilmen.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/dp-nws-oped-merrill-0929-20130928,0,7180118.story>

### **Master planning at end of the beginning**

By Fred Merrill

*11:33 a.m. EDT, September 30, 2013*

Like any good story, the **Fort Monroe** master planning process has a beginning, middle and end. Since the Army decommissioned the historic fort two years ago, there have been many significant accomplishments by the Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) and community stakeholders to achieve broadly held guiding principles for reuse: preserve the place; tell the stories; achieve economic independence.

Fort Monroe is an historic treasure and resource of national significance, as evidenced by President **Obama** designating it a National Monument in 2011. This designation sets aside almost 50% of the property as primarily open space to be managed by the National Park Service. The Master Plan expands and connects the NPS property through additional green space and recommends the creation of a 7-mile waterfront trail that forever preserves public access to the Chesapeake Bay, Mill Creek, and the beaches at Fort Monroe.

The master plan story began in January 2012, with the commencement of a collaborative and transparent planning process that included four well-attended public meetings/workshops that drew more than 300 people. A public engagement website generated more than 23,000 page views, 3,200 visitors and 490 participants, while collecting 440 ideas and 1,415 comments that have been instrumental in shaping the proposed Fort Monroe Master Plan.

The middle part of the master plan story occurred during fall 2012, when five land reuse alternatives were identified and evaluated for market viability and conformance with the Programmatic Agreement, Fort Monroe Historic Preservation Design Standards and stakeholder acceptability. This evaluation led to two key findings. First, in order for Fort Monroe to achieve economic independence, there need to be more opportunities for residential reuse and new development than originally anticipated. Second, the Wherry Quarter needs to continue as a development site to help financially sustain Fort Monroe.

We now are nearing the end of the master planning story with the upcoming plan vote by the Fort Monroe Authority Board of Trustees on October 24, 2013, (as informed by the Fort Monroe Planning Advisory Group and Finance Committee). The reuse planning process has achieved a high level of public support and consensus for the future uses of Fort Monroe's historic resources and land in the Historic Village, North Gate, and the Inner Fort. The only unresolved matter is the future use of the Wherry Quarter. Some stakeholders would like to see the area designated as permanent green space. The proposed Master Plan indicates that flexible development options in the Wherry Quarter are essential to the success of Fort Monroe. The Master Plan Team considers the Programmatic Agreement, the Design Standards, and the fact that the Commonwealth of Virginia approval is required before any part of the Wherry Quarter could be sold for development, to be the safeguards necessary to prevent over development of this area.

As the principal planner for the reuse planning process, I strongly believe that the Board of Trustees should retain the potential for future high-quality/low-impact land uses in the Wherry Quarter. The Wherry Quarter should be designated as a "Reserve" that would allow green spaces as well as compatible commercial and residential development opportunities that may eventually be appropriate for Fort Monroe as part of achieving the guiding principles.

The Fort Monroe Master Plan strives to inspire, anticipate the future, and provide a strong framework for decision makers to use in attracting and guiding reuse development to reach Fort Monroe's potential as a live-work-learn-play community. As we reach the end of the master planning story, it is important to note that successful master plans have sufficient flexibility to accommodate presently unforeseen opportunities that will achieve extraordinarily positive benefits for the entire community. The Fort Monroe Master Plan achieves this goal.

*Fred Merrill, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal  
Sasaki Associates, Inc.  
Watertown, MA*

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/opinion/dp-nws-edt-letsmon-0930-20130930,0,6464947.story>

Sept. 30 Letters: Animal shelters, Fort Monroe

A letter criticizing Citizens for a [Fort Monroe](#) National Park (CFMNP) asserted, "Fort Monroe has a noteworthy but limited place in American history." Eight years ago, when I published the first op-ed calling for rising above parochialism in planning that national treasure's post-Army centuries, that's what I thought too.

I was wrong. Civil War historian Edward Ayers is right. As explained at [FortMonroeNationalPark.org](#), he called Fort Monroe the site of the "greatest moment in American history."

Almost all of Fort Monroe became a national historic landmark a half-century ago. The letter noted that it's not hallowed ground.

True. But neither are the hillsides around Thomas Jefferson's house. Would America allow [Charlottesville](#) to squander Monticello's internationally important sense of place?

Fort Monroe's importance is international too. The letter invoked Gettysburg battlefield, but should have invoked the Gettysburg Address--which did invoke America's founding principles, enunciated by Jefferson four score and seven years earlier.

Ayers was invoking those exceptional principles. Fort Monroe contributes mightily to establishing the very meaning of America in a world that needs America.

Yes, CFMNP--the tiny, self-appointed, public-excluding, deeply dedicated committee that I co-founded but no longer represent--has failed. But it's not from overvaluing historic importance. It's from naively trusting a rigged process.

Fort Monroe's only remaining chance is national attention to Virginia's stewardship failure.

Please challenge me in the debate forum beneath this letter online--including about the Fort Monroe financial problems politicians deliberately caused.

*Steven T. Corneliussen*

[Poquoson](#)

## **October 2013**

<http://www.wavy.com/news/local/newport-news/librarian-leaves-nearly-1m-to-community>

### **Librarian leaves nearly \$1M to community**

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NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (WAVY) - A former Fort Monroe librarian bequeathed nearly \$1 million to the Peninsula Community Foundation through her will.

Carolyn Lackey left the money to the foundation in order to establish a scholarship fund for Peninsula High School students. Born in Newport News, Lackey attended Newport News High School, Greenbrier College and Virginia Commonwealth University.

She worked at the Fort Monroe library for more than 40 years and never married and had children of her own. Instead, she dedicated her life to the community.

The Peninsula Scholarship Fund sent three high school students to colleges in September, Desmond Green, Katherine Hellman and Thomas McGovern.

For more information, visit [www.pcfvirginia.org](http://www.pcfvirginia.org).

<http://www.dailypress.com/features/history/our-story/dp-fort-monroe-contraband-slave-decision-shaped-the-civil-war-20131011,0,4572926.post>

**New exhibit explores how Fort Monroe contraband decision shaped the Civil War**

By **Mark St. John Erickson**, [merickson@dailypress.com](mailto:merickson@dailypress.com) | 757-247-4783

*October 11, 2013*

HAMPTON — Long after the Civil War ended, the **Fort Monroe** general who made one of the conflict's most momentous decisions insisted that he understood its significance from the beginning.

But on the late May 1861 day that Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler granted asylum to three Hampton slaves as "contraband of war," the lawyer turned volunteer soldier failed to note his command among dozens of others recorded in his order book.

Not until a few weeks later — after the original trio had grown into a sprawling tent colony housing more than a thousand refugees — was there any clue of how important and far-reaching Butler's military-minded edict might become in shaping the war and giving birth to the new Union goal of black emancipation.

By the end of 1864, tens of thousands of slaves from all across Virginia and Eastern North Carolina had left their masters for the hope they saw in the contraband camps of Hampton and the Federal stronghold they began to call "Freedom's Fortress."

"With the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War — and all the attention that Fort Monroe is getting as a newly named national monument — the time to take a closer look at the contraband

decision and its impact has come,” says curator J. Michael Cobb, describing the Hampton History Museum’s newest exhibit.

“This was a major step in the road to emancipation — and it’s the one that gets Lincoln and his cabinet’s attention above all others. But it hasn’t been explored in a serious way before.”

Made up of scores of period images and artifacts, “Toward Freedom: Hampton and the Contraband” explores several key aspects of the freedmen’s communities that cropped up in Hampton first — then had a pioneering impact on the way the Union army and the federal government in **Washington, D.C.** moved from the novel notion of contrabands who were not quite free to embracing the idea of emancipation.

You can read more about the exhibit and the contraband decision's impact on the Civil War in the Daily Press Good Life section on Sunday, Oct. 20.

But while you're waiting check out the link above for a video tour of the exhibit conducted by curator J. Michael Cobb.

-- Mark St. John Erickson

<http://hamptonroads.com/2013/10/fix-plan-fort-monroe>

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### **Fix the plan for Fort Monroe**

Fort Monroe National Monument could become one of the region's - and the nation's - premier tourist attractions, education centers and recreation areas. Or it could become a place where future generations gather and ask, "What the devil were they thinking?"

The question, specifically, would be directed at a mix of 720 houses, townhouses and apartments that state officials are now contemplating for the historic property on the Chesapeake Bay.

In 2005, federal officials targeted the long-time Army post in Hampton for closure, setting off an extended debate over what should be done with the land.

Some saw the 565-acre property as a tremendous development opportunity, and others - many others, here and around America - saw the need to preserve the fort and its rich and unusual history.

Ultimately, a compromise was struck. Just under two years ago, President Barack Obama signed an executive order establishing a national monument, with 325 acres to be managed by the National Park Service.

The remainder of the fort was placed in the trust of a state panel, the Fort Monroe Authority. Soon after, it hired consultants to craft a master plan for managing Virginia's portion of the land.

The oft-stated goal of park advocates was a plan similar to The Presidio, a historic Army post that's now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Under this vision, historic buildings at Fort Monroe would be adapted for new revenue-generating uses; limited, compatible development would be sought for other sections of the property.

But the now-completed master plan, subject to approval by the authority Oct. 24, has renewed controversy over the best way to preserve Fort Monroe and tell its story to Americans. Gov. Bob McDonnell has the final say.

The plan would allow 250 residences and a 160,000-square-foot "hospitality" development in an area known as the Wherry Quarter. Consultants also proposed converting existing buildings to another 400 residential units and building more than 450 elsewhere on the property.

At the heart of the dispute is the fact that the Wherry Quarter lies between two separate portions of the national monument.

During multiple planning sessions - and well before the president signed his executive order - regional leaders and residents made abundantly clear their desire to protect the Wherry Quarter as open space until it could be added to the National Park Service's holdings. That would unite the two parts of the monument.

That won't happen if houses, apartments and townhouses are built there. Development also could shut off potentially valuable archaeological research.

Numerous groups - the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Civil War Trust, the National Parks Conservation Association, Virginia Coastal Access Now, among others - are objecting to the development plan.

They're joined by Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, a local group that was a catalyst for protecting the fort. Also opposed is Skip Stiles, executive director of Wetlands Watch, who points out that Wherry Quarter - already vulnerable to flooding - will be hit hard by sea level rise in coming years.

State officials are striving to make Virginia's portion of the land self-sustaining. An estimated \$10 million or more a year is needed to maintain and operate the state's portion, according to the authority. Officials also say the state is facing at least \$13 million worth of water and sewer improvements.

The state's focus on generating revenue is commendable. But the National Park Service's presence is barely established, and it's premature to measure the monument's effects on the local economy - and the state's holdings - until it is fully operational.

What's getting lost is why the land was preserved in the first place - and the potential for it to become as much a part of this region's national identity as Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown.

Fort Monroe's story spans four centuries and includes Capt. John Smith, Chief Black Hawk, Harriet Tubman and other transformative figures in American history.

But the most compelling part of the fort's story involves the beginning - and the beginning of the end - of slavery.

In 1619, the first slave ship arrived in the British colonies at what was then known as Old Point Comfort. More than two centuries later, three slaves - Shepard Mallory, Frank Baker and James Townsend - took steps at Fort Monroe that would help vanquish slavery. At the start of the Civil War, the three men sought refuge at the fort, and a Union general refused to return them to their owner.

Those events set off the exodus of more than 10,000 slaves to "Freedom's Fortress" and helped lay the groundwork for the Emancipation Proclamation.

If incompatible development is allowed at Fort Monroe, the power of that story will be diminished.

Visitors and potential donors would tour the moated fortress, visit a museum and look out across the bay - to where it all began - and see a housing development.

That's not acceptable. The authority should reject the master plan and ask its staff to draft an alternative that leaves open the Wherry Quarter.

Instead of pursuing intensive development, state officials - including McDonnell, the General Assembly and members of Virginia's congressional delegation - should be seeking federal assistance for upgrading the fort's utility systems. This would significantly ease the authority's financial problems.

Likewise, the who's who of American preservation groups opposed to developing the Wherry Quarter should step forward with firm offers of financial aid to help preserve the fort.

The Fort Monroe Authority and McDonnell face a critical question. If they answer it incorrectly, a national treasure will be squandered - and generations of Americans will be left to wonder why.

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