Yorktown
Fourth of July Celebration Committee, Inc.
Post Office Box 4444, Yorktown, Virginia 23690

Yorktown July 4th

September 27, 2000

Mr. Daniel M. Stuck
County Administrator
County of York
P.O. Box 532
Yorktown, Virginia 23690

Dear Mr. Stuck:

The purpose of this letter is to request financial assistance from the York County Board of Supervisors in support of the 2001 Yorktown Fourth of July Celebration. As you are aware, the Board has graciously appropriated money from the Tourism Fund for the 1999 and 2000 Celebrations. Their contribution has afforded us the opportunity to rent a variety of equipment and contract for special services that has greatly improved the quality of the event. Speaking on behalf of the Yorktown Fourth of July Celebration Committee, we are extremely grateful for the Board's consistent support of this important and popular annual event.

The Committee has been evaluating various aspects of this event over the last few months. As part of this process, we have discussed several options as to how to continue sponsoring an event of this magnitude in light of the continuing difficulties we are having maintaining previous revenue sources in addition to identifying new ones. Our experience the last few years has been that corporate donations have steadily decreased even though our fundraising efforts have increased. Needless to say, this situation is of great concern to the Committee.

We understand that historically, funds to cover the cost of this event have come from the community and one may think that because fundraising has been difficult, community support is diminishing. However, from our perspective we do not think that is the case at all. In fact, in reviewing the support from citizen volunteers who work on behalf of the event, their effort and in-kind contribution is astounding! Volunteer support for the 2000 Celebration included 228 people who gave a total of 3,542 hours. These hours represent an estimated dollar value of $52,527.86 based on the 1999 average national non-agricultural wage of $14.83 per hour (plus benefits) as published by the *Independent Sector* organization and recommended by the Virginia Office of Volunteerism.

Another factor that contributes to the fundraising challenge is that the event has grown over the last 20 years from a modest "hometown-type" Celebration to a very large and complex regional event that requires months of planning and coordination with numerous organizations. Obviously, costs to run the type of event we have today are quite different than the smaller events of the past.

With all of this in mind, I would like to propose a change in the way the Fourth of July event is operated in the future for the Board's consideration. To that end, would the Board be willing to provide $35,000 from the Tourism Fund to cover the cost of the fireworks show ($14,000) and the items detailed on the attached budget request ($21,000), which have been funded by the Board the last two years? If so, then the Committee could concentrate its' efforts on raising funds to support the other aspects of the event that are easier to obtain donations or sponsorships for, charge fees for or singularly cost less than the fireworks. This would include activities such as the 5K race, volleyball tournament, arts and crafts area, parade, children's activity area, entertainment, and concessions. We are confident that we would be very successful in our efforts to secure adequate financial support to cover the cost of these activities, which we estimate the total cost to be about $12,000.

Thank you so much for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 508-9709 if you have any questions or need additional information in this regard.

Sincerely,

Jeff F. Frye

Jeff Frye
Chairman

Attachments

YORKTOWN FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION
2001 BUDGET REQUEST

Fireworks Show w/Electronic Firing System	$14,000
Rental of:	
10 Solar Powered Digital Message Signs @ $700 each	$ 7,000
21 Diesel Powered Light Tower Units @ $250 each	$ 5,250
45 Regular Portajohn Units @ $45 each	$ 2,025
5 Handicapped Portajohn Units @ $100 each	$ 500
Afternoon Cleaning of 50 Portajohn Units @ $10 each	$ 500
3 20kw Diesel Whisper Watt Generators @ $250 each	$ 750
2 Spider Boxes w/25 ft. cables & 20 amp circuits	$ 150
6 42 - 48 inch High Volume Fans @ $25 each	$ 210
24 ft. Box Truck for one week	$ 500
25 6 ft. long tables @ $5 each	$ 125
75 White Metal Samsonite Chairs @ $1.30 each	$ 100
25 Disposable Table Clothes @ $2 each	$ 50
Damage Waiver Fees to Rental Company	$ 30
3 2500 Watt Generators for Fans @ $60 each	$ 180
Ice Trailer with 650 bags of Ice	$ 600
Work-As-Required Staff (350 hrs. @ $7 per hr.)	$2,450
Benefits for Work-As-Required Staff (7.65%)	$ 190
Contingency	$ 390
TOTAL REQUEST	$35,000

YORK TOWN CRIER
JULY 12, 2000

Our view

July Fourth left a great impression

As we watched some of the faces - young and old - at Yorktown on July Fourth we were struck by a number of impressions of the day and what it meant to many who went to the village to celebrate. We'd like to share what we thought about what we saw.

It's true; most folks do love a parade. Youngsters and those with a few more years on them all seemed to sway to the marching music which accompanied the units making their way down the village street. Flags waved, feet kept time and periodically cheers and rounds of applause broke out as the units passed in review.

People also like to listen to music - be it gospel or chorale, Elvis or acappella, rock and roll or a military band, live or recorded and played by a disc jockey. Again, the feet tapped - and the younger, more energetic members of society danced a bit as well. Well-performed, well-appreciated music has always gone a long way toward enhancing a public festivity like July Fourth, so it came as no surprise to see Yorktown's offerings last week helped set the stage for a joyous celebration.

We are seldom, however, content to simply watch and listen - we like to get involved and "A Family Affair Yorktown 2000" grabbed visitors with a number of activities. Children had games to play and prizes to win. Families signed up for the annual Fun Run and 599 folks were brave enough to compete in the Freedom Run, a grueling 5K race up and down the hilly village streets. And when all this activity brought on a hunger or a thirst, celebrants satisfied both with traditional fare like hot dogs, popcorn and sodas.

All of which brings us to another observation on Yorktown's July Fourth celebration. It wouldn't have happened at all without a small army of volunteers who sacrificed their day to make a grand party for everyone else. From race coordinators to program typists, from musicians to barbecue salesmen, the work of putting on this annual event fell to a hardcore bunch of volunteers. Their efforts on behalf of the celebrants is more than laudable - particularly when you consider the fact that many of this year's volunteers have been doing it for years and years.

And speaking of years and years, once again BP Amoco and Virginia Power deserve a big round of applause for their continued corporate sponsorship of events like the Freedom Run. They're part of an honor roll of corporate sponsors who make the day happen - Anheuser-Busch, Bell Atlantic, BFI Waste Systems and Langley Federal Credit Union to mention a few. They're not just big corporations who do business in our community - they're good neighbors.

The professionals, too, played an important role in making sure Independence Day was observed with a minimum of danger and injury. York County's Fire and Life Safety Department and the Sheriff's Office both contributed to the success of the day, as did the county's Parks and Recreation Department. Thanks to one and all for doing your jobs - on a day when everyone else was off and enjoying the fruits of your labors.

Free nations need to set aside a day to celebrate that freedom. We think communities across this country do a great job of honoring the men and women whose sacrifices made our freedom possible. We think Yorktown does an excellent job - without doing it on such a grand scale that hordes descend upon our little village and take away the joy of our small-town celebration. As thousands drove into Yorktown for the nighttime fireworks display we were reminded that while we certainly want our celebration to be a success, we clearly don't want it to become so big we cease to enjoy it.

As things stand now, Yorktown's July Fourth party is just about perfect. May we all work to keep it that way next year - and beyond.

York Town Crier
July 12, 2000

'It was a very good July Fourth'

By Beth Meisner
Town Crier staff

"A Family Affair: Yorktown 2000" maintained a tradition of which the county is justifiably proud - folks had a great time celebrating Independence Day in the village. And when the dust cleared and the fireworks burned out, for the most part it was a safe holiday as well.

"It was a very good July Fourth," Battalion Chief Mike Player of York County's Fire and Life Safety summed it. "It was not very hot so there were no heat prostration sufferers." And those revelers who managed to hurt themselves did so with injuries "typical for a large group event."

There were a large number of jellyfish stings to contend with, Player said. And with the number of cars and people moving about, there was an auto/pedestrian mishap, he said. Mostly, the department dealt with people who had over-exerted

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themselves, particularly in taking a long walk into town for the fireworks.

"We had many resources" to assist citizens who were celebrating Independence Day. The department fielded a bicycle patrol which helped get those resources where needed quickly. The dozen or so mishaps the department dealt with totaled up to be a good day, Player said.

Members of the York County Sheriff's Department agree that, on the whole, the holiday went very smoothly, considering the fact that several thousand visitors came to town to celebrate. Getting traffic in and out of town for the fireworks efficiently was accomplished with a minimum of fuss, according to Capt. Jimmy Forrester.

"Traffic cleared the village in 25 minutes," Forrester said. It took only until 11:30 p.m. to clear the other congested areas around the village. Traffic into town "picked up" around 6:30 p.m., and roads into town were closed at 8:25 p.m., Forrester said. This year, the department had an "eye in the sky" in the form of a small helicopter owned by one of its auxiliary deputies. "He lent it to the department for the day," Forrester added. "That helped us out a lot" since airborne deputies could see when and where traffic was backed up and relay the message to those controlling things on the ground.

At the festivities, deputies responded to a domestic dispute, but made no arrests on that call. They did make one arrest on a drunk in public charge. Otherwise, "it was real quiet," Forrester said.

(For images of July Fourth in Yorktown, please see pages 5, 7 and 9.)

August 18, 2000

Mr. Daniel M. Stuck
York County Administrator
P.O. Box 532
Yorktown, VA 23690-0532

Dear Mr. Stuck,

When I gave the Board of Supervisors the figure of $4,350, I was actually giving them one of the lowest costs that we have in regard to keeping the Custom House open for tourists. We have many projects that we are trying to raise money for that relate to keeping the house open for tourists and they include the following:

- Stabilizing of porch and chimney - $30,000
- Appraisal of artifacts and antiques - $50,000
- Conservation work, museum cases, and signage - $50,000
  - This includes work on the following items:
    - Conservation of Mrs. Nelson's dress
    - Conservation of original scales used in Custom House
    - Conservation of urns retrieved from sunken ships in York River
    - Conservation of clothing of Gov. Thomas Nelson
    - Conservation of 1714 arm chair, Nelson family books & oil portrait of Comte de Grasse
- Removal of dead tree - $3,000
- Floor mats to protect floor from tar - $2,000
- Painting of inside of building - $10,000
- Replacing of wooden venetian blinds - $3,000
- Repair of windows - $1,000

We would appreciate any amount that the County would be able to give us toward any of these projects. Our goal is to have a first class museum that will draw many more tourists, and would better tell the story of Yorktown's history as well as the history of the Custom House. We are presently having a condition survey of the building completed so that we will have a very thorough knowledge of what needs to be done to the it. Mr. Alan Morledge is conducting this survey for us, and has already told us of these needs. We have a trust fund for the Custom House, but as with trust funds, we can only use the interest generated by the principle. This helps with day to day costs, but is not adequate for anything other than that.

We are writing for grants, but so far to no avail. The implementation and evaluation of these projects would be done by the Chapter Regent and the Executive Board. They are as follows:

Regent: Mrs. Martha Edwards
First Vice-Regent: Mrs. Ann Clark
Second Vice-Regent: Mrs. Marion Clayton
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Jodie Coleman
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Garrison
Treasurer: Mrs. Betty Bartek
Chaplain: Mrs. Sarah Livingston
Registrar: Mrs. Nancy Lee Clark
Historian: Mrs. Jeanne Noel
Librarian: Mrs. Judith Johnson
Chairman of Custom House Trustees: Mrs. Peggy Anderson

The qualifications of these ladies include present or past membership in the following associations: The Virginia Historical Preservation Foundation, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, The River Road Historical Society (LA), Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission of Saint Charles Parish, LA, and the Historic Route Five Association of Williamsburg, VA. They have long - standing membership in the Comte de Grasse Chapter and have worked on many other projects for the Custom House. The Regent is also serving as Synodical Treasurer of the Virginia Synod – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (which also cares for several historic Lutheran churches in VA), is a trustee of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Yorktown, and will be serving as District 1 Vice-Director of the Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution beginning in 2001. This group of ladies will certainly take care to see that any tourism dollars that are given to the Custom House are well used!

Any help that the Board of Supervisors can give to us on any of these projects would be greatly appreciated, and would enhance the Yorktown experience for many tourists.

Sincerely,

Martha Edwards

Martha A. Edwards
Regent, Comte de Grasse Chapter, NSDAR

Request for Tourism Funding
Yorktown Custom House

Since we keep the Custom House open for tourists through the summer and early Fall months, whenever tour ships tie up, and whenever requested by Yorktown, we would like to request help in funding the expenses relating to those openings. I have listed below the operating expenses that we feel are affected by those openings.

Utilities -	$2,550
Security -	600
Insurance	1700
Total	$4,350

If there are funds available, we would be very appreciative of any help you can give to us.

Martha Edwards, Regent
Comte de Grasse Chapter, NSDAR
Owners of the Yorktown Custom House