



City of Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach VA250 Committee

2024 - 2025 Annual Report to City Council

Chair: James B. “Jimmy” Wood

Date: July 10, 2025

Executive Summary

During the fiscal year covering the period of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, the Virginia Beach VA250 Committee (VB VA250) volunteers and liaisons

- met 10 times and
- held 2 additional events and activities.

Our most significant accomplishments are detailed below, along with recommendations for your consideration.

Mission Statement

The Virginia Beach VA250 Committee assists in the planning and coordination of community activities to commemorate the local events and achievements, large and small, that occurred in Virginia Beach 250 years ago and during all times by all people, that embody the ideals and ideas of the “American Experiment” and are declared as essential truths and unalienable rights in the Declaration of Independence.

Accomplishment of Goals and Objectives

Over the past fiscal year, VB VA250, through its appointed volunteers and its liaisons, worked on the following key matters in furtherance of its mission:

1. Commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Princess Anne County Resolves:
 - a. A presentation was made by VB VA250 to City Council on July 2, 2024, to commemorate the actions of local citizens in 1774.
2. Presentation by author Andrew Lawler:
 - a. A public event was held February 3, 2025 in Miller Studio at Sandler Center for the Performing Arts and sponsored by VB VA250.
 - b. The author discussed his new book – *A Perfect Frenzy: A Royal Governor, his Black Allies, and the Crisis That Spurred the American Revolution* – which includes local events from 250 years ago.
 - c. VB VA250 donated 5 copies of the book to the Virginia Beach Public Libraries.
3. VA250 Commission “A Common Cause for All” Conference:
 - a. Several VB VA250 members and the staff liaison attended the 2025 national conference presented by the VA250 Commission.
 - b. The conference sessions provided background, philosophy, guidance, training, and inspiration for attendees and their represented communities for planning VA250 events and activities.
 - c. The conference provided network opportunities with other Virginia communities and their VA250 committees.
4. Financial Support was provided by VB VA250 for Community Events that were presented in FY25:
 - a. Commemoration of the 243rd anniversary of the Battle of the Virginia Capes – September 2024.
 - b. Dedication ceremony and unveiling of a State Historical Highway Marker documenting Willis Augustus Hodges, the first African American elected to public office in Princess Anne County – February 2025.
 - c. Commemoration of the 244th anniversary of the Skirmish at James’s Plantation – February 2025.
 - d. Rising Sun Pow Wow presented by the Nansemond Indian Nation and Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation at Mount Trashmore – May 2025.
 - e. Sustainer Level Sponsor for Run to Remember, Memorial Day 5K run at the Military Aviation Museum – May 2025.
5. Financial Support was provided by VB VA250 for Community Events that will be presented in FY26:
 - a. Silver Level Sponsor for Independence Day 5K Run at Mount Trashmore – July 2025.
 - b. National Lighthouse Day at Cape Henry Lighthouse – August 2025.

- c. Four productions by Virginia Musical Theatre of *The Musical – 1776* to be presented at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts – February/March 2026.
- 6. VB VA250 is coordinating with Beach Events to provide commemorative events at the oceanfront during the summer of 2025:
 - a. A Patrick Henry interpreter performed on the 17th Street Stage on June 14, 2025. This is the 250th anniversary year of Henry’s famous “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death” speech.
 - b. Other performances are scheduled in July and August at oceanfront stages.
- 7. VB VA250 developed branded promotional items to raise awareness about the 250th anniversary commemorations:
 - a. Two graphic designs were developed.
 - b. Materials, such as koozies, enamel pins, and stadium cups, featuring the graphic designs, will be available at associated special events.
 - c. A banner for each design was produced and will identify the VB VA250 table at events.

Membership and Attendance

Member	Term
James B. Wood, Chair	10/3/2023 – 7/4/2026
Christi Lyons, Vice-Chair	10/3/2023 – 7/4/2026
Christopher Pieczynski, Vice-Chair	10/3/2023 – 7/4/2026
Bobbie Gribble, Secretary	3/5/2024 – 7/4/2026
C. Drummond Ball	10/3/2023 – 7/4/2026
Suzanne Camden	6/3/2025 – 7/4/2026
Linda Carrington	10/3/2023 – 7/4/2026
Alpheus Chewning	10/3/2023 – 7/4/2026
Robert Dozier	12/5/2023 – 7/4/2026
Sharon Felton	10/3/2023 – 7/4/2026
Patrick Hannum	10/3/2023 – 7/4/2026
Kevin Kattwinkel	10/3/2023 – 7/4/2026
Becky Livas	10/3/2023 – 7/4/2026
Chief Lee Lockamy	10/17/2023 – 7/4/2026
Stephen Mansfield	10/3/2023 – 4/11/2025
Bobby Melatti	6/4/2024 – 7/11/2025
Michael Winner	10/3/2023 – 7/4/2026
Worth Remick (City Council Liaison)	
Amelia Ross-Hammond (City Council Liaison)	
Mark Reed (City Staff Liaison)	

**City of Virginia Beach
Virginia Beach VA250 Committee
2024 Attendance Record**

Members Attendance

Name	Term Expires on:	Jul 11th	Aug 8th	Sep 12th	Oct 10th	Nov 14th	Dec 12th	Total Present
Ball, C. Drummond	7/04/2026	C	P	A	P	P	P	4/5
Carrington, Linda	7/04/2026	C	P	P	P	E	P	4/5
Chewning, Alpheus	7/04/2026	C	P	E	P	P	P	4/5
Dozier, Robert	7/04/2026	C	P	P	P	P	P	5/5
Felton, Sharon	7/04/2026	C	P	P	E	A	E	2/5
Gribble, Roberta	7/04/2026	C	E	P	P	E	P	3/5
Hannum, Patrick	7/04/2026	C	P	P	P	P	P	5/5
Kattwinkel, Kevin	7/04/2026	C	P	P	P	P	P	5/5
Livas, Becky	7/04/2026	C	P	P	E	P	P	4/5
Lockamy, Lee	7/04/2026	C	P	P	P	P	P	5/5
Lyons, Christi	7/04/2026	C	P	E	P	P	P	4/5
Mansfield, Stephen	7/04/2026	C	P	P	P	E	P	4/5
Melatti, Bobby	7/04/2026	C	P	P	E	E	E	2/5
Pieczynski, Chris	7/04/2026	C	P	P	P	E	E	3/5
Winner, Michael	7/04/2026	C	P	E	P	P	P	4/5
Wood, James B.	7/04/2026	C	P	P	P	P	P	5/5
This row indicates if there was a quorum; total number of members in person/total number of appointed members		C	15/16	12/16	13/16	10/16	13/16	

City Council Liaisons/Department Staff Liaisons

Worth Remick	C			P			1
Amelia Ross-Hammond	C						
Mark Reed	C	P	P	P	P	P	5

Key: Present (P) Present/Virtually (P/V) Absent (A) Resigned (R) Excused Absence (E) Canceled (C)

**City of Virginia Beach
Virginia Beach VA250 Committee
2025 Attendance Record**

Members Attendance


Name	Term Expires on:	Jan 9th	Feb 13th	Mar 13th	Apr 10th	May 8th	Jun 12th	Total Present
Ball, C. Drummond	7/04/2026	P	C	P	P	P	P	4/5
Camden, Suzanne	7/04/2026	NA	C	NA	NA	NA	P	1/1
Carrington, Linda	7/04/2026	E	C	P	P	P	P	4/5
Chewning, Alpheus	7/04/2026	E	C	E	P	P	E	4/5
Dozier, Robert	7/04/2026	P	C	P	P	P	P	5/5
Felton, Sharon	7/04/2026	P	C	P	E	P	E	2/5
Gribble, Roberta	7/04/2026	P	C	P	P	P	P	3/5
Hannum, Patrick	7/04/2026	P	C	P	P	P	P	5/5
Kattwinkel, Kevin	7/04/2026	P	C	P	P	E	P	5/5
Livas, Becky	7/04/2026	P	C	P	P	P	P	4/5
Lockamy, Lee	7/04/2026	P	C	P	P	E	E	5/5
Lyons, Christi	7/04/2026	P	C	E	P	P	E	4/5
Mansfield, Stephen	7/04/2026	P	C	E	E	R	R	4/5
Melatti, Bobby	7/04/2026	E	C	P	E	P	P	2/5
Pieczynski, Chris	7/04/2026	P	C	P	P	P	P	3/5
Winner, Michael	7/04/2026	P	C	P	E	E	P	4/5
Wood, James B.	7/04/2026	P	C	P	P	P	P	5/5
This row indicates if there was a quorum; total number of members in person/total number of appointed members		13/16	C	13/16	12/16	12/15	12/16	

City Council Liaisons/Department Staff Liaisons

Worth Remick	P	C	P		P	P	4
Amelia Ross-Hammond		C		P	P		2
Mark Reed	P	C	P	P	P	P	5

Key: Present (P) Present/Virtually (P/V) Absent (A) Resigned (R) Excused Absence (E) Canceled (C)

**City of Virginia Beach
Virginia Beach VA250 Committee
FY24/25 Volunteer Hours Log**

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> All Service By Volunteer City of Virginia Beach, Office of Volunteer Resources Planning and Community Development </div> </div>		
Volunteer	FY 24-25 Hours	Total Hours
Ball, Charles	15:15	15:15
Camden, Suzanne	2:00	2:00
Carrington, Linda	11:45	11:45
Chewning, Alpheus	8:45	8:45
Dozier, Robert	17:45	17:45
Felton, Sharon	12:30	12:30
Gribble, Bobbie	39:15	39:15
Hannum, Patrick	21:15	21:15
Kattwinkel, Kevin	18:30	18:30
Livas, Becky (Ellen)	33:15	33:15
Lockamy, Lee	14:00	14:00
Lyons, Christi	37:00	37:00
Mansfield, Stephen	8:00	8:00
Melatti, Robert	8:45	8:45
Pieczynski, Christopher	16:00	16:00
Winner, Michael	13:00	13:00
Wood, James B. (Jimmy)	17:45	17:45
Grand Total	294:45	294:45

Financial Report

Planning and Community Development

Virginia Beach VA250 Committee

FY2024-2025

FY25 Budget	\$60,000
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Transfers

To the Department of Cultural Affairs	\$10,000
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Expenditures

VB VA250 Hosted Events	\$ 2,781
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Contributions to Community Events	\$32,750
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Promotional Materials	\$ 5,386
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VA250 Conference	\$ 1,593
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Total Expenditures	\$52,510
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Goals and Objectives for the Coming Year

- VB VA250 is partnering with the 7th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line and working with Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation to produce a signature VB VA250 event – Commemoration of 250th Anniversary of Skirmish at Kemp’s Landing:
 - The event will be November 15 (the 250th anniversary date) and 16, 2025 at City View Park.
 - Over 2,500 attendees are anticipated.
 - There will be encampments of Patriot and British troops, demonstrations of Revolutionary War era military activities, and a re-enactment of the skirmish each day.
 - There will also be coordination of the event with the Dunmore Trail regional events initiative.

- VB VA250 plans to continue providing some financial support for related Community events.
- VB VA250 plans to present Countdown to 250, providing a daily informational segment on Virginia Beach history:
 - One segment will be released each day starting 250 days prior to July 4, 2026.
- VB VA250 wants to assist the City of Virginia Beach in promoting Flags of Freedom in 2026:
 - This is to encourage residents, businesses, and governmental offices to fly the American flag throughout 2026 and
 - Have a very large flag flying at Mount Trashmore throughout 2026.

Recommendations to City Council

VB VA250 provided a briefing to City Council on June 17, 2025. Resources to support additional activities in 2025 and 2026 were mentioned and briefly discussed. VB VA250 recommends consideration of additional funding resources for these activities:

- Support of events by community organizations (\$25,000)
- Sail250 Virginia Captains reception and water tours (\$25,000)

During VB VA250's briefing, the potential for additional and enhanced commemorative events and activities that would be outside of the scope of the VB VA250 were also mentioned. Consideration for support of some of these events and activities is also recommended by VB VA250.

- Boardwalk History Festival Spring 2026 (Beach Events)
- Enhanced July 4, 2026 oceanfront events – Virginia Symphony and Fireworks (Beach Events)
- Flags of Freedom
 - Large Flagpole and Flag at Mount Trashmore (Parks and Recreation)

Closing

Should you have any questions or desire a formal City Council briefing from our agency, please contact James B. Wood, Chair, at jbwood@wilsav.com and Mark Reed, Historic Preservation Planner, at mreed@vbgov.com.