



City of Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach VA250 Committee

2025 - 2026 Annual Report to City Council

Chair: James B. “Jimmy” Wood

Date: June 11, 2026

Executive Summary

During the fiscal year covering the period of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 the Virginia Beach VA250 Committee volunteers and liaisons

- met 11 times
- held 1 additional event/activity

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 the agency, 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 Skirmish at Kemps Landing:
 - a. Held a two-day educational encampment and reenactment public event at City View Park with approximately 1,000 people attending
 - b. Coordinated event planning with the First Virginia Regiment
 - c. Coordinated logistics with Parks and Recreation, including event permitting
 - d. Coordinated event publicity, including a full-page advertisement in VEER Magazine (attached)
 - e. Manned an information booth during the event and gave out VB VA250 commemorative items to attendees
2. Financial Sponsorships were provided by VB VA250 for several community events and activities
 - a. The Family YMCA Independence Day 5K Run on July 4, 2025
 - b. National Lighthouse Day on August 7, 2025
 - c. 244th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Virginia Capes on September 6, 2025
 - a. 245th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of the Virginia Capes on September 5, 2026
 - b. Commemorative books produced by NATO for the 245th commemoration and the 400th anniversary (2026) of the French Navy
 - d. Virginia Beach Restaurant Association Restaurant Week, January 2026
 - e. 245th Anniversary Commemoration of the Skirmish at James's Plantation, February 14, 2026
 - f. The Virginia Musical Theatre presented four performances of *1776 The Musical* at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts, February 27, 28, and March 1, 2026. Attendance for the performances totaled 3,323. (see attached VEER Magazine advertisement)
 - g. Rising Sun Pow Wow, May 16, 2026
 - h. Jazzteenth, June 20, 2026
 - i. Partnered with Parks and Recreation to provide miniature (4" x 6") Virginia Beach VA250 flags for attendees at the July 4, 2026 fireworks event at Mount Trashmore
3. Presented a series of informational "episodes," *Countdown to 250*, on the Virginia Beach VA250 Committee vbgov.com web page
 - a. Counted down the final 25 weeks to July 4, 2026 through a weekly post about historical events in Virginia Beach and the region related to the Revolutionary War
 - b. Publicized the series in the City's "Be In The Know" blog (February 20, 2026), with periodic reminder banners in later email distribution

- c. The informational episodes also appeared in printed form in the Local Sun Magazine (distributed in Great Neck and Little Neck areas)
- 4. Hosted booths at community events to provide information and distribute commemorative items to raise awareness about Virginia Beach VA250 and promote the semi-quincentennial celebrations
 - a. Hosted booths at Family YMCA Independence Day 5K Run; National Lighthouse Day; Battle of the Virginia Capes; and Skirmish at Kemp's Landing
 - b. Handed out branded items with one of the VB VA250 two graphic designs. Items included magnets, stickers, pens, note pads, enamel pins, koozies, cups, and key tabs.
- 5. Coordinated with Beach Events/IMGoing Events and the Resort Management Office for events and activities at the oceanfront
 - a. *Racing The Night: The Teenage Girl Who Saved the American Revolution* play at 13th Street Stage
 - b. Stars, Stripes, and Spurs event April 24-26, 2026
 - c. 250th Anniversary commemorations for Independence Day for July 4, 2026
- 6. Maintained a list and description of 250th anniversary events in Virginia Beach on the state-managed VA250 Virginia Beach web page
- 7. Coordinated relocation of Battle of the Capes interpretive sign from the grounds near the Brock Environmental Center to the Boardwalk at 37th Street
 - a. Coordinated with the Virginia Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, the Virginia Beach Mayor's Office, National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Norfolk Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, and Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation
- 8. Sponsored a commemorative bronze plaque, researched and designed by a member of The Virginia Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, Suffolk Chapter, for placement in Virginia Beach.
 - a. The plaque documents the men from Princess Anne County that served as Patriot militia and Continental Army and Navy officers during the Revolutionary War
- 9. Donated a newly published history book to the Virginia Beach Central Library
 - a. The Ethiopian Regiment in the American Revolution: Black Banditti and Liberty to Slaves by Justin Iverson

Membership

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
Michael Cloud-Butler	3/17/2026 – 7/4/2026
William Curtis	8/19/2025 – 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 – 2/14/2026
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)	

Volunteer Hours

				Assignment Service Details July 2025 to June 2026 Planning and Community Development			
							
Site	Place	Assignment	Volunteer	Service From Date	Service To Date	Hours	Merit Hours
Planning and Community Development	Planning Services	Virginia Beach VA250 Commission	Ball, Charles	07-28-2025	07-28-2025	1:30	1:30
				08-14-2025	08-14-2025	1:15	1:15
				09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-09-2025	10-09-2025	1:30	1:30
				12-11-2025	12-11-2025	1:00	1:00
				01-08-2026	01-08-2026	1:00	1:00
				02-12-2026	02-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-12-2026	03-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-09-2026	04-09-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-14-2026	05-14-2026	0:30	0:30
				06-11-2026	06-11-2026	0:30	0:30
						12:00	12:00
			Camden, Suzanne	07-10-2025	07-10-2025	1:30	1:30
				09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-09-2025	10-09-2025	1:30	1:30
				11-16-2025	11-16-2025	2:00	2:00
				12-11-2025	12-11-2025	1:00	1:00
				02-12-2026	02-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-12-2026	03-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-09-2026	04-09-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-14-2026	05-14-2026	0:30	0:30
						11:15	11:15
			Carrington, Linda	08-14-2025	08-14-2025	1:00	1:00
				09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-09-2025	10-09-2025	1:15	1:15
				06-11-2026	06-11-2026	0:30	0:30
						4:00	4:00
			Cloud-Butler, Michael	04-09-2026	04-09-2026	1:00	1:00
						1:00	1:00
			Curtis, William E.	09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:15	1:15
				11-15-2025	11-15-2025	3:00	3:00
				12-11-2025	12-11-2025	1:00	1:00
				02-12-2026	02-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-09-2026	04-09-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-14-2026	05-14-2026	0:30	0:30
				06-11-2026	06-11-2026	0:30	0:30
						8:30	8:30

Site	Place	Assignment	Volunteer	Service From Date	Service To Date	Hours	Merit Hours
			Dozier, Robert	07-10-2025	07-10-2025	1:30	1:30
				08-14-2025	08-14-2025	1:15	1:15
				09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-09-2025	10-09-2025	1:30	1:30
				11-16-2025	11-16-2025	3:00	3:00
				12-11-2025	12-11-2025	1:30	1:30
				02-12-2026	02-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-12-2026	03-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-09-2026	04-09-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-14-2026	05-14-2026	0:30	0:30
						14:00	14:00
			Felton, Sharon	09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-09-2025	10-09-2025	1:30	1:30
				11-15-2025	11-15-2025	2:00	2:00
				12-11-2025	12-11-2025	1:00	1:00
				02-12-2026	02-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-12-2026	03-12-2026	1:15	1:15
			Gribble, Bobbie	04-09-2026	04-09-2026	1:00	1:00
						9:15	9:15
				07-04-2025	07-04-2025	3:00	3:00
				07-10-2025	07-10-2025	1:30	1:30
				08-07-2025	08-07-2025	3:00	3:00
				08-14-2025	08-14-2025	1:15	1:15
				09-06-2025	09-06-2025	2:30	2:30
				09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-09-2025	10-09-2025	1:30	1:30
				11-15-2025	11-15-2025	2:00	2:00
				11-16-2025	11-16-2025	3:00	3:00
				12-11-2025	12-11-2025	1:00	1:00
				01-08-2026	01-08-2026	1:00	1:00
				02-12-2026	02-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-12-2026	03-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-09-2026	04-09-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-14-2026	05-14-2026	0:30	0:30
						25:00	25:00
			Hannum, Patrick	07-10-2025	07-10-2025	1:30	1:30
				07-28-2025	07-28-2025	1:30	1:30
				08-07-2025	08-07-2025	4:30	4:30
				08-14-2025	08-14-2025	1:15	1:15
				09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-09-2025	10-09-2025	1:30	1:30
				11-15-2025	11-15-2025	2:00	2:00
				12-11-2025	12-11-2025	1:00	1:00
				01-08-2026	01-08-2026	1:00	1:00
				02-12-2026	02-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-12-2026	03-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-09-2026	04-09-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-14-2026	05-14-2026	0:30	0:30

Site	Place	Assignment	Volunteer	Service From Date	Service To Date	Hours	Merit Hours
			Kattwinkel, Kevin	06-11-2026	06-11-2026	0:30 20:00	0:30 20:00
				07-04-2025	07-04-2025	3:00	3:00
				07-10-2025	07-10-2025	1:30	1:30
				08-14-2025	08-14-2025	1:15	1:15
				09-06-2025	09-06-2025	2:30	2:30
				10-09-2025	10-09-2025	1:15	1:15
				11-15-2025	11-15-2025	2:00	2:00
				12-01-2025	12-31-2025	8:00	8:00
				12-11-2025	12-11-2025	1:00	1:00
				01-01-2026	01-31-2026	10:00	10:00
				01-08-2026	01-08-2026	1:00	1:00
				02-01-2026	02-28-2026	6:00	6:00
				02-12-2026	02-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-01-2026	03-31-2026	6:00	6:00
				03-12-2026	03-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-01-2026	04-30-2026	4:00	4:00
				05-01-2026	05-31-2026	4:00	4:00
				05-14-2026	05-14-2026	0:30	0:30
				06-01-2026	06-30-2026	2:00	2:00
				06-11-2026	06-11-2026	0:30 57:00	0:30 57:00
			Livas, Becky (Ellen)	07-10-2025	07-10-2025	1:30	1:30
				09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-09-2025	10-09-2025	1:30	1:30
				11-15-2025	11-15-2025	2:00	2:00
				12-11-2025	12-11-2025	1:00	1:00
				01-08-2026	01-08-2026	1:00	1:00
				02-12-2026	02-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-12-2026	03-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-09-2026	04-09-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-14-2026	05-14-2026	0:30	0:30
				06-11-2026	06-11-2026	0:30 12:45	0:30 12:45
			Lockamy, Lee	11-15-2025	11-15-2025	2:00 2:00	2:00 2:00
			Lyons, Christi	07-10-2025	07-10-2025	1:30	1:30
				07-28-2025	07-28-2025	1:30	1:30
				08-07-2025	08-07-2025	4:30	4:30
				08-14-2025	08-14-2025	1:15	1:15
				09-06-2025	09-06-2025	2:30	2:30
				09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-09-2025	10-09-2025	1:30	1:30
				02-12-2026	02-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-09-2026	04-09-2026	1:00	1:00
				06-11-2026	06-11-2026	0:30 16:45	0:30 16:45

Site	Place	Assignment	Volunteer	Service From Date	Service To Date	Hours	Merit Hours
			Pieczynski, Christopher	07-28-2025	07-28-2025	1:30	1:30
				08-07-2025	08-07-2025	8:00	8:00
				08-14-2025	08-14-2025	1:15	1:15
				09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-09-2025	10-09-2025	1:30	1:30
				11-15-2025	11-15-2025	2:00	2:00
				01-08-2026	01-08-2026	1:00	1:00
				04-09-2026	04-09-2026	1:00	1:00
				06-11-2026	06-11-2026	0:30	0:30
						18:00	18:00
			Winner, Michael	08-14-2025	08-14-2025	1:15	1:15
				09-10-2025	09-10-2025	1:15	1:15
				12-11-2025	12-11-2025	1:00	1:00
				01-08-2026	01-08-2026	1:00	1:00
				02-12-2026	02-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-12-2026	03-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-09-2026	04-09-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-14-2026	05-14-2026	0:30	0:30
				06-11-2026	06-11-2026	0:30	0:30
						9:00	9:00
			Wood, James B. (Jimmy)	07-10-2025	07-10-2025	1:30	1:30
				08-14-2025	08-14-2025	1:15	1:15
				10-09-2025	10-09-2025	1:30	1:30
				11-15-2025	11-15-2025	3:30	3:30
				12-11-2025	12-11-2025	1:00	1:00
				01-08-2026	01-08-2026	1:00	1:00
				02-12-2026	02-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				03-12-2026	03-12-2026	1:15	1:15
				04-09-2026	04-09-2026	1:00	1:00
				05-14-2026	05-14-2026	0:30	0:30
				06-11-2026	06-11-2026	0:30	0:30
						14:15	14:15
		Total				234:45	234:45
	Total					234:45	234:45
Total						234:45	234:45
Grand total						234:45	234:45

Financial Report

Planning and Community Development

Virginia Beach VA250 Committee

FY2025-2026

FY26 Budget	\$50,000
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FY25 Carry Forward	\$ 7,793
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Expenditures

VB VA250 Hosted Event – Skirmish at Kemp’s Landing	\$20,044
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Sponsorships of Community Events	\$29,284
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Promotional Materials	\$ 3,325
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Educational Information	\$ 5,140
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Total Expenditures	\$57,793
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Goals and Objectives for the Coming Year

The Virginia Beach VA 250 has not set goals and objectives for fiscal year 2026/2027 as all terms of Committee members expire on July 4, 2026 and there are no appropriated funds for VB VA250 activities or events in FY27. Please see Recommendations to City Council below.

Recommendations to City Council

- The terms for all members of the Virginia Beach VA250 Committee’s expired on July 4, 2026.
- The VB VA250 sent a letter to the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Council on February 12, 2026, requesting an extension of the VB VA250 through 2031 to coincide with the state’s VA250 commemorations and to continue to engage the Virginia Beach community in appreciation of our history.

- This request stands as a recommendation from VB VA250. The February 12, 2026 letter is attached.
- Any extension of the VB VA250 Committee needs to include a funding appropriation to support events and activities to continue 250th commemorations in Virginia Beach.
- The VB VA250 Committee desires for the City to continue to sponsor an annual encampment and reenactment community event to commemorate the anniversary of the Skirmish at Kemp's Landing each November.

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.



250th Anniversary

SKIRMISH AT KEMP'S LANDING

Photo by Bob Ruegsegger

NOVEMBER 15–16

Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. | Sunday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Join us for a commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Skirmish at Kemp's Landing, a Revolutionary War encounter between British troops and local militia. The skirmish saw the first Virginia Patriots killed on Virginia soil during the war.

City View Park, 2073 Kempsville Road
Virginia Beach, VA

This event is free and open to the public.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Encampments of both British and Patriot soldiers
- Re-enactment of the Skirmish at Kemp's Landing
- Demonstration battle
- Activities for children



va250.org/virginia-beach

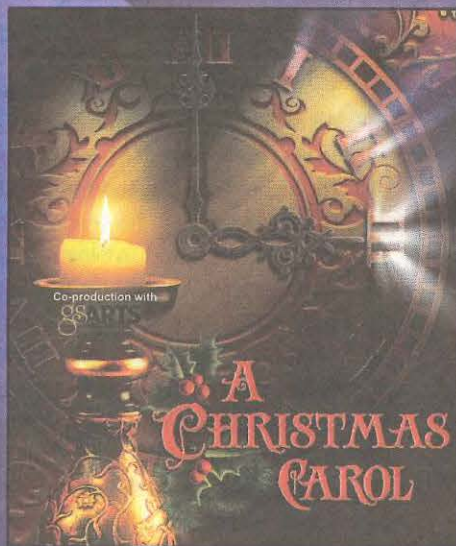


Photo by Bob Ruegsegger



Virginia Musical Theatre and

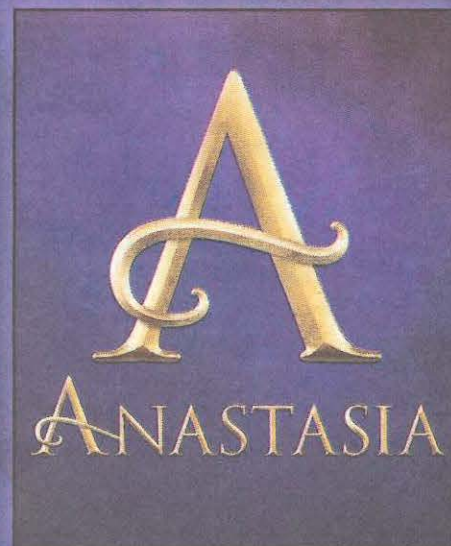
G MARIE
LUXURIES present



DEC. 5 - 7, 2025



FEB. 27 - MAR. 1, 2026



APR. 24 - 26, 2026

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PERFORMING ARTS
Box Office (757) 385-2787



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LUXURIES



PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Planning Administration
Virginia Beach VA250 Committee
Building 3, 2403 Courthouse Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 2345

February 12, 2026

Mayor Robert M. Dyer
Vice Mayor Rosemary Wilson
Virginia Beach City Council
City Hall, Building 1
2401 Courthouse Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Dear Mayor Dyer, Vice Mayor Wilson, and Members of City Council:

The Virginia Beach City Council created the Virginia Beach VA250 Committee (VB VA250) on July 18, 2023. The purpose of VB VA250 is to commemorate the local events and achievements associated with the American Revolution 250 years ago. Terms for the 16 VB VA250 members expire on July 4, 2026. I am writing to you for your consideration for an extension of VB VA250 until at least December 31, 2031.

The state's VA250 Commission was originally established to commemorate events through 2026. The Virginia General Assembly later extended the Commission's work through 2031 to include the 250th anniversary of the decisive 1781 Battle of Yorktown. Virginia Beach witnessed important related events through 1781 including the Skirmish at James's Plantation, the Battle of the Virginia Capes, and the meeting of the three Commanders on Lynnhaven Bay. VB VA250's efforts should continue in support of the state initiatives through 2031.

VB VA250 has successfully facilitated and financially supported several commemorative events with community organizations, including the Battle of the Virginia Capes in 2024 and 2025, the Rising Sun Pow Wow in 2025 and in May 2026, and the musical 1776 with four performances coming up at the Sandler Center. The 250th anniversary commemoration of the Skirmish at Kemp's Landing at City View Park in November 2025 was VB VA250's signature event with upwards of 1,000 people attending over two days.

Extending the terms for VB VA250 through 2031 will ensure that the 250th anniversary of the critical 1781 events will be appropriately commemorated. It will also provide the opportunity for VB VA250 to address an important goal that I think everyone has, and that is to have an educational impact in the local schools about the pivotal historical events of 250 years ago that shaped our country.

To place VB VA250 in a more advantageous position to do that, we request your consideration for VB VA250 to be associated with a department that works with the schools and plans events, such as Cultural Affairs or Parks and Recreation. That association will be more conducive to accomplish broader goals than with a department that issues permits and reviews site plans.

The Department of Planning and Community Development support has been limited to one staff person. They have done a great job of managing VB VA250 funds and provided extraordinary support for the Skirmish at Kemp's Landing event. But, they don't typically plan events and do not work with schools and curriculum based programs. VB VA250 requests a different departmental affiliation beginning July 5, 2026 if the committee's term is extended.

I will gladly respond to your questions regarding the request from VB VA250 to extend the committee's term through at least December 31, 2031 and would be happy to discuss this with any and all of you. I may be contacted at jbwood@wilsav.com or 757-289-8352. I look forward to discussing this with you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JBW", is positioned above the printed name.

James B. "Jimmy" Wood

Chair, Virginia Beach VA250 Committee

JBW/