

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 24, 2011

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**Citizen Input Sought on Plans for Windsor Castle Historic Site**

Smithfield, VA – An informal luncheon meeting last summer between representatives from the Town of Smithfield and the College of William & Mary ultimately resulted in a graduate MBA project to help the Town define the future of the historic Windsor Castle Park.

A team of second year MBA students from the Entrepreneurial Center at the College's Mason School of Business is evaluating a range of options for the use of the Windsor Castle manor house and its surrounding historic accessory structures located within the larger Windsor Castle Park.

The Town of Smithfield purchased Windsor Castle and the Park as a result of generous cash and improvements donated by Mr. Joseph W. Luter III, former CEO of Smithfield Foods. The circa 1725 manor house and eleven out-buildings was the home of Smithfield founder Arthur Smith IV and is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The Park features four miles of walking trails, a dog park, picnic area, kayak launch ramp, fishing pier and other amenities.

The Mason School of Business MBA students have been tasked to identify uses for the property that contribute to the cultural vitality of Smithfield while being economically self-sustaining. As part of the project, the team has developed an online survey to solicit ideas and suggestions from residents and other stakeholders in Smithfield and Isle of Wight County. The results of the survey will be incorporated into a final report to be presented to the Smithfield Town Council in late April.

Citizen input on uses for the property and the associated benefit is requested; a five to ten minute online survey will capture the ideas and suggestions. A link to the survey is available on the Town's Website, [www.SmithfieldVA.gov](http://www.SmithfieldVA.gov) and on [www.Smithfield2020.org](http://www.Smithfield2020.org). This survey will remain open through March 14, 2011.

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