

**Loudoun Archaeological Foundation, Inc.  
Leesburg, Virginia**

**NEWS RELEASE**

April 2, 2007

The Loudoun Archaeological Foundation, Inc., a newly formed non-profit corporation, announced today its organization for the specific purposes of promoting a "whole community" approach to both archaeological public education and the preservation/conservation of the cultural and natural resources of Loudoun County.

Dr. David T. Clark, a Loudoun resident and Lecturer in Archaeology and Anthropology at the Catholic University of America and the Northern Virginia Community College -- and the principal founder of the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation -- noted that while Loudoun County has more than one-thousand identified significant historic and archaeological sites, very few of these sites have been professionally investigated, documented, or reported.

"The year 2007", said Dr. Clark is "a very significant time for archaeology in Virginia and Loudoun County; Virginia will be commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown colony at James Fort and Loudoun County will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of its establishment in 1757. The past decade of intense archaeological investigations at James Fort has increased many-fold our knowledge of that settlement and its settlers. Other numerous and well-publicized new archaeological findings over this past decade have greatly increased public interest in archaeology. The archaeological investigations at James Fort also are a major feature of the anniversary event this year at Jamestown. Both the Jamestown and Loudoun County anniversary events will be a boon this year and in the future to archaeology in the Commonwealth."

Clark emphasized that the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation was working cooperatively with Loudoun County staff on the anniversary activities and intended to conduct a series of up to three separate archaeological investigations at significant historic and prehistoric archaeological sites in the county as a part of the county's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. He noted that "it was intent of the Foundation to involve the whole community -- elementary-, high-school-, and college-aged students, working adults and seniors -- in the archaeological investigation process by soliciting volunteers, providing them basic training in archaeological excavation and analysis, and allowing the trainees to participate in professionally-supervised archaeological digs. We believe," said Clark, "that such activities will help the citizens of the county gain a better appreciation of our natural and cultural resources and encourage them to become better stewards of our common heritage."

"We also want to encourage the Loudoun Business community to become involved in the Foundation's programs," noted Clark. "While the Virginia General Assembly -- through the good offices of Senator Mark Herring and Delegate Joe May -- provided the foundation a grant of \$37,500 to help fund our programs this year, we must secure an equivalent level of donor contributions to be eligible to receive that grant. To date, without any official fund-raising efforts on our part, we have already received approximately \$15,000 in in-kind services and cash. That is a very positive indication of the level of public and financial support that we expect to receive from the greater Loudoun Community."

Anyone who wants to learn more about the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation or participate in its programs can go to our website at: <http://www.loudounarchaeology.org>. We also may be contacted by email at: [info@loudounarchaeology.org](mailto:info@loudounarchaeology.org) or by regular mail at: P. O. Box 2201, Leesburg, VA 20177

As the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation completes its program plans for 2007, we will be providing additional information to the public by our website and the news media.

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