

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

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NEWS RELEASE

Loudoun Archaeological Foundation Announces 2007 Series of Special Archaeological Digs Planned for Loudoun County's 250th Anniversary Celebration

Dr. David T. Clark, Executive Director and Principal Investigator for the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation dedicated to the investigation, protection, and preservation of the county's historic cultural resources, announced today its schedule of special archaeological digs for this year that are being conducted in cooperation with the Loudoun County government as a part of the county's 250th anniversary celebration.

Among the archaeological digs that the Foundation has planned to begin on or about June 1 and to continue through October 2007, and in some cases years in the future:

The first investigation will be at Claude Moore Park in Eastern Loudoun County which features both a portion of the old Vestal's Gap Road and an 18th century "ordinary" that served travelers along that road.

Another investigation will involve a late colonial/early national period Potomac River ferry crossing for the historic Old Carolina Road near Lucketts in Northeastern Loudoun County that also served as a cargo transfer point for river boats carrying trade between that point and the ports of Alexandria and Georgetown.

Another investigation will feature a mid-nineteenth pottery in the Town of Leesburg that was owned and operated by Frederick Shafer, a German immigrant and patriarch of a mid-19th century Loudoun family.

The last investigation of the year will be conducted at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve and will involve excavations at the site of early 18th century slave quarters, as well as a possible prehistoric Native American encampment.

Clark noted that the "Foundation's archaeological programs will involve the whole community -- elementary-aged students to seniors -- by soliciting volunteers to help conduct investigations, providing them basic training in archaeological excavation and analysis, and allowing the trainees to participate in professionally-supervised archaeological digs. A good number of people have already called us to volunteer for our programs during this summer and fall. Such participative activities," said Clark "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 cultural heritage."

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“We also want to encourage the Loudoun business community to become involved in helping to develop and support the Foundation’s programs,” Clark said. “The Virginia General Assembly has provided the foundation a matching grant of \$37,500 to help fund our programs this year, so we must now 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 extensive donations of both cash and in-kind services. This is a positive indication of the high level of public support that the greater Loudoun community has for our program.”

To learn more about the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation or participate in its programs, please go to the Foundation website at: <http://www.loudounarchaeology.org>

We also may be contacted by email at: info@loudounarchaeology.org or by regular mail at:

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

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