

*Toano Norge Times*

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Summer may be ending but another season is ready to begin. The season I'm referring to comes every five years and is known as the James City County Comprehensive Plan update.

The definition of a Comprehensive Plan is: "A plan which establishes the goals, strategies and actions for the County's development, and guides future decision on land use, transportation, public facilities, economics, resource protection, housing, human services, and recreation. State law requires a Comprehensive Plan to be reviewed every five years." That's the technical definition. More simply put, our Comprehensive Plan is the blueprint for how our County will develop. The last plan was adopted in 2003 and, during the ensuing five years, we have been confronted with unprecedented demands for schools, water, houses, and services. That's why this upcoming review is so important to everyone in James City County.

What can you do to influence the 2008 Comprehensive Plan? Plenty. Citizen commentary and input are the cornerstones of this endeavor. In addition to community conversations and citizen surveys, there are also leadership opportunities available. The Community Participation Team (CPT) is one of two main groups designated to help lead the County Planning Staff and the Planning Commission through the review. The CPT is appointed by the Planning Commission and consists of 3 Planning Commissioners and 7 citizens. In 2003, for the first time, two of the seven slots were assigned to youth members. CPT members take an active role in the update process. They meet on a weekly basis and coordinate the many citizen participation efforts necessary for the plan to accurately reflect how the community will develop. If you would like to read more about the CPT and submit an application to become a member of the team, go to the following link on the County website:

<http://www.jccegov.com/planning/planning-cpt-invitation.html>

The next Planning Commission meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm in Building F of the County Government Complex. One of the public hearing cases scheduled for this meeting is the Stonehouse Planned Community Amendment. The new owners (GS Stonehouse Green Land South, LLC) have applied to amend the existing master plan and proffers. During the past few months, they have presented their proposal to the community at large and to various citizen groups throughout the County. The Planning Commission meeting is open to the public and is also broadcast on Channel 48 for those who want to watch the hearing but cannot attend in person. If you can't do either of these, but have comments you would like to pass along for Commission consideration, feel free to e-mail me ([rkrapf@cs.com](mailto:rkrapf@cs.com)) or call me at 566-8528.