

October 25, 2011

**ISLE OF WIGHT- SMITHFIELD-WINDSOR
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attachment: Photo

**LEADERSHIP ISLE OF WIGHT
Class of 2011 Celebrates Graduation**

Smithfield, Virginia – The Isle of Wight Smithfield Windsor Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that 16 students successfully completed Leadership Isle of Wight 2011. The class celebrated their achievements on Friday, October 21, 2011 at the Smithfield Center with a short program and graduation ceremony. Graduates pictured left to right: Lois Chapman, Jason Torchia, Todd Rauchenberger, Pamela Barton, Kent Hildebrand, Robin Hewett, Paulin Cheatham, Robert Firestone, Carter Goerger, Amber Wells, Adam Bryant, Debra Church, Lori White, and Wayne Griffin. Graduates not pictured are Amanda Elliott and Sarah Kennedy.

The ten-month program included leadership segments on the Virginia General Assembly, business ethics, regional infrastructure and economy, education, workforce, arts, military, and environmental issues. In addition, this year's class project collaboration resulted in the preparation of a presentation for consideration by the Smithfield Town Council on the America in Bloom (AIB) program.

The following local business leaders served on this year's Leadership Isle of Wight planning and advisory committee: Don Robertson, Isle of Wight County, as Chairman; Constance Rhodes, Isle of Wight Smithfield Windsor Chamber of Commerce; Ellen Couch, Smart Beginnings Western Tidewater, Joyce Dunning, Old Point National Bank; Lori Leib, Hampton Inn and Suites; Rebecca Mercer, Smithfield High School; Russell Parrish, Lyall Design Architects; and Peter Stephenson, Town of Smithfield. Debbie Sivertson served as the leadership coordinator and administrator.

The program was created in 1999 to identify and develop informed, responsible and effective leaders, capable of having vision and possessing the perspective to meet challenges of the future. Our strategy is to provide hands-on experience in dynamic leadership skills, delving into issues and opportunities facing the county. Graduates of the program exhibit dedication and personal involvement to public and volunteer service in our community, as well as throughout the region. Past alumni include executive officers, county officials, local business leaders, educators and community volunteers.

For information on the next leadership program, please call the chamber office at 757-357-3502.

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