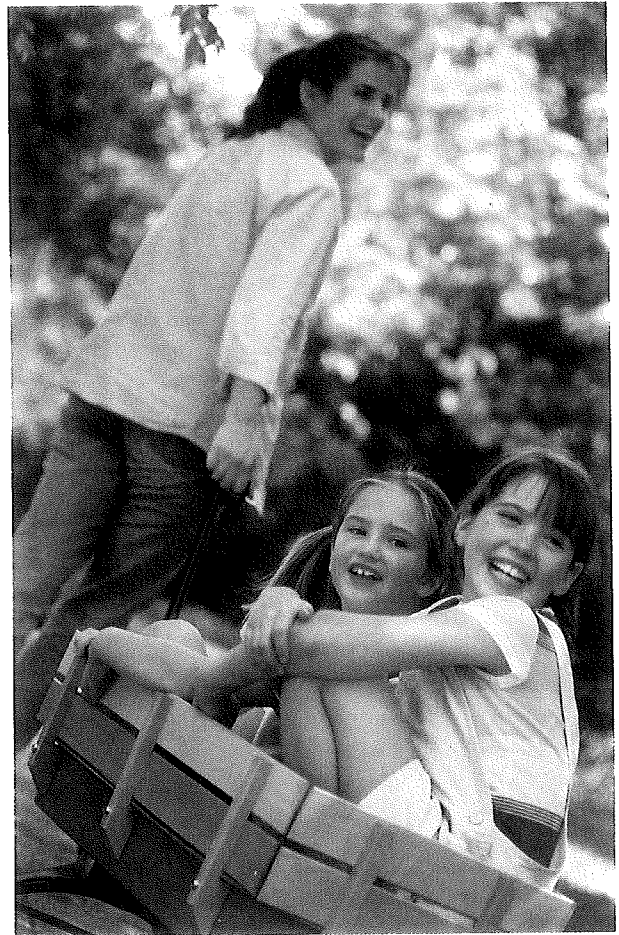


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AT HOME IN JAMESTOWN

The original settlers of Jamestown would be impressed with the changes their town has made in the past 200 years. Today, Jamestown has become a hub of growth in the booming Piedmont Triad. Nestled conveniently between High Point and Greensboro, its borders are continually expanding as new homes are built. Anyone driving in and around Jamestown will see new housing construction in the surrounding area. Townhomes, apartments and large or small single-family dwellings seem to pop up overnight.

A drive down Main Street brings visitors past the elementary school and library. A fountain and commons area were recently completed as part of the Library Commons Project recommended by the Urban Design Assistance Team (UDAT).

"The renovations in downtown Jamestown are an ongoing process," said Martha Wolfe, deputy town clerk. A Main Street improvement project was recently completed. "Now the town is taking it one step further," Wolfe

said. "A tree planting and design project allows private businesses to take part by dressing up their store fronts all along Main Street." Older structures in town have been restored to maintain the historical look. Based on UDAT's recommendations, several other renovation projects are either currently in the works or planned for the future. All renovations maintain the integrity of Jamestown's historical look and old-town feel, while bringing the community into the 21st century.

Jamestown is considered a small community, but is convenient to larger cities. Centrally located between Winston-Salem, Greensboro and High Point, residents also have easy access to interstates leading to Raleigh and Charlotte. Jamestown boasts one of the lowest tax rates in the state, a characteristic that attracts out-of-state transplants as well as North Carolinians relocating to the Piedmont Triad.

As with any older town in the South, history contributes to its charm. "History is very important to a town because it's why you are here," said Mayor Billy Ragsdale. "History sets



the values of a town and even the growth patterns. We have a rich Quaker history and those values are still somewhat here." Mayor Ragsdale knows a bit about history; his grandmother's family was part of the original founders of Jamestown. In fact, the local high school is named for her.

One of Jamestown's highlights is Mendenhall Plantation, a perfect example of 19th-century Quaker architecture. Built in 1811, the plantation was used as a refuge for slaves traveling on the Underground Railroad. Visitors to the plantation can see one of the two remaining false-bottomed wagons used to secretly transport slaves during the Civil War.

Along with his duties as mayor, Ragsdale is also president of Oakdale Cotton Mill, Jamestown's oldest and largest industry. "The mill has run continuously for 134 years and is one of the oldest textile mills in the country," Ragsdale said. "We have production every day. We make yarn from cotton and sell it throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico." The yarn then goes into home furnishings such as upholstery fabrics and table linens.

Contributing to the longevity and traditions of the town is Sadie May's, an Italian restaurant that has been in the same location for more than two decades. Sadie's husband, who was in the furniture business, decided to move the family from New Jersey to Jamestown. Sadie began working in a restaurant, which she eventually bought and renamed. "Twenty-five years is a long time to be in one location," said Paula White, Sadie's daughter. Sadie, now 74 years old, still has a hand in running the restaurant.

"There is a great community spirit from the people that live here," Ragsdale pointed out. "Our biggest asset is our friendly, neighborly people. We have some of the best people in the country right here in Jamestown; people from all walks of life." Everyone from new families to retirees are enticed by the town's community living. Subdivisions of single-family homes are appealing to the younger generation, and a new townhouse development, Riverwalk, was specifically designed for retirees and "empty-nesters."

Jane and John Koenig moved to Jamestown from Wisconsin when John received a job transfer. "Jamestown has the same kind of feel as the small Midwestern town we came from," Jane said. "The local

librarian gave us a warm welcome and, as soon as I became a regular customer, encouraged me to volunteer. The post office rarely has a line and they always share a smile and remember your face." For recreation, the Jamestown Park & Golf Course includes tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, a club house, baseball and soccer fields and picnic shelters. Jamestown is the country's smallest municipality to run its own golf course. Some of the course's amenities include a staff of PGA teaching professionals and a full-service pro shop. Sports programs for kids include the Jamestown Youth League, Tennis Academy, golf clinics and the YMCA Summer Camp. Jamestown also has garden clubs, business associations and a historic society.

While it is a center of growth in the Triad, Jamestown manages to stand apart by maintaining a small town feel and sense of community. Local schools in and around Jamestown even allow for the possibility of a child to go from kindergarten through high school without ever crossing the street. New construction and growing families seem to fall hand-in-hand with the long-standing tradition and history that is Jamestown.

CITY STATS

Population
3,042

Median Age Of Residents
36.9 years

Percentage Of Residents With Bachelor's Or Advanced Degrees
46.3 percent

Median Household Income
\$37,639

Local Real Estate Tax:
\$0.9472

Mayor
William G. "Billy" Ragsdale

Major Governing Body
Mayor, City Council and Town Manager

Chamber Phone/Web Site
Not Available

Sources: Piedmont Triad Council of Governments, 1990 U.S. Census.

