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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gloucester's 2020 Pocahontas Celebration to be held Virtually

Gloucester County will once again be celebrating the life and legacy of Pocahontas throughout the month of November, but in a virtual fashion. A series of videos incorporated into this year's Virtual Celebration will be found on local channel 48, Gloucester's Parks Recreation and Tourism's website, www.gloucesterva.info/pr and on the County's YouTube channel beginning Saturday, Nov. 7 at 10 a.m.

The first Pocahontas Celebration was held in Gloucester in 1994 as a one-time event. Twenty-five years later, it was re-imagined and the first annual celebration was launched in 2019. Last year's celebration included various demonstrations, tribal dancing, educational activities for students and much more.

"Like everything this year, our celebration is different," said Katey Legg, Gloucester's Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director. "We may not be celebrating in person, but we are pleased to be able to bring you virtual content that educates, inspires and fascinates."

Along with celebrating the legacy of Chief Powhatan's notable daughter Pocahontas, this year's virtual celebration will highlight the rich history of Native Americans in Gloucester County. The County is home to Werowocomoco, a village that served as the headquarters of Chief Powhatan more than 400 years before English settlers established Jamestown.

Located on Purtan Bay just off the York River, Werowocomoco was once private property, but is now owned by the National Park Service. Through a grant partnership with the National Park Service, Gloucester County is in the final stages of installing a permanent exhibit on Werowocomoco in the County's Visitor's Center.

Gloucester County is also home to the newest Virginia State Park, Machicomoco, located about ten miles downriver from Werowocomoco. Machicomoco was a base for Native American fishing, oyster harvesting and hunting, and was settled by the English around 1639. In addition to hiking trails and camping facilities, the new park, which is slated to open soon, will include an interpretation center, focused on the experiences and history of Virginia's Indian Tribes.

"Gloucester has a lot of exciting things happening," Legg added. "We look forward to celebrating Pocahontas and the Virginia Indians in 2021 with a celebration that builds upon the success of last year, including more hands-on activities, demonstrations, discussions and many

other activities. Until then, I invite you to watch the virtual celebration and safely visit the Gloucester Museum of History and Visitor's Center to learn more."

Also, for more information, visit Gloucester County's partner, the Pocahontas Project at www.pocahontasproject.org.

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Katey Legg, Gloucester's Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department Director stands next to the Werowocomoco exhibit housed in the Gloucester Visitor's Center.