

**Loudoun Archaeological Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 2201, Leesburg, Virginia
June 26, 2007**

NEWS RELEASE

***Loudoun Archaeological Foundation Announces Schedule of
Archaeological Digs and Invites the Loudoun County Government to
Participate in Special Digs Commemorating Loudoun County's 250th
Anniversary***

Dr. David T. Clark, Executive Director and Principal Investigator for the Loudoun Archaeological Foundation, Inc., announced today the Foundation's schedule of special archaeological public education digs for this year, which are being conducted as a part of the county's 250th anniversary celebration.

In announcing these projects, Dr. Clark noted that "as a part of the Foundation's archaeological public education program, these excavations will be open for general public participation - for every one of all ages - from elementary school students, their parents to senior citizens. He also stated that "participants will observe basic archaeological investigation techniques (excavation, screening, and washing/classifying artifacts) and archaeologists will be available to explain site activities." Visitors will be invited to participate in some of these activities under the supervision of experienced archaeological staff. Our principal goal, said Clark "is to promote archaeological public education while emphasizing professional and ethical archaeological investigation practices. We believe this process will increase awareness of local archaeology and encourage community members to become stewards of our common cultural heritage."

Recognizing that the county government is often at the front lines of development related preservation efforts, the Foundation is offering an additional series of digs specifically designed and scheduled for the benefit of county employees and public officials to experience "hands on" a part of Loudoun's buried past. "I believe that we can all agree," said Clark, "that protection and preservation of our valuable historic and cultural resources, at a minimum, requires a true public-private partnership to be fully effective. The recent organization of this Foundation now provides a medium for that partnership. The advent of this 250th anniversary of the founding of Loudoun County offers us all -- citizens, public officials, and private businesses -- a unique opportunity to really start uncovering Loudoun County's history on a dirt-level basis. The Foundation has identified a previously undocumented Leesburg historic archaeological site -- the old Frederick Shafer pottery, an important economic and cultural site of our mid-19th Century community, only a short walk from the county office building -- as the site for both public and county government participation."

General public archaeological investigations will be conducted at three Loudoun County sites beginning in late June 2007.

The first investigation program will feature a mid-nineteenth pottery in the Town of Leesburg (near North and King Street) operated by Frederick Shafer, a German immigrant and patriarch of a mid-19th century Loudoun family. Public “Archaeology Days” scheduled for the Shafer Pottery are:

July 3, 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm
July 11, 2007 - 10am to 3pm
July 14 (Sat.) 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm
August 8, 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm
August 28, 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm

Another investigation program will be at Claude Moore Park in Sterling which features both a portion of the old Vestal’s Gap Road and an 18th century “ordinary” that served travelers along that road. Public “Archaeology Days” scheduled for Claude Moore Park are:

June 27, 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm
July 4, 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm
July 9, 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm
July 22, 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm
August 14, 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm
August 30, 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm

The last investigation program will be conducted at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve and will involve excavations at the site of an early 18th century tenancy dwelling, as well as a possible prehistoric Native American encampment. Public “Archaeology Days” scheduled at Banshee Reeks are:

June 28, 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm
July 5, 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm
July 21, 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm
August 11, 2007 - 10 am to 3 pm

Other details on specific investigations will be provided on the Foundation’s website at: <http://loudounarchaeology.org> by email alerts, and through local media sources.