



P.O. Box 532  
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# Citizen News

Yorktown, Virginia

Vol. 33, No. 1

Spring 2012

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## Budget 2013 Presented; Tax Rate Increase Proposed

York County Administrator James O. McReynolds presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget to the Board of Supervisors during its meeting on Tuesday, February 21. Fiscal Year 2013 covers the time period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

The Board of Supervisors directed that Mr. McReynolds propose a budget for their consideration which included:

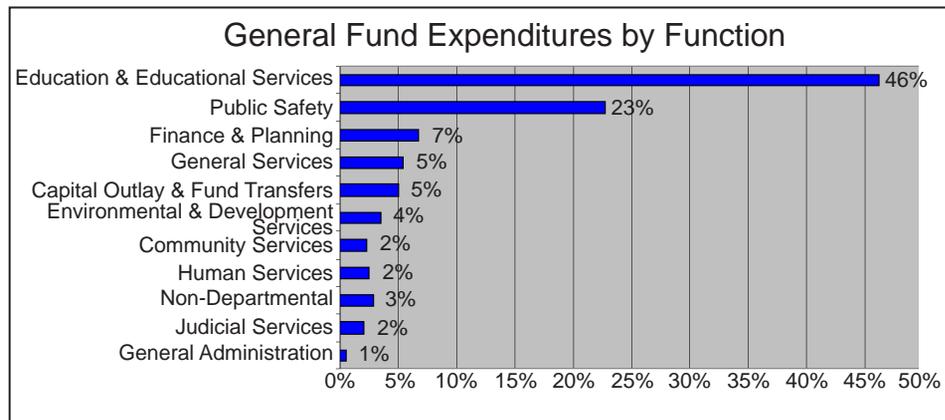
- Maintenance of the current level of services
- Funds to accommodate the full amount of money requested by the School Board
- Funds for a pay raise for all County employees.

In his detailed presentation, Mr. McReynolds laid the groundwork for what will be a difficult budgetary year for the County. Given a decrease in local revenues due mostly to the closing of the Yorktown Refinery and a decrease in property values, and an increase in expenditures including funding the York County School Board's request for an additional \$4.6 million this year to offset cuts it has seen in state funding, the County needs to fill a significant budget gap.

Mr. McReynolds has proposed a new real property tax rate of \$0.775 per \$100 of assessed value. That equates to an increase in \$0.1175 from the current real property tax rate.

The proposed budget fully funds the York County School Board's request for additional money to offset severe state cuts for K-12 education. In total, the proposed FY2013 General Fund budget is \$129.9 million. This represents an increase in \$6.9 million, or 5.6 percent. Of that, \$4.6 million, or 66 percent of this increase, is going to the schools. That represents a 10 percent increase in local funding for the School Operating Budget. The largest single component of the total County budget is funding for Education and Educational Services. Funds for this purpose equal \$60 million. After Education and Educational Services, the second highest General Fund function is Public Safety. This function comprises \$29.6 million.

By initiating several cost-saving measures including a 90-day hiring freeze for all vacant positions, a salary freeze, and eliminating the funding for 22 positions, the County's operating budget was reduced by approximately \$6.5 million



from 2009 through 2012. The proposed budget includes no new initiatives or new personnel, and focuses on maintaining current County services. In addition to the \$4.6 million for schools, other major increases in expenditures include an additional \$760,000 for the state retirement system, a health insurance cost increase of \$400,000, life insurance costs of \$300,000, increased costs for the solid waste disposal program of \$100,000, and an increase of approximately \$250,000 for the regional jail.

"This year's budget cycle presents a number of challenges including how to balance the budget and meet service delivery demands in the face of significant revenue losses and declining property assessments," Mr. McReynolds told the Board. "Under any circumstance, staff and I will do our best to serve the County's citizens as directed by the Board."

The proposed budget is available on-line at [www.yorkcounty.gov](http://www.yorkcounty.gov). A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, in the Board Room in York Hall. In addition, citizens may e-mail their comments to [bos@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:bos@yorkcounty.gov), mail them to the York County Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 532, Yorktown, VA, 23690, or call their comments in to the Budget Hotline at 890-3220. Please include your name and address with your comment so that it can be submitted for the record in the public hearing. Additionally, as the Board of Supervisors considers how to balance the Fiscal Year 2013 budget, they will hold work sessions on February 28, March 6, March 13, and March 27. Adoption of the budget is scheduled for the regular Board meeting on April 3.

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## Board of Supervisors Actions

### **November 16, 2011**

- Authorized an expansion to Water Country USA. The applicant submitted the request to amend the 1996 Special Use Permit in order to update the previously approved master plan. Acquisition of additional land for expansion of the park as well as changes in timing of development have necessitated changes to the original master plan and development phasing.
- Accepted and appropriated \$47,779 in U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) funds to be used for overtime payments and one administrative assistant for the Norfolk Resident Office Task Force.
- Executed a water agreement with the City of Newport News and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (CWF) to extend a water supply line from Hubbards Lane to the CWF property near Carrs Hill Road. The advantage of this agreement to CWF is that it makes the Carr's Hill Tract more attractive to developers. With CWF paying for the design and donating the necessary easements on their property for the extension, some of which will be useful for the Hubbard's Lane to Lightfoot extension, the cost savings to both the City and County exceed \$200,000 of a multi-million dollar Lightfoot Extension Capital project already funded for in York County. The Carr's Hill water extension project is on the same route and completes almost 50% of the Lightfoot extension capital project.

### **December 6, 2011**

- Formally recognized a Sister City relationship between York County and Port Vendres, France. See article on page 7.

### **December 20, 2011**

- Approved a Special Use Permit to authorize a miniature golf course on property located at 1799 Richmond Road (Route 60). The course would be beside the Ripley's Believe It or Not! museum, behind the Bank of America's rear parking lot, adjacent to the parking area for the Friendly's restaurant, and along the railroad tracks.
- Authorized the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding for a joint public safety/public service radio communication between York County, James City County, and Gloucester County.

### **January 3, 2012**

- The Board elected Thomas G. Shepperd (District 5) chairman for 2012 and Sheila S. Noll (District 2) vice chairman for 2012. Board meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of every month, with the exception of July and November when no meeting will be held the first Tuesday. Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and are held in York Hall. Meetings are televised live on WYCG-TV. Please check [www.yorkcounty.gov](http://www.yorkcounty.gov) for the broadcast schedule.

### **January 17, 2012**

- A resolution to endorse a request that a "no wake" designation be established for Cabin Creek failed following an agreement reached by the residents of that area.
- Expressed the intent of the York County Board of Supervisors to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with all parties involved to restructure the Marquis CDA bonds to accommodate the future commercial development of the CA District and the timely payment of the Bonds.

### **February 7, 2012**

- Recognized Constitutional Officer Week (February 13-19) and the service of York County's Constitutional Officers to the citizens.

## Contact Your Board Member

### **District 1**

Walter C. Zaremba  
106 Royal Grant Drive  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
(757) 890-3328 (voice mail)  
zaremba@yorkcounty.gov

### **District 2**

Sheila S. Noll  
133 Tradewinds Drive  
Yorktown, VA 23693  
(757) 890-3329 (voice mail)  
noll@yorkcounty.gov

### **District 3**

Donald E. Wiggins  
301 Dawson Drive  
Seaford, VA 23696  
(757) 890-3330 (voice mail)  
wiggins@yorkcounty.gov

### **District 4**

George S. Hrichak  
115 Albacore Drive  
Yorktown, VA 23692  
(757) 890-3331 (voice mail)  
hrichak@yorkcounty.gov

### **District 5**

Thomas G. Shepperd Jr.  
131 Chinquapin Orchard  
Yorktown, VA 23693  
(757) 890-3332 (voice mail)  
shepperd@yorkcounty.gov

## Board Appointments

### **•Beautification Committee**

Teresa Nettles Cuthbertson

### **•Historic Triangle Bicycle Advisory Committee**

Rick Bartels

### **•Historical Committee**

Walt Akers  
Christopher Mollenkamp  
Robert Walker  
Paige Archer  
Kathleen R. Rose

### **•Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**

David Cooley  
Tony O. Joseph Jr.  
Todd Mathes

### **•Stormwater Advisory Committee**

Warren H. Helwig

### Citizen News

York County, Virginia

Vol. 33 No. 1

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Citizen News is published quarterly for the citizens of York County. One copy is mailed to each household in the County. Address comments to P.O. Box 532, Yorktown, VA, 23690 or call 890-3310.

County Administrator.....James O. McReynolds  
Public Information Officer.....Christie Powell  
Information & Publications Coordinator .....Gail L. Whittaker

## Veteran Exemption in Real Estate

The Constitution of Virginia exempts tax on real estate owned and occupied by any veteran (or jointly owned with their legal spouse) who has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a 100 percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability. Certain restrictions and conditions apply. An application and a copy of the certification from the Department of Veterans Affairs must be filed on or before April 2 with the Commissioner of the Revenue's office.

Taxpayers currently receiving this exemption will receive a "Tax Relief for Veterans Revalidation" form in the mail. This form must be completed and returned to the Commissioner of the Revenue's office by April 2.

For assistance, call 890-3382, e-mail [revofc@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:revofc@yorkcounty.gov) or visit us online at [www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue).

## Federal Tax Forms Not Available Here

The IRS does not provide any Federal Income Tax forms to the York County Commissioner of the Revenue's office. Please visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to download forms, call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676) to order forms, or use the e-File option located at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and avoid paper forms.

## On-Line Services offered by EDS

Like several agencies in the county, the Department of Environmental and Development Services has an on-line request system to help you. The on-line customer service system allows you to enter a service request or follow the status and progress of a request already made. Available categories include Drainage, Garbage/Recycling/Yard Debris, Code Enforcement, Sewer, Mosquitoes, and more.

To submit a new request, you will need to have the following available: the problem or request type, description of problem, and address or location where service is being requested. You will also have to include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.

The on-line customer service system can be found at [www.yorkcounty.gov/eds](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/eds), and select "Service Request System" on the left hand side of the page.

## House Numbers Required

Did you know that the County Code requires that your house be clearly numbered and visible from the street? This requirement is for safety reasons. In times of emergency, our public safety employees need to be able to find your location quickly. Homes without visible numbers can be easily driven past. Please make sure your house number can be clearly seen from the road.

# York County Head Start

## Enrollment & Health Information Fair

FREE PRESCHOOL SERVICES

The York County Head Start Staff are currently recruiting eligible 3, 4 and 5 year old children, including those with disabilities, for the 2012-2013 school year.

Head Start classrooms are located at the Griffin-Yeates Center, Bethel Manor Elementary, Grafton Bethel Elementary and Yorktown Elementary

*On-site recruitment will be held on the following dates:*

- \* February 15: Tabb Library, 11am-2pm
- \* February 17: Historical Triangle Center, 10am-1pm
- \* February 24: Yorktown Library, 10am-1pm
- \* March 15 & 30: Woods at Yorktown Apartments Community Center 1pm-3:30pm

For eligibility determination please bring your family's 2011 income verification

(*W-2, 1040 form, TANF statement, 1 month of pay stubs*), as well as your child's Original Birth Certificate, Immunization Records and Proof of your Family's Residency.

Please call 890-3888 if you have any questions



### YORK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION QUARTERLY BROCHURE

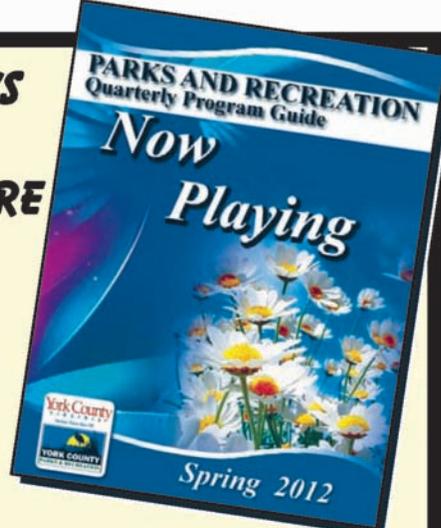
Parks and Recreation activities and programs are now published ONLINE through it's website publication, **"Now Playing."**

[www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec)

## What's Coming Up in this Issue!

- Yorktown Market Days
- Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration
- Adult & Youth Leisure Classes
- Youth Spring Soccer
- Senior Center Activities

and much more!



# Local Business Report

by Melissa Dickens, Sr. Business Development Rep., York County Office of Economic Development

Phone - 890-3317

E-mail - [econdev@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:econdev@yorkcounty.gov) Web - [www.yesyorkcounty.com](http://www.yesyorkcounty.com)

During these difficult economic times, the role of the York County Office of Economic Development (OED) and the Economic Development Authority (EDA) have become more important than ever. The primary mission of the OED is to create a diverse economic base by the aggressive recruitment, expansion, and retention of businesses, industries, and tourism, thus expanding the tax base and capital investment in the county and providing new employment opportunities for its citizens.

When an economic development program is successful, it results in a more balanced tax base for the county by increasing the percentage of total taxes generated by the county's commercial, industrial, and tourism entities. In practical terms, this means a lower real estate tax for all of our property-owning citizens. Additionally, a healthy commercial tax base supports quality municipal services, most importantly our Fire and Life Safety department, Sheriff's Office, and school system. A robust commercial sector adds immensely to our overall quality of life through charitable giving, volunteerism, and new job creation.

The OED works in cooperation with many regional and state agencies to pursue its mission. Key among these allies are the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance, Hampton Roads Small Business Development Center, and local Chambers of Commerce. Perhaps the most important ally is the York County Economic Development Authority.

Established in 1972, the EDA is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia and has unique powers established in the Code of Virginia. The EDA is a conduit for non-taxable industrial development bonds, can legally own, develop, and sell or lease commercial real estate, and can provide incentives necessary to close deals within targeted industry sectors. For example, the EDA played a significant role in developing the York River Commerce Park and attracting businesses like Travaini Pumps USA and Ryson International. The EDA is a seven-member body appointed by the Board of Supervisors to an initial four-year term. Anyone interested in serving on the EDA should submit a Board Bank application found on the county's website.

The OED and EDA are very focused on assisted our existing businesses to expand and prosper, as roughly 70 percent of new economic growth comes from a locality's existing business community. Several programs have been developed to help cultivate and sustain our local companies. Detailed information on these programs can be found at [www.yesyorkcounty.com](http://www.yesyorkcounty.com).

If you or anyone you know is interested in establishing, expanding, or relocating a business in York County, please contact us. We are also very interested in hearing from you regarding new ideas to improve the county's business environment. By working together to sustain our existing businesses and to attract new commercial development, we can all help improve the county's quality of life.

"Let us connect your business to success!" Call us today to find out how. (757) 890-3317

## York County Economic Development

### Available Business Services:

- Furnish local, state, & federal assistance information
- Help with workforce training and development needs
- Assist with permitting & regulatory requirements
- Offer grant, scholarship, & incentive programs
- Provide current demographic, consumer spending, & traffic data
- Offer networking and educational opportunities
- Ensure licensing/permitting procedures are business-friendly
- Prepare customized proposals for new & growing companies
- Identify real estate & business partnering opportunities

[www.yesyorkcounty.com](http://www.yesyorkcounty.com)





302 Dare Road, Yorktown, Va. 23692 • (757) 898-0300 • [yorkcountyschools.org](http://yorkcountyschools.org)

## Bring Your Own Technology

Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) is an initiative that was introduced to York County School Division secondary students at the start of the 2011-12 school year. The division embraces the importance of technology in the personal and educational lives of students. BYOT gives students access to mobile technologies that enable instant access to a wealth of information, references and collaborative resources on the web. These Internet resources can support the learning activities that are a part of daily classroom instruction for students.

With the BYOT initiative, teachers have the option of incorporating lessons using mobile electronic devices into their classroom activities for middle and high school students. Students may access the division's wireless network, with a teacher's permission, using their personally owned electronic device such as a laptop, cell phone or e-reader during an instructional activity. If a student does not own a personal mobile device, he/she will be permitted to use a division-owned device. Each student participating in the BYOT initiative must have both an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and a BYOT policy form on file with the division. For additional information regarding the BYOT initiative, please visit [yorkcountyschools.org](http://yorkcountyschools.org).



## YCSB School Board

Regular School Board meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month, 7 p.m., at York Hall on the corner of Main St. and Ballard St. in Yorktown. Visit [yorkcountyschools.org](http://yorkcountyschools.org) for schedules of meetings, work sessions and special meetings as well as Board member contact information.

The School Board members are:  
 District 1: Barbara S. Haywood, Chair  
 District 2: Cindy Kirschke  
 District 3: Mark A. Medford  
 District 4: R. Page Minter, Vice Chair  
 District 5: Robert W. George, D.D.S.,



The newly appointed Clerk of Board is Sandra Ford and the Deputy Clerk of Board is Carl James, Ed.D.

### YCSB Calendar

February 20	Presidents' Day Holiday
March 2	Early Dismissal
March 30	Early Dismissal
April 2-6	Spring Break
April 9	Schools & Offices Closed
April 13	Report Cards Issued
May 11	Early Dismissal
May 28	Memorial Day Holiday



The York County School Division, as a part of its academic program, offers engaging and interactive online courses through the Virtual Learning Program. Virtual students engage in a curriculum that blends online and offline learning experiences. Students enrolled in virtual learning courses may access their coursework through the Internet. With over 75 course offerings, students participate and communicate with highly qualified teachers in a variety of subjects. The Virtual Learning Program moves students beyond the walls of the traditional classroom and provides students an opportunity to experience new technologies and expand their skills for the 21st century.

The YCSB Virtual Learning Program is in its seventh year offering high quality online courses through experienced staff. The Virtual Learning Program has been recognized state-wide as a unique provider of virtual instruction.

For information on the Virtual Learning Program, visit [yorkcountyschools.org/VirtualLearning](http://yorkcountyschools.org/VirtualLearning).

## FY13 OPERATING BUDGET

FY13 Operating Budget updates can be located on the YCSB website at [yorkcountyschools.org](http://yorkcountyschools.org) under the "Top News" section on the main page.

The School Board Proposed Budget Timeline:

- Release of Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget: Mid-February
- School Board, Public Hearing, February 27, 7 p.m., York Hall
- Approval of School Board Proposed Budget, March 26
- School Board approval of budget revisions based on county contribution to schools, after April 3

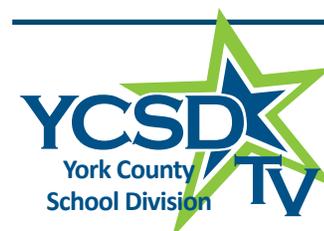
## Stay Safe on the Bus

These bus safety tips, provided by the YCSB Transportation Department, will help our students stay safe on the road.

- STOP on either side of the road when a bus displays flashing red warning lights and extends the stop signal arm.
- Do not pass the bus until the lights are turned off and the stop signal arm is retracted.
- Remember, a bus has to stop at all railroad crossings.
- Be nice, and allow room for a bus to merge if the driver has turned on its signal.
- Encourage children to speak softly when riding the school bus so they do not distract the driver.
- Never walk behind a bus. Always walk at least 10 steps away from the bus and be sure you can see the driver's face.
- Children should follow all bus safety rules posted at the front of the bus.

## Strategic Plan Status Update

Keep up to date with the York County School Division by viewing the award winning Strategic Plan Status Update website at [yorkcountyschools.org](http://yorkcountyschools.org). View the YCSB mission, goals and beliefs and see how the division is meeting and exceeding its goals.



YCSB TV offers the latest news, programs and events from the York County School Division. For program scheduling visit [yorkcountyschools.org/aboutus/pressroom/tv-47](http://yorkcountyschools.org/aboutus/pressroom/tv-47) or simply scan this QR code with your smart device.



**Did you know** the York Foundation for Public Education, Inc. is great way for the York County community to support our schools? The foundation is a non-profit agency that provides schools and teachers with grants, resource development funds and additional programs that otherwise would not be possible. The foundation also awards scholarships to teachers, para professionals, YCSB employees and seniors throughout the division. Visit the YFPE, Inc. at [yorkcountyschools.org/yfpe](http://yorkcountyschools.org/yfpe).

## Tornado Preparedness Day

No part of Virginia is immune from tornadoes. A tornado can hit at any time of the year and at any time of the day. There are two things that every family, business, and organization should do to prepare for tornadoes:

- Get a NOAA weather radio with SAME alerts
- Participate in the statewide tornado drill on Tuesday, March 20, at 9:45 a.m.

"NOAA weather radios are the best way of getting tornado warnings," said Stephen P. Kopczynski, Fire Chief of York County's Department of Fire and Life Safety and Emergency Management Coordinator for York County.

"When a tornado warning is issued, the weather radio alerts by sounding an alarm and/or flashing a light (for the hearing impaired), which is followed by information on where the storm is, which way it's moving, and instructing people in its path to take cover."

The NOAA weather radio can be programmed to transmit SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding) alerts, a feature that lets you program your radio for your area. NOAA weather radios are available at electronics and sporting goods stores, department stores, boating stores, some grocery stores, and the internet with prices starting at about \$30.00.

Chief Kopczynski further advises that, "Everyone should practice taking cover from tornadoes, so it is my hope that everyone will participate in the Statewide Tornado Drill that is planned for Tuesday, March 20, at 9:45 a.m."

On that date, the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety and the Commonwealth of Virginia, in conjunction with the National Weather Service, will participate in the Statewide Tornado Drill so that schools, businesses, and families can practice their tornado emergency plans.

"The purpose of the Statewide Tornado Drill is to get people thinking about what they would do in the event of a tornado, no matter where they may be. They need to know how to



protect themselves, their families, and their property," said Kopczynski.

Last year in Virginia there were 51 tornadoes, the second highest number on record. (The highest was 87 in 2004.) As a result of these tornadoes, 10 people died and more than 100 were injured. Most of the tornadoes occurred in April, but were also recorded as occurring in March, May, August, September, October and November. They destroyed 212 homes, 17 businesses, and caused damage to more than 1,050 homes and businesses. They were reported in nearly every part of Virginia with many of them occurring after dark.

Being prepared and knowing what to do may be the determining factor in your survival during a severe weather event. But tornadoes is only one such event. It is important to know the dangers of, and what to do in, other types of severe weather such as severe thunderstorms and dangerous lightning, flash floods, and winter storms. All of these can damage and destroy property, cause injuries, and take lives.

For more weather safety and preparedness information, please visit the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety website at [www.yorkcounty.gov/fire](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/fire) or call 890-3600 Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additional weather safety and preparedness information can be found on the National Weather Service website at [www.weather.gov/safety.php](http://www.weather.gov/safety.php) and/or on the Ready Virginia website at [www.readyvirginia.gov](http://www.readyvirginia.gov), including detailed steps about conducting a tornado drill and a on-line registration form for schools, businesses, families, state agencies, and local governments that plan to participate in this year's Statewide Tornado Drill.

## Children Can Help Prepare for Hurricane/Flood Season

Hurricane and flooding season will be here soon. That means every family needs an emergency plan. If you have children, let them help.

1. Children can help put an emergency kit together. Let them help choose supplies that will last your family for at least three days. Start with these essential items: Food that won't spoil, one gallon of water per person per day, a battery-powered/hand-crank radio and extra batteries, other useful items such as flashlight with batteries, first aid kit, special items for babies and children.
2. Store your kit in waterproof containers that you can carry or roll in case you need to leave your home quickly. Old suitcases or backpacks also can hold supplies.

3. Make a family emergency plan together. Get a worksheet at [www.readyvirginia.gov](http://www.readyvirginia.gov).
4. Kids will like "Ready Kids," a website with games, quizzes and information on how to prepare families for emergencies. Find "Ready Kids" at [www.ready.gov/kids](http://www.ready.gov/kids).
5. To see a short video from Ready Virginia about families getting ready for hurricane season, go to [www.youtube.com/vaemergency#p/u](http://www.youtube.com/vaemergency#p/u).
6. Find out your RQ. The Readiness Quotient is a first of its kind tool for individuals, families, and communities to determine and evaluate how well they are prepared for emergencies. Go to [www.whatsyourrq.org](http://www.whatsyourrq.org) to take this quick test on-line.

## Port Vendres, France is Sister City

At its December 6 meeting, the Board of Supervisors voted to formally recognize a Sister City relationship between York County and Port Vendres, France. York County and Port Vendres share historical ties as a result of America's war for independence and a Sister City relationship was formed in 1990 between the Yorktown Trustees and Port Vendres, France. This relationship is chartered by Sister Cities International. Citizens of York County and Port Vendres have enjoyed a series of citizen exchanges over the past 20 years. This is a citizen-led effort that is not funded by the county.

According to its website, the mission of Sister Cities International is to "promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time. Sister Cities International is a nonprofit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between U.S. and international communities. As an international membership organization, we officially certify, represent and support partnerships between U.S. cities, counties, states and similar jurisdictions in other countries."

Why Port Vendres, France? In the 1770s, Comte de Mailly, Lieutenant General of the province of Roussillon, began development of a new seaport located at Port Vendres. Under the protection of King Louis XVI, this seaport would be open to all nations and would feature a royal square with an Obelisk at its center. As part of this 100-foot tall Obelisk, four bronze bas-reliefs sit at the base depicting the principal achievements of the king. One of these is the achievement of American independence, brought about with the assistance of the French. This is the only monument in France that honors America's fight for independence.



Bas-relief featured on Obelisk at Port Vendres, France. Photo and information courtesy of [www.xenophongroup.com/mcjoynt/pvendres.htm](http://www.xenophongroup.com/mcjoynt/pvendres.htm).

## Presidential Primary Scheduled for March 6, 2012

A **Republican Presidential Primary** will be held on Tuesday, March 6. The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A sample ballot is available on the Registrar's website.

The deadline to register to vote was Monday, February 13; however, we are still accepting registration applications for future elections and will process them once the Republican Primary is over. After we have processed them, you should receive a voter card in the mail. Voter registration applications can be obtained and submitted at the Registrar's Office, Yorktown Library, Tabb Library, and the Griffin-Yeates Center. Applications can also be obtained via the Registrar's website.

Through a service provided by the **Virginia State Board of Elections**, you are now able to check your registration status on-line. Go to the website and click on "Verify Your Voter Registration Here." You can check your registration information as well as find out where to vote.

You may be able to **vote absentee** if you are going to be out of town or otherwise unavailable to go to your polling place on March 6. Absentee ballots are already available.

To obtain an absentee ballot, you must complete an absentee ballot application. Applications are available from the Registrar's Office or via the website and clicking on "Absentee Voting."

The deadline to apply in person is Saturday, March 3. The Registrar's Office will be open Saturday, March 3, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to accommodate voters. The Registrar's Office is located at 224 Ballard Street in historic Yorktown.

This is a presidential election year and York County needs **election officials!** Citizens who wish to serve as election officials are welcome to apply. As an election official, you will ensure impartial elections in York County, have an opportunity to meet your friends and neighbors, and receive a small payment for your services.

If you are interested in serving, call the office at 890-3440 or visit the website and select "Officer of Election Form."

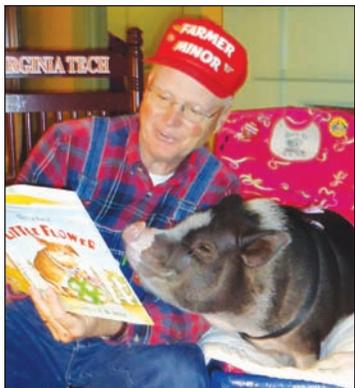
**For more information about registering to vote, absentee voting, and officers of election, call the Registrar's Office at 890-3440, fax to 890-3449, or e-mail to [registrar@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:registrar@yorkcounty.gov). Information is also available on the website, [www.yorkcounty.gov/voting](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/voting). TDD for the hearing impaired, call 890-3300.**

**Mailing address:  
General Registrar, P.O. Box 451,  
Yorktown, VA 23690-0451**

## What's Happening @ Your Library

The York County Public Library is pleased to announce that downloadable eBooks are coming soon to your library. OverDrive eBooks will be available through the library's website beginning in mid-March. Patrons will be able to browse the library's OverDrive website, check out and download eBooks to their PC, Mac, Nook, Kindle and other mobile devices.

Join us this spring for story hours at the Tabb and Yorktown Libraries. Children who are ages 6 to 14 months will enjoy Tiny Tales; Toddler Tales is for ages 15 to 30 months; and Preschool Story Time is for children ages 2½ to 5. The story hour schedule is available on the library's website, [www.yorkcounty.gov/library](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/library). The first spring session of Tiny Tales, Toddler Tales and Preschool Story Time begins March 5 and runs through April 13. Story hours will not be held during spring break, April 2-6. Tiny Tales, Toddler Tales, and Preschool Story Time registration begins soon (call for dates). The second spring story hour session runs from April 30 through May 31. Registration begins on April 23 for Tiny/Toddler Tales and on April 24 for Preschool Story Time.



"Pig Out on Reading" with Farmer Minor and Daisy, the pot belly pig, at a special story time at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 10, at the Tabb Library. Based on their farm in Connecticut, Farmer Minor and Daisy travel around the United States "to encourage youngsters to develop a love for reading." After the program, everyone will have the opportunity to pet

Daisy, too. This program is recommended for ages 4 and up. Registration is not required.

Children ages 3-6 will enjoy Kids Yoga Story Time at the Tabb Library on the last Friday of each month through May. Kids listen to a story and act it out using their imagination and simple yoga poses. Children are also introduced to basic calming breathing and relaxation techniques. The class meets from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. and is for children without adult participation. Class size is limited and registration is required. Registration begins after each class for the following month's class. Register in person at the Tabb Library Youth Services desk or by calling 890-5110.

Join us on the fourth Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. for Paws to Read. Children ages 6 to 12 are invited to read aloud to a certified therapy dog. The sessions on March 24 and April 28 will be held at the Tabb Library, while the May 26 program will meet at the Yorktown Library. For more information, call Youth Services at 890-5110.

## Tax Relief for Elderly/Disabled

York County offers a program to taxpayers who are age 65 or older or permanently disabled, which exempts, or partially exempts, the tax on their real estate or mobile home provided they meet the following requirements:

- The owner must be age 65 or older or permanently disabled as of December 31 of the year immediately preceding the tax year
- Must file an application on or before April 1 each year
- Total combined income from all sources must be \$50,000 or less
- Combined maximum financial worth (or assets cannot exceed \$200,000 (excludes qualifying residence, furnishings and up to ten acres of land)
- Qualifying applicant(s) must reside on the property
- Must submit a copy of the Federal Income Tax Return (Forms 1040/1040A) if they were required to file, along with the application
- Must submit along with the application a copy of the annual Social Security Statement/Annuity Statement, W-2(s), 1099(s), and any copy of statements from each financial institution (checking, saving, stocks/mutual funds, certificate(s) of deposit, etc.) for all owners and others residing in the home, to support the source of income
- Certain other conditions may apply

Owner(s) must notify this office immediately of any changes made during the year in income, financial worth, ownership or other factors affecting the qualification for relief.

Applications are mailed to previous year applicants the last week of January each year. Contact the Commissioner of the Revenue if you did not receive an application. Send completed application to Ann H. Thomas, Commissioner of the Revenue, P.O. Box 190, Yorktown, VA 23690-0190. Or visit the office in the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard, in historic Yorktown.

For assistance, call 890-3382, e-mail [revofc@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:revofc@yorkcounty.gov), or visit us at [www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue).

## Personal Property Reminder

Vehicles must be registered within 60 days of purchase or relocation to York County. If you sell or trade a vehicle, you must notify the DMV and the Commissioner of the Revenue's office as soon as possible.

If you have questions regarding Personal Property Tax or proration, contact the Commissioner of the Revenue's office at 890-3381; e-mail [revofc@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:revofc@yorkcounty.gov); visit [www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue); or visit the office located in the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard, in historic Yorktown. Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# York County Beautification Committee



## The National Kickoff of the Great American Cleanup™

Hampton Roads, through the partnership of [www.askHRgreen.org](http://www.askHRgreen.org) and Keep Virginia Beautiful, has been selected as one of the 2012 National Kickoff locations for the Great American Cleanup™! Get the latest news about the Kickoff at [www.askHRgreen.org](http://www.askHRgreen.org).

**THE DATE** of the Kickoff is April 27-28, 2012

**RESIDENTS** and **BUSINESSES** can find out more at [www.askHRgreen.org](http://www.askHRgreen.org).

**DONATIONS** to support cleanup efforts can be made through Keep Virginia Beautiful. Please contact Mike Baum, (804) 665-2908 or [mbaum@keepvirginiabeautiful.org](mailto:mbaum@keepvirginiabeautiful.org).

**CLEANUP EVENTS** can include river cleanups, illegal dump site cleanups, community garden planting, e-cycling events, living shoreline restoration, and more!



## Seeking Ideas/Volunteers

The York County Beautification Committee is a group of citizen volunteers who are appointed by and report to the Board of Supervisors. Funding for activities comes from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality as well as other fundraising activities taken on by the Committee itself. Our purpose is to “promote a cleaner, more attractive York County and increase awareness of environmental issues among York County citizens.” The Committee is always seeking new ways to reach out to the community. If you would more information about us or would like to be a part of this great group, please contact Laurie Halperin at 890-3780.

## 2013 Calendar Art Contest *Beautiful CLEAN York County*

- Theme:**.....Beautiful "Clean" York County  
Artwork images should reflect a clean York County and how recycling and litter control efforts help keep it beautiful.
- Participants:** .....**York County K-12 Students**  
For the purposes of the 2013 Calendar Art Contest, participants must be York County K-12 students attending home, private, or public school.
- Due Date:** .....**July 27, 2012 @ 4 p.m.**  
All entries should be submitted to:  
York County Beautification Committee  
ATTN: Laurie Halperin  
145 Goodwin Neck Road  
Yorktown, VA 23692
- Media:**.....**Black & White or Color**  
Original images are to be made on or with recycled materials; photographs must adhere to the theme "Beautiful, Clean York County." Painting, drawing, or any form of printmaking such as stamping, woodcut, etc., are also acceptable formats.
- Size:**.....**8"x10" Landscape Image**
- Awards:** .....**13 Cash Awards of \$100 each**

The York County Beautification Committee continues to sponsor the annual *Beautiful York County* calendar art contest. For the 2013 calendar, York County K-12 students attending home, private, or public school are eligible to enter the contest.

Collage or illustrations should be presented in black and white or color in an 8"x10" size. Artwork submissions must be original pieces and be accompanied by an entry form. Please be sure to note the recycled materials used in your art.

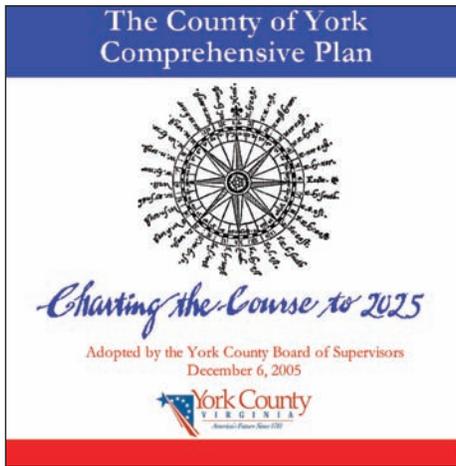
Thirteen pieces of original art and/or collage will be selected to illustrate each month and the cover of the 2013 calendar.

Artwork is judged by the York County Beautification Committee based on the quality of the artwork and its adherence to the calendar's theme. Winners will receive cash awards of \$100 each.

Artwork will be returned to the artist as soon as the calendar has been completed, however the Beautification Committee is not responsible for any damage caused by the printing process. Awards Banquet and art show will be held in the fall of 2013.

For more information, call Laurie Halperin at 890-3780.

## Comprehensive Plan Update



This year York County will be reviewing and updating its Comprehensive Plan. Titled *Charting the Course to 2025*, the Comprehensive Plan is the long-range plan for the physical development of the county. It addresses all aspects of development, including land use, community facilities (schools, parks, libraries, etc.), economic

development, the environment, historic resources, housing, and transportation.

The City of Williamsburg and James City County will also be reviewing their comprehensive plans in 2012. This simultaneous timing of plan reviews was agreed to by the three governing bodies as a way to promote closer coordination and communication concerning comprehensive plan issues that cross the jurisdictional boundaries that run through the Historic Triangle. As part of this effort, York County hosted the first of four joint community forums on February 2 at Magruder Elementary School. These forums, which are being held throughout the Historic Triangle, are an opportunity for both residents and Planning Commission members from the three localities to come together and talk about planning issues that affect us all. Additional forums were scheduled for February 23 at Warhill High School in James City County and February 27 at the Williamsburg Community Building in Williamsburg. York County will host the fourth forum on March 15 at the Tabb Library. Citizens are encouraged to come to these forums and share their thoughts and ideas about the future of the Historic Triangle.

It should be emphasized that the goal of this effort is not to develop a regional plan for the Historic Triangle. York County will be conducting its own independent comprehensive plan review and developing its own plan, as will James City County and Williamsburg, and each locality will retain authority over land use and development decisions within its jurisdiction.

The review process for York County's plan will include numerous Planning Commission work sessions, multiple public forums, and public hearings by both the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. The tentative project schedule calls for the Planning Commission to complete its work and forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors by the end of 2012. Subsequently, the Board of Supervisors will consider the Commission's recommendation and consider formal adoption of an updated plan. The three localities have tentatively targeted April of 2013 for adoption of their respective plan updates.

## Sheriff's Office on Facebook

The York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office (YPSO) is pleased to announce the launch of the YPSO Facebook page. The purpose of establishing this page is to help citizens get information on press releases, crime line releases, arrests, crime prevention tips, current incidents, and upcoming events. To receive these updates, citizens simply log onto [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), search for York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office, and "Like" the page.

Sheriff J. D. "Danny" Diggs stated "policing our community is a partnership between the Sheriff's Office and its citizens and timely communication such as this will only enhance this relationship."

Citizens are reminded not to use the Facebook page to request a deputy's response to a situation, but continue to use 911 for all emergencies, 890-3621 for non-emergencies, or 1-888-LOCK-U-UP to report crime line tips. Citizens are also encouraged to visit [www.yorkcounty.gov/sheriff](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/sheriff) for additional services and information.



## D.A.R.E. Festival in March

The York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office D.A.R.E. program announces a D.A.R.E. festival weekend to be held March 2-3 at Grafton School Complex, 403 Grafton Drive, Yorktown.

**D.A.R.E.**

The festivities begin with a **County-wide Middle School Dance and Activities Night** on Friday, March 2, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. York County 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are invited to attend. There will be an entry fee of \$7.00.

The Annual **D.A.R.E./Fire Festival and Health Fair** will be held Saturday, March 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This festival is a drug-free community event featuring games, concessions, rides, face painting, and a variety of children's activities. There also will be exhibits and demonstrations from public safety, county departments, health service organizations, and local law enforcement offices. A \$5.00 wristband for rides will be sold, as well as tickets for games, popcorn, and cotton candy.

For more information, call the D.A.R.E. information line at 890-3655.



## VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

A Partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University

York County Office  
100 County Drive, P.O. Box 532  
Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0532  
(757) 890-4940/Fax 890-4033  
E-mail: [ex199@vt.edu](mailto:ex199@vt.edu)  
Web Site: [www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce)  
[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)



Telephone: 890-4940

Fax: 890-4033

E-mail: [ex199@vt.edu](mailto:ex199@vt.edu)

Web: [www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce)

### Horticultural Extravaganza

The 2012 Horticultural Extravaganza is scheduled for March 10, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tabb High School. The Extravaganza will cover a broad amount of information for both the novice and the more experienced gardener. Topics will cover all facets of gardening including:

- Specialty Plants
- Environmental Gardening
- Being Self-Sustainable

The registration fee is \$16 and includes a lunch. For more information, please call 890-4940 or e-mail [ex199@vt.edu](mailto:ex199@vt.edu).

### Junior 4-H Camp

Registration has begun for the 2012 Junior 4-H Camp. This year, York County youth will camp July 23-27 at the Jamestown 4-H Center in Williamsburg. Activities include archery, canoeing, marine science, swimming, and having entirely too much fun! Camp will cost \$225 per camper. We are also offering sibling and adult volunteer discounts.

For the registration materials, please visit [www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce), call 890-4940 or e-mail [ex199@vt.edu](mailto:ex199@vt.edu). Spots are limited, so sign up soon!

### Master Gardener Learning Garden Annual Plant Sale

The York County Master Gardeners will hold a plant sale on Saturday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Learning Garden located at 301 Goodwin Neck Road (adjacent to the York County Public Safety Building).

Annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees will be for sale at the Learning Garden Plant Sale. This event is sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. For more information, call the Extension Office at 890-4940.

### Free Lawn Mowing Class for Youth

Virginia Cooperative Extension is offering the award-winning class on lawn mowing designed for youth ages 10 through 17. This course meets for four consecutive Tuesday nights in March (6, 13, 20, 27) from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at St. Luke's Methodist Church on Ella Taylor Road.

This fun and informative course teaches lawn mower safety and maintenance, lawn care basics, cutting techniques, and ideas on how to start and run a successful lawn mowing business.

The course has won national recognition as an outstanding county program offered to its citizens. Enrollment is limited with first priority given to York County residents. Parents are encouraged to attend classes with students.

Please call the York County Extension office at 890-4940 for registration materials, or visit [www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce).

### Peninsula Master Gardener Training Application Due May 31

Residents of Gloucester, Hampton, Newport News, and York County can apply now for the Peninsula Master Gardener Training, which will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays starting in September.

For an application and information, please call 890-4940 or e-mail [ex199@vt.edu](mailto:ex199@vt.edu).

### Where Do I Take A Diseased Plant for Diagnosis?

Samples of diseased plants, as well as plants or insects for i.d., can be taken to the York County Extension office, located at 100 County Drive. The plant sample should include as much of the plant as possible. When bringing in an insect for identification, make sure it is in a tightly sealed container.

*Virginia Cooperative Extension provides educational programs conducted in workplaces, schools, and communities of Virginians. Research based information from Virginia Tech and Virginia State University is used by Extension Agents and their volunteers to teach people innovative ways to solve problems.*

*If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in any of these programs, please call the York Cooperative Extension Office at 890-4940 to discuss accommodations ten days prior to the event.*

## Mosquito Control Needs Your Help This Season



Volunteers are needed in the Mosquito Monitor program to help fight the bite. No previous experience is required! Volunteers will be trained and provided with a light trap for monitoring the mosquitoes. As a volunteer mosquito monitor, you will play an important role in reporting mosquito counts, which will directly affect the ground and/or aerial spraying schedule. It's a one-of-a-kind program involving citizen volunteers and has won national acclaim

as being unique in playing an important role in the mosquito control effort. To volunteer, call 890-3791 no later than Friday, March 30, and leave your name, address and telephone number. You can also submit this information via e-mail to [gallagher@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:gallagher@yorkcounty.gov). Volunteers will be notified of the two hour training session being conducted in mid-April.

Biological Larvicide (a.k.a. Mosquito Dunks) is being offered again this year to our citizens for use in mosquito breeding environments such as unused swimming pools or backyard ornamental ponds. The dunks are being offered complimentary as long as supplies last. One two-dunk pack is available per household and cannot be picked up for a neighbor. Stop by the Waste Management Center office located at 145 Goodwin Neck Road and pick up your free dunks. If more are needed, they can be purchased at local hardware stores, garden centers, and home improvement stores.

Mosquito fish have been shown to be extremely helpful in stopping mosquitoes before they take flight. These fish eat mosquito larvae. To obtain fish for free, call 890-3791 and leave your name, address, telephone number, and dimensions (length and width) of your unused pool or ornamental garden(s). Fish deliveries will not be made until early June. Residents will be notified several days prior to delivery.



The "Mosquito Spray Hotline" will be activated on Monday, May 14, and spraying will only be conducted as per the mosquito situation. Spraying is dependent upon the amount of rain received in the spring and the presence of standing water in the woodland pools for mosquito breeding. Every day after 3 p.m., the hotline will be updated with information about when and where spraying will be conducted, weather permitting.

To report a mosquito concern, call 890-3790 or provide it on the county's Mosquito Control website at [www.yorkcounty.gov/eds](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/eds).

## 2011 State Income Tax Filing Deadline is May 1

York County residents can file their 2011 Virginia Individual Income Tax Return and 2012 Estimated Vouchers with the Commissioner of the Revenue's office. All payments must be made payable to "Treasurer, County of York."

I-File is no longer available through the Department of Taxation. Instead, individuals may e-File their return. It's fast, easy and secure. Plus, you can electronically prepare and file both your federal and state taxes at the same time. For more information and to view participating providers, please visit the Department of Taxation website at [www.tax.virginia.gov](http://www.tax.virginia.gov). The Virginia Department of Taxation and the York County Commissioner of the Revenue do not endorse any tax filing product.

For forms, assistance or additional information, York County residents can call 890-3381; e-mail [revofc@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:revofc@yorkcounty.gov), visit the office located in the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard, in historic Yorktown; or visit our website at [www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue) or the Department of Taxation's website at [www.tax.virginia.gov](http://www.tax.virginia.gov).

Returns can be mailed to: Ann H. Thomas, Commissioner of the Revenue, P.O. Box 90, Yorktown, VA 23690-0090.

## 2012-2013 YOUTH COMMISSION

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NEEDED FOR  
2012-2013 YOUTH COMMISSION!

Applications due by  
March 7, 2012



- Represent youth issues to County Supervisors
- Participate in community service projects
- Learn about County government
- Sponsor countywide high school social events
- Build leadership skills, team building, and much more!

or download forms online from the Youth  
Commission's Website:

[www.ycyc.info](http://www.ycyc.info)

Forms are also available at the following locations:

- York County Parks & Recreation
- Yorktown & Tabb Libraries
- Williamsburg/James City County Libraries

Call 757.890.3500 for more information!

Sponsored by: York County Board of Supervisors and  
York County Youth Commission