



## **York Business Improvement Zone wins state award**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Though it's only been up and running for a few months, York County's new Business Improvement Zone has already won a state award.

The York BIZ program won a Community Economic Development Award from the Virginia Economic Developers Association last Friday. The award is given to those programs and initiatives that demonstrate best practices and exceptional contributions to their communities.

"This award is recognition that we have an excellent business assistance program in place," said Economic Development Director Jim Noel. "It really gives merit to our program and validates our business retention and expansion efforts."

"The CEDA program is designed to recognize outstanding communities in the Commonwealth for their efforts in advancing the economic viability of their community through economic and development programs," according to the group's Web site.

York BIZ is a new outreach program designed to guide current and potential business owners through the ins and outs of development and doing business in York County. It serves as a one-stop shop for county businesses, catering to all of their business assistance needs.

The program includes many elements, including: a new Web portal that contains a comprehensive list of valuable resources, forms and contacts for new and expanding county businesses; monthly roundtable meetings with staff from the Office of Economic Development, a Board of Supervisors representative and York County Chamber of Commerce officers to discuss current business concerns and ideas; and a new Development Facilitator position within the Environmental and Development Services Department tasked with facilitating the planning, permitting and inspection process for local business owners and developers.

"The main focus of the program is to assist our existing businesses," Noel said. "This award is good for York County because it recognizes that this is a good community for business. And since this is a state award, this may assist us in attracting other businesses to the region."

York County was one of only three localities to win a CEDA this year. For more information about the award, visit [www.goveda.org](http://www.goveda.org). For more about York BIZ, visit [www.yesyorkcounty.com](http://www.yesyorkcounty.com) and click on the York BIZ logo in the right hand column.