



County wins an impressive seven NACO Achievement Awards

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As part the ongoing effort to provide low cost, high quality services to its citizens, York County routinely encourages employees to think creatively and develop programs that will enable the county to work more efficiently and effectively.

This year, the county is pleased to have been recognized for those efforts with an outstanding seven Achievement Awards granted by the National Association of Counties for various county programs and initiatives.

“It is quite an honor to be recognized on the national level for programs that county staff has created and implemented,” said County Administrator James O. McReynolds. “County employees work very hard to serve the citizens of York, and these awards are recognition of a job well done.”

The National Association of Counties’ Achievement Awards recognize innovative county government programs, and are divided into various program categories. The following are programs that won Achievement Awards this year:

Putting History on the Right Track

In 2007, York County’s Museum on Main officially opened in a building on Main Street that had previously housed the Fifes and Drums of York Town. Upon completion of their new building, the corps left the Main Street location, which allowed the Historical Museum to use the space on the village’s main thoroughfare. While items remain on exhibit in York Hall, the Museum on Main has become an additional location for displaying highly significant historical artifacts. Since opening, the Museum on Main receives more than double the number of visitors that the York Hall location sees. The Museum on Main is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m., April through September, and at other times for special exhibits and events.

Digital Check/Payment Package Search Program

Last year, York County’s Accounts Payable Supervisor devised a system in which paperwork regarding payment of any account was scanned and stored on the county’s network system. This Digital Check/Payment Package Lookup Application replaced the county’s cumbersome process for retrieving information about paid invoices, which involved multiple steps and was too complex. The new method of record keeping permits individual departments or agencies to search for a record of payment, and eliminates paper waste and storage needs. Search fields of the document imaging system are updated electronically and save time, improve accuracy and increase the number of searchable fields. This system also recently won a Virginia Government Finance Officers’ Association award for Innovation in Government Finance, and has been featured in the GFOA’s Treasury Management Newsletter.

Davenport Kits: Immediate Medical Care for Jellyfish Envenomations

With no official local, regional, or state medical protocol for assisting victims of jellyfish stings, the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety took the initiative to assemble a

Jellyfish Envenomation kit. The kit consists of common household ingredients that, when mixed together, form a paste that can be applied to the area of the sting and removed with a tongue depressor. The patient is observed for signs of allergic reaction and, if none is found, the individual can enjoy the remainder of the day at the beach.

The Taking Care of Our Own Benefits Seminar

This program provided information to firefighters and their families about the importance of survivor planning. The Department of Fire & Life Safety teamed up with the York County Professional Firefighters' Association and presented the program to prepare firefighters for an unforeseen event. This five-hour seminar included presenters knowledgeable with survivor planning: an attorney specializing in line-of-duty death benefits, the Commonwealth of Virginia's Line of Duty Coordinator, the mother of a firefighter killed in the line of duty, and a representative of a foundation that provides pro-bono survivor planning services to firefighters. Following these presentations, participants were provided with the Survivor Benefits Information Packet – a sixteen page confidential document developed to benefit the department and the firefighter and his/her family. Once completed, the documents are returned to the department and kept on file. Annual reviews and updates (if necessary) are completed by the firefighters.

Yorktown Beach Monitoring

The Department of General Services devised a method of monitoring erosion and migration of sand at the Yorktown waterfront by routinely recording sand loss or gain over time. Using sophisticated monitoring equipment, the beach was divided into 22 segments for surveying purposes. After measuring elevations of the beach area, the information was plotted on the computer. Two surveys are performed each year with sand replenishment performed where necessary. In addition to maintaining the beach, the program can assist with future storm recovery by providing detailed loss information following a hurricane or other severe storm.

York Business Improvement Zone (BIZ)

The BIZ (Business Improvement Zone) is a new and comprehensive outreach program developed by the York County Office of Economic Development in cooperation with the County's Department of Environmental & Development Services. This one-stop-shop provides all the information and resources a new or existing business owner needs to succeed, thrive and grow. The program consists of many elements including a new Web page with a list of resources, forms and contacts; an expanded business visitation program; roundtable meetings with county staff/representatives from local business organizations; and a new York County Development Facilitator who explains and facilitates the planning, permitting, and inspection processes for local businesses.

Disc Golf Course Scores a Hole in One

After receiving an offer from the citizen's group to design, construct and maintain a Disc Golf Course at New Quarter Park, staff of York County Parks and Recreation (of the Department of Community Services) researched the feasibility of having the course available at New Quarter Park. After completing the study, the county enthusiastically embarked on a partnership with the citizen's group and the result was the Disc Golf Course. Since it opened, the course has made a substantial impact on revenues received by the park. Total revenues have increased 300 percent, with 92 percent of total revenues generated from the Disc Golf Course.

For more information on these award winning programs, contact the York County Public Information Office at 757-890-3300.

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