

FREE AND FUN IN YORKTOWN

No-cost events and admissions available to York County residents

Load the kids into the car and head to Yorktown throughout the year for a wide variety of concerts, markets, museums, and more, and all of it is FREE.

First up, a number of free concerts for your listening enjoyment, including:

Cabin Fever -

Shake off those winter blues and join your neighbors at this concert series in the Freight Shed at Riverwalk Landing. These Thursday concerts continue into March and feature some of the area's hottest bands.



Sounds of Summer -

Showcasing acts playing beach favorites, Motown, disco, funk, R&B, pop, and more.



We have added four concerts bringing the number of free weeks of music to 12! All you need to bring is a blanket and/or lawn chairs for seating and a cooler with your favorite snacks.

Celebrate Yorktown Committee's Summer Concerts -

Late in the afternoon on Sundays in July and August, visit the historic Grace Episcopal Church and enjoy toe-tappin' tunes performed in the churchyard. It's a beautiful location to enjoy fabulous music.



Virginia Symphony Orchestra -

Each year on Labor Day weekend at the waterfront the symphony concert closes out the summer.



Featuring a pre-concert performance by the Fifes and Drums of York Town, this event includes a just-for-fun blue ribbon picnic basket contest! Sponsored by the Celebrate Yorktown Committee, York County, York County Arts Commission, and several others.

Next, if shopping makes you smile, come to **Market Days!** Beginning mid-April and continuing every Saturday through the end of October (with a few exceptions), the market features meats and seafood, breads, produce, fresh herbs, jams and jellies, and a variety of artists displaying their work. Don't miss the themed markets with extended hours and children's activities. There is no admission cost for the markets and, if it rains, we move everything to the first level of the parking garage. Market Days is a great place to find ingredients for your favorite meal or artwork for your home.



Free Fun, continued on page 7

York County Public Information Office
 P.O. Box 532
 Yorktown VA 23690-0532

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 YORKTOWN VA 23690
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTIONS

This list features a sampling of items that were considered by the Board of Supervisors since the November 2018 meeting. Additional information about these and other Board actions is available at www.yorkcounty.gov/bos.

NOVEMBER 20, 2018

- Authorized procurement arrangements for construction services to widen the Cook Road paved shoulder. The road will be widened from the northernmost intersection of Cook and Surrender Road to Ballard Street, and then from Ballard Street to the Colonial Parkway entrance at Five Points. The shoulder will be wide enough to provide added safety to pedestrians, joggers, and bicycle riders.

DECEMBER 4, 2018

- This meeting was a joint work session with the School Board. Presentations were made by both county and school staff on their respective Strategic Plans, the Capital Improvements Program, and the positive results of the recent audit. A main focus of the School Division presentations was the investment in improved safety and security with a focus on school entrances. No actions were taken at this meeting.

DECEMBER 18, 2018

- Approved certain actions necessary for the Greensprings Drainage Project, a stream restoration that will stabilize a highly erodible stream. The County was awarded \$375,000 in State Local Assistance Fund Grant money from the Department of Environmental Quality. The contract for construction services was approved at the February 5, 2019 meeting.
- Authorized an expansion of a previously approved Special Use Permit for European Cars of Williamsburg. This action item also required the rezoning of a parcel of land adjacent to the business that would allow for the needed expansion as the dealership has outgrown its space since it opened 15 years ago.

JANUARY 2, 2019

- The first meeting each year is the Board's organizational meeting. Thomas G. Shepperd (District 5) was elected Chairman and W. Chad Green (District 3) was elected Vice Chairman for 2019. The Board will continue to meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m. in York Hall unless otherwise advertised. Board meetings are broadcast live on WYCG-TV and are available to watch via live streaming at www.yorkcounty.gov/tv.

JANUARY 16, 2019

- Authorized an agreement with the Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority for curbside recycling services. Please see related articles on pages 9 and 12.

FEBRUARY 5, 2019

- The Board of Supervisors received a presentation on the proposed Capital Improvements Program. Presentation slides are available at www.yorkcounty.gov/bos, select "Meetings," and then "Presentations to the Board."

CONTACT YOUR BOARD MEMBER

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CITIZEN NEWS | YORK COUNTY, VIRGINIA SPRING 2019

"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, call (757) 890-3300, or email publicaffairs@yorkcounty.gov.

County Administrator Neil Morgan
Public Affairs Manager Paula Hersh
Public Information Officer Gail L. Whittaker

DATES & DEADLINES TO KEEP IN MIND

The County is currently working to develop the **Fiscal Year 2020 Budget (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)**. There are several opportunities for the public to comment on the budget.

1. Attend the Budget Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 16, at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of York Hall (Main Street).
2. Email your comments to bos@yorkcounty.gov.
3. Leave a recorded message on the Budget Call-In Line - (757) 890-3220.

When you send the email or leave a voice mail, be sure to include your name and address so that your comments can be included in the official record. For more information, visit www.yorkcounty.gov/budget.

Residents/business owners are able to retrieve and file several important forms from the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office. The following have a filing deadline of **April 1:**

- 2019 Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled application for Real Estate and Mobile Home Owners
- Veterans with 100 percent Service-Related Disability application or re-validation form for real estate tax exemption

Forms and supporting items may be submitted at <http://www.yorkcounty.gov/upload>. Be sure to complete and save your application first! For more information, please visit www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue or call (757) 890-3381.

Tide Chart

WHAT'S ON THE RISE IN YORK COUNTY

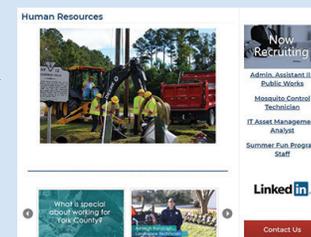
A RISING TIDE LIFTS ALL BOATS

Did someone say "Boatlifts?" Located on Back Creek in Seaford, Mills Marina has new owners - Pamela & Curt Lang. With renovations to the ship's store and maintenance facility underway, a grand opening celebration is planned for this spring! Boat launch and slips are open now. Curt is an experienced boat mechanic, so he plans to offer repair services. Also on the horizon...ice cream and other small items for the non-boating locals too.



NEW LOOK FOR HUMAN RESOURCES WEBSITE

Considering a career change or just starting one, check out our new York County HR website. Updated with a new look and easy to navigate areas, the site contains current job openings along with information on all the benefits we offer. See what we are *Recruiting Now* with featured postings and watch *Employee Stories* to learn why working for the citizens of York County is a solid choice. www.yorkcounty.gov/employment



CHARTING THE COURSE TO 2040

Stay up-to-date with the York County Comprehensive Plan process and Steering Committee, read our Ship's Blog, and discover opportunities to get involved. See related article on page 10.

ATTENTION Current 8th - 11th Grade Students!
Represent your peers by serving on next year's

York County Youth Commission (YCYC)

Develop Leadership Skills • Meet Community Leaders • Student Surveys
 Town Hall Meetings • Learn about Local & State Government • and more!!

**2019-2020 YCYC Application
 & letter of recommendation
 Due March 12, 2019**



Open to York County residents in public, private or homeschool.

For questions, details or application download:
 757.890.3500 • www.ycyc.info

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

FROM THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Celebrating Our BEST IN BUSINESS

Two outstanding companies earn County, Chamber awards



Corbin Wood (center), COO of Snow Companies, accepts the "Poor Potter" Award from EDA chairman Rick Moberg (left) and OED director Jim Noel.

L. D'Shawn Wright (right), owner of Body by D Gym, accepts the Small Business of the Year Award from Chamber president Chris Davidson.

York County recognizes high-achieving businesses throughout the year, but especially at our annual Distinguished Business Affair. Held February 6 at the Freight Shed at Riverwalk Landing, this year's event honored two companies who exemplify the County's commitment to excellence.

2019 William Rogers "Poor Potter" Award: Snow Companies

Given by the York County Economic Development Authority for the year's most significant economic development activity.

Snow Companies is a full-service health marketing agency widely regarded as the leading pioneer in patient engagement. Offering everything from creative services to Patient Ambassadors®, the company grew by more than a third last year, employing 330 people. The award was named after William Rogers, a highly successful entrepreneur from the 1700s who is, ironically, known as the "Poor Potter" of Yorktown.

2019 Small Business of the Year: Body by D Gym & Fitness Center

Given by the York County Chamber of Commerce for success & community engagement.

Body by D is a full-service gym and fitness center offering personal training, nutritional counseling, competition prep, and tanning. The company prides itself on providing an energetic, positive, respectful, family-friendly environment. Its staff gives back through fundraising for charities, mentoring local youths, and more.

YORK COUNTY'S HOME-BASED BUSINESS

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HBB Conference: New Date, Bigger Venue, More Localities

If you own (or are considering) a home-based business, you don't want to miss this year's Home-Based Business Conference. Originally a York County initiative, it has now grown into a regional event—we'll be joined by HBBs from Williamsburg, James City County, Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson and Gloucester.

4th Annual Conference
FRIDAY, APRIL 12
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Peninsula Workforce Development Center
600 Butler Farm Road,
Hampton, VA 23666

Tickets \$22.50–\$30
depending on membership

Purchase tickets at:
HBBConference.com

This unique event features conference sessions and specialty breakout tracks focused on topics relevant to all stages and types of home-based businesses, including traditional, franchise, and direct & network marketing. You will also discover local resources for your business from among over 20 exhibitors.

Each ticket includes breakfast, lunch and snacks. You'll also have the opportunity to have an excellent professional head shot taken for only \$20.

Space is limited, so register today at
HBBConference.com

UP TO
\$3 OFF
TICKETS
when purchased
by March 16!

By The Numbers

12

Concerts scheduled for the Sounds of Summer Concert Series, compared to eight last year. Four more weeks of music!

1,123

Medicaid Expansion enrollees in York County and Poquoson. Assisting in the effort is York-Poquoson Social Services.

14,500

People receiving at least one of the County's e-notify email lists.

NEXT CERT SESSION FILLING UP FAST

Cheers to the residents who have already signed up for the upcoming CERT training class. As this newsletter went to print, there were only a few spaces left for the session beginning April 9. If you are interested in



enhancing your ability to cope in the event of a major disaster AND help your neighborhood recover, and are available for the upcoming session, jump online and see if spaces are still available. And keep your eyes open for the next session.

CERT is a network of individuals trained in basic emergency response and who can assist their families, neighbors, and community in both emergency and non-emergency situations. Various volunteer opportunities are available to members who want to further enhance the CERT program and/or to improve emergency preparedness

knowledge, skills, and abilities for others within our community.

CERT training is FREE and open to York County residents ages 18 and up, as well as those who work or worship in the County. The only cost to you is your time: six hours of online training; one night per week for seven weeks; and one Saturday for the final exercise and graduation. Students will be mailed a schedule with location of classes. Course topics include Hazardous Materials & Fire Suppression, Search & Rescue/Triage, Medical Operations, and Incident Command System.

Registration is online at www.yorkcounty.gov/fire, select "Emergency Management" and then "Volunteer." CERT is among other volunteer programs listed. Click on "CERT" and you're on your way! For more information, please call Annetta Perry, Fire and Life Safety Educator, at (757) 890-3606, or email your questions to norwooda@yorkcounty.gov.

YORK CO. PARTICIPATING IN TORNADO DRILL

York County Department of Fire and Life Safety personnel will be participating in the statewide tornado drill on Tuesday, March 19, at 9:45

a.m. For many years, the staff and students of the York



County School Division have participated in the drill and will do so again this year. As in previous years, personnel from Fire and Life Safety will be on-site assisting and observing the activities.

If you have children attending York County schools, ask them about the drill that evening. What did they learn? What preparedness actions can you take in your own home? What is the safest spot in your home to seek cover in case of a tornado?

But, this drill is not only for our schools. In fact, everyone should practice taking cover from tornadoes. Last September, eight tornadoes were confirmed to have impacted the Richmond area. So, it is important that we all know what to do in case a tornado warning is issued.

According to Fire Chief Stephen Kopczynski, "NOAA Weather Radios are the best way of getting tornado warnings. When a tornado warning is issued, the radio alerts by sounding an alarm or flashing a light followed by information on where the storm is, which way it's moving, and informing people in its path to take cover."

For information on the tornado drill and how to register your family, business, school, or agency, visit www.vaemergency.gov.



Now enrolling eligible children ages 3-5 for the 2019 – 2020 School Year including children with disabilities!

Program Locations:

Bethel Manor Elementary School

Griffin-Yeates Center

Yorktown Elementary School

Program Features:

- Monday-Friday Classes
- Quality Preschool Program
- Free Nutritious Meals
- Family Support and Education Services
- Limited Transportation is Available at the Griffin-Yeates Location



For more information, call (757) 890-3888
www.yorkcounty.gov/headstart

Free Fun, continued from page 1



If you live in York County and have not picked up your **Citizen Rewards** card, what're you waiting for? When presented at select businesses and attractions in historic Yorktown, this card gets you a discount on your purchase. To receive your card, visit

the Gallery at York Hall on Main Street or the County Administration Office on Ballard Street during regular business hours and bring your I.D. or utility bill. A list of discounts and program details are available online at www.yorkcounty.gov/publicaffairs.

And finally, those history buffs among us will love free admission to the **American Revolution Museum at Yorktown**. This multi-media museum explores the American Revolution and features costumed interpreters on a recreated 18th century farm and a Continental Army encampment. You can spend a full day at this museum. But be sure to plug your ears at 3 p.m. during the daily artillery demonstration! www.historyisfun.org



The **Colonial National Historical Park** offers fee-free days during the year. For the remainder of 2019, those days are: April 20 (start of National Park Week), August 25 (National Park Service anniversary), September 28 (National Public Lands Day), and November 11 (Veterans Day). Tour the Yorktown Battlefield and the Visitor Center, watch the orientation film, marvel at the exhibits including General Washington's Campaign Tents! This is a must-do for history fans. www.nps.gov/colo/index.htm



Members of the military can enjoy the **Watermen's Museum** at no charge. The museum tells the story of the Chesapeake Bay Watermen, from pre-colonial to modern times, and their role in shaping not only our region, but the nation. www.watermens.org

With all these free offers and discounts around town, you need a way to get around. Our free **Yorktown Trolley** travels throughout the village. The air-conditioned trolley is handicapped accessible and a great alternative to driving from one parking lot to another.

Be sure to check out www.VisitYorktown.org for the trolley map and upcoming events.

SPECIAL THEMED MARKETS

APR 20	Sister Cities French Market	10 AM - 3 PM
APR 27	Pirate Invasion Market	8 AM - 3 PM
MAY 11	Wellness Market	8 AM - 3 PM
OCT 12	Fall Festival	8 AM - 3 PM
OCT 19	Yorktown Day	8 AM - 3 PM
OCT 26	Paws at the River	9 AM - 3 PM
NOV 16	Harvest Festival	9 AM - 3 PM
DEC 14	Toyland Market & Parade	9 AM - 3 PM



Presented by York County & Riverwalk Landing
www.YORKTOWNMARKETDAYS.com
 Rain or Shine! Weather Hotline: 757.890.3520



CLASS DEMONSTRATIONS
 AREA HEALTH PROVIDERS
 ENTERTAINMENT
 HEALTHY COOKING DEMOS

Yorktown
**WELLNESS
 MARKET**

MAY 11, 2019
8 AM to 3 PM
 At Riverwalk Landing

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY

The Alzheimer's Association Southeastern Virginia Chapter will present a four-part **Alzheimer's Community Education Series** beginning in April. *Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia* will be the topic on Tuesday, April 16, at 2 p.m. at the Yorktown Library. On Thursday, May 9, at 1 p.m., the Tabb Library hosts *Dementia Conversations*, offering tips on how to have honest and caring conversations with family members. For more information or to register, please visit www.yorkcounty.gov/library.

Food for Fines returns this spring - April 7-21. Bring non-perishable food items to the Tabb or Yorktown Library to pay your fines. One food item will pay one fine, regardless of the amount! Bring as many food items as you have overdue books, DVDs, or CDs. The Food for Fines program does not apply to charges for lost or damaged items.

The **Mastering Your Garden Series**, sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension and your Library, continues this spring. Registration is encouraged, but not required. Register through the library's Events Calendar.

- *Tools of the Trade* - Saturday, March 23, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., at the Yorktown Library. Learn how to sharpen and care for your garden tools.
- *Gardening in Small Spaces* - Saturday, April 13, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Tabb Library. Learn how intensive gardening techniques can transform your small garden into a success.
- *Planting for Pollinators* - Saturday, May 11, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Library. Learn how simple choices can help transform your yard/garden into a habitat teeming with beneficial insects.



Honeybees are attracted to Marigolds.

The **DMV Connect** portable customer service center is scheduled to visit the Yorktown Library meeting room from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17. DMV Connect is equipped to process all DMV transactions except vital records and testing.

For more information on library programs, contact the Tabb Library at (757) 890-5120, or Yorktown Library at (757) 890-5207, visit our website - www.yorkcounty.gov/library, or like us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/yorkcountypubliclibrary.

REGISTRATION BEGINS FEBRUARY 11th

Summer Fun

COMPLETED GRADES K-7

MONDAY-THURSDAY • 7:30am-5:30pm • 5 WEEKS

Summer Fun Camp Dates: June 24th-July 25th

Field Trip Fever

COMPLETED GRADES 2-7

FTF I: Fridays • 7:30am-5:30pm • June 28th, July 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th

FTF II: Monday - Friday • 7:30am-5:30pm • July 29th - August 2nd

757.890.3500

www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec



LEADERS L.I.T. IN TRAINING

*Be the Change You Want
to See in the World...*

Calling all Teens Ages 14-16!

LIMITED SPACE • FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE • FIELD TRIPS, INCENTIVES & MORE!

York County Parks & Recreation invites you to become a leader in your community by assisting with our Summer Fun Camp and Field Trip Fever Program. Learn useful job skills, develop your leadership skills, and receive training such as first aid, CPR, etc. Fee covers uniform shirts, a summer social, field trip fees, incentives, and training costs.

If you are creative, outgoing, and like to have a great time with children, please apply today! Participants will have volunteer log sheets to earn incentives. This program helps provide volunteer hours for school or scholarships, all while having fun. We are flexible with schedules; students indicate their availability.

Register online with application fee of \$25 to receive an application packet which is due no later than April 12. Interviews will be held on April 20 or 27.

The balance fee of \$125 is due June 1. Non-Residents pay an additional \$25.

Register online: www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec

TRAINING JUNE 8TH

757.890.3500

www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec



WASTE MANAGEMENT WANTS YOU TO KNOW....

RECYCLING RATES INCREASING NATIONWIDE AND IN YORK COUNTY

You may have heard that the recycling industry is experiencing major changes, which are affecting the entire nation, including York County and its neighboring jurisdictions. Last year, strict new policies were enforced by China, lowering contamination thresholds to an unattainable level by current industry standards. As a result, the entire US recycling market is in the process of making changes to educate the public to



“recycle right” to reduce contamination. In addition, the market is reevaluating the costs associated with the expansion of domestic recycling programs.

In addition to the national changes we are experiencing, York County is in the final year of a five-year contract for curbside recycling (the contract expires in June). Through a competitive bid process, TFC Recycling was selected as our new contractor.

Because of these adjustments being made both locally and nationally, we must increase the monthly fees to our citizens to cover operational costs for solid waste services. These changes will enable the County to continue to provide valuable

services to our citizens, while ensuring that solid waste fees are spent responsibly and appropriately.

At the time this publication went to print, staff is still evaluating a fee structure that fully funds the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund and provides our citizens the following options:

- Solid Waste and Recycling - curbside and drop-off programs
- Curbside Solid Waste Collection only
- Curbside Recycling Collection only
- Extra Containers
- Private Lane/Long Lane Collections
- Back Yard Service
- Large Yard Debris Collections
- Reduced Fees for Low Income
- Household Hazardous Waste Collections
- Bulk Collections

Additional changes to the program will include accepted/not accepted items, as well as a return of the popular “Recycle Perks” rewards program! Please continue to visit our website for updates as we work to finalize program details -

www.yorkcounty.gov/wastemanagement.

Please read County Administrator Neil Morgan’s article on page 12 about the upcoming changes.

2,000 STORM DEBRIS COLLECTIONS COMPLETED



Did You Know: The debris collection truck holds 24 cubic yards of vegetative debris.

It was a Herculean task, but we have completed the collection of storm debris left from Tropical Storm Michael. The County’s Waste Management Center received 900 scheduled collection requests, but staff completed an additional 1,100 *unscheduled* requests, for a grand total of 2,000 debris collections by the end of the clean-up period! And this cleanup period coincided with leaf collection, resulting in a major feat for our staff to accomplish. Most of the debris collected will be composted at the VPPSA Compost Facility. As a reminder, you may carry yard/storm debris to the VPPSA Compost Facility, located at 145 Goodwin Neck Road, for free.

MOSQUITO CONTROL: TIP & TOSS ALL YEAR



Yuck! This dirty bird bath makes us want to stay far away, but it’s a paradise for mosquitoes. Be sure to empty items like this year round!

By now, we all know that standing water is the preferred breeding environment for mosquitoes. Even in the winter, it is important to prevent mosquito habitats from forming and we can do this by emptying birdbaths, shaking off tarps, and eliminating any other standing water in your yard.

Since we often don’t think about mosquitoes in the colder weather, Mosquito Control has a suggestion: set up a weekly reminder on your phone, tablet or computer to check for any outdoor items, toys, or yard decor that might hold water. Mosquitoes are tricky and they find water where we might not think to look. So, be sure to check carefully.

As always, Mosquito Control is here to help you. Our well-trained staff can even conduct yard inspections in the winter. Please call our office to schedule an inspection at (757) 890-3790.

Yorktown

UPCOMING EVENTS



SISTER CITIES FRENCH MARKET
April 20 | Saturday | 10 AM - 3 PM, FREE



PIRATES INVADE YORKTOWN
April 27 & 28 | Sat. & Sun. | 10 AM - 5 PM, FREE



BLUES, BREWS & BBQ FESTIVAL
May 4 | Saturday | 12 - 6 PM, \$



ART AT THE RIVER JURIED ART SHOW
May 5 | Sunday | 10 AM - 4 PM, FREE

WWW.VISITYORKTOWN.ORG

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW UPDATE



The Comprehensive Plan Review Steering Committee is a group of residents and County staffers formed to oversee the review of the Comprehensive Plan - the document that sets forth the County's development for the next 20 years. Over the next several months, the Committee will be reaching out to you - the citizens of York County - to gather your input/opinions about York County in 2040. What would you like to see...more mixed-use developments? Additional recreational facilities? The opinions we receive will help determine the direction of the Comprehensive Plan!

The Committee has met and received presentations from County staff, discussed a phone survey that will begin shortly (and may include YOU if your number is pulled for contacting...in other words, please answer your phone), and additional outreach opportunities. Be on the lookout for a schedule of public meetings where your ideas can be heard. Also, if you attend one of our free events this year (Market Days, Summer Concert Series), you may see Committee members chatting about the Comprehensive Plan. If you do, please stop by and say "hi" and meet your neighbors serving on the Committee.

In the meantime, please visit the website www.York2040.com for information about Committee members, to view previous Comprehensive Plans, and to read the ongoing blog that will be updated throughout the review process. You never know...there might be a video or two for your viewing enjoyment and a survey to complete. While you're on the site, please register to receive subscription notifications for all things Comprehensive Plan-related.



Please call the Department of Planning and Development Services at (757) 890-3404 if you wish to discuss the process or share your ideas.

Thanks for your interest in York County's future!

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION: SAVE THESE DATES!

HEALTHY VIRGINIA LAWNS PROGRAM

Sign up now for our Spring Healthy Virginia Lawns program with visits beginning in March! This program is designed to assist York County and Poquoson residents with taking care of their lawns in an economic and environmentally sound manner. For \$20, York-Poquoson Master Gardeners will visit your site, measure your yard, take a soil sample, and provide customized feedback. To register for this program, call the Extension Office at (757) 890-4940.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services, or other accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact the York/Poquoson Extension Office at (757) 890-4940/TDD* during business hours of 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations five days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.

JUNIOR 4-H SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Registration for 4-H Summer Camp (August 5-9 at Jamestown 4-H Center) begins Saturday, March 9, at 9 a.m. and is online only. Cost to attend camp is \$305 and includes transportation to and from the Jamestown 4-H Center. Visit www.yorkcounty.gov/vce and sign up to receive information about this camp and other 4-H programs.



YORK-POQUOSON MASTER GARDENER LEARNING GARDEN SPRING PLANT SALE

Join us at this popular plant sale on Saturday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the York Learning Garden, 301 Goodwin Neck Road (adjacent to the Public Safety Building). Annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, and Yorktown Onions will be available at this plant sale. Wagons or carts are welcome, but we do provide a holding area where you can place plants while you continue to shop. For more information, call (757) 890-4940.



YORK-POQUOSON MASTER GARDENER HELP DESK

Got weeds, bugs, or plant disease issues? Give us a call at (757) 890-4940, Monday through Wednesday, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., so that we can help you get the answers you need! Helpful information is available online at www.yorkcounty.gov/vce.

REGISTER FOR JUNE PRIMARIES

Elections will be held this November for the General Assembly and many local offices. Any primaries for Democratic or Republican nominations for these offices will be held on June 11, with voting hours from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The deadline to register to vote for the June 11 primary - or to update your address or other registration information - is Monday, May 20. Applications to vote are available online at www.yorkcounty.gov/voting.

For complete voting information, including how to vote absentee, I.D. required to vote, and more, please call the Registrar's Office at (757) 890-3440 or send an email to registrar@yorkcounty.gov.

2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the popular educational program for rising Kindergartners. Safety Town teaches these children about Bus Safety, Playground Safety, Bicycle Safety, and more. To receive Safety Town reminders and program updates, sign up for an email subscription at www.yorkcounty.gov (select "How Do I" and then "Sign Up For Email Notifications.")



York County-Poquoson Office, 100 County Drive, P.O. Box 532, Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0532

Telephone: (757) 890-4940

Website: www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

One More Thing

COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABILITY

By Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator



We have succeeded in identifying a new contractor that will allow you to continue to recycle exactly the same way.

More than two decades ago, York County, along with many other Virginia localities, began providing recycling services in conjunction with regular trash pick-up. To promote the effort, the Commonwealth of Virginia incentivized local recycling by requiring that a percentage of the solid waste stream be recycled rather than sent to the landfill as part of its environmental regulatory framework. That approach, along with a more earth-friendly population and the growing commitment to sustainability, has made recycling programs a success. It has reduced the waste stream going into our landfills, lowered the cost of regular garbage removal, and created markets for recycled materials that didn't exist previously. It has, on balance, been good for the environment and the cost of solid waste services.

But after a number of years of very favorable market conditions for many of the items the County encourages you to recycle, the nationwide market for certain kinds of plastic, mixed paper, and glass has dropped drastically. This means that if we want to continue to recycle in a meaningful way here in York County, the new contractor we are hiring this spring through a regional consortium will have to charge substantially more than what we are paying now. Rates will return to the level they were around here a decade ago.

The good news is that we can continue to recycle and through VPPSA, we have succeeded in identifying a new contractor that will allow you to continue to recycle exactly the same way. The contractor, TFC, is well known in Hampton Roads and had a good reputation when they previously operated in York County.

We are still working to come up with final calculations for the necessary rate increase for the Board of Supervisors to consider during the budget process. As an order of magnitude, we believe the final solid waste fee increase will be in the range of \$7.00 per month. We will provide a recycling opt-out option, but we hope most citizens stay committed to sustainability and choose to continue recycling. You can stay informed about this topic as we go through the change in contractor and pricing by following the budget process.