



Citizen News

Yorktown, Virginia

Vol. 36, No. 2

Summer 2015

Lafayette's *Hermione* Voyage 2015

June 5-7

Yorktown's
Riverwalk Landing

www.hermioneyorktown.com

Photo courtesy of Association Hermione-La Fayette

Neil Morgan new County Administrator



The York County Board of Supervisors has selected Neil Morgan as the County Administrator.

Mr. Morgan most recently served as Senior COTA Fellow with Virginia Tech. Prior to that position, he served as Newport News City Manager from 2010 to 2013, after having been employed by the City since 1986. While with Newport News, he worked as Project Coordinator and then Assistant Director of the city's department of Planning and Development. These posts were followed by his appointment as Assistant City Manager and Deputy City Manager. Mr. Morgan's first day with York County is June 15.

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

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Board of Supervisors Actions

March 3, 2014

- Authorized an agreement for the county's financial contribution in support of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown. The county will contribute \$1 million over 10 years beginning in FY2016.
- Authorized the Interim County Administrator to execute a contract for a compensation study for all county staff positions. The contract was awarded to Evergreen Solutions in the amount of \$58,600.

March 17, 2014

- Authorized the continuation of the Emergency Home Repair Program and the acceptance of any grant funds awarded to the county by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.
- Authorized the acceptance of funding and continuation of the Housing Choice Voucher Program funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Virginia Housing Authority.

April 7, 2015

- Approved a contract for food and beverage concession services at the York County Sports Complex. S and C Vendors, LLC, will provide the county with 12.5 percent of its gross revenues for the food and beverage concessions at the Sports Complex each month.

April 21, 2015

- Authorized the Interim County Administrator to execute a lease between the county and Yorktown Sailing Charters, LLC, for the lease of docking space at the Riverwalk Landing T-Pier for the masted vessels *Alliance* and *Serenity* for passenger excursions.
- Approved the renaming of the York County Sports Complex to the "James O. McReynolds Sports Complex" in memory of former County Administrator James O. "Mac" McReynolds who died suddenly October 19, 2014.
- Appointed Neil Morgan as County Administrator. (Please see article on page 1.)

May 5, 2015

- Adopted the Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016) Operating Budget. The personal property tax rate for calendar year 2015 remains \$4.00 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The real estate tax rate for calendar year 2015 remains \$0.7515 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The total budget is \$133.4 million with \$51.2 million of that amount being provided for Education and Educational Services.

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

•Colonial Behavioral Health

Dr. Baljit Gill

•Historic Triangle Bicycle Advisory Committee

Elaine Cardwell

If you are interested in serving on a Board, Committee, or Commission, please complete a Board Bank Application available on-line (under Board of Supervisors) or by calling 890-3320.

Vol. 36 No. 2

Citizen News
York County, Virginia

Summer 2015

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 890-3310, or email piofc@yorkcounty.gov.

Interim County Administrator.....J. Mark Carter
Public Information Coordinator.....Gail L. Whittaker

Taxes Due June 25

Citizens should receive their Personal Property and Real Estate tax bills for the first half of 2015 during the last week of May. The tax bills are due on or before June 25, 2015. Taxes are considered late on June 26 and penalty and interest, which are calculated separately on each item, will be assessed. If you do not receive your bill by June 1, you can find your tax information online (see website address below and choose "Online Services"). Since York County prorates personal property taxes, citizens are taxed for the actual number of months the property was owned for the first half of 2015.

Taxes and vehicle registration fees may be paid by mail or online at the Treasurer's website (see website address below and choose "Online Services"). Taxes may also be paid at the Treasurer's Office, or deposited in the Treasurer's drop box at the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard, Yorktown.

The Treasurer's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more tax payment information, visit our website at www.yorkcounty.gov/treasurer or call 890-3420.

Head Start Preschool Enrollment Fair



York County Head Start is currently recruiting Eligible 3, 4 and 5 year old children-including those with Disabilities- for the 2015-2016 school year.



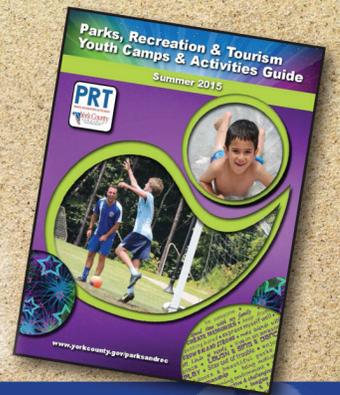
For more information on this **FREE** preschool program call 890-3888.

Space is limited – sign up early!

For eligibility determination please bring your family's income verification (2014 W-2, 1040 tax form (2014), TANF/SSI statement, pay stubs), Your child's Original Birth Certificate, Updated/Signed Immunization Records And Proof of your Family's Residency (Lease, Utility Bill, or Driver's License).

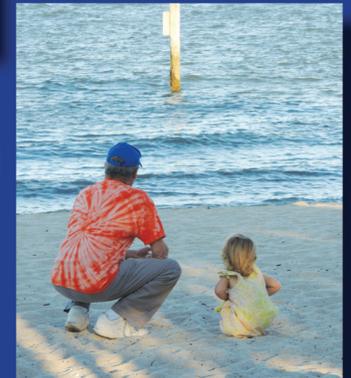
The Head Start program does not discriminate in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

FEEL THE SPIRIT OF YORK COUNTY THIS SUMMER!



SPECIAL EVENTS

RELAXATION



RECREATION

www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec

757.890.3500



follow us on
twitter



Local Business Report

by Melissa Davidson, Sr. Business Development Representative, York County Office of Economic Development

Phone - 890-3317

Email - econdev@yorkcounty.gov Web - www.yesyorkcounty.com

BUSINESS HEADLINES

- **Kroger to Open New Store in Former Kmart Space in Kiln Creek Corridor**
- **Wayne Harbin Builder Named Custom Builder of the Year by Southern Living Magazine**
- **Sam's Club Purchases Land for a New Store at the Marquis**
- **Aaron's Inc. Opens for Business**

Visit www.YesYorkCounty.com for full stories.

York EDA Launches Rt. 17 Construction Mitigation Efforts

York County staff and officials know that the construction and ensuing traffic associated with the widening of Route 17 can cause significant business disruptions and losses for many of the companies located in the corridor. We are committed to assisting with the mitigation of this impact. The programs and efforts listed below have been implemented to help those in the affected area.

Construction Information Email List: The EDA is compiling an email list of all Route 17 business owners/managers who would like to receive updates on the construction process and related news and events. To sign up, visit www.YesYorkCounty.com and click on the Newsletter Sign up link at the bottom of the home page. Choose the Route 17 list to begin receiving the updates.

Construction | Disruption | Mitigation Seminar & Private Consultations: On Monday, April 20, the EDA

hosted an informative seminar where attendees learned tips and best practices from retail/restaurant expert Marc Willson on how to not just survive, but to thrive during road construction. Mr. Willson delivered targeted, relevant guidance that business owners and managers could put to use immediately. A limited number of one-on-one, on-site, comprehensive business assessments with Marc Willson were also available. The EDA plans to bring Mr. Willson back again in October to host another related seminar.

"Citizen News" Advertisement: The Office of Economic Development (OED) will place a series of ads in the county's "Citizen News" quarterly publication to encourage citizens to support the Route 17 businesses and to inform affected businesses about the OED's assistance programs.

Temporary Signage: York County allows all businesses in the affected area to display a temporary sign, in accordance with the size limitations set forth in the Temporary Sign Ordinance, for up to 120 days per year. The OED strongly encourages all businesses in the affected area to take advantage of this opportunity. A permit must be obtained for the sign and all guidelines regulating the size, colors, location, etc. must be followed. Questions about temporary signage should be directed to the Zoning Office at (757) 890-3523. Free temporary sign permits can be obtained in the Building Regulation Office, 103 Service Drive. (757) 890-3522. The permit application can be found at www.yorkcounty.gov/buildingregulation.

Please see **Economic Development**, continued on page 8





302 Dare Rd., Yorktown, VA 23692 • (757) 898-0300 • yorkcountyschools.org

FY16 Operating Budget Update

Tune into Cox Channel 47 or Verizon Channel 39 for the latest news, programs and events from the York County School Division on YCSD TV-47.

The York County School Division is in the process of developing the FY16 Operating Budget. Division Superintendent Victor Shandor, Ed.D. has identified three top priority areas of focus this year: staff compensation, transportation and technology.

The division and the school board have consistently protected the classroom while making tough budget decisions over the last six years. Recognizing that the division cannot address six years of reductions in one year, Dr. Shandor and the school board will approach the budget development process to gradually move the division where it needs to be in each of the identified priority areas.

Updates on the FY16 Operating Budget process can be located on the YCSD website at 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 23, 7 p.m., York Hall
- Approval of School Board Proposed Budget, March 23

Dark Side of the Internet Parent Seminars

Overwhelmed by Apps, Cyberbullying, Social Networking and Digital Devices?

The York County PTA and the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office are hosting Digital Safety parent seminars at several York County schools in February. Guest speakers from the FBI, NCIS and local agencies will provide information to help parents navigate the dilemmas presented by the digital world our kids inhabit.

We hope you can join us at one of the remaining events.

Child care will be provided by the PTSA at each location.

YORKCOUNTYSCHOOLS.ORG

YCSD 2015 CALENDAR

February

2 Report Cards Issued
16 Presidents' Day Holiday
27 Early Dismissal

March

5 Interim Reports Issued

April

3 Early Dismissal
6-10 Spring Break
13 Fourth Quarter Begins
16 Report Cards Issued

May

8 Early Dismissal
14 Interim Reports Issued
25 Memorial Day Holiday

STUDENT HOTLINE

(757) 890-1096

WEB WARS

THE DARK SIDE
OF THE INTERNET

Bruton High
Tuesday,
February 17
6:30 p.m.

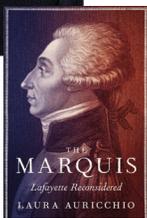
Yorktown Middle
Tuesday,
February 24
6:30 p.m.

Tabb Middle
Thursday,
February 26
6:30 p.m.

What's Happening @ Your Library

The York County Public Library **2015 Digital Photography Contest** is accepting submissions through May 29. The contest is open to amateur photographers, except employees of the Library and their immediate families. Entrants will be divided into two age categories - teens ages 13-17 and adults age 18 and older. Participants may submit two photographs. Entries must be photographed in York County, VA. The first, second and third place winners in each category will be awarded \$75, \$50, and \$25, respectively. The competition application and rules are available on the library's website, www.yorkcounty.gov/library. This contest is made possible through the generous support of the York County Arts Commission.

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles' **DMV2Go** mobile customer service center is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yorktown Library. DMV2Go is a full service office-on-wheels equipped to process all DMV transactions including applying for or renewing driver's licenses and ID cards, obtaining vehicle titles and license plates, ordering disabled parking placards or plates, applying for a Veteran's ID card, and more.



Author **Laura Auricchio** (pictured) will speak on Saturday, June 6, at 10 a.m. at York Hall as part of the *Hermione Voyage 2015* events in Yorktown. She will discuss her book "The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered." This event is free and open to the public. Books will be available for purchase. Auricchio is a specialist in 18th century French history and art. She is currently Dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies at The New School for Public Engagement in New York City.

The Yorktown Library is hosting an **exhibit and a series of lectures on the Marquis de Lafayette, the 18th century frigate *Hermione*, and the French**

involvement in the American Revolution. On May 21, at 2 p.m., Ron Lewis from the Mariners' Museum will talk about Lafayette's trip to America, as well as the *Hermione's* involvement in the French naval blockade in 1781. Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation representative, Ed Ayres, will speak on May 28 at 7 p.m. about Lafayette's military leadership in Virginia before the 1781 victory. The *Lafayette/Hermione* exhibit, featuring a scale model of the *Hermione*, runs through May 31.

Graham J. Flowers, author of "Shadow Trails," will be the guest speaker at the June 30 meeting of the Yorktown Book Club. Until his recent retirement, Flowers taught U.S. Government, American History, World History, Geography, World Cultures and Civics at the high school level. He also taught a chess class at the College of William and Mary where he received his bachelor's degree. Flowers was the first quadriplegic to graduate from William and Mary. He holds a Master of Arts degree from George Washington University and an Educational Specialist degree in Curriculum Development from Old Dominion University. He resides in Yorktown. The book club meets from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Yorktown Library. This event is free and open to the public.

Children, teens and adults are invited to participate in the library's **summer reading programs** from June 21 through August 1. Registration begins Monday, June 15, at both the Tabb and Yorktown Libraries and online. A list of programs and activities will be available at registration and on the library's website.

For more information on library programs, call the Tabb Library at 890-5120 or Yorktown Library at 890-5207. Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/yorkcountypubliclibrary. Visit the Tabb Library at 100 Long Green Boulevard, Yorktown, VA 23693, or the Yorktown Library at 8500 George Washington Memorial Highway, Yorktown, VA 23692. Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Watch WYCG-TV 24 hours a day for what's new and what's happening in York County. Meetings of the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission are televised live. These meetings are also available both live and on demand on the county's website: www.yorkcounty.gov.

June 9 Republican Primary

On Tuesday, June 9, a Republican Primary will be held to select nominees for Clerk of the York-Poquoson Circuit Court and members of the Board of Supervisors for District 1 and District 3. All polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A sample ballot is available on the York County Registrar's website, www.yorkcounty.gov/voting.

Through a service provided by the Virginia State Board of Elections, you are now able to check your registration status online. Go to our website at www.yorkcounty.gov/voting and select "Verify Your Voter Registration Here." Complete the requested information and the information will be displayed. This also allows you to find out where you vote.

For more information, call the Registrar's Office at 890-3440, fax to 890-3449, or send an email to registrar@yorkcounty.gov.

Absentee Voting - You may be able to vote absentee if you are going to be out of town or otherwise not available to go to your polling place on June 9.

To obtain an absentee ballot, you must complete an absentee ballot application and return it in person, by mail, by fax, or by scanning it in and then emailing it to registrar@yorkcounty.gov. Applications may be obtained by contacting the Registrar's office. Applications are also available online by visiting www.yorkcounty.gov/voting and selecting "Absentee Voting" along the left side of the screen. The mailing address is **General Registrar, P.O. Box 451, Yorktown, VA 23690.**

The deadline to apply by mail, fax, or by email is Tuesday, June 2, at 5 p.m. The deadline to apply in person is Saturday, June 6, at 5 p.m. The Registrar's office will be open Saturday, June 6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to accommodate voters. The Registrar's office is located at 224 Ballard Street in historic Yorktown.

November 3 Local Election - On Tuesday, November 3, York County voters will go to the polls to choose members of the General Assembly, their representative on the Board of Supervisors and School Board, and a Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sheriff, Treasurer, Commissioner of the Revenue, Commonwealth's Attorney, and two members of the Colonial District of the Soil and Water Board. All polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A sample ballot will be available on the York County Registrar's website by September 21, 2015.

Yorktown 2015 UPCOMING EVENTS



MARKET DAYS

Weekly through
September 26
Saturdays

(excludes June 6 & July 4)

9am - 1pm, FREE
Riverwalk Landing



"SHAGGING ON THE RIVERWALK" BEACH MUSIC SERIES

June 11, 18 & 25,
July 9, 16, 23 & 30

Thursdays,
6:30pm - 9:30pm, FREE
Riverwalk Landing



MILITARY BAND CONCERT SERIES

August 4, 11, 18 & 25

Tuesdays
6:30pm - 8pm, FREE
Riverwalk Landing



VIRGINIA SYMPHONY

September 5th

Saturday
7:30pm, FREE

Pre-concert starts at 6pm
Riverwalk Landing

WWW.VISITYORKTOWN.ORG

Economic Development, continued from page 4

Displaced Freestanding Signage: Many freestanding business signs have been displaced to make way for installation of utilities, stormwater pipes or other elements of the road widening project. If the construction work necessitates removal of a sign, the business may erect/install an interim replacement sign to provide identification during the term of the construction project. The same maximum area and maximum height standards applicable to the normally-allowed permanent freestanding business sign would apply to the interim sign. A sign permit application must be completed to document what is being proposed; however, the fee associated with permanent signs will not be assessed. If, after the roadway construction is completed, the business wishes to convert the interim sign to its permanent freestanding sign, the sign permit fee will be due and other requirements will need to be addressed (setbacks, landscaping, etc.). For information concerning signage opportunities and alternatives, please contact the Zoning Office at (757) 890-3523.

Keep It In York County Website Promotion: The OED maintains a Buy Local website - www.KeepItInYorkCounty.com - where all commercially-based businesses are listed. The site allows businesses to enhance their listings for free by adding coupons, upcoming events, photos and more. The county encourages all businesses in the construction zone to ensure their listing is up-to-date and to continue to add events and coupons to the site to encourage repeat visitors. The OED will be heavily marketing the site, via advertisements, billboards, "Citizen News," and more over the next two years to increase exposure for local businesses.

Keep It In York County Email Notification: The OED has compiled an email database of over 3,000 local businesses and will be updating it this spring. Monthly Buy Local e-newsletters featuring several businesses, events, and coupons from Route 17 businesses will be sent out to increase exposure. To submit coupons and upcoming events, email information to econdev@yorkcounty.gov.

E-Commerce Grant Program: Diversification and increased online presence may help to mitigate the negative effects of the construction on local businesses. A retail store may decide to begin selling online; increased traffic may cause a restaurant to offer online/call-ahead ordering to reduce wait times, etc. To encourage these types of initiatives, the OED is offering website development/enhancement matching grants up to \$500 (\$1,000 for SWAM-certified companies). Applications and details can be found online at www.YesYorkCounty.com.

York County's "Buy Local" Purchasing Policy: The county's internal purchasing policy already encourages county staff to "Think Local First" when making individual and departmental buying decisions. A memo will be distributed on behalf of the Board of Supervisors reminding staff of this "Buy Local" effort and encouraging employees to support the affected businesses whenever possible.

Construction-Related Emergency Contacts: E.V. Williams and VDOT have established contacts to which you can report construction-related emergencies. If construction crews are working in the general vicinity of your business and you experience an emergency that is directly related to the widening project, such as disruptions in utility service, please contact:

- VDOT Carlos Rivera - Head Project Inspector (757) 234-5687; Carlos.Rivera@VDOT.Virginia.gov
- EVW Chris Morris - Project Superintendent (757) 374-4382; Chris.Morris@evwilliams.com

CONTACT US

If you or anyone you know is interested in establishing, expanding or relocating a business in York County, or if you have ideas to help improve the county's business environment, please contact us. Don't forget to visit our website at www.YesYorkCounty.com.

Do you file a Schedule C or C-EZ?

If you answered yes, you are considered engaged in business. If Line E on this form indicates that your business is located at a York County address or is left blank (which indicates the address on your tax return is your business location), it is presumed that your business is operating in York County and you need to obtain a business license.

In addition to obtaining a business license, you are required to file a Tax Return of Business Tangible Personal Property, Machinery & Tools on all your business furniture, tools, and equipment owned, used or leased as of January 1, 2015. For information, call the Commissioner of the Revenue at 890-3383 or visit www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue.

York County Waste Management Center

Queens Lake Middle School Students Study Energy

"That was the best field trip I've ever had!" That is exactly what many students told 6th grade Queens Lake Middle School teachers Karen LeMaire and Sue O'Hare. They did not go to Kings Dominion or Busch Gardens; in fact, they never left the campus. Students were given a tour of the school's "attic," a section of their school they had probably never thought about or even knew existed. Geothermal energy is what heats and cools the school. Upstairs, above the classrooms, sits a system of pipes and intake valves that take water from 60 feet underneath the school yard



Doug Meade from the school board office speaks to the students about types of energy.

and heats it in order to regulate the temperature throughout the building. Doug Meade and Hale Herndon, both from the York County School Board office, visited the students to explain how using geothermal energy

has cut down on the cost of electricity, thereby saving the county money.

Ms. LeMaire and Ms. O'Hare are part of a York County School Division transformative project based learning cohort formed to bring real world projects and problem solving skills into the classroom. They chose to study alternative energy. Instead of reporting on facts about different forms of energy, students were asked "big questions" that required a deeper understanding of energy and of the state of Virginia and the Hampton Roads region. Beyond reporting on statistics and definitions, students considered driving questions such as "Is this form of energy viable for Hampton Roads? Why or why not?"

Ms. LeMaire and Ms. O'Hare collaborated with Kelli Katz, Queens Lake Middle School Media Specialist, and students spent a couple of weeks in the library researching wind, solar, hydroelectric, tidal, geothermal, biomass, and

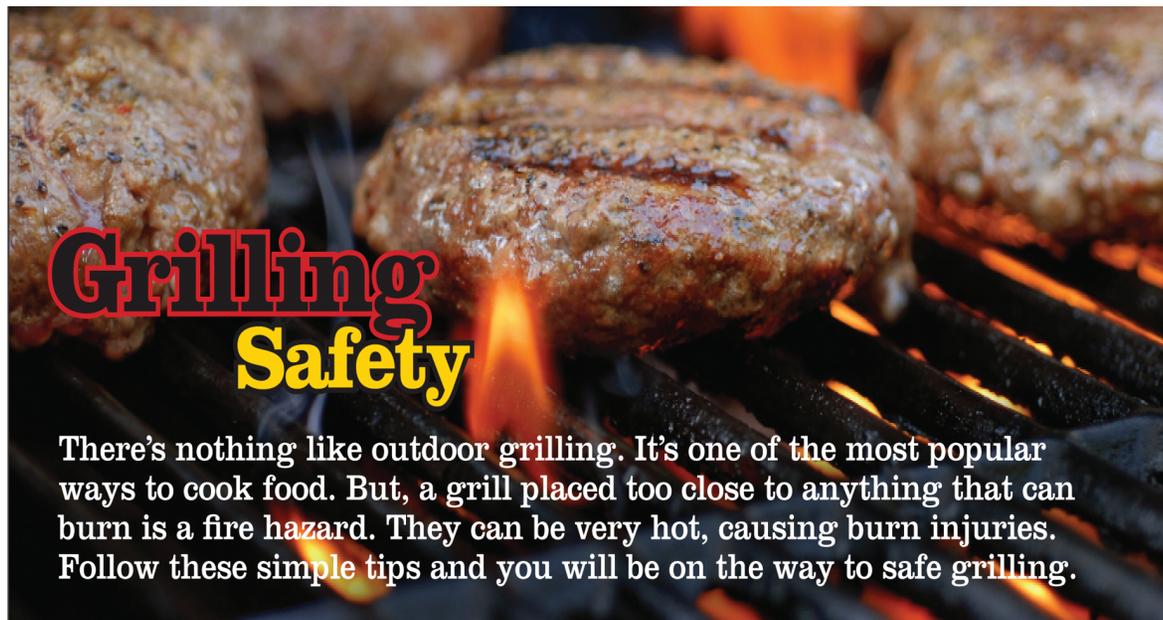
nuclear energies. Students accessed library databases and websites such as ProCon.org and many websites from the U.S. Department of Energy, such as the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the U.S. Energy Information Administration.



Students Faith Llanos, Anya Spara, and Tori Moyer are researching their topic, Solar Energy, in the library.

In addition to researching how different forms of energy are produced, harnessed and used, students researched supporting data to answer their "driving question." Students studying wind power needed to look at wind velocity maps for Virginia from the WINDExchange website disseminated by the U.S. Department of Energy. Students studying geothermal energy learned about such tools as GPS maps, while students studying hydroelectric energy came to the conclusion that our lack of fast-flowing rivers excludes the use of hydroelectric energy due to its lack of cost-effectiveness.

At the conclusion of the project, students were armed with enough data to answer real world questions. Students came away with an understanding of the importance of the need to study environmentally sound, renewable forms of energy and that geography, politics and climate are all part of the "big question."



Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

SAFETY TIPS

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.
- » Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- » There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- » If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- » Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- » There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- » When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame **goes out**, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **15 minutes** before re-lighting it.

FACTS

- ! July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ! Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



www.nfpa.org/education

Preparedness Tax Free Weekends

Be prepared for hurricane and flash flood season, which arrives June



1, by taking advantage of Virginia's Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday. Purchase emergency supplies and equipment tax free May 25-31 and August 7-9. Now, before the storms hit, is the time to prepare.

Save on batteries, flashlights, bottled water and other storm essentials priced \$60 or less. You can also purchase larger items, such as chain saws priced at \$350 or less and generators at \$1,000 or less, tax free.

For a complete list of rules and guidelines, visit www.tax.virginia.gov and search for "hurricane sales tax holiday."

If you do not already own a NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio (NWR), take this opportunity to visit a local electronics retailer and pick one up. A NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) will alert you only of weather and other emergencies for the localities that you have programmed into the radio. NWR receivers without the SAME capability are alerted for emergencies anywhere within the coverage area of the transmitter. These radios can save your life by alerting you of impending emergencies that can occur while you are sleeping or when your electric power is out.

For more information on emergency preparedness, go to www.ReadyVirginia.gov.



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

www.ext.vt.edu



York County-Poquoson Office, 100 County Drive, P.O. Box 532, Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0532
(757) 890-4940/Fax 890-4033; Email: ex199@vt.edu; Websites: www.yorkcounty.gov/vce; www.ext.vt.edu

Telephone: 890-4940

Fax: 890-4033

Email: ex199@vt.edu

Web: www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

Upcoming Camps

The following camps are coming up this year at the Jamestown 4-H Center:

- **Jammin' on the James Water Camp - May 29-31**
- **Summer Cloverbud - July 11-12**
- **District Teen Camp - August 23-25**
- **Fall Cloverbud - October 24-25**
- **Science Camp 2015 - November 6-8**

Visit www.yorkcounty.gov/vce for more information about these camps.

Master Gardener Plant Sale

The York County/Poquoson Extension Master Gardeners will hold a plant sale on Saturday, September 26, from 8 a.m. to noon, at the Learning Garden located at 968 Poquoson Avenue in Poquoson (beside the Poquoson Museum). 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.

Fall Fescue Lawn Clinics

Do you know that you will have to renovate the lawn this fall? Did you know that fall is the best season to renovate a fescue lawn? A calendar of renovation clinics will be released soon. Incorporating organic matter, rake level, and seed selection will be discussed in the lawn renovation program. All classes are held from 10 a.m. to noon. Dates TBD. Clinic locations are:

- Grafton True Value Hardware, Route 17
- Ken Matthews Garden Center, Route 17
- Taylor's Do-It Center, Wythe Creek Road (Poquoson)

Sign up for Fall Smart Turf Visits



Applications are being accepted for fall Smart Turf visits. Smart Turf is a new program in York County and the City of Poquoson in which Master Gardeners will come measure your lawn, take soil samples, and provide customized results for your particular needs.

The cost of the program is \$20. Visits occur on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are interested in signing up for a visit this fall, please call the Extension Office at 890-4940.

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.

2015 Mosquito Season Update

Mosquito season is here! Mosquito borne viruses such as Chikungunya and Dengue Fever made big headlines last summer. The Virginia Department of Health reported 75 cases of Malaria in 2013 and the summer of 2014 brought the first locally transmitted cases of Chikungunya virus in the United States. Mosquito control operations are critical to keeping mosquito borne diseases like these under control. York County Mosquito Control offers many services to our citizens to keep them safe and comfortable. For information on our services, please visit www.yorkcounty.gov/mosquito-control. To stay informed of special events and important announcements, please subscribe to our email notification list. To subscribe, visit www.yorkcounty.gov, select "Online Services," and then "Subscribe to Notifications." Once on that subscription page, complete your contact information and select "Mosquito Control Information."

June 21-27 is National Mosquito Control Awareness week! Mosquito Control staff have events planned all week that focus on public outreach and education. Please visit our website for a full schedule of events.

When necessary, ground spray services to control adult mosquitoes will be performed. Adulticide applications will occur between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 a.m., Monday through Thursday. Citizens may opt out of ground spray services by completing a citizen "Mosquito Spray Avoidance Request," which can be found on our website at www.yorkcounty.gov/mosquito-control.

[yorkcounty.gov/mosquito-control](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/mosquito-control). The website and mosquito spray hotline - 890-3793 - will be updated daily, Monday through Friday, by 3 p.m., and will detail the areas that will be sprayed. In the event an aerial spray is scheduled, citizens will be notified using the spray hotline and our website.

BEEKEEPERS - We want to know about you! If you are a beekeeper, please call 890-3790 to report the location of your hives.

Mosquito Control staff works diligently to keep our citizens safe and comfortable, but we need your help at home! Here is what you can do to help the mosquito control effort:

- Don't forget your pets. Mosquitoes are responsible for spreading the dog heartworm virus and eastern equine encephalitis. Please have your pets treated for ticks and mosquitoes.
- Wear long, loose, and light colored clothing along with an insect repellent.
- Clean roof gutters and downspout screens regularly.
- Remove all sources of standing water in your yard including old tires, buckets, drums, bottles and any other containers that hold water on your property.
- For more information, call Mosquito Control at 890-3790.

Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act, Business Taxes

The *Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act* exempts active duty military personnel from personal property tax in any state other than their legal state of residence. Therefore, vehicles titled in an active duty non-resident military person's name(s) will be exempt as long as each owner annually furnishes a Leave & Earnings Statement (LES) for the period of time they reside in York County. All vehicles owned by military individuals who claim Virginia as their legal state of residence are subject to personal property tax, regardless of where the vehicle is physically located. Once military personnel separate from active duty status or retire and stay in York County, each owner must provide a copy of their Form DD214. Vehicle(s) will be subject to a prorated tax.

Spouses of military servicemembers may be eligible to be tax exempt on personal property in their names or titled jointly with their servicemember-spouse based on certain

qualifying conditions provided in the federal "Military Spouses Residency Relief Act." To apply for this exemption, contact the Commissioner of the Revenue's office at 890-3381 for information and application.

Businesses that are required to file and pay the monthly **Consumer Use Tax (Food & Beverage Tax), Transient Occupancy Tax (Room Tax) and the \$2.00 Nightly Room Tax** are now offered the online filing option through the county's newly revamped website. Log on to www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue, select "E-Commissioner Online" on the left side of the screen and select the appropriate form from the provided list. Monthly forms will no longer be mailed.

For assistance, please call 890-3383 or email revofc@yorkcounty.gov.