

In debating new tax cuts, the General Assembly must not repeat history

REMEMBER THE “NO CAR TAX” movement in Virginia in the 1990s? In case you don’t recall, perhaps these quotations will jog your memory...

“The state is not in a position to make the localities whole. That’s not opposing. That’s being realistic.”

- State Senator Hunter Andrews,
Washington Post, 12/8/1996

“The local government groups cited tax data suggesting that Gilmore failed to account for inflation, population and other growth factors last month when he announced his plan, under which the state would reimburse localities for the property taxes they no longer would collect.”

- Spencer S. Hsu
Washington Post, 6/24/1997

“Everyone was hoodwinked by the initial phaseout of the car tax... On a very superficial level, the idea of getting rid of the car tax was a great idea. It was a good political opportunity. But on a policy level, on an implementation level, it’s been a disaster for the state of Virginia.”

- State Senator Kenneth W. Stolle,
Washington Post, 4/25/2004

During the battle over the Car Tax and the subsequent fallout in the late nineties and early 2000s, the General Assembly and Governor Jim Gilmore passed a law that phased-in the exemption of the first \$20,000 in car value from local personal property taxes. The Governor and legislators pledged to “hold harmless” local budgets and replace the lost Car Tax revenue “dollar for dollar.”

The problem was that there was no certainty that the Commonwealth could afford to repay localities “dollar for dollar” for their lost Car Tax revenue. But that didn’t stop the “No Car Tax” campaign pledge from becoming law; it was passed overwhelmingly by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Gilmore in 1998.

Just six years later, Gilmore’s gubernatorial term had ended, and reality had caught up to the General Assembly and Virginia’ local governments. The local budget deficits caused by 1998’s “No Car Tax” law forced the General Assembly to vote to increase taxes in 2004 and freeze the “hold harmless” payments to local governments.

Why does this matter now? Time for another quotation:

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

- George Santayana

In the current fight over the size of tax cuts, particularly the campaign slogan inspired “No Grocery Tax” legislation being bandied about, legislators need to keep the lessons of the “No Car Tax” era in mind.

Because, one day in the future, perhaps not even the too distant future, the Commonwealth will be faced with an economic downturn and declining revenues. When that day comes, Virginia’s leaders will be forced to make the hard choice to either cut the grocery tax repayments to localities, cut public services, borrow money, or raise taxes.

In the current fight over the size of tax cuts, legislators need to start asking themselves – where do I see myself in six years?

“What has changed... is the identification that the promises made were pure fiction... Now people understand the unadulterated, pure facts.”

- State Senator Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Washington Post, 4/25/2004

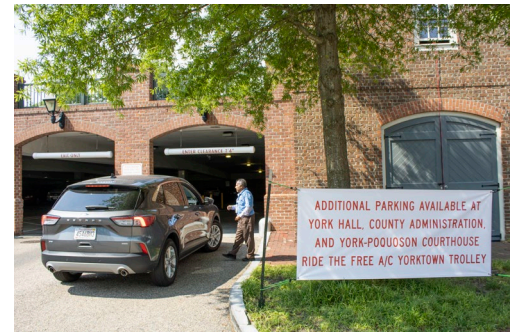




May 20, 2022

Lower Level of Parking Terrace Partially Open; Visitors May Park Throughout Town and Ride Free Yorktown Trolley

Earlier this week, York County officials closed the upper level of the Riverwalk Landing parking terrace due to the discovery of a crack in a support beam. County staff completed temporary repairs that allow much of the lower level, including handicapped parking, to be open for visitors. However, the electric car chargers located in the parking terrace are not available to the public. Officials anticipate use of the parking terrace will be restricted for at least 90 days. Waterfront ambassadors are stationed at the facility to help direct visitors to alternative parking sites. Public lots are available throughout the historic and waterfront areas—all adjacent to Yorktown Trolley stops. The free Trolley – accessible and air-conditioned – makes several stops throughout town, including the waterfront and local attractions (see the [Trolley map here](#)). Riders are encouraged to download to their phones the Spot ETA app for real-time trolley tracking and stops.



Sounds of Summer Concert Series Lineup Announced!

Yorktown’s free concert series returns June 2 with the Uptown Band. Concerts are held at the waterfront from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Concerts are every Thursday (except July 7) through August 11 and feature some of the hottest bands in the region! Come out and claim your spot on the grass in front of the performance stage. Bring blankets or lawn chairs for seating and don’t forget your cooler. Yorktown restaurants offer carry-out and food truck options are available too. The complete listing of upcoming bands is available on the [Visit Yorktown website](#). So, put on your dancing shoes and plan to head on up to Yorktown on Thursdays this summer.



Outstanding Youth Award Winners Recognized at Board Meeting

Congratulations to Daniel Khalil, Kylie Calafiore, Shayla Dawson, and Justin Cooper on their selection as this year’s recipients of the Outstanding Youth Awards. The students were recognized at Tuesday’s (5/17) meeting of the Board of Supervisors and presented with a Board Resolution. Each receives a \$1,000 educational scholarship for their post high school education at a college, university or trade school. Visit the County’s [website](#) to read more about these award winners and to view their acceptance messages.

Tax Bills Have Been Mailed

You don't have to wait for the Post Office to deliver it – your e-bill is now available online. Be sure to [sign up here](#) for email notifications when bills are mailed and other important reminders from the Treasurer's Office. There are more details on the mailing, how to track your USPS mail, and pay your bill online on the [Treasurer's website](#). Payment is due June 25 (no interest or penalty occurs until after Monday, June 27).

York County Summer Job Opportunities Still Available

The County is currently hiring for the Parks and Recreation Summer Fun camps. These jobs are perfect for those home for summer break or just graduated from high school. Best of all...the hours are daytime only and NO weekends! These positions are offered in various locations and are not only rewarding financially, but offer a great resume building opportunity. There are also openings for part-time waterfront positions and even support to assist Visit Yorktown staff. All of these jobs offer a very competitive hourly rate and are eligible for a bonus at the end of the season. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please share the link to the online application: www.yorkcounty.gov/jobs.



The advertisement features a light blue background with a yellow sunburst on the left. It includes several images: a group of people at a camp, a person playing tennis, a person in a blue shirt and cap sitting at a table, and a person in an orange vest standing near a sign. The text reads: "Work & Have Fun!" in large green letters, followed by "Part-time", "Flexible Hours", and "Bonus Offered" in blue. A red button with white text says "Apply Here". The words "Beach Staff" are written in yellow script over the bottom right image.

Memorial Day Ceremony at York Hall May 30; County Offices Closed



The annual York County Memorial Day Ceremony begins at 12 p.m. on Monday, May 30, at the War Memorial located on the grounds of York Hall (301 Main Street). The ceremony honoring the men and women who gave all in defense of our nation features the Fifes and Drums of York Town, VFW Post 824 Color Guard, wreath-layings, and keynote speaker. This ceremony is open to the public and is sponsored by the York County Historical Committee. For more information about the ceremony, please call York County Parks and Recreation at 757-890-3500. In observance of the holiday, York County offices and courts will be closed. Garbage collections are not affected by the holiday, however recycling is delayed one day.

Summer Edition of *Citizen News Quarterly* Coming Soon

The County's quarterly newsletter is due out next week. This issue includes information about events, items of general interest, and the operations of your local government. Also inside, Parks and Recreation activities, important dates to remember, and more! [Sign up](#) for Citizen News subscription notifications and be among the first to know when a new issue is out.

Additional Notes for the Week...Registration is now open for **Clean the Bay Day** on Saturday, June 4. Details are available on the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation website](#). Registration is also open for **Safety Town** – York County’s award-winning program that teaches pre-kindergartners various safety lessons...back “in-person!” Visit the [Safety Town website](#) for session dates and to register.



York County Real Estate and Property Tax Bills Have Been Mailed

Payment due June 25

(no interest or penalty occurs until after Monday June 27)

View Your e-Bill Now and Pay Online

 **More Information and Sign up for Email Notification at**
www.yorkcounty.gov/treasurer



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