



Citizen News

Yorktown, Virginia

Vol. 37, No. 1

Spring 2016

FY2017 Budget: Public Participation Encouraged

Just before the holidays, County Administrator Neil Morgan was joined in the WYCG-TV studios by Deputy County Administrators Mark Carter and Vivian McGettigan to tape a program about the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget, its development, and the county's Capital Improvements Program. Clocking in at just over 45 minutes, the program is a full review of challenges the county and the Board of Supervisors are facing as they attempt to meet the needs of our citizens and businesses. The program is available at www.yorkcounty.gov under "News Headlines" on the main page.

"Among the challenges for York County, and indeed for many localities in the Commonwealth, is the lack of funding from the state," said County Administrator Neil Morgan. "The formula for K-12 education used by our legislators was changed due to the recession; unfortunately, even though the state's finances have improved, the funding formula has not been revised, resulting in far less dollars for education than before."

Mr. Morgan and School Division Superintendent Dr. Victor Shandor co-authored a statement regarding the status of education funding in Virginia. The statement

can be found at www.yorkcounty.gov under "News Headlines" on the main page.

"We urge you to get involved with the development of the budget and the use of your tax dollars, not just at the local level, but at the state level as well," Morgan added.

The Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017) budget development is currently in process. The Board of Supervisors has scheduled budget work sessions on March 1, March 22, April 5, April 12, April 26, and April 28. Work sessions begin at 6 p.m. and are held in the East Room of York Hall, 301 Main Street, Yorktown.

The County Administrator's proposed budget will be presented at the March 15 Board of Supervisors meeting in York Hall. A public hearing will be held on Thursday, April 21, at 7 p.m. in York Hall to gather public comment regarding the proposed budget. If you are unable to attend and would like to comment on the proposed budget, you may send an email to bos@yorkcounty.gov, call the Budget Comment Line at 890-3220, or mail your comments to Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 532, Yorktown, VA 23690-0532. Please include your name and address with your comments.

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

PRESORT STANDARD
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Board of Supervisors Actions

November 17, 2015

- Amended the York County Zoning Ordinance by removing the two-year term requirement for home occupations with non-resident employees. The two-year term limit was necessary when it was first established in 1992 as the county had no experience with non-resident employees in a home occupation. Since then, however, the county has had considerable experience with home occupations that have non-resident employees and there have been no reported complaints or problems.
- Authorized the replacement of video equipment for York Hall (\$219,625) and the purchase of two rescue trucks and two fire pumpers (\$2,509,058).

December 1, 2015

- Approved the renewal of the Library Management Services Agreement. In 2005, the county and the York County Library Board of Trustees entered into an agreement whereby the county would assume most of the management functions of the library. The ten-year agreement has been renewed for five years with an automatic renewal for five additional years unless either party elects to terminate the agreement.

December 15, 2015

- Approved a special use permit authorizing the establishment of a senior housing-independent living facility at 6300 Old Mooretown Road.
- Amended the York County Zoning Ordinance by removing the maximum allowable number of units per acre for senior housing-assisted living facilities.

January 5, 2016

- The Board held its organizational meeting during which the members elected Jeff Wassmer (District 4) as Chairman for 2016 and Sheila Noll (District 2) as Vice Chairman. The Board voted to continue its meeting schedule of the first and third Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. (with the exception of July and November when no meeting is held the first Tuesday). Meetings are held in York Hall, 300 Main Street. All meetings are televised live on WYCG-TV.

January 19, 2016

- Authorized license agreements for the placement of utilities and for vehicular and pedestrian access across properties on Bay Tree Beach Road. These license agreements are necessary to facilitate residential construction on adjacent properties.

Contact Your Board Member

District 1

Walter C. Zaremba
106 Royal Grant Drive
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(757) 890-3328 (voice mail)
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District 2

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District 4

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District 5

Thomas G. Shepperd Jr.
131 Chinquapin Orchard
Yorktown, VA 23693
(757) 890-3332 (voice mail)
shepperd@yorkcounty.gov

Board Appointments

●**Beautification Committee**

Jean Troutman

●**Board of Equalization**

Kenneth Mahan Michael Mapes

●**Employee Grievance Panel**

Thomas Chamberlain

●**Historical Committee**

Charles Patterson II

●**Wetlands Board**

Jill Bieri

Healthy Virginia Lawns

Formerly called Smart Turf, this program is again being offered to homeowners by Virginia Cooperative Extension-York/Poquoson. Healthy Virginia Lawns is designed to assist York and Poquoson residents with taking care of their lawn in an economic and environmentally sound manner. For \$20, York and Poquoson Master Gardeners will visit your site, measure your yard, take a soil sample, and provide customized feedback. If you would like to be added to our program list, please call the Extension Office at (757) 890-4940.



York County Head Start



Enrollment Information Fair FREE PRESCHOOL SERVICES

The York County Head Start Staff are currently Recruiting eligible **3, 4 and 5** year old children, **including those with disabilities**, for the 2016-2017 school year.

Head Start classrooms are located at the Griffin-Yeates Center, Bethel Manor Elementary, and Yorktown Elementary
**Limited transportation available at the Griffin-Yeates Center*

Family Services Staff will be conducting On-Site Recruitment on the following dates:

Charles Brown Park, 1950 Old Williamsburg Rd, Yorktown, VA 23690
March 3 - 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and March 15 - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Woods of York Apartments, 2801 Old Williamsburg Rd. 8A, Yorktown, VA 23690
March 22 - 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

York/Denbigh WIC Office, 606 Denbigh Blvd. Suite, 304, Newport News, VA 23608
March 31 - 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

For eligibility determination please bring your family's 2015 Income Verification (*W-2, 1040 tax form, TANF statement, 1 month of pay stubs*), and your child's Original Birth Certificate, updated/completed/signed Immunization Records. Please bring copies of current physical and dental exams and Proof of your Family's Residency in York County.

For more information, or assistance with completing the enrollment or health verifications, please call the Family Services staff at 890-3888.

Head Start 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.



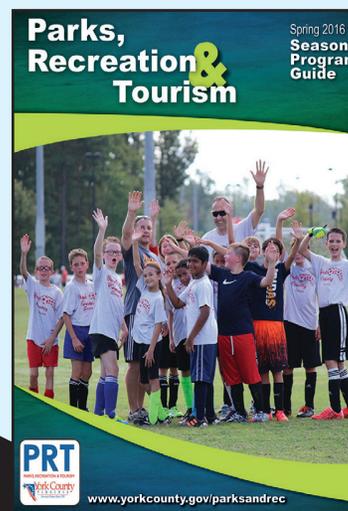
Parks, Recreation & Tourism



SPRING FEVER IS HERE!

Say goodbye to the winter blues! Our PRT seasonal program guide is full of information on activities and special events for you and your whole family. Enjoy the great outdoors by visiting one of York County's beautiful parks and don't forget to visit us **ONLINE** for information on what's happening in York County.

www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec
757.890.3500



Happenings!

- Fitness/Instructional Classes
 - Youth & Adult Tennis
 - Family Roller Skating
 - Parks & Boat Landings
 - Senior Center Activities
 - Yorktown Special Events
- ... and more!



Local Business Report

by Melissa Davidson, Assistant Director, York County Office of Economic Development

Phone - 890-3317 Email - econdev@yorkcounty.gov Web - www.yesyorkcounty.com

Business Headlines

- **New Baeplex Campus opens in Lightfoot**
- **Brass Cannon Brewing to expand near Alewerks in upper York County**
- **Musasi restaurant coming to Yorktown's Riverwalk Landing**

Visit www.YesYorkCounty.com for full stories.

Home-Based Business Resources & Upcoming Events

Last October, the York County Economic Development Authority (EDA) and the York County Chamber of Commerce co-hosted the area's first **Home-Based Business Resource Fair & Conference**. This informative event was a huge success with over 130 people in attendance, 23 exhibitors presenting various community resources, and over 20 speakers.

From this evening, a follow-on Lunch & Learn series was developed. We invite you to join us the **2nd Wednesday of each month (February through October) from noon to 1 p.m. for York County's Home-Based Business Lunch & Learn Series**, sponsored by the York County Economic Development Authority and hosted by the York County Chamber of Commerce and Launchpad: Greater Williamsburg Business Incubator. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy free drinks and desserts provided by the York County EDA. The monthly one-hour long sessions will focus on topics that conference attendees identified as "Things They Wish They'd Known Before Starting a Home-Based Business." Sessions will feature 15 minutes each of the following: a keynote speaker, Q&A, roundtable discussion, and networking. Monthly topics and speakers TBD.

In addition to these events, York County is focused on providing programs and services to our home-based business community. In fact, almost two-thirds of the business licenses in the county are home-based. Check out the **Home-Based Business resource page** at www.YesYorkCounty.com to learn about several other initiatives that can benefit your home-based business, such as **York County's E-Commerce Grant Program, Home-Based Business Transition Grant Program, and the NxLevel Scholarship Program.**

Business Retention Survey

Every two years, the York County Office of Economic Development sends out a Business Retention survey to a sample of over 850 businesses in the county. The purpose of the survey is to identify any needs or specific problems that may be impacting the success or possible expansion of businesses in York County and to gauge our current business climate. The 2016 survey was mailed this month and is available online.

York County appreciates what each of our businesses contributes in the way of jobs for our residents and revenue to our community. Your thoughts and concerns matter to us and we'd like to hear from you. We encourage all York County businesses that would like to participate to fill out the survey on our website at www.YesYorkCounty.com. If this is not an option and you have not received one in the mail, please call our office and we will be happy to send a copy to you. Survey results will be published online later this year.

New Food Truck Ordinance Approved by Board

A new food truck ordinance was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on January 16. Food trucks will now be permitted, on developed commercial or industrial property, with written permission from the property owner. Operators will have to comply with all state and local regulations and the private property must remain in compliance with all zoning standards. The ordinance is online at www.yorkcounty.gov/bos under the 2016 Agenda Archives.

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.



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

Weather-Related School Closings & Delays

Determining whether to close or delay school opening due to inclement weather is one of the most difficult and complex decisions a school division makes. The safety of students and staff is the first concern of the York County School Division when making decisions about school closings, delays or early dismissals.

Additional information has been added to the division website to help our community understand the York County School Division's process when severe weather conditions pose potential safety hazards for students and staff. We realize that there is no perfect decision for everyone, and we understand that changes to the school schedule impact our families. Parents and staff are encouraged to make advance plans and adjustments for potential school delays and closings. By working together, we can increase safety and minimize the disruptions caused by emergency closings.

Making the Decision

Members of the YCSD leadership team closely monitor forecasts from the National Weather Service as well as local and other national meteorologists.

Information gathered includes:

- The amount and type of forecasted precipitation
- Timing (start and stop) of precipitation
- Status of severe weather alerts (advisories, watches, warnings)

The YCSD road assessment team conducts a visual inspection to assess the following:

- Road (highway, primary and residential) and bus stop conditions
- School parking lot, sidewalk and bus loop conditions
- Facility conditions (power, HVAC, etc.)

Team members also confer with the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office, York County Fire & Life Safety Department and neighboring school divisions.

Announcing the Decision

As soon as a decision to adjust school operating hours is made, the information is

- posted on the division's website, YCSD-TV, Facebook and Twitter accounts;
- shared via the division's telephone and email notification system, which pushes messages to the parent contact information on file for each student; and
- provided to local television and radio stations, however the division cannot guarantee the broadcast or accuracy of closure announcements on these stations.

To receive phone and email notifications, schools must have each individual's up-to-date contact information. Parents should contact the appropriate school whenever contact information changes, while staff must notify the Human Resources department and update the MyInfo section on the division's intranet site.

Timing of the Decision

Whenever possible, morning decisions to close or delay school will be made no later than 5:30 a.m. Storm tracks can change at any time, significantly affecting the outcome in our area. For this reason, our administrators usually wait until early morning to base decisions on actual weather instead of a forecast.

In certain situations, the division is able to make scheduling decisions the day before inclement weather, e.g. when winter precipitation is already on the ground and nightly temperatures are already at- or below-freezing.

While the division tries to avoid unexpected early dismissals, there have been occasions in which it is unavoidable. In such an event, the division will give parents at least two hours' notice.

YORKCOUNTYSCHOOLS.ORG

FY17 Operating Budget

The York County School Division is in the process of developing the FY17 Operating Budget.

Updates on the FY17 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 22, 7 p.m., York Hall
- Approval of School Board Proposed Budget: March 28

2016 CALENDAR

February

- 5 Report Cards Issued
- 15 Presidents' Day Holiday
- 26 Early Dismissal

March

- 3 Interim Reports Issued

April

- 1 Early Dismissal
- 4-8 Spring Break
- 11 Fourth Quarter Begins
- 14 Report Cards Issued

May

- 13 Early Dismissal
- 19 Interim Reports Issued
- 30 Memorial Day Holiday

STUDENT HOTLINE

(757) 890-1096

What's Happening @ Your Library

Need Help?

- Downloading magazines, eBooks, or audiobooks
- Using the library catalog
- Rosetta Stone sign-up
- General computer help including Microsoft Office
- Setting up email
- Using library databases
- Job cover letter critiques
- Resume suggestions
- Finding and evaluating sources
- College application and scholarship essay drafts

Book-a-Librarian

Free one-on-one sessions with a staff member at the Tabb Library

Make your appointment through the library website, www.yorkcounty.gov/library.

Are you interested in joining the growing number of local beekeepers? If you answered yes, then sign up for the **Basic Beekeeping** course for adults offered by the Colonial Beekeepers Association and hosted by the Tabb Library. This five-session class covers beekeeping terms and equipment, honeybee biology, hive management, and colony products. The course consists of lectures and hands-on demonstrations with an emphasis on sustainable, chemical-free practices. The class meets from 6-9 p.m. on Thursdays - March, 17, 24 and 31, and April 7 - in the Tabb Library meeting room. For more information and to register, visit the "Latest News" link on the Colonial Beekeepers' website, www.colonialbeekeepers.com.

The Yorktown Library is hosting a **Writer's Workshop, Working with Fairy Tales: A Writer's Approach**, on Saturday, May 14, from 10 a.m. to noon. Presented by author Joslyn Robinson, the workshop will include a reading, analysis and interpretation of a traditional tale, "The Handless Maiden," collected by the Brother's Grimm, as well as a reading of an original fairy tale, "The Red Scarf," written by Ms. Robinson, to illustrate the writer's process of working with fairy tale content. Registration begins April 14 through the event calendar on the Library's website, www.yorkcounty.gov/library.

Are you an author who lives in the area and wants to share your published works with your neighbors? Then apply now to join us for the **Second Annual Tabb Library Authors Garden** from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 18, at the Tabb Library. This celebration of creativity gives the community a chance to discover local authors and purchase their books. Applications can be found on the Library website, www.yorkcounty.gov/library. A limited number of spaces are available and

preference will be given to authors who have not previously participated. Deadline to apply for a space is Friday, April 26. Authors will be notified of their inclusion by Friday, May 6. For more information, please call the Tabb Reference Department at 890-5120.

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles' **DMV2Go** mobile customer service center continues its regular stops in York County. Visits are scheduled at the Yorktown Library from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays - February 25, April 28, and June 9. DMV2Go offers all DMV services including applying for or renewing driver's licenses and ID cards, obtaining vehicle titles and license plates, ordering disabled parking placards or plates, and more.

Do your children enjoy listening to stories, playing with others and creating Legos and Duplos? Join us at our monthly **Lego and Duplo programs**. Children ages 4 and up are invited to **Lego Time** on the third Friday of each month from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Yorktown Library. Registration is not required for Lego Time. The Tabb Library hosts **Duplo Story Time** for 3½ to 5-year-olds from 2 to 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. The **Lego Club** is for children ages 6-12. Lego Club meets from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Registration is required for Duplo Story Time and the Lego Club. Register online through the library event calendar, by calling (757) 890-5110, or in person at the Tabb Library.

Both the Tabb and Yorktown libraries will be closed Sunday, March 27, in observance of **Easter**. The libraries will re-open at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 28.

For more information on library programs, contact (757) 890-5120 (Tabb) or (757) 890-5207 (Yorktown). Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/yorkcountypubliclibrary. Hours are Mon. through Thurs., 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sun., 1 to 5 p.m. Tabb Library - 100 Long Green Boulevard; Yorktown Library - 8500 George Washington Memorial Highway.

Presidential Primary March 1

Virginia's Democratic and Republican presidential primaries will be held **Tuesday, March 1, 2016**. All polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A sample ballot is available at www.yorkcounty.gov/voting.

The deadline to register to vote for the presidential primaries - or to update your address or other registration information - was February 8. If you are not registered, please complete, sign, and send in your voter registration application so you will be prepared for the next primary in June and the presidential election in November.

For more information, call the Registrar's Office at (757) 890-3440 (TDD for hearing impaired is 890-3621), send a fax to (757) 890-3449, or email registrar@yorkcounty.gov. Additional information is available online at www.yorkcounty.gov/voting.

Are you registered to vote? Do you know your polling place?

Through a service provided by the Virginia Department of Elections, you are now able to check your registration status online. Visit www.yorkcounty.gov/voting and select "Confirm Your Voter Registration By Clicking Here."

Absentee Voting

You may be able to vote absentee if you are going to be out of town or otherwise unavailable to go to your polling place on March 1. Absentee voting is under way now for the presidential primaries.

The deadline to apply by mail, fax, or email is **Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 5 p.m.** The deadline to apply in person for an absentee ballot is **Saturday, February 27, 2016, at 5 p.m.** The Registrar's Office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 27.

Are you ID Ready?

A photo ID is now required for voting in Virginia. Voters must present an acceptable form of identification when voting, such as: valid Virginia driver's license, DMV-issued photo identification card, valid U.S. passport, valid employee photo identification card, other government-issued photo identification card, valid college or university student photo identification card.

Voters who do not have an acceptable form of photo ID for voting may obtain one for free from the Registrar's Office, 224 Ballard Street, Yorktown.

Yorktown 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS



**PIRATES
INVADE
YORKTOWN**
April 30 & May 1
Saturday & Sunday
10am-6pm, FREE
Riverwalk Landing



**BLUES, BREWS
& BBQ FESTIVAL**
May 7
Saturday
12pm-6pm, \$
Riverwalk Landing



**ART AT THE
RIVER JURIED
ART SHOW**
May 8
Sunday
10am-5pm, FREE
Riverwalk Landing



**HEALTH &
FITNESS
MARKET**
May 14
Saturday
9am-1pm, FREE
Riverwalk Landing

WWW.VISITYORKTOWN.ORG

Yorktown Market Days

Presented by York County and Riverwalk Landing

2016 SATURDAY MARKETS
9AM - 1PM

MAY 14 - OCTOBER 29

(Every Saturday except October 1)

Themed Markets for 2016

May 14 Fitness Market
September 10 Pet Day
October 8 Fall Festival*
November 12 Harvest Celebration*
November 19 Holiday Open House*
December 10 Holiday Market/Toyland Parade*

*Extended Hours Oct. 8 (9AM-3PM), Nov. & Dec. (9AM-3PM)



WWW.YORKTOWNMARKETDAYS.COM

CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION | 757 890 3500

Dates & times are subject to change without notice.
Rain or Shine! Severe Weather Hotline | 757 890 3520

Upcoming Tax Deadlines

March 1 -

- Deadline to renew and submit payment for your 2016 Business License. For your convenience, you can now visit our website at www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue to renew and pay your license fee/tax. Once on our website, select "E-Commissioner Online," Form #1. (757) 890-3383.
- Deadline to file your 2016 "Tax Return of Business Tangible Personal Property and Machinery and Tools" to report all business furniture, tools, and equipment owned, used, leased, or otherwise provided by others, as of January 1, 2016. (757) 890-3381.
- Deadline to file your 2016 "Tax Return of Tangible Personal Property for Manufactured (Mobile) Homes" to verify the pre-printed information is correct and the item is still owned and located in York County. (757) 890-3381.

Failure to comply on the above items by the due date may result in a late filing or non-filing penalty of 10 percent, \$10 minimum, not to exceed the amount of tax.

- Deadline for Active Duty Military Non-Virginia residents to submit their November 2015, December 2015, or January 2016 LES to qualify for 2016 Personal Property Tax exemption. (757) 890-3381.

April 1 -

- Deadline to submit your 2016 "Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled" application for Real Estate and Mobile Home owners. (757) 890-3382.
- Deadline for veterans with 100% service-related disability to submit application or re-validation form for Real Estate Tax exemption. (757) 890-3382.

May 1 -

- File your 2015 Virginia Individual Income Tax Return
- File your 2016 Virginia Estimated Tax, Voucher 1

For more information about State Income Tax, forms, filing requirements, and instructions, please visit the Virginia Department of Taxation's website, www.tax.virginia.gov or contact our State Income Tax Department at (757) 890-3381.

**Important
DATES**



York County Waste Management Center

2016 Calendar Art/Photograph Contest

- Theme:** *Beautiful "Clean" York County*
Artwork images/photographs should reflect a clean York County and how recycling and litter control efforts help keep it beautiful.
- Eligibility:** **Open to York County Senior Citizens (ages 55 and up)**
Participants must be York County residents. Amateur artwork only - work from professional or published photographers or artists will be excluded.
- Deadline:** **No later than 4 p.m. Friday, July 29, 2016**
All entries should be submitted to York County Beautification Committee, Attn: Laurie Halperin, 145 Goodwin Neck Road, Yorktown, VA 23692.
- Media:** **Black & White or Color Two-Dimensional images**
--Original Art - 8"x10" landscape orientation items are to be made on or with recycled materials. Painting, drawing, any form of printmaking such as stamping, woodcut, etc., will be accepted.
--Original Photography - 8"x10" landscape orientation images
All submissions should incorporate themes of recycling, litter control, and/or environmental sustainability.
- Awards:** **Thirteen cash awards of \$100**

For complete contest rules, please call Acting Waste Services Manager Laurie Halperin at (757) 890-3780.



Household Chemical Collections and Computer Recycling 2016 Schedule of Events

*Providing environmentally safe disposal to the residents of Williamsburg, James City County,
York County, Hampton and Poquoson since 1997.*

York County residents may attend any of the events listed; proof of residency may be required.

To stay informed on all VPPSA programs—send your email address to curbsiderecycling@vppsa.org and you will be added to our e-notification list.



	Williamsburg/ James City County	York County	Hampton	Poquoson
Location:	Warhill High School 4615 Opportunity Way Williamsburg	County Drive, Yorktown (off Goodwin Neck Rd)	Public Works Operations Complex 419 N. Armistead Ave Hampton	Poquoson Swimming Pool Parking Lot Municipal Drive Poquoson
Time:	8:00AM—12:00 Noon	8:00AM—12:00 Noon	8:00AM—12:00 Noon	8:00AM—12:00 Noon
Dates:	February 13, 2016 April 9, 2016 June 11, 2016 August 13, 2016 October 8, 2016	March 12, 2016 May 14, 2016 July 9, 2016 September 10, 2016 November 12, 2016	March 19, 2016 May 21, 2016 July 16, 2016 September 17, 2016 November 19, 2016	October 1, 2016

ALL EVENTS END PROMPTLY AT NOON!

Some items we will accept include the following:

- Computers - desktop and laptop computers, servers, computer monitors, cell phones, computer wiring, desktop printers including multifunction printers or "All in Ones," fax machines, desktop photocopiers and scanners
- Household Maintenance - latex paint, oil based paint, stains, solvents, and more
- Automotives - limited to: gasoline and other fuels, waxes, gas/oil mixtures, brake fluid, engine cleaner, tar remover

For a complete listing, please call (757) 259-9850 or visit www.vppsa.org.

2016-2017 Youth Commission Applications due March 8

The Board of Supervisors is currently seeking students interested in representing youth interests and concerns by serving on the York County Youth Commission for the 2016-2017 school year. Applicants must be York County residents who are enrolled in grades 8 through 11 in a public, private, or home school. A completed application form and a letter of recommendation must be received at the York County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism office by 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 9.

The Youth Commission's primary purpose is to serve as a link between the Board and the county's youth by representing youth-related needs and issues. Members conduct student surveys, report findings to the Board of Supervisors and to the School Board, conduct annual Town Hall meetings in the high schools, and much more.

Application forms and complete details are available on the Youth Commission's website at www.ycyc.info.

For more information, call Parks, Recreation and Tourism at (757) 890-3500.



No area in Virginia is free from the threat of tornadoes. In fact, tornadoes can hit at any time of the year and at any time of the day. Every family, business, and organization should prepare for tornadoes by:

- purchasing a NOAA Weather Radio with SAME alerts
- participating in the statewide tornado drill scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, at 9:45 a.m.

On the day of the drill, York County Department of Fire & Life Safety and the Commonwealth of Virginia, in conjunction with the National Weather Service, will conduct a statewide tornado drill so schools, businesses, and families can practice their tornado emergency plans.

"The purpose of Tornado Preparedness Day is to get people thinking about not only tornadoes and what one needs to do to protect themselves, their families, and their property, but other types of severe weather such as severe thunderstorms and dangerous lightning, hail and strong gusty winds, flash floods and winter storms," said York County Fire Chief Stephen Kopczynski.

"NOAA Weather Radios are the best method of receiving tornado warnings," Kopczynski added. "When a tornado warning is issued, the Weather Radio alerts by sounding an alarm and/or flashing a light - for the hearing impaired - followed by information on where the storm is located, which direction it is heading, and alerting those in its path to take cover."

SAME alerts stands for Specific Area Message Encoding, a feature that lets you program your radio for your area. NOAA Weather Radios are available at electronics and sporting goods stores, department stores, boating stores, some grocery stores, and online.

For more weather safety and preparedness information, please visit the Ready York County website at www.readyyorkcountyvirginia.com. Additional weather safety and preparedness information can be found on the National Weather Service website, www.weather.gov/safety.php, and/or the Ready Virginia website, www.readyvirginia.gov. The Ready Virginia site lists steps for conducting a tornado drill and an online registration form for this year's drill.



The Williamsburg Regional Library is delighted to offer a wide array of collections, programs, and services to York County residents, including:

Access to our collection--books, music CDs, audio books, DVDs, and periodicals

Opportunity to download a wealth of digital media, including audiobooks, magazines, music, and ebooks

A calendar filled with computer classes, activities for children and teens, film series, and live performances

Computer work stations and free WiFi access

Libraries are located in Williamsburg at 515 Scotland Street and upper James City County at 7770 Croaker Road, just off exit 231-A on I-64.

Visit www.wrl.org or call 757.259.4040 to learn more.



Phone: (757) 890-4940

Website: www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

Fax: (757) 890-4033

Horticultural Extravaganza

The 2016 Horticultural Extravaganza has been combined with the Peninsula Master Gardeners **Go Green Expo** scheduled for September 10, 2016. Visit www.nngogreenexpo.org for more information.

Register for 4-H Junior Camp

4-H Junior Camp for residents of York County and Poquoson is scheduled for August 8-12 at the Jamestown 4-H Center in Williamsburg. 4-H Junior Camp is a residential, week-long summer camp program available to youth ages 9-13. Days are filled with camp classes (archery, kayaking, challenge course, arts and crafts, videography, etc.), unstructured recreation and swim time, flag ceremonies, evening programs, and campfires. Registration for the camp will open at 8 a.m. on Monday, February 29. Registration will take place online only. The cost of the camp is \$275 per camper. Scholarships are available for youth with financial need. Visit our website for more information.

4-H Growing Mums for Profit Project

The award-winning **4-H Chrysanthemum Project** combines the skills of growing plants with the knowledge of how to account for, market, and sell a product. Youth ages 9-18 will receive materials to grow 10 chrysanthemums and will attend educational sessions throughout the spring and summer where they will learn to grow, propagate, market and sell their mums. The project culminates with members selling their mums at a Yorktown Market Days event in the fall. Registration fee is \$20. Registration will start in March. Visit our website for up-to-date information about registration and class dates.

Free Pruning Clinics in February

Free to the public, the York/Poquoson Master Gardeners and Virginia Cooperative Extension are sponsoring (indoor) **pruning clinics** on select Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to noon, on the following dates and at these locations: (no make-up days are planned)

- **February 20 - Taylor's Do It Center, 475 Wythe Creek Road, Poquoson**
- **February 27 - Ken Mathews Garden Center, 4921 George Washington Memorial Highway, Yorktown**

Just in time for spring, these clinics are designed to help homeowners produce and maintain an attractive landscape, minimize plant disease, increase plant longevity, grow healthy plants, and enhance the look of home ornamental shrubs and small trees. Space is limited! To register, call (757) 890-4940 or email yhurst@vt.edu.

Learning Garden Spring Plant Sale

The York/Poquoson Master Gardeners will hold an **annual plant sale** on Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Learning Garden located at 301 Goodwin Neck Road (adjacent to the Public Safety Building).

Annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees will be for sale at the Learning Garden Plant Sale. Limit of one set of Yorktown Onions per family. This event is sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension-York/Poquoson. For more information, 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. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations five days prior to the event. *TDD number is (800) 828-1120.*

Zika virus makes mosquitoes a hot topic

The recent outbreaks of Zika virus in South America have made mosquitoes and mosquito control a hot media topic. Because of the efforts of mosquito control organizations in this country, the threat of contracting the Zika virus or other mosquito-borne viruses, such as dengue fever or West Nile virus, is minimal. While minimal, the threat is still real. Taking preventative measures to control mosquitoes on and around your property will greatly reduce the risk. With the warm spring temperatures and heavy rains, mosquitoes will be active. The mosquito control staff is ready and working to reduce mosquito annoyance and to protect our citizens from mosquito-borne diseases, but we need your help.



The possible vector of Zika in this area is the *Aedes albopictus* mosquito, commonly known as the Asian Tiger. The Asian Tiger also can transmit dengue and chikungunya viruses. It is a daytime biter and prefers to lay eggs in small containers of water, either man-made or natural. These containers could be anything from a discarded

piece of litter to a flower pot or a clogged gutter. This species also has a very short flight range, so chances are if you are breeding this mosquito in your yard, it will be biting you and your family. The good news is that it is easy to control this species in and around your yard by removing the water. If you have any container in your yard holding water, no matter how small, simply dump it out. If you cannot dump it then treat the container with a mosquito larvicide or add mosquito-eating fish. York County is the only local municipality that stocks mosquito-eating fish. This service is free to our citizens and begins in early summer. If you would like to request a fish delivery, please call (757) 890-3790. We are proud to provide our citizens with mosquito larvicide dunks at no charge. Mosquito dunks can be picked up at the York County Waste Management Center, 145 Goodwin Neck Road.

Help protect yourself and your family and keep your yards mosquito free all season long.

- Wear insect repellent! If you are going to be outside, apply insect repellent. Also, wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts that are light colored.
- Clean your gutters. Clogged gutters are an ideal breeding ground for the Asian tiger mosquito.

- Dispose of old tires. Tires are the favorite breeding ground for the Asian tiger mosquito.
- Maintain your pool. Unused swimming pools produce thousands of mosquitoes each year in York County. If you are not maintaining your pool, then it must be drained or treated for mosquito larvae. Please call mosquito control for help with what to do with your unused pool or to report the location of an unused pool.
- Store any containers able to hold water upside down or under shelter.
- If you are planning to travel outside the U.S., check the Centers for Disease Control website for travel advisories regarding mosquito-borne illnesses.



For more information on mosquito control operations, please visit www.yorkcounty.gov/mosquitocontrol or call (757) 890-3790.

CALL US: 757-933-8900



VISIT US: 5843 JEFFERSON AVE



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FOR SHELTER HOURS, ADOPTION FEES, AND VOLUNTEERING:

<http://www.peninsulaanimalshelter.com>

FOR ADOPTABLE PETS:

<http://www.petango.com/PeninsulaRegionalAnimalShelter>

FOR UPDATES AND EVENTS:

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