



**Vote DOUG HOLROYD
for
York County Supervisor, District 1**

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District 1 Update: February 2023

Residents and Homeowner Associations are encouraged to share these updates within their communities. I welcome your comments and questions.

District Faces Expensive storm Water Retention Issue - Queen's Lake or Queen's Marsh?

District 1 residents are facing a significant issue with storm water retention. Queen's Lake and Princess Pond serve as a large retention pond for the entire area from Rt 143 to Penniman Rd, and the dam that supports these critical assets is in trouble. Years of ground water run-off from this large area, accelerated by the I-64 widening project has created a huge buildup of silt in both Queens Lake and Princess Pond. A turbidity curtain was installed across the lake during I-64 construction, but as seen from the attached photo, mud and sediment continued to flow into the Lake. Now, many tons of silt and sediment need to be removed, and the original creek beds feeding the lake restored. Current estimates for creek restorations are over \$1.5 M. That does not include dredging costs for Princess Pond or Queen's Lake.

The Queen's Lake Dam and spillway was built originally in 1928 – long before the establishment of Queen's Lake community. Damage initiated by Hurricane Isabel in 2003 caused significant erosion to the dam embankment. Preservation of the dam requires widening to restore an acceptable slope and to reverse these effects of Mother Nature, and is estimated at \$1 M.

York County has agreed to cover a portion of these cost, allocating \$1.7 M in the current 2024/2025 budget.

The VA State Legislature also considered a budget amendment in the recent General Assembly for an added \$850 K, however the Legislature did not approve the budget.

That's a good start to the funding, BUT it's not nearly enough to complete all the repairs, and certainly beyond the capability of the Queens Lake Community to finance the difference. As this Lake and Dam service a much larger area of York County for run-off, it's appropriate that we continue to approach the County and State for added funding.

If elected I will work on your behalf, to find a financial solution that avoids increased taxes or levies.

Development Threatens Residents

Springfield Rd is located off Penniman Rd, north of Water Country USA and immediately next to Cheatham Annex. The community was first formed during World War 1 when the government took the land for what is now the Yorktown Naval Weapons Station and Cheatham Annex. Residents of that area were given 30 days' notice and forcibly moved, many taking residence in Jones' Point – now called Springfield Rd.

In early 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved a project to rezone 80 acres adjacent to this community for a 213 unit senior housing development named "Tranquility". The Board was concerned about the volume of construction traffic on Springfield Rd required to build the new subdivision, since Springfield Rd is only 11 feet wide in many places and cannot accommodate two-way truck traffic or wide loads.

Mid-Atlantic Land Management in their presentation to the Board said,

"Regarding access, for the residents of Springfield Rd there will be some temporary issues. We are talking a very limited amount of traffic, a very limited number of trucks that would happen on any given day. Two cars can pass, but it happens so infrequently, this wouldn't be a problem." They further stated, "there would be roughly 20 construction vehicles on a typical day."

On a typical construction day, the number of vehicles currently exceeds 60. **Tranquility it's not.**

The residents are subject to constant noise and the inconvenience and danger of encountering large construction trucks on such a narrow road. And the road itself has been terribly damaged by the weight of these large trucks.

On March 20th I along with a large contingent of residents of Springfield Rd attended the Board of Supervisors meeting. Several of the Springfield Rd residents voiced their opposition to the current situation and asked the BOS for their help.

Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors included:

- A vehicle limit be imposed on Springfield road, in line with the commitment made during the application approval process. Strict adherence to the 20 trucks per day rule as promised by the developer.
- A property tax rebate to the residents of Springfield Rd for the past year.
- Delay construction of the 213 homes until a construction entrance is built off of Hawks Nest Rd. Land preparation could proceed, but home construction should be halted by pausing the issuance of building permits.
- Immediately provide traffic control or truck escorts to ensure no trucks entering/departing meet on Springfield Rd.
- Immediate repair/repave damaged areas that have gone untouched.

The Board of Supervisors asked County staff to review the situation and bring forward possible solutions. County staff is expected to respond to the citizen's issues at the BOS meeting on March 7th.

The York County Government is supposed to have the well-being of its residents as a primary driver in its decision making. If elected as your District Supervisor, I will honor this responsibility within the board in every decision and stand firm for what is best for your communities.

Time Lapsed view of Queen's Lake reflecting the impact of I-64 Widening

