



DOUG HOLROYD

York County Supervisor, District 1

(757) 903-9908

Website: www.friendsofdougholroyd.com

Email address: Douglas.Holroyd@YorkCounty.gov

Personal Email address: Doug.Holroyd@gmail.com

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District 1 Update: June/July 2025

OVERVIEW OF COUNTY-WIDE ISSUES

Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL)

Due to ongoing sizeable cost increases over a number of years, County Administrator, Mark Bellamy issued a letter to the Williamsburg City Council and the James City County Board of Supervisors, giving formal notice on the intent to terminate the existing contract for the Williamsburg Regional Library system.

York County share of the WRL costs is based upon circulation. Our share of the budget has grown dramatically, up from \$826 K in 2024 to \$890 K for the FY 26 budget. The current contract was discussed at length during recent budget meetings. The Board made it clear that it is not interested in exiting the contract but felt strongly that modifications are necessary.

In August 2023, the governing bodies of WRL agreed to engage in discussions regarding potential changes to the existing contract, but there has been no meaningful progress. Now that WRL has announced major changes to the downtown library and JCC has announced a new library, it has become essential that a new agreement be drafted.

It is not our intent to eliminate our partnership with WRL, but we need to be able to fund these services at an affordable cost. I'm strongly advocating for a revised contract, and any necessary changes that York County needs to make to ensure that we retain a competitive cost for library services.

Economic Forecast:

Each year ODU economists and the Peninsula Chamber of Commerce host an economic outlook. I attended their June 5 meeting and share the following take aways:

The presentation was primarily focused on the Hampton Roads economy from 2020 through 2024, but did highlight a few trends in early 2025. Among them, the gap between the number of new job listings versus the number of people leaving their current job is widening, with far fewer people electing to leave their current jobs.

Cargo containers arriving at US ports climbed significantly in January/February pre tariff introduction. In March the inbound shipments level fell to 2020 levels. As inventory from January/February is consumed, there is a likelihood of a supply chain challenge, similar to what we faced in 2021.

Hampton Roads relies heavily on US Government/Military spending. It's unclear what changes may take place with the new Administration.

Uncertainty in the marketplace has led to a reduction in personal purchasing. It's not clear yet, if a recession is approaching, but the above trends are not encouraging.

DISTRICT 1 SPECIFIC ISSUES

Queens Lake Dam, Spillway and Lake Funding

I continue to pursue funding for the Queens Lake Dam and Spillway repairs to prevent environmental damage to Queens Lake estuary and a major loss of property values for residents of Queens Lake, as well as potential damage downstream.

Following the discussion at our June 3rd BOS Workshop, a Letter of Intent (LOI) with The United States Army Corps of Engineers was signed on June 4th, to begin a technical study aimed at addressing the deteriorating condition of the Queens Lake dam and the de facto storm water run-off BMP.

Springfield Road, Tranquility Development

Tranquility Phase 2 (of 3 phases) construction has started and resulted in another wave of heavy trucks traversing Springfield Road.

I recently met with several residents on Springfield Road. We talked about several topics, but the current condition of the road was the primary focus of the meeting.

Following the meeting, I spoke with Mr. Rossie Carroll, Resident Administrator, V-DOT. He agreed to address the deteriorating shoulder area along Springfield Rd, as well as the numerous large potholes.

Mr. Carroll also mentioned that V-DOT is seeking budget funds to allow repaving of the roads in Springfield Terrace area. He has not had confirmation of these additional funds at this time.

Fenton Mill Update

It's been 5 years since Mid-Atlantic Development brought forward a rezoning proposal for Fenton Mills. The original proposal called for 836 homes on a 376 acre site.

You made a difference!

Citizens reacted to the high density housing proposal, the lack of available infrastructure, water, sewer, roads and the costs to York County schools, Fire & Life Safety and to our Sheriff's Department.

The Rezoning was denied. The developer proceeded with 292 homes on 55 acres of this property as allowed as a right of the property owners. Construction of Phase 1 (of 3 phases) is underway behind Fire Station #5 on Newman Road.

The trend has continued, with NO rezonings approved by the Board of Supervisors since this date.

Community Day at St. Johns Baptist Church, Penniman Rd.

On May 17th, we celebrated Community Day at St. John's Baptist Church on Penniman Rd. and the second anniversary of their pastor, Rev. Dr. Carlon Lassiter.

St. John's is a very vibrant church with a large youth group. Dr. Lassiter routinely reaches out on behalf of the community to address local issues. His church organizers for the Community Day requested support from York County, to showcase the work the County does on behalf of the parishioners.

York County was well represented, with Fire and Life Safety, the York Poquoson Sheriff's department, representatives from Social Services and from York County Head Start program.

Shown below with Mark Shafer, District 1 School Board member,

Head Start Director Tanya Coles & Family Services Coordinator Leyda Vazquez.



All for a Good Cause

I've agreed to create a fundraising page for our local Alzheimer's Organization. Once my site reaches \$500, I have agreed to take a "pie in the face" during a York County Board of Supervisors meeting.

https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2025/VA-SoutheasternVirginia?px=23710281&pg=personal&fr_id=18966

Those interested in supporting the local organization can sign up for the annual Alzheimer's walk on Oct 25th.

https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2025/VA-SoutheasternVirginia?pg=entry&fr_id=18966

The Walk to End Alzheimer's is held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research. This inspiring event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to join the fight against the disease.

Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk® ; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's.

New Businesses

The number of new businesses in York County continues to grow, with 20 new businesses licensed in May and four business closures.

The latest business licenses to be approved in District 1 are as follows:

- The FIX, a commercial business offering repair, maintenance and installation services, is located at 731 E Rochambeau Dr. Williamsburg
- N&R Design LLC, a home-based business, is located at 815 Colonial Ave, offering design service for specialized gifts.

I value your input and am happy to address questions or concerns on these or any other topics for the district. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Douglas.Holroyd@YorkCounty.gov or phone (757) 903-9908

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