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OVERVIEW OF COUNTY-WIDE ISSUES

State of the County

I had the pleasure of hosting York County's State of the County address at the new Greater Williamsburg Sports and Event Center last week. Some enjoyable video clips that will have you smiling and laughing. Enjoy.

Here's the link: https://youtu.be/k_WnVLL8P5Q

Sales Tax Referendum

As mentioned previously, during the Board of Supervisor's July 21st Public Hearing, we had a lively discussion on the proposed sales tax referendum proposed by the General Assembly.

This year, York County voters will decide whether to approve an additional local retail sales tax of up to 1%. All revenue from this sales tax will be used for school capital projects, including major maintenance, renovations, and new construction.

On September 1st the Board of Supervisors and the York County School Board, met to review a presentation by consultants: HBA and Sturtz & Co. on the Long-Range Facility Plan for York County School Division. Timing and scope of renovations or building replacements was presented.

The current six-year Capital Improvement Program is projected to require more than \$117 million for school improvement which closely matched the Consultant's Year 1-Year 5 forecast. Financing most or all of these costs through bonds would increase annual debt payments by approximately eight million dollars adding to the current 8.7 million annual school debt payment. With

significant capital needs beyond the six-year plan, an increase in sales tax revenue would address current and future needs.

You have a choice to approve this referendum, which generates approximately \$12 M per year dedicated to school construction. An alternative way to fund school instruction would be to raise property taxes by 10 to 12 cents.

We have the top rated school district in Virginia. To maintain that standard, and the property value it creates (essentially the wealth of our citizens), we have to invest in the modifications required in each of our schools. We cannot maintain “Best in the State” status without the necessary classroom and teaching facilities.

Overcrowding in McGruder and Waller Mill Elementary as well as Queens Lake Middle school has led to the use of trailers and overcrowding in classrooms. Fourteen of the twenty trailers in York County are located at these three schools. So, construction is impossible to avoid.

Let me explain why I feel a sales tax increase is more affordable to York County citizens than a property tax increase.

From my own review, we recover HALF of the \$12 M in sales tax revenue from tourists to our County or those living in the County who pay a reduced property tax. A sizeable portion of our County residents (28%) reside in apartments and pay a relatively small percentage of the property taxes charged to homeowners. All residents in the County (homeowners + apartment dwellers + tourists) contribute directly through sales tax, helping spread the cost across a broader base.

If the funding of school construction is entirely through property tax increases, the full burden of maintaining and upgrading our schools falls to those owning property.

Simply stated, every \$ raised in sales tax paid by County residents, is matched dollar for dollar in the total sales tax generated within the County. Every \$ paid in property tax is paid entirely by York County homeowners.

The Sales Tax referendum generates twice the revenue.

For that reason, I feel quite compelled to vote YES for the sales tax referendum. We need to have a tax structure that is fair to all residents in York County.

Update from the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office

The York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office is proud to announce the official launch of MySheriff, a new mobile application designed to strengthen public safety and foster greater collaboration between residents and local law enforcement.

Imagine having a direct line to your local sheriff's office right in the palm of your hand. With MySheriff, community members can:

- **Stay Informed:** Receive real-time alerts regarding local crime incidents, emergency situations, traffic updates, and community events.
- **Submit Anonymous Crime Tips:** Spot something suspicious? Report it instantly and securely, complete with photos and videos.
- **Access Vital Resources:** Easily find safety guides, crime prevention tips, and contact information for key department personnel.

"Our priority is the safety and well-being of the citizens of York County and the City of Poquoson," said Sheriff Ron Montgomery. "This app bridges the gap between our deputies and the community, empowering residents to play an active role in keeping our neighborhoods safe."

Download the App Today

MySheriff is free to download and available now on both iOS and Android devices. Take an active role in keeping York County and Poquoson safe.

Download MySheriff: <https://qrs.ly/4ze4ppl>

Update from the Commissioner of Revenue (COR)

The Commissioner of Revenue, Sarah Webb, provided an explanation to the Board of Supervisors why up to 1900 people within the County had recently been issued letters regarding their declared business tax.

Personal property tax relief is paid by the State to the County, for vehicles operated by our local residents. This relief is typically 1/3 of the tax owing on private vehicles. If Business owners declare the use of company vehicles in a business tax filing (greater than 50% of the mileage is for business purposes), the State does not provide a property tax relief.

A reconciliation is made by the State at the end of each fiscal year (end-June of each year), and this may result in citizens receiving a notice from the COR that the owner of company vehicles must repay the personal property tax relief that would have otherwise been credited to York County.

Residents were provided with a 15-day grace period to address any errors in the County records, prior to any invoices being issued.

Yorktown Admirals

Some of you may have seen several young men in the Yorktown beach area lately sporting hockey jerseys. Our own hometown Admirals are now in town preparing for the upcoming season. Many of these young men are hosted in the home of residents in the Grafton, Seaford, Tabb area. I've included their schedule of games. Please come out and support!

Home games are played at the Chilled Ponds arena:

401 Village Avenue, Yorktown

<https://www.chilledponds.com/>



DISTRICT 1 SPECIFIC ISSUES

Waller Mill Heights Update

As noted previously, Harrison & Lear submitted documentation to York County on August 3rd, outlining construction repair plans for the environmental deviations that led to the Stop Work Order in October 2025.

Unfortunately, a significant number of omissions in the submission prevents the County from allowing the developer to move forward. Harrison & Lear have been advised of the documentation that is either missing or incorrect. A corrected package was resubmitted on August 25th

I have met with several of the residents within the subdivision to lay out a plan for addressing the deficiencies and providing an overlay of actions the County may take, should the Developer be unable to progress in a timely manner.

Marquis Crossing

Marquis Crossing development tucked between Penniman Rd and I-199 Humelsine Parkway directly across from the Marquis Shopping Center was approved by the Board

of Supervisors in our August public meeting. Initially, the developer submitted a fiscal study that proved to be flawed. The County took the unusual step of having the fiscal study verified by an external consultant. Following review of the findings, the developer put forth an offer to offset the Capital cost of schooling for the additional children being added, as well as adjust the revenue to the County until such time as the new businesses are operating. I voted “Yes” because this development will now pay for itself, adds ‘more affordable housing’, adds gas and food to an interchange that lacks both, and has been modified to add substantial parking for the residents.

As this site was part of the historical Battle of Williamsburg during the civil war campaign on the peninsula, the developer will also add historical placards to the site, recognizing those historical events.

This is the first housing project rezoning in nearly five years, and the Board acted in a very cautious manner, recognizing some of the failures from previous rezonings.

In total, the developer offered an additional \$850K in cash, allowed for approximately one acre of the 33 acre development to be donated to the County for a future parking area on the future Cheatham Annex mixed use path. Additionally, the developer agreed to complete construction of the concrete pad for the two new businesses prior to building the first of 123 townhomes. All of this was done to advance County revenue.

The Board of Supervisors, although not unanimous, felt that this offer closed the gap in the fiscal analysis and approved of the project. At build out, this project is generating approximately \$400K in additional revenue beyond the County’s expense for providing services. This area of District 1 needs additional business, and I feel that this is an excellent opportunity.

Update on Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL)

We are now in the final year of the contract terms for York County residents’ use of the WRL. York County served notice in early 2025 that we would exit the current contract.

Last year I highlighted that York County is requesting a new contract be developed for the WRL library services, ahead of any addition of libraries in JCC, and possible rebuild of the downtown library in Williamsburg. The only way we can maintain a fair cost to York County citizens, is through a rewrite of the contract.

A final modification to a revised contract is in progress. We expect a new contract to be approved by the three municipalities in either mid-September or mid-October public meetings.

Lightfoot Area Plan

The County completed an update to the Comprehensive Plan in 2023. This effort is repeated once every five years on average. The approved plan called for a separate

Area study to be completed for the Lightfoot Rd / Mooretown Rd region. The bulk of this land was once the Williamsburg Pottery property.

Mr. Tim Cross retired Senior Planner from York County, has agreed to spearhead this effort and is in the process of developing a mini-comprehensive plan specific to the Lightfoot Rd corridor. We expect to have an initial draft by March, 2027 for public review.

New Businesses

Twenty-one new businesses opened in August. With seven of these in District 1.

Six businesses have closed in York County during the same period.

Here is a quick list of those new to district 1.

Commercial businesses:

- Williamsburg Skin Institute LLC at 223 Bulifants Blvd Rd offering personal instruction and service for healthy skin.

Home Based Services:

- GTM Contracting LLC opened at 205 Starkey Place.
- Commonwealth Mobil Drug Testing LLC, at 201 Marks Pond Way offers a means of providing drug screening at a business location.
- Betruthed Apparel LLC. at 112 Sourgum Lane a home-based apparel shop opened.
- Ambrosia M. Hopkins opened a personal consultancy service at 113 Low Ridge Road.
- Tina Luxe Enterprises LLC opened a Property Management business at 433 Queens Creek Rd.
- Stanley Vigil at 173 Dennis Drive operand a home based painting service.

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.

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Click on the link on Page 1 to request my monthly newsletter or copy/paste the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSez8 XXEx 7rgRR2XXobA1uRJK-cRUXFMd D-Oa T7eeNer1Jw/viewform>

