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OVERVIEW OF COUNTY-WIDE ISSUES

York County welcomes many new businesses



York County is welcoming a new junior hockey team—and a significant new community asset—with the launch of the [Yorktown Admirals](#). The team, which was formally introduced during a press conference on Feb. 12, brings one of the nation’s highest levels of junior hockey to the region, along with new momentum for economic growth, youth development and regional visibility.

Based at [Chilled Ponds Yorktown](#), the Yorktown Admirals will compete in the United States Premier Hockey League (USPHL), including a Tier II National Collegiate Development Conference (NCDL) team and a Tier III USPHL Premier team. This level of competition places Yorktown among a select group of communities nationwide offering a direct, competitive pathway to college hockey and beyond. Arrival of the team will have an immediate positive impact on York County. It provides a new and exciting sports venue, further diversifies the tax base and will bring visitors to York County hotels and restaurants.



Adding to the lessening of our tax burden, two long-awaited projects are now officially open! [The Kitchen, from The Virginia Beer Co.](#) marks a full-scale expansion for the local brewery, with a newly constructed second location that includes both on-site brewing and a full-service brewpub — a first for the brand, whose original Edge District location in District 1 features brewing operations and rotating food trucks. [Q Daddy’s Pitmaster BBQ](#) opened its first York County location, following a complete rebuild of the former Pop’s Diner site. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on March 2. Work is also underway on [The Yorktown Pub’s new waterfront outdoor deck](#) a long-anticipated expansion enhancing the Historic Yorktown experience for locals and visitors.

Team Building

The Board of Supervisors hosted a social function on the evening of March 5th, bringing together the Board of Supervisors, YCSD School Board, Planning Commission, Economic Development Authority, our Constitutional Officers, and leadership from County staff and YCSD staff. Highlights from the past year were summarized, as well as the challenges we face in the upcoming years and the value of teamwork in achieving our goals.

This is the first time in nearly a decade that all four groups have had a chance to meet their counterparts and hear the successes and highlights from the County as a whole, while at the same time addressing the upcoming challenges we are likely to face.

General Assembly Bill Tracking

Each year, as Virginia's General Assembly session begins and legislators start posting new bills, we closely monitor those that could impact how we manage the County—whether it's land use, education, taxes, or other areas of local governance. Our County Attorney keeps track of relevant bills as they are introduced, and each Board member submits bills for review as they come to our attention.

As these bills move through the legislative session, the Attorney's Office provides us with updates on their progress.

The following is the status of some very concerning bills that have moved out of Committee, have been approved by the House of Delegates and are being considered by the Senate:

[HB804 and companion bill SB488](#)

I reported on these bills in my February newsletter. These bills require localities to increase their total housing stock by at least 7.5 percent over the five-year period beginning January 1, 2028.

Both House and Senate bills have been either withdrawn or moved to a committee for future evaluation. A sign that feedback to our Delegates does indeed work (at times).

[HB816 and companion bill SB454](#)

Requires that all zoning ordinances must allow “by-right development” and construction of multifamily residential uses on at least 50% of all land contained in commercial or business zoning district classifications.

The Board of Supervisors is genuinely concerned with the passage of either of these bills which would remove your local elected leaders ability to manage the areas where high density housing could be built.

HB 816 converts 50% of all commercial and industrial land to residential. So, you might ask yourself, where does the County set aside land for the shops and businesses required within the County to support the economic growth created by rapid expansion of the population?

Once again, the basis behind the legislation to increase housing stock may be warranted, however, the implications create far reaching challenges and problems. Both pieces of legislation require the input of local governing bodies, or they will end up in endless (expensive) streams of litigation and appeal.

[HB1263 and companion bill SB378](#)

This bill creates the Public Employee Relations Board, which shall determine appropriate bargaining units and provide for certification and decertification elections for exclusive bargaining representatives of state employees and local government employees.

Collective bargaining by public employees is established and provides exclusive bargaining representatives. The bill repeals the existing prohibition on collective bargaining by public employees.

HB 1263 will in effect create trade unions for all York County employees and the bargaining rights for negotiations is established at the State level through a new Public Employee Relations Board.

Interestingly, the House and Senate bills have excluded all public employees working for the General Assembly!

The Supervisors have estimated the cost of these two bills as they are currently written would increase our property tax rates by 25 cents (32%) for these unfunded mandates.

[Redistricting HB 1384 – Already approved by the Governor on February 6th](#)

I have had many conversations within our community about the upcoming special election on the proposal to redraw Virginia's congressional districts.

The Board of Supervisors has debated this legislation in each of our last two meetings and are currently scheduled to vote on a resolution at our meeting in Mid-March opposing this legislation.

Given the importance of this special referendum and the questions I have received, I want to share with everyone why I have concerns about the proposed mid-decade congressional redistricting amendment and why I believe it could harm York County's long-term interests.

1. A new, large district will dilute York County's voice

Under the proposal, York County would be placed in a large congressional district that stretches more than 100 miles north to include dense urban communities such as Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. York County has about 71,000 residents and a population density of roughly 680 people per square mile, while the City of Alexandria has about 160,000 residents at over 10,000 people per square mile, a roughly fifteen-to-one difference in density. It is unrealistic to believe that one member of Congress can fairly and equally represent such a wide and diverse corridor, from high-density urban Northern Virginia through Fredericksburg-area exurbs to the more suburban and military-oriented communities of York County, without some communities' priorities being pushed aside.

2. Different priorities and community profiles

By linking York County to a district that is numerically dominated by Northern Virginia localities, the proposal would place our schools, roads, military installations, and flood-resilience needs alongside the very different priorities of large, transit-dependent, high-cost urban jurisdictions such as Alexandria. Our community's profile, daily realities, and long-term needs are not the same as those of dense urban areas. When district boundaries are drawn without giving sufficient weight to shared local interests and regional cohesion, York County is at great risk of receiving less focused attention from its congressional representative.

3. Ignoring the 2020 fair-maps reform

In 2020, Virginians voted to amend the state constitution and create a bipartisan redistricting commission, with the goal of reducing partisan gerrymandering and protecting communities of interest. The current congressional map that followed that reform yields 11 U.S. House seats split 6 to 5 between the two major parties, a balance that mirrors Virginia's closely contested statewide elections and strongly indicates that the existing districts provide fair and effective representation. The 2026 amendment ignores that clear voter mandate: in the 2020 referendum on the redistricting commission, about 65.7 percent of Virginians, in nearly every city and county in the Commonwealth, voted to move the power to draw congressional districts away from legislators and into the hands of an independent, bipartisan body. A clear signal that voters did not want politicians in Richmond controlling these lines.

4. Legislative Advocacy

The current congressional map that followed 2020 reform yields 11 U.S. House seats split 6 to 5 between the two major parties.

Virginia is one of the few states left where all members of the delegation — Republicans, Democrats, House and Senate — meet monthly to discuss issues of the Commonwealth. They are able to agree upon the priorities of Virginia.

“The Virginia Way” — doing what's in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

With a senior member of each party in the House all members of Congress from Virginia are able to gain support in their respective caucus. This is the only way to be effective, no matter which party is in the White House.

As a result, Virginia, and particularly Hampton Roads, is able to gain more than its fair share in Federal spending. Support for shipbuilding, the military, NASA, Jefferson Labs and highway infrastructure.

Loss of this bipartisan representation would have a dramatic effect on the economy and employment rate of Hampton Roads.

For these reasons, including the risk of diluted representation in a significantly larger district, differences in community priorities, the potential weakening of the 2020 anti-gerrymandering reform and the likely impact on Federal \$'s in the Hampton Roads region, I do not believe this redistricting effort is in the best interest of York County.

Accordingly, I voted "No" during early voting in this election and encourage you to carefully consider your position as well. Early voting began on March 6th and ends on April 21st. Please plan to vote during that time. This election is too important to go without your personal participation.

DISTRICT 1 SPECIFIC ISSUES

Waller Mill Heights Update

I reported last month that Waller Mill Heights Development had received an Emergency Stop Work Order in October, in response to forty-five environmental violations at the construction site. Three issues remain outstanding, and work has not progressed in the last month. The County has a similar issue with Smith Farms development in District 4 under construction by the same Owner and Developer.

Fenton Mill Update

Forestar has completed the civil work for Phase 1. Permits for building construction are expected to be issued in March. Home construction should begin within the next 1-2 months.

Colonial National Historical Parkway

County staff along with Board of Supervisors Tom Shepperd and Doug Holroyd met with the National Parks Superintendent in mid-February.

Superintendent Jerri Marr presented the following operational update and stated that the Parkway would open between Yorktown and Williamsburg in mid-June for the Sail 250 event and remain open through July 4th events in Yorktown to celebrate Independence Day. The parkway would then close to allow construction work to be completed prior to its final opening in November 2026. I have attached the NP briefing below.



Operational Update – Winter 2026

Ongoing Infrastructure Projects

Colonial Parkway Rehabilitation Project

In 2023, the National Park Service (NPS), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), launched a four-year, \$123 million project to restore the historic Colonial Parkway. This work is funded by the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) Legacy Restoration Fund—a bipartisan initiative designed to tackle long-standing maintenance needs in national parks.

This is one of the largest transportation investments in NPS history and the first comprehensive rehabilitation of the Colonial Parkway since its full length opened in 1957. The goal is simple but vital: to ensure this nearly 90-year-old scenic roadway remains safe, beautiful, and enjoyable for generations to come.

Over the last few months, the contractor has accomplished multiple milestones:

- New concrete poured in the Williamsburg Circle area.
- Installation of another large culvert near the Jones Mill Pond Dam.
- Major progress in the Williamsburg Tunnel, including new lighting.
- Cleaning and repainting of numerous Parkway bridges.
- Tree planting along restored stream areas.
- Removal of the old Yorktown Creek bridge, installation of new girders, and preparations to pour the new deck when weather allows.
- Ongoing concrete replacement—over 80% of slabs in the project area are being renewed.



New lighting and panels installed inside the Williamsburg Tunnel.

The project is on track for completion by June 2026. As sections are finished and safe for travel, the NPS will reopen segments of the road.

For your safety, as well as the safety of the construction crew, please follow all posted closures, detours and safety signage.

For updates and detour/closure maps, please visit our website: nps.gov/colo/planyourvisit/colo-parkway-rehab or join our email list: COLO_Parkway_Rehab@nps.gov.

Continued Education



Following the statewide advocacy and engagement of Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) Local Government Day, county leaders gathered again on February 6 and 7 for the VACo Chairpersons' Institute — a dedicated training event designed to strengthen leadership, management, and vital skills for County Board of Supervisor Chairs.

I will be completing the final module in VACo Supervisor's certification course this month, a course focused on Budgeting, Planning and Leadership.

New Businesses

New business openings are off to a strong start in 2026. In addition to the new business openings featured on my front page, we have had 41 new businesses open in January along with 18 more in February.

Of those 59 new businesses, 18 opened in District 1 in the first two months of the year.

Here is a quick list,

Commercial businesses:

- Tidewater Express Inc, towing service on Ewell Rd.
- CG Property Services LLC., janitorial service on Marks Pond Way
- Bare Necessities Wax Studio LLC., hair cutting and beauty salon on Merrimac Trail
- Phones4All VA LLC., on Merrimac Trail

Home Based Services:

- Melinda Selby Holiday Endeavors LLC, Personal Administration services on Musket Drive
- Scott Foster Jr, lawn care services on Cherwell Court
- VanFleet LLC., Class A trucking contractor located on Quaker Meeting House Rd.
- Cookie Tyme LLC., a food vendor located at 415 Cobble Stone
- H&H Strategy Group LLC., providing consulting service on Musket Drive
- Vantage View LLC., located on Armistead Burwell Course
- Flow Mobile Wash, janitorial service located on Whitworth Way
- Roger Snyder lawn care, located on 1209 Wilkins Dr.
- Kitty and Sew, located on Corvette Drive
- Serene Care at Home LLC., located at 411 Queensbury Lane
- Jairus Valla lawn care, located on Mooretown Rd.
- A Everest Consulting LLC., located on Shipwright Loop
- Sheldon Welding LLC., service repair and maintenance located on Penniman Road

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 (757) 903-9908

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

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