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District 1 Update: October 2024

OVERVIEW OF COUNTY-WIDE ISSUES

School Speed Check Zones

Last May, Sheriff Montgomery presented an initiative to the Board, to install speed check cameras in five school zones. Bruton High School is one of the zones.

On August 26, the first day of school, the cameras went active. During the first 30 days, warnings were issued to those speeding in excess of 10 miles per hour (during the period of flashing lights only). Warnings were issued for 229 in the Bruton High School area and a total of 2,059 for the County.

Effective Wednesday, September 25, civil citations began to be issued with a fine of \$100 for anyone exceeding the posted speed limit by more than 10 miles per hour. By October 1st, 28 tickets were issued for Bruton and 254 across the County.

Current traffic data for the County is showing a positive impact on speeding. Earlier this year the Sheriff's Office recorded 3,725 speeding violations of 10 mph or more over a five-day period. During the 30-day warning period, the frequency per day had dropped by a factor of 10.

For District 1 residents, the Bruton High School section of Rochambeau has a camera installed. The speed limit during school hours when the "reduce speed" sign is flashing, is 45 mph. This is the timeframe when the camera is active.

Home Based Business

York County staff have been working on amendments to the Ordinance for home-based businesses. The proposed changes date back to 2021, and the work of a special team appointed by the County.

The “draft” has seen many revisions. In our September public meeting, the BOS agreed to send the Ordinance back to a sub-committee comprised of Earl Anderson (York Co. Planning), Glen Titus (Planning Commission Chair, at the time the first amendment was drafted), Chris Davidson representing businesses, and former Chair of the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, along with Dianne Howell providing citizen input.

The team worked for several days in Sept/October to develop a final package that reached consensus of all four members. The BOS approved this package at our Oct 15th Public Meeting.

While some may feel that the result is too liberal and opens the door to extensive business in residential areas, I feel that we have reached a good compromise.

The newly adopted changes to the ordinance limit the daily volume of traffic, the types of business that may be approved by right (without a Special Use Permit), the size of commercial vehicles allowed in residential areas, and in the case of Day Care businesses, those with less than five children will require a registration process. Staff have been tasked to work collectively with the Virginia Department of Education, Child Care Safety & Health division to develop specific licensing and registration requirements.

Yorktown Days

October 18th and 19th are jam-packed with exciting and historic events in Historic Yorktown. The weekend features the 200th anniversary of Lafayette’s Grand Tour of 1824, a specially themed Victory Market, and a day of celebration to commemorate the British surrender at Yorktown. All events are FREE, unless otherwise indicated.

[Bicentennial of Lafayette’s Farewell Tour – 200th Anniversary](#)

Friday, October 18 | 3 to 5 p.m. | Riverwalk Landing

[Yorktown Day](#)

Saturday, October 19 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Victory Monument & Historic Main Street

[Victory Celebration](#)

Saturday, October 19 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | [American Revolution Museum at Yorktown](#)

DISTRICT 1 SPECIFIC ISSUES

Naturalization Ceremony in CW

I had the unique opportunity to be the keynote speaker at this year's Citizenship and Naturalization Ceremony in Colonial Williamsburg. As a recently naturalized citizen myself (2022), I was able to relate to the significance of the ceremony, and what is expected next for these newly minted citizens. I reminded them of their responsibility to serve, to give back to this Nation, and to always remember the day with immense pride.



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.

Will Sroka, Legislative Director for Congressman Wittman, confirmed that they have been in contact with National Parks and are reviewing the data provided by AH Engineering to the County.

He is actively looking for other options for federal funding for this project, with inquiries out to U.S. DOT and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Springfield Road

Henderson Construction is removing fill material from the Tranquility site this month. While this is creating a significant volume of traffic at the moment, the activity is scheduled to be completed by end of October.

The Board of Supervisors recently discussed a project to develop sewer connections on Springfield Road. A public meeting with the residents of Springfield Road is now scheduled for Nov 12th.

Update on Schools

School is back in session. Portable classrooms have been constructed at Waller Mill elementary (6 classrooms, 150 children), to offset overcrowding at Magruder Elementary.

Busing changes proposed by the York County School Board last May resulted in a redistribution of students between the two Elementary Schools.

Magruder is now lower by approximately 110 students, with Waller Mill receiving 70 additional students. A portion of the Magruder students (living on Yorktown Naval Weapons Station) are now being bused to York Elementary, Middle and High.

Our BOS will meet with the School Board on October 29th for a joint work session. With rampant growth in the Upper District, we need to be designing, constructing and opening permanent buildings. Queens Lake middle is scheduled for expansion in 2028, but Waller Mill is not scheduled until 2031. In my view this is too slow. I prefer to see both expansions move forward to 2028. Long term use of portable trailers is not conducive to effective learning.

New Businesses

The number of new businesses in York County continues to grow, with 21 new businesses licensed in September.

The latest business licenses to be approved in District 1 include:

- Dollar Tree Stores Inc. located at 124 Waller Mill Road
- Lindsay Grose, home-based retail merchandise business / Internet sales, located on Whistling Swan Court.
- 411 BMP LLC, a home based general merchandise business located on Boltons Mill Parkway.
- Puppy Love Boutique LLC, home based arts and crafts located on Shipwright Loop
- Los Primos Elias & Escobar LLC, a commercial restaurant located a 736 Merrimac Trail.
- Julianna Arnett, commercial based personal services / Instruction located on Bulifants Blvd.

I value your input, Please become a regular recipient of this newsletter.

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.

You can reach me at my email address shared above.

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

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