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District 1 Update: June 2024

OVERVIEW OF COUNTY-WIDE ISSUES

Sheriff's Office Grand Opening

The Grand Opening of the newly completed York County – Poquoson Sheriff's Office took place on May 21st.

In a word: OUTSTANDING. Sheriff Ron Montgomery presided over the opening ceremony, thanking many of the community leaders who have had a role in making this new building a reality. When at times we question local or State budgets, this is an example of how our tax dollars should be spent. I'm thrilled with the end result, and proud of the efforts York County has made to provide this building for our Men and Women in Blue.

Final Discussion on Budget

I have asked for a review of the average real estate assessment values, by District, from our Assessment office.

Land values across the County have increased by a small percentage with the exception of District 3 (a five-fold increase in assessed land value). Why?

Real estate assessment went up by approximately 20% across the County. Taxes went up 8-12% in all districts, but not in District 3.

I continue to question why we are seeing such discrepancies. Ultimately, I want to be assured of a balanced and fair assessment (and tax) implementation across the entire County.

As a result, the average tax increase per home (after relief) is 9.4% in all districts except District 3 where it's actually negative 5%.

I will provide additional information as I learn more.

DISTRICT 1 SPECIFIC ISSUES

Queens Lake Dam, Spillway and Lake Funding

I continue to pursue funding of Queens Lake Dam and Spillway repairs to prevent environmental damage to Queens Lake estuary and avoid a major loss of property values for residents of Queens Lake.

Congressman Rob Wittman, during a meeting in April, highlighted the work the National Park Service is currently undertaking to improve the Colonial Parkway. He will, with the County's help, address the water runoff into the Queens Lake basin attributed to the Colonial Parkway and seek their support and funding for expected dredging costs.

The County has completed most of the follow up work necessary for the Congressman to issue a request to the National Park Service. The County and Queens Lake representatives are due to meet with me in early July to complete this work.

A Shout out to our Students

It is always a great moment when we can recognize outstanding achievement in the York County School Division.

Delegate Chad Green and I were delighted to present a Proclamation from the Virginia State Legislature for the achievements by Bruton High School Panther Dylan Olinger (3-time State Champion in Golf) and the Bruton Girls' volleyball team (State Champions).

A special thank you to Paul Heizer (Bruton High School Athletic Director) and Charlene Daugherty (Bruton High School Girls' Volleyball Head Coach) for their role in these students' lives. The success of students is heavily impacted by engaged teachers and staff, so thank you!



New Businesses

The number of new businesses in York County is growing dramatically. Twenty-two new business licenses in April, and another 29 in May.

I've had the opportunity to attend several ribbon cutting / grand openings in the past month. I'm excited and delighted with this trend that we are seeing as one business after another opens its doors in York County.

"Tap 'N Roll" Kicked Off Their Grand Opening With Ribbon Cutting



Owners Jeremy and Katherine Bass cutting the ribbon for their game store with members of York County (WYDaily/Jillian Appel)

WILLIAMSBURG (410 Lightfoot Road)— Local game store, "Tap N Roll", kicked off its grand opening weekend with a ribbon cutting ceremony along with York County officials on May 17.

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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