



Citizen News

Yorktown, Virginia

Vol. 36, No. 2

Spring 2015

French Ship *Hermione* to visit in June



The *Hermione*, a reproduction of the 1779 *Hermione* that transported the Marquis de La Fayette to the United States to aid in the nation's fight for independence, will be visiting Yorktown June 5, 6, & 7. More information about the visit and related activities will be available in the coming months.

Please join us at Riverwalk Landing that weekend to welcome our friends from across the Atlantic.

FY2015 Budget Development Calendar

The Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016) budget development is currently in process.

The Board of Supervisors has scheduled budget work sessions on the following Tuesdays:

- March 3 (tentative)
- March 24
- April 7
- April 14
- April 28
- April 30

Work sessions begin at 6 p.m. and are held in the East Room of York Hall, 301 Main Street, Yorktown.

The County Administrator's proposed budget will be presented at the March 17 Board of Supervisors

Please see **Budget Dates** continued on page 8

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York County Public Information Office
P.O. Box 532
Yorktown VA 23690-0532

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Board of Supervisors Actions

November 18, 2014

- Reclassified land at 200 Water Country Parkway from Economic Opportunity to Conditional Economic Opportunity.
- Adopted an ordinance incorporating changes to the Subdivisions Chapter of the York County Code made necessary by amendments to the Code of Virginia.
- Approved revisions to the Zoning Chapter of the York County Code revising various portions of the Floodplain Management Area Overlay District to ensure consistency with FEMA requirements to maintain the county's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Requested that a No Wake designation be established at the mouth of Wormley Creek and authorized the Interim County Administrator to forward the request to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for consideration and action.

December 16, 2014

- Amended certain portions of the York County Code establishing a definition for the terms microbrewery, micro-distillery, micro-winery, and micro-cidery, adding these uses as uses permitted as a matter of right, and establishing parking requirements for these uses.
- Authorized the Interim County Administrator to execute the 2015 port organizer agreement with the Friends of Hermione Lafayette in America and Tall Ships America.
- Accepted New Kent County as the fourth member of the Joint Public Safety/Public Service Radio Communication System.

January 6, 2015

- Established rules of procedure for Board of Supervisor meetings and elected The Honorable Thomas Shepperd as Chairman and The Honorable George Hrichak as Vice-Chairman for 2015. Board meetings will be held the first and third Tuesday of each month with the exception of July and November when there will be no meeting held on the first Tuesday. Meetings begin at 6 p.m.

January 20, 2015

- Approved the purchase of three ambulances and authorized the execution of a mutual aid agreement between York County and Langley Air Force Base.

February 3, 2015

- Authorized the execution of a five year contract with the Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority to provide household chemical collection services.

Contact Your Board Member

District 1

Walter C. Zaremba
106 Royal Grant Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23185
(757) 890-3328 (voice mail)
zaremba@yorkcounty.gov

District 2

Sheila S. Noll
133 Tradewinds Drive
Yorktown, VA 23693
(757) 890-3329 (voice mail)
noll@yorkcounty.gov

District 3

Donald E. Wiggins
301 Dawson Drive
Seaford, VA 23696
(757) 890-3330 (voice mail)
wiggins@yorkcounty.gov

District 4

George S. Hrichak
115 Albacore Drive
Yorktown, VA 23692
(757) 890-3331 (voice mail)
hrichak@yorkcounty.gov

District 5

Thomas G. Shepperd Jr.
131 Chinquapin Orchard
Yorktown, VA 23693
(757) 890-3332 (voice mail)
shepperd@yorkcounty.gov

Board Appointments

● Chesapeake Bay Board

Bryan Almond Paul Brindza

● Colonial Behavioral Health

Talbot Vivian

● Marquis C.D.A.

Leigh Houghland

● Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Fred Bowers

Charlene Pierson-Lassister

If you are interested in serving on a Board, Committee, or Commission, please complete a Board Bank Application available on-line (under Board of Supervisors) or by calling 890-3320.

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York County, Virginia

Spring 2015

Citizen News is published quarterly for the citizens of York County. One copy is mailed to each household in the County. Address comments to P.O. Box 532, Yorktown, VA, 23690, call 890-3310, or email piofc@yorkcounty.gov.

Interim County Administrator.....J. Mark Carter
Public Information Coordinator.....Gail L. Whittaker

Flood Insurance Update

The new FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for York County went into effect on January 16, 2015. The maps can be viewed at Environmental Services, 105 Service Drive, or the GIS office in Computer Support Services, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard. The maps can also be viewed on the York County website under Property Information Systems Maps found at <http://maps.yorkcounty.gov>.

The National Flood Insurance Program is in the process of implementing reforms that may increase flood insurance premiums in addition to increasing fees. Starting in April 2015, there will be an increase in the Reserve Fund Assessment, the implementation of an annual surcharge on all new and renewed policies and an increase in the Federal Policy Fee. Also taking effect is the change of the maximum deductible for a flood insurance policy. The maximum deductible will increase to \$10,000, which can be used to reduce the cost of your flood insurance policy.

For more information, contact Kent Henkel, York County Engineering Specialist II, at 890-3758.

Sanitary Sewer Fee Increasing March 1

Effective March 1, the sanitary sewer collection maintenance fee for single family residential equivalents will increase from \$48.00 to \$52.00. This fee is billed every other month. The rate increase will appear on your May bill for March and April sewer fees. This rate increase was approved at the June 17, 2014, Board of Supervisors meeting.

For more information, please call Utility Billing at 890-3702.

Head Start On-Site Recruitment

York County Head Start staff will hold an on-site recruitment fair for the 2015-2016 school year on February 23, from 12 to 3 p.m. at the York-Poquoson Social Services office, 301 Goodwin Neck Road.

This free preschool service is available to eligible 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children, including those with disabilities. Head start classrooms are located at the Griffin-Yeates Center, Bethel Manor Elementary, and Yorktown Elementary. For eligibility determination, a variety of documentation must be brought to the recruitment session. Please call 890-3888 for a list of documents required.

Head Start does not discriminate in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

Yorktown 2015 UPCOMING EVENTS



**PIRATES
INVADE
YORKTOWN**
April 25 & 26
Saturday & Sunday
10am-6pm, FREE
Riverwalk Landing



**BLUES, BREWS
& BBQ FESTIVAL**
May 2
Saturday
12pm-6pm, \$
Riverwalk Landing



**ART AT THE
RIVER JURIED
ART SHOW**
May 3
Sunday
10am-5pm, FREE
Riverwalk Landing



**HEALTH &
FITNESS
MARKET**
May 9
Saturday
9am-1pm, FREE
Riverwalk Landing

WWW.VISITYORKTOWN.ORG

Local Business Report

by Melissa Davidson, Sr. Business Development Representative, York County Office of Economic Development

Phone - 890-3317 Email - econdev@yorkcounty.gov Web - www.yesyorkcounty.com

BUSINESS HEADLINES

- **Roberts Furniture Opens New Location on Rt. 17**
- **Virginia Beer Company to Open New Craft Brewery in Upper County**
- **Aerocolours to Build New Autobody and Paint Shop on Rt. 17**
- **Mutherochers Boutique Opens Retail Location on Rt. 17**
- **Baeplex Martial Arts to Build Wellness Center in Upper County**

Visit www.YesYorkCounty.com for full stories.

2015 BIZ BASH AWARDS RECEPTION

On January 29, the York County Economic Development Authority (EDA) and the Office of Economic Development (OED) hosted the 3rd Annual Biz Bash at Great Wolf Lodge in recognition of the year's most significant economic development project. The William D. Rogers "Poor Potter" Award was presented to Enterprise Holdings for its significant investment in the county. In 2014, Enterprise Holdings, the company that operates the Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental and Alamo Rent-A-Car brands, completed acquiring, renovating and occupying two commercial buildings in York County that had been vacant for some time. The former headquarters building for Delta-T Energy in Busch Industrial Park was transformed into Enterprise's Virginia corporate headquarters and the former President's Park building was reconfigured to accommodate Enterprise's remarketing and fleet management offices and

their Virginia training center, which brings in employees from all over the state. Enterprise invested roughly \$4.5 million in acquiring and renovating three buildings totaling 23,000 square feet on a total of 16.68 acres. Enterprise currently employs 23 people full-time and another 25 part-time at these facilities and plans to add 12 full-time and 12 part-time employees over the next two years.

EDA Chairman, R. Anderson Moberg, also recognized Mr. Rick Weigel, former EDA member and Vice Chair, with a small token of appreciation for his time and dedication to the EDA over the past eight years. Mr. Weigel played an integral role in new program development and business attraction and retention efforts in York County.

Additionally, the York County Chamber of Commerce recognized Shane's Salon and Day Spa as the 2015 Small Business of the Year with an award named after the late John D. "Pete" Sterrett Jr., York County's first Industrial Development Authority Executive Director.

Special thanks to the Biz Bash reception sponsors: Altria, C&F Bank, Dominion Virginia Power, Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance, Henderson, Inc., Plains All American Pipeline, and the York County Chamber of Commerce.

CONTACT US

If you or anyone you know is interested in establishing, expanding or relocating a business in York County, or if you have ideas to help improve the County's business environment, please contact us. Don't forget to visit our website at www.YesYorkCounty.com.





302 Dare Rd., Yorktown, VA 23692 • (757) 898-0300 • yorkcountyschools.org

FY16 Operating Budget Update

Tune into Cox Channel 47 or Verizon Channel 39 for the latest news, programs and events from the York County School Division on YCSD TV-47.

The York County School Division is in the process of developing the FY16 Operating Budget. Division Superintendent Victor Shandor, Ed.D. has identified three top priority areas of focus this year: staff compensation, transportation and technology.

The division and the school board have consistently protected the classroom while making tough budget decisions over the last six years. Recognizing that the division cannot address six years of reductions in one year, Dr. Shandor and the school board will approach the budget development process to gradually move the division where it needs to be in each of the identified priority areas.

Updates on the FY16 Operating Budget process can be located on the YCSD website at yorkcountyschools.org under the "Top News" section on the main page.

The School Board Proposed Budget Timeline:

- Release of Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget: Mid-February
- School Board, Public Hearing, February 23, 7 p.m., York Hall
- Approval of School Board Proposed Budget, March 23

Dark Side of the Internet Parent Seminars

Overwhelmed by Apps, Cyberbullying, Social Networking and Digital Devices?

The York County PTA and the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office are hosting Digital Safety parent seminars at several York County schools in February. Guest speakers from the FBI, NCIS and local agencies will provide information to help parents navigate the dilemmas presented by the digital world our kids inhabit.

We hope you can join us at one of the remaining events.

Child care will be provided by the PTSA at each location.

YORKCOUNTYSCHOOLS.ORG

YCSD 2015 CALENDAR

February

- 2 Report Cards Issued
- 16 Presidents' Day Holiday
- 27 Early Dismissal

March

- 5 Interim Reports Issued

April

- 3 Early Dismissal
- 6-10 Spring Break
- 13 Fourth Quarter Begins
- 16 Report Cards Issued

May

- 8 Early Dismissal
- 14 Interim Reports Issued
- 25 Memorial Day Holiday

STUDENT HOTLINE

(757) 890-1096

WEB WARS

THE DARK SIDE
OF THE INTERNET

Bruton High

Tuesday,
February 17
6:30 p.m.

Yorktown Middle

Tuesday,
February 24
6:30 p.m.

Tabb Middle

Thursday,
February 26
6:30 p.m.

What's Happening @ Your Library

Are you interested in beekeeping? If so, sign up for the **Basic Beekeeping** course for adults offered by the Colonial Beekeepers Association and hosted by the Tabb Library. The Basic Beekeeping Course is the first step in beekeeping. This five-session class covers beekeeping terms and equipment, honeybee biology, hive management and colony products. The course consists of lectures and hands-on demonstrations with an emphasis on sustainable, chemical-free practices. The class meets from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays, March 12, March 19, March 26 and April 2, in the Tabb Library meeting room. A field day is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 4 (location to be determined). For more information and to register for the class, visit the Colonial Beekeepers' website, www.colonialbeekeepers.com.

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles' **DMV2Go** mobile customer service center continues its regular stops in York County. The next DMV2Go visit is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yorktown Library. DMV2Go offers all DMV services including applying for or renewing driver's licenses and ID cards, obtaining vehicle titles and license plates, ordering disabled parking placards or plates, and more.

During May, the library will host exhibits and programs related to the **Hermione**, the ship that transported the Marquis de La Fayette to our shores to aid in our fight for independence. The exhibit coincides with a visit by a replica of the Hermione set to visit Yorktown in early June.

Children ages 6 to 12 are invited to the library at 2 p.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month to **read aloud to a trained therapy dog**. The dogs and their owners, who volunteer their time, have been certified in pet therapy. Children and dogs bond over shared stories and the children gain confidence by reading to dogs. A signed parental permission slip is required. The spring sessions are February 28, March 28, and May 23 at the Tabb Library and April 25 at the Yorktown Library. For more information, please call 890-5110.

The Youth Services Department invites teens, ages 13 and older, to help with the **2015 Summer Reading**

Program. Applications will be available at the Tabb and Yorktown Youth Services desks and on the website at www.yorkcounty.gov/library. Applications are being accepted from April 13 to May 15 and must be submitted to the Youth Services staff at either branch of the library. Volunteer duties include registering patrons for the summer programs, distributing prizes, assisting with story hour, craft preparation and providing support at special performances. Volunteers must be able to work four of the six weeks of the program and are required to attend a training session.



Join us for a **LEGO Experience** the second Monday of each month from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Tabb Library meeting room. This is a registered program for children ages 6 to 12. There is an exciting theme each month! Parents are welcome to participate as well. Call 890-5110 for more information.

Both the Tabb and Yorktown libraries will be closed on Sunday, April 5, in observance of Easter. The libraries will re-open at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 6.

For more information on library programs, contact the Tabb Library at 890-5120 or Yorktown Library at 890-5207, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/yorkcountypubliclibrary. Visit the Tabb Library at 100 Long Green Boulevard, Yorktown, VA 23693, or the Yorktown Library at 8500 George Washington Memorial Highway, Yorktown, VA 23692. Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.



Members of this year's Youth Commission are shown at last summer's orientation ropes course teambuilding session to prepare for working together representing student opinions and concerns to the Board of Supervisors.

2015-2016 Youth Commission Applications Due March 18

The York County Board of Supervisors is currently seeking students who are interested in representing youth interests and concerns by serving on the York County Youth Commission for the 2015-2016 school year. Applicants must be county residents currently enrolled in grades 8-11.

The Youth Commission's primary purpose is to serve as a link between the Board and the county's youth by representing youth-related needs and issues. In addition, Commission members typically participate in rewarding community service projects, learn about county government, sponsor countywide high school social events, and build leadership skills through various team-building activities.

A completed application form and a letter of recommendation must be received at the York County Parks and Recreation office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. After reviewing the applications, the Board of Supervisors will appoint up to three teens from each of the county's five voting districts. The new Commission will be formally introduced at a Board of Supervisors meeting in June.

Application forms and complete program details are available by downloading from the York County Youth Commission's website at www.ycyc.info. Hard copy forms are available at the Yorktown and Tabb libraries, the Williamsburg-James City County libraries, and the York County Parks, Recreation and Tourism office located at 100 County Drive.

For more information about the Youth Commission, please call the Parks, Recreation and Tourism office at 890-3500.



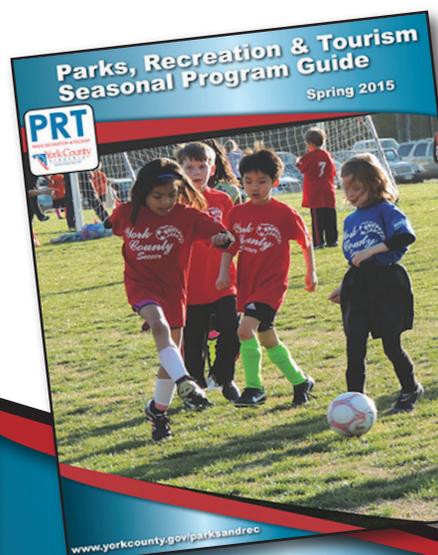
York County Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT)



SPRING FEVER IS HERE!

Say goodbye to the winter blues! Our PRT seasonal program guide is full of information on activities and special events for you and your whole family. Enjoy the great outdoors by visiting one of York County's beautiful parks and don't forget to visit us ONLINE for information on what's happening in York County.

www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec
757.890.3500



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County Establishes Community Garden at Sports Complex

York County has been working on establishing a community garden located near the baseball fields at the York County Sports Complex, 412 Sports Way just off Route 17. There are 47 plots available to York County residents for a small annual fee:

- 10' x 12' - \$15.00
- 10' x 20' - \$25.00

The community garden program will be administered by York County/Poquoson Cooperative Extension Agent Dan Nortman.

"This is a great opportunity for individuals who do not have gardening space at their residence or those who simply want to meet other gardeners, share growing advice, and enjoy the outdoors," he says.

For those who rent a plot, the Extension Service will provide them with assistance in the form of educational programs that will be held at varying times throughout the year.

Some of the garden's rules are:

- One plot is permitted per family and the rental is on an annual basis.
- Once open for the season, gardeners must begin working their plot within 14 days of registering.
- Mulches such as stone, carpet and artificial turf are

prohibited. Newspaper or cardboard used as mulch must be properly secured to avoid littering.

- Pets are not permitted.
- Weeds and weedy vines must be removed promptly. Gardeners are asked to avoid planting spreading plants near the lanes or adjacent plots to avoid infringing on

the walkway and on your neighbor's growing space.

- All trash must be removed from the site by the gardener.
- Individual fencing of plots is allowed.

• Gardeners must not practice any horticulturing technique such as fertilizing, watering, using pesticides, etc. that will in any way affect adjacent plots.

Application should not occur on windy days. The application of any herbicides is strictly forbidden.



County employee David Washington uses a tiller on the garden plots that are part of York County's community garden.

The complete list of rules is available on the application/agreement form found on

the York County/Poquoson Cooperative Extension website, www.yorkcounty.gov/vce.

"While the garden is not specified as 'organic,' we strongly encourage gardeners to consider alternatives to the use of chemical pesticides," Nortman says.

For more information on the garden, call the York County/Poquoson Extension Service at 890-4940.

Budget Dates continued from page 1

meeting in York Hall. On March 18, the proposed budget will be available online at www.yorkcounty.gov.

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, April 23, at 7 p.m. in York Hall to gather public comment regarding the proposed budget. If you are unable to attend and would like to comment on the proposed budget, you may send an email to bos@yorkcounty.gov, call the Budget Comment Line at 890-3220, or mail your comments to:

Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 532

Yorktown, VA 23690-0532

Please include your name and address with your comments so that they may be included in the official record of the public hearing.

Adoption of the FY16 Budget, Capital Improvements Plan, and tax rates is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, in York Hall. The meeting begins at 6 p.m.

York County Waste Management Center

Help York County Stay Clean and Litter Free!

In recent years, York County has moved from manual collections of household trash and recycling placed at the roadside to automated collection programs utilizing wheeled containers with lids. Although services are provided by two different contractors (County Waste is our current recycling contractor, Republic Services currently provides garbage collection services), both operations mostly work the same. Automated collection is a safer, more efficient collection method because it allows drivers to remain in the truck controlling the entire operation from the driver's seat resulting in faster service and fewer job-related injuries.

In the case of recycling, which is now collected every other week, we also see a reduction in operational costs such as gas and vehicle maintenance, as well as carbon pollutants that are released into the air. Also, durable containers utilized in an automated collection program have wheels and lids which can greatly reduce litter, odor and pest problems.

Although we make every effort to minimize litter and return the containers to their original location after service, wind or other factors can cause a container to tip over. Also, litter can spill out during the emptying process.

Here are some tips that you can use to make sure your container is fully emptied each week and litter is minimized:



containers that are “backwards” can break or damage the lid, and/or prevent the lid from closing after the driver returns the container to its location.

- Place your container on as level a surface as possible to provide a stable location.

- Make sure your container is placed near the road properly. Containers should be at least three feet from obstacles (including additional containers, utility poles, mailboxes, trees and/or parked cars), with the container handle facing away from the street and toward your home. Lids should open to the street. Dumping

- Make sure your container is not overfilled and the lid can fully close.

- For curbside garbage collections we encourage you to use trash bags, as doing so will help to reduce litter and keep your container cleaner. Lightweight materials such as Styrofoam and paper can be easily blown out of the container during



the automated collection process. (This information is for garbage collection only. Please remember that plastic bags are NEVER accepted in the curbside recycling program.)

- To help minimize litter from the recycling collection process, place heavier items such as a telephone book on top of your other paper items, or place all of your loose recycling into PAPER bags, then put the paper bags into your recycling container. Shredded paper should be placed into a paper bag before going into your recycling container.
- Don't overfill or pack too tightly either container, and make sure that cardboard is broken down to fit into your container without getting “wedged” in. Containers that are too packed or have wedged cardboard will not completely empty during the automated process. Another method of maximizing space when you have excess material (for recycling containers ONLY) is to flatten and place cardboard on top of the container, using the lid to hold it in place. Special collections of large quantities of cardboard can be scheduled by calling the York County Waste Management Center at 890-3780.

Sometimes, despite everyone's best effort, a container will end up tipping over. Hopefully though, if everyone does their part, those occasions will be minimal. For additional information about the curbside garbage or recycling collection programs, please contact the York County Waste Management Office at 890-3780.

Every Child is One Caring Adult Away from Success

Every year children enter the foster care system in need of safety, security, nurturing and love. In some cases, children only need a respite home for short term care until their parents' situation improves. In other situations, a child cannot return to their parents' custody, so they need a new permanent home. In any case, the children need somewhere to stay until a permanent home is possible. All kinds of families are needed for children in foster care. Can you provide a safe, stable loving home for a child?

Basic requirements include:

- Family stability
- Character references
- Home inspection and personal interview
- Physical examination/TB test results/screening
- Completion of an application for family home license
- Background check, criminal history check, and fingerprinting of all adult household members

Contact Jennifer Campbell-Brown at 890-3980 or send an email to jennifer.campbell-brown@yorkcounty.gov for more information. We look forward to partnering with you to make a difference in the life of a child.



New Program for Older Adults/Adults with Disabilities

Adult Foster Care (AFC) is a community alternative to assisted living facility placement. AFC providers have the unique opportunity to become a part of this alternative approach in caring for our vulnerable adults - to be caregivers, mentors, and companions - and also to gain a sense of personal fulfillment. Providers are part of the team and vision to create a caring solution for vulnerable adults.

AFC providers offer individualized care to residents in their homes, assisting with one or more of a variety of basic tasks, such as meal preparation, personal care, transportation, supervision, and social/recreational activities. To support the resident's needs, providers

are compensated through the Auxiliary Grant Program through the Department of Social Services.

The program serves older adults (60+) and adults with disabilities (18 and older). These adults are unable to live independently or remain safely in their own home because of physical, emotional, and/or developmental illnesses.

For more information about the AFC program, please call Cheryl Ferreira, Family Services Specialist, at 890-3941.



WAGGIN' TAILS A Dog Therapy Program



This dog wall can be seen in York-Poquoson Social Services and displays photos of each dog in the Waggin' Tails program.

A new activity is attracting the attention of children, teens and youthful adults. Waggin' Tails: A Dog Therapy Program is sponsored by York-Poquoson Social Services (YPSS) and is based on the notion that dogs can sense our emotions and engage with us on interpersonal and social levels. YPSS is encouraging the use of certified therapy dogs to aid with providing services within the community.

Some of the therapy dogs:

- **Sam** is a six-year-old female Golden Retriever. Sam stays busy going on walks with her "dad" and sneaking

Please see **Waggin' Tales** continued on page 16



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

www.ext.vt.edu



York County-Poquoson Office, 100 County Drive, P.O. Box 532, Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0532
(757) 890-4940/Fax 890-4033; Email: ex199@vt.edu; Websites: www.yorkcounty.gov/vce; www.ext.vt.edu

Telephone: 890-4940

Fax: 890-4033

Email: ex199@vt.edu

Web: www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

Register for 4-H Junior Camp

4-H Junior Camp for York County and the City of Poquoson is scheduled for August 3-7 at the Jamestown 4-H Center in Williamsburg. 4-H Junior Camp is a residential, week-long summer camp program available to youth ages 9-13. Youth ages 13 and 14 can serve as Counselors-In-Training during camp. 4-H camp provides youth countless opportunities for learning more about themselves, their peers, and the natural world around them. Days are filled with camp classes (archery, kayaking, challenge course, robotics, videography, etc.), unstructured recreation and swim time, flag ceremonies, evening programs, and campfires. Registration for the camp and Counselor-In-Training positions will open on February 23. Only mailed-in registration forms will be accepted and must be post-marked no earlier than February 23 to be considered for a camp spot. The cost of the camp is \$250.00 per camper (with a \$50 deposit due at the time of registration). Scholarships are available for youth with financial need. Registration forms and instructions are available at www.yorkcounty.gov/vce.

Master Gardener Plant Sale

The York County/Poquoson Master Gardeners will hold a plant sale on Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Learning Garden located at 301 Goodwin Neck Road (adjacent to the Public Safety Building).

Annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees will be for sale. This event is sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension of York/Poquoson. For more information, please call 890-4940.

2015 Horticultural Extravaganza

The 2015 Horticultural Extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tabb High School. The Extravaganza will cover a broad variety of information for both the novice and more experienced gardener.

Topics will cover all facets of gardening including, but not limited to:

- Native Plants
- Raised Bed Gardening
- Herbs
- Beekeeping
- Turf Management



The registration fee is \$16 and includes a lunch. For more information, please call 890-4940 or email ex199@vt.edu.

Join the 4-H Horse Club

The Millennium Riders 4-H Horse Club is looking for new members! This club is open to any youth (ages 9-18) in York County or Poquoson. You don't need a horse to join! As a member of the club, youth will develop leadership and life skills while learning about horses. Members who have access to a horse will learn additional skills to apply when they ride and can choose to compete in various disciplines at the district and state 4-H horse shows. To join, contact Vicky Sherry Moore at vsup140@gmail.com or 912-6091.

Virginia Cooperative Extension provides educational programs conducted in workplaces, schools, and communities of Virginians. Research based information from Virginia Tech and Virginia State University is used by Extension Agents and their volunteers to teach people innovative ways to solve problems.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in any of these programs, please call the York Cooperative Extension Office at 890-4940 to discuss accommodations ten days prior to the event.

Mosquito Control Update - Warm Weather is Approaching!

With warm weather approaching, mosquitoes won't be far behind. When you are working in your yard or outdoor areas, incorporate mosquito control practices that will help keep you free of mosquito annoyance. Here are some ideas to keep your outdoor areas mosquito free all spring and summer long:

- Clean your gutters! Clogged gutters are a favorite breeding ground for the Asian tiger mosquito. The Asian tiger's flight range is around 300 meters, so chances are if you are breeding this mosquito in your yard, then it will be biting you and your family.
- Remove all standing water from your yard. Turn over buckets and toys, shake out tarps, cover rain barrels or other stormwater devices, etc. Standing water is what mosquitoes need to breed.
- Look at drainage in and around your yard. If you have poor drainage or an area holding water, consider installing a BMP or grading/filling the area to improve drainage. If there is standing water, then there will be a heavy mosquito presence.



Another pest to be on the lookout for is the tick. The most common tick species in this area are the American dog tick, the Brown dog tick, the Blacklegged tick and the Lone Star tick. The American and Brown dog ticks carry Rocky Moun-

tain Spotted Fever; the Blacklegged tick is a vector of Lyme disease; and the Lone Star tick is a vector of Ehrlichiosis. According to the VA Department of Health, in 2013 there were 1,307 cases of Lyme disease (four in York County), 350 cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever (three in York County) and 143 cases of Ehrlichiosis. Ticks will never be completely eradicated, but you can protect your family by making your yard an uninviting place for this disease vector. Fortunately, many of the control practices used for ticks also will keep your mosquito populations down. Here are some suggestions:

- Remove leaf litter and grass clippings (great hiding places for mosquitoes too)
- Clear tall grasses and brush around homes and at the edge of lawns
- Place a three foot wide barrier of wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas to restrict tick migration into recreational areas
- Mow the lawn frequently
- Stack wood neatly and in a dry area (discourages rodents)
- Discourage unwelcome animals (such as deer, raccoons, and stray dogs) from entering your yard by constructing fences or adding deer resistant plants
- Remove old furniture, mattresses, or trash from the yard that may give ticks a place to hide
- Make sure your pet is treated for fleas and ticks
- Apply an acaracide (pesticide) to kill ticks in your yard; this must be done in May or early June to control the tick in the nymphal stage

For more information, call Mosquito Control at 890-3790.

CERT Training Program Accepting Applications

The York County Department of Fire and Life Safety is currently accepting applications for registration for its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training course. The next program is planned to start sometime this spring. Information and the proposed schedule of courses will soon be posted on the department's website at www.yorkcounty.gov/fire. CERT training provides citizens the opportunity to obtain and/or enhance their knowledge, skills and abilities to not only help their families be better prepared for emer-

gencies, but to help their neighborhood be better prepared to take action when York County is affected by major emergencies or disasters.

Those interested in participating in the CERT training program should be prepared to make a commitment to one night a week in the evening from 6:30 to 9:30 and two Saturday mornings over a two month period.

For more information, call 890-3600, Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit the website.

Tornado Preparedness Day/Drill - March 17

No part of Virginia is immune from tornadoes. They can hit at any time of the year and at any time of the day. There are two things that every family, business and organization should do to prepare for tornadoes:

- Get a NOAA Weather Radio with SAME alerts
- Participate in the statewide tornado drill on Tuesday, March 17, at 9:45 a.m.

According to Assistant Chief Paul Long, Deputy Coordinator of Emergency Management for York County Fire and Life Safety, "NOAA Weather Radios are the best way of receiving tornado warnings. When a tornado warning is issued, the Weather Radio alerts by sounding an alarm and/or flashing a light (for hearing impaired) which is followed by information on where the storm is, which way it's moving, and its path so that people can take cover."

SAME alerts stands for Specific Area Message Encoding, a feature that lets you program your radio for your specific location. NOAA Weather Radios are available at electronics and sporting goods stores, department stores, boating stores, some grocery stores and on the Internet with prices starting at about \$30.00.

Everyone should practice taking cover from tornadoes. A statewide tornado drill is planned for Tuesday, March 17, at 9:45 a.m. On that date, the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety and the Commonwealth of Virginia, in conjunction with the National Weather Service, will conduct a statewide tornado drill so that schools, businesses and families can practice their tornado emergency plans.

"The purpose of Tornado Preparedness Day is to get people thinking about not only tornadoes and what one needs to

do to protect themselves, their families and their property, but other types of severe weather as well, such as severe thunderstorms and dangerous lightning, hail and strong gusty winds, flash floods and winter storms that can kill and injure hundreds of people and cause millions of dollars in damages annually," Long adds.

For more weather safety and preparedness information, please

visit the Ready York County website at www.readyyorkcountyvirginia.com. Additional weather safety and preparedness information can be found on the National Weather Service website at www.weather.gov/safety.php and/or accessed on the Ready Virginia website at www.readyvirginia.gov. Features on these sites include detailed steps for conducting a tornado drill and an online registration form for schools, businesses, families, state agencies and local governments that plan to participate in this year's drill.



A 15-year-old New Jersey resident on vacation in Cape Charles, VA last summer, snapped this picture of the July 24, 2014 tornado as it approached a campground. The tornado killed three and injured dozens.

REGISTER FOR THE STATEWIDE
TORNADO DRILL

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 9:45 A.M.

Ready  virginia.gov

2015 Outstanding Youth Award nominations due Feb. 26

Citizens are invited to help celebrate some of the good news about York County's high school aged youth by nominating a deserving student for one of the county's four \$500 Outstanding Youth Award Scholarships sponsored each year by the Board of Supervisors and the Youth Commission. Nominations in the categories of Community Service, Compassion, Courage and Overall Achievement are due to the Parks, Recreation and Tourism office by 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 26.

Anyone can nominate a deserving high school student for one of these awards. So, if you're a parent, grandparent, teacher, counselor, coach, club sponsor, neighbor, employer, youth minister, scout leader, friend, etc., and you know an "outstanding youth," please submit an application.

Nominees must be residents of York County and currently enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in a public, private or home school. A selection committee will review the nominations and choose an award recipient for each category. The four award recipients will each receive one of the educational scholarships and will be formally recognized with their families and nominators at a reception this May and at a Board of Supervisors meeting immediately following.

The Board of Supervisors will send a letter and signed certificate by early May to all other nominees to congratulate them on their nomination and to inform them of their

nominator. By taking a little time to nominate someone, you can show them that you care and that their character and accomplishments are appreciated.

Nomination forms and complete program details are best available by downloading them from the York County Youth Commission's website at www.ycyc.info. Hard copies of the nomination forms are also available at the Yorktown and Tabb libraries, Williamsburg-James City County libraries, and the Parks, Recreation and Tourism office located at 100 County Drive.

If you have any questions, please call Parks, Recreation and Tourism at 890-3500.



The 2014 Outstanding Youth Award winners were (left to right): Owen Robinson (Community Service), Gabrielle Patrick (Compassion), Erin Baxley (Courage), and Kiran Bangalkotkar (Overall Achievement).

York Launches New Emergency Notification System

York County citizens and businesses can now sign up to receive emergency alerts with new state-of-the-art emergency notification technology. The system, GeoCast® Web™, provided by Cassidian Communications, which also supplies York County's E911 equipment, includes a Self-Registration Portal (SRP) so citizens can easily sign up and be notified in the event of an emergency. All citizens are encouraged to register their contact information. Used extensively by law enforcement, Fire/EMS and emergency management operations worldwide, the GeoCast® Web™ emergency notification system will contact residents by home phone, cell phone, or email. Citizens must register via the SRP located at www.yorkalert.com or www.yorkcounty.gov (click on the "York Alert" logo on the homepage).

"We are very pleased to announce to residents we are further enhancing our efforts in keeping them safe," said

Terry Hall, Chief of Emergency Communications in York County. "Having this service along with our E911 system gives us unprecedented communications capabilities during any event that could harm citizens.

It can also be used to inform local organizations, such as neighborhood watch groups, to be aware of potentially dangerous situations," said Hall.

The York County Emergency Communications Center will also use Cassidian Communications' The Communicator!® NXT™ solution. This application will enable them to quickly alert and assemble key personnel or first responder teams using every means possible, expediting response and recovery efforts and keeping the community safe.

For more information, email yorkalert@yorkcounty.gov.



Upcoming Tax Deadlines

March 2 Deadlines

- **2015 Business License.** For your convenience, you can visit our website at www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue to renew and pay your license fee/tax. Once on the site, select "E-Commissioner Online," Form #1. For more information, please call our Business License Department at 890-3383.
- **2015 "Tax Return of Business Tangible Personal Property and Machinery and Tools"** to report all business furniture, tools and equipment owned, used, leased or otherwise provided by others as of January 1, 2015. For more information, please call our Personal Property Department at 890-3381.
- **2015 "Tax Return of Tangible Personal Property for Manufactured (Mobile) Homes"** to verify that the pre-printed information is correct and that the item is still owned and located in York County. For assistance, please contact our Personal Property Department at 890-3381.

Failure to comply by the due date may result in a late filing or non-filing penalty of 10 percent, \$10.00 minimum, not to exceed the amount of tax.

- **Veterans with 100 percent Service-Related Disability** to submit your application or re-validation form for Real Estate Tax exemption. For more information, please contact our Real Estate Department at 890-3382.
- **Active Military Non-Virginia Residents** to submit the November 2014, December 2014, or January 2015 LES to qualify for the 2015 Personal Property Tax exemption. Failure to comply will result in a tax bill. For more information, please call our Personal property Department at 890-3381.

April 1 Dealines

- **2015 "Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled"** application for real estate and mobile home owners. For more information, please contact our Real Estate Department at 890-3382.

May 1 Deadlines

- **2014 Virginia Individual Income Tax Return**
- **2015 Virginia Estimated Tax, Voucher 1**

Personal Property Tax Info.

If you have recently moved to York County or you have purchased a new or used vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, boat or watercraft, you need to register your property with the Commissioner of the Revenue by providing the title, state registration or bill of sale. After the item has been registered with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), no additional returns will be required unless there is a change in residency or ownership status.

If you sell or trade an item, please notify the DMV or DGIF and the Commissioner of the Revenue immediately to update records and make tax adjustments (if applicable).

For more information, call 890-3381, email revofc@yorkcounty.gov, or visit www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue.

Consumer Use Tax

Businesses required to file and pay Consumer Use Tax and \$2.00 Nightly Room Tax are encouraged to file and pay online at www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue. When you are on the site, select "E-Commissioner Online" and follow instructions. It's easy, quick and convenient. In an effort to save taxpayer dollars, forms will no longer be printed and mailed. Each month, a reminder email will be sent to filers.

If you need assistance, please call 890-3383, email revofc@yorkcounty.gov, or visit the website.

Violence Against Women Task Force Survey Online

Victims of a sexual assault in 2014, including assaults that were not reported, are asked to take a brief, anonymous survey on the services received (if any) following the incident. This survey asks specifically about services from law enforcement, hospital personnel and victim advocates. The purpose of this survey is to determine what victims experience within the criminal justice, healthcare and advocacy systems and to make needed improvements where necessary. By taking this survey, you can help ensure that other victims will get the services and care they need.

To access the survey, visit www.yorkcounty.gov/vw and click on the Survey link. The survey takes two to five minutes to complete and is available through April 30.

Be Ready for Spring Floods

Spring flooding has arrived in Virginia. Flood damage is costly. Just one inch of water in a home or office can mean \$8,000 in cleanup and repairs!

Most homeowners' insurance policies do not cover damages and loss caused by flooding. Talk to your agent now about flood insurance.

Here are important facts to know:

- There is usually a 30-day waiting period before coverage begins.
- Renters can buy flood insurance to cover personal belongings or business inventory.
- Basement coverage includes repair or replacement of items such as furnaces, water heaters, washers, dryers, air conditioners, freezers and pumps.
- Buying flood insurance is the best thing you can do to protect your home and business and your family's financial security from a flood.
- Flood insurance is relatively inexpensive.

Visit www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-800-427-2419 for more information about flood insurance.

Prepare your home and family now for flash floods:

- **Make a family emergency plan.** Write down your plan. Decide ahead of time where you will go if you have to leave and where family members will meet up. Identify an out-of-town emergency contact. Go to www.Ready-Virginia.gov for a plan worksheet.
- **Get supplies for your emergency kit.** Start with water and packaged and canned food for three days. Add a battery-powered radio with a weather band and extra batteries. Store in waterproof containers with wheels or one you can lift easily so you can take them with you.
- **Stay informed about what could happen.** During storm season, listen to local media for up-to-date reports on weather watches and warnings. Get a battery-powered portable radio in case the power goes out. Choose one with a NOAA Weather Band.

For more information, visit www.yorkcounty.gov/fire or www.readyyorkcountyvirginia.com.



Waggin' Tails continued from page 10

treats from the kitchen when "mom" is cooking. Sam is a regular at the agency where she meets and greets clients on Tuesday mornings. She and her "dad" volunteer at Poquoson Elementary School with a children's reading group.

- **Morgan** is a nine-year-old female Collie. She and her "mom" stay busy volunteering at several local programs that include children and older adults. Morgan currently comes to the agency for scheduled weekly tutoring sessions.
- **Maya** is a two-year-old female German Sheppard/Husky mix. She and her "mom" also volunteer with a local search and rescue group.
- **Abbey** is a five-year-old female Bernese Mountain Dog. Abbey is also at the agency where she meets and greets clients on Mondays. Abbey is famously known for doing her "Berner Bump" during visits where she approaches you, turns around, and sits on your feet to place her body as close to you as possible in order for you to pet her.
- **Astro** is a five-year-old female Bouvier Des Flanders. Astro and her "mom" are actively involved at several local schools. Astro loves to listen to children read to her and works with a life skills group at Poquoson High School.
- **Blue** is an eight-year-old male Golden Retriever. Blue currently comes to the agency for scheduled weekly tutoring sessions. To date, he and his "mom" have made over 500 visits in various community settings.
- **Mandy** is a two-year-old female Golden Retriever mix. Mandy is the newest addition to the program and has already made herself at home during meet and greets with clients at the agency. She and her "mom" stay busy volunteering at the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail and with a local Wounded Warriors program.

For more information about Waggin' Tails, please call Jennifer Campbell-Brown at 890-3980.

Watch WYCG, York County's Cable Channel, throughout the day to stay up-to-date on the activities of your local government.