



# Citizen News

Yorktown, Virginia

Vol. 36, No. 4

Winter 2015

## Reassessment Notices to be Mailed by December 31

York County's Real Estate Assessment Office is nearing the end of the 2016 reassessment process. Notices will be mailed to all property owners during the last week of December. New to the reassessment notices will be the inclusion of an additional year's data.

"A recent change in the law requires that the notices contain current plus two reassessment recordings," said Anita Taylor, Real Estate Assessor for York County. "With this information, property owners will be better informed when they review the updated assessment for 2016."

Included in your assessment notice will be important information about the assessment as well as instructions on how to file an appeal if you believe your property is assessed above or below its market value, or is not assessed uniformly with similar real estate. You may contact the Real Estate Assessment Office at 890-3720 upon receipt of the notice, but before the final date listed on the notice for "Administrative Real Estate Assessment Hearings."

"This is an open process and we want it to be understood that property owners can ask questions and request additional information at any time," Taylor said.

Please see Reassessments continued on page 10

## Emergency Notification System used in storms

The county's York Alert system was utilized recently when severe weather impacted our area causing tidal and stormwater flooding. An automated message was sent to the

system's subscribers providing them with helpful information during the situation. York County citizens are encouraged to register to receive these York Alert notices.

York County citizens and businesses can sign up to receive emergency alerts with this 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. Used extensively by law enforcement, Fire/EMS and emergency management operations worldwide, the GeoCast® Web™ emergency



Please see York Alert continued on page 12

### In this issue:

Board of Supervisors .....	2
Local Business Report .....	4
York County School Division .....	5
What's Happening @ Your Library .....	6
Are You Flood Ready? .....	8
Leaf Collection Season .....	9
Virginia Cooperative Extension Programs.....	11
York County Youth Commission .....	13
Mosquito Control Update.....	14
Commissioner of Revenue Filing Deadlines.....	15

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

PRESORT STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
YORKTOWN VA 23690  
PERMIT NO 22  
CARR RT PRE-SORT

## Board of Supervisors Actions

### **August 18, 2015**

- Approved the sale of county property located at 208 Bacon Street in Yorktown to Mario Buffa.

### **September 1, 2015**

- Approved certification that the York County Comprehensive Plan designates various growth areas that are consistent with the Code of Virginia..

### **September 15, 2015**

- Approved amendments to the York County Code that incorporates changes to the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivisions chapter, and Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance to bring these sections into conformance with the Code of Virginia.
- Approved amendments to sections of the York County code to exempt certified pollution control equipment, antique motor vehicles, and certain all-terrain motor vehicles from local personal property taxation

### **October 6, 2015**

- The Board discussed its 2016 Legislative Program, which is a request sent to the General Assembly containing a list of items the Board feels are priorities for the county and its citizens. Sending this list to the General Assembly is an important part of the legislative process and having the information to the Assembly prior to the session beginning in 2016 provides ample time for our requests to be reviewed. The approved Legislative Program is available on the county's website at [www.yorkcounty.gov](http://www.yorkcounty.gov) under "News Headlines."

### **October 20, 2015**

- Approved a Special Use Permit authorizing a commercial stable on property located at 117 and 129 Dealba Lane and 3618Z Seaford Road.
- Endorsed a proposed sidewalk rehabilitation project on Bypass Road under the Transportation Alternatives Program. The proposed sidewalk would tie into existing sidewalks on both ends in the City of Williamsburg. The existing path is in disrepair and does not comply with ADA standards.

## 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

### •Library Board

Melissa McGill

### •Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Robert Rodgers

### •Williamsburg Arts Commission

Charles Nurnberger

### •Youth Commission

Luke Armstrong

## Taxes due Dec. 5

York County tax bills for the second half of 2015 personal property and real estate have been mailed and are due on or before December 5. Taxes are considered late on December 8, and penalty and interest, which are calculated separately on each item, will be assessed as required by county ordinance. If you did not receive your bill, tax information is available online at [www.yorkcounty.gov/treasurer](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/treasurer) (select "View 2015 Tax Bill").

Taxes may be paid by mail or online at the Treasurer's website. Taxes may also be paid at the Treasurer's Office or deposited in the Treasurer's Office drop box at the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard, Yorktown.

The Treasurer's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more tax payment information, visit the website, [www.yorkcounty.gov/treasurer](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/treasurer), or call (757) 890-3420.

## York County Dog Licenses Due Dec. 31

The 2016 Dog License applications have been mailed. The licenses must be purchased by December 31, and cost \$5.00 each. All dogs over the age of four months are required to have a current license and rabies vaccination.

You can purchase your dog license by mail, in person at the Treasurer's Office, or online at the Treasurer's website, [www.yorkcounty.gov/treasurer](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/treasurer). To obtain a license by mail, send the application and a check payable to "Treasurer, County of York" to P.O. Box 251, Yorktown VA 23690-0251. A current rabies certificate is required to purchase a first-time license.

The Treasurer's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please visit the website or call the office at (757) 890-3420.

Cats are required to have a rabies vaccination at the age of four months, but are not required to have a license.

## PART TIME HELP WANTED

Local printing company has immediate need for part time people interested in hand inserting and sealing letters, brochures, etc. into envelopes and miscellaneous bindery work. No experience necessary. All work is on an as-needed basis, generally with one-day notice. Hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM with some night shifts also available.

For consideration, apply in person to:

Mary Murphy  
Taylored Printing  
234 Redoubt Road  
Yorktown, VA 23692  
(757) 874-5958 ext. 10

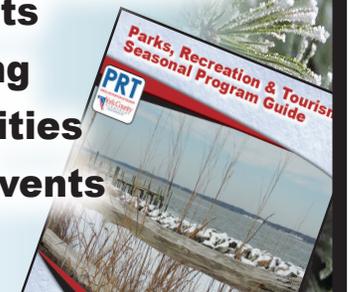
**TAYLORED**  
PRINTING

Paid advertisement

# York County Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT)

## Happenings this Winter!

- Fitness & Instructional Classes
- Registration for Winter Instructional Basketball
- Registration for Spring Youth & Adult League Sports
- Family Roller Skating
- Senior Center Activities
- Yorktown Holiday Events
- Winter Concerts



For activities and events,  
visit us **ONLINE** at:  
[www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/parksandrec)

Be sure to follow us on  
**facebook & twitter!**

Questions? Please call us at:  
**757.890.3500**



# Local Business Report

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

Phone - 890-3317 Email - [econdev@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:econdev@yorkcounty.gov) Web - [www.yesyorkcounty.com](http://www.yesyorkcounty.com)

## Business Headlines

- **Euro Pros Auto Repair Buys New Location in Yorktown**
- **Gourmet Mushrooms Blooming in York County**
- **Alewerks named #15 on Best American Unknown Breweries List**
- **"Food Paradise" film crew descends on Pierce's Pitt Bar-B-Que**
- **Elearning Experts Named US Moodle Partner**

Visit [www.YesYorkCounty.com](http://www.YesYorkCounty.com) for full stories.

## Home-based Business Initiatives & Resources

On October 23, the York County Economic Development Authority and the York County Chamber of Commerce co-hosted the area's first Home-Based Business Resource Fair & Conference. This informative event was a success, with over 130 people in attendance, 23 exhibitors presenting various community resources, and over 20 speakers. The general sessions included topics every home-based business owner needs to know about, and the afternoon breakout sessions delved deeper into topics specific to three tracks: Direct Sales & Network Marketing, Home-based Franchises, and Traditional Home-based Businesses.

From this event, a monthly Lunch & Learn series, co-hosted again by the York County Economic Development Authority and the York County Chamber of Commerce, is being developed. The sessions will focus on topics that conference attendees identified as "Things They Wish They'd Known Before Starting a Home-Based business." These brown-bag sessions, which will feature a brief speaker plus roundtable discussions for optimal peer-to-peer engagement, will be held each month, starting in early 2016.

In addition to the Resource Fair & Conference, York County is focused on providing programs and services to this home-based business niche that has developed over the years. In fact, almost 2/3 of the business licenses in the county are home-based. Check out the Home-based Business resource page at [www.YesYorkCounty.com](http://www.YesYorkCounty.com) to learn about several other initiatives that can benefit your home-based business, such as York County's E-Commerce Grant Program, Home-Based Business Transition Grant Program, and the NxLevel Scholarship Program.

## Business Retention Survey

Every two years, the York County Office of Economic Development sends out a Business Retention survey to a sample of over 800 businesses in the county. The purpose of the survey is to identify any needs or specific problems that may be impacting the success or possible expansion of businesses in York County and to gauge our current business climate.

The 2016 survey will be mailed and available online in February. The thoughts and concerns of our businesses matter to us and we'd like to hear from you. We encourage all York County businesses to participate by completing the survey on our website at [www.YesYorkCounty.com](http://www.YesYorkCounty.com). If this is not an option and you do not receive a mailed survey, please contact us and we will send a copy to you.



### ROUTE 17 CONSTRUCTION MITIGATION IMPORTANT INFORMATION

York County staff and officials know that the construction and ensuing traffic associated with the widening of Route 17 can cause significant business disruptions and losses for many of the companies located in the corridor. We are committed to assisting with the mitigation of this impact. Below are a list of important numbers and websites to help.

#### CONSTRUCTION-RELATED EMERGENCY CONTACTS

<b>VDOT</b> Carlos Rivera – <i>Head Project Inspector</i> 757.234.5687 <a href="mailto:Carlos.Rivera@VDOT.Virginia.gov">Carlos.Rivera@VDOT.Virginia.gov</a>	<b>E.V. WILLIAMS</b> Chris Morris – <i>Project Superintendent</i> 757.374.4382 <a href="mailto:Chris.Morris@evwilliams.com">Chris.Morris@evwilliams.com</a>
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#### DISPLACED FREESTANDING & TEMPORARY SIGNAGE

**YORK COUNTY ZONING OFFICE**  
 757.890.3523 | [www.yorkcounty.gov/buildingregulation](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/buildingregulation) (*temp. sign application*)

#### E-COMMERCE GRANT PROGRAM

Applications and details at [www.YesYorkCounty.com](http://www.YesYorkCounty.com)

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
 224 Ballard Street  
 Yorktown, Virginia 23690  
 757.890.3317  
[econdev@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:econdev@yorkcounty.gov)  
[yesyorkcounty.com](http://yesyorkcounty.com) (*click on resources tab*)





302 Dare Rd., Yorktown, VA 23692 • (757) 898-0300 • [yorkcountyschools.org](http://yorkcountyschools.org)

## All Schools Fully Accredited

On October 27, the Virginia Department of Education officially announced that all 19 York County School Division schools are fully accredited for the 2015-16 school year. Accreditation is based on results from the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in four core academic areas (English, math, history and science) from the previous school year.

The school division and the School Board commend the hard work of our students and staff. Our students' success would not be possible without the dedicated teachers, administrators, staff and supportive families.

## Too Sick for School

Early in the morning, it is often difficult to make a decision about whether or not your child is sick enough to stay home from school. With minor symptoms, you often cannot tell whether a child is going to get better or worse during the course of the day.

Please use the symptoms below as guidelines for when it is better for your child—and his/her classmates—to stay home and recuperate:

- Flu-like symptoms
- Fever over 100 degrees
- Active gastrointestinal symptoms
- Coughing up yellowish or greenish phlegm
- Excessive eye watering or drainage
- Any open sores which appear to be infected (red, warm to touch)
- Evidence of lice/nits that have not been treated

Keeping a sick child at home prevents the spread of illness in the school community and allows the child an opportunity to rest and recover. The health and wellness of all our students are top priorities. For questions about these guidelines, please contact your school nurse or family physician.

## Substitute Bus Drivers Wanted

- Training is provided
- \$11 per hour
- Apply online: [yorkcountyschools.org](http://yorkcountyschools.org)
- Open until filled
- 757-898-0494 for more info

## BE SOCIAL!

[f /yorkcountyschoolsva](https://www.facebook.com/yorkcountyschoolsva) [g+ /+yorkcountyschoolsva](https://plus.google.com/+yorkcountyschoolsva) [t /YCSD](https://twitter.com/YCSD) [You Tube /yorkcountyschoolsva](https://www.youtube.com/yorkcountyschoolsva)

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.

YORKCOUNTYSCHOOLS.ORG

## YCSD CALENDAR

### November 2015

25 Early Dismissal  
26–27 Thanksgiving Holiday

### December 2015

11 Early Dismissal  
22–31 Winter Break

### January 2016

1 Winter Break  
18 Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday  
26–28 Early Dismissal, Exams  
29 Student Holiday

## STUDENT HOTLINE

(757) 890-5000

## ADULT EDUCATION

### English as a Second Language Class

Winter Registration (during class time):

January 12: advanced levels only

January 11: all levels

Bethel Baptist Church

1004 Yorktown Road

Yorktown, VA

9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

### General Education Development (GED)

Winter Registration (during class time):

January 12

York High School

9300 George Washington Memorial Highway

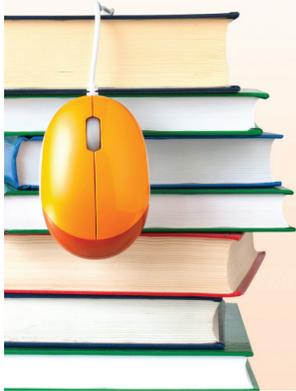
Yorktown, VA 23692

YCSD adult education classes are free and open to the public. For information regarding classes, schedules, requirements, and registration, please contact Sandy Hespe, coordinator, at 898-0469 or visit [yorkcountyschools.org](http://yorkcountyschools.org).

## What's Happening @ Your Library

### OVER 500 ONLINE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

are now available  
through the  
library's website!



**Universal**  
Class

- Video-based courses for patrons interested in professional or personal growth
- Learn on your own time at your own pace
- Wide range of subjects from personal finance to yoga 101
- Expert instructors giving continual feedback

For more information on library programs, contact (757) 890-5120 (Tabb) or (757) 890-5207 (Yorktown). Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/yorkcountypubliclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/yorkcountypubliclibrary). Hours are Mon. through Thurs., 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sun., 1 to 5 p.m. Tabb Library - 100 Long Green Boulevard; Yorktown Library - 8500 George Washington Memorial Highway.

Did you ever wonder how NASA engineers, armed with just butcher paper, slide rules, and punch card computers, accomplished two of the most successful space missions of the 20th century? Wonder no more!

**Author John F. Newcomb**, a country boy who followed his dreams to the halls of NASA, will share behind-the-scenes stories from "**A Bunch of Plumbers**," his recently published book recounting his experiences with NASA's early space missions. Join us at the Tabb Library at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2, as Newcomb relates tales of the adventures on the Lunar Orbiter Project and the Viking Project. The author will be signing copies of his book following the event. For more information, call the Tabb Library Reference Department at 890-5120.

Did you know that the Library has **programs for students who are homeschooled?** Join us for the holiday version of Fun @ One on December 2 and 16, from 1 to 2 p.m., in the Yorktown Library meeting room. We'll be making gifts for the holiday season at this special craft version of Fun @ One. This program is for homeschooled children who are 6 to 10 years old. Register in person at the Yorktown Library or by calling (757) 890-3236.

Celebrate the season with a special **Holiday Story Time** on Saturday, December 12, at 10:30 a.m., at the Tabb Library or Saturday, December 19, at 1 p.m., at the Yorktown Library. Enjoy festive stories, songs, and a craft. This activity is free and recommended for ages 3 to 7, but all ages are welcome. Registration is not required.

The winter session for **Tiny Tales, Toddler Tales, and Preschool Story Time** runs from January 11 through

February 12, 2016. Registration begins January 4 for Tiny and Toddler Tales. Preschool Story Time registration begins January 5. The story hour schedule is available in the Youth Services Department and on the library's event calendar and website, [www.yorkcounty.gov/library](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/library). To register for sessions at the Tabb Library, call (757) 890-5110 or register in person at the Tabb Youth Services desk. Sign up at the Yorktown Youth Services desk or call (757) 890-3236 to register for sessions held at the Yorktown Library. Online registration through the event calendar also is available.

Join us on Saturday, February 13, 2016, at 10:30 a.m., at the Tabb Library or 1 p.m., at the Yorktown Library for a special **Valentine's Day Story Time**. We'll celebrate with heartwarming Valentine stories and a craft. Registration is not required. For more information, call the Yorktown Library at (757) 890-3236 or Tabb Library at (757) 890-5110.

Do you enjoy model trains? Then make plans to visit the **Kids Run Trains model railroading exhibit** at the Tabb Library on February 21-22, 2016. Children of all ages will enjoy this interactive and hands-on exhibit. The Kids Run Trains model train club enjoys spreading excitement of model railroading to today's children. Stop by for some fun with trains!

York County Public Libraries will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25, and will remain closed Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, in observance of **Thanksgiving**. The libraries will be closed in observance of the **Christmas and New Year's** holidays on Thursday, December 24, Friday, December 25, Thursday, December 31, and Friday, January 1, 2016.

## Presidential Primary March 1

**Virginia's Democratic and Republican presidential primaries will be held Tuesday, March 1, 2016.** All polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A sample ballot will be available in January at [www.yorkcounty.gov/voting](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/voting).

The deadline to register to vote for the presidential primaries - or to update your address or other registration information - is Tuesday, February 8, 2016. Qualified residents who will be 18 on or before November 8, 2016, may register and vote in the March 1 primary. Virginia does not have registration by party, but voters will be asked at their polling place in which party's presidential primary they wish to participate. Voters cannot vote in both primaries.

Voter registration is available online at [www.vote.virginia.gov](http://www.vote.virginia.gov), and in person at the Registrar's Office, Yorktown Library, Tabb Library and the Griffin-Yeates Center.

### Are you registered to vote? Do you know your polling place?

Through a service provided by the Virginia Department of Elections, you are now able to check your registration status online. Visit [www.yorkcounty.gov/voting](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/voting) and select "Confirm Your Voter Registration By Clicking Here."

### Absentee Voting

You may be able to vote absentee if you are going to be out of town or otherwise unavailable to go to your polling place on March 1. Absentee ballots will be available no later than Friday, January 15, 2016.

The deadline to apply by mail, fax or e-mail is Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 5 p.m. The deadline to apply in person for an absentee ballot is Saturday, February 27, 2016, at 5 p.m. The Registrar's Office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 27, to accommodate absentee voters.

### Are you ID Ready?

A photo ID is now required for voting in Virginia. Voters must present an acceptable form of identification when voting, such as: valid Virginia driver's license, DMV-issued photo identification card, valid U.S. passport, valid employee photo identification card, other government-issued photo identification card, valid college or university student photo identification card.

Voters who do not have an acceptable form of photo ID for voting may obtain one for free from the Registrar's Office, 224 Ballard Street, Yorktown.

# Yorktown

2015  
CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

**7 pm, The Fifes & Drums of York Town perform**

Victory Monument. Free. 757.898.9418

**7:30 pm, Christmas Tree Lighting**

Procession from Victory Monument to Riverwalk Landing. Free. 757.890.3500

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

**10 am - 3 pm, Christmas Market on Main**

Historic Main Street. Free. 757.877.2933

**7 pm, Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade**

Yorktown Waterfront. Free. 757.890.4970

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

**1 - 4 pm, Cookies with Santa**, York Hall. Free. 757.890.4490

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

**8:30 am, Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus**

Riverwalk Restaurant. Tickets required. \$19 for age 3 and up. 757.875.1522

**9 am - 3 pm, Yorktown Market Days**

Riverwalk Landing. Free. 757.890.3500

**1 pm, Toyland Parade**

Riverwalk Landing. Free. 757.890.3500

## SPECIAL HOLIDAY EXHIBITS & EVENTS

### 'Christmas in Yorktown' Exhibit

November - December, Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 4 pm & Sunday 1 - 4 pm. The Gallery at York Hall. Free. 757.890.4490

### Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia

November 26 - 28, Thursday - Saturday 9am - 5pm. Yorktown Victory Center. Admission. \$ 757.253.4838

### A Colonial Christmas

December 1 - January 3, 9am - 5pm. Yorktown Victory Center. Admission \$ 757.253.4838



[WWW.VISITYORKTOWN.ORG](http://WWW.VISITYORKTOWN.ORG)

## Are you flood ready?

Flooding is the most frequent severe weather threat and the costliest natural disaster facing the nation. Follow these helpful tips to best prepare for a flood:

- Know your flood hazard and flood risks for your property. Visit the county website - [www.yorkcounty.gov](http://www.yorkcounty.gov) - or call the county to determine if your property is in a flood zone. Floods are the number one disaster in the U.S.
- Insure your property. Most homeowner's insurance does not cover flood damage or include flood insurance.
- Protect yourself and your family from flood hazards. Build an emergency supply kit and designate a location where your family can meet if an evacuation order is issued. Visit [www.readyyorkcountyvirginia.com](http://www.readyyorkcountyvirginia.com) for a supply checklist.
- Protect your property from flood hazards. Elevate your home and electrical/mechanical equipment above the flood level. Keep debris and trash out of the streams and ditches.
- Build responsibly - Obtain a building permit before you build and be informed about all flood related requirements.
- Protect natural floodplain functions. In other words, don't dump fill or trash in the wetlands.

If your property is in a floodplain, even if it has not flooded in the past, it can still be in danger of flooding. Although you may not be required to have flood insurance, it is recommended that you have it.

If you have any questions, please call Kent Henkel at (757) 890-3758.

## Stormwater Medallions



Have you noticed the blue medallions popping up on stormwater drains around the county? They are reminders that everything that enters the drain, including dirt, trash, oil, fertilizers, and other pollutants, goes directly into our local waterways.

The Stormwater Medallion Program is designed to raise awareness of the importance of proper stormwater maintenance. You can help by volunteering to place the medallions on storm drains. For more information, contact Ivan Shelton at [Ivan.Shelton@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:Ivan.Shelton@yorkcounty.gov).

## Personal Property Tax Info

### Attention: Military Servicemembers & Legal Spouse

Active duty military members are exempt from property tax in a state in which they are not a legal resident, in accordance with the "Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. To maintain exemption, the servicemember must submit a copy of either the November 2015, December 2015, or January 2016 LES for each owner. Servicemembers who have retired from active duty status and remain in York County are considered residents and are liable for Personal Property Tax. To determine the period of tax liability, it is necessary to provide a copy of the Form DD214.

Vehicles jointly titled in the servicemember's and legal spouse's names OR solely titled in the legal spouse's name may qualify for this exemption under the "Military Spouses Residency Relief Act" only if the state of residence or domicile is the same for the servicemember and spouse. The non-military spouse must supply an affidavit supplied by the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office, a copy of the military ID, and documentation of the legal state of residence.

If any of the above requirements are not provided on or before March 1, 2016, it will result in a tax bill. If the bill remains unpaid, it may result in a "DMV STOP" which will prevent renewal of the vehicle state registration.

Active duty servicemembers and their legal spouse currently not receiving this exemption should contact the Commissioner of the Revenue at (757) 890-3381 for more information. Forms and additional information are available online at [www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue), under "Personal Property Tax" and then "Military Exemptions."

### Personal Property Tax Relief for Vehicles Leased by Military Members -

Beginning with tax year 2016, localities will be required to apply 100 percent personal property tax relief to the first \$20,000 of value on each qualifying vehicle leased by an active duty military member or spouse provided the vehicle would not be taxed in Virginia if it were owned by the military member or spouse. To qualify for this relief, the vehicle must be leased pursuant to a contract requiring the military member or spouse to pay the personal property tax on the vehicle and the military member and spouse meets the criteria for exemption under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and Military Spouses Residency Relief Act. For more information, please call the Commissioner of the Revenue's office at (757) 890-3381.

*Please see page 15 for additional information from the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office.*

# York County Waste Management Center

## 2015-2016 Leaf Season Information

Beginning Monday, November 16, and continuing through the month of January, residents may place an unlimited number of *clear bags*\* of leaves at the front roadside for collection every other week.

For leaf collection purposes, the county is divided into two zones.

- *Northern Zone* includes all homes on and north of Dare Road, including neighborhoods along Wolf Trap Road, Goodwin Neck Road, and homes in and near Marlbank, Edgehill, Queens Lake, Hubbard's Lane, Skimino, and Lightfoot.

Collection weeks for the Northern Zone will be:

November 23	December 7	December 21
January 4	January 18	January 25

- *Southern Zone* includes all homes south of Dare Road, including neighborhoods in Grafton, Tabb, Brandywine, Coventry, Kiln Creek, Calthrop Neck, Running Man, and Cary's Chapel Road area. Collection weeks for the Southern Zone will be:

November 16	November 30	December 14
December 28	January 11	January 25

In order to ensure collection, bags must be at the front roadside by 7 a.m. on the Monday of your collection week. Pick up will be completed by the end of the week. For more information, please call (757) 890-3780.

**\*York County is participating in a regional de-bagging operation at the VPPSA Compost Facility for the 2015 leaf season. The success of the de-bagging operation works best with certain types of clear bags. As a general rule, bags should be no thicker than 1.0 mil, and should have NO DRAWSTRINGS.**

## Holiday Schedule Changes

Curbside garbage and recycling collections will move forward by one day beginning with each holiday. For example, collections scheduled for Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 26 - will be moved to Friday, November 27, with Friday's regular collections moved to Saturday, November 28. We will follow the same collection schedule for Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

All operations at the Waste Management Center will be closed on Thursday, November 26; Friday, December 25; and Friday, January 1. The administrative office will be closed Friday, November 27; Thursday, December 24; and Thursday, December 31; however, most operations, including the Transfer Station and Citizen Dropoff areas for recycling and/or garbage disposal will be open under normal operating hours. The VPPSA Compost Facility will be open from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, December 24.

## Calendar Art Winners

The following individuals are congratulated for their winning entries for the 2016 Beautiful York County calendar:

Cover.....	Jamie Fox, <i>Conserve York County's Beauty</i>
January.....	Yosiah Bey, <i>Winter</i>
February ....	Rachel Cooper, <i>The White Battlefield of Purity</i>
March.....	Madison Mullins, <i>Keep It Green</i>
April.....	Danielle Smith, <i>Earth Day</i>
May.....	Melanie Santago, <i>Bigger Footprints</i>
June.....	Abigail Sasin, <i>A Clean Beach</i>
July.....	April Cooley, <i>4th of July</i>
August.....	Melina Cienski, <i>Clean River</i>
September..	Trinity Choice, <i>Scenes of York County</i>
October.....	Brady Torres, <i>Keep York County Bootiful</i>
November...	Olivia Wilson, <i>Free Range</i>
December ...	Rosalind Wade, <i>Winter Animals</i>

## Enjoy Winter Safely

The York County Department of Fire & Life Safety has a few simple safety reminders for our citizens, businesses, and visitors as we prepare for winter weather and cold temperatures.

- If you are using a space heater, maintain a minimum clearance of three feet around the heater.
- If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit and avoid the use of extension cords. If you must use an extension cord, only use those that have the necessary rating to carry the amp load.
- Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come into contact with water.
- Keep electric space heaters away from flammable/com-bustible materials.
- Do not lay gloves, coats, stocking hats, or any other items on the heater to dry.
- If you use a kerosene heater, ensure that it is operating properly and not allowing carbon monoxide to form (make sure you have working carbon monoxide alarms), and never refill the kerosene indoors or while the heater is hot.
- If you are heating with gas logs or a conventional fireplace, take the appropriate precautions to ensure use of the equipment safely and as intended.
- If you heat with gas, propane, kerosene, fireplace or wood stove, make sure that you not only have a working smoke alarm, but also a working carbon monoxide alarm. The Journal of American Medical Association states that carbon monoxide (CO) is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America. Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, tasteless and non-irritating. It is a by-product of combustion produced by common household appliances, such as gas and/or oil furnaces, gas water heaters, fuel burning space heaters, and gas clothes dryers. Barbecue grills, fireplaces, wood burning stoves, gas ovens, gas logs, and car exhaust fumes entering a home from an attached garage are also potential sources of CO in the home.



For more winter weather safety and preparedness tips, visit the Ready York County website at [www.readyyork-countyvirginia.com](http://www.readyyork-countyvirginia.com).

## Reassessments continued from page 1

There is no fee or cost to the property owner for the administrative hearing with the appraisal staff. If you are not in agreement with the assessor's decision on the assessment of your property, you may appeal to the Board of Equalization (BOE). An application is required; filing information and the deadline date will be on the notice. BOE meeting dates also are stated on the notice.

There is no fee to apply to be heard by the BOE. You may appeal to the BOE even if you have not made an informal appeal directly to the Real Estate Assessment Office.

The BOE is a five-member board of county landowners nominated by the Board of Supervisors and appointed by the Circuit Court. State law requires at least 30 percent of the members be knowledgeable real estate professionals.

If a property owner is still dissatisfied with the decision of the BOE, he or she may, at their own expense, file an appeal to the Circuit Court. In fact, a property owner may choose to take their case directly to the Circuit Court without going through the administrative hearing or BOE process.

For more information, call 890-3720, Monday through Friday, from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit the county website at [www.yorkcounty.gov/realestateassessment](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/realestateassessment).



## York County Head Start



### FREE PRESCHOOL SERVICES

The York County Head Start Staff are currently recruiting eligible **3, 4 and 5** year old children, **including those with disabilities**, for the 2015-2016 school year.

Head Start classrooms are located at the Griffin-Yeates Center, Bethel Manor and Yorktown Elementary.  
*Limited transportation available at the Griffin-Yeates Center*

## SLOTS ARE AVAILABLE. SIGN YOUR CHILD UP FOR HEAD START TODAY!

For eligibility determination please bring your family's 2014 income verification (*2014 - W-2, 2014-1040 tax form, TANF statement, 1 month of pay stubs*), and your child's **Original** Birth Certificate, updated and signed/completed Immunization Records. Please bring copies of current physical and dental exams and Proof of your Family's Residency.

**For more information, or assistance with completing the enrollment or health verifications, please call the Family Services staff at 890-3888.**

*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.*



# Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://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](mailto:ex199@vt.edu); Websites: [www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce); [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

Telephone: 890-4940

Fax: 890-4033

Email: [ex199@vt.edu](mailto:ex199@vt.edu)

Web: [www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce)



Applications are being accepted for spring Healthy Virginia Lawns visits. Formally known as Smart Turf, this is a program for residents of both York County and the City of Poquoson in which a team of Master Gardeners will come measure your lawn, take soil samples and provide customized results for your particular needs.

The cost of the program is \$20. If you are interested in signing up now for a visit this spring, please call the Extension Office at (757) 890-4940 or e-mail [ex199@vt.edu](mailto:ex199@vt.edu).

## 2016 Horticultural Extravaganza

The 2016 Horticultural Extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, March 12, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tabb High School. The Extravaganza provides information for both the novice and experienced gardener.

The program will cover a wide range of gardening topics including:

- Pollinators
- Landscape Design
- Specialty Plants

Registration materials will be available in January. For more information, please call the Extension Office at (757) 890-4940 or e-mail [ex199@vt.edu](mailto:ex199@vt.edu).

## Free Pruning Clinics in February

February is the time to prune ornamental plants and shrubs and we have scheduled a number of demonstration clinics to ensure that you are pruning your much loved plants to promote proper health and growth. These clinics include hands-on demonstrations, so be sure to bring your pruning shears.



Image source: [Arborday.org](http://Arborday.org)

Clinics are held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. To register, please call the Extension Office at (757) 890-4940 or e-mail [ex199@vt.edu](mailto:ex199@vt.edu).

- **February 6 - True Value in Yorktown**
- **February 20 - Taylor's Do It Center in Poquoson**
- **February 27 - Ken Mathews Garden Center in Yorktown**

## Publications Online

The Extension Office website contains a variety of educational publications including: Cool Season Lawn Calendar, Deer: A Garden Pest, Gardening for Honeybees, Managing Moles, Managing Voles, Plants of Hampton Roads, and many more. Visit the website to learn more.

*Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.*

*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.*



York Alert continued from page 1

notification system will contact residents by home phone, cell phone, or e-mail. Citizens must register via the SRP located at [www.yorkalert.com](http://www.yorkalert.com) or [www.yorkcounty.gov](http://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 also will 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, e-mail [yorkalert@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:yorkalert@yorkcounty.gov).

**Remember, in an emergency, always dial 9-1-1.**

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

### HOLIDAY DECORATING

- » Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- » Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- » Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- » Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- » Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

### HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- » Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- » Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- » Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- » Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- » Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



### Before Heading Out or to Bed

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

### FACTS

**!** **Two of every five** home decoration fires are started by candles.

**!** **Nearly half** of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)

## 2016 "Outstanding Youth Award Scholarships" nominations due February 17

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 Compassion, Courage, Community Service, and Overall Achievement are due to the Parks, Recreation and Tourism office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17.

Anyone can nominate a high school student for one of these awards. If you're a parent, grandparent, teacher, counselor, coach, club sponsor, neighbor, employer, youth minister, scout leader, or friend and you know an outstanding high schooler, please consider nominating him or her for this scholarship program.

Nominees must be residents of York County and currently enrolled in grades 9 through 12. 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 be formally recognized with their families and nominators at a reception in their honor and at a Board of Supervisors' meeting in May.

The Board of Supervisors will send a letter and signed certificate to all nominees congratulating them on their nomination and informing 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.



The 2015 Outstanding Youth Award Recipients were (left to right) Megan Crow (Sr., Tabb High) - Overall Achievement; Julia Smith (Sr., Tabb High) – Compassion; Hannah Speight (Jr., Tabb High) - Community Service; and Kourtney Warr (Sr., Grafton High) – Courage.

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

For more information, please call Parks, Recreation and Tourism at (757) 890-3500.

## 2016-2017 Youth Commission Applications due March 8

The Board of Supervisors is currently seeking students interested in representing youth interests and concerns by serving on the York County Youth Commission for the 2016-2017 school year. Applicants must be York County residents who are enrolled in grades 8 through 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 county-wide 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 in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism office by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9. After reviewing the applications, the Board 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 details are available on the Youth Commission's website at [www.ycyc.info](http://www.ycyc.info). Forms are also available at the Yorktown and Tabb libraries, Williamsburg-James City County libraries and the Parks, Recreation and Tourism office at 100 County Drive.

For more information, call Parks, Recreation and Tourism at (757) 890-3500.

## 2015 Mosquito Season Wrap Up

The mosquito control season in York County runs from May through October. Highlights from the 2015 season include:

- Over 6,500 mosquitoes representing 28 species were collected during weekly mosquito trapping operations. The most common species was the Asian Tiger, which accounted for 66 percent of the total captured. Controlling this species is easy; please dump or treat all standing water on and around your property. Don't forget gutters, downspout piping, and unused swimming pools as these areas are often overlooked and are favorites of the Asian Tiger.
- Ground spray operations were conducted throughout the county. Larvicide was applied to ditches, depressions, and water-holding areas. The entire vacuum sewer system was treated with larvicide for the first time.
- Mosquito control staff participated in two research projects. The first was a trial of an organic, garlic-based pesticide and was completed in the Tabb area. The second was the testing of an organic larvicide. This study was conducted over a six month period within the vacuum sewer system in the Dare area.
- Focus was put on increasing education and outreach activities this season, including attending Market Days, making presentations to all 3rd grade classes in York County, producing new brochures, and more.

In the coming season, focus will continue on increased education. We will also increase our larvicide operations in our continuing effort to have a green and sustainable mosquito control program. The use of bicycles to deploy larvicide, rather than trucks or ATVs, began in 2015 and will continue in the 2016 season.

For more information on our operations, how to control mosquitoes, and mosquito biology, please visit our website at [www.yorkcounty.gov/mosquitocontrol](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/mosquitocontrol).



Mosquito Control staff, from left Elizabeth Hodson, Leah Aguilar, and Michelle Slosser

## Become a Bay Star Home



Clean waterways are the result of good choices we should each make on a daily basis. Do your part by pledging to become a Bay Star Home. Complete your registration at <http://askhrgreen.org/baystarhomes/> and choose the ways in which you pledge to make a difference from a list of environmentally sound practices. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a welcome packet that includes great tips from [askHRgreen.org](http://askhrgreen.org), local information from York County, and a Bay Star Homes flag and flag pole to help spread the word and encourage your neighbors to also become involved. A community of individuals making small changes can make a big difference.

If you have any questions, please e-mail [Ivan.Shelton@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:Ivan.Shelton@yorkcounty.gov).



# 2016 CABIN FEVER CONCERT SERIES

## THURSDAYS 7 PM

### Yorktown Freight Shed, Riverwalk Landing in Historic Yorktown

**33 I Water Street, Yorktown, VA 23690**

<b>JAN 21</b>	<b>Runaway String Band</b> ( <i>Bluegrass</i> )
<b>FEB 4</b>	<b>Little Bit of Swing</b> ( <i>Big Band, Oldies &amp; Swing</i> )
<b>MAR 3</b>	<b>Jennifer Gammill Jazz Band</b> ( <i>Jazz</i> )

For more information visit [www.visitryorktown.org](http://www.visitryorktown.org)

## Paper, Plastic, or Metal? Stay Fire Safe this Winter

Whether you have a fireplace or wood stove, the task of properly disposing of the ashes is a necessity. The Department of Fire & Life Safety reminds you:

1. Ashes need a minimum of 72 hours to cool.
2. The appropriate way to dispose of the ashes is in a heavy metal container, moistened with water, covered with a metal lid. The container should be placed outside away from the house and other combustibles and on a non-flammable surface to cool.



Most people are not aware that the ashes from a grill, fireplace or wood stove can stay hot for as long as three days, making proper disposal critical. Never choose paper bags, plastic trash cans or cardboard boxes as an initial container for ashes. Never vacuum up the ashes in the fireplace or wood stove.

If you wisely choose a metal can as an initial container, do not dump the ashes into an unsuitable container before the minimum cooling period of 72 hours. Many house fires have started because of improper methods of disposal.

After the ashes have cooled (at least 72 hours), ashes should be disposed of with great care. Dumping ashes in wooded areas should be avoided to prevent the possibility of a forest fire. Gardens or flower beds that are away from the house may be an ideal location for dumping cooled ashes, but be careful to clear any dry leaves, dead grass or twigs

before disposal and moisten the area.

Here are a few tips to remember this winter:

- Be sure the wood stove/fireplace is installed properly and according to local codes.
- Wood stoves should have adequate clearance of a minimum of 36" from combustibles.
- Wood stoves should be UL listed.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start ANY fires.
- Keep a fireplace screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from escaping.
- Have a professional inspect the chimney, chimney connector, and other related equipment of wood or coal stoves and fireplaces every year, and have them cleaned as often as the inspection indicates.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build a roaring fire in the fireplace. It could ignite creosote in the chimney.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. It could produce lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- Keep flammable/combustible materials away from the opening of the fireplace and/or mantel. A spark from the fireplace could ignite these materials.
- Never close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and force carbon monoxide into the house.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home as well as smoke alarms!

## Commissioner of the Revenue - Important Tax Info. and Deadlines

### Real Property Tax Exemption for Spouses of Soldiers Killed in Action

House Bill 1721 (Chapter 577) expands the real property tax exemption for the principal residence of a surviving spouse of a soldier killed in action by allowing a partial exemption on dwellings that are assessed at more than the average value for single family residential dwellings within the locality. This exemption only applies to the portion of the assessed value that does not exceed the average assessed value of such dwellings. This exemption also applies even if the surviving spouse relocates to a different place of residence. This act is retroactive to include all of tax year 2015. If you feel you qualify for this partial exemption and are entitled to a refund, please call the Commissioner of the Revenue's office at (757) 890-3382.

### Upcoming Filing Deadline Reminders for 2016

#### March 1

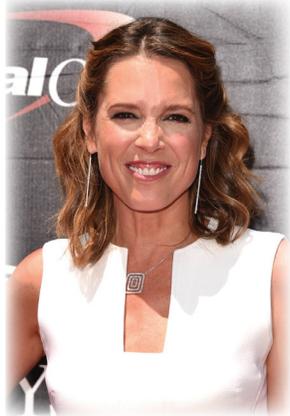
- Annual Business License Renewals
- Tax Returns of Tangible Personal Property for Manufactured (Mobile) Homes
- Tax Returns of Business Tangible Personal Property and Machinery and Tools
- Submission of active duty military members' Nov. 2015, Dec. 2015 or Jan. 2016 LES and deadline for military spouses to provide documentation for exemption

#### April 1

- Tax Relief for the Elderly and/or Disabled for Real Estate and Mobile Home Owners
- Exemption of Real Estate Tax for 100 percent Service-Connected Disabled Veteran

## Outdoor Grilling in the Winter?

Although grilling is typically associated with warm temperatures, many people use their grills year round. A recent reminder of this, along with a lesson to be followed, was brought to the spotlight by a prominent anchor for ESPN and former CBS "Early Show" host, Hannah Storm. Her experience should serve as a somber lesson to those who grill any time of the year, and especially in cold weather.



Hannah Storm in 2015

If you are not familiar with her story, the award-winning sportscaster and producer was preparing dinner outside her home one December evening. She lit the grill for pre-heating. After a short time, she returned to the grill to see if it had warmed up and discovered the flame had gone out. She turned off the propane and opened the lid to the grill. Upon turning the grill back on and attempting to reignite the flame, an explosion occurred. The doors were blown off the grill and her shirt

and hair caught on fire! She described the explosion as a "wall of fire" and stated that her neighbor across the street thought a tree had fallen on his house because of the loud noise and shaking. Hannah suffered first, second, and third degree burns. She was burned from her chest up, lost her eyebrows, and half of her hair. Her left hand was also badly burned because, being left handed, she used it to remove her flaming shirt.

Her story has a happy ending in that she was back at work on New Year's Day co-hosting the 2013 Rose Parade. But what lessons are to be learned? There are several things you should know whenever you grill, especially if you grill in cold weather. Propane is heavier than air, so it settles and collects downward. This is true any time, but especially when the weather is cold. What Hannah did right was to open the lid and turn off the propane. (Leaving the doors open would have been helpful also.) What she did wrong was to immediately attempt to reignite the grill. Propane takes a while to dissipate and may take even longer if it is cold or if there is no breeze. If she had waited five to ten minutes, there would have been no explosion.

Here are some facts about propane:

- Propane is a liquid fuel stored under pressure that vaporizes to a gas before it leaves the tank.

- At normal atmospheric pressure and temperature, it is a non-toxic, colorless and odorless gas.
- Just like natural gas, an identifying odor is added so it can be readily detected.
- It becomes flammable when it is mixed with oxygen.
- Propane liquid is extremely cold and would cause freeze burn or frostbite if exposed to skin.



Whenever you use a propane-fueled grill, follow these safety tips:

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and keep them handy.
- Propane and charcoal grills are for outdoor use ONLY.
- Keep grills at least 10 feet away from structures and watch out for overhangs (eaves, trees, etc.).
- Wear tight-fitting clothing to lessen the chance of catching your clothes on fire. But know that if they do catch fire, stop, drop and roll.
- Keep an ABC fire extinguisher nearby when grilling.
- Always keep children away from the grill at all times, even when it is not in use.
- If the gas does not ignite right away, turn the gas cylinder off, turn the burner control off, leave the lid open and open the doors (if your grill has them).
- Wait five to ten minutes before trying to relight the grill.
- Never store a propane tank inside a structure.
- Never smoke near a propane tank.
- Do not move a lit or hot grill. Remember to let it cool completely before covering.
- If you disconnect the cylinder from the grill, cover the opening of each with a plastic bag to keep the connections clear.

No matter when you grill, be ever mindful of your safety! If you would like more information, please call the Department of Fire & Life Safety at (757) 890-3600, Monday through Friday, from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additional information is available at [www.yorkcounty.gov/fire](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/fire).