



# NEWS RELEASE

York County Public Affairs

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## **York County Update 8/28/2020:**

Rent/Mortgage Assistance; LOVE Letters Visit Extended; WanderLOVE Market Replaces Wine Festival October 3; Fall Recreational Programs Accepting Registration; Library Activity Kits and Homework Help

August 28, 2020

### **Rent and Mortgage Assistance Available for Qualified Applicants**

- York-Poquoson Social Services understands that COVID-19 has caused many residents to experience personal finance challenges and wants to make sure our residents know they may qualify for the Rent and Mortgage Relief Program. Financial assistance is available to those directly impacted by the Coronavirus outbreak from April 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020. Basic eligibility criteria includes:
  - Must have a lease, mortgage, or documentation of a landlord-tenant relationship
  - Must have suffered a loss of income due to COVID-19
  - Rent/Mortgage must be at/below Fair Market Rent
  - Income must be at/below 80% Area Median Income

If you live in lower York County, apply by calling the Hampton Roads Community Action Program at (757) 247-0379. For those who reside in upper York County, applications may be made by calling the Community Resource Center at (757) 229-2222.

### **Tourism Development: LOVE Letters Here Until Sept. 20; Extended Market Days on October 3**

- The visiting **LOVE Letters**, on loan from the Virginia Tourism Corporation, have extended their stay in Yorktown a little longer. We are excited to announce the life-sized artwork currently set up between the Freight Shed and Water Street Grille will remain in place **through September 20**. The letters will transition from white to green leading up to the inaugural Go Green Market on September 12 – a collaboration between Tourism Development, the Department of Public Works, and the York County Beautification Committee. LOVE will also stay up through the Sister Cities French Market the following Saturday.

- The difficult decision has been made to cancel this year’s Wine Festival scheduled for October 3. This was the most responsible decision for public safety, given the social nature of this event and the inclination to gather in groups while consuming alcohol. In addition to social distancing challenges—in response to the pandemic—many of the vineyards that typically travel to Yorktown for the festival have cancelled outreach efforts and tastings beyond their own respective locations. Organizers of the festival felt it would be difficult to deliver the experience ticket buyers have come to expect from this popular annual event. With the cancellation of the Wine Festival, **Yorktown Market Days will be held that day with extended hours of 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** This themed WanderLOVE Market will be a day to focus on celebrating Yorktown. Please stay tuned for more details about involvement from community partners and small businesses in this new venture. *Yorktown Market Days is an open air market that enforces required spacing between vendors and is set up to avoid congestion in typically high-traffic areas. Vendors and staff are required to wear face coverings and those who shop are requested to do the same. Anyone with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19, or known exposure to someone with the virus, is not permitted to shop the market.*

### **Library Offers Activity To-Go Kits; Library Cards for Kids; Homework Help Resources!**

- The York County Public Libraries have Activity To-Go Kits available for children to enjoy at home! These kits are similar to the popular activities included in the 2020 Summer Reading Program. Kits available beginning in September are Science Kit: Grow Crystals, Preschool Story Kit: Colors; Pirates Week; Craft Kit: Ojo de Dios; and Tiny & Toddler Story Kit: Getting Dressed. Complete information is available in this week’s [press release](#).
- Parents or guardians can sign up children ages 4 and up for a library card by visiting one of our two convenient branch locations with a photo ID and proof of residence. Children ages 4 to 16 get a special gift if they get a library card during the month of September. Digital library cards are also available and are valid for three months. Details are available [online](#).
- The [Homework Help](#) page is a must-see resource for parents and students. Links lead to online stories and games, ebooks, videos, shortcuts to live zoo webcams, and recommended educational websites.

### **Parks & Recreation Offers Fall Programming**

- Registration is currently open for tennis lessons for youth and adults, and adult tennis leagues. Also, a few spaces remain in the six-week Pick-Up Pickleball Program, suitable for all skill levels. Visit the [Parks & Recreation website](#) for details and to register.

### **Board of Supervisors September 1 Agenda Online**

- The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is Tuesday, September 1, at 6:00 p.m., and is a work session. The agenda is available [online](#). This meeting is being held remotely and broadcast live on WYCG-TV (Cox 46, Verizon 38) and on the York County [website](#).