



NEWS RELEASE

York County Public Affairs

www.yorkcounty.gov



Gail Whittaker, Public Information Officer

757-890-3310 desk - 757-817-2665 cell

whittgl@yorkcounty.gov

York County Staff Announcements and Promotions

January 25, 2022

York County's Department of Economic Development and Tourism Development Office have joined to become the **Department of Economic and Tourism Development**. The merger became effective at the end of 2021.

Jim Noel, Director of Economic Development for 28 years, helms the department. Under his leadership, in addition to promoting business expansion in the County, the Economic Development Department developed an award-winning home-based business program that is utilized by many localities in the state and nation.

Kristi Olsen, former manager of Tourism Development, has been promoted to Deputy Director. The County's Tourism program began as an office of one (Kristi herself) in 2002 and has grown to become a dynamic function that has overseen the opening of the revitalized waterfront area – Riverwalk Landing – and the development of several events that have drawn visitors to historic Yorktown.

The County has hired **Matt Johnson** to serve as Assistant Director. Matt joins the Department of Economic and Tourism Development from the City of Newport News. He is a graduate of Christopher Newport University and is highly knowledgeable about many regional initiatives and partnerships of which York County is a member.

York County's **Department of Information Technology** has new leadership effective February 1. **Tim Wyatt**, formerly the Deputy Director, has been promoted to Director of Information Technology (IT) upon the retirement of Dr. Adam Frisch. Tim joined York County IT in 2004 and prior to that served as an intern. Among other responsibilities, the IT department ensures the security of the public's electronic interactions with the County. In furtherance of that mission, Tim developed and presented a citizen cybersecurity program that has been presented to many groups and has won both state and national awards.