



February 2, 2024

Registration is Now Open for Spring 2024 Fire and Life Safety Program

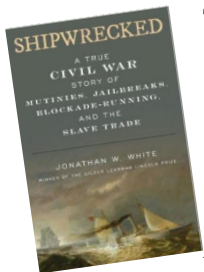
The Department of Fire and Life Safety is happy to announce the return of its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program. This popular citizen program gives participants the knowledge, skills, and abilities to better help themselves, their families, their neighborhood, and the community when York County is affected by major emergencies or disasters. Classes begin Tuesday, March 12 and are held in the Public Safety Building (301 Goodwin Neck Road). CERT requires a commitment of one evening a week for up to eight weeks of training from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., as well as two Saturday mornings for a final training practice, final exercise, and graduation. Classes include presentations, discussions, and practical, hands-on experiences. Registration is free and open to residents, agencies, and those who work or worship in York County. Participants must be at least 18 years old. More information, including the registration form and Memorandum of Understanding, can be found [online](#).



Help Pick Your York County Favorites in the Readers' Choice Awards!

Time is running out to pick your favorite York County businesses for the [Coastal Virginia Best of Readers' Choice Awards!](#) Voting is open until March 4, and it's easy to do. Just click on the link above and choose the category to see the nominees. Pick your favorite business, but don't forget to click "Vote" at the bottom of the page to cast your ballot. Let's help the hardworking folks of York County receive the recognition they deserve!

Free Lecture on February 18: "Shipwrecked"



The public is invited to attend a free lecture presented by Christopher Newport University Professor Jonathan W. White, who will discuss the true story of swashbuckling sea captain Appleton Oaksmith and the murky, dangerous world of blockade-running and slave trading during the Civil War. The story comes from Professor White's newly released book "Shipwrecked" that can be purchased and signed at the event along with some of Professor White's 17 other books. The presentation begins at 2 p.m. and is held in York Hall (301 Main Street) in historic Yorktown. Stop by and learn more about the extraordinary measures the Lincoln Administration took to destroy the illegal transatlantic slave trade. No registration is required. Additional information is available [online](#).

Now Seeking Future Members of the Youth Commission

York County teens currently in grades 8 to 11 may apply to serve on the York County Youth Commission, an advisory body of up to 15 members (three appointed from each voting district). The Youth Commission, which serves as a liaison between the Board of Supervisors and the youth of York County, participates in a variety of community service projects, and serves as a forum for young people to present their ideas and suggestions, and learn more about local government. Applications are due no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 29. Applications include an essay and letter of recommendation, so don't wait until the last minute! Interested teens and their parents are invited to attend the Monday, March 11 Youth Commission meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Yorktown Library. Those who attend will have a chance to ask questions of the current members. Attendance at this meeting is not required to be considered for appointment. Complete information is available [online](#).



Register by February 12 for the March 5 Presidential Primaries

Virginia Democratic and Republican Presidential Primaries will be held on Tuesday, March 5. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. The deadline to register to vote in the March 5 primaries, or to update your address or other registration information, is Monday, February 12. Most Virginia residents may register [online](#) instead of in-person. Early voting is already underway at both Registrar's locations (Washington Square Shopping Center and Victory Village Shopping Center), Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. These offices will also be open on Saturday, February 24, and Saturday, March 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to assist voters. Additional information about voting is available in the recent [press release](#).

Additional Notes for the Week . . . Tomorrow (2/3) is "Take Your Child to the Library Day!" and both branches of the York County Public Library have special activities planned. Read all about it in last week's [press release](#). **Nominations for Outstanding Youth Awards** are due no later than February 16. Additional information is available [online](#). Arts and cultural organizations seeking **grant funds** from the **Arts Commission** may submit their [requests](#) by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 1.



Citizen News Weekly is compiled and published by York County Public Affairs each Friday to share news and events with our citizens and neighbors. This weekly newsletter is placed on our [website](#) and delivered directly to your inbox. Questions? Contact Gail Whittaker, Public Information Officer: 757-890-3310 or whittgl@yorkcounty.gov.