



DOUG HOLROYD

York County Supervisor, District 1

(757) 903-9908

Website: www.friendsofdougholroyd.com

Email address: Douglas.Holroyd@YorkCounty.gov

Personal Email address: Doug.Holroyd@gmail.com

Subscribe for District 1 Updates

District 1 Update: November 2024

OVERVIEW OF COUNTY-WIDE ISSUES

York County Board of Supervisors / School Board Joint Session

The agenda for this joint meeting included an update on the School Division's Master Plan, an update on York County residential development and an open discussion on extending the tuition rebate/credit currently offered to School Division and County employees who reside outside of York County to that of business owners who consider moving their business to York County.

The Master Plan update reflected the progress made over the last several years, adding security vestibules at each school, repair to roof and HVAC systems, and enhancement of sports fields and lighting at each school. Clearly, good progress was made in each of the school sites, but a very limited investment for classrooms, gymnasiums or cafeteria facilities.

York County residential development reflected a very substantial growth in the Upper County. This is not surprising, given the number of developments approved in recent years. The Elementary schools, Magruder and Waller Mill are at or near capacity, with a further influx of students imminent.

The point I made during this meeting is that we need to design, construct and open expansions to the Elementary and Middle schools. Queens Lake Middle is scheduled for expansion in 2028, but Waller Mill is not scheduled until 2031. In my view this is too slow. I prefer to see both expansions move forward to 2028.

The open discussion on extending the free tuition program to include business owners living outside the County was not well received. We are currently subsidizing School Division staff, and recently County staff who live outside of York County. Currently, there are 270 children

enrolled tuition free under this program, at a taxpayer cost in excess of \$2.7 M. Should we continue, or even consider expanding, this program while our classrooms are over capacity, and nearly 300 students are already receiving instruction within trailers. Additional review of policies and recruitment/retention impacts is needed in order to effectively determine if this policy is worth the cost to taxpayers. I will address the need for additional review with the Board of Supervisors and staff in future work sessions.

FLASHVOTE

Have you ever wished for a quick and easy way to comment on important issues that come before the County Board of Supervisors?

Recently the County issued an online FlashVote on the need for recycling, to better determine what level of recycling service the citizens are interested in and at what cost.

I encourage strong participation from all York County citizens in the FlashVote opportunities. Sign up for this program as soon as possible to assure County Supervisors know your position on key issues as they arise. The surveys are quick and easy.

York County is working with FlashVote to gather resident input through scientifically developed surveys. The survey questions are designed to be unbiased and the data from the survey is reported statistically to help County officials make informed decisions.

I consider this an outstanding tool that can help each of the Supervisors to set policy.

To participate in FlashVote, you must sign up at

<https://www.flashvote.com/yorkcountyva>

You can also sign up by calling or texting 775-235-2240.

Here's how it works:

Sign up takes less than one minute and your input is always kept anonymous

Personal or demographic information collected by FlashVote is never shared with the County or anyone else.

When residents sign up, they can determine how surveys are received – whether by email, text or phone call.

They will receive a notification whenever there is a new survey, and they will have 48 hours to participate before voting closes. Once a survey is closed, everyone who participated will automatically receive a

summary of the overall results and be able to see how their responses compare to the group.

Yorktown Days

I hope many of you were able to participate in Yorktown Days in mid-October. Colonial Williamsburg Nation Builder Mark Schneider has portrayed Marquis de Lafayette while Colonial Williamsburg Nation Builder Stephen Seals portrayed James Armistead Lafayette.

The portrayal at Yorktown, on the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's return was intended to educate the public about the life and legacy of Marquis de Lafayette who was a fierce advocate for freedom, equality and democracy.

James Armistead Lafayette was born an enslaved Virginian in New Kent County who worked for the Marquis de Lafayette as a double agent during the Revolution. He was granted his freedom in 1787 and added Lafayette to his name to honor the French general for whom he spied.

Election Feedback

Approximately 73% of York County's registered voters cast ballots in the November election. Total votes cast was 38,600.

How did that compare against the 2020 Presidential election? In the previous election cycle 38,787 votes were cast.

The biggest difference in the current election was the number who voted early or by mail-in ballot. It was very apparent to those who served as poll watchers on election day that early voting was significantly larger in this election. Almost 2/3 of the registered voters who cast a ballot, did so before November 5. There were 24,800 early voters in the recent election compared with 13,800 who voted on election day.

Voting data In District 1 is as follows: 71% voter turnout, 10% by mail-in ballot, 53% by early voting and 37% on the day of the election.

DISTRICT 1 SPECIFIC ISSUES

Ribbon Cutting / Groundbreaking

On September 25 I participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Child Development Resources Center to be constructed on Waller Mill Road, on the site of the Historic Triangle Community Center (Messner Center). The revamped facilities will include a new administration building in front of the Historic Triangle Building. It will serve the needs

for CDR and allow them to consolidate their numerous buildings across Williamsburg/JCC/York County into one location.



On Wednesday, November 6, 2024, Chilled Ponds at Yorktown, the Peninsula's premier ice skating facility, marked the completion of a \$2 million renovation with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its 34,000 square-foot facility.



National Parks Service – Closure of Colonial Parkway

National Park Service (NPS) Director Chuck Sams joined a celebration in Colonial National Historical Park marking the completion of a \$24 million shoreline restoration project. At the conclusion of the ceremony, I had the opportunity to express my concerns to the Director on the planned closure of the Colonial Parkway at Cheatham Annex / Queens Lake. This section of roadway represents the third phase closure and rehabilitation of the Parkway. The Director did not have an immediate response to the concern.

I continue to pursue funding for the Queens Lake Dam and Spillway repairs to prevent environmental damage to Queens Lake estuary and a major loss of property values for residents of Queens Lake.

Will Sroka, Legislative Director for Congressman Wittman, confirmed that they have been in contact with National Parks and are reviewing the data provided by AH Engineering to the County.

He is actively looking for other options for federal funding for this project, with inquiries out to U.S. DOT and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I am pleased to have the continued support of the Congressman following our recent elections.

Springfield Road

The Board of Supervisors is currently discussing details of a project to develop sewer connections on Springfield Road. The County's Department of Public Works is holding a "Springfield Road Sewer Extension Project" public meeting on Tuesday, Nov 12th from 5 to 7 pm in the cafeteria of the Griffin-Yeates Center (1490 Government Road). I will attend this meeting. County Staff will be available to review and discuss the project, answer questions and receive citizen comments. If you are unable to attend the public meeting, please email your comments to Elizabeth.Mertz-Guinn@yorkcounty.gov.

Friends of the York County Library

Calling all fans of the library! The Friends of the York County Library group serve a vital role in supporting and advocating for York County Libraries by increasing public awareness about the libraries, raising funds to support special projects and outstanding programs, purchasing books and other resources, promoting the use of library facilities and encouraging volunteerism.

On Sept 16th I invited Friends of the Williamsburg Library Foundation leadership to meet with York County staff and Library leadership. The WRL presented their mission statement, financials, and how the Foundation has operated for nearly 40 years. Many of these important elements will be included in the mission of "The Friends of the York County Library".

The search is on, for friends with big ideas and the desire to provide outstanding library support and experiences to all in our community.

Our public libraries are a wonderful community asset. Please consider how you can become an important part of The Friends group and promote appreciation for our outstanding York County Libraries.

If you are interested in joining the Friends of the York County Library or serving on The Friends Board, please contact Library Director Kevin Smith at library_services@yorkcounty.gov.

New Businesses

The number of new businesses in York County continues to grow, with 35 new businesses licensed in October with 6 closures.

The latest business licenses to be approved in District 1 include 5 home-based businesses that fall under the category of Personal Services/ Commissioned Services:

- Clark McDonal. located at 268 Nottingham Road
- Family Home Care Assistance LLC, located at 800 E Rochambeau Dr.
- Guided by Grace, Consulting LLC, located at 121 Ironsmith Way.
- High Quality Landscaping Services LLC, located at 147 Sheppard Dr.
- Williamsburg Rental LLC, a Short-Term Rental located at 122 W Semple Rd. approved by the Board of Supervisors in July.

- Lendmark Financial Services LLC, a commercial based professional lender located at 6614 Mooretown Rd.
- Stephanie Moser, Retail Merchant, Medical Health and Beauty, a home-based business located at 120 Bowstring Dr.
- Williamsburg Concrete Inc, a home-based business providing Contractor services, located at 119 Indiana Lane.

I value your input. Please become a regular recipient of this newsletter.

I value your input and am happy to address questions or concerns on these or any other topics for the district. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

You can reach me at my email address shared above.

Click on the link above to request my monthly newsletter or copy/paste the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSez8_XXEx7rgRR2XXobA1uRJK-cRUXFMd_D-Oa_T7eeNer1Jw/viewform