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District 1 Update: July 2024

OVERVIEW OF COUNTY-WIDE ISSUES

Trash and Recycle Rates – July 1st, 2024

Solid waste and recycling rates increased effective July 1st with the expiration of the prior 5-year contract. Bi-monthly billing for curbside garbage and recycling increased from \$49 to \$68. The bulk of this increase was for recycling service.

Non-recyclable items collected at the Recycling Center must be discarded into the landfill. This amounted to 43% of total recycled material in the month of May. The cost of landfilling this non-recyclable material is roughly \$65 per ton.

Five years ago, China accepted most of the recycled plastic from the USA. This is no longer the case. The only plastic currently being recycled is Type #1 and #2 BUT it must be plastic bottles and jugs. Items such as butter tubs or yogurt containers must be landfilled. This hand sorting of waste plastic is causing a high percentage of residue and significant cost increases.

Glass collected by Waste Management in York County is currently crushed and used in landfill for a surface layer (impermeable layer) at the end of each day.

Glass collected at the 3 recycling centers in W'burg/JCC is recycled to the Owens Illinois facility on Industrial Blvd in Toano. York County is currently meeting with Owens Illinois to discuss a similar recycle program for glass jars and glass bottles.

Cardboard, paper, aluminum and metal collected by Waste Management in York County are recycled by TFC in Chesapeake.

Soon, you will see a program launched by York County on recycling: "Recycling Right". The purpose of this program is to educate citizens on what is accepted and what is rejected in our recycling program.

Solid Waste & Recycling	Monthly Rate	Bi-Monthly Billing
Curbside Garbage and Recycling	\$34.00	\$68.00
Garbage Only Service	\$24.00	\$48.00
Recycling Only Service	\$13.00	\$26.00
Garbage and Recycling - Senior Citizen Rate (Age 70+)	\$22.50	\$45.00

Review of the Property Assessment

As I mentioned last month, I have asked for a review of the District by District average assessment values from our Assessment office.

Land values across the County increased by a small percentage with the exception of District 3 (with a five-fold increase in assessed land value).

Real estate assessment went up by approximately 20% across the County. Taxes went up 8-12% in all districts, but not in District 3.

I continue to question why we are seeing such discrepancies. Ultimately, I want to be assured of a balanced and fair assessment (and tax) implementation across the entire County. Commissioner of Revenue, Assessment Office and Director of Finance met with me in mid-June to discuss this data. Work is still underway.

VA General Assembly Subcommittee on Gaming

The subcommittee on Gaming met on June 17th. On their agenda was a request for Casino Gaming on Cruise Ships while docked in Offshore waters of the Commonwealth.

I wrote to each member of the subcommittee as well as our Delegate and Senator, to express concerns York County has with the presence of large cruise ships in the Chesapeake and the impact this gaming proposal might have.

The subcommittee adjourned for further review.

Visit of the Tall Ships in Yorktown

Kalmar Nyckel made its first of 3 stops in Yorktown in mid-June. If you have an opportunity to sail on, or tour the ship, please do so. It was a blast!



Visit to Twin City – Zweibrücken Germany

The Royal Deux-Pont (Two Bridges) Regiment of Zweibrücken fought under the Command of General Rochambeau. The Regiment stormed Redoubt 9, while Alexander Hamilton's troops stormed Redoubt 10 ending the revolutionary war on Oct 19th, 1781.

Delegations from Zweibrücken and Yorktown have visited each other every 4th year since the American bicentennial. I joined a group of 8 from Yorktown in late June to celebrate the history of our twin cities.

And I'll mention that this was at no cost to our taxpayers.



Yorktown on the 4th

My appreciation to Ron Struble for use of his '68 Mustang during the parade.



DISTRICT 1 SPECIFIC ISSUES

Queens Lake Dam, Spillway and Lake Funding

I continue to pursue funding of 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.

During a meeting in April, Congressman Rob Wittman highlighted the work the National Park Service is currently undertaking to improve the Colonial Parkway. He will, with the County's help, address the water runoff into the Queens Lake basin attributed to the Colonial Parkway and seek their support and funding for expected dredging costs.

AH Engineering has completed the work, to determine the National Parks share of the runoff and the expected cost for dredging. A resolution will be prepared for the August BOS meeting to endorse the efforts by Congressman Wittman.

York 64 Trade Center – NorthPoint Mega Warehouse

NorthPoint, for those who have not previously read about it, is an Amazon type distribution warehouse complex, comprised of five buildings totaling 2.4 million sq ft of floor space. The proposed plan for this operation is the equivalent of 11 Lowes Home Improvement stores in one location. NorthPoint has plans to build this warehouse along Lightfoot Road, on the old Williamsburg Pottery property.

At my request, VDOT provided an independent review of the applicant's Traffic Impact Assessment and concluded that a high-capacity parcel distribution warehouse operation is inappropriate for this site and has eliminated that option for the Developer.

The developer has not communicated with the County since last September, and it's not clear that the sale of the land will progress given the decision provided by VDOT.

New Businesses

The number of new businesses in York County continues to grow, with 15 new businesses licensed in June.

The latest businesses to open in District 1 include:

- Pastries By Kay LLC, a home-based baker located near Bypass Rd.
- Fire Tried Kettle Corn Co, a food vending truck
- Xtra Sew Ordinary LLC, a home-based Home Décor Business in Waller Mill Heights

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:

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