



OPPORTUNITIES | EDUCATION | EVENTS | UPDATES

June 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

Hurricane Season Prep

ICYMI: Foam Rules

Primrose Groundbreaking

Pro Safety Tips

Upcoming Events:
Workforce Summit &
Networking BAH

Home-Based Business
July Lunch & Learn

Marketing Minute: Cool
Savings Pass Opportunity

Business Anniversary:
Denbigh Law

Mythbusters Series:
Crisis Planning
Resources

Featured Property for
Sale: 100 Waller Mill
Road

Focus on workplace safety

June is National Safety Month—is your business prepared?

Every June, the National Safety Council leads the charge for **National Safety Month**, a nationwide effort to reduce the leading causes of injury and death at work, on the road, and in our communities. Since 1996, this annual observance has encouraged individuals and organizations to take proactive steps toward creating safer environments, because safety isn't just a priority, it's a responsibility.

For local business owners, it's the perfect time to:

- **Assess your emergency plans**
- **Strengthen safety practices**
- **Ensure your team is ready** for whatever may come, from workplace violence to natural disasters to cyber threats.

This month, we're sharing helpful tips and resources to help you protect your employees, your customers, and your bottom line.





STORM SMARTS

Don't let a hurricane blow your business off course

The skies may be clear today, but hurricane season officially began June 1. Now is the time to make sure your business is storm-ready. From backing up digital files to checking insurance coverage and creating an emergency communication plan, smart preparation now can minimize downtime later.

Use this "calm before the storm" to get you and your team ready. Even storms forecasted to be minor can be devastating. (Did you know that Hurricane Isabel had weakened to a strong tropical storm before hitting our area?) Business owners who prepare ahead of time are more likely to protect their people, property and profits. Make sure your emergency supplies are stocked, your staff knows the drill and your data is backed up. Resilience starts with readiness.

[LEARN MORE](#)



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT **Foam food container ban starting soon**

Virginia's ban on expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam containers, commonly known as Styrofoam, is rolling out soon. Starting July 1, 2025, chain

restaurants with 20+ locations in Virginia must stop using EPS containers. All other food vendors (including small restaurants, food trucks and salad bars) must comply by July 1, 2026.

The ban is part of a statewide effort to reduce litter, protect wildlife and encourage eco-friendly alternatives like paper, plant-based or reusable packaging. Local exemptions may be available for businesses facing financial hardship, but violators could face fines of up to \$50 per day.

PRO TIP: Use this as an opportunity to turn compliance into a marketing win. Let your customers know you're going green! Announce your switch to sustainable packaging and highlight any additional steps you're taking to reduce waste and keep customers safe from the harmful effects of foam packaging. It's a great way to show your commitment to the environment and connect with health- and eco-conscious consumers.

[LEARN MORE](#)



A recently completed Primrose facility nearly identical to the one under construction in Grafton.

Breaking ground, building opportunity

Planned childcare center a win for families and the local economy

Reliable childcare isn't just a family need, it's an economic one. As many employers saw firsthand during the COVID-19 pandemic, the lack of accessible, high-quality childcare can directly impact workforce participation.

When families are unable to secure care for their children, one parent is forced to scale back hours, pause their career, or exit the workforce entirely.

That's why the upcoming arrival of Primrose Schools is welcome news for York County families and businesses alike. The nationally recognized early education provider will officially break ground on its new facility June 26 at 427 Grafton Drive, and is expected to open in late 2025.

Primrose Schools will join the ranks of several established and trusted childcare centers in the lower end of York County, including Little Log Cabin which recently celebrated 30 years in business), A+ Childcare (which completed a major renovation earlier this year), Peninsula

Academy, Childtime of Yorktown, and The Goddard School. Together, these centers play a vital role in supporting York County's workforce by giving parents the confidence and flexibility to remain active and engaged in their careers.

As York County continues to grow, investments in early childhood education like Primrose Schools ensure the community remains not only a great place to live and raise a family, but also a great place to work.



Primrose School
of Yorktown

YOU'RE INVITED!

Ground Breaking Ceremony
427 Grafton Drive, Yorktown

Thursday, June 26 at 11:00 am

Please join Amber Lempke, Franchise Owner of the new Primrose School of Yorktown for a short ceremony followed by refreshments

*Parking at Amory Funeral Home across from the site.

SHERIFF'S SAFETY TIP

If you see something, say something!

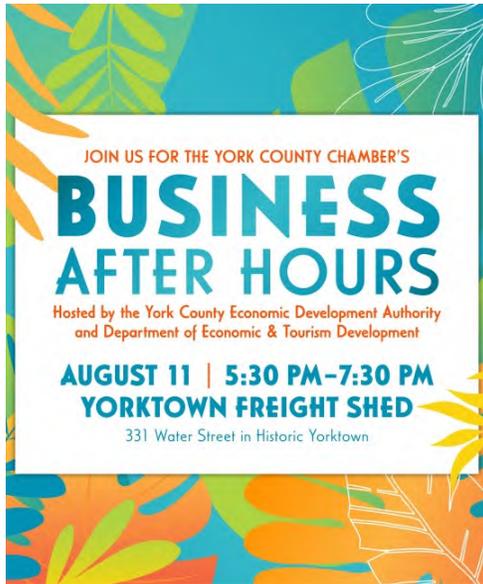
This well-known mantra doesn't just apply to abandoned luggage at the airport. Vigilance and reporting provides safety for your business, too. York County Sheriff Ron Montgomery urges business owners to **not overlook "minor" incidents**. Handling petty theft or suspicious activity internally may seem easier, but it can actually make your workplace—and the surrounding community—less safe.

If you see something, say something to the authorities. Call 911 to report crimes or concerns, and encourage your employees to do the same. One of the most helpful things businesses can do: **share security footage**. According to Sheriff Montgomery, camera access often plays a key role in

solving crimes and preventing repeat offenses at neighboring businesses. Consider implementing an old-fashioned phone tree with nearby business owners, to keep everyone in the loop if something seems amiss.

SAVE THE DATE

You don't want to miss these events

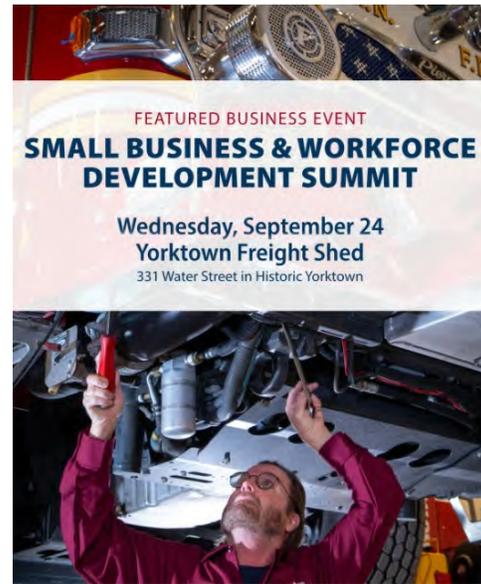


Business After Hours

Looking to make new connections, grow your customer base or explore potential partnerships? Don't miss York County's premier summer networking event!

Co-hosted by York County Economic & Tourism Development and the York County Chamber of Commerce, this relaxed after-hours gathering brings together local business owners, entrepreneurs, and community leaders for an evening of conversation, collaboration, and opportunity.

Whether you're a longtime Chamber member or new to the local business scene, this is your chance to build relationships that matter. *Registration details*



Small Business & Workforce Development Summit

Join us this fall for York County's annual Small Business & Workforce Development Summit, where business owners, entrepreneurs and community leaders come together to tackle today's top workforce challenges and explore the tools that drive business success.

Co-hosted by York County Economic & Tourism Development, the York County Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce, and the Hampton Roads Workforce Council, this event offers powerful insights and practical resources for local employers.

Enjoy valuable networking time, complimentary refreshments, and one-on-one access to

coming soon!

**Monday, Aug. 11
5:30–7:30 PM**

Yorktown Freight Shed 331
Water Street
in Historic Yorktown

workforce and small business
resources, all in one morning.
Registration details coming soon!

Wednesday, Sept. 24

Yorktown Freight Shed
331 Water Street
in Historic Yorktown

HOME-BASED BUSINESSES Learn more about insights and analytics



The popular Home-Based Business Lunch & Learn Series is back! The fifth session of 2025 will focus on leveraging your site's analytics when marketing your home-based business.

"Guide to Google & Meta Insights & Analytics"

**Thursday, July 17
Noon–1 PM via Zoom**

Led by Todd DuRose of HRSBDC, this virtual event will leave you equipped with foundational knowledge of Google Analytics and Meta Business Suite to effectively track performance. Gain valuable insights into audience behavior and learn how to use data-driven strategies to optimize your marketing efforts, improve engagement and drive business growth..

See the [2025 Lunch & Learn series flyer](#) for details on all upcoming sessions.

Don't miss the two *in-person* workshops

designed just for you

"Accessing & Managing Capital"

Monday, Aug. 21

10 AM–Noon

Location: The Offices of Two Five & J, Newport News

Get practical funding strategies, plus a guided tour of a vibrant co-working space.

"Moving from Idea to Action"

Thursday, Sept. 18

10 AM–Noon

Location: William & Mary Entrepreneurship Hub

Learn actionable entrepreneurial thinking, problem-solving, strategic decision-making and networking tips. You'll also enjoy a special tour of the co-working environment.

See the [2025 In-person Lunch & Learn flyer](#) for details and registration links.

REGISTER FOR JULY 17 EVENT

MARKETING MINUTE

Cool pass, hot opportunity



SUBMIT YOUR OFFER

Looking to attract more customers? Take advantage of the wave of summer visitors flowing into the region.

Visit Williamsburg is accepting submissions for its [Cool Summer Savings Pass](#), a promotional program designed to attract tourists and drive business to local restaurants, shops, attractions, and lodging. Participating businesses can offer summer specials like discounts, BOGOs or free merchandise, and gain great visibility in the process.

The pass launches July 1st, so act fast and submit your offer today!

BUSINESS ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating decades of dedication in York County



After 40 years, Denbigh Law Center won't rest

For the past 40 years, Denbigh Law Center has earned a reputation for providing thoughtful, accessible legal counsel to residents across the region. Serving generation after generation, the firm has grown with the community while remaining firmly rooted in its mission: to offer skilled legal support during life's most challenging moments. Specializing in family law, bankruptcy and criminal defense, Denbigh Law Center continues to serve clients with compassion, professionalism and a commitment to justice.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Does your business have a milestone anniversary coming up?
If you've been in York County 20 years or longer, let us know!
[Contact us](#) for a chance to be featured in a future edition.

BUSINESS MYTHBUSTERS 'Crisis planning is a homeowner thing'

MYTH: The tips, resources and assistance for crisis planning are designed around homes and families, not businesses.



FACT: Plenty of organizations want to help your business avoid disaster! York County, along with several regional and state organizations, provide many resources to help local business owners prepare for crises before they happen—and respond and thrive after. Visit the sites below to sign up for important alerts and information specific to your business and zone.

Alert systems and community resources for businesses

Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Reporting Requirements: If your business stores hazardous materials at any level, contact the [Local Emergency Planning Committee](#) (LEPC) for reporting requirements. LEPC coordinates local emergency planning efforts and ensures compliance with federal and state laws.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: York County participates in the [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) through the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC). Updated in 2022, this comprehensive document identifies local vulnerabilities and sets specific goals and objectives for hazard mitigation. Be sure to review this resource as part of your business's annual safety audit, as it ranks vulnerabilities by locality and provides valuable insights.

Emergency Communications Heads Up Program: This opt-in program, maintained by Peninsula Regional Emergency Communications, covers York County, Poquoson, James City County and Williamsburg. Businesses can notify the [Heads Up Program](#) of special needs for employees, such as wheelchair confinement, ensuring critical information is available to dispatchers during emergencies.

RAVE Program: Sign up for [RAVE](#), York County's new and improved alert system that includes the Smart911 program, allowing businesses and residents to receive customized emergency notifications.

IPAWS System: York County is licensed to use the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). This system sends wireless emergency alerts (similar to Amber Alerts) and Emergency Alert System notifications. Officials can target alerts by street, county or specific radius. Alerts are automatic, and no registration is required.

Enhanced 911 System: York County's Enhanced 911 system identifies your location, even if you don't know the address when you call. It also includes a Text-to-911 feature for emergencies where phone calls are not possible or advisable. New in 2025, the text system even allows [photos and videos](#) to be uploaded and sent to emergency dispatchers.

VA VEST Alerts and Private Sector Portal: Sign up for alerts through the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) [Private Sector Liaison Team](#). This system provides businesses with critical updates and emergency notifications.

Know Your Zone: Find your flood zone, elevation information and evacuation zone—and access helpful resources—during hurricane season and other natural disasters at the [Know Your Zone](#) site.

Virginia Fusion Center (VFC) Shield Scam Alerts: Stay up to date on cyber scams and fraud trends through periodic email alerts and guidance from [VFC](#), supported by the Virginia State Police.

Stay proactive by reviewing these tools, signing up for alerts, and integrating emergency resources into your business continuity plans.

FEATURED PROPERTY
Office space for sale off Bypass Road
100 Waller Mill Road in upper York County

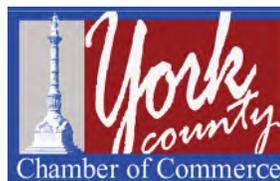


Located at the high-traffic intersection of Bypass Road and Waller Mill Road, this 4,800 sq. ft. commercial property on 0.81 acres offers exceptional visibility and access. Just minutes from William & Mary, Colonial Williamsburg and the new 200,000 sq. ft. Greater Williamsburg Sports and Events Center, the site is surrounded by hotels, retail and a growing customer base. Zoned General Business (GB), the building is move-in ready with an existing office build-out, ideal for investors or business owners seeking a foothold in a dynamic, affluent market.

[CONTACT AGENT](#)

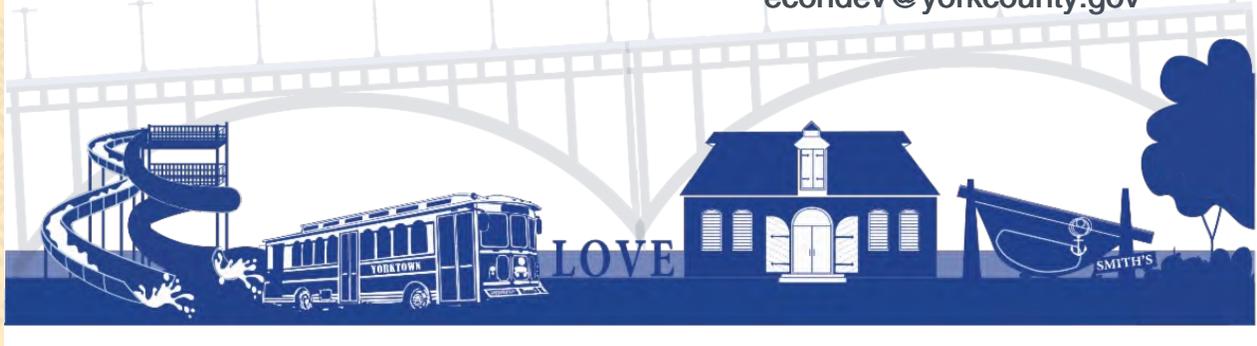
[PROPERTY DETAILS](#)

Thanks to our partner organizations:



York County's Department of
Economic & Tourism Development
is here to assist you with all your
business needs, from funding, to
expansion, to education.

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econdev@yorkcounty.gov



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