



COMMERCIAL DEVELOPER

Digest



July 2025

10 reasons York County is the right choice for your clients

Sure, there are the well-known factors—such as low tax rates, exceptional schools and a pro-business board. But there's more to the story.

Below, we give you the tools to help seal your deal. This list shows exactly why so many others are choosing to open, grow and invest in York County. From exciting new business activity (hello, Primrose Schools, Burgers on Edge, AutoZone and more!) to strong workforce development programs, award-winning rankings and a steady pipeline of support, grants and networking opportunities, we've got what your clients need to succeed. Add in a vibrant tourism economy fueled by rich history and the upcoming 250th anniversary events, and you've got a location that offers more than just square footage.

Keep reading for the top 10 reasons businesses choose York County, along with links, highlights and resources you can share with your prospects today.

REASON #1

We're award-winning & highly ranked



Each summer, accolades from regional, state and national organizations roll in. This year, York County companies and the commonwealth once again earned top marks.

Virginia ranked **#4 in Top States for Business by CNBC**, with standout recognition in several key areas,

including #1 for education and #2 for infrastructure.

Business Facilities Magazine also ranked Virginia **#1 for Customized Workforce Training**.

These rankings highlight Virginia's continued leadership in innovation,

infrastructure and workforce readiness, which are key drivers that make doing business here a smart investment.

Locally, York County businesses continue to receive well-deserved recognition. **Williamsburg Jewelers** was named **2025 Small Business of the Year** by the Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce.

Meanwhile, more than **100 York County businesses**, including 14 located in Historic Yorktown, were named winners in the **2025 Coastal Virginia Magazine Best-Of Readers' Choice Awards**.



REASON #2 We have a world-class workforce

In today's fast-changing business landscape, one resource consistently proves the key to success: people.

No matter your client's industry or company size, having the right team in place can mean the difference between surviving and thriving. That's why workforce development is more than just a buzzword, it's a strategic advantage—one York County is putting front and center.

Sure, York County boasts one of the lowest unemployment rates in the region, but we also benefit from our proximity to the highly skilled and trained workforce of not one, but two major metropolitan areas: Richmond and Hampton Roads (Virginia Beach–Norfolk–Newport News, VA–NC). Not to mention the thousands of military personnel transitioning out of service in our region each year, many of whom are looking to begin the next chapter of their careers right here in Hampton Roads.

Programs like **Virginia Values Veterans (V3)** help employers connect with this uniquely trained, disciplined and motivated talent pool, and provide support services and contacts to make hiring veterans easier than ever.



FEATURED BUSINESS EVENT **SMALL BUSINESS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT**

Wednesday, September 24
Yorktown Freight Shed
331 Water Street in Historic Yorktown



Join us for York County's annual **Small Business & Workforce Development Summit**, where business owners, entrepreneurs and community leaders

Our region is backed by powerful tools and organizations to help businesses find, train and retain employees. From hiring incentives and training grants offered through the **Hampton Roads Workforce Council** to statewide business support from the **Virginia Economic Development Partnership**, your clients can benefit from a variety of programs designed specifically with employers in mind.

Check out the **summer issue** (shown above) of our quarterly magazine, *It's Your Business*, to find insights into these resources and tips for applying them to your business and your prospects' businesses.

[READ OUR MAGAZINE](#)

come together to tackle today's top workforce challenges and explore the tools that drive business success.

This event offers you and your clients powerful insights and practical resources for local employers. Enjoy valuable networking time, complimentary refreshments and one-on-one access to workforce and small business contacts.

Wednesday, Sept. 24

8:30-10:30 AM

331 Water Street

[REGISTER FOR EVENT](#)

REASON #3

Hundreds of new businesses start (and thrive) here each year



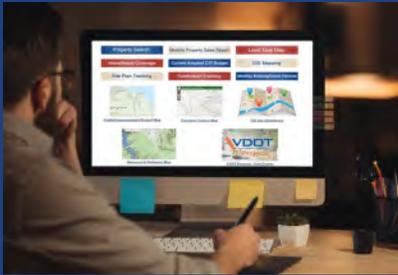
A Primrose Schools child care center nearly identical to the one under construction in Grafton.



Stay in the know

Each month, new businesses open up in York County. Be the first to know when you check out our New In Town:

- **Business list**
- **Video series**
- **Ribbon-cutting images**



What's up with THAT?

Want to know what's coming to the County? Wondering what's going on at that site next door? Check out the **Development Dashboard** for details on recent property sales, assessments, building permits, site plans and much more!

NEW BUSINESS LICENSES



This summer has been full of exciting business activity in York County!

Primrose Schools, a nationally recognized early education provider, broke ground on its new facility June 26 at 427 Grafton Drive. It's expected to open in late 2025.

Burgers on the Edge celebrated its **ribbon cutting** on July 18, bringing gourmet burgers to **The Edge District** in upper York County. **Pappas Orthodontics** and **On The Hill Gallery** also opened their new locations, both in Washington Square Shopping Center.

And there's more on the horizon. Kroger is planning to expand its Victory Boulevard location, and AutoZone is opening a new store, **both set to fill the former Big K space in Kiln Creek.**

The brand-new **Yorktown Welcome Center** is expected to open in August at the Yorktown waterfront. The new facility will offer a welcoming, functional and informative space for all visitors:

- Fresh, friendly gateway to the area
- Modern, year-round restrooms
- Updated Dockmaster's office
- Fully ADA-compliant access



REASON #4

Our businesses have decades of dedication to 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.

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 ARTICLE](#)



Art Orthodontic Lab makes the devices that make you smile

For the past 30 years, **Art Orthodontic Laboratory** has quietly operated behind the scenes, helping dentists and orthodontists perfect smiles with custom retainers, aligners and more.

Led by U.S. Marines veteran and master technician Jeff Edmondson, this small, family-run lab combines hands-on artistry with cutting-edge 3D printing. Based in lower York County, Art Ortho is a shining example of the innovation, craftsmanship and community spirit that define our community's small business scene.

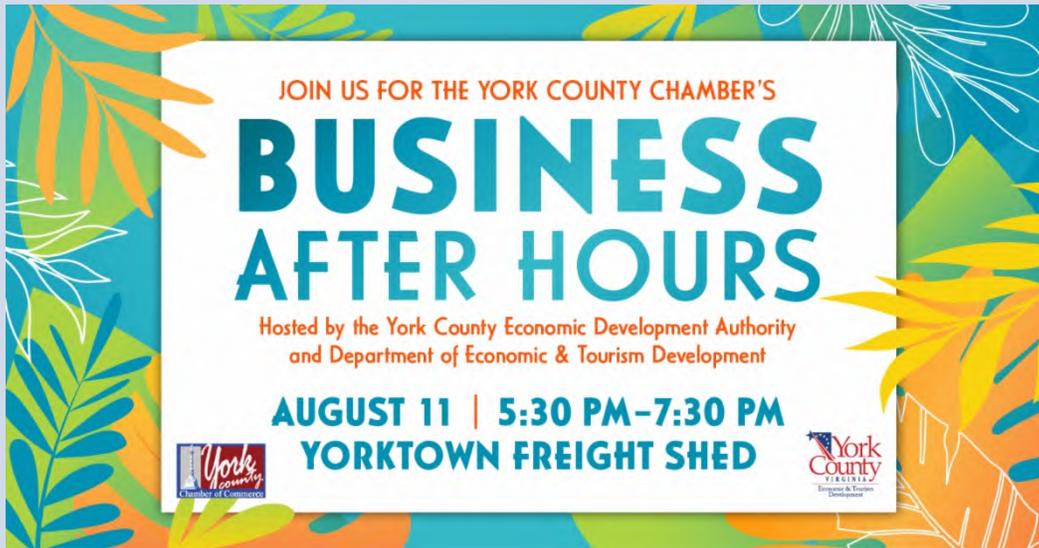
[READ ARTICLE](#)

What does this mean for you and your clients?

It means we have a business environment where companies want to stay. It means your clients' clients get to patronize businesses that don't vanish the next day. And it means York County goes out of our way to spotlight on long-standing businesses and celebrate their continued success. Encourage your clients to take advantage of the same opportunities and establish their businesses in our thriving locality.

REASON #5

We host annual networking events to help businesses grow



Want to help your clients and prospects make new connections, grow their customer base or explore potential partnerships? Or maybe you'd like to do those things for your own business, too? Don't miss York County's premier summer networking event!

Co-hosted by York County Economic & Tourism Development, York County Economic Development Authority 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.

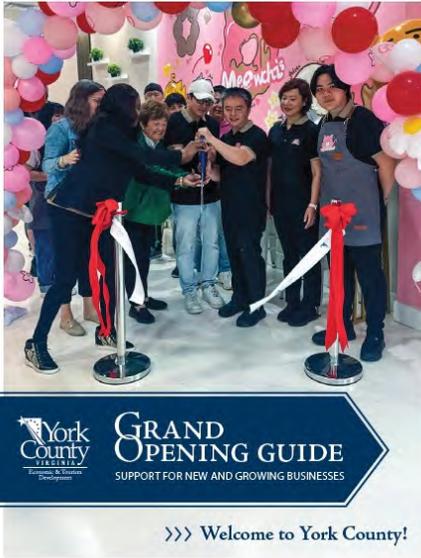
Whether you and your clients are longtime Chamber members or new to the local business scene, this is your chance to build relationships that matter.

Monday, Aug. 11

5:30–7:30 PM

Yorktown Freight Shed
331 Water Street in Historic Yorktown

RSVP



REASON #6

We provide valuable resources for your clients

If one of your clients is opening a new business in York County, WELCOME! We're glad they're here.

One of the first things they'll want to do is check out our many **resources for new businesses and entrepreneurs** and our **grant programs**. Our new **Grand Opening Guide** and **Starting a Business brochure** provide the information they need to get off on the right foot.

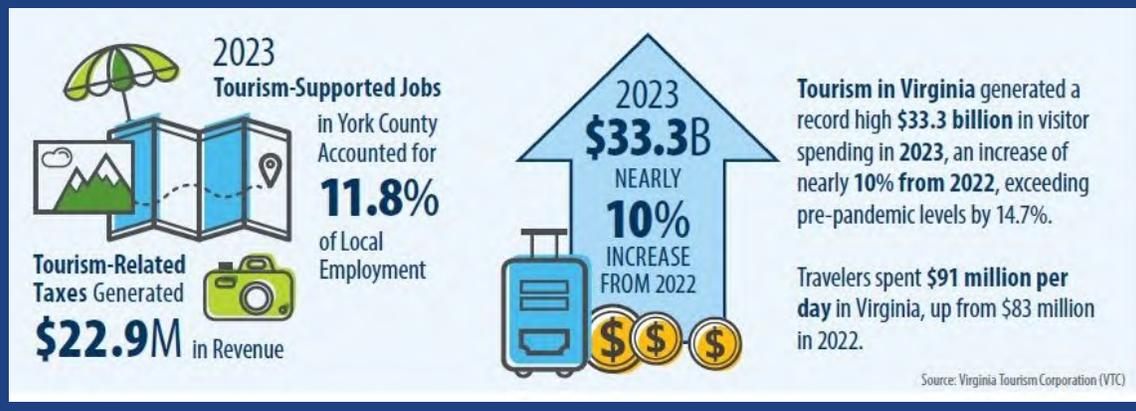
REASON #7

History comes alive here—and so do crowds

York County isn't just where history happened... it's where it still happens. As we gear up for America's 250th anniversary, the region is preparing to welcome a significant wave of new and returning visitors eager to experience our rich Revolutionary War heritage. That's great news for your clients. More tourists means more potential customers, more foot traffic and more visitor spending in local shops, restaurants, attractions and service-based businesses.

In 2023 alone, visitor spending in York County reached \$297.5 million, and tourism supported nearly 12% of all local employment. With national spotlight events on the horizon and visitors coming from around the world, this is the time for your clients to establish or expand their presence here. But it's not just history buffs making their way here. A major **Hollywood production** recently took over Yorktown, putting our community in the spotlight, demonstrating our appeal as a filming location and providing yet another boost to visitor spending.

Explore upcoming **VA250 events** and help your clients position themselves to benefit from our growing tourism economy.



REASON #8

We're proactive about smart growth



York County's Board of Supervisors recently adopted a forward-thinking data center ordinance designed to guide future development in a way that's both business friendly and community conscious. This proactive approach ensures that clear guidelines, covering important considerations like energy and water usage, noise levels, generator testing, architectural standards and safety, are already in place, so companies don't have to wait on lengthy approvals or uncertainty when opportunity knocks. It's another example of how York County is planning ahead to welcome growth, while maintaining the high quality of life that makes our community so attractive in the first place.

REASON #9

We have strategic sites and buildings available

While York County boasts a relatively low vacancy rate—a sign of a healthy, thriving business environment—we still offer a wide range of **sites and buildings** in key commercial corridors for new and expanding businesses. From move-in ready retail spaces to build-to-suit opportunities, we can help your clients find the right fit. We also have business-friendly zoning that supports a variety of industries, and available land for those looking to grow from the ground up.

Let us help you match your clients with the space they need to succeed. Check out the featured property below for an example of what's currently on the market, and reach out to our team if you can use additional assistance.

FOR LEASE

1,250 - 6,000 SF



Don't let your clients miss out on the opportunity to lease space in a brand-new office building being constructed along the busy Route 17 corridor in lower York.

This premier **new-construction office building** is expected to be available in the fourth quarter of 2025. Ideal for professional office or medical use, the building offers customizable floor plans with suites ranging from approximately 1,250 to 6,000 square feet. Tenants will enjoy abundant on-site parking and the opportunity for prominent exterior signage on a roadside monument sign (subject to availability). Conveniently located at 8529 George Washington Memorial Highway, across from the Yorktown Library, the property is approximately a seven-minute drive to I-64, offering easy regional access.

REASON #10

Big or small, we help them all

The Virginia Department of Small Business & Supplier Diversity requires that a business have less than 250 employees to be considered for SWAM Certification (among other factors). **99.8% of York County's companies meet this definition.**

At the end of the day, what sets York County apart is our personal, hands-on approach to economic development. Whether your client is opening their very first storefront or expanding a multi-state operation, we're here to help every step of the way.

With over 99% of our businesses considered small, we know what it means to support the "little guy," and we take pride in

doing it well. No company is too big or too small to receive our attention, our resources and our genuine commitment to their success. Did you know that York County offers more small-business grants (by a landslide) than any locality in the region?

From one-on-one consultations to site selection, permitting assistance, workforce connections, marketing guidance and more, we're not just cheering your clients on from the sidelines. We're in it with them, and with you!

How can we help you?



Have a client looking to lease, buy or develop commercial property in York County?

Reach out to us. We're here to help you close the deal. Our experienced staff offers free, personalized support to help businesses locate or expand in the County. From **incentives** and permitting assistance to connections with state-level partners, we're a resource you can count on. Plus, our online **Development Guide** and **Starting a Business Guide** make it even easier for your clients to navigate the process and access available programs.

Want to share your available properties or stay up to date on what's available?

Add **econdev@yorkcounty.gov** to your e-news and property update email lists so we can find your listings and promote them for you for free. We feature available commercial properties on our **Facebook page**, monthly **business e-news**, on our **website** and in our own **interactive property database**.



Ribbon-cutting support for your clients

Did you know that York County's ETD office held 23 ribbon-cutting events last year? Let us help your clients, too!

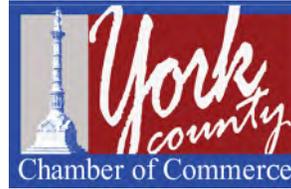
Our office is pleased to offer new businesses a range of grand-opening and ribbon-cutting services; including:

- Planning assistance
- Scheduling speakers
- Providing ribbon and large ceremonial scissors
- Taking event photos/video
- Distributing a media release (upon request)
- Providing exposure in YCETD online publications.

If you have a client that has recently opened a business in the county, please **reach out** to us today for help.



Thanks to our partner organizations:



York County Economic & Tourism Development | 121 Alexander Hamilton Blvd. | Yorktown, VA
23690 US



Try email marketing for free today!