

Newsletter

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MIDDLE ROAD ELEMENTARY WELCOMES STUDENTS

Middle Road Elementary School opened its doors to students on February 21, 2023. Taking nearly two years to complete, the new 98,000-square foot building has a student capacity of 850. The school replaces William A. Walton Elementary School, which served the community for over 60 years.

Middle Road showcases educational innovations including expansive collaborative learning spaces in each wing of the Pre-K - 5 school, additional areas for reading and math interventionists, and other resources to support student learning. The campus' built-in flexibility allows for learning spaces to be adjusted in order to serve the community for years to come.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 INTRODUCED BUDGET

County Administrator Jeffrey Stoke presented the introduced Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the public on March 14. The presentation followed three pre-budget work sessions where Board members provided input into budget priorities.

The introduced budget keeps the Real Estate Tax rate at \$0.82 per \$100 of assessed value and keeps the Personal Property Tax rate at \$3.90 per \$100 of assessed value. The real property values increased between 2022 and 2023, and there will be an effective tax increase for FY 2024 based on higher assessments. Personal property values have dropped, but not to pre-pandemic levels. There are 5% increases proposed in both the water and sewer rates for FY 2024 to address inflation and to maintain existing systems and equipment. A public hearing on water and sewer rates was held on April 11. A public hearing on tax rates is scheduled for April 25.

Introduced Budget Highlights:

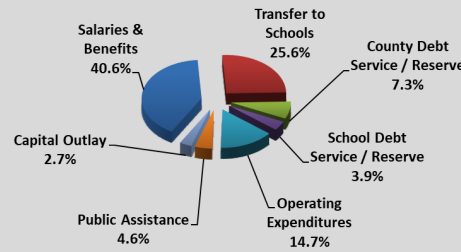
1. The budget includes step increases for all County employees, along with market regrades for positions whose pay is below regional market averages. The BOS previously approved January 1, 2023 market regrades for public safety employees, and similar market increases are included in the FY 2024 introduced budget for non-public safety employees. Multiple position reclassifications resulted from an internal market study and the County will adjust pay and position titles to compete for and retain talented employees. The County must provide a mandated pay increase for state-supported Social Services and Riverside Criminal Justice Agency employees and must fund Virginia Compensation Board pay increases for Constitutional Officers and their employees. These proposed and mandated compensation increases will cost \$1,383,967. Another \$988,238 has been budgeted to continue the increases for public safety employees approved on January 1, and other position changes and reclassifications approved throughout FY 2023.

BUDGET CONTINUED

2. Ten new positions (nine General Fund at a cost of \$812,093) are proposed for FY 2024 and include:

- 5 Firefighter Medics
- 1 Planning Director
- 2 Social Services Benefits Program Specialists III (full-time)
- 1 Apparatus Technician
- 1 Utility Supervisor

FY 2024 Introduced Budget General Fund Expenditures \$72,374,569



3. A General Fund transfer to the Capital Fund of \$993,374 is proposed for the purchase of public safety and county vehicles (\$450,000) and school buses (\$543,374). Another General Fund transfer to the Capital Fund of \$314,502 is included to purchase Fleet Focus, an automated vehicle/apparatus fuel management system. The County proposes to upgrade to Microsoft Office 365 in FY 2024 at a cost of \$64,800. The budget includes \$260,000 within the General Services budget to address needed facility repairs throughout the County. There are no planned General Fund-supported capital projects or purchases that will require the issuance of debt during FY 2024. The introduced budget reduces the General Fund debt contribution by \$215,000 for FY 2024 because County vehicles and school buses are now cash funded, not financed by borrowing.

4. The County proposes to update its Comprehensive Plan during FY 2024 (estimated at \$115,000) and perform a first round of department strategic plans, estimated at \$100,000.

5. The proposed General Fund transfer to the Public School Division remains at \$18,553,165, the same as in FY 2023, even though there have been continued decreases in student enrollment numbers amidst County population increases. The amount slightly exceeds the transfer calculated using the Revenue Sharing Formula that has been in place since FY 2007. The budget proposal includes County contributions of \$18,553,165 to the School Operating and Textbook Funds, \$2,827,767 for school debt, and \$543,374 for the purchase of school buses for FY 2024. These combined contributions to and payments for the school system total \$21,924,306 and represent 30.3% of the FY 2024 Introduced General Fund Budget.

The BOS continues its work in reviewing and revising the FY 2024 budget. State revenue projections will be fine-tuned for both the General Fund and the Public School System once the Virginia General Assembly completes the state budget. A work session is planned for May 2 and a public hearing on the FY 2024 budget is scheduled for May 9. The Board plans to adopt the budget on May 23.

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

The total estimated cost to replace the existing, skewed intersection at Bull Hill Road and Courthouse Road with a single lane roundabout is \$5.7 million, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The construction is slated to start in October 2023, with a fixed completion date of November 2024.

VDOT indicates a single lane roundabout in a dog bone shape will improve both operation and safety.

The intersection provides access to Route 460 and I-295, and is part of a main route to the Fort Lee activity center. Proposed intersection improvements will reduce congestion and crashes in the area.

GARAGE EXPANSION

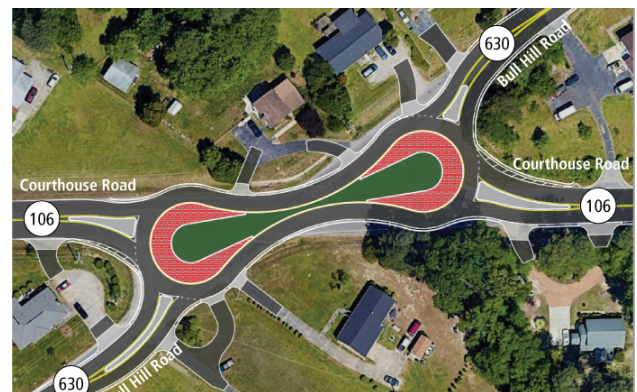


Approved in the FY 2021 budget, the County Garage is nearing completion. The new bays are capable of housing four fire engines. The ceilings are tall enough to raise the ladders for maintenance on the County's two aerial trucks. Larger apparatus can now be repaired indoors.

The garage has a new separate entrance to a reception area where visitors can wait while vehicles are serviced. A designated parts room, meeting room, tire service area, lube/compressor room, equipment storage area, and management office were also created. An upgraded generator exists to ensure that the garage remains fully operational at all times. The upgrades allow Fleet Management to maintain and dispatch safe, reliable vehicles and equipment for all County departments including Police, Fire and EMS.



Scan the QR Code to view the FY 2023-2024 Introduced Budget

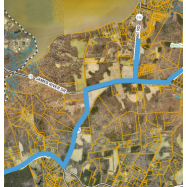


Bull Hill Road (Rt. 630) & Courthouse Road (Rt. 106)



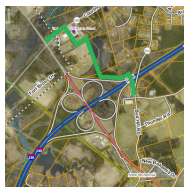
The Annual Community Day helps keep our roads and community clean.

UTILITIES UPDATES



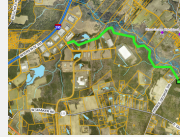
Water Main Extension to Route 10 Corridor

The County was awarded \$3.2M in Community Project Funds from the Office of late Congressman McEachin to aid in County efforts to extend its central water system 4.5 miles from Sandy Ridge Road to serve the subdivisions of Jordan on the James, Eagle Preserve, Beechwood Manor, and Chappell Creek. The construction contract has been awarded and construction is anticipated to begin spring 2023, with project completion anticipated in fall 2024.



Southpoint Business Park Force Main Realignment

The Southpoint Business Park is served by two sewer pumping stations that pump into a common force main that discharges into a gravity sewer along Route 460. This gravity sewer is at its full capacity, preventing new business from locating in the park. The project will reroute the force main to bypass the gravity sewer and discharge downstream to another sewer system that is able to convey the sewer. This will provide additional wastewater conveyance capacity to the Park. Construction began in March 2023 and the project is anticipated to be complete by October 2023.

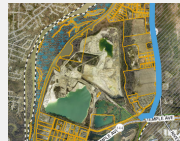


Blackwater Swamp Wastewater Pump Station

Design has started on a new 3.25 million gallon per day wastewater pump station to be located near the intersection of Prince George Dr. and E. Quaker Rd.

This project will increase the wastewater conveyance capacity for this portion of the County, allowing for new growth and development in the Southpoint Business Park, Crosspointe Centre, and the surrounding area. Design and construction are anticipated to take four to five years.

Temple Ave. Water Storage Tank & Booster Station and 24" Waterline Under the Appomattox River



A new one million gallon water storage tank and booster station, to be located on River Rd. near Temple Ave., will replace the existing booster station. The new station will allow the County to use its full water supply allocation. The 24" waterline, proposed to be drilled under the Appomattox River, will increase capacity and reliability.

The two projects will increase the water supply capacity by approximately 1.2-1.5 million gallons per day. The river crossing is anticipated to be complete by mid-2024 and the storage tank and booster station is anticipated to be complete by April 2025.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY

Prince George County held its Annual Community Day on April 15. Residents arrived in droves to the County Government Complex and the Prince George Convenience Center to dispose of tires, household hazardous waste, white goods, yard debris, unwanted household items and trash at no cost. It is estimated that more than 70 tons of materials were collected during the event.

Route 156 Water Storage Tank & Booster Station

A new half million gallon water storage tank and booster station to be located on Middle Road near Route 156 will connect to the Virginia American Water supply that currently serves the city of Hopewell. This will add one million gallons per day of supply capacity and increase reliability by adding a new supply source. The project is currently under design and is anticipated to be complete by mid-2025.

Route 301/Exit 45 Groundwater Withdrawal Permit Renewal

A new groundwater withdrawal permit for the Route 301/Exit 45 area has been issued. The new permit allows for the addition of a new well that will increase the available capacity in this area of the County. This increase will allow the County to meet the goals established in the strategic plan for this area. Design has started on siting and drilling the new well. Work is anticipated to be complete by fall 2023.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Date	Time	Event	Location
April 22	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Drug Takeback	Police Department - Side Lot
May - TBA	TBA	Tri-City Police Memorial Service	Hopewell Moose Lodge
May - TBA	TBA	Tip-A-Cop Fundraiser	Nanny's Restaurant
May 14 - 20	TBA	National Police Week	TBA
August 1	5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	National Night Out	Countywide

A number of events in June are planned, but not finalized, including the Special Olympics Torch Run, the Youth Public Safety Academy orientation and the Youth Public Safety Academy at J.E.J. Moore Middle school. Check the Police Department's website for updates.



5 & DIME TRAIL

On February 14, the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution to enter into a multijurisdictional tourism agreement for the establishment of the 5 & Dime Trail. The Tourism Agreement is in partnership with the City of Hopewell, Hopewell Downtown Partnership, Prince George County, James City County, Surry County, and Charles City County.

The trail is an exciting circular travel experience connecting Route 5 and Route 10 through the participating localities. There are various tourism-related businesses along the trail including outdoor recreation venues, restaurants, and retail establishments. The formation of this trail creates a platform to market each of these businesses and localities together as a tourism destination.

TAX RELIEF

Real Estate Tax Relief Applications for the Elderly or Permanently and Totally Disabled must be filed **no later than August 1, 2023** in order to obtain credit on the December 5, 2023 real estate tax bill.

Questions or concerns may be directed to the Commissioner of the Revenue's office at (804) 722-8740.

Darlene M. Rowsey
Commissioner of the Revenue

4-H CAMP

Registration for the popular in-person camping experience is almost full. Sign up for the July 3 -7 Camp before it is too late.

For more information, contact Herman Maclin, 4-H agent, at (804) 712-0620 or visit www.prince-george.ext.vt.edu.

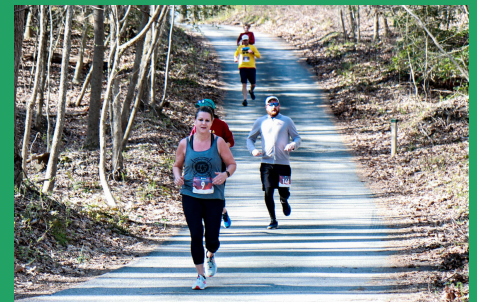


NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

is designed to:

- heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts
- strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

For more information, call (804) 863-1847.



APPOMATTOX RIVER REGIONAL PARK 5K TRAIL RUN

Prince George Parks and Recreation, the Riverside Regional Jail, and the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) were proud to host the 7th Annual Appomattox River Regional Park 5K Trail Run on April 1. Participants of all skill levels came out to enjoy the festivities. All profits and donations went to benefit Special Olympics and FOLAR.

PARKS & RECREATION

CAMP / ACTIVITY	AGES	REGISTRATION	DATES	FEE
Girls Field Hockey Camp	Grades 2-11	5/15 - 6/2	6/5 - 6/7	\$30
Mini-Mites Sports Camp	3-4	5/22 - 6/9	6/20 - 6/22	\$35
Football Camp	9-13	5/29 - 6/16	6/26 - 6/28	\$35
Baseball Camp	9-18	6/12 - 6/30	7/10 - 7/13	\$45
Girls Basketball Camp	7-18	6/12 - 6/30	7/10 - 7/13	\$55
Boys Basketball Camp	9-17	6/19 - 7/7	7/17 - 7/19	\$55
Toddler Fun & Fitness	2-4	6/12 - 7/14	7/18 - 8/3	\$50
PG Royals Football Team Camp	Rising Grades 8-12	6/19 - 7/7	7/17 - 7/21	\$35
Boys Volleyball Clinic	Rising Grades 6-12	6/26 - 7/14	7/24	\$35
Soccer Camp	5-18	7/10 - 7/28	8/7 - 8/9	\$45
Cheer Camp	5-13	7/10 - 7/28	8/7 - 8/9	\$50



FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING

Registration for the fall is May 1 – June 2 for youth aged 5 – 14. **ALL** participants are required to obtain a VA Child ID from the DMV prior to registration.

TOP GUN SPORTS

Top Gun Sports is returning to J.E.J. Moore Athletic Field and Scott Memorial Complex with teams from eight states for 8 – 18U Softball tournaments. The Northeastern Spring World Series is May 6 – 7. The USA Sports State Tournament is June 10 – 11. On July 7, Prince George County Parks and Recreation will host Dixie Youth Baseball Majors Division 1 and Division 2, as well as Dixie AA Baseball Division 1 tournaments.



HUNTER SAFETY COURSE

Parks and Recreation and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will host several Hunter Safety Courses. Pre-registration is required at www.dgif.com. Course dates are May 20, June 3, July 29, and August 26. The International Bow Hunter education program is August 12.



SOCCER

Registration will be held June 5 – June 30 for youth aged 4 – 18.

SUMMER DAY CAMP

June 20 – August 10 from 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM. The camp will be held at Scott Park on Mondays and Wednesdays, and at Temple Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Participants must be six years old before June 20, 2023, and must not be 13 years old before June 20. Activities include sports, games, arts and crafts, field trips, and guest programs. Registration is May 1 – 12.



DISC GOLF TRAINING ACADEMY

Jay Risher and Richard Scott, the developers of Pine Valley at Scott Park, will provide instruction, rules, and fundamentals to youth aged 7 – 18. The Academy will occur once a week, for two hours, from June 26 – August 11. Registration is May 1 – June 2.

To register for an event, contact Prince George County Parks & Recreation at 804-458-6164 or visit: www.princegeorgecountyva.gov/residents/parks_and_recreation/registration.php.



SEPTIC PUMPOUT PROGRAM

In 2018, the Prince George County Department of Community Development & Code Compliance-Environmental Division acquired the management of the Septic Pumpout and Inspections Program from the Virginia Department of Health. The intent of the program is to help improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Protection Area (CBPA) of the County through non-point source pollutant management. Under the provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, owners of properties within the James and Appomattox River watersheds serviced by private on-site septic systems are required to have those systems pumped or inspected once every five years.

With the completion of compliance mailings to Zones 1 through 5, approximately 2,500 households and businesses located within the CBPA have been notified of the County ordinance requirement. The mailings include a program description, the property owner compliance deadline, and a verification and compliance form to be submitted to the department.

Compliance results:

Zone 1 - 77% (382 Properties) - 2022
Zone 2 - 80% (1048 Properties) - 2018
Zone 3 - 83% (399 Properties) - 2019
Zone 4 - 81% (356 Properties) - 2020
Zone 5 - 63% (184 Properties) - 2021

To aide with citizen service, the department has established an email system for the program: septicpumpoutprogram@princegeorgecountyva.gov.



HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK

On April 18, the 90th Historic Garden Week brought an influx of visitors to Prince George County including First Lady of Virginia Suzanne Youngkin, wife of Governor Glenn Youngkin. First Lady Youngkin toured Flowerdew Hundred, established in the early 1600s on the south bank of the James River. Flowerdew Hundred was featured on the cover of this year's Garden Club of Virginia's Garden Week brochure. The expansive grounds and grandeur of the property delighted residents and visitors alike.

Also on tour was the lovely grove of ancient picturesque trees at Aberdeen. Martin's Brandon Episcopal Church gave guests a rare look at two Louis Comfort Tiffany stained glass windows. Before departing the area, tour-goers stopped by the Native Plant Sale at the Burrowsville Community Center. This year's event was a resounding success with local restaurants seeing increased traffic.



FARMERS' MARKET

The Farmers' Market will debut on May 6 at the Scott Park Pavilion and run through the end of October. The hours of operation are 9 AM - 1 PM each Saturday except June 17 when the market will operate from 1 PM - 5 PM. More than 50 vendors have signed up this season. Opening day will feature the 1st Annual Teacher Appreciation Event and a tomato planting activity sponsored by the Prince George Master Gardeners. Some of the planned events include a weekly story time, Family Fun Day, Juneteenth Event, Christmas in July coupled with Kids Day, First Responders Day, and more!

The market will continue to offer SNAP match incentives. For every dollar of SNAP benefits spent on fresh fruits and vegetables, the customer will receive a dollar's worth of SNAP tokens FREE! In addition, seniors throughout the community may be eligible to receive vouchers for FREE produce. To become a vendor, or for more information, contact the Market Manager at (804) 722-8777.



The Farmers' Market is on Facebook: facebook.com/PrinceGeorgeFarmersMarket



Middle Road Elementary to become new polling location.

KAYAK RENTALS

Parks and Recreation is now offering self-service kayak rentals at the Appomattox River Regional Park. Download the Rent.Fun app in the app store on your smart phone. Participants can unlock and rent equipment with a touch of a button. Renters will depart from the canoe / kayak launch, which was partially funded through a partnership with the Prince George County Rotary Club.

Individual kayaks can be rented for as low as \$20 for two hours (\$10 for each additional hour). Annual passes are available for \$45 and include unlimited two hour rentals. Come out and paddle the Appomattox River!

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Prince George Economic Development Department welcomed seven new businesses:

- Clothing store Nouveau Riche on Fort Lee
- Brightview Addiction Treatment at the Crossings Shopping Center
- UPS store on Fort Lee
- Virginia Career Works, Crater Region at the Crossings Shopping Center
- Prince George Emergency Center Expansion on Temple Park. The free-standing emergency center is manned around the clock with board-certified staff.
- Wicked Ground Coffee on Fort Lee
- Leora Bridal Salon at the Barns of Kanak (by appointment only)

VOTING PRECINCT CHANGE

On February 28, 2023 the Board of Supervisors amended County Code § 30-62 to move the polling location for the Jefferson Park (205) precinct from Faith Baptist Church to Middle Road Elementary, located at 5400 Middle Road in Prince George. The County Attorney's Office sent the approved ordinance to the Virginia Office of the Attorney General and requested a certification of no objection for such change. The Registrar will mail a notice to registered voters affected by the difference in the polling location.



NEW BUSINESS INVESTS IN PRINCE GEORGE

Worldwide Retail Solution Inc. has chosen to expand its business into Prince George County. The company has signed a lease with The Hollingsworth Companies for a 194,000-square-foot building located in the SouthPoint Business Park. The expansion is expected to bring approximately 60 new jobs to the County. The capital investment for the building and project upgrades totals approximately \$4 million.

Marlene Waymack, Prince George County Board of Supervisors, stated, "I am proud to announce another business deciding to locate in our beautiful County. This investment will provide new jobs for those who wish to live and work in our community. The public-private partnership with the Hollingsworth Companies shows that Prince George County has created an environment for new and existing businesses to thrive and prosper." A grand opening and ribbon cutting are scheduled for early summer.

TRIAD

Triad is focused on reducing crimes against our most vulnerable citizens: our seniors. Meetings occur every 4th Monday of the month at the Prince George County Library.

Interested in joining? Contact Ruth Parham at (804) 721-2647.

BUSINESS RESOURCES MEETINGS

In an effort to better support the small business community, the Economic Development Department will be conducting business resources meetings in collaboration with partner agencies at the Prince George County Library.

- April 26 – 4:00 PM, Virginia Small Business and Supplier Diversity
- June 21 – 12:00 PM, Virginia Small Business Financing Authority
- October 25 – 12:00 PM, Crater Small Business Development Center of Longwood



All meetings are free of charge. Topics include access to capital with VSMFA programs and resources offered through the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity. Register by calling (804) 722-8611.

Prince George County, VA

A welcoming community • Embracing its rural character • Focusing on its prosperous future



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Public Information Line: (804) 733-2659

County Administration Line: (804) 722-8600

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COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE
P.O. BOX 68
PRINCE GEORGE, VA 23875

TO POSTAL PATRON
PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Donald Hunter
Chairman

(804) 894-0433

dhunter@princegeorgecountyva.gov



T.J. Webb
Vice-Chairman

(804) 731-0422 / (804) 895-3022

tjwebb@princegeorgecountyva.gov



Floyd M. Brown

District 1

(804) 712-8939

fbrown@princegeorgecountyva.gov



Alan R. Carmichael

District 1

(804) 839-2181

acarmichael@princegeorgecountyva.gov



Marlene J. Waymack

District 2

(804) 712-9111

mwaymack@princegeorgecountyva.gov

TAX REMINDER

All 2023 personal property taxes and the second half of 2023 real estate taxes are due on or before June 16, 2023. Taxes not paid by the due date will be subject to an immediate 10% penalty plus interest.

Failure to receive a bill does not relieve the taxpayer of any additional charges that will accrue under the law for failure to pay within the prescribed time. Office hours are 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Payments must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service by June 16, 2023. Drop boxes are available at the County Administration Building.

Susan Clark Vargo, Treasurer



Jeffrey D. Stoke
County Administrator

(804) 722-8600

jstoke@princegeorgecountyva.gov

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise noted, meetings occur in the Board Room on the 3rd floor of the County Administration Building at 6602 Courts Drive. The Board meets in a Closed Session at 5:00 PM. The Work Session begins at 6:00 PM. The Business Meeting starts at 7:00 PM, followed by public hearings at 7:30 PM.

- April 25, 2023
- May 2, 2023 - 5:00 PM (Budget Work Session)
- May 9, 2023
- May 23, 2023
- June 13, 2023
- July 11, 2023
- August 8, 2023