



Gloucester Department of Community Engagement and Public Information

6382 Main Street
Gloucester, Va. 23061

804.693.5730 • www.gloucesterva.info

January 28, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Quinton Sheppard

qsheppard@gloucesterva.info

Gloucester County: Looking ahead into 2020

Gloucester County residents can look forward to some exciting new developments during 2020, including the opening of Machicomoco, the long-awaited state park in the community. The 645-acre site is located at what was traditionally known as Timberneck Farm, along the shores of the York River.

“This is really exciting for our community, and it’s been a long time coming,” said Brent Fedors, Gloucester’s county administrator.

Also looking ahead into 2020, County government will face some unique budgeting challenges, including how to deal with some major capital improvement issues, especially with the school system. This includes developing ways to fund major-scale renovations of Gloucester High School.

Fedors said a focus of his recommendations regarding next year’s fiscal budget, which is expected to be presented to the Gloucester Board of Supervisors in March, is to maintain the progress the board has made with respect to compensation of County and school employees. It has been a goal of the administration to keep employees’ salaries at a competitive level to ensure quality personnel are recruited and retained. A challenge to be addressed this year is how to maintain momentum on this initiative while at the same time establishing effective ways to fund the debt service and pay-go capital needs of the community, he added.

In other news, the County hopes to wrap up its departmental office moves by the end of the fiscal year in June. “Pretty much everyone, with only a couple of exceptions, has moved or is moving,” Fedors said. “It’s been a substantial undertaking.” County staff is currently working on temporary and permanent signage to ensure members of the public are familiar with where county departments are located.

Another targeted objective in the coming year is to complete improvements in Gloucester’s court circle for better accessibility for those with disabilities. Fedors said work done inside the colonial courthouse during the current fiscal year has been “pretty transformative” and the remainder of the changes inside

the court circle will align with the board of supervisors' priorities for the future. "We are going to continue to enhance accessibility for all citizens," he said.

Internally, the County is beginning to embark on an ongoing project to establish and consolidate the organization's brand and image, helping to ensure that citizens, prospective employees, business owners, economic developers, tourists, shoppers and others recognize all that Gloucester has to offer, in a consistent and meaningful way.

Overall, Fedors said the main goal of the County's government and staff is to look out for the well-being of the County's taxpayers. "We're constantly seeing best value for the taxpayers' investments," he said. "We are constantly creating and leveraging opportunities to ensure we deliver the highest quality services for the lowest possible costs, in alignment with the Board of Supervisors' vision for the community."

#End of release