

Community Engagement and Public Information Department

**IMPORTANT EMERGENCY
INFORMATION – PSA #26, May 26, 2020
(Updated) County Government Announces
Operational Changes due to COVID-19**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: QUINTON SHEPPARD

QSHEPPARD@GLOUCESTERVA.INFO

804-693-5730



Due to the continuing concerns of the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and recommendations by state and national government to limit exposure to others, public access to all Gloucester County offices and buildings will remain suspended until further notice. Gloucester County continues to operate under a Local Emergency declaration. This is a precautionary security measure, which allows for the full powers of government to deal effectively with emergencies or hazardous weather conditions.

During this time, County staff is committed to continuing services to the public to every extent possible. The following information is the latest as to how various County departments and constitutional offices are continuing to operate over the coming weeks:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Gloucester County will continue to operate and conduct business in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to maintain social distancing requirements and a responsible public health posture, the County and various local agencies and commissions will be rescheduling and relocating upcoming meetings to an online, virtual platform.

Where noted, meetings will be broadcast live on Cox Channel 48 and on the County's meeting portal at <http://www.gloucesterva.info/640/Meeting-Portal>.

Although the meetings will not be available for the physical presence of the public, several methods are being provided for public input.

Comments may be submitted via an online form by visiting www.gloucesterva.info/citizencomment until 4:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting selected. Comments will be read aloud during that section of the meetings up to the set time limit (3 minutes). Comments submitted anonymously or with fictitious names will not be read.

Comments can also be submitted via phone until 4:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Those wishing to comment should call 804-824-2760 and listen to the recorded menu. Instructions will be provided on selections to make in order to leave a recorded comment. Comments submitted via this method will be played during the appropriate comment or public hearing period, up to the set time limit (3 minutes). This method will also be open for comments to be submitted during public hearings, on the date and time such public hearings are held by the Board (as advertised), until the Chair closes the public hearing for submissions.

Finally, to submit comments via US Mail, send to: County Administration ATTN: Citizen/Public Hearing Comment, 6489 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061. Any mailed comments must include your name, your magisterial district, and the meeting and item you are commenting on clearly printed at the top and be received by 4:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting. All such comments must be received by the scheduled date of the meeting or public hearing. Please type or print all comments legibly. Comments submitted via this method will be read aloud during the appropriate comment or public hearing period, up to the set time limit (3 minutes).

It is also important to note that in keeping with the format for public meetings, comments may only be submitted once per person for each comment period/public hearing selected. If more than one comment is submitted per selection, only the last comment submission will be read.

“Form letters,” consisting of communications which are verbatim duplicates (other than the identifying information of the author/submitter) of one or more other communications received by the County pertaining to the matter to be considered at the public hearing or public comment period, shall be read only once per letter, along with the list of persons submitting the same comments pursuant to such “form letter.”

The following are the revised meeting dates of the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors and each meeting will take place via electronic means: May 5 (regular meeting), May 7 (joint meeting with the Gloucester Planning Commission), May 19 (regular meeting), June 2 (regular meeting), July 7 (regular meeting), August 4 (regular meeting), August 11 (joint meeting with the Gloucester Planning Commission) and September 1 (regular meeting). After this time, or otherwise at an earlier time as may be determined by the Board, the Board’s meeting schedule is expected to continue as normal with in-person meetings. However, this is subject to change. For more information, contact the County Administrator’s office at 804-693-4042 or county.administrator@gloucesterva.info.

COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

Those with questions regarding Business Licenses, Business Tangible Personal Property or Excise forms, can call 804-693-1319 for assistance. Those needing to submit forms and/or payments, the Commissioner of the Revenue's office will continue to process them by e-mail, mail, or in person by using the Treasurer's Office drop box in the median of Justice Drive between County Office Buildings 1 and 2.

The Commissioner of the Revenue's office can accept Virginia State Income taxes by mail or by using the Treasurer's Office drop box. Those with questions about this process can call 804-693-1320.

Those using the Treasurer's Office drop box are encouraged to label the envelopes for the correct office so that they will be delivered to the correct department. That drop box will be checked periodically throughout the workday.

For more information, visit <http://www.gloucesterva.info/cor> or call 804-693-3451 during normal business hours.

DEPARTMENTS OF PLANNING, ZONING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS, BUILDING INSPECTIONS AND COMMERCIAL SITE PLANS

While the county is closed to the public, we are still open for business! We want you to be safe, so please stay home and conduct your business with us remotely if possible. If not, please follow the protocol for social distancing, hand washing and sanitization.

Staff will be holding paper permits and plans for up to 72 hours before processing to reduce the chance of spreading the virus by surface contact transmission. Where possible, we highly encourage electronic submission of permit requests and phone calls to help expedite service delivery.

PLANNING AND ZONING

You can phone our office at 804-693-1224 and we will help you with whatever your questions or concerns are and walk you through how to submit an application either by email or by regular mail (see information for each type of applications below). Our fillable forms are available on our website under forms and policies:

<https://www.gloucesterva.info/362/Planning-Zoning>.

For payment, you can:

1. Pay on-line at www.officialpayments.com (a convenience fee will apply);
2. Mail your check with your application (Planning and Zoning, 6489 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061); or
3. Mail in your check **after** you've emailed your application **and we've provided you an application number** so the fee can be applied to the correct application. **Please include the application # on the check!**
4. Put your check in the treasurer's drop box located on Justice Drive with the application # on the check so that your fee will be credited to the application.

If you need to drop off applications or plans, we developed a system where you can bring your materials to the back door (parking lot side) of County Building 2 (6489 Main Street) and call to have a staff member pick up your documents from a drop-off location. We have a table for you to place documents and staff will wait for you to leave before coming out and picking up the material. This will avoid any direct contact with each other while still allowing you to drop off necessary items.

Please be patient with us if we don't reply right away as the phone lines will be used more heavily than normal. We will all be monitoring the phone lines to cover when other staff are on the phone.

Once approved, staff will return permits, applications or plans to you by one of the following pre-arranged methods:

1. We can email you the scanned permit;
2. We can mail you the permit or plans;
3. You can arrange to pick up the permit, plans, materials at the lobby interface;
4. You can provide a pre-paid package for larger plans or plats.

Zoning Permits:

Zoning permit applications are available on our website - please fill out the application as completely as possible and if you have any questions, please give us a call so we can help you over the phone the same way we would help you if you came in the office. ***Please make sure that you fill in the application completely and that the name and phone number are legible so that we can call with any questions and not hold up your approval.***

Zoning Permits for construction will need to be submitted with a scaled plot plan showing the existing structures (if any) and proposed construction. If you need help with creating a scaled plot plan, please call us at 804-693-1224 and we will do our best to help you to locate a plat or plan in our office that could be used for the plot plan. If we don't have a plan available, you may need to go to the Clerk's office or draw a plot plan using graph paper (available for free on the internet). Again, give us a call if you have any questions.

Please email any zoning permit applications to ZoningStaff@gloucesterva.info. This email goes to multiple staff members so that your application is taken care of regardless of who is in the office to receive it.

Minor Subdivisions Plats, Family Transfers, Property Line Vacations, or Boundary Line Adjustments:

We will do our best to review electronic submittals by email, but this may be difficult for some plats and plans which may be better submitted by mail or dropped off in the back lobby using the procedure outlined above. This process will be especially important for final plats that will need to be signed by the subdivision agent. ***Please make sure that the name and phone number of a contact person are included on the application and are legible so that we can call with any questions and not hold up your review or approval.*** Please email any electronic applications to PlanningStaff@gloucesterva.info. This email goes to multiple staff members so that your application is taken care of regardless of who is in the office to receive it.

Rezoning, Conditional Use Permits or Board of Zoning Appeals Applications:

These applications all require public hearings by different Boards and Commissions. They also require a mandatory pre-application. We are currently exploring ways to have online meetings or consider conducting the meetings via conference call. Those details have not been determined at this time; however, we would be happy discuss your application with you by phone and provide you with similar feedback as we would during a preapplication conference. Please call 804-693-1224 and explain what you are looking to do, and we will make sure we connect you with the appropriate staff member. You can also email PlanningStaff@gloucesterva.info. This email goes to multiple staff members so that your question is taken care of regardless of who is in the office to receive it.

For preapplication conferences conducted over the phone, please submit the preapplication request form by mail, e-mail, or dropped off in the back lobby using the procedure outlined above and staff will contact the applicant to determine a time and date to conduct the phone conference.

We are still determining whether the County Boards and Commissions will be meeting over the next few months to better provide guidance on these types of applications. More information to come.

Major Subdivisions (4 or more lots or any subdivision with a new road other than a private road serving 3 or few lots):

Major Subdivisions greater than 50 lots require review and preliminary approval from the Planning Commission. Due to the size of the plans, the plans will need to be submitted through the drop off procedure outlines above, but the application and fees could be submitted electronically or by mail. Application fees for major subdivisions reviewed by the Planning Commission must be paid prior to staff scheduling a date for the Planning Commission's review

of the application. However, you can email draft plats or plans and ask questions for us to review prior to submittal. Email PlanningStaff@gloucesterva.info with any questions about major subdivisions. This email goes to multiple staff members so that your application is taken care of regardless of who is in the office to receive it.

Major Subdivision under 50 lots do not require preliminary approval from the Planning Commission. Prior to final plat approval of a major subdivision, development plans for the subdivision need to be approved by the site plan committee. Applications for development plans for major subdivisions are submitted to the [Community Development office](#) for review and approval prior to final plat approval. Procedures for submittal to that office are outlined separately.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

You can phone our office at 804-693-1217 and we will help you with whatever your questions or concerns are and walk you through how to submit an application either by email EnvironmentalStaff@gloucesterva.info or by regular mail (Environmental Programs, 6489 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061). Our fillable forms are available on our website under forms and policies: <https://www.gloucesterva.info/565/Forms>.

For payment, you can:

1. Pay on-line at www.officialpayments.com (a convenience fee will apply);
2. Mail your check with your application (Environmental Programs, 6489 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061); or
3. Mail in your check **after** you've emailed your application **and we've provided you an application number** so the fee can be applied to the correct application. **Please include the application # on the check!**
4. Put your check in the treasurer's drop box located on Justice Drive with the application # on the check so that your fee will be credited to the application.

If you need to drop off applications or plans, we developed a system where you can bring your materials to the back door (parking lot side) of County Building 2 (6489 Main Street) and call to have a staff member pick up your documents from a drop-off location. We have a table for you to place documents and staff will wait for you to leave before coming out and picking up the material. This will avoid any direct contact with each other while still allowing you to drop off necessary items.

Please be patient with us if we don't reply right away as the phone lines will be used more heavily than normal. We will all be monitoring the phone lines to cover when other staff are on the phone.

Once approved, staff will return permits, applications or plans to you by one of the following pre-arranged methods:

1. We can email you the scanned permit;
2. We can mail you the permit or plans;
3. You can arrange to pick up the permit, plans, materials at the lobby interface;
4. You can provide a pre-paid package for larger plans or plats.

CHESAPEAKE BAY PRESERVATION AND WETLANDS

Chesapeake Bay Exception Applications for accessory structures or additions to existing structures in the RPA and Chesapeake Bay Waiver applications for activities in the landward 50' of the RPA must be submitted through the above process. Please call 804-693-1217 with any questions or email rowens@gloucesterva.info.

Joint Permit Applications, requiring a public hearing through the Gloucester County Wetlands Board and are submitted to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). Please visit the VMRC website to get information regarding them directly: <https://www.mrc.virginia.gov/>

Army Corps Pre -Applications are available on our web page and sent to the Army Corps directly.

We are still determining whether the County Boards and Commissions will be meeting over the next few months to better provide guidance on these types of applications. More information to come.

SITE PLAN SUBMITTALS

You can phone our office at 804-824-2458 and we will help you with whatever your questions or concerns are and walk you through how to submit site plan by drop off or by regular mail (see information for each type of applications below). Our applications are available on our website under forms and policies: <https://www.gloucesterva.info/253/Commercial-Plan-Development-Site-Plans>.

For payment, you can:

1. Pay on-line at www.officialpayments.com (a convenience fee will apply);
2. Mail your check with your application (County Administration-Third Floor, Attention: Christina Grover, 6489 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061); or

If you need to drop off plans, we developed a system where you can bring your materials to the back door (parking lot side) of County Building 2 (6489 Main Street) and call 804-693-4042 to have a staff member pick up your documents from a drop-off location. We have a table for you

to place documents and staff will wait for you to leave before coming out and picking up the material. This will avoid any direct contact with each other while still allowing you to drop off necessary items.

Please be patient with us if we don't reply right away as the phone lines will be used more heavily than normal. We will all be monitoring the phone lines to cover when other staff are on the phone.

Once approved, staff will return plans to you by one of the following pre-arranged methods:

1. You can arrange to pick up the permit, plans, materials at the lobby interface;
2. You can provide a pre-paid package for mailing plans back to applicant.

BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

You can phone our office at 804-693-2744 and we will help you with whatever your questions or concerns are and walk you through how to submit an application either by email or by regular mail (see information for each type of applications below). Our fillable forms are available on our website under forms and policies:

<https://www.gloucesterva.info/172/Building-Inspection>.

For payment, you can:

1. Pay on-line at www.officialpayments.com (a convenience fee will apply);
2. Mail your check with your application (Building Inspections, 6489 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061); or
3. Mail in your check **after** you've emailed your application **and we've provided you an application number** so the fee can be applied to the correct application. **Please include the application # on the check!**
4. Put your check in the treasurer's drop box located on Justice Drive with the application # on the check so that your fee will be credited to the application.

If you need to drop off applications or plans, we developed a system where you can bring your materials to the back door (parking lot side) of County Building 2 (6489 Main Street) and call 804-693-2744 to have a staff member pick up your documents from a drop-off location. We have a table for you to place documents and staff will wait for you to leave before coming out and picking up the material. This will avoid any direct contact with each other while still allowing you to drop off necessary items.

Please be patient with us if we don't reply right away as the phone lines will be used more heavily than normal. We will all be monitoring the phone lines to cover when other staff are on the phone.

Once approved, staff will return permits, applications or plans to you by one of the following pre-arranged methods:

1. We can email you the scanned permit;
2. We can mail you the permit or plans;
3. You can arrange to pick up the permit, plans, materials at the lobby interface;
4. You can provide a pre-paid package for larger plans or plats.

Building/Trade Permits:

Building/Trade permit applications are available on our website - please fill out the application as completely as possible and if you have any questions, please give us a call so we can help you over the phone the same way we would help you if you came in the office. ***Please make sure that you fill in the application completely and that the name and phone number are legible so that we can call with any questions and not hold up your approval.***

Request for Building/Trade Inspections:

Please contact the Building Inspections office at 804-693-2744 to request inspections. The request for next day inspections must be received by 4 p.m. the day prior to the requested inspection and is based upon availability.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Development staff has been working in conjunction with the Small Business Development Administration and the Virginia Employment Commission to provide the most up to date information on resources available for small businesses. A form to capture and report financial losses and employment changes is on our website at www.gloucesterva.info/econ. Please contact our Business Recovery Coordinator, Sherry Spring at 804-693-1414 or email sspring@gloucesterva.info for more information, or visit <https://www.gloucesterva.info/1189/COVID-19-BUSINESS-RESOURCES>.

GENERAL DISTRICT COURT

Gloucester General District Court – Re-Opens for Non-Emergency Matters on Monday, May 18, 2020. The Gloucester General District Court will begin a gradual return to routine operations on May 18, 2020. The authority to hear non-emergency matters was conveyed to the General District Court by the May 6, 2020 Order of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Based on this Order and the instructions of the Presiding Judge, members of the public may expect the following:

- If you have been ill, have recently travelled internationally, have been exposed to COVID-19, or live with someone who has been exposed to COVID-19, call the Clerk's Office at 804-693-4860 before your scheduled Court date.
- The number of people in the courtroom at any one time will be limited and social distancing required. Please plan to follow the directions of the Sheriff's Office when you arrive at the courthouse.
- We ask that you wear a mask or face covering. Inappropriate, offensive or distracting face masks are not permitted.
- Space limitations may require that certain security screenings, paperwork or meetings occur outside. As well, the new safety procedures may result in a line or wait before entering the courtroom. Please arrive prepared for inclement weather.
- For now, only the parties, witnesses, attorneys, court reporters, interpreters, press and court watch groups are allowed in the courtroom. Spectators are not allowed.
- Civil matters, including, garnishments may be filed immediately. Unlawful Detainers may be filed on or after June 1, 2020 and must be accompanied by a CARES Act affidavit.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we navigate these unique challenges and work to safely provide access to justice.

LIBRARY

The Gloucester County Public Library, in compliance with Gloucester County Emergency Protocols regarding the COVID-19 virus, have suspended all programs and outreach. Updates will be provided on social media as well as on the Library's website. Also, all AARP Tax-Aide services that have traditionally operated out of the Library have been suspended.

Library staff will be available via phone to answer any questions at 804-693-2998 or via e-mail at library.questions@gloucesterva.info. Book drops are open 24/7. Overdue fines will not accrue during the days libraries are closed.

Book donations cannot be received at this time.

The Library will begin hosting Curbside Service May 20. The service will allow patrons to pick up holds on any books they may have placed. Also, patrons will be able to return books that they have finished at the book drop. Currently, the service will only be available at the Main Library and not at the Point Branch at this time. Curbside Service will be available Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and book drops will be open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Patrons will receive a phone call when their holds are ready for pickup at the Main Library. Library cards will be needed for placing and picking up holds. Items can be placed on hold by visiting www.gloucesterva.info/publiclibrary or by calling 804-693- 2998.

Library patrons are reminded that fines will not accrue on their accounts while the library is closed to the public. However, any fees on a patron's account prior to when the library closed on March 16 remain the patron's responsibility. Monetary transactions for fine payments cannot be handled at this time. All Library facilities, including in-house services, remain closed to the public until further notice.

The Library's public Wi-fi connection equipment has been positioned to best support access from the parking lot. Those wishing to use the public Wi-Fi from the parking lot at either the Main or Gloucester Point branches can do so by using the password "hellopatron." Please be sure to practice effective social distancing if you get out of your car to do so.

The Library is always open online at www.gloucesterva.info/publiclibrary.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM

Gloucester County Parks remain open for passive recreation in a limited capacity. Playgrounds remain closed, groups of 10+ and organized group sports and activities are not permitted. All Department sponsored in-person programs and activities remain cancelled and the Museum of History and Visitor Center are closed to the public. Updated information can be found at www.gloucesterva.info/pr. For questions or more information, email pvt@gloucesterva.info or call 693-2355.

Beaverdam Park is operating on a modified schedule (7:00 am – 7:30 pm) and bathrooms remain open. Rental equipment (batteries, jon boats, canoes, kayaks, paddles, life vests, etc.) and bait sales are not available at this time, and boat launch permits can be purchased at the self-serve location at the Ranger Station. The Whitcomb Lodge and all picnic shelters remain closed for reservations. Gloucester Point Beach Park pier remains open for fishing and the beach is open for exercise only and restrooms facilities are closed. Guests that do not reside together must stay at least a "fishing rod apart." Per state guidelines, these policies will be enforced. Disregard for social distancing and beach use restrictions may result in closure of park facilities.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Gloucester County Public Schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. For more information, visit <https://gets.gc.k12.va.us/>.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Customers can pay Gloucester water and sewer bills as follows:

- By mail to: 6489 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061.
- In person using the Treasurer's drop box in the median of Justice Drive between County

Office Buildings 1 and 2. Checks and money orders will be accepted. Cash payments, while typically discouraged, will also be accepted through the drop box. Any over-payment will be credited to your next bill. Please be sure to include the payment portion of the bill in an envelope with your payment.

- Online, by visiting the Public Utilities page on www.gloucesterva.info using a credit/debit card (\$3.95 fee) or by electronic check (\$2.50 fee).

Account numbers will be required to ensure payment is applied to the correct account – please ensure that you include your account number on your check or on a separate piece of paper if paying by cash.

Applications for service are available by visiting <https://www.gloucesterva.info/DocumentCenter/View/1428/Application-for-Water-and-or-Sewer-Service-PDF>. Completed/signed applications can be submitted by e-mail to (ADurham@gloucesterva.info), by fax, 804-693-4664, or by dropping it off in the Justice Drive drop box. Deposits or transfer fees can be paid through Official Payments. Contact customer service at 804-693-4044 to coordinate payments.

Utilities staff will not be scheduling disconnection of service for delinquent accounts at this time.

As toilet paper runs short, many citizens may turn to alternatives such as "flushable" wipes and sanitizing wipes. These poor substitutes can cause problems for the nation's (and our local) sewers that could include backups into homes and malfunctioning treatment equipment.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The Gloucester County Department of Social Services (GDSS) remains available to assist county citizens. While offices are not open to the public, we may be reached by phone (804) 693-2671 from 8:00- 4:30pm.

In efforts to ensure households are able to maintain access to food, health care benefits, cash assistance and childcare during the COVID-19 crisis, Virginia has extended certification periods for its core human service programs. This includes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Child Care Subsidy programs. Households whose certification periods end between March and May 2020 will have services automatically extended for six months. All participants impacted by this change will be notified by mail regarding the date of their extended certification date. Additionally, Virginia's Medicaid program has extended renewals and redeterminations during this period. Participants who file an appeal during the public health emergency will automatically have coverage extended while waiting for the appeal.

For current SNAP recipients, the Virginia Department of Social Services will issue emergency benefits to most households currently receiving SNAP benefits. These emergency benefits will be issued on April 16, 2020 and will increase the household's current monthly allotment to the maximum monthly allotment for a household of that size. Current SNAP households that already receive the maximum monthly allotment for their household size are not eligible for emergency benefits.

Gloucester County will continue to work with all appropriate federal and state partners to support program participants with vital resources during this period of uncertainty.

Child and Adult Protective services continue to be offered. If you have concerns and wish to make a report, please call tGDSS at 693-2671. You may also contact the state hotline as follows: CPS Hotline: 1-800-552-7096 Adult Protective Services hotline at 1-888-832-3858. Those reports will then be forwarded to GDSS.

Virginians are encouraged to contact 2-1-1 to learn more about available state and local resources. To apply for health care or other benefit programs, visit CommonHelp online at <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov>.

For information regarding Virginia's efforts to increase access to health care, visit the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services online at www.dmas.virginia.gov

TREASURER'S OFFICE

The Treasurer's Office is available by e-mail (treasurer@gloucesterva.info) or telephone (804-693-2141) to assist citizens while County offices are closed to the public. To make a payment, use the drive by drop box, located in the median of Justice Drive, between County Office Buildings 1 and 2. The drop box will be checked first thing in the morning and every few hours throughout the workday. Payments should be made by check or money order – cash payments will also be accepted, although typically discouraged. Please be sure to include a payment voucher and/or other identifying information, along with your name and phone number, to ensure that your payment is credited properly.

Customers are also able to pay online or by telephone through credit/debit card or by electronic check (convenience fee will apply).

Online – www.officialpayments.com

Telephone (jurisdiction code 1087) – 1-800-2-PAYTAX (800-272-9829)

Finally, the office will continue to receive any payments or other information sent to the office via U.S. Mail.

For those who have a hold on their registration with the DMV, call the Treasurer's Office at 804-693-2141 for the current balance due on the account. The balance can be paid online, by

telephone or by putting a payment in the drop box. Those paying online or by telephone can call the office with their confirmation number to have the hold released as soon as possible. PLEASE NOTE – DMV has closed its offices and provided an extension on registration renewals. Please visit their website at www.dmvnow.com for additional information.

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Commercial Grower diagnostic testing services at the Virginia Tech Plant Disease Clinic: Due to the COVID-19 response in Blacksburg, the Plant Disease Clinic is without student workers and is prioritizing samples from commercial growers whose livelihood depends on accurate diagnosis. For samples from home landscapes, home gardens and public gardens (including samples from landscape professionals), the Plant Disease Clinic will use visual and microscopic examination to make the best diagnosis of the problem but will only culture samples from commercial growers.

Local producers in need of plant diagnostic services, soil tests, and nematode assays are asked to contact Krista Gustafson by email at kgustafson@vt.edu to arrange delivery of test kits and/or pick up of plant samples.

The Gloucester County week of 4-H Camp at Jamestown 4-H Educational Center (June 22-26) is cancelled due to COVID-19. Cooperative Extension is planning a free virtual camp June 29 to July 3. Jamestown 4-H Center will be holding the virtual camp that Gloucester 4-H will join in on with classes, activities, and fun. More information on how to sign up is forthcoming by visiting Virginia Cooperative Extension – Gloucester County on Facebook.

For Extension information regarding family economics, food and health, please contact Glenn Sturm, Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences at gjsturm@vt.edu. For information on 4-H and Agriculture and Natural Resources, contact Krista Gustafson [at kgustafson@vt.edu](mailto:kgustafson@vt.edu). Those without access to email are asked to leave a message on the office main line at 804-693-2602.

VOTER REGISTRAR

Gloucester Voter Registrar Bobbi Morgan has announced several ways voters can participate safely in the Dual-Party Primary, which will be held June 23, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Voters are encouraged to begin the process by filling out an Absentee Ballot Application. Ballots will be available beginning May 8, which is the day Absentee Voting begins.

Apply Online: One option available to those wishing to vote is to apply online by visiting <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>. This online voter registration option will work for those who have a Virginia DMV license or DMV ID card. Those who do not have a Virginia DMV license or DMV ID card will be instructed to print, sign and mail the application to

the Voter Registrar's office at: General Registrar, P.O. Box 208, Gloucester, VA 23061. After the application is processed, the voter will receive his or her ballot in the mail.

Apply by Mail: Voters without internet access can call 804-693-3659 and request an absentee ballot application form be mailed to them. The completed application can then be mailed to: General Registrar, P.O. Box 208, Gloucester, VA 23061. After the application is processed, the voter will receive his or her ballot in the mail. Submitting a ballot Once voters receive their ballot, Ms. Morgan encourages them to carefully review the instructions, complete and return their ballots by 7 p.m. on Election Day. Voters are further encouraged to return their ballots using the Registrar's new Vote-By-Mail Ballot Drop Box located outside, behind Building #1 (on the parking lot side) at 6467 Main Street. Beginning May 8, this box will be accessible 24 hours per day until 7 o'clock on Election Night.

Apply In-person: An alternative way to participate in the election is to visit the Registrar's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at the same address for curbside voting beginning May 8 and continuing through Election Day. Curbside voting will also be available Saturday, June 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Look for signs near the back door on the parking lot side. Voters should bring a completed application and a Photo ID. Applications can also be requested in-person. After the application is processed, voters will be provided their paper ballots. "Curbside voting will be implemented for all in-person voters at this time," Morgan said. "We will be exercising safety measures for your health and ours – please be patient."

"The Virginia Department of Elections encourages voters to protect their health during the COVID-19 outbreak," Morgan said. "Voting by mail is strongly encouraged." She said voters may choose reason 2A, "My Disability or Illness" for absentee voting in the June elections due to COVID-19. Voters who choose this option should do so as soon as possible so they can get their ballots in time to return them by mail by Election Day.

The last day to request an Absentee Ballot by mail is June 16, while the last day to get registered or make changes to your name or address to be eligible to vote in this election is May 26 by 5 p.m. As with all Dual-Party primaries in Virginia, voters must be prepared to indicate which ballot they would like (Democratic or Republican) and can only vote in one of the two elections. Morgan said voters do not need to call the Registrar's Office to change their Party Affiliation, as no one in Virginia is registered by party.

For more information, contact the Voter Registrar's Office in Gloucester at 804-693-3659 or by visiting www.gloucesterva.info/Registrar.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Gloucester County continues to evaluate and implement creative solutions as we seek to continue our service delivery to the community. Waste Management, our refuse disposal operations provider, is committed to putting people first while providing an essential service, as

efficiently and conveniently (for patrons) as possible. During these challenging times, Waste Management's highest priority is the health and safety of employees, customers, and our community.

Due to COVID-19, the Middle Peninsula Landfill and Recycling Facility has implemented new safety guidelines for the use of our five in-County convenience centers. These new guidelines follow recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and have been developed in collaboration with County officials.

1. Social Distancing - Please follow social distancing guidelines from the CDC and stay 6 feet away from people while unloading your waste.
2. Six Customers Max - A Maximum of 6 customers are allowed out of their vehicles at any time. This will help reinforce social distancing measures at the convenience centers.
3. Honk for Assistance – Please respectfully use your vehicle's horn to request a staff member to:
a. Move cones if you need to be let out.
b. Assist offloading waste. (See item 4)
c. Obtain a Gloucester County (GC) sticker for waste disposal. (See item 7).
d. Address other questions or concerns.
4. Offloading Assistance – Due to social distancing requirements, offloading assistance is only available to customers with disabilities. Please respectfully honk your horn for assistance. As a reminder, WM employees will only unload up to three items and each item must weigh less than 25 pounds.
5. Staff Training – Waste Management employees have been trained on social distancing and other COVID-19 precautions issued by the CDC, and the company will continue to do so as new information becomes available from the CDC.
6. Traffic Pattern - New traffic flow patterns are in place at all five convenience centers. The first lane is for off-loading only. The second lane is a bypass/exit only lane, off-loading is not permitted in this lane.
7. County Sticker Enforcement – In order to dispose of waste at a Gloucester convenience center, County residents should have their "GC" sticker placed on their vehicle's windshield. "GC" stickers are issued to Gloucester County residents at any of the five convenience centers during business hours (Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.). Residents seeking a "GC" sticker must provide proof of residency such as your valid driver's license, vehicle registration, property tax bill, utility bill, rental agreement, deed, photo ID, or voter registration card. Once a "GC" sticker is issued, the customer must place it on their vehicle's windshield while at the site.
8. Camera Security System – For your safety, video monitoring at all the convenience centers has been increased. Waste Management may implement additional safety / security measures

as necessary, and in efforts to encourage compliance with CDC guidelines to protect employees and customers.

9. Brush, Construction and Bulk Waste - While brush, construction waste, and bulk waste that is typically accepted at convenience centers will still be accepted, patrons are encouraged to take such items directly to the landfill for service with minimal wait time. This includes waste delivered on a towable trailer. Taking these items directly to the landfill will reduce wait time for everyone – both those disposing of such items, and those disposing of typical household waste items.

As a reminder, the landfill does not accept tires, recyclables, or appliances containing CFCs. The adjoining convenience center does accept these items. The landfill is located at 3714 Waste Management Way, Glens, VA 23149. Hours of operation at the main landfill are Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday: 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Your patience, cooperation, and understanding is greatly appreciated during this difficult time, as Waste Management seeks to maintain and enhance the efficiency and convenience of its Gloucester County convenience center operations.

9th DISTRICT COURT SERVICES UNIT

The 9th District Court Service Unit (CSU) serves eleven jurisdictions, which includes the two cities of Poquoson and Williamsburg, and nine counties of Charles City, Gloucester, King and Queen, King William, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, James City, and York.

The services provided by 9th District CSU include juvenile intake, probation, parole, and pre-dispositional investigations. The 9th District CSU is also the site of the Statewide Video Intake Unit. The District office is located in Williamsburg, VA.

In response to the COVID -19 pandemic, the following services are available (subject to change): Protective Order Petitions, Emergency Removal Petitions, and Civil Petitions (i.e., custody, paternity, support, etc.).

Please call 804-693-3860 for assistance or to schedule an appointment.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO YOU

To the best of our ability, Gloucester County will continue delivery of services, so long as we can do so in a safe manner – promoting the continued health of our employees, our citizens, and the community overall. While we are doing our best to create service delivery solutions to accommodate these unique and unprecedented times, we acknowledge that no solution is perfect. Those identifying service delivery gaps that we need to focus on, and those with ideas as to how we can better serve our community are encouraged to provide feedback directly through the department affected.

Additionally, County Administration can be contacted directly for escalation of concerns, for suggestions that may impact multiple departments, and otherwise with regard to County

service delivery generally at county.administrator@gloucesterva.info or by dialing 804-693-4042.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This is an evolving situation and all information is subject to change at any time. For up to date information, visit www.gloucesterva.info or the County's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gloucesterva. For specific questions, contact Gloucester's Community Engagement and Public Information office at 804-693-5730 or e-mail qsheppard@gloucesterva.info.

For health-related information, contact the Virginia Department of Health, Three Rivers Coronavirus Call Center, by calling 804-313-1638. Call Center Hours are 8AM to 6PM Monday through Friday. Alternatively, the public is encouraged to visit the Virginia Health Department's special website on Coronavirus at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>.