



New Kent County 2020 Recap

Even though 2020 proved to be an unpredictable year in every sense of the word, New Kent County Board of Supervisors and staff faced the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic brought us, were resilient, and accomplished various departmental and County goals, outlined in the following pages.

Administration

- Secured land and financing for the construction of a new elementary school and future school facilities.
- Implementation of a broadband expansion plan to design a broadband network that will serve the entire County.
- Facilitated a successful Farmers Market season in 2020, which was relocated to the New Kent High School to comply with State Coronavirus regulations. There was an average of 15 local vendors at the market every Saturday from June through October.
- Received approval from the U.S. Postal Service to construct a new post office to replace the current New Kent Post Office. Engineering and design were both completed in 2020 and construction will begin in Spring 2021.
- Successful completion of the 14th class of New Kent University. Ten citizens completed the citizen engagement and education program.

Building Development

- Performed 8,591 in 2020; increased from 6,539 inspections in 2019.
- The number of Single Family Dwelling Permits issued increased from 185 in 2019 to 321 in 2020.
- Commercial construction remained steady and was highlighted by the opening of the VCU Emergency Center.
- The Building Department is proud to say we remained in full operation through the closing of the administration building due to the pandemic restrictions. Our Department continued to accept and issue permits in a timely manner as well as perform inspections safely without delay to our customers.

Economic Development

- VCU Emergency Department, New Kent's first free-standing emergency room, opened.
- Virginia Natural Gas regional facility opened.
- First brewery opened – Talleyville Brewing Company.
- Largest EDA business incentive grant was awarded to an expanding New Kent company.
- EDA business loan program injected \$30,000 of 0% interest loans to local business owners.
- EDA COVID business incentive grants awarded a total of \$120,000 to local business owners.

Parks & Recreation

January – December 2020

- Pine Fork Park Construction (milestones include site preparation, gravel road & parking, well-house, field irrigation, ball field construction, walking path installation, concession/bath building construction began, dog park fencing)

January

- Preschool Skill Building and Youth Basketball League
- Hosted Youth Sports Open House
- Repurposed & Recycled Recreation Equipment/Cleat Collection
- Before & After School Recreation Program for Grades K – 5 (2 sites)
- Quarter 1 Sports Scholarships (financial need based)

February

- Hosted Daddy & Daughter Dance
- Before & After School Recreation Program for Grades K – 5 (2 sites)

March

- Before & After School Recreation Program for Grades K – 5 (2 sites) until March 18, 2020 closure
- Began park & amenity mitigation strategies to support overall safety and health of park users

April

- Daily (Monday – Friday) Interactive Facebook Posts/Activities/Videos
- Easter Egg & Spring Activity Drive-Thru
- Prepared Emergency Personnel Dependent Day Care Program, if needed

May

- Mother's Day Tea Activity Pick-up Kits
- Prepared Emergency Personnel Dependent Day Care Program, if needed

June

- Prepared Emergency Personnel Dependent Day Care Program, if needed

July

- Recreation Summer Day Camp for Grades K – 5 (3 sites)
- Hosted Challenger Soccer Camp

August

- Recreation Summer Day Camp for Grades K – 5 (3 sites)
- Installation of Play On! Playground National Demonstration Site at Pine Fork Park
- Prepared Parks & Recreation program site for Virtual Learning environment including wi-fi (partnership with NK Information Technology) \$

September

- Virtual Learning Support & Recreation Day Programs for Grades K – 5 (3 sites, 2 sites in partnership with New Kent County Public Schools, or NKPCS) \$

- Installed Outdoor Adult Fitness Equipment at Pine Fork Park \$

October

- Virtual Learning Support & Recreation Day Programs for Grades K – 5 (3 sites, 2 sites in partnership with NKPCS) \$
- Little Lending Library Volunteer Project (partnership with United Way)
- Red Bud Seedling Volunteer Event at Pine Fork Park
- Installed Outdoor Adult Fitness Equipment at the Historic School \$

November

- Virtual Learning Support & Recreation Day Programs for Grades K – 5 (3 sites, 2 sites in partnership with NKPCS) \$
- Prepared and distributed 500 “Blessing Bags” to Senior Adults in the Community \$
- Hosted Virtual Event: New Kent County Grand Illumination (partnered with NK Administration)

December

- Virtual Learning Support & Recreation Day Programs for Grades K – 5 (3 sites, 2 sites in partnership with NKPCS) \$
- Youth Basketball Season started
- Hosted Senior Adult Holiday Program

Note that all programs, events and projects supported safety and health standards associated with COVID-19

\$ = Supported by CARES Act Funding

Planning & Zoning

Planning & Zoning Department	Number of Applications
agricultural and forestal district applications	3
boundary line adjustment applications	9
boundary line extinguishment applications	7
certificate of zoning permits	155
conditional use permits	3
cultural event permits	0
rezoning applications	2
site plan applications	14
subdivision applications	21
zoning opinion letters	3
zoning variances and/or modifications	0
zoning violations-improper land use	8
zoning violations - inoperable vehicles	14
zoning violations - tall grass	2
Total Applications	241

Public Utilities

- Completed the interconnection of the Farms of New Kent Water System with the Kentland (Brickshire) water system. This work included removal of the aging water storage tanks on Kentland Trail. This interconnection reduces the fluoride levels in the Kentland system with the abandonment of the high fluoride well.
- Drilled a new well for Sherwood Estates water system. The existing well is over 45 years old and without backup. The new well will provide water security for those in the Sherwood neighborhood.
- Completed the design of water and sewer line extension to serve future business opportunities on Route 106 (Emmaus Church Road).
- Replaced the high production well pump at Parham Landing Water System (Route 33) to ensure water security for those customers served by the system, including Henrico County Jail East.
- Received just over \$10,000 in COVID relief funds to help citizens, directly affected by COVID, pay their water bills. This money is now available to those who qualify and contact Public Utilities for further information.

Sheriff's Office

- Lt. Mehalko and Sgt. Shobe were awarded the 2020 HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) Award Major Case category at the Virginia Chiefs of Police Association Conference in Roanoke, VA.
- The 4th New Kent Sheriff's Citizens Academy was held, with 10 county citizens in attending the 13-week academy.
- Deputy Michael Connolly was presented the MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Award for his efforts in making our highways safer.
- Four new deputies graduated from the Hanover Sheriff's Office Basic Law Enforcement Academy in three academy sessions – Deputy Brittany LaPrade, Deputy Shay Garton, Deputy Stephanie Torrence and Deputy James Redfearn. Deputies Garton and Torrence received performance awards from their academy session.
- The 1st Responder Memorial Garden was completed at the Sheriff's Office by Mr. Justin Harris as his Eagle Scout project.
- Joined the Neighbors App by Ring to allow our citizens to share their security camera videos with our office, if they wish to.
- Introduced a new Animal Protection website to assist with locating missing pets and the adoption of pets in the area.
- Ms. Ashlynn Mills, a student at New Kent High School, was the winner of the Metro Richmond Crime Stoppers Poster contest. Her design will be used on posters, billboards etc. across the metro area.
- Sponsored three Coffee with a Cop events, with the cooperation of several businesses, throughout the county, with others being canceled because of the COVID restrictions.
- Mr. Steven Rula of the Kip Kephart Foundation and members of the Sheriff's Office presented Citizenship Awards to several deserving New Kent students at G. W. Watkins Elementary, New Kent Elementary and New Kent Middle Schools.
- Ms. Mia Bashore, a New Kent resident, was presented with a \$1,000 scholarship by the Sheriff on behalf of the Virginia Sheriff's Institute.
- Introduced our new Sheriff's App for Apple and Android phones, TheSheriffApp.com. This app has been extremely beneficial and has been popular among our citizens.
- Many events were canceled or postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the citizens of New Kent continued to show their tremendous support of this office by providing the members of this office with meals, desserts, candies, snacks, fruits, gift cards, customized mugs, masks, cards, posters and signs.

There were several community events held to show support for law enforcement and to show unity among our community. Thank you, New Kent County, for being the great County that you are.

For the calendar year of 2020 the New Kent Sheriff's Office reports	
Arrests	629
Incident reports taken	2,414
Calls for service (an increase of 7940 over 2019)	53,370
Warrants	1,516
Citations	2,801
Civil process	5,015
Court days	246
Citizens screened at the courthouse	31,335

Social Services

- Assisted 41 New Kent County households with rent/mortgage, power, water and/or medication bills using CARES money.
- Assisted 15 families with childcare using CARES money.
- Assisted 135 households via Emergency Services funding.
- Provided Thanksgiving meals to 12 families.
- Provided Christmas assistance to 24 families.
- Received 750+ donated toys, hats, scarves, gloves and blankets for distribution during the holiday season.
- Received 1000+ donated food items for distribution during the holiday season.

Treasurer's Office

With the prior Treasurer retiring, Charles H. Evelyn, III took over the Office on January 1, 2020.

- Improvement in tax collection rates as of 1/7/2021 compared to 1/7/2020.
Tax year 2019 vs 2020 Collection Rates Compared Year Over Year

Department	1/7/2020	1/7/2021	Difference
	TY19*	TY20*	
Business License	87.47%	95.14%	+7.67%
Meals Tax	93.77%	98.87%	+5.10%
Lodging Tax	98.18%	99.59%	+1.41%
Personal Property	80.91%	86.65%	+5.74%
Real Estate	94.89%	95.67%	+0.78%

*TY19 is tax year 2019 – TY20 is tax year 2020

- Established office policies and procedures as it relates to personnel, delinquent collections, investments and customer service.
- Successfully negotiated with our credit/debit card payment processor to lower service fees charged to taxpayers - paying by card - from 2.5% to 2%.
- Moved primary collection of delinquent Business License (BPOL) accounts "in house" as opposed to immediately sending them to our collection attorney. This seems to have substantially increased the

collection rate of Business License tax. It has also served as a catalyst to help remove non-existent businesses from the tax rolls.

- Began to accept annual Business License tax payments online.
- Set up a new online payment portal for taxpayers – www.NewKentTax.com.
- Added ACH (e-check) as an option to pay Personal Property and Real Estate taxes online. When choosing this option to pay, taxpayers are not charged a service fee.
- All payment collection terminals were certified as PCI compliant for the first time.
- Established a lifetime dog license which began being available January 1, 2021. No change to kennel tags were made.
- The Treasurer's Office has remained open throughout the entire COVID pandemic. Health safety protocols were initiated including rotating staff, social distancing and face coverings when working with the public. Online payment options were highly recommended as well as utilizing the payment drop box in the parking lot. Our teller windows were closed to the public during the height of the pandemic - beginning March 16th and re-opening on May 26th, 2020.
- The Treasurer's Office went through three separate audits, Treasurer Turnover Audit, the Annual County Audit and the Annual Commonwealth of Virginia APA audit. No material weaknesses were found within the Treasurer's Office.
- Treasurer Charles Evelyn presented the roles and responsibilities of the Treasurer's Office before the 2020 class of New Kent University.
- Opened additional investment accounts to maximize interest earned on cash balances.
- Treasurer's Office began billing Business License tax. In the past, the Commissioner of the Revenue had performed this task. This improved efficiency across departments as the Treasurer's Office has procedures in place for tax billing.