

Your County News

County Contact Info



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Gloucester County Board of Supervisors

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VICE-CHAIRPERSON & WARE DISTRICT REP. Pastor Gregory Woodard

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GLOUCESTER PT. DIST. REPRESENTATIVE Robert "Bobby" Crewe

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ABINGDON DIST. REPRESENTATIVE Christian Rilee

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AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE Louise Theberge

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Go To:

www.gloucesterva.info

for all directory & service information

Gloucester County Scores Big in Awards Arena



Gloucester County recently received several national and state awards recognizing outstanding local programs, services, new initiatives and the dedicated employees behind the scenes. A brief spotlight on the awards presented and the staff members involved includes:

❖ **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting:** For the 13th consecutive year, the Finance Department received the Government Finance Officers Association's highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Staff recognized include Nickie Champion, Andy Scales, Joyce Blevins, Sharon Roy and Barbara Hines.

❖ **Digital Counties Survey Winner - 2nd Place:** An annual study conducted by the Center for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties to award and recognize the hard work and innovation of the top digital county governments for information technology. Gloucester County received 2nd place for counties with less than 150,000 population. Staff recognized include George Bains and Brian Burchett.

❖ **National Association of Counties 2009 Achievement Awards:** The six programs receiving NACo recognition for innovative county programs were:

Gloucester Library Summer Reading Program Web-Based Application: A web-based application allowing online registration and progress recording. Staff recognized include Kathy Barrows and Jeanne Drechsel with the Gloucester Library and Brian Burchett and Kenneth Lawson with Information Technology.

Online Community Development System: Allows for inter-departmental sharing of information for a unified work flow system to track development records and projects. Staff recognized include George Bains and Scott Vamer with Information Technology and Ron Peaks, Paul Koll, Denise Canada, Celeste DeSimone and Scott Rae with Codes Compliance.

Affordable Workforce Housing Initiative: The Gloucester County Resource Council along with the Advisory Board on Housing and Gloucester County staff, worked to bring awareness to an issue resulting in an affordable housing study. Receiving the award was Janet Gomez with the Gloucester Resource Council and Michael Shifflett with the Department of Housing.

Gloucester Methamphetamine Task Force: The task force developed and implemented a plan to protect citizens and the community from the dangers of methamphetamine. Receiving the award on behalf of the task force was Teresa Altemus, past Task Force co-chairperson and Dr. Irungu with Three Rivers Health District.

Historic Courthouse Circle Restoration: For restoration efforts to ensure our historic buildings remain public assets. Staff recognized included Carol Steele and Jenny Graziano with Parks, Recreation & Tourism and Jim Diggs, John Dempsey, Carl McGuire, Wade Pyatt, Fritz Mesch, Curt Hughes, and Kim Loper with Building & Grounds.

Full Service School Partnership Project: The Full Service School Project is an innovative partnership approach to addressing the needs of children and families in an elementary school setting. Accepting the award on behalf of all those involved with the program were Cindy Thomas and Valerie Lewis with the Gloucester Department of Community Education; Evelyn Perhac, Petsworth Elementary School Principal & Paul McLean, Bethel Elementary School Principal.

❖ **Virginia Association of Counties 2009 Achievement Award for the Full Service School**

Partnership Program: One of 15 programs recognized in Virginia by the Virginia Association of Counties, the Full Service School Project demonstrates an innovative model of how local government and schools partner together to meet the needs and challenges of school students and their families. The Gloucester Community Policy and Management Team is credited with implementation of this program in partnership with the Petsworth and Bethel Full Service School Planning Teams.



Representing the Bethel and Petsworth Full Service School Planning Teams, several members are present to accept their 2009 NACo Achievement Award.

Your County News



County Real Estate Assessment Process Underway!

Gloucester County will complete a general reassessment during 2009 of all real property in the county to determine assessed value for real estate tax purposes. By October 1, 2009 all property owners in Gloucester County will have received a Notice of Real Estate Assessment Change, officially declaring the reassessed value of their real estate and property improvements. This information is designed to address a few of the most frequently asked questions. More information may be found on the Gloucester Real Estate Assessment Department's website: <http://www.gloucesterva.info/assessment/>.

Two reassessment informational meetings are planned in August and September. On August 24th a meeting will be held at Achilles Elementary School and on September 10th at Petsworth Elementary School. Both meetings begin at 7 p.m.. For more info, call 693-3087.

Q & A: What You Need to Know About Gloucester's Reassessment

Why does Gloucester County reassess property?

Section 58.1-3252 of the Code of Virginia requires all localities to reassess property on a regular basis. The assessed value of your property is used to determine your share of property taxes. Gloucester County will conduct the reassessment process every two years to help ensure the fair and equitable assessment of all real property and evenly distribute the tax burden among all property owners.

Who is responsible for estimating the value of your property?

The Gloucester Real Estate Assessment Department is responsible for estimating the value of your property. Your property assessment is **NOT** your tax bill. Instead, the assessed value determines the overall share of taxes you pay. Because your property assessment affects your property taxes, it is important that your assessed value be accurate and fair. It is also important that you understand how the value of your property is estimated and what can cause values to change.

How does the county determine the assessed value of my property?

Virginia law requires that all real property, residential and commercial, be assessed at 100% of the estimated fair market value, which is the price the property would sell for on the open market. Real estate assessment values may increase or decrease due to a variety of reasons, including changes in economic conditions, structural changes or land rezoning. To determine the value of a property, the assessment department staff obtain and maintain many different types of information. Universally accepted methods are used to estimate market values, such as analyzing sales, costs and income information. The most relevant approach is applied to the type of property being appraised.

What causes property values to change?

The most frequent cause of a change in value is a change in the housing market. When the market has a large number of homes for sale, but little demand, values generally decrease. On the other hand, when the market recognizes a demand from buyers and few homes are for sale, market values tend to rise. Of course other factors such as improvements, additions or property damage from disasters may cause values to change.

What is my role in the assessment process and how can I help to make sure my information is correct?

The best defense against errors in your assessment is checking that the information used to establish your assessed value is correct. You may view your property record online at: <http://www.gloucesterva.info/assessment/> or visit the county's Real Estate Assessment Department located at 6489 Main Street on the first floor of County Office Building 2. If you discover any errors in your property record and/or Notice of Real Estate Assessment Change, contact the department at 693-3087 so that staff may review your information with you. A staff member may visit your home to check or correct any errors.

What if I don't agree with my real estate property assessment or feel it is incorrect?

If you wish to request reconsideration or receive an explanation of how your reassessed value was determined you may do so through the following options: (1) Contact the Real Estate Assessment Department at 693-3087 and make an appointment to discuss how the appraised value was established. (2) File a formal appeal application with the Gloucester Board of Equalization, which is appointed by the Circuit Court to hear the appeals of property owners on reassessment. A deadline date for filing a formal appeal will be publicized. (3) If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the Board of Equalization's decision, a petition may be filed with the Circuit Court as referenced in Sec.58.1-3984 of the Code of Virginia.

What is the connection between the reassessed value of my property and the actual county property tax that I pay?

While the Real Estate Assessment Department determines the assessed value of your property, the Gloucester Board of Supervisors sets the tax rate. The tax rate determines how much property tax you will pay, based on the assessed value of your property. Currently, the county's real estate tax rate is \$.61 per \$100 of assessed value. Based on a house assessed at \$250,000 your property tax bill would be \$1,525.

Will my real estate tax change if my assessment changes?

If your assessment increases or decreases it does not necessarily mean that the real estate tax you pay will automatically increase or decrease. Your real estate tax depends on both the assessed value and the county's real estate property tax rate set each year by the Gloucester Board of Supervisors.


Does the county offer any special programs for tax relief for the elderly, the disabled or for land use exemptions?

Yes. Both a Tax Relief Program for the Elderly and the Disabled and a Land Use Program are offered. The programs have specific eligibility guidelines. Generally, persons age 65 or older, or who are permanently and totally disabled with incomes under \$32,000, can receive total or partial real estate tax relief. The Land Use Program provides for reduced property assessment under four categories: real estate devoted to agricultural use, horticulture use, forest use or open space use. For more information about either of these programs, please contact the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office at 693-1324.

How can I get more information about the reassessment process?

There are several ways! You may call the Real Estate Assessment Department at 693-3087 or visit their website at www.gloucesterva.info/assessment/. You can also plan to attend the informational meetings planned for 7 p.m. on August 24th at Achilles Elementary School and September 10th at Petsworth Elementary School.

Your County News



**Did you know....
there is gang activity
in Gloucester County ?**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH
7-9 P.M. AT GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL**

- Are you concerned about the potential impact of gangs on our youth?
- Are you concerned about the risk to our senior citizens?
- Want to know what is already happening in Gloucester?
- Want to help prevent further gang activity in Gloucester?
- Want to learn how you or your family are impacted by gang activity?

The Gloucester Task Force on Community Concerns in conjunction with the Gloucester Board of Supervisors, Gloucester School Board and Sheriff's Department are sponsoring a public informational event where you will be able to obtain information and ask questions of experts.

Please join us on **Thursday, September 17, 2009** from **7 p.m. to 9 p.m.** in the Gloucester High School auditorium as we attempt to understand and battle this problem in Gloucester County.

This event is a "must attend" for anyone who is concerned about our youth and other vulnerable members of our community. Youth are welcome to attend. It should be noted that there may be some graphic gang related materials presented. Sensitivity to this should be noted when deciding whether to attend or bring your young child.

2010 Census Partnerships Forming Now

Complete Count Committees (CCC) are forming across the country to spread the word about the importance of the 2010 Census and to motivate every resident in their community to complete and return their 2010 Census questionnaire.

Made up of state, local and community leaders, CCCs are one of the main strategic elements of the 2010 Census. Committees often include a cross section of community representatives — including government agencies, education, business, faith-based organizations and the media — and aim to address the various racial, ethnic, cultural and geographic considerations of their communities.

Using local knowledge, expertise and influence, CCCs plan and implement census awareness campaigns that address the special characteristics of their communities. Local campaigns are designed to reach traditionally undercounted populations by stressing the importance of an accurate census count, including how data are collected and used.

Since the 1980 Census, CCCs have played a major role in raising awareness of the census among all groups and populations through various activities. From now until May 2010, CCCs nationwide are implementing key activities, which often include: holding events such as a Census Day "Be Counted" Parade, distributing census information and materials through web sites, newsletters and at events; and partnering with community organizations to include census messaging in their communications.

A number of CCCs are already in place and more are forming each day. Those interested in organizing a committee should call their regional census center or visit www.2010.census.gov.



It's In Our Hands

ABOUT THE 2010 CENSUS

The 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in the United States and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Census data are used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year and to make decisions about what community services to provide. The 2010 Census questionnaire will be one of the shortest in history and consists of 10 questions, taking about 10 minutes to complete. Strict confidentiality laws protect the confidentiality of respondents and the information they provide.

National Community Planning Month

October is National Community Planning Month! Be on the lookout this fall as Gloucester County joins the American Planning Association in recognizing the value of planning and planners in our own community.

Gloucester County is in the process of updating our Comprehensive Plan which will lay out the community's vision for this county in the next 20 years. Planners, both professionals and citizen volunteers, play a vital role in working with the public on this plan to build a community of lasting value. Planners' ability to engage citizens to envision their future, identify issues, and solve challenges help shape quality communities across the nation. Locally, planning staff has been working with a citizen's steering committee to update Gloucester's Comprehensive Plan. Hampton Roads Planning District Commission has been contracted to formulate the committee's ideas, along with current data and trends, into draft concepts for the broader community to consider and refine.

We encourage citizens of Gloucester to be a part of the process and help develop a meaningful plan for Gloucester's future. Stay tune for more information about the Comprehensive Plan update and Community Planning Month. Or better yet, get connected through our website and sign-up for our newsgroup to stay informed about local and regional planning activities at www.gloucesterva.info/GloucesterConnectionDB.

For more information, call the Gloucester County Planning Department at 693-1224.

National



Community



Planning



Month

Your County News

Fall C.E.R.T. Classes Offered

C.E.R.T. stands for "Community Emergency Response Team." Would you like to gain the knowledge and skills needed to help your family, neighbors and friends during a disaster? During the free CERT training, you will learn to:

- * Take steps to prepare yourself and your family for a disaster.
- * Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in their home and workplace.
- * Work as a team to apply basic fire suppression strategies and safety measures to extinguish a small fire.
- * Employ basic treatments for various wounds

Use safe techniques for debris removal and victim extrication, plus much more!

Upcoming C.E.R.T. Classes

Sept. 10, Sept.17, Sept. 24, & Oct. 1

Location: TBA

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Register: Call 693-1391 or email

jwenner@gloucesterva.info by September 10th

Other C.E.R.T. Activities & Classes

October 22: C.E.R.T. Members Dinner
6:30 p.m. Details coming soon.

November 3: SKYWARN Class at 6:30 p.m.
Botetourt Elementary School
Be a Stormspotter

Register: jwenner@gloucesterva.info
or call 693-1391

The C.E.R.T. program is sponsored by the Gloucester Department of Emergency Services.

AARP MATURE DRIVING CLASSES

55 Alive/Mature Driving program is designed to help people 55 years of age and older improve their driving skills. The course covers the effects of aging and medications on driving, basic driving rules, license renewal, local traffic hazards, adverse road conditions, and accident prevention measures. The cost of the course is \$14 per person and \$12 for AARP members.

Developed by the American Association of Retired Persons, 55 Alive is geared to the specific needs of older motorists. Fall classes are scheduled for **September 22nd & 24th and in November** (call for dates) at the Gloucester Library from 9a.m.- 1p.m.. Checks should be made payable to "AARP."

You may register by calling 693-5730 or by e-mailing awallace@gloucesterva.info.



Upcoming General Elections November 3, 2009



IMPORTANT!!!!

The last day to register to vote, make any name changes and/or address changes for the November 3, 2009 General Election is **October 5, 2009!**

Office	Jurisdiction	Ballot Name
Governor	Statewide	Robert F. "Bob" McDonnell
Governor	Statewide	R. Creigh Deeds
Lieutenant Governor	Statewide	William I. "Bill" Bolling
Lieutenant Governor	Statewide	Jody M. Wagner
Attorney General	Statewide	Ken I. Cuccinelli II
Attorney General	Statewide	Stephen C. Shannon
Member House of Delegates 98th District	98th District	Harvey B. Morgan
Member School Board At Large	GLOUCESTER COUNTY	Ann F. Burruss
Member School Board PEISWORTH DISTRICT I	GLOUCESTER COUNTY	Anita F. Parker
Member School Board YORK DISTRICT	GLOUCESTER COUNTY	Starr F. Bevin
Member Board of Supervisors At Large	GLOUCESTER COUNTY	Louise D. Theberge
Member Board of Supervisors PEISWORTH DISTRICT I	GLOUCESTER COUNTY	John H. Northstein
Member Board of Supervisors PETS WORTH DISTRICT	GLOUCESTER COUNTY	Erle W. Wessel
Member Board of Supervisors YORK DISTRICT	GLOUCESTER COUNTY	Teresa L. Altamus
Member Board of Supervisors YORK DISTRICT I	GLOUCESTER COUNTY	Carter M. Borden

Where can I register to vote or get more information about voting?

You can visit the Voter Registrar Office located at 6467 Main Street in County Office Building One (2nd floor); mail in your voter registration application (available at DMV, you public library or online) to P.O. Box 208, Gloucester, VA 23061 and/or call 693-3831.

Where can I find a registration form or absentee ballot application?

Visit or website at www.gloucesterva.info/registrar or call our office at 693-3831 and we can send you the forms you need. Voter registration forms must be mailed in with original signature and absentee ballot applications may be mailed in or faxed.

Absentee Voting Info:

Absentee voting in-person will be available after September 18, 2009. Absentee voting will also be available the two Saturday's prior to the election on October 24th & 31st from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The last day to absentee vote in person is October 31st. Applications by mail for an absentee ballot must be received by Tuesday, October 27th.

Need More Info?

Carole A. Gates, General Registrar for Gloucester County

Telephone: 693-3659; FAX: 693-3831 or E-Mail: cgates@gloucesterva.info

Your County News



GLOUCESTER COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

Tara L. Thomas, Treasurer

6489 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061-6102

Phone (804) 693-2141 Fax (804) 693-2631 Email: treasurer@gloucesterva.info



IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE

Payment Due Dates, Penalty & Interest

Gloucester County Real Estate and Personal Property Tax bills are due **JUNE 30** and **DECEMBER 5** of each year. Bills are typically mailed 30 days before the due date. If June 30 or December 5 falls on the weekend, the due date becomes the next business day. By law, if your payment is not received in the Treasurer's Office by the due date, or if it is postmarked after the due date by the US Postal Service, you will be subject to a penalty of 10% of the tax owed. In addition, if your bill remains unpaid as of the first day of the month following the due date, you will be subject to interest at the rate of 10% per year. First installment tax bills not paid by June 30 are subject to penalty and interest on July 1. The second installment bills due on December 5 are subject to penalty on December 6 and interest on January 1.

If you find you cannot pay your bill by the due date, please contact our office as soon as possible to make payment arrangements. Additionally, you can reduce the amount of penalty and interest that you have to pay by making a partial payment on or before the due date. If you do not receive a bill for an item, please contact us immediately. By law, failure to receive a bill does not relieve you of any additional charges that accrue for failure to pay by the due date.

Real Estate

You will be mailed a real estate tax bill for each parcel you owned as of January 1. If you receive a bill for a parcel that you have sold during the current year, please contact the Treasurer's Office to let us know of the sale. If you do not receive a real estate tax bill for a parcel that you have purchased during the current year, please contact us and we will send you a bill.

Age 65 or Older and/or Disabled:

If you are age 65 or older, or totally disabled, as of January 1st, you may qualify for the County's Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Program. Please contact the Commissioner of the Revenue at 693-3451 for more information.

Personal Property

Personal property is billed based on how it is titled. Only property that is titled the same can be combined on one bill, so you may receive more than one personal property tax bill. Please check your bills to be sure that you have been taxed on all of your property.

Treasurer's Office Location & Hours

The Treasurer's Office is located in the Gloucester County Offices and School Administration Building Two and is open from 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Payment Options

- In Person at the Treasurer's Office – Cash, checks and money orders. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Gloucester County.
- Drop Box - Located between Gloucester County Offices Building One and Building Two and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- By Mail – Checks and money orders should be made payable to Gloucester County. If you are mailing your tax bill on or near the due date, please have your payment hand-cancelled by a postal worker. If the post office has already closed on the due date, please either pay online or put your payment in our drop box to be sure that your payment will be current.
- By Telephone with a Credit Card - Please call 1-800-2PAYTAX (800-272-9829) and use code 1087. There is an additional fee to pay by credit card. Payments by telephone will be considered current if made by midnight on the due date.
- Online with Checks and/or Credit Card - Visit the website at www.gloucesterva.info. Use code 1087 when paying by credit card. There is an additional fee to pay by credit card. Payments made online will be considered current if made by midnight on the due date.

Questions? If you have questions, please contact the Treasurer's Office at 693-214, or by email at treasurer@gloucesterva.info.

Photos Needed for Front Page of *The Beehive*

Come on -- take your best shot! We'd like to feature photographs of local sites and seasonal landscapes taken by community members for the front cover of *The Beehive*. If you have a photo you'd like to share, send a copy to awallace@gloucesterva.info or bring a color original to the Community Education Office. Questions? Call Amanda at 693-5730.

Beehive Buzzings!



Would you like to get your message out to over 17,000 households in Gloucester? *The Beehive*, a quarterly publication of Gloucester Community Education, is the way! All non-profit, community based groups are welcome to submit information and appropriate photographs for publication. Just call 693-5730 or e-mail awallace@gloucester.va.us.



A Child in Your Community Needs You: Be A Foster Parent

Nearly 7,000 of Virginia's children do not have a permanent home. These children need love, encouragement and support from caring families and individuals. Learn more about the positive difference you can make in a child's life by calling Gloucester Social Services at 693-2671. The Department of Social Services Foster Care Program provides homes and compassionate foster parents for children who are removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, or other family circumstances that prevent children from remaining in their homes.

All children grow and thrive best when they are with a family. You could be that family. Open your heart and home by becoming a foster, adoptive or resource parent. Call 693-2671 today and visit www.dss.virginia.gov/family/fc/index.html for more information.

Your School News

Gloucester County School Board Members

Ms. Ann F. Burruss, Chairperson
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Mr. A. J. McGlohn, Jr.
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Dr. Jean E. Pugh
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decapod@verizon.net or 642-5172

Mr. Kevin M. Smith
Member At Large
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Gloucester, Virginia 23061
rev.kev2@verizon.net or 693-6993

Job Opportunities with GCPS!

Are you interested in keeping up-to-date on all the available job opportunities with Gloucester County Public Schools? The Human Resource Department maintains a web site and regularly posts current job openings and announcements. Visit the site at:

<http://gets.gc.k12.va.us/humanresources/>

*The Gloucester County School Board
is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

Get Ready, Get Set..... GO!

New School Year Begins with “Open House” and Open Doors!



Another school year will soon be underway in Gloucester County Public Schools! School employees in all areas are busy planning, polishing, pruning, and preparing everything and anything needing attention to get ready for **Tuesday, September 8th** -- the first day of school. Gloucester School Superintendent, Dr. Ben Kiser shares his thoughts on school openings.

“The beginning of each school year represents a fresh start with high hopes and renewed energy for educators that are channeled toward their expectations and aspirations for children. The new school year allows teachers another opportunity, with oftentimes a new group of children, to influence the intellectual, physical, and social growth of our youngest citizens. As Superintendent, I see another year for continued growth and progress in our schools. By all standards, the citizens and taxpayers of Gloucester County can be proud of their educational system and the value of the investment in public education. I am very appreciative of the community, its support, and the opportunity to serve another year. Even in a year of limited resources, quality educational services will be a top priority.”

The “starter shot” signaling the return to school is the traditional “Open House” event which provides opportunities for students and their families to meet teachers and administrators, tour school facilities, and find out what your children will be learning and doing this school year. Parent and family involvement in your child’s education is a key element in helping your child be successful in school. We hope you will “Go, Go, Go” to your child’s school for this important event. Below is a listing of specific dates and times for Open House events in Gloucester County Public Schools:

Elementary Schools (All Grades)

August 28th from 4-7 p.m.

Page & Peasley Middle Schools

6th Grade August 26th from 4-7:30 p.m..
7th & 8th Grade August 27th from 4-7:30 p.m.

Gloucester High School

9th Grade August 26th from 4-7:30 p.m.
10th-12th Grades August 27th from 4-7:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact 693-5300.



Be Informed! Information On & About GCPC

Would you like to be “in the know” and be kept updated and informed of all GCPS happenings, announcements, school activities and events? Visit the Gloucester County Public Schools website at <http://gets.gc.k12.va.us/> for information on the entire school system. Each individual school has its own website in addition to various school departments such as special education, career and technical education, food services, transportation and student services.

Online applications for free and reduced lunches and employment with GCPS are also provided. One really cool feature is the division event calendar that provides a master calendar

of events and activities at each school and division-wide.

Gloucester County Public Schools has its own public access cable channel. Check out DukeTV on cable channel 47! A 24/7 bulletin board service of announcements is provided and programming will soon feature a variety of informational, educational and sports-oriented programs, highlighting GCPS at its best!



**DUKE TV
GCPS
CABLE CHANNEL 47**

Your School News

School Administration Contact Info

School Administration Main Number
693-5300

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE (693-1425)

Dr. Howard (Ben) Kiser, Superintendent

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (693-5304)

John Hutchinson, Assistant Superintendent

ASSESSMENT SERVICES (693-1438)

Lora Price, Director

BUDGET AND FINANCE (693-7825)

Joanne Wright, Director

CAREER & TECHNICAL ED (693-7910)

Jason Perry, Supervisor

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (693-6240)

Rita Bigelow, Supervisor

FOOD SERVICES (693-3585)

Stephen Patton, Director

GIFTED EDUCATION (693-7498)

Dr. Bess Worley, Director

HUMAN RESOURCES (693-7889)

Juanita Smith, Director

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (693-5387)

Anne Petersen, Supervisor

STUDENT SERVICES (693-7856)

Rita Cargill Brown, Director

SPECIAL EDUCATION (693-7880)

Fran Goforth, Director

TECHNOLOGY (693-0351)

Jim Brogan, Director

TRANSPORTATION (693-2127)

Roger Kelly, Director

Visit GCPS Web Site:

<http://gets.gc.k12.va.us/index.htm>

for directory & school information
and lots more!

Just "Click" for School Calendar!

If you need immediate access to info like school holidays, teacher workdays, progress report and report card dates or exam schedules, just visit the school division master calendar on the GCPS website at: <http://gets.gc.k12.va.us/calendar.pdf>. It is just a quick click!

Special Education Advisory Committee

The meeting dates for the Gloucester County Special Education Advisory Committee have been set for the 2009-2010 school year and the members of the committee would like to extend this invitation for you to attend!

The committee, which includes parents of children with disabilities and persons with disabilities, discusses not only federal/state regulations governing special education, but also local special education issues. Most meetings include a presentation by a guest speaker on a particular issue relating to special education. All meetings are open to the public and begin at 6:30 p.m. Please plan to join us on the following Mondays at Page Middle School:

- **September 28th**
- **December 7th**
- **February 22nd**
- **April 12th**



We look forward to seeing some new faces at the meetings this upcoming school year!

New Start & Dismissal Times for 2009-10 School Year

The Gloucester County School Board approved start and dismissal time changes for all schools effective with the upcoming school year. Bus transportation logistics will also change to accommodate the new schedule.

Most noticeable is high school (grades 9-12) and middle school (grades 6-8) students will be transported separately. Some students, depending on their residence location, will experience either an earlier or later pick-up time.

School start times are the following: 7:40 a.m. for high school; 7:50 a.m. for middle school and 8:55 a.m. for elementary. Dismissal times are 1:55 p.m. for high school; 2:35 p.m. for middle school and 3:40 p.m. for elementary.

Buses will off load the students between 7:15-7:35 a.m. at the high school, between 7:25 and 7:45 a.m. at the middle school and 8:45-8:50 a.m. at the elementary. In the afternoon buses will depart the high school at 2:05., 2:40 at the middle school and 3:45 at the elementary schools.

Contacting Your Public Schools....



Secondary Schools

GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL - 693-2526

Dr. Layton (Tony) Beverage, Principal
6680 Short Lane, Gloucester, VA 23061

PAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL - 693-2540

David Daniel, Principal
5628 Geo.Wash. Mem. Hwy., Gloucester, VA 23061

PEASLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL - 693-1499

Brian Hartley, Principal
2885 Hickory Fork Road, Gloucester, VA 23061

Regional Alternative School

REGIONAL ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL 693-7664

Wayne Fox, Administrator
6680 Short Lane, Gloucester, VA 23061



Elementary Schools

ABINGDON ELEMENTARY- 642-9885

Cathy Balderson, Principal
7087 Powhatan Drive, Hayes, VA 23072

ACHILLES ELEMENTARY - 642-9140

Molly Broderson, Principal
9306 Guinea Road, Hayes, VA 23072

BETHEL ELEMENTARY- 693-2360

Paul McLean, Principal
2991 Hickory Fork Road, Gloucester, VA 23061

BOTETOURT ELEMENTARY - 693-2151

Michelle Cagnon, Principal
6361 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061

PETSWORTH ELEMENTARY- 693-6161

Evelyn Perhac, Principal
10658 Geo. Wash. Mem. Hwy., Gloucester, VA

WALKER ELEMENTARY - 693-5445

Dr. Bambi Thompson, Principal
6099 T. C. Walker Road, Gloucester, VA 23061

Your School News



Elementary School Spots

ABINGDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE: Sept. 3rd from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

GRANDPARENTS LUNCHEON: TBA!

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATIONS, Sept. 16th at 2:30pm and 6 pm.

PICTURE DAY: Oct. 30th

ACHILLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION: Sept. 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

GRANDPARENTS' LUNCH: Sept. 14th.

PTA BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT: Sept. 17th from 6:30-8 p.m.

GUINEA DAY PARADE: Sept. 26th at Noon

VETERANS DAY FLAG CEREMONY: Nov. 11th

BETHEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION: Sept. 15th at 9:15 a.m.

BOTETOURT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION: Sept. 3rd from 4:30-5:30 p.m..

PTA GENERAL MEETING & FAMILY READING NIGHT on Oct. 1st at 6:30 p.m. .

FALL FESTIVAL FOR GRADES K-3: Oct. 29th from 6-7:30 p.m.

PETSWORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Mark your calendars now for the following special events:

NEW VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP WEEK: August 31st to September 3rd. Contact 693-4555.

PTA OPEN HOUSE: September 3rd, 4:30-6:30

FAMILY FITNESS NIGHT on September 25th.

FALL READING FESTIVAL on October 2nd.

PTA Family Bingo Night on October 9th.

4TH GRADE VETERANS DAY PERFORMANCE on Nov. 11th.

T.C. WALKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

BOO-HOO BREAKFAST FOR KINDERGARTEN PARENTS: Sept. 8th at 9 a.m.

PATRIOT DAY FLAG RAISING: Sept. 11th, 9 a.m.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT FOR GRADES 1 AND 2: Oct. 1st at 7 p.m.

KINDERGARTEN BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT: Oct. 2nd from 7-8 p.m.

FALL FESTIVAL! Oct. 31st

VETERANS DAY LUNCH: Nov. 11th

GCPS Employees United for United Way Campaign "Helping to Help Others"

Giving back to the local community is something Gloucester County Public Schools employees are very proud of. Since 1999, GCPS employees have donated over \$150,000 to Gloucester and Mathews community organizations through the United Way Campaign. During the 2008 campaign, one of every five GCPS employees opened up their pocketbooks, wallets, and hearts and provided a total of \$15,595 to the following organizations that help those who sometimes need help:



*GCPS Educational Foundation
Gloucester Volunteer Fire & Rescue
American Red Cross – Gloucester
Gloucester-Mathews Free Clinic
Habitat for Humanity
Riverside Walter Reed Hospice
Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad
ARC - Lewis Puller Center
Hands Across Mathews
YMCA – Mathews County*

*Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society
Laurel Shelter
Samaritan Group
Abingdon Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Boys & Girls Club - Gloucester
Park Partners
Mathews Volunteer Fire Department
Literacy Volunteers of Gloucester
Gloucester Housing Partnership
Boys & Girls Club - Mathews*

Gloucester County Public Schools employees give so more than their precious time, talents, knowledge, skills, and abilities — they also give to the United Way. This year's annual campaign runs from October 19 – 31. For more information about GCPS involvement in the United Way or how you may contribute, please contact Craig Smith in the GCPS Central Office at 693-7927 or cwsmith@gc.k12.va.us. Gloucester County Public Schools and the United Way—we're committed to giving something back to our local communities—because that is what "community" is all about.

Don't Wait! Please Register Your Child for Kindergarten



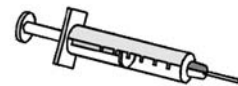
Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 30th are eligible to attend kindergarten and need to be properly registered at the school they will be attending before coming to school. Parents are requested to bring proof of residency (electric/phone bill, etc.) with their street address and the following information before the child enters school: state-certified birth certificate, child's physical examination report (within a year of entering school), child's Social Security number and child's immunization records.

If the required information is not available at the time of registration, parents should be in the process of obtaining this information and must have it available by the time school begins. It is not necessary to bring the child to registration.

For further information, please contact the school your child will attend or call 693-5300.



Be Wise - Immunize! Immunizations a Must



All children entering school are required to have proper immunizations, at the appropriate ages, against certain diseases as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Vaccines are responsible for the control of many infectious diseases that have, in the past, killed or harmed many infants, children and adults. The viruses and bacteria that cause vaccine-preventable disease and death still exist and can be passed on to people who are not protected by vaccines.

The recommended immunization schedule includes the following: diphtheria, hepatitis B, influenza type B, measles, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, rubella, tetanus and varicella (chickenpox).

A schedule of the recommended ages and immunizations required is available from the school nurse at the school your child will be attending or at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/>.

Please don't wait to immunize your child! Be wise.... immunize!

Your School News

Which Bus Will My Child Ride????



Gloucester County Public Schools will be mailing postcards to all school-aged families with the following information: bus numbers, bus stop locations, and pick-up and drop-off times in mid August.

If you have a computer and access to the web, you now can get this same information. Go to <http://gets.gc.k12.va.us>. Look for the school bus on the home page and click on it. Enter your student's ID number and birthdate (month, day, year (2008), then click "submit."

If your child needs to utilize transportation from an alternate address other than your physical address, please contact the Department of Transportation at 693-2127 with your information and we will attempt to accommodate your request. The sooner you notify us, the better the chances your student will have getting a seat on an alternate bus.

If you don't receive a postcard or are unable to connect to the web or seek further information concerning our transportation services, please give us a call at 693-2127.



Gloucester County Public Schools

Annual Asbestos Update/Notification

In Accordance with 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations, Part 763), Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools, this notice serves as the required annual notification to faculty/staff and PTA of any and all changes in the status of asbestos in Gloucester County Public Schools' facilities. During the 2008-2009 school year, asbestos containing removals were completed at **T.C. Walker Elementary School** for window caulking and glazing. No removals are planned for the 2009-2010 school year at this time.

The asbestos management plan is located in each school office and in the Gloucester County Public Schools' Central Office, located at 6489 Main Street. Questions may be directed to Shirley Chirch, Environmental Health and Safety Manager at 693-7549.



Make a Difference -- Get Involved!

The research and evidence is clear — parent and community involvement in education makes a POSITIVE DIFFERENCE! When schools, parents, families and the community all work together to support learning, everyone benefits. There are many ways parents, community members, organizations and businesses may get involved in Gloucester County Public Schools. All you need is a desire to participate and a willingness to give of your time and talents.

Here are just a few examples of how you can help:

- ◆ Join the PTA or PTSA -- and attend the meetings and activities.
- ◆ Volunteer to be a tutor, mentor, classroom assistant or school helper.
- ◆ Offer to assist in a school enrichment class or club.
- ◆ Become a career mentor for a high school student.
- ◆ Encourage your community group, business or workplace to "adopt" a school or classroom.
- ◆ Be a room parent, a lunch buddy or a classroom speaker on a special expertise or skill.
- ◆ Participate in your school's booster clubs.
- ◆ Offer to help with school special events and activities.
- ◆ Share your skills and help build shelves, plant a learning garden or design a database.
- ◆ Be an at-home or evening volunteer and help with take-home tasks.

School Contacts for Involvement Opportunities

Gloucester High School.....	693-2526
Page Middle School.....	693-2540
Peasley Middle School.....	693-1499
Abingdon Elementary School.....	Marla Lynch..... 642-9240
Achilles Elementary School.....	Debbie Bone..... 642-9160
Bethel Elementary School.....	Valerie Lewis..... 693-0654
Botetourt Elementary School.....	Martha Moss..... 693-1419
Petsworth Elementary School.....	Cindy Thomas..... 693-4555
Walker Elementary School.....	Deanna Johnson..... 693-1254

Central Food Services

"Caring...Sharing...Learning...Through Nutrition"

FREE & REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM: Families can pick up a Free and Reduced Family application at any school. Please complete it as soon as possible and return. Only one application is needed per household. Don't forget to sign the application before returning them to the school of your choice.

PRE-PAYING FOR MEALS: A new computer system is now available in all schools which allows parents to prepay for your child's meals in advance either for a week, a month, or the entire year.

"ONE CHARGE" POLICY: We are only allowing one charge this year instead of three charges in our elementary and middle schools. There is no charging at Gloucester High School. Paying in advance is always a safe way to insure your child gets their planned meals. If you have any question please call 693-3585.

HEALTHY MEAL INITIATIVE: GCPS Food Services continues to provide more nutritious and healthy items to the menu. Specific nutritional info is available on our website at <http://gets.gc.k12.va.us/foodservice/nutrition.htm>.

GOOD NEWS: "Thank you" for making last year a successful year in our food services program. We averaged over 72.9% of our students choosing to eat school lunches each day! Also, during these budget-minded times, we are keeping our prices the same as last year.