



## Gloucester County Economic Development

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Economic Development Opportunities in Gloucester Abound

Last year was a good year for economic development in Gloucester County. The state of Gloucester's economy looks to remain strong into 2023, according to a recent report Gloucester's Economic Development Director Sherry Spring provided to the County's Board of Supervisors.

In fiscal year 2023 to date, Gloucester has seen 21 new commercial businesses and 86 home-based businesses open their doors. "In our strategic plan, it states, 'Gloucester Enjoys a Diverse, Thriving Economy,' and we are well on our way," Spring said.

Spring took board members on an imaginary drive from Gloucester Point to the Courthouse, covering all the new and current economic development projects. Such projects include:

- A large, new building being constructed on the VIMS (Virginia Institute of Marine Science) campus.
- An approved plan for a new Dunkin Donuts near the intersection of Route 17 and Greate Road.
- A new restaurant, Slammin Sammy's Diner, has renovated and opened in the former Pizza Hut building.
- Old 17 Print Shop recently opened at the Point Shops.
- "Baked," a new bakery, anticipated opening last week in the Point Shops.
- Coastal Kitchen Ice Cream Shop recently opened in the York River Crossing Shopping Center.
- Fiorello's Italian Restaurant is slated to open soon in the White Marsh Shopping Center.
- Land & Coates is expected to open in its new 17,500 square foot building adjacent to the Gloucester Business Park in April.
- Langley Federal Credit Union anticipates constructing a new office in front of the Riverbend Apartments complex.

- Duke's Deli will be opening in the former Your Pie location in Fox Mill Centre soon.
- A Valvoline Oil Change will be opening in Fox Mill Centre later this year.
- Mattress Warehouse will expand its footprint from 3,500 to 5,000 square-feet in Fox Mill Centre.
- The Chipotle restaurant and Aspen Dental facility recently opened in front of the Hampton Inn, and the T-Mobile is expected to open soon in that area.

In other news, Spring reported that the Walter Reed Shopping Center was recently sold. "This is the fifth shopping center to be sold in the past five years," Spring said. "We also have new inquires on the five and seven-acre tracts in the Business Park."

Spring's office is currently marketing 21 buildings and 14 parcels of land across the County. Three existing businesses are currently planning expansions, and she reports retailers and restaurants are all saying business is booming.

According to Spring, occupancy rates at local hotels are in the upper 70-percent range. She said Gloucester's most current unemployment rate is at 2.5-percent, with 481 people unemployed. "We continue to be below the Hampton Roads region and Virginia as a whole," Spring said.

Economic Development's Small Business Incentive Program has been and continues to be very successful, according to Spring. Since fiscal year 2016, the program has paid out 329 grants totaling \$480,200 with an estimated private investment of \$32 million.

As another exciting piece of news, Spring said that Governor Glenn Youngkin recently announced Gloucester County would receive \$150,000 of Virginia Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund dollars to help renovate the former SunTrust Bank building on Main Street (now called the Gloucester Vault on Main). The dollars will be used to redevelop and improve the property for future economic development opportunities.

"Gloucester continues to grow, and our economy is good," Spring said. "I am appreciative of the Economic Development Authority's support and the backing of our board of supervisors for their investments in Gloucester's future."

For more information about Economic Development in Gloucester and resources for current or prospective businesses, visit <https://www.gloucesterva.info/1367/Economic-Development>, call 804-693-1415 or e-mail [sspring@gloucesterva.info](mailto:sspring@gloucesterva.info).

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