



STATE OF THE COUNTY

Overview of 2023 Calendar Year

Summary

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with both a sense of deep pride and responsibility for the outcomes of 2023 and the outlook of the future for our beloved county.

This year has brought both challenges and achievements for King George. We have faced difficult economic decisions that will forever change the county, as well as the lingering impacts of the pandemic on our community. Despite these hurdles, we have made significant progress in our programs and services to our residents.

In 2023, the county achieved the topping off of the new courthouse by the sheriff's office as the project is nearing completion, as well as sought funds for a new fire station in Dahlgren and a new preschool, which resulted in an increase in the county's bond rating. This strong financial position allows taxpayer savings on capital projects that will be available for years to come. We continue to prioritize the needs of our residents while maintaining rigorous and reliable fiscal policies that improve the quality of life in King George. These are just a few of the many accomplishments we can all be proud were achieved in 2023, but there is always work to be done.

As we look toward 2024, our focus will remain on maintaining the programs and services our residents have grown accustomed to receiving, as well as expanding to new horizons. With a focus on public safety, we look forward to the grand opening of the new courthouse and breaking ground on the new fire station in Dahlgren. We will continue to invest in the future of our community with better resources for schools, including developing plans for a new preschool.

To achieve these goals, it will require continued collaboration and commitment. We must work together as a community, united in our common purpose, to maintain and enhance the qualities that uniquely make this county home to each of us. I am confident we can build an even stronger and brighter future for King George County.

Sincerely,

Richard Granger, Chair
Board of Supervisors

TOP ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2023

For each department & constitutional office

Administration

- Formation of the deputy county administrator position and communications and community engagement coordinator position
- Secured funding for the Dahlgren Fire Station and the new preschool
- Launched communications through social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor and LinkedIn

Clerk of Circuit Court

- Digitized 19 years of criminal records from 1996 to 2015, reducing the necessity to move those paper files to the new courthouse building, as well as increasing the efficiency in access to those records—the commonwealth's secure remote access funds were used to finance the project at \$29,980.50 for 522,339 images, resulting in no direct cost to the county
- Digitized and re-indexed marriage records from 1856 to 2003, reducing the necessity to move those paper files to the new courthouse, as well as increasing the efficiency in access to those records—the commonwealth's secure remote access funds were used to finance the project at \$26,800, resulting in no direct cost to the county
- Received a grant from the Library of Virginia in the amount of \$65,706 for new deed book cabinets to be installed in the Circuit Court Clerk's Office at the new courthouse building

Commissioner of the Revenue

- Began the proration process for personal property taxes
- Continued to collect cigarette taxes
- Successfully executed succession planning and training for a new commissioner of the revenue

Commonwealth's Attorney's Office

- Maintained strong relationships with the sheriff's office and other law enforcement agencies

Community Development

- Issued 968 permits, including 144 new dwelling permits as of October
- Received nearly \$713,000 in revenue as of October
- Completed 5,399 inspections as of October

County Attorney's Office

- Provided drafting and legal review of numerous proposed or adopted ordinance changes, including most notably assistance with zoning and subdivision ordinance overhaul
- Coordinated county's participation in the national opioid litigation settlement and participated in actions necessary for submittal of first grant to Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority
- Completed acquisition of site for relocation of Fire and Rescue Station 2 (Dahlgren), which has been an identified county need for more than a decade

Economic Development & Tourism

- Implemented defense and technology incentive zone ordinances
- Partnered with King George County Public Schools to establish the Youth Entrepreneurship Program
- Launched a new website on behalf of the Economic Development Authority at www.kinggeorgeeda.com

Engineering

- Replacement of the roof at Ralph Bunche High School
- Supported the Service Authority with capital project management, including reclamation of the Dahlgren wastewater pond and replacement of Fairview Beach wastewater outfall
- Supported Parks and Recreation with capital project management, including construction of the pavilion at Cedell Brooks, Jr. Park and the renovation of the tennis center between the middle school and high school

Finance

- Selected a vendor and finalized contract for new enterprise resource planning system, which will replace an outdated system used for the last 20 years
- Negotiated an inter-governmental service agreement with Fort Walker
- Received the certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting for fiscal year 2022

Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services

- Answered over 4,000 calls for service with no significant injuries to staff
- Received delivery of two replacement ambulances and one EMS supervisor response vehicle
- Entered into a mutual agreement with VDOT for the Opticom traffic signal preemption system; an operating agreement with Virginia Port Authority to strengthen water response capabilities; and a memorandum of understanding with

VDEM for Swiftwater rescue resources and with American Red Cross for shelter assistance

General Properties

- Installation of a new HVAC unit for the second floor of the Revercomb Administration Building, as well as new carpet for the entire building
- Replacement of locks across all county facilities
- Apply sealant to the asphalt in the Sheriff's Office's parking lot, as well as installation of new carpet in the administration offices

Human Resources

- Implemented a retiree healthcare option
- Completed an RFP for financial and HR/Payroll system in partnership with the finance department
- Recognized public service recognition week for the first time

Information Technology

- Replaced 70 computers for staff, per the county's five-year computer replacement program
- Installed CAD/RMS system servers for vendors of the Sheriff's Office, as well as servers for vendors of the L.E. Smoot Memorial Library, and upgraded application software for both
- Introduced and conducted Business Impact Analysis reviews for county departments, to ensure staff has continued access to technology needs and recovery options in case of an emergency/outage and/or disruption of connectivity/systems

L.E. Smoot Memorial Library

- Initiated *The Creation Station*, a makerspace for crafters and more, with public access to equipment and tools, as well as the purchase of materials at an affordable price
- Adopted a new logo
- Consistent increase public participation in library services, including material circulation, library visits, library program offerings, and library program attendance

Parks & Recreation

- Constructed a pavilion at Cedell Brooks, Jr. Park
- Renovated the tennis center between the high school and middle school, which now also includes pickleball courts
- Hosted over 2,500 attendees at each of the following events—King George Family Day/VFW Post 12202's 2nd Birthday Party and King George Independence Celebration

Registrar's Office

- Completed a capital improvement project which remodeled the office structure to allow better service for the voting public
- School precincts were analyzed and approved as ADA compliant
- Ran a successful election season

Service Authority

- Hiring Imboden for water and wastewater services
- Began process of changing to a department of the county
- Implemented new utility metering project ahead of schedule

Sheriff's Office

- Achieved fifth accreditation by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission
- Notable professional development for upper management, including Captain Weston graduating from the National Criminal Justice Command College
- Receiving the No Kill Shelter Award by Best Friends Animal Society for the King George Public Animal Shelter

Social Services

- Launched a 2023-2025 strategic plan, achieving consistent progress towards meeting objectives outlined in the plan
- Addressed workforce needs surrounding recruitment and retention; now fully staffed
- Tackled needs in multiple program areas, including Medicaid Unwinding, High Acuity Foster Care Placements, and increased caseloads

Solid Waste & Recycling

- An estimated 1.2 million pounds of metal, batteries and co-mingled materials recycled in 2023
- Captures and recycles refrigerant in-house, no longer relying on a contractor
- Removed over 1,000 cubic yards of legacy mulch material from the brush disposal area and regraded it to give patrons a safer area to dispose of their wood waste at Sealston Convenience Center

Treasurer's Office

- Completed a capital improvement project to remodel the customer service experience with new counters in the office