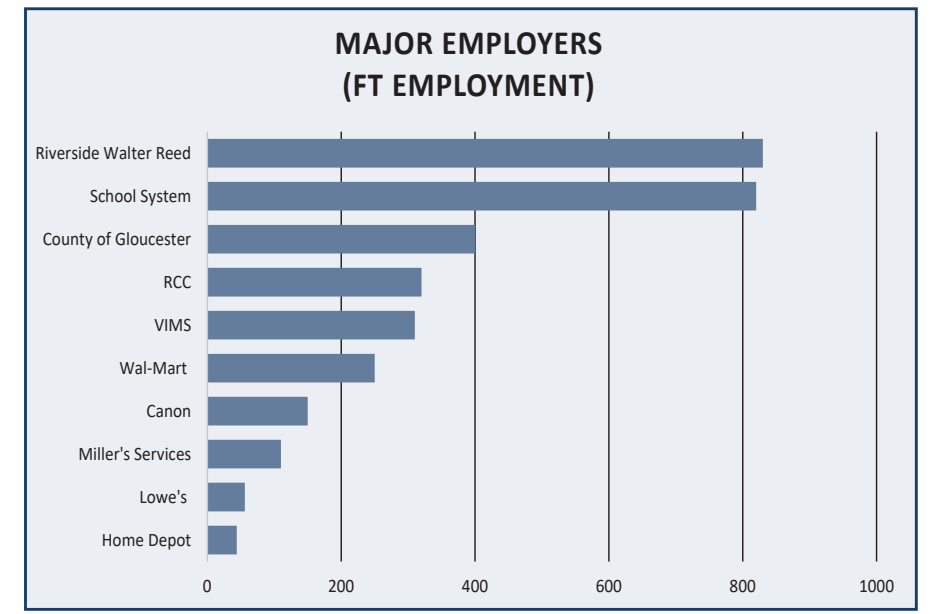


## GLOUCESTER'S FASTEST GROWING OCCUPATIONS

- Healthcare
- Personal Care & Service
- Community & Social Service
- Computer and Mathematical
- Protective Service
- Education
- Construction

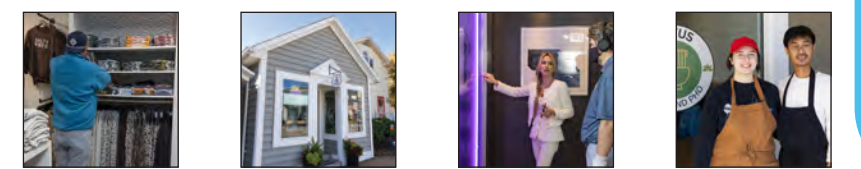
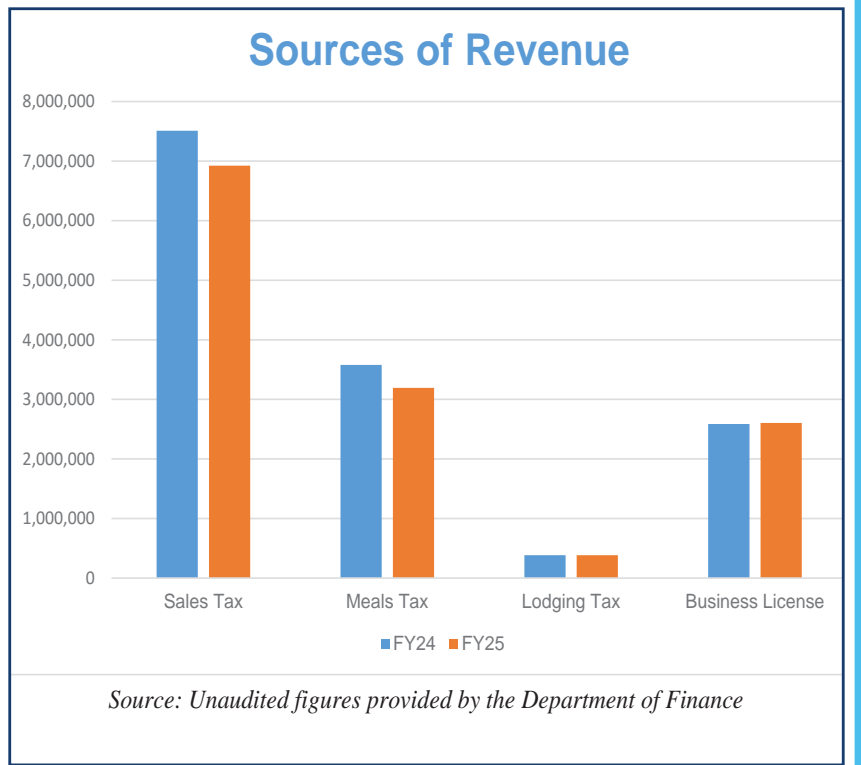
## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- Virginia Economic Development Partnership
- Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)
- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
- Go Virginia Region 6
- Eastern Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority
- Hampton Roads Workforce Council
- Bay Consortium Workforce Board
- Hampton Roads Small Business Development Center (HRSBDC)
- Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
- Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce
- Peninsula Home-Based Business Network
- Peninsula Economic Resource Team
- Rappahannock Community College
- Retail Alliance



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- 31 new commercial businesses and 106 home-based businesses
- Over 85 local business visits in FY25 as part of the Industry Visitation Program
- 8-Homebased Business Lunch-n-Learn sessions held via Zoom.
- Eastern Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority (EVRIFA)
- International Economic Development Council – Leadership Summit
- Peninsula Economic Resource Team
- Peninsula Home Based Business Network
- Virginia Economic Development Partnership – Regional Economic Development Organization
- Virginia Economic Development Association - Spring Conference
- 2024 Virginia Peninsula Workforce CTE Forum
- State of the Region – Hampton Roads 2024
- Middle Peninsula Regional Airport Authority
- Hosted Congressman Wittman roundtable with representatives from the seafood industry
- 2024 Virginia Retail Matters
- 2024 State of the Region
- 2024 Spotlight on the Peninsula
- 2025 Mid-Year Peninsula Economic Forecast
- 2025 Rising Tide – Blue Economy



## MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Peninsula Homebased Business Conference and EXPO sponsor
- Direct mail postcards to all new business licenses for home based and commercial businesses
- Ad placements in Virginia Business, Business Facilities and Coastal Virginia magazines promoting the Gloucester Business Park, former Page site and quality of life and tourism in Gloucester
- Ad placements and direct mail recognizing Business Appreciation week
- Ad placements and radio spots with local media promoting Restaurant Week
- Social media posts on new business announcements and special events
- Published the FY2024 Annual Report on Economic Development
- Monthly E-Newsletters highlighting new businesses, events, economic development resources, available buildings and sites, spotlights on existing businesses and more to over 2,000 subscribers
- Direct mail marketing special events and economic development related services
- 2024 International Workboat Show
- 2024 International Council of Shopping Centers Trade Show
- 2024 Seafood Expo North America Trade Show

## NEW BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Artwork Cowork in the Village | Ocean Nail Spa        |
| Bailey's Auto Repair          | OM Ganesh One, Inc    |
| Buoy 22 Apparel               | Pointers Country Mart |
| Dollar Tree                   | Porter's On Main      |
| Earlens Hearing Center        | Quest Diagnostics     |
| GA MGT, LLC                   | Ram Market            |
| Grandpa's Auto                | Rhino Cigars & Vape   |
| Harris & Co                   | Robert S Falk PHD     |
| Her 3 Boys Nifty Thrifty      | The Cereal Plug       |
| Historic Virginia Properties  | The Nook VA           |
| House of Ren                  | The Osprey Wing       |
| Koala Bean Café               | Tidewater Taxes       |
| Lotus Café                    | Timeless Treasures    |
| Luna Reflexology Massage      | Vector 27             |
| Nguyen Hoang Family           | Vedros Dental         |
|                               | Winkin' Cow           |





GLOUCESTER COUNTY  
Economic Development  
Opportunity | Synergy | Sustainability

# 2025 Annual Report





## 2025 Economic Development Authority

Alistair (Al) Ramsay,  
Chairman

Mac Houtz,  
Vice-Chairman

Evan B. VanLeeuwen,  
Treasurer

David Meeker,  
Secretary

Greg Earwood

Christian “Buddy” Rilee

Stephen C. Barrs,  
Immediate Past Chair

Dr. JJ Orth,  
Board of Supervisors Liaison

## Economic Development Staff

Sherry A. Spring,  
Director

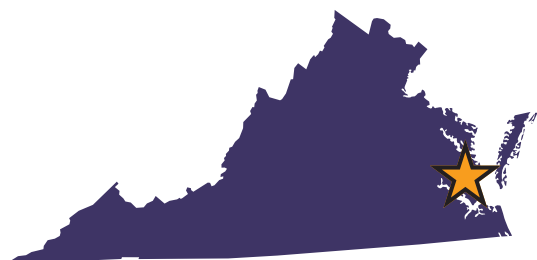
Melissa Schaefer,  
Economic Development  
Coordinator



## OUR MISSION

The Gloucester County Board of Supervisors, the Economic Development Authority (EDA), County Administration and staff are dedicated to promoting and improving the economic health and quality of life in Gloucester. The EDA maximizes private, public and educational resources to create the best possible environment in which to live, work, shop, visit and do business.

## ECONOMIC PROFILE



- 2020 Census Count – Population of 38,711
- Middle Peninsula Region – Population of 92,886
- Hampton Roads Region – Population of 1.7 million



- Average Per Capita – \$34,565
- Median Household – \$71,649

Source: U. S. Census Bureau  
American Community Survey 2020



## FY2025 Strategic Planning and Initiatives:



- Supported the Rappahannock Community College Career Services for “Partnering for Progress Employer Breakfast”, a special event for local employers, community leaders, and educators.
- Work continued on the Vault on Main Street (former SunTrust Bank) as part of the Virginia Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund grant.
- The revitalization of Gloucester Point continued to be a priority for the County and the Economic Development Authority. The Point Shoppes continued to attract new businesses, Goodman Antiques and Estate Jewelry purchased a former bank building; Dunkin Donuts purchased a site, started construction and opened; Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences completed the construction on a new \$74M, 68,240 square foot facility; the former SunTrust Bank was bought for a renovation and repurpose; former Freedom Rental site was renovated and leased to Wheeled Wizzard Towing Company.
- Celebrated National Small Business Week and Virginia Business Month in May 2025 for our business community.
- Administered the first Blue Catfish Infrastructure Grant awarded to Seafarms, Inc.

- Go Virginia initiatives continued to make meaningful strides across the Commonwealth. Gloucester is part of Regional Council 6 made up of business leaders, educators, economic developers, and local officials from across the region. In FY25 the Council approved a regional planning grant for enhancing the talent pipeline for the Health Sciences & Higher Education collaborative through the Bay Consortium Workforce Board. In addition, Bay Workforce Consortium received another Go Virginia grant to continue building a talent pipeline for aquaculture, manufacturing and technology for the region.
- Year ten of the Small Business Incentive Program In FY25, the program awarded 53 grants totaling \$88,849.00 with private investments of \$2,317,967.00. By every account, the tenth year of the program continued to be a very successful economic driver and marketing tool for the County. Total grants awarded since FY16 are 443 with \$680,281.00 in grants and \$35,618,608.00 in private investments.
- Hampton Roads Small Business Development Center and Bill Holloran met with several small businesses to provide value-added financial consulting services. In addition, the Small Business Development Center conducted the 2025 monthly home-based business “Lunch & Learn Series”.
- Gloucester High School Business Advisory Group in pairing businesses with high school students. Partnering with Community Engagement, two videos were produced featuring Whitley’s Peanut Factory and Sweet Tooth Café and Bakery. The videos are shown throughout the high school, and more videos are being planned for FY26.



## Exceptional Sources of Labor



	2024	2025
PERMITS ISSUED	104	84
VALUE	\$26,413,836	\$20,686,371
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL BUILDING PERMITS		



**COLLEGE STUDENTS** - over 90,000 students attending area colleges and universities.



**EXITING MILITARY** - Each year over 13,000 military personnel retire or are discharged from area.



**MILITARY SPOUSES** - 30,000 military spouses residing in the area.



**SEASONAL WORKERS** - the region’s tourism industry creates over 10,000 seasonal jobs during the summer months. These seasonal workers provide an additional labor pool.

## TOURISM ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Visitor spending for Gloucester reached \$48.4 Million, a 3.4% percent change over 2023. Tourism-supported jobs in Gloucester totaled 572 while local tourism-related taxes were \$2.7 Million

