



George County Board of Supervisors
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County and Vol. Fire Departments adding new fire hydrants to all five beats

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With a turn of the wrench and a burp of air, the new fire hydrant adjacent to Agricola Baptist Church spewed into action pouring out gallons of water in seconds. This hydrant is part of a new County expansion named the Five Beats Fire Hydrant Project.



Crews are already at work installing fire hydrants on community water company lines. Four of the 22 hydrants in Phase 1 have already been installed.

“In May, we received the hydrants and components to begin installation in the Agricola and Movella communities,” said County Emergency Management Director Eric Howard. “The timeline to be finished with the project is by the end of the year, with no delays.”

The George County Board of Supervisors applied for the \$150,000 appropriation through the State Legislature with the support of Representative Manly Barton and Rep. Steve Lott. The Five Beats Project expands off current water lines providing volunteer fire departments with faster and easier access to water for both traditional soft hoses or filling vital pumper trucks needed to extinguish fires in rural spots.

“The installation of new fire hydrants, made possible by our Capital Expense Fund through the State Legislature, will be making a real difference around the County,” explained District 107 Representative Steve Lott. “These hydrants aren’t just another infrastructure upgrade; they’re a big step forward for public safety.”

The County has received and is managing all of the State funds and requirements. Supervisors are working with fire departments and water utility providers to determine the best locations for hydrants, determine expansion costs, and distribute the funds to the VFD.

Most of the hydrants are being placed on Combined Utilities system in Fire Districts Two and Three, Howard explained. “These communities include Agricola, Movella, Barton, Basin, and Central. Rocky Creek Utilities and Multi Mart Utilities will also be installing hydrants in the Rocky Creek and Ward Communities.”

Early design, cost estimates, and installation specifications for the expansion project came from fire chiefs Lynnwood Mallett (Ward) and Phillip Thomas (Agricola) for the Supervisor's funding application.

Photo by: Ken Flanagan

County officials gather for a "pressure check" for the newest fire hydrant in the Agricola Community on June 23, 2025. It is just the fourth of 22 new hydrants being installed County-wide this year. Pictured (L to R): Debbie Gilbert, County EMA; Supervisor Frankie Massey, Dist. 1; Supervisor Larry McDonald, Dist. 3; Supervisor Kelly Wright, Dist. 2; Eric Howard, County EMA; Joe Jones, Movella VFD; Rep. Manly Barton, Dist. 109; Rep. Steve Lott, Dist. 107; Lynnwood Mallett, Ward VFD; and Phillip Thomas, Agricola VFD (not pictured).