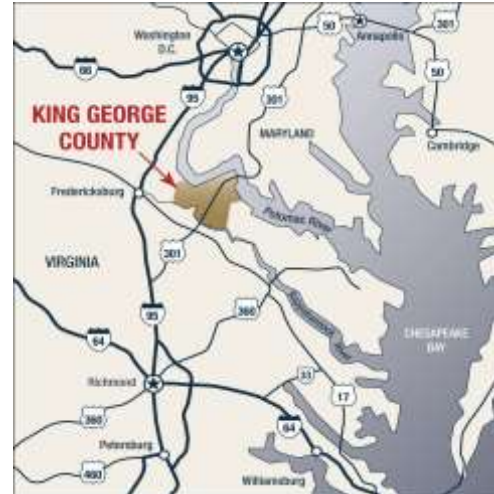


## Welcome to *Our Community* King George, Virginia

King George is a relatively small but growing county of about 26,000 people along the Rt. 301 corridor just 20 minutes east of Fredericksburg, an hour north of Richmond, and an hour south of Washington, DC. Many residents commute to northern Virginia, Southern Maryland, or DC for work. The Harry Nice Bridge connects King George to Southern Maryland and a new bridge is being built for completion in early 2023. King George is also home to one of the NAVY's premier research and development centers, the Naval Surface Warfare Center - Dahlgren Division, which



employs about 10,000 in the region. The County was previously ranked as one of the top 25 military communities with military populations under 10,000 in the United States and was ranked first in public educational systems, third in spouse employment opportunities, eleventh in crime and safety and thirteenth in community standard of living. From 2021 census data, the population is over 77% white with 16% black and 7% Hispanic. Median household income is \$96,700 with 35% of adult population having bachelor's degree or higher education. Over 40 churches are located in the community encompassing many denominations.

### Historical Highlights & Noteworthy Individuals

King George County, named for King George I of Great Britain, was formed in 1720 when land was split from Richmond County, Virginia. Its modern boundaries were set in 1776 and 1777 with land swapped from neighboring Stafford and Westmoreland counties. Known as the "Gateway to the Historic Northern Neck," it has over 130 miles of shoreline on the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers, with acres of unspoiled natural beauty, including Caledon State Park. The area is rich in cultural diversities and historic wealth from the revolutionary and civil wars. In the early years, tobacco was the principal crop necessitating a large labor force. Planters relied on both indentured servants and enslaved Africans. Belle Grove plantation was the birthplace of James Madison, our 4th president. Historic markers note that after assassinating President Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth and David Herold crossed the Potomac River landing in King George at the mouth of Gambo Creek. From there they made their way to Port Conway where they crossed into Caroline County where Booth was killed, and Herold arrested. In 1947 a lawsuit (Civil Action No. 631) was filed stating that black schools in King George County lacked the proper facilities to ensure "separate but equal" education. In 1948 the U.S. District Court ruled that "the defendants have unlawfully discriminated...against Negro school children". The decision led to the building of Ralph Bunche High School in 1949 which operated until schools were integrated in 1968. In 2013 Ralph Bunche High School was placed on the National Register of Historical places for its significant role in the civil rights movement and in black history of the county. More recently, Jermon Bushrod, tackle for the New Orleans Saints in the National Football League (NFL), grew up in King George.

### Schooling

Our county public school system has 3 elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 1 high school which recently scored above local counties in math and reading. Preschools are numerous and include church-based, the YMCA, VPI (Virginia Preschool Initiative) program, and Headstart. King George also has one of the highest percentages of homeschooled students in the state

and has many co-ops and activities for this population as well. There are no private schools in the county, but Oak Grove Christian Academy is an A.C.E. school near Colonial Beach, just a few minutes into Westmoreland County. Fredericksburg Christian School is a large private school on the eastern side of Fredericksburg. The Smoot Library serves the county with resources, programs and events.

### **Shopping/Restaurants**

King George has Food Lion grocery stores at both “ends” of the county (central King George and Dahlgren) as well as a Walmart in Dahlgren. There are also pharmacies at both ends of the county, CVS in King George and Walmart in Dahlgren. Dollar stores and auto parts stores are numerous as are Mexican restaurants. King George has a handful of fast food restaurants and several fast casual restaurants near the Dahlgren Naval base as well as a Starbucks. There are gas stations (Sheetz, Wawa, and more) located all throughout the county. While our county is rural, you can get any necessities you need and most importantly, our county now boasts 3 coffee shops! Chick Fil A and Chipotle also have approval by the county to build!

### **Recreation/ Things to Do**

King George is home to Caledon State Park where there are many hiking trails. King George Parks and Recreation has several parks with playgrounds. King George Parks and Recreation also offers sports programs for children like soccer and basketball while the KGYAA offers football programs and Little League offers baseball. The YMCA offers a gym, fitness classes, and pool which hosts swim teams. The Studio offers a large variety of dance classes for all ages. The King George Fall Festival is held the second weekend of October in King George. All proceeds from this event go to support the Volunteer King George Fire & Rescue. There are also numerous homeschool programs.

### **Medical**

King George has 3 urgent care clinics and is within 30 minutes of four hospitals including a Level 2 trauma center. There is an eye doctor as well as several dentists. Most specialties are available in Fredericksburg or Richmond.

### **Housing**

Housing ranges from suburban to rural. There are several neighborhood communities with amenities like pools, playgrounds or lake access. There are non-HOA neighborhoods with .25 to 2 acre lots depending on the location. There are also more rural options with more land and no close neighbors. Per Zillow, the typical home value is \$387K and rent for a 3 bedroom home is \$2500 per month.

### **Nearby Communities**

Colonial Beach: Located to the east, Colonial Beach has many restaurants, boardwalk, some stores, and a large sandy beach area. It takes about 20 minutes to get there from central King George.

Fredericksburg: Located to the west, historic downtown Fredericksburg has many unique shops and restaurants along with civil war historical sites. Central Park is filled with many stores and restaurants as well as a new minor league baseball team. Fredericksburg is approximately 30 minutes from King George.

Here is a link to a more detailed resource for the make-up of King George County:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?q=0500000US51099>

A demographic report within 10 miles of Oakland Baptist Church is available upon request.