

Queen Anne's County Commissioners' Term Progress Report

Eric S. Wargotz, M.D.—Countywide
Courtney M. Billups—District 1
Paul L. Gunther—District 2
Gene M. Ransom III—District 3
Carol R. Fordonski—District 4



For more information about Queen Anne's County, visit our website, www.qac.org, call 410-758-4098 or write to Queen Anne's County Commissioners, 107 North Liberty Street, Centreville, MD 21617

From 2007 to 2010 the Queen Anne's County Board of Commissioners successfully made concrete strides toward improving the health and welfare of county residents and protecting the environment, while also keeping education and the streamlining of local government as top priorities. These are just a few highlights from the four year term:



IMPROVING EDUCATION AND TAKING CARE OF OUR CITIZENS

- Passed legislation enabling a free standing emergency room and worked in a bipartisan effort with state and federal government and University of Maryland Medical System and Shore Health System to bring the facility to Queen Anne's County. The Queen Anne's Emergency Center was dedicated and open for business in October 2010.
- Department of Emergency Services transitioned to a county run Emergency Medical Services transport system and improved response times through dispatching, new data management program, staffing and the establishment of four EMS transport stations throughout the county. DES also acquired grant funding for upgrades to the Emergency 9-1-1 system.
- Department of Public Works staff was swift and efficient in its 24 hour a day monitoring and clearing of county roads during the February 2010 blizzards which brought record snowfall.
- Approved Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance to insure developers pay their fair share for impact to schools, public safety and infrastructure needs.
- Increased the education impact fee to insure developers pay their fair share for increased school needs.
- Decreased education threshold for school capacity from 120 percent to 100 percent.

- Opened Matapeake Middle School, the second middle school on Kent Island.
- Completed renovations to and dedicated Kent Island Elementary School.
- Acquired property and broke ground for new Sudlersville Middle School.
- Made improvements to both Kent Island High and Queen Anne's County High sports fields and installed new playground equipment at Church Hill, Bayside, Kent Island, Grasonville and Matapeake Elementary schools.
- Established Chesapeake Helps, a one-phone-call source to find all available services for families.
- Department of Housing and Community Services acquired millions of dollars in grant funding in order to provide assistance to residents.
- County acquired grant funding to purchase property for a transitional home, which was leased to a private group and renovated with donations and volunteer time. Our Haven Home opened in 2010.
- Opened animal quarantine building at Department of Animal Services.
- QACTV continued to provide coverage of county meetings, as well as producing new shows aimed at attracting a wider audience.
- Streamlined system for all county press releases in order to consolidate on county web and QACTV blog.

RECREATION IN OUR COMMUNITY

- Opened Matapeake Clubhouse, including the county's only free public beach on the Chesapeake Bay, in Stevensville.
- Opened White Marsh Park at Bloomfield Farm in Centreville.
- Opened Ferry Point Park at the Chesapeake Exploration Center in Chester.
- Opened Island Dog Park in Stevensville.
- Opened the Blue Heron Golf Course Clubhouse in Stevensville.

(continued)

Queen Anne's County Commissioners' Term Progress Report Continued

- Opened Ewing Pond Park in Grasonville.
- Renovated and dedicated the Watermen's Boat Basin at Kent Narrows.
- Made improvements to Batts Neck Park, Church Hill Park, Route 18 Park, Pinkney Park, Sudlersville Park, Roundtop Park, Wells Cove and the Historic Christ Church building.
- Began development of new recreational fields on Davidson Farm property in Stevensville.
- Added new recreational programs for north county residents.
- Added new recreational programs for children with disabilities.
- Established a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board to make recommendations in those areas.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND MANAGEMENT

- QAC received an upgrade in its bond credit rating from Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's rating service.
- Adopted county ordinance reducing the state Homestead Tax Credit.
- Implemented furloughs for FY 2011 and offered early retirement incentives for employees in order to offset lost state revenue and help balance the budget.
- Earned the Excellence Award for the county's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report all four years from 2007 through 2010.
- Streamlined county government with restructuring of several departments.
- Established the Public Works Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Commissioners regarding sanitary, roads and engineering issues.
- Implemented document imaging and storage processing in several departments in order to use less paper.
- Established inmate trustee assignment program through Department of Corrections to provide free labor to departments for county projects.
- Secured stimulus funds for repair of county roads and bridges.
- Recycled work stations and servers.
- Established Council of Governments as a liaison between county and incorporated municipalities.

PROTECTING AND IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- Preserved over 17,000 acres of open space and farm land.
- Adopted Watershed Management Plan for Kirwan and Goodhand Creeks.
- Adopted Cool Counties Resolution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and received award from ICLEI for achieving third milestone of the resolution.

- Adopted several ordinances designed to preserve and protect the county's natural resources.
- Put the Kent Narrows/Stevensville/Grasonville Enhanced Nutrient Removal Wastewater Treatment Plant into service.
- Formed the Blue Ribbon Panel on Smart Growth and Rural Development.
- Initiated and completed the Southern Kent Island sewer impact study.
- Updated Comprehensive Water and Sewerage plan to include biological nutrient reduction septic requirements in critical areas and stream buffers.
- Established the Bright Ideas at Work program to solicit and implement ideas for energy conservation in the workplace.
- Initiated a computer and bicycle recycling program.

GROWING OUR ECONOMY

- Initiated the Matapeake Professional Park project which is expected provide jobs and generate an estimated \$300,000 in annual property tax revenue.
- Initiated the development of the Bay Bridge Airport property which is expected to generate hundreds of jobs in the retail, hotel and tourism industries, as well as generate an estimated \$260,000 in annual property tax revenue.
- Adopted the 2010 Queen Anne's County Comprehensive Plan.
- Implemented the Chester/Stevensville Plan and the Kent Narrows Community Plan.
- Hosted the 60th Annual Delmarva Chicken Festival which brought more than 20,000 visitors to Queen Anne's County.
- Queen Anne's County collaborated with the Upper Shore Regional Council on the Chesapeake Wine Trail, helping to promote local wineries and vineyards as tourist destinations.
- Designed and created a bicycle trail map to promote the county as an outdoor tourist destination.
- Designed and completed a compendium of Sacred Sites survey to promote the county as a tourist destination for those interested in historic churches and cemeteries.
- Sponsored small business seminars and workshops to assist and offer advice to business owners.
- Updated and streamlined the revolving loan fund process to help local businesses.

