



# Queen Anne's County Commissioners' 2008 Progress Report

In 2008 the Queen Anne's County Board of Commissioners continued to improve the overall quality of life by expanding public safety, continuing to protect the environment, plan and manage growth, provide opportunities for economic development and improve the function of local government.

## Public Safety

- ❖ Transitioned from an Emergency Medical Services chase concept to a county-run Emergency Medical Services transport system
- ❖ Established four Emergency Medical Services transport stations throughout the county
- ❖ Implemented data management program to help reduce response time for all Emergency Medical Services operational units
- ❖ Relocated Kent Island Emergency Medical Services station to Route 8 to better serve the population
- ❖ Established Queen Anne's County Office of the Fire Marshal
- ❖ Implemented a public safety wireless network to provide real time information and communications
- ❖ Passed County Ordinance 08-02, requiring installation of automatic sprinkler systems in all new family dwellings built on public water
- ❖ Installed Coordinated Highway Action Response Team (CHART) program
- ❖ Created a Department of Emergency Services Public Affairs Office to educate the community on the role of the department and a Public Information Office to provide timely and accurate information during times of emergency
- ❖ Passed County Ordinance 08-07, Emergency Services Protection Act mandating discussion between developers, homeowners associations and local emergency services providers
- ❖ Moved forward with planning expansion for the Department of Emergency Services and the Office of the Sheriff
- ❖ Held extensive police and firearms training for personnel from the Office of the Sheriff
- ❖ Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with University of Maryland Medical Systems and property landowner for planning for free standing emergency room
- ❖ Passed sewer amendment for planning for free standing emergency room
- ❖ Started new modular expansion project for inmate housing at the county Detention Center
- ❖ Installed new digital video monitoring system
- ❖ Continued work on regional jail project
- ❖ Received Airport Improvement Program grants from Federal Aviation Administration for upgrades at Bay Bridge Airport



## Protecting the Environment, Planning & Managing Growth

- ❖ Appointed 109 citizens to serve on seven committees to update the Comprehensive Plan
- ❖ Held visioning workshops to start the process to update the Comprehensive Plan
- ❖ Passed County Ordinance 08-03, clarifying provisions regarding reconfiguration of open space in connection with cluster subdivisions
- ❖ Passed County Ordinance 08-04, stating no principal residential structure may be less than 100 feet from any tidal waters or wetlands
- ❖ Passed County Ordinance 08-08, Conduct of Seafood Operations to preserve, protect and encourage seafood industry operations in Queen Anne's County
- ❖ Passed County Ordinance 08-09, requiring all on-site septic systems be pumped out at least once every five years
- ❖ Passed County Ordinance 08-11 and 08-12, implementing design standards recommended by the Chester/Stevensville Community Plan
- ❖ Passed County Ordinance 08-15, prohibiting minor extraction and dredge disposal uses requiring issuance of a surface mining permit in required open space
- ❖ Passed County Ordinance 08-16, establishing a Purchase of Development Rights Program in Queen Anne's County
- ❖ Passed Resolution 08-02, supporting Victoria Park senior housing project in Centreville
- ❖ Passed Resolution 08-04, designating a Stevensville Arts and Entertainment District
- ❖ Passed Resolution 08-18, supporting Smart Growth which seeks to direct growth to existing communities and maintain the integrity of rural areas
- ❖ Adopted a new Environmental Site Design Manual for storm water management practices
- ❖ Adopted the Kirwan and Goodhand's Creek Watershed Management Plan
- ❖ Received grant approval for bio-retention swales within the Corsica River Watershed
- ❖ Received an award from the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy for continuing work on the Cool Counties Initiative to address the challenges of climate change
- ❖ Received an award from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) for progress toward climate protection.



## Providing Opportunities for Economic Development

- ❖ Enhanced the Department of Economic Development and Agriculture by incorporating Tourism
- ❖ Partnered with the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development to complete a feasibility study on the Matapeake site.
- ❖ Developed an approach to formulate viable options for property near Bay Bridge Airport
- ❖ Continued support for the development of a Wye Mills Area Community Plan
- ❖ Continued support for the development of a proposed business park near Centreville
- ❖ Actively and successfully continued participation in Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Fund and Rural Legacy Preservation programs.
- ❖ Hosted second annual Job Fair at the Chesapeake Bay Business Park
- ❖ Participated in Chesapeake Bay Wine Festival at Terrapin Nature Park
- ❖ Collaborated with Service Corps of Retired Executives, SCORE, to host business development and marketing seminars
- ❖ Held Small Business Resource Expo to provide opportunities for education and networking
- ❖ Successfully obtained grants through the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway, Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network and Maryland Historic Trust
- ❖ Hosted U.S. Senator Ben Cardin at the Chesapeake Exploration Center for presentation of a \$45,000 grant from the National Park Service to the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network.
- ❖ Passed County Resolution 08-03 Waterman's Boat Basin at Kent Narrows
- ❖ Participated with Sister County International Council in sponsoring Chinese delegation visit to Queen Anne's County



## Improving the Function of Local Government

- ❖ Streamlined county government with restructuring of several departments
- ❖ Maintained property tax rate
- ❖ Improved transparency and accountability in government by publishing the county's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report on the government website.
- ❖ Recipient of the Certificate for Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from Government Finance Officers Association for ninth consecutive year
- ❖ Established a living wage for classified service employees
- ❖ Revised classified and professional salary scale
- ❖ Replaced outdated telephone system in six departments and continued efforts to upgrade service and equipment county wide to a single vendor solution
- ❖ Purchased and installed software allowing Information Technology staff to remotely perform more hardware and software functions
- ❖ Continued successful implementation of document imaging and storage processing in several county departments
- ❖ Completed re-design of Queen Anne's County website including "iWorq" on-line citizen request system
- ❖ Added "video on the web" service to QAC-TV section of website, allowing public meetings to be viewed on the web
- ❖ Increased program awareness availability with new "searchable" television guide on QAC-TV section of website
- ❖ Acquired land for new Circuit Courthouse building in Centreville
- ❖ Formed an audit committee to select, work with and review the reports of the independent financial auditor

## Improving Quality of Life

- ❖ Continued development of White Marsh Park at Bloomfield Farm, including receiving a grant for pervious concrete parking lot and receiving a donation for six Bermuda grass soccer fields
- ❖ Passed County Resolution 08-17 establishing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to make recommendations on bicycle and pedestrian access issues
- ❖ Passed County Resolution 08-11 funding geo-thermal energy improvements for Kent Island Elementary School
- ❖ Continued renovations on phase two of Kent Island Elementary School
- ❖ Installed new playground equipment at Church Hill Elementary School
- ❖ Installed new playground equipment at Roundtop Park
- ❖ Rededicated Sudlersville Park
- ❖ Rededicated Pinkney Park
- ❖ Dedicated Blue Heron Golf Course Clubhouse
- ❖ Opened Sudlersville Senior Center and Foxxtown Apartments
- ❖ Renovated and provided fitness equipment for Centreville and Kent Island Senior Centers
- ❖ Renovated and updated computer lab at Centreville Senior Center
- ❖ Obtained state grant in cooperation with Chesapeake College to offer senior center classes
- ❖ Restructured County Ride public transit to accommodate additional riders while reducing expenses
- ❖ Organized First Annual Vehicle Safety Day, a collaborative effort to promote safe driving for county staff
- ❖ Assisted almost 200 people through the Homeless Prevention Program
- ❖ Received a \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant for the Critical Workforce Program and assisted eleven eligible applicants to purchase homes
- ❖ Completed the renovation and expansion of the Sudlersville Assisted Living Facility
- ❖ Applied for a Neighborhood Conservation Initiative Grant to purchase foreclosed homes in Queen Anne's County
- ❖ Received an award for "Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging" for Terrapin Grove Senior Housing
- ❖ Released "Results Matter" consisting of trend data which will assist organizations in mobilizing resources to strengthen quality of life
- ❖ Added additional parking lot for second county commuter bus line at Kent Narrows
- ❖ Launched [www.PARKSnREC.org](http://www.PARKSnREC.org) to help families find recreational opportunities in Queen Anne's County
- ❖ Received state funding for new Sudlersville Middle School
- ❖ Hosted the Maryland State Cup Games U13 for Boys and Girls Soccer Tournament

### Queen Anne's County Board of Commissioners

*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*

