



Queen Anne's County

County Commissioners:

James J. Moran, At Large
Jack N. Wilson, Jr., District 1
Stephen Wilson, District 2
Philip L. Dumenil, District 3
Christopher M. Corchiarino, District 4

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

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County Attorney: Patrick Thompson, Esquire

April 2022

Queen Anne's County Citizens,

We have just finished our County Budget Workshops. The National economy has been largely involved in Queen Anne's County Budget discussions this 2022/23 financial year causing the County Commissioners to adapt to the highest rate of inflation in 40 years, with a likelihood of more to come. In addition, Washington's attempt to get runaway prices back under control makes a recession possible. County policy aims to accommodate to whatever twists and turns the economy may take with no new taxes, no reduction in service levels, no layoffs, and a steady financial situation backstopped by set-aside reserves. We expect this program to maintain stability of services, finances and jobs.

Months ago, the Commissioners reacted to spreading inflation that resulted from excessive spending and giveaways from Washington. In anticipation, we adapted our numbers and expect to end the 2022 financial year with salaries exactly in line. Critical workforce has been maintained at all times. This County operates the leading EMS/911 Service in Maryland, created to offset the fact that without a local hospital we require a first-rate transport and dispatch, connecting us to the best hospitals in the world. This high standard of emergency response is important to all of our citizens, but critically so to our Senior citizens. Consistently meeting the demand for Emergency Response underlies a new service expansion planned for the Grasonville/Kent Island area during the next budget cycle. Public safety, roads, schools, and other functions of government are all fully funded.

The County has again repeated its AAA bond rating, the highest of any County on the Eastern Shore and the result of reliable financial analysis and operations. Our upcoming revised Comprehensive Plan, now completing its 10-year cycle, should effectively moderate the direction of our County for the future. There will be no new major developments. This framework should limit growth of County traffic and congestion, and at the same time makes County budget planning a sustainable framework with no anticipated expansion of taxes. We are now paying down debt and if the National economy is orderly, we will be in a position to continue this reduction in the next budget cycles. We are well within borrowing limits, but lower debt levels set the stage for future tax cuts. We are concentrated on a conservative fiscal path for the County.

The County continues to lead the State in land conservation and farmland preservation. Through the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) and Rural Legacy, we have leveraged millions in state grants to permanently preserve nearly 7,000 acres of prime agricultural and forested land in the past five years. We are determined to continue preservation efforts and goals with these programs.

An upcoming benefit to County life will be the completion of a state-of-the-art YMCA facility located in Centreville, which is already under construction. While the County was an important partner in this venture, the facility was predominantly funded by generous contributions from individuals, foundations and grants. The YMCA will include a fully functioning Senior Center, multiple indoor pickle ball courts, two swimming pools and a wellness center. As this enhancement developed, the County wrote a contract with the YMCA creating a fixed date for completion and guaranteeing that the facility will operate as a community YMCA on a full-time, seven-day a week basis.

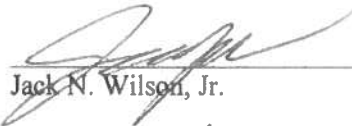
The County Commissioners will soon be finalizing the 2023 budget after receiving input from the public at scheduled budget hearings at the end of May. The budget will then be adopted in June. Going through our financial review, it appeared that in light of inflation as well as other National and International events, rising interest rates and other uncertainties, the Commissioners believed it would be helpful to keep you informed that Queen Anne's County is on course and financially sound.

Respectfully,

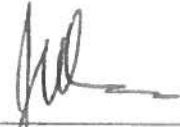
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Christopher M. Corchiarino, President



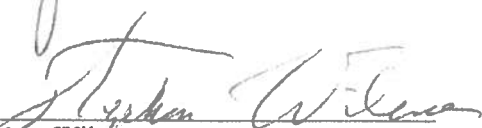
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