

Economic Development

December 11, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved a value engineering program to determine the actual costs for the construction of the entertainment complex/minor league stadium to be built off Piney Church Road to bring it in line with approved budgets.

Contact for more information: Department of Planning and Growth Management, Capital Services, 301-645-0621.

June 5, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners launched the County's new branding initiative, Where Eagles Fly™, to be integrated into the County's literature and programs within County Government, from Economic Development and Public Information to the Department of Public Facilities.

Contact for more information, Public Information Office, 301-645-0580.

May 15, 2006

- ☛ The 350th Anniversary Committee presented a report to the County Commissioners citing plans for events to celebrate the County's sesquicentennial, which will involve the Chamber of Commerce, Civista, the Charles County Fair, the Board of Education, the Department of Health, and more. Among the activities planned include the April 2007 Home and Garden Pilgrimage; and in 2008, an evening gala, a kick-off, parade, Independence Day celebration and closing in September at the Fairgrounds. A number of projects are underway, arts and entertainment, and the Committee is suggesting the County use Chapel Point State Park for activities as well. The theme for the celebration will be "Celebrating Our Past and Embracing Our Future."

There is a request to transfer land at Chapel Point State Park from the State to the County. The Committee is recommending that a pavilion/picnic area and parking lot be constructed there for the events and future use, while still maintaining status quo on the remainder of the park. The Commissioners agreed that a feasibility study for Chapel Point would need to be performed, as well as holding public hearings to inform the public of proposals, if the land is transferred. The County Commissioners directed the Interim County Administrator to check the status of the land transfer.

Contact for more information, Office of Tourism, 301-645-0558.

May 8, 2006

- ☛ Joanne Roland, Director of Tourism, presented Danny Fluhart, President of the Dr. Samuel

A. Mudd Society, with Tourism Ambassador Award, sponsored by the Southern Maryland Travel and Tourism Committee.

Contact for more information: Office of Tourism, 301-645-0551.

May 1, 2006

- The Charles County Board of Education presented a framed copy of the North Point High School article that appeared in *New Yorker* magazine.

Contact for more information: Charles County Public Schools, 301-932-6610.

- The Charles County Commissioners allocate \$59,000 to the Naval Alliance from Fund Balance to fund consultants through the end of 2006.
- Mr. Peter Kirk, Maryland Baseball, LLC, briefed the County Commissioners on the new name for minor league baseball team (the Blue Crabs), and ways to ensure that Charles County receives the recognition it deserves, i.e., placing the County's name at the entrance to the stadium, directional signage with the County's name, having the County's name incorporated on the stadium seats, and including Charles County on the logo.

April 3, 2006

- The Charles County Commissioners attended a press conference where Maryland Baseball, LLC announced that the name for the new Stadium/Entertainment Complex will be Regency Furniture Stadium. Regency Furniture purchased the naming rights for \$2.8 million. The name for the team has been narrowed to six: Ospreys, Rockfish, Blue Herons, Blue Crabs, Aviators, and Eagles.

March 27, 2006

- The Charles County Commissioners received an update on the Stadium/Entertainment Complex to be built off Piney Church Road in Waldorf:
 - * Maryland Baseball has signed an agreement with the Atlantic League for a team, which is a key element in moving forward with construction of the complex.
 - * County staff is to meet with the Maryland Transit Authority regarding using the complex parking area as a park and ride lot.
 - * Construction bids for the facility are due April 12, 2006.
 - * County staff is working to develop a maintenance program with the Department of Public Facilities, as well the concession agreement with Maryland Baseball that addresses the creation of operation and management of the facility as well as the number and type of events that can be held at the stadium.

Contact for more information, Department of Planning and Growth Management, Capital and Development Services, 301-645-0618. __

February 6, 2006

- ☛ The Veterans Memorial Committee reported that it will be changing its project to be a statewide memorial in order to receive State grants to the Maryland Veterans Memorial at Charles County, Maryland. The Committee has requested three state grant requests to repair the roof, remove hazardous materials and reactivate the utilities. The County Commissioners indicated they would prepare a letter certifying that the County was making \$150,000 available for the project, to be constructed at the former Glasva School on US 301 in Faulkner. In addition, the County will assist with debris removal.
- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved the commitment of \$800,000 — \$694,000 from the agricultural transfer tax and \$106,000 — for matching funds to go toward the purchase of 13 agricultural land preservation easements, which will save more than 1,000 acres of farmland.

*Contact for more information: Department of Planning and Growth Management, 301-645-0540. **January 30, 2006***

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved a branding/marketing initiative for the County “Where Eagles Fly.”

Contact for more information: Public Information Office, 301-645-0580.

January 23, 2006

- ☛ The Department of Fiscal Services presented an update on the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program adopted last year to assist minority businesses in the County’s procurement process. The Purchasing Division noted that between July and December 2005 there were 26 formal bids awarded with six being MBE participants. A clearinghouse has been established for all bids, copies of bids are sent there for immediate access, and newspaper advertisement now include a statement for minority business participation.

The County Commissioners directed Purchasing to complete a county certification so ethnicity can be tracked.

Most of the minority businesses are construction or professional services, few commodities.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, Purchasing Division: 301-645-0656.

January 9, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners directed the Department of Public Facilities Parks and Grounds Division to work with the Carousel Group to develop a plan with timeline for the placement of a Carousel/Museum at Laurel Springs Park in La Plata.

Contact for more information: Department of Public Facilities Parks and Grounds Division: 301-932-3470.

September 26, 2005

- The Charles County Commissioners accepted the bylaws for the Economic Development Advisory Council of Charles County, reducing the number of members from 17 to 11, with membership as follows: 1– finance/banking; 1 – real estate/land development/commercial, 1 – environment, 1 – agriculture, 1 – military/government contractors, 2 – at-large, 2 – 1 each from the Minority Business Council and Charles County Technical Advisory Council, and 2 – public service representatives.

Contact for more information, Office of the Deputy County Administrator, 301-645-0550.

- The Charles County Commissioners approved the hiring of a Special Events Coordinator in January 2006 in the Office of Tourism.

Contact for more information: Office of Tourism, 301-645-0558.

August 29, 2005

- The Charles County Commissioners reviewed bylaws for the Economic Development Advisory Council of Charles County, a 17-member council which will be appointed by the Commissioners and serve as an advisory board to the County Commissioners and the Director of Economic Development to share ideas, solutions and creative approaches to business and economic development and related issues facing the County. The members are to have private sector experience and expertise in areas including: finance/banking, agriculture, tourism, the environment, land development, retail, real estate, and government contracting. Membership will also include two public service representatives, a member each from the Charles County Technical Advisory Council and the Minority Business Advisory Council, as well as four at-large members. Members will serve two years except the initial term of members may be less than two years so terms are staggered. A County Commissioner will serve as a non-voting ex-officio member.

The County Commissioners recently created the Department of Economic Development within Charles County Government and are in the process of hiring the Director for this department.

Contact for information: Office of the County Administrator, 301-645-0550.

- Dr. Christine Bergmark, Director of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission gave a presentation of the Commission's accomplishments during the last five years to promote agriculture and transition farms away from tobacco production. The Commission created *So. Maryland, So Good* to promote the region's (Anne Arundel, Calvert,

Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties).

Contact for more information: Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, 301-274-1922.