

Improve the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Government

December 12, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved the establishment of an advisory panel to review applications for grants awarded by them to non-profit agencies that provide services to County residents.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

- ☛ The County Commissioners changed their meeting days to Tuesdays from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. and Wednesday from 2-6 p.m., with all public hearings to be held on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. The latter change will accommodate the working public unable to attend meetings during regular business hours.

Contact for more information: Clerk to the County Commissioners, 301-645-0554.

December 11, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners elected Edith J. Patterson as Vice President, approved their 2007 Calendar Days/Weeks Off, and designated Commissioners assignments to boards and committees as follows:

Commissioner President Wayne Cooper: Charles County Scholarship Fund, Inc., CIVISTA Board of Trustees, Lower Potomac River Tributary Team, MACo Legislative Committee

Commissioner Vice President Edith J. Patterson: Blue Ribbon Commission, Area Council on Aging alternate, Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, Transportation Planning Board, Tri-County Council alternate

Commissioner Reuben Collins: Department of Social Services Board, Charles County Economic Advisory Council, Critical Area Commission, Patuxent River Commission

Commissioner Samuel N. Graves, Jr.: Area Council on Aging, Board of Fire and Rescue, Charles County Homeless and Emergency Shelter Committee, Drug Council, Fire/EMS Scholarship Committee, Social Services Board alternate

Commissioner Gary Hodge: Charles County Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee, Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation Needs, Tri-County Council

Contact for more information: Clerk to the County Commissioners, 301-645-0554.

- ☛ Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, Director of the Charles County Department of Social Services, presented her 149- employee department's annual report from its Child Support, Family Investment, and Family, Adult, and Child Services divisions, and breakdown of its \$40,827,454 budget.

Contact for more information: Department of Social Services, 301-392-6400.

- The Charles County Commissioners approved the three legislative proposals proffered by the Board of License Commissioners to be forwarded to the local delegation to the Maryland General Assembly for introduction: an increase in the fines for employees of an alcoholic beverage licensee who sell alcoholic beverages to persons under age 21; imposition of a \$50 per day fine (up to \$500) for licensees who fail to file their renewal application by April 1; and required that a protest must specify the basis of the protest under oath and that the Board of License Commissioners be given minimal discretion to determine if a protest lacks “probable cause.”

They also agreed to forward the legislation proposed by the Sheriff’s Office on Child Abuse, Sex Offenses, Forfeiture of Proceeds for Prostitution, Fleeing and Eluding, Service of Arrest Warrants Outside the County, Service of Charging Documents, Replica Firearms, and Child Pornography. A proposal to amend regulations concerning BB guns and air pistols will become a Code Home Rule issue to be handled locally by the County Commissioners.

Other legislative proposals to be considered under Code Home Rule include: sale of bonds for the construction of fire and EMS stations using the proceeds from the fire and rescue tax to retire the bonds; a proposal to allow a real estate tax cap for senior citizens on their principal residence; and consideration of an environmental fee on gravel mined for sale in the County.

A proposal to modify the basis for the excise tax for school construction was deferred for further study before introduction to the General Assembly. Additional review was requested on a proposal to amend the licensing and regulation of adult day care facilities and creation of special taxing districts to finance public infrastructure improvements.

Proposals that did not require legislation, but were supported for action included a letter to the Maryland Energy Administration for funding of alternative energy sources, corrective measures on County roads subject to periodic flooding, and comprehensive water quality studies of the major tributaries of the Patuxent, Wicomico, and Potomac Rivers in the County.

Contact for more information: Office of the County Attorney, 301-645-0555.

December 5, 2006

- The newly elected County officials took their oath of office during ceremonies held at 4 p.m. at North Point High School, Waldorf.

December 4, 2006

- ☛ The Information Technology Department received the 2006 Digital Counties Survey first place award for counties under 150,000 population. This is the fourth consecutive year the Department has received this honor.

Contact for more information: Information Technology Department, 301-645-0545.

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners directed the County Attorney to initiate action necessary to recoup any and all delinquent Micro Loan funds. Further, it was requested that the audit policy for non-profit organizations receiving public funds be strengthened. The proposal would restrict the funds until audit requirements are fulfilled.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

November 27, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners attended a Legislative Breakfast with the Board of Education (BOE) and Legislative Delegation to discuss 2007 State Legislative Issues of concern regarding: Budget and Fiscal Matters, Mandates, Student Issues, Labor Relations, Teacher Incentives, Pupil Transportation, and Recall of Charles County Elected Officials, among others.

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

November 20, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners and the Local Legislative Delegation held a public hearing on the proposed 2007 General Assembly Preliminary Legislative Proposals from the public, the Charles County Sheriff's Office, and the County. The work session will be held on December 11, 2006.

Contact for more information: Office of the County Attorney, 301-645-0555.

July 10, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners made the following appointments to boards and commissions:

* Ethics Commission: Dorothea Smith and Donald Zimmer

* Land Use Review Group: (which will also work on the Fair Share School Construction Excise Tax instead of appointing another committee to work specifically on this issue and

work with a member of Fiscal Services staff): Alan Cruikshank, William Sandy, Jr. James Lorenzi (Chairman), Gary Badgely, Gore Bolton, Gary Davis, Duane Svites, Mark Konka, John Parlett, Wes Tomlinson, Dennis Vaira, Wayne Wilkerson, Stephen Scott, Louise Shaffer and Peter Paff

* Local Citizens Review Panel: Tonia Belton-Gofreed and Charles Drazba

* Waldorf Sub-Area Plan Group: Tyrone Farrar, Richard Saunders, Maria Barbella, Mark McFarland, John Burnham, Derek Watson, Mark Larner, Suzanne Carr, Blaine Lessard, Alice Revel, and Mark Stevens

* Substance Abuse Advisory Council: Sharon Garner (Charles County Government representative)
Marjorie Lancaster, Area Council on Aging
Suzanne Wible, Board of Social Services

June 27, 2006

- ☛ The Grants Analyst and the Budget Director briefed the Charles County Commissioners on the County's Grant Policy for the Procurement, Administration and Disposition of Grants. A grant is an award of financial assistance for which the County, or a department thereof, has made application to a public or private entity and is subject to requirements imposed by the awarding agency.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved the funding of salary increases (the first phase of a compensation study to be provided to County Government employees and Library staff) for the Sheriff's Office, Circuit Court, Soil Conservation, and State's Attorney's Office.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

June 26, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners awarded the bid to Bank of America Leasing & Capital, LLC for the 15-year tax exempt lease/purchase financing for a performance contract to upgrade the County's water metering system at an annual percentage rate of 4.1444%. This is contingent upon the County's execution of a contract with Johnson Control, Inc.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved the "Tag-a-Truck" program to enable

residents with non-commercial pickup trucks to purchase prepaid coupons (\$15/tag) for disposal of residential refuse at the landfill. This will help alleviate back-up lines at the landfill.

Contact for more information: Department of Public Facilities, 301-932-3440.

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved new water and sewer rates for FY 2007, which increase the rate by 10% and use \$500,000 of the fund balance.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

June 19, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners held a budget work session and:

- * approved the Special Revenue Funds (Grants) Budget and noted that a \$30,000 feasibility grant for Dents Village Housing Program was funded and in progress. *(Note that Southern Maryland Workforce ceasing operations was not due to lack of funding on the County level.)*

- * approved the FY 07-FY 11 Capital Improvement Program Budget, which was presented to the County Commissioners in February.

Richard Winkler, Director of Fiscal Services, said the water meter replacement project indicated that 16,000 of 26,000 existing meters are proposed to be replaced, that the meter replacement program would be a 100% lease purchase program, and that \$325,000 in debt service would need to be incurred. The County should see substantial increase in revenues resulting from the new meters, and the performance contract with Johnson Controls may result in a decrease in staff needs.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

June 5, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners appropriated \$834,830 from the fund balance to cover costs for snow removal for 2005/2006.

Contact for more information: Department of Public Facilities, Roads Division, 301-932-3450.

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners adopted the proposed user fees for FY 2007. Among them are an increase in the landfill tipping fee from \$65 per ton to \$75 per ton, and a \$3 increase in the environmental service fee from \$59 to \$62.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners adopted the compensation study in principle, and decided to include non-sworn employees of the Sheriff's Office, the Circuit Court, Soil Conservation, the State's Attorney's Office, and the Library in the proposed 5% increase to implement the first phase of the compensation study.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners met with the Board of Supervisors for King George County, Virginia, to discuss the:

- Harry Nice Bridge – both boards agreed to jointly send a resolution, to be completed by the end of July, to their respective governments regarding their concerns about the bridge and need for expansion, and to form a Bridge Task Force.
- Mutual Aid – Charles County assists King George when a unit is available and has a mutual aid agreement. The main issue is using ALS units as standby. Both are members of the Potomac River Rescue Association.
- Workforce Housing – many live in King George and commute to Charles County.
- Military Bases – both acknowledged the importance of the military bases in their respective counties (in Dahlgren and Indian Head).
- Swan Point Master Plan Amendment

The two boards agreed to meet semi-annually, in spring and fall. The next meeting will be in King George County in September or October.

May 16, 2006

- ☛ Zekiah Technologies, Inc., a Charles County web/software engineering and GIS development company, gave a presentation on programs that may be of interest to the County, such as digitizing parcels.
- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners conducted a public hearing and agreed to a proposal to use \$800,000 of Community Development Block Grant Funds toward the \$5 million purpose of the former Changing Point South facility on Billingsley Road in Waldorf for a homeless shelter project. The 20-acre site includes more than 130 rooms in four buildings with fire sprinklers, three dining rooms for more than 200 persons, 90 beds in 44 semi-private rooms and two private rooms with full bath, 15 large and small lounges, 52 offices/activities rooms, a gym/auditorium, pool/spa, two tennis courts and a ball field, more than 250 parking spaces, and County sewer and water.

Contact for more information: Department of Community Services, 301-934-9305.

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners conducted a public hearing on the Capital

Improvement Project and General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2007, and set the real property tax rate for FY 2007 at \$.064 per \$100 assessed value for the fire tax, and \$.962 per \$100 for the property tax, and the tax differentials for the towns of La Plata and Indian Head, \$.0729 per \$100 assessed value and \$035 per \$100 assessed value. The County Commissioners also announced that they plan to reduce the homestead credit to 7% beginning in FY 2008. That rate must be determined by November 1 in the preceding fiscal year.

The County Commissioners adopted the General Fund Operating Budget for FY 2007 at \$273,500,000. The Enterprise Fund Budget still needs to be completed.

The budget covers these major initiatives: the County's Enhanced Transportation Program, an 8% cap on debt service on capital projects, a dedicated portion of the tax rate to support Advanced Life Support services, education and public safety, and a 4.5% COLA based on the January to January Consumer Price Index, additional enhancements to fund the first phase of a recent compensation study, and \$1.5 in the contingency for snow removal/severe weather emergencies.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

May 15, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners adopted Bill 2006-03, which sets new salaries for the next Board of County Commissioners and the County Treasurer.

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

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners met with the Mayor of Indian Head and a Town Council member to announce the tax differential for the town, \$.035 per \$100 assessed value. The Town receives the services of the Sheriff's Office and was satisfied with the response and protection it receives.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

May 9, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners conducted a work session on Bill 2006-03, proposing new salaries for the next board of County Commissioners and the County Treasurer and agreed to adopt the bill on the next legislative day, May 15, 2006. The bill increases the salaries of the County Commissioners and Treasurer following the 2006 election as follows:
 - * Commissioner President: \$52,000 in 2007; \$54,000 in 2008; \$56,000 in 2009; and \$58,000 in 2010
 - * Commissioners: \$42,000 in 2007, \$44,000 in 2008; \$46,000 in 2009; and \$48,000 in 2010

* Treasurer: \$46,000 in 2007; \$48,000 in 2008, \$50,000 in 2009; and \$52,000 in 2010.

Further, the County Commissioners agreed to review the possibility of the Treasurer's position being appointed by the Commissioners as an at-will position rather than elected and to conduct a work session to determine how to put the proposed change before the voters in a referendum.

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

- During the FY 2007 budget work session, the County Commissioners requested the status of an internal audit on usage of County vehicles and County vehicles taken home by employees. It will be completed before November 1. The Commissioners also requested that a letter be sent to the Board of Education and Sheriff's Office to conduct a vehicle efficiency/use policy review.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners requested that a letter be written to the State Delegation asking why Waldorf was selected as an early polling location in Charles County and to verify who would be responsible for the costs associated with this mandate.

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

May 1, 2006

- The Charles County Commissioners adopted Bill 2006-05 -- Smoking and Tobacco Products, which bans smoking in public buildings, restaurants, etc., but excludes bar-only businesses and some non-profit organizations, along with other restrictions regarding tobacco retail establishments. The bill will become effective June 15, 2006. Commissioner Fuller indicated that he would direct staff to look at amendments to have the bar-only businesses comply with the bill.

Contact for more information: Office of the County Attorney, 301-645-0555.

April 24, 2006

- The Charles County Board of Elections briefed the County Commissioners on new regulations in House Bill 1368 that require early voting polling places to be open the Tuesday before a primary or general election through Saturday before the election for eight hours each day between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. The bill mandates the place to be in Waldorf. The Commissioners expressed their concern about the cost the County must bear for this service.

Contact for more information, Board of Elections, 301-934-8962.

- The Department of Fiscal Services outlined the tax differential for FY 2007 for the County's municipalities: Indian Head – \$.035 per \$100 assessed valuation, and La Plata – \$.079 per \$100 assessed valuation. The differential reduces the amount of County property tax that residents who live in the municipalities pay for overlapping services provided by the towns.

Contact for more information, Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

April 11, 2006

- The Charles County Commissioners made the following appointment: Michael Pellegrino, re-appointed to a three-year term to the Southern Maryland RC&D, Inc, and decided that the Economic Advisory Council will be appointed by the County Commissioners from the following areas: Finance/Banking (1), Large Employer (2), Government Contractor/Small Business (2), Business/Minority Business Advisory Council (2), Workforce Development/Education (2), Eco-Heritage Tourism/Agricultural Open Space (2), Citizen at-large (2), ex-officio: County Board of Commissioners representative (1), Naval Base (1), and Chamber of Commerce(1).

Contact for more information: Clerk to the County Commissioners, 301-645-0554.

- The Charles County Commissioners held a public hearing on the Constant Yield Tax Rate. The record was held open for written public comment until May 16. The Commissioners announced that they would set the Tax Rate at 4:30 p.m. on May 16.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

April 3, 2006

- The Charles County Commissioners approved the addition of a military service credit to the Charles County Employees' Pension Plan, which will add up to three years of pre-employment military service for County Government employees with 10 years of service or more.

Contact for more information: Department of Human Resources: 301-645-0585.

March 28, 2006

- The Charles County Commissioners held a public hearing on Bill 2006-03, proposing new salaries for the next board of County Commissioners and the County Treasurer. The public record will be held open for written comment until April 7.

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

March 27, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners held a public hearing on Bill 2006-05, Smoking and Tobacco Products and kept the public record open for written comment until the close of business on April 10.

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

March 6, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners introduced Bill 2006-03, County Commissioners and Treasurer Compensation, and Bill 2006-05, Smoking and Tobacco Products, for public hearing.

Bill 2006-03 would enact the recommendations of the Compensation Commission and include information that has provisions for salaries after 2010. If adopted, the proposed new salaries will go into effect for those who take office after the 2006 elections. The public hearing date is March 28, 2006, at 11:30 a.m.

Bill 2006-05 would regulate the placement of tobacco products and prohibit smoking in certain public places, including eating and drinking establishments, and provide penalties and procedures for enforcement. The public hearing date will be March 27 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

February 27, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners conducted a work session on proposed legislation to enact smoking ban legislation within the County and directed the County Attorney to prepare legislation for introduction that would ban smoking in public places with certain exemptions for private clubs and non-restaurant bars.

Contact for more information: Office of the County Attorney, 301-645-0555.

January 30, 2006

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners accepted the report of the Compensation Commission and directed that it be prepared for introduction, which increases the salaries of the County Commissioners and Treasurer following the 2006 election:
 - * Commissioner President: \$52,000 in 2007; \$54,000 in 2008; \$56,000 in 2009; and \$58,000 in 2010
 - * Commissioners: \$42,000 in 2007, \$44,000 in 2008; \$46,000 in 2009; and \$48,000 in 2010
 - * Treasurer: \$46,000 in 2007; \$48,000 in 2008, \$50,000 in 2009; and \$52,000 in 2010.

The Commission also recommended that Orphans Court judges receive \$10,000 to be provided as State legislation permits.

Contact for more information: Office of the County Attorney, 301-645-0555.

- The Grants Coordinator presented a report on accomplishments since the position was filled in November 2005.

The report highlighted a survey of County Departments, in-house training, establishment of a web site, establishment of a grants work group, grant procurement activities, review of the grant procedures, and subscription to various services that provide information on grant announcements.

January 24, 2006

- The Charles County Commissioners made the following appointments to boards and commissions:
 - Arlene Dawson and Richard Black to the Area Council on Aging
 - Mary Ellen Shelton and Anthony J. Medoro to the Gaming Permit Review Board
 - Anita Bratcher-Butler to Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc.
 - Luke Hannah as an alternate to the Board of Appeals

December 12, 2005

- The County Commissioners conducted a work session on the 2006 Legislative Package for the Maryland General Assembly with members of the Local Delegation and decided to forward the following citizen proposals from the November 7 hearing:
 - Placing signs along dual highways to read drive right and pass left and making it a ticketed offense to fail to move to the right to allow a faster vehicle to pass
 - Amending the process for selection of Board of Education vacancies so that the applications and interview will be public, but the deliberations for selection closed
 - Supporting an anti-gouging law during a state of emergency
 - Requesting fiscal relief for escalating cost of providing transportation and continued support of the Direct Wage Initiative
 - Providing for disposal of property following an eviction and placement of abandoned property
 - Amending the criminal laws that deal with certain sexual acts, forfeiture of assets for prostitution violations, fleeing and eluding a police officer, drug laws, sexual contact with children under age 18, and statutory language during the course of an investigation by a third party
 - Clarifying a public general law regarding Southern Maryland code counties and the ability to collect certain administrative fees without authority from the General

- Assembly
- Removing Social Security numbers from recorded land records in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court

Contact for more information: Office of the County Attorney: 301-645-0555.

November 15, 2005

- ☛ The County Commissioners received a briefing on the snow emergency plan, administered by the Department of Public Facilities, Roads Division, which includes 60 County employees, 150 contracted employees, and four divisions within the Department of Public Facilities to clear more than 1,800 lane miles of County roadways. The cost can be as much as \$23,000 per hour, depending upon the severity of the storm.

Contact for more information: Department of Public Facilities Roads Division: 301-932-3450.

November 1, 2005

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners appointed :
 - Vickie Ann Grow to serve a four-year term on the Area Council on Aging,
 - John P. Yates to a four-year term on the Board of Appeals
 - Vivian Warren to a four-year term on the Commission for Women
 - Joseph D. Richard to a four-year term on the Planning Commission

Staff was directed to readvertise for vacancies on the Waldorf Sub-Area Plan Work Group, a remaining vacancy on the Area Council on Aging, and a vacancy for an alternate on the Planning Commission.

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

October 31, 2005

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved an application process for non-profit organizations and groups to apply for grants from the County for programs and services they provide to County residents that will be reviewed as part of the upcoming FY 2007 budget process. January 2 will be the deadline for filing applications. A press release will be sent to notify organizations of the process and form, and applications will be available beginning November 4.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

October 24, 2005

- The Charles County Commissioners approved a proposal from A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. to perform Stormwater Management (SWM) Review for Development Services permits, adding additional language regarding the consistency of personnel who review a document from start to finish and efficient, expeditious, and effective review. The company is a firm on the Maryland Department of the Environment's Certified with certified personnel to perform SWM.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners directed the County Attorney to review procedures and concerns, as well as Federal, State, and local guidelines, associated with an open burning ban in the development district.

Contact for more information: Office of the County Attorney, 301-645-0555.

October 17, 2005

- The Charles County Commissioners approved Resolution No. 99-54 Amendment No. 1 changing the threshold for competitive bidding threshold of \$15,000, required for formal advertising, to \$25,000, and the blanket purchase order limit from \$500 to \$1,000.

Proposed changes in budget transfers and delegated authorities were deferred for 30 days.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

- The Charles County Commissioners approved \$45,000 for the Information Technology Department to begin an electronic document management study for County Government. Paper documents would be converted into electronic images and stored in a data base that could be retrieved within seconds from a desktop anywhere with proper security. A survey documenting the number of file cabinets in County Government showed that elimination of the paper files in these cabinets would free up approximately 10,000 square feet of space.

Contact for more information: Information Technology, 301-645-0545.

- The Charles County Commissioners approved hiring of a consultant to conduct a survey of future office space needs for departments within County Government and to proceed with a proposal for a new 75,000-square-foot County Government office building on the existing soccer field and retrofitting of the current government building for more efficient use. The estimated cost of the new building is \$15 million, with an 18-month construction time-frame.

Contact for more information, Department of Public Facilities, 301-932-3440.

- The Charles County Commissioners approved guidelines for Fiscal Year 2007 budget

requests: 3% each for operating budget increases and agency funding increases, and 5% caps on revenue growth for the College of Southern Maryland, Library, Economic Development, and Health Department. COLAs (Cost of Living Adjustments) would be determined at a later time.

Contact for more information, Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

September 27, 2005

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved the authorization of the President of the County Commissioners to sign a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with St. Mary's County for Solid Waste Disposal at the County's landfill on an emergency basis. The previous MOU had expired. St. Mary's County has used the County landfill once in five years.

Contact for more information: Department of Public Facilities, Solid Waste Division, 301-932-3599.

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners authorized a contingency transfer request for \$10,000 for a feasibility study for expansion of the government building.

Contact for more information: Department of Public Facilities, Administration, 301-932-3440.

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners authorized a budget amendment for \$25,000 for the purchase of reverse osmosis equipment for the water distribution systems for Chapel Point Woods subdivision in Bel Alton.

Contact for more information: Department of Utilities, 301-609-7400.

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved maintaining the Homestead Tax Credit cap, which restricts property tax increases on homeowner-occupied residences, at 10%. The Commissioners also discussed increasing the income limit from \$50,000 to \$70,000 and changing the restriction on personal wealth – excluding a residence – from \$200,000 to \$300,000 to broaden the base for property tax credits when reviewing the FY 2007 general fund budget.

Contact for more information: Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.

September 19, 2005

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners adopted Bill 2005-14, Grants to Non-Profit Entities, following a work session. The administration process will be determined in time for non-profits to submit their requests to the County Commissioners for Fiscal Year 2007.

Contact for more information: Office of the County Attorney, 301-645-0555.

- ☛ The County Commissioners made the following appointments:

Andie Corby, reappointment, for a full term on the Housing Commission.

Sharon Ann Moore to the Hughesville Village Revitalization Plan Advisory Committee to replace an original member no longer able to serve.

August 30, 2005

- ☛ The Human Services Partnership, with the United Way of Charles County as a community partner, presented a **Community Needs Assessment** that identified the problems of children, adolescents, adults and families in the community who need mental health services and other important human services. Fourteen recommendations were made, including developing a single point of access, creating a better management system in order to count those who are receiving services and to be able to better navigate the system, increasing access to dental care for children and adults, taking steps to address the lack of health insurance for the working poor and others, and others.

Contact for more information: Human Services Partnership, 301-396-5238.

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners conducted a public hearing on Bill 2005-14, Grants to Non-Profit Entities, authorizing the awarding of grants of funds or in-kind assistance to non-profit agencies which provide services to County agencies, and the process and information to be provided. The public record will be held open for written comment until September 13.

Contact for more information: Office of the County Attorney, 301-645-0555.

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners announced the following appointments to Boards and Commissions:

Homeowners' Association Dispute Review Board:

Aaron Tyler, of La Plata, 1-year term	Craig Renner, of Waldorf, 3-year term
Michael Dupuis of Newburg, 1-year term	Jason Henry Sr., of Waldorf, 2-year term
Lynn Wilson of Bryans Road, 3-year term	Candice Hume, of La Plata,, 2-year term
Rochelle Creighton-Tompa, of Bryans Road, 3-year term	

Area Council on Aging:

Suzanne Carr of Waldorf	Elaine Lancaster of Newburg
Maurice DiPolis of Waldorf	Ronald Heath Sr. of La Plata
Bruce Kirk of La Plata	Jessica Schroeder of Waldorf
Maureen Swymer of La Plata	

Human Services Partnership: Maureen Golding of La Plata