

## **Improve Infrastructure**

### **December 12, 2006**

- ☛ Christine Stefanides, President and CEO, Civista Medical Center, presented the hospital's annual report to the County Commissioners. For more information, visit the Civista web site at [www.civista.org](http://www.civista.org).
- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners held a hearing on and approved the VanGO annual transportation plan for FY 2008, which maintained current fares; included capital requests for new vehicles, replacement vehicles, GPS, scheduling software, transfer pavilion construction, and passenger amenities; and a \$4,231,143 in transit operating funds from Federal, State, and County sources and fares.

*Contact for more information, Department of Community Services, Transportation Division, 301-934-9305 or [www.go-vango.com](http://www.go-vango.com).*

### **December 11, 2006**

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners participated in the dedication/ribbon cutting ceremony for the new south tower of Civista Medical Center, which will be named the Eagle Tower in recognition of the County's \$1 million contribution to the capital campaign for the expansion of the hospital.

### **November 27, 2006**

- ☛ The Board of Education presented its CIP requests for FY 08-12 that require State and County funding that will be presented to the State Interagency Committee (IAC) on School Construction. The request for FY 08 is \$11.4 million more than currently approved for planned projects. The plan is consistent with the Commissioners desire to open one school per year. Three new maintenance projects total \$2.9 million are also being requested. The County's share of these projects is \$1.3 million. The Commissioners agreed to send a letter of support of the projects to the IAC. This is for submission only and does not reflect that the County will be able to fully fund the requests. A work session to work on school construction issues will be held in early February 2007.

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

### **November 14, 2007**

- ☛ The Charles Commissioners adopted the Charles County 2006 Rental Housing Survey, conducted by the Department of Community Services, which was performed as an initial step to increase the number of housing units available for renters in the County. The survey is to be updated every three years, and it was suggested that the newly elected County Commissioners meet with the Housing Commission to discuss the rental community and

work together to research incentives for builders to construct rental units. The Department of Community Services will be coordinating a Housing Summit to be held the first week of February 2007.

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

- The Land Use Review Group presented a proposed legislative revision to the school excise tax bill that will be included in the County's Preliminary 2007 Legislative Proposals. The amendments called for increasing the tax limits for single family, town house or duplex units, and multi-family units in FY 2007, and replacing the Producer Price Index with the State of Maryland's eligible costs per square foot as the new inflation factor, and to authorize the County to conduct studies not less than five years from the date of the prior evaluation to monitor construction costs.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners approved staff recommendations for the 2006 Water and Sewer Amendment Cycle on six new map amendments and two County proposed map amendments. A proposed text amendment for a shared sanitary system pilot program in rural areas of the County and a map amendment for the Rosewick Road project were deferred.

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

### **August 28, 2006**

- The Charles County Commissioners approved the operating budget for the Capital Clubhouse for FY 2007 for \$2,433,100, which not come from a General Fund appropriation, but supported by user fees.

Further, the County Commissioners requested that full disclosure of the transaction be placed on the County's web site, on Channel 95, and an ad placed in the newspaper through the Public Information Office. The County Attorney noted that reporters had been provided background and detailed information on the purchase.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners approved two budget transfer requests, totaling \$1,420,219, to replace the existing headworks at the Mattawoman Wastewater Treatment Plant. Monies transferred from completed projects where the allocated budget had not been expended.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners adopted a joint resolution with the King George County, Virginia Board of Supervisors to send to the State Highway Administration to study the feasibility of a second span for the Harry W. Nice Bridge, including language that the funding and upgrades to US 301 need to be addressed concurrently with the addition of a second span.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners approved a \$117,000 request for funding for the Maryland Veteran's Memorial Museum at Charles County to be constructed at the former Glasva School off US 301.

### **June 27, 2006**

- The Charles County Commissioners by a 3-2 vote supported Resolution 2006-40 for the Community Legacy Grant request to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for the Homeless Shelter Acquisition Project and the Heathcote Road Community Revitalization Project (up to \$800,000 in total). The grant projects were prioritized as follows: Homeless Shelter, retainer walls, then dumpster covers in the Heathcote community removing carport walls from the application.

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

### **June 5, 2006**

- The Charles County Commissioners approved a budget amendment for \$84,910, Capital Projects, for the design award for the 2030 Transportation Model Project; \$40,000 to provide additional space for the County Attorney's Office and contract inspectors; a budget transfer for \$49,650 to award the preliminary design of Phase One of the Waldorf Sub Area Plan implementation and establish the Smallwood Drive extension; and adjust the amount to reflect the amount of State funds received for Rural Legacy under Capital Projects to \$1,191,930.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners held ribbon cutting ceremonies to open Rosewick Road Phase 1 between US 301 and Washington Avenue just north of La Plata. After the ceremonies, the Commissioners were the first to travel on the 2,950-foot four-lane highway with a hiker-biker trail. The third phase is underway that will connect to St. Charles Parkway in Waldorf, and the second phase will begin later this year that will upgrade the existing two-lane road from Washington Avenue to Radio Station Road to four lanes.

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

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners agreed to ask the County Attorney to draft an amendment to the Amended and Restated Memorandum of Agreement and the Amendment to the Concession Agreement that would protect the County from paying more than originally agreed upon for the project.

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

- ☛ The Charles County adopted Bill 2006-10 on Grading and Sediment Control.

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

### **May 16, 2006**

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners said they would take under advisement the request by the Civista Health Foundation for a \$1 million pledge from the County for the hospital expansion project.

### **May 15, 2006**

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners held a public hearing on Bill 2006-10 on Grading and Sediment Control to add new provisions and clarify existing provisions of the Charles County Grading and Sediment Control Ordinance. The County Commissioners will adopt the bill on the next legislative day, June 5.

*Contact for more information: Department of Planning and Growth Management, Development Services, 301-645-0168.*

### **May 1, 2006**

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners accepted the Piney Branch Interceptor Feasibility Study performed by KCI Technologies and voted to move forward with the recommendations, which calls for the construction of a parallel interceptor for a total net County cost of \$12.8 million. Time for completion: 5 years, including design/land acquisition and construction.

*Contact for more information: Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management, Capital Services, 301-645-0618.*

### **April 25, 2006**

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners adopted Resolution 2006-23, and the County Commissioners agreed to enter into a contract to purchase the Capital Clubhouse for an amount not to exceed \$8.225 million. Margaret Cheseldine, Director of the Charles County Department of Community Services, presented the County Commissioners with a business plan to make the multi-use, 90,000-square-foot facility a self-supporting enterprise program.

*Contact for more information, Charles County Department of Community Services, 301-934-9305.*

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**April 24, 2006**

- The Charles County Commissioners held a public hearing and approved the proposed issuance of general obligation bonds not to exceed \$7 million to finance the acquisition of the Sports Center at Marketplace in Waldorf. Signature on Resolution 2006-23, authorizing the Commissioners to borrow the funds to necessary to complete the sale, would need to be delayed until the following day once the County Attorney resolved outstanding issues with the seller's legal counsel.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners directed the Department of Utilities to expedite the installation of the reverse osmosis system, which will take approximately six weeks to complete. The Maryland Department of the Environment has given preliminary approval to haul waste from the Chapel Point Woods water system to the Mattawoman Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Commissioners also directed Utilities staff to initiate a cost benefits analysis and feasibility study to hook up Chapel Point Woods to the Bel Alton well within 30 days.

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

**April 10, 2006**

- The Charles County Commissioners conducted ceremonies to officially recognize the completion of Phase 4A of the Cross County Connector in Waldorf, and break ground for the following projects: Waldorf Well #16 in Carrington Neighborhood, St. Charles, Phase 4B of the Cross County Connector and Phase 2 of Middletown Road, and Phase 1 of the Route 229 16" water transmission main.

*Contact for more information, Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management, Capital Services, 301-645-0618.*

- The Charles County Department of Utilities will have a meeting with the residents of Mt. Carmel Woods regarding drinking water issues where higher than accepted levels of alpha radiation have been registered. Bottled water has been distributed to the community, and two of the three wells tested with the problem have been taken out of service.

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

- The Department of Planning and Growth Management presented an overview of the Grading

and Sediment Control Ordinance/Sediment and Erosion Control Delegation to safeguard the natural resources by establishing minimum standards for stripping, excavating and filling of land, control of soil erosion and sediment, and enforcement procedures. The new ordinance will be introduced on May 1. Cost will be \$327,000 to cover inspection and clerical positions. Inspection fees will offset costs.

*Contact for more information, Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management, Capital Services, 301-645-0618.*

#### **April 4, 2006**

- The Charles County Commissioners conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially announce the completion of a new \$99,500 playground at Gilbert Run Regional Park in Dentsville, which is ADA compliant and features swings, climbers, multiple slides, and various inter-active components for pre-school and school-aged children. The playground was designed by the Charles County Department of Public Facilities Parks and Grounds Division.

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

#### **March 27, 2006**

- The Charles County Commissioners approved a bid award to Johnson Controls, Inc. to provide a water metering infrastructure upgrade with performance-based funding solutions.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners held ribbon cutting ceremonies to officially announce the completion of the \$270,000 Charlie Wright Park in Indian Head, which features a regulation baseball field, lighted football practice area, two youth baseball/softball fields, two soccer fields, and parking areas.

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

#### **March 13, 2006**

- The Charles County Commissioners sold \$10,000,000 in taxable bonds for public improvements and \$43,000,000 in tax-exempt bonds for consolidated public improvements, including \$22.8 million for school-related projects to Citigroup Global Markets at 5.3582% and 3.95%, respectively.

The County Commissioners went to New York City Feb. 21-23 to meet with the bond rating agencies, Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch. The three rating agencies set the county's

ratings at Aa2, AA with outlook Stable, and AA+.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners approved a \$400,000 budget amendment for the Department of Planning and Growth Management Development and Capital Services Division to account for the collection of fees from ACPT for inspection services for road construction projects.

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

### **March 6, 2006**

- The Charles County Commissioners approved a \$100,000 budget transfer for the Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management Development and Capital Services Division to cover the design contract for Mill Hill Road Extended until FY '07 funds are allocated, since the contract is ready for award.

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

### **February 28, 2006**

- The Charles County Commissioners conducted a public hearing on and adopted the Housing Authority Annual Plan for Section 8 Homeownership by the Charles County Department of Community Services.

*Contact for more information: Department of Community Services, Housing Division and Community Development, 301-934-9305.*

- The Charles County Commissioners held work sessions on proposed Developers' Rights and Responsibilities Agreements for Albion and Heritage Green subdivisions. Staff was directed to proceed with formal review of the Albion DRRA, which is seeking school allocation mitigation. A public hearing on the proposal will be held April 4, 2006, at 2 p.m.

Discussion on Heritage Green was deferred since extensive negotiations must occur before the DRRA can proceed.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners held a public hearing and adopted Resolution 2006-06 to issue \$53,000,000 in general obligation bonds to finance the construction of public buildings, facilities and grounds within the County, including renovations and additions to

Board of Education facilities (\$7,478,000), and school capacity projects, funding of a new elementary school and middle school, plans for a second new elementary school, and various relocatable projects (\$16,120,000) ; construction and renovations of College of Southern Maryland facilities (\$3,770,000); improvements to general government facilities: the Courthouse expansion and plans for a new library: (\$1,507,000); road improvements: Middletown Road, Acton Lane, Rosewick Road, Talbot Street and the Cross County Connector (\$9,987,000); park improvements (\$198,000); water and sewer projects (\$3,540,000); road projects for American Community Properties Trust (\$10,000,000); and new program offerings, major equipment replacement and renovations at the Charles County Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center (\$400,000).

The bond sale will be held on Monday, March 13, 2006.

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

### **February 13, 2006**

- The Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management Capital and Development Services Division presented an update on the Enhanced Transportation Program on the following roads: Acton Lane Phases 2 and 3; Rosewick Road Phases 1, 2 and 3; Western Parkway Phases 1A, 1B, 2 and 3; Cross County Connector Phases 4A, 4B, 5, 6 and 7; Middletown Road Phases 1B and 2.

Since September 27, 2005:

- Acton Lane Phase 2 construction is complete
- Cross County Connector Phase 4A construction complete
- Cross County Connector Phase 4B construction underway
- Rosewick Road Phase 3 construction NTP pending
- Cross County Connector Phase 2 dualization construction underway by ACPT
- St. Charles Parkway construction underway by ACPT

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

- The Maryland Environmental Service (MES) presented its annual briefing to the County Commissioners of its programs in materials handling and solid waste management, water and wastewater infrastructure operation, and technical and environmental services. MES is a not-for-profit public corporation, created in 1970 by Maryland's governor and legislators to protect the State's air, land, and water resources. It provides services at competitive rates to government and private sector clients and works on projects including water and wastewater treatment, solid waste management, composting, recycling, dredged material management, and hazardous materials cleanup, as well as expert engineering, monitoring and inspection services.

*Contact for more information: Maryland Environmental Service, 410-729-8200, 259 Najoles*

Road, Millersville, MD 21108.

### **February 6, 2006**

- ☛ Faison presented its revised Rosewick Road Crossing Plan for the parcel it plans to annex into the town of La Plata. The County Commissioners agreed to the revised plan with the caveat that it has to adhere to the County's BP Zoning Ordinance for the parcel on the south side of Rosewick Road, which requires the dominant features to be business park/structures and that no more than 15% of the total floor area be ancillary uses, such as a restaurant, bank, dry cleaner, etc.).

### **January 31, 2006**

- ☛ The Maryland Department of the Environment presented an update on the Port Tobacco River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) that has been underway for a year, which reviews available data on water quality, living resources and habitat and landscape assessment (land use or wetlands). A survey showed:
  - \* dissolved nitrogen and phosphorus appear to be a minor problem
  - \* heavy algal growth
  - \* moderate nutrient, pH, and specific conductivity signals

The Steering Committee for this WRAS included the Town of La Plata, College of Southern Maryland, Port Tobacco River Conservancy, Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Office, Charles County Health Department, Soil Conservation District, Department of Planning and Growth Management, and Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, a 12-month process has been planned to work a consultant and the watershed stakeholders to develop detailed information that will lead to strategies to address nutrients, sediment and bacteria.

### **January 30, 2006**

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners and County staff from the Department of Community Services and the Department of Public Facilities held groundbreaking ceremonies to kick off the construction of the new 27,650-square-foot Community Services building to be constructed at 8190 Port Tobacco Road, Port Tobacco. The cost is just over \$5.1 million and it will replace the structure that was destroyed by fire on May 12, 2003.

*Contact for more information: Department of Community Services, Administration, 301-934-9305 x 5106.*

- ☛ 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, Planning Office, 301-645-0540.*

- The Charles County Commissioners approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with United States Steel Corporation for the Swan Point sewage treatment facility in Issue in which the County US Steel will work jointly to determine the feasibility of discharging effluent from the 600,000 gpd plant, which is being upgraded to ENR (enhanced nutrient removal), onto the Golf Course and other portions of Swan Point that would be irrigated in the development. The MOU also calls for a water quality testing protocol.

*Contact for more information: Department of Planning and Growth Management, Development and Capital Services Office, 301-645-0618, and the Office of the County Attorney, 301-645-0555.*

- The Charles County Commissioners conducted a public hearing on the update of the Comprehensive Plan that covers 13 chapters and focused on eight issues: Economic Development/Jobs, Green Infrastructure, Villages, Agriculture, Bensville, the Deferred Development District, the Mattawoman Creek Watershed Management Plan, and future transportation facilities.

The public record was held open for written comment through the close of business on February 17.

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

- The Department of Fiscal Services reported that the County's bond issue for 2006 capital projects will total \$5 million.

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

### **January 24, 2006**

- The Charles County Commissioners broke ground for the Talbot Street extension, a 1/4 mile street north of the Courthouse entrance facing Washington Avenue to U.S. 301 northbound at the former site of La Plata Glass. The \$2.736 million project will include two new parking lots for the Courthouse expansion project, period street lighting, patterned crosswalks, sidewalks and extensive landscaping. Completion is expected by the end of 2006.

*Contact for more information: Department of Public Facilities, CIP/Building and Trades Division, 301-932-3490.*

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- ☛ The Department of Fiscal Services conducted a work session on the proposed Capital Improvements Program budget for FY '07 for outside County agencies and County Government. There is a \$61.4 million dollar deficit in revenues for the requested projects. The Commissioners will be trimming the budget on the next few months during the budget process. The next work session is scheduled January 31.

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

- ☛ The County Commissioners met with the Mayor and Town Council of La Plata re:
  - Expansion of the town police department and cooperation between the Sheriff's Office. The Town is adding additional officers. The Sheriff joined the discussion and did not indicate there was duplication of services/efforts.
  - The proposed Faison annexation request which has been modified to accommodate commercial/business park -- without a residential component. This will be brought back before the Commissioners for reconsideration.
  - Long-term water planning. The town will participate in the tri-county effort.
  - The Town is considering a smoking ban/
  - Need for future road and street improvements.
  - Keeping a County library branch in La Plata.
  - Discussion of the town's sewage treatment facility.

### **January 23, 2006**

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners requested that the Department of Public Facilities to investigate providing recycling and dumping stations to address trash removal issues in Nanjemoy.

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

### **December 19, 2005**

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners authorized the issuance of the permit by the Department of Planning and Growth Management for the first phase of the new 300,000 gpd Swan Point Wastewater Treatment Plant and directed the County Attorney to proceed with the Memorandum of Understanding between US Steel and the County Commissioners to address land application of effluent from the new Plant.

*Contacts for more information: Department of Planning and Growth Management, 301-645-0618 and Office of the County Attorney, 301-645-0555.*

### **December 6, 2005**

- The Charles County Commissioners directed staff to work on securing an agreement with WSSC for an additional 5 million gallons per day for the County and decided to appoint a 5-member committee to study water supply issues, water quality, and to educate the public and look at the impacts of using water from WSSC,

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

- The Charles County Commissioners directed the County Attorney to work on Phase I of an agreement to expand the sewage treatment plant for the Swan Point development. In addition, there was a proposal to investigate using effluent on the golf course and to get a baseline for testing the water quality discharge into Cuckold Creek.

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

### **November 28, 2005**

- The Charles County Commissioners approved forwarding a letter to the Interagency Committee for State Public School Construction supporting the Charles County Board of Education capital projects for FY 2007 as follows:

- Davis Middle School Construction Funds
- A new elementary school
- Planning and construction funds full-day kindergarten at Barnhart Elementary
- Planning funds for full-day kindergarten at Gale-Bailey, Martin and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary schools
- Relocatable classrooms
- Martin Elementary boiler replacement
- Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary wastewater system replacement
- Somers Middle School roof and HVAC replacement
- Craik Elementary School roof replacement
- Control system replacement at Jenifer Elementary School

The total for these State-shared planned projects is \$32,047,000, with \$15,806,000 of that figure to be County-funded.

### **November 22, 2005**

- The Charles County Commissioners conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the Bryans Road Water Tower and Bryans Road Well No. 6 that will provide an additional 1 million gallons of water storage for domestic and fire safety and pump 685 gallons per minute from a 855' well tapped into the Patuxent Aquifer, respectively.

*Contact for more information: Department of Planning and Growth Management,*

*Development and Capital Services Office: 301-645-0618*

**November 15, 2005**

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the new Waldorf Water Tower #5 off McDaniel Road. The new water storage facility provides an additional two million gallons of water storage for both domestic and fire suppression for the Waldorf Water System and is connected to the same transmission line as the WSSC booster station.

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

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved a budget transfer request for \$304,000 for the Department of Utilities to cover the costs associated with Laurel Branch Sewer modifications

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

**November 8, 2005**

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners were briefed on alternatives for the sewer outfall for the Swan Point Wastewater Treatment Plant, including land application, and discharge into Cuckold Creek and the Potomac River. The Commissioners requested more information on water quality improvement before making a decision on the alternatives.

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

**October 18, 2005**

- ☛ Manekin, LLC broke ground on the Western Parkway extension, as well as the site development for the first buildings at the Waldorf Technology Park, a 400,000-square-foot-master-planned office/R&D/retail complex.

Projected completion of the 2,400-foot Western Parkway extension and new Hamilton Road intersection is summer 2006. Phase I of the Technology Park, now under construction, will include a 20,000 square-foot Class A office building, as well as a 37,000 square-foot condo flex building, two additional buildings totaling 90,000 square feet and necessary infrastructure. Completion is anticipated in fourth quarter 2006.

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

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners adopted an access management plan for Phases 6 and 7 of the Cross County Connector. The limits of Phase 6 are MD Route 229 to Prince Edward

Drive, and Prince Edward Drive to MD Route 210 for Phase 7. The adoption completes the Access Management Plan for the Cross County Connector.

*Contact for more information, Department of Planning and Growth Management, Planning Office, 301-645-0540.*

### **October 3, 2005**

- The Charles County Commissioners adopted Bill 2005-20, which creates a Cross Connection Control Program to protect the County's water distribution system from potential contaminants. The program requires the installation of backflow prevention assemblies on all water outlets for three classes of customers: Hydrant Meter, Commercial, and Residential (New Construction). The effective date is 12:01 a.m. on November 17, 2005.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners approved the FY 2006 Annual Plan for the County's public transit service, VanGO, which operates general public transit and specialized transportation services through a variety of partnerships, grants, and local funding. The funding of the \$4,019,078 budget comes from State (39%), Federal (25%), County (27%); Department of Social Services (5%) and revenue (5%) sources.

The plan includes capital expenditures for new route Bryans Road/Indian Head and Business Loop C routes; gps equipment, passenger amenities, construction of a transfer pavilion, and replacement of vehicles.

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

### **September 27, 2005**

- The Department of Planning and Growth Management Development and Capital Services Division presented an update on the Enhanced Transportation Program, including the Cross County Connector, Middletown Road, Western Parkway, Acton Lane, and Rosewick Road

Overall: 14 of 14 roads are either designed or under design; 11 of 14 roads have all right-of-way acquired or are having right-of-way acquired; two of 14 roads are constructed; six of 12 remaining roads are under construction; one road bid for construction is under discussion; three roads are expected to be bid in the next three months; and three are expected to be bid for construction before the end of the year.

Recent construction bids are substantially exceeding budget estimates due to a rise in fuel prices, brisk development activity resulting in limited construction contractors/competitiveness, and the addition of hiker/biker trails to all roads. There is a projected shortfall for remaining roads of of nearly \$23,569,000 that the Commissioners will

need to address in the upcoming CIP budget cycle.

The slide show on the presentation on the status of the Enhanced Transportation Program is on the County's web site, [www.charlescounty.org](http://www.charlescounty.org), in the Development and Capital Services Section of the Department of Planning and Growth Management.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners approved the 72-acre borrow site next to the Pisgah Landfill, which was used as a source of excavation material for the capping/closing of the Pisgah Landfill, for development as a park site for the western side of the County to include 6-8 sports fields, restroom and well facilities, and other recreation amenities. The park proposal will be included in the FY 2007 CIP budget. Funding will be 75% State funding and 25% local funding.

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

### **September 26, 2005**

- Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Robert Flanagan and Neil Pedersen, State Highway Administrator, met with the Charles County Commissioners and the County's legislative delegation to the General Assembly to outline the State's \$13 billion transportation program for the next six years. Charles County is slated to receive \$61 million in highway user revenues between 2006 and 2011, and will receive \$151 million in funding for highway infrastructure. Secretary Flanagan noted that the Hughesville Bypass is under construction and expected to be completed by summer 2007; the La Plata streetscape project was completed in August 2005; the town of Indian Head will receive \$1.2 million for a scenic boardwalk. Other issues discussed were another Potomac River crossing next to the Harry Nice Bridge, additional commuter lots, and commuter bus service.

The delegation requested that the Waldorf Bypass be considered a toll road like the Dulles Toll Road; the rail line next to the 925 Park and Ride lot be considered for commuter rail, since it's adjacent to a rail line; and assurances the Waldorf Bypass study would not start over, but use the results of past studies. The Commissioners requested consideration of funding for a VanGO transfer station and support of transportation issues in Bryans Road and Indian Head.

### **September 20, 2005**

- The State Highway Administration (SHA) briefed the County Commissioners on the Waldorf Bypass, which has become a SHA priority. SHA hopes to expedite the NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) process and requested that the County increase its efforts to preserve land for a future highway bypass around Waldorf. SHA said allowing continued

development in the proposed alignments could jeopardize the project because of limited State funds to purchase rights-of-way. SHA asked the County to consider modifying its highway reservation law to allow planning officials to begin reserving more rights-of-way on County properties even for proposed highway alternatives.

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

- The Charles County Commissioners conducted a hearing on the Cross Connection Control Program that would protect the potable water supply of the County by requiring the use of appropriate backflow protection methods on hydrant meter, commercial, and new residential customers.

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

### **September 19, 2005**

- The Charles County Commissioners authorized the Department of Planning and Growth Management to apply to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) via letter by October 1, 2005, for full delegation of the Sediment and Erosion Control Inspection Program, which is currently performed by MDE.

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

- The Tri-County Council and CCG, Inc. briefed the County Commissioners on the results of the Southern Maryland Broadband Study, which indicated the County is under served. The feasibility of establishing a broadband cooperative was discussed. The County Commissioners requested a work session to consider a task force to discuss establishing a task force to work on bringing broadband to more areas of the County.

*Contact for more information: Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, 301-870-2520.*

- The Maryland Geological Survey Aquifer Interim Report, presented by David Drummond, Hydrogeologist, included the results of a 4-year study using six deep exploratory wells to determine the water-supply potential of the aquifer system in Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties through 2030. A ground-water flow model was developed that simulated the water levels in the five major aquifers in Southern Maryland. Emphasis was on the Upper Patapsco and Lower Patapsco aquifers.

In Charles County, the scenarios presented indicated that these aquifers could not supply the demands of 2030 without exceeding the 80% management level. Several ground-water alternatives were mentioned that would help alleviate excessive drawdowns in central Charles County:

- \* Shift some pumpage from the Magothy, Upper Patapsco, and Lower Patapsco aquifers to the deeper Patuxent aquifer.
- \* Use optimization techniques.
- \* Replace well fields in central and northwestern Charles County with well fields farther southeast where aquifer tops are deeper and available drawdown is greater, moving the cones-of-depression to the southeast, farther from the outcrop areas of the Upper Patapsco and Lower Patapsco aquifers.

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

### **August 30, 2005**

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved use of the State of Maryland Performance Contracting Process for County procurement of water meter infrastructure upgrades. Performance contracting is a bid, design, build process as opposed to the traditional design, bid, build process, eliminating the need to hire separate architects and engineers to perform evaluation and design services. This process was outlined in July to the County Commissioners by Johnson Controls, which is among four energy service companies (ESCOs) qualified within the State of Maryland to provide energy performance contracting. The Chief of Purchasing will prepare a request for proposal (RFP) soliciting proposals from each of the four qualified ESCOs.

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

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners authorized \$1.3 million from the Fund Balance for infrastructure for the North Point High School campus.

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

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners adjusted the budget for the Rural Legacy Program to reflect additional \$202,218.56 received from the State.

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

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved fiscal year (FY) 2005 budget transfer requests within the Department of Planning and Growth Management for following road projects:

Middletown Road Phase 2: Award construction proposal – \$1,598,230

Cross County Connector Phase 4B: Cover construction and acquisition process – \$2,782,200

Western Parkway 1A: Award construction proposal – \$2,500,000

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

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners reviewed FY 07-FY11 General Fund Debt Affordability to determine the impact on revenues from an accelerated school construction program and a reduction in the homestead property tax credit. They agreed to accelerate construction of new elementary schools 2 and 3, which would not affect debt affordability, with operating costs absorbed by the Board of Education. However, the five-year plan, which shows an operating deficit, would grow if the homestead property tax credit were lowered.

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

- ☛ Charles Wineland and Jerry Barrett from Charles County Public Schools presented a schematic for the design of a second new elementary school.

Bids for Davis Middle School on the North Point campus came in \$1.1 million below budget. The \$28,587,000 represents a cost of approximately \$195 per square foot.

The light at North Point High School was on the fast track to be completed by the State Highway Administration within 90 days.

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

### **August 29, 2005**

- ☛ The Charles County Commissioners approved the introduction of Bill 2005-20 for the creation of a Cross Connection Control Program. A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 20, at 7 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room.

### **July 26, 2005**

- ☛ The Department of Utilities outlined a proposed bill that would modify the Charles County Water and Sewer Ordinance to create a cross connection control program to protect the County's water distribution system from potential contaminants. The program would require the installation of backflow prevention assemblies on all water outlets for three classes of customers: Hydrant Meter, Commercial, and Residential (New Construction). A backflow assembly stops contaminants from flowing back into the water distribution system. The proposal, which would comply with State and Federal laws, will be formally introduced on August 29, with a public hearing scheduled on September 20. The time for the public hearing will be determined when it's introduced.

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

### **July 25, 2005**

- ☛ Johnson Controls, which has been working the Department of Utilities and Fiscal Services

staff, outlined a strategy to deliver a self-funding water metering system modernization that will leverage the County's automated meter reading initiative and eliminate long-term operational support uncertainties. The company outlined a performance contract process for consideration by the Commissioners to capture lost revenues and operational cost inefficiencies and redirect them toward improvements to the system.

*Contact for more information: Department of Utilities, 301-609-7400, or the Department of Fiscal Services, 301-645-0570.*

- The Maryland Environmental Service presented a \$2,500 check to the County Commissioners which was used to help construct a rain shelter for an oil/antifreeze recycling site at Ruth B. Swann Memorial Park near Indian Head. The shelter keeps used oil and antifreeze away from the elements and prevents any spillage on site. Total cost for the project was approximately \$7,000.

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