

FISCAL YEAR 2015

ANNUAL REPORT

To the Citizens of Charles County



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Front Cover:
Chapel Point State Park is located on the beautiful Port Tobacco River, a tributary of the Potomac River. Chapel Point is an undeveloped multi-use park that boasts a waterfront that offers excellent fishing.

Mission Statement

The mission of Charles County Government is to provide our citizens the highest quality service possible in a timely, efficient and courteous manner. To achieve this goal, our government must be operated in an open and accessible atmosphere, be based on comprehensive long- and short-term planning and have an appropriate managerial organization tempered by fiscal responsibility. We support and encourage efforts to grow a diverse workplace.

Vision Statement

Charles County is a place where all people thrive and businesses grow and prosper; where the preservation of our heritage and environment is paramount; where government services to its citizens are provided at the highest level of excellence; and where the quality of life is the best in the nation.

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Peter F. Murphy
President

Charles County is a code home rule county governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners. The five Commissioners are elected at large to four-year terms of office. The Commissioner President is the presiding officer of the Board at meetings and hearings. The Commissioner President may reside anywhere in the county. The other four Commissioners must each reside in a Commissioner district.



Ken Robinson
Vice President
District 1

Board Responsibilities

The Charles County Commissioners are responsible for:

- Generating revenues to fund the county's capital and operating budgets, as well as other county departments and agencies.
- Providing for the public health, safety, and welfare of Charles County residents and visitors.
- Adopting and updating the Charles County Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Plan, and Zoning Ordinance.
- Overseeing the development process.
- Establishing, promulgating, and enforcing county rules, regulations, ordinances, policies, and procedures.
- Appointing boards, commissions, and task forces.
- Fulfilling the mission of Charles County Government.



Debra M. Davis, Esq.
District 2

Regular Board Meetings

Meetings of the Charles County Commissioners are scheduled each week and held in the County Government Building at 200 Baltimore Street in La Plata. The meetings are aired on the Charles County Government website, www.CharlesCountyMD.gov, as well as on CCGTV, Charles County's local government cable television station broadcast on Comcast channel 95 and Verizon channel 10.



Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.
District 3

Advisory Committees, Boards, and Commissions

The Charles County Commissioners appoint more than 65 commissions, boards, committees, and task forces, which advise them on topics ranging from land use and development to housing. Through this system, civic-minded citizens can get involved in county government. The county, in turn, benefits from the knowledge, experience, and advice of its own citizens. Vacancies are announced in the local media, on www.CharlesCountyMD.gov, and on CCGTV.



Bobby Rucci
District 4

Mallows Bay Headed Toward National Marine Sanctuary Status

First Designation in Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay

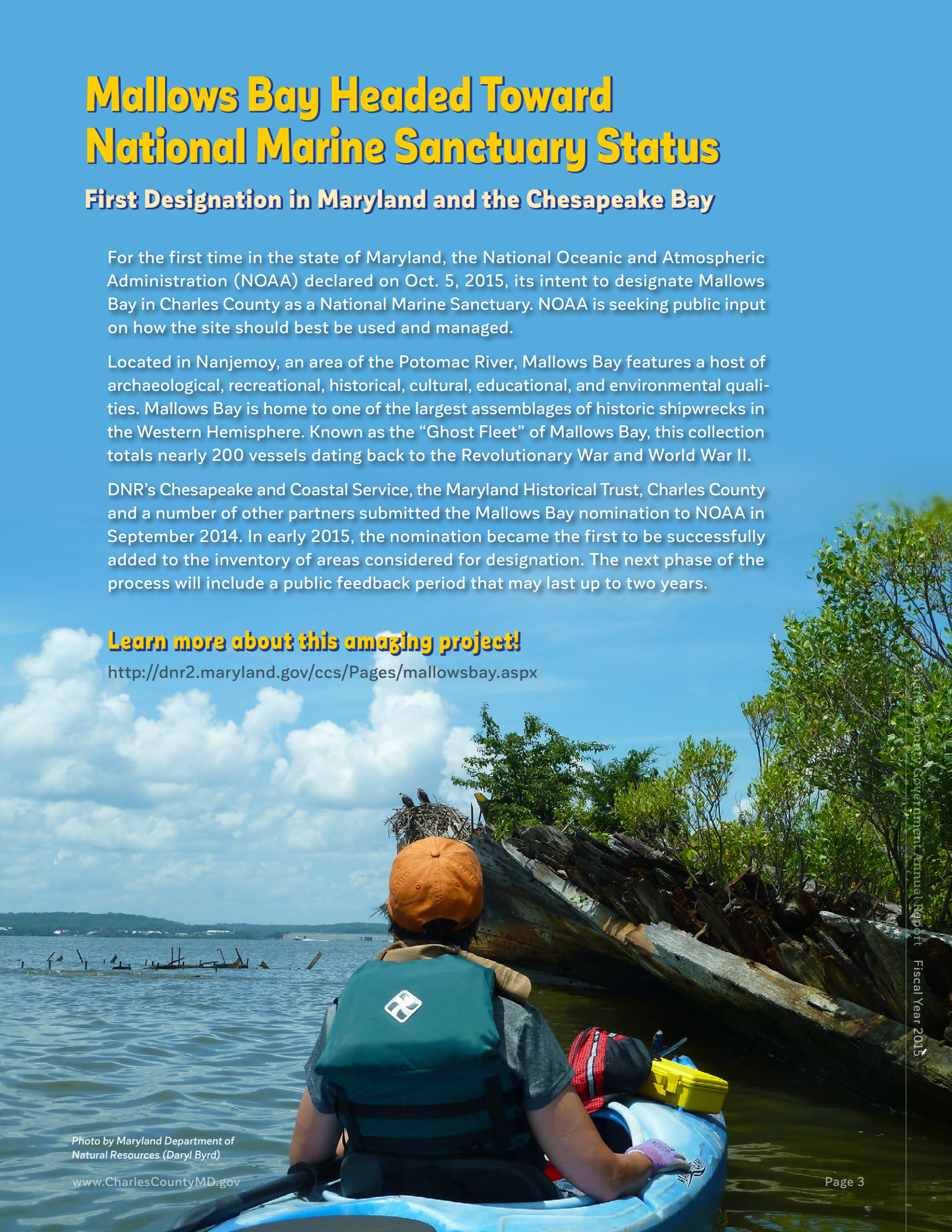
For the first time in the state of Maryland, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) declared on Oct. 5, 2015, its intent to designate Mallows Bay in Charles County as a National Marine Sanctuary. NOAA is seeking public input on how the site should best be used and managed.

Located in Nanjemoy, an area of the Potomac River, Mallows Bay features a host of archaeological, recreational, historical, cultural, educational, and environmental qualities. Mallows Bay is home to one of the largest assemblages of historic shipwrecks in the Western Hemisphere. Known as the “Ghost Fleet” of Mallows Bay, this collection totals nearly 200 vessels dating back to the Revolutionary War and World War II.

DNR’s Chesapeake and Coastal Service, the Maryland Historical Trust, Charles County and a number of other partners submitted the Mallows Bay nomination to NOAA in September 2014. In early 2015, the nomination became the first to be successfully added to the inventory of areas considered for designation. The next phase of the process will include a public feedback period that may last up to two years.

Learn more about this amazing project!

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/ccs/Pages/mallowsbay.aspx>



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New Director

Prior to the close of fiscal 2015, the Charles County Administrator announced the appointment of a new economic development director, Darrell Brown. Before coming to Charles County Government, Brown was executive director for the District of Columbia Small Business Development Center at Howard University where he managed staff and four service centers and directed a \$1.6 million budget. His impressive credentials include such positions as counsel to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee; director of State and Local Relations for Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island; director of Economic Development for the City of Cranston, Rhode Island; policy advisor of business and economic development for the governor of Rhode Island; chief of staff for the Office of the Attorney General of Rhode Island; and director of Urban Policy and Development for Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. Since taking the helm of the Charles County Department of Economic Development, Brown has implemented a team approach, working with staff, the business community, business services partners, and other community stakeholders. Priorities are to develop a five-year economic development strategic plan with clear action steps and measurable outcomes, ensure the department is structured to deliver the most effective implementation of the plan, and to continue building on the county's progress to date.



Winner of International Award

The International Economic Development Council awarded the Department of Economic Development its Bronze Award for the department's new website and branding for jurisdictions with populations of 25,000 – 200,000 residents.

The website launched in spring 2015, with a new logo and tagline: "Charles County: Close to the Capital, Far from Ordinary." Sleek and easy to navigate, the new site provides relevant information and resources for corporate executives, site selection consultants, and local businesses. The department built the site with businesses in mind, and the design features easy access to information that is most important to businesses — incentives, demographics, workforce and education statistics, and more. The site includes a GIS (Geographic Information System) search function to provide businesses with easy access to a database of available real estate options. Company testimonials enable visitors to hear from local businesses what it is like to operate in Charles County. The "Business Support" section provides relevant information and resources available to companies already operating in Charles County.

In addition to the new website, the Department of Economic Development introduced Charles County Connect, a new

e-postcard for announcing major expansions and companies retained or newly locating in the county.

The department completed a site selection consultant mission in February 2015, a first for the county. Staff met with representatives from eight key firms who seek information regarding the benefits of a Charles County location for their clients and the types of firms that could be a good fit. Staff held meetings with major influencers in the business location industry including Deloitte LLP, Atlas Insight LLC, Ryan LLC, and Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc.

During fiscal 2015, the department launched a social media program to include a new Facebook page and Twitter account to supplement the existing LinkedIn presence. Facebook engagement enabled the department to quickly and effectively promote local business announcements, activities, and events. Local residents enthusiastically received county business hiring announcements shared on the department's Facebook page. The new social media platforms provide businesses with another venue to reach talent to fill job openings. Between the launch of the Facebook page in October 2014 and the end of fiscal 2015, the Facebook following grew to more than 900 likes.

Competitive Power Ventures St. Charles Energy Center

Charles County's largest economic development project in decades reached a critical milestone in the third quarter of 2014. Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) and partners Marubeni and Toyota Tsusho secured financing and started construction on a 725-megawatt, combined-cycle, natural gas-fired power plant within St. Charles community in Waldorf. The culmination of more than 15 years of work by project developers and the county, the St. Charles Energy Center project represents a \$775 million capital investment, with additional financiers including GE unit GE Energy Financial Services (NYSE:GE) and 14 other lenders. Financial closing on the project yielded the county extensive local, regional, and national general and trade media coverage.

Construction of the plant is expected to be completed by fall 2016 with full operations starting in 2017. The project is expected to create more than 400 construction jobs in 2015 and 2016, and 24 well-paying, permanent jobs during operations. Project developers paid a recordation tax of \$4.3 million, and the plant will become one of the largest



taxpayers in Charles County. St. Charles Energy Center will provide the county with revenues of approximately \$100 million over a 23-year term.

SNC Lavalin is designing and constructing the plant, under an Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) contract. There has been outreach to local small businesses to connect interested local contractors with the prime contractor. CPV was acquired by Global Infrastructure Partners in 2015; plant development continues under the CPV management team and the CPV name.

Business Survey

In spring 2015, the Department of Economic Development launched its first online business survey. The goal was to learn the needs and concerns of our existing businesses and identify resources or assist with resolving challenges. The department advertised the survey for two months using traditional and online media to reach the county's business community. As survey responses came in, staff identified and addressed issues needing immediate attention and, where possible, referred respondents to existing resources. Based in part on survey responses, the department will develop a plan for creating or accessing resources to help local businesses address top priority needs.



Quarterly Business Roundtables

The Department of Economic Development launched a series of Quarterly Business Roundtables to create another avenue for two-way communication with local business owners and operators. The morning sessions are open to the public and last less than two hours so attendees can quickly get back to business. The first Business Roundtable was held April 29, and 48 people attended. The program started with a brief presentation from economic development staff updating the status of initiatives and related business attraction and retention projects. The floor then opened for questions related to business growth and business resources. The Quarterly Business Roundtables will continue to be a regular part of the ongoing Economic Development Department outreach; dates and times are announced on the department's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MeetCharlesCounty) and Twitter page (www.twitter.com/MeetCharlesCo).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

New & Expanding Projects

CHUTES International

CHUTES International, a Charles County-based manufacturer and patent holder of trash chute systems, announced plans to expand. After considering a move to Delaware, the company, working with the Department of Economic Development and the state, closed on the purchase of a 30,000-square-foot industrial building in the St. Charles Industrial Park. The building will be renovated and expanded to become their new headquarters location. This project represents a total investment of more than \$4 million by CHUTES. The company will retain their current 48 jobs and add 15 to 25 more during the expansion over the next five years.

Mid-Atlantic Health Care, LLC/Restore Health

Mid-Atlantic Health Care, LLC, a privately held skilled care firm, selected Charles County as the location for its first-ever, newly-constructed facility. A grand opening for the firm's 16th location, Restore Health Rehabilitation Center in White Plains, was held on March 4, 2015. The Department of Economic Development approved a permit expedite for the project, which represents roughly \$23 million in new commercial investment and creates more than 80 new, full-time equivalent jobs.

United States Government Federal Facility

After considering sites in several surrounding counties, a federal agency opted to locate in Charles County, and has placed approximately 15 acres under contract for the construction of a brand new, approximately 80,000-square-foot facility. Acquisition is expected in fall 2015, and operations are projected to begin two to three years later. The operation will create 30 full-time equivalent jobs and will stimulate local spending at hotels, restaurants, and other services. The Department of Economic Development approved an expedited subdivision for the project, which increased the county's competitiveness during the site selection process.

PSEG Waldorf Solar Energy Center

Charles County will soon be home to Southern Maryland's only two solar farms. In early 2015, construction began on a new 12.9 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic array on 80 acres in Waldorf. The facility will use approximately 40,000, 315-watt, solar panels and will generate an estimated \$8 million in tax revenue over 20 years. Charles County Economic Development facilitated site selection during the request for proposals by Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) to select a solar developer, and the department approved a permit expedite for the project.

Media Placement

Expansion Solutions Magazine, a location industry publication with a circulation of approximately 20,000, featured Charles County in the March 16 issue. The article, entitled "Strategic Benefits Abound in Charles County, Maryland," also appeared online. The article took an in-depth look at the advantages Charles County offers for economic development and businesses. The story highlighted some of the county's most attractive, business-friendly features — strategic location, strong labor talent, ample commercial real estate, and high quality of life.

Business Xpansion Journal magazine, another location industry publication with a circulation of about 22,000, featured Charles County in an April 5 article entitled "Breathing Life Back into Bioscience."

The article also appeared online where the outlet has more than 17,000 unique monthly visitors. Charles County was one of several communities featured in this story about the rebound of high-tech industries in the U.S., and how biotechnology and life sciences are expected to continue growth currently and in the long term. Charles County is noted for talent in robotics and unmanned systems, proximity to renowned research institutions, some of the most affordable buildings and sites in the Washington, D.C. metro region, and more than 50,000 acres of agricultural land. The story mentions the county's TechFire business incubator and the James E. Richmond Science Center at St. Charles High School as available resources.



Site Selection Consultant Familiarization Tour

The Department of Economic Development hosted the county's first site selection consultant familiarization (FAM) tour in June 2015 to better acquaint site selectors with Charles County and its business assets. Four consultants from Mohr Partners Inc., Colliers International, ADP LLC, and Atlas Insight LLC spent a day and a half in Charles County meeting with local companies and touring the county. Toward the end of the trip the four consultants provided candid observations and feedback during a dinner panel attended by key stakeholders — local business leaders and public officials. The FAM tour is part of the department's new business attraction strategy to focus on building relationships with site selection and real estate professionals who help firms identify locations for growth and expansion.

TOURISM

Tourism Events Generate Economic Impact for Charles County

Maryland Office of Tourism data for 2013 (most recent data available) indicates Charles County generated \$184 million in tourism industry sales and \$47.2 million in tax receipts, and supported 3,101 hospitality jobs.

During fiscal 2015, the Tourism Office organized and hosted several large scale events in Charles County:

March from Benedict (August 2014)

The Tourism Office hosted a star-spangled weekend celebration event, the March From Benedict, which drew 1,000 people, and was part of a statewide effort to commemorate the War of 1812 Bicentennial. This event was funded, in part, by grants from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium and the Star Spangled Banner 200 Commission. The March From Benedict events were held at Serenity Farm, Maxwell Hall, and in the Town of Benedict.



FallFest (October 2014)

In October 2014, the Tourism Office hosted the Celebrate Charles FallFest event at Regency Furniture Stadium. The event drew 4,200 attendees and featured local crafters, artisans, food, beverages, a "family fun zone," and a "trick-or-treat trail." Local musicians Sam Grow and the Sara Gray Band performed live music.



Holiday Trail (December 2014)

The Holiday Trail, hosted by the Historical Society of Charles County, attracted more than 2,200 people and included 14 Charles County sites. This was the trail's second operating year.

Lincoln 150 – On The Trail of The Assassin (April 2015)

History buffs, Abraham Lincoln fans, and local history lovers alike attended Charles County’s Lincoln 150 Commemoration weekend, featuring the theme, “On the Trail of the Assassin.” Residents learned about the historic Civil War events and the escape of Abraham Lincoln’s assassin. Attractions include Civil War re-enactments; guest speakers and authors; Civil War theater, music, and dance performances; public archeology activities; and walking tours. As a result of pitching efforts, the event drew national media attention and was featured on a CNN video and online publication, the National Trust for Historic Preservation online calendar, The Washington Post Express, The Enterprise, and the Maryland Independent.



Walmart FLW Fishing Tournament (June 2015)

This national fishing tournament brought to Charles County approximately \$1.5 million in economic impact. NBC Sports Outdoors filmed the show, which airs nationwide starting November 2015.



Welcome Center Visitor Statistics

The Crain Memorial Welcome Center located on Crain Memorial Highway (Newburg, MD) is staffed by five part-time travel counselors who offered travel assistance to more than 150,000 visitors in fiscal year 2015.

The Crain Memorial Welcome Center is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Welcome Center Visitors During Fiscal Year 2015	Facility Usage	Welcome Center Usage
July-September	27,426	11,627
October-November	21,403	7,751
January-March	17,852	4,820
April-June	27,066	5,675
Total	160,068	48,119

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Charles County Public Schools

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) provides educational services to more than 26,000 children in Charles County in grades prekindergarten through 12. The school system also offers a three-year-old program to children who live in school zones supported by the Title I federal education program. CCPS is committed to providing all children with opportunities to achieve academic success, prepare for their future, and learn about personal responsibility.

The school system includes 36 schools and four educational centers, and is the largest employer in Charles County, with more than 3,400 employees. Accomplishments achieved during the 2014-15 school year illustrate CCPS's commitment to teaching and learning, and ensuring that all children have access to 21st century learning. The Class of 2015 earned \$62 million in scholarship offers, and the school system successfully brought all high school graduations back to Charles County. The high school graduation rate continues to increase as the dropout rate declines.

New to the county is St. Charles High School, which opened in August 2014 — along with the James E. Richmond Science Center. The Science Center is located at St. Charles

High School and programs and learning experiences are open not only to CCPS students, but to the entire Charles County community. Other CCPS programs available for advanced learning opportunities include the school system's partnership with Code.org, which is helping to expand computer science learning, and the Bring Your Own Device program, in which students use their personal devices for approved instructional use.

CCPS is also committed to providing instructional programs to meet the needs of all students. The school system recently implemented new testing measures for students — the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments in reading and mathematics. Data from these assessments is used to better monitor student progress in mastering concepts, and to design instructional programs to prepare students for their future. Additionally, the system's focus on safety and security expanded to include an intercom and video-based entry system at all schools and centers.

To learn more about CCPS, visit www.cbboe.com or follow us on Twitter at CCPS.





The Public Library

Services

The Charles County Public Library consists of four library branches located in La Plata, Indian Head, and two locations in Waldorf. An outreach van visits day cares, senior centers, and the homebound. The library offers programs for people of all ages. In fiscal 2015, workforce development remained a priority for the library. Staff offered training to individuals by appointment and in small group settings on résumé assistance, basic computer skills, applying for jobs online, and basic Microsoft Word skills. In cooperation with the Maryland Young Attorney's Pro Bono Committee, the library offered a program on how to expunge a criminal record. Educating the public on the legal requirements of the expungement process may help community members return to the workforce.

The library offered homework help through an online service called "Brainfuse." More than 12,000 people interacted with live tutors specializing in math, science, reading, writing, and social studies. Through an online service called "Learning Express Library," adults received assistance with General Education Development (GED), creating a résumé, and Microsoft Office essential skills. Students of all ages received help with test preparation and occupational exams.

Recognizing the importance of digital literacy in today's society, the library offered digital access to library users, including thousands of e-books and downloadable audio books, through Maryland's Digital eLibrary Consortium. Nearly 6,000 digital magazines were downloaded, and the library launched a YouTube channel, Charles County Library Information For Life. In addition to electronic resources Charles County Public Library customers accessed books, DVDs, MP3s, and books on CD, with circulation remaining in excess of 786,000.

Another valuable service the Library provides is access to free, public computers with high-speed Internet connections and free Wi-Fi. More than 200,000 people used the computers and Wi-Fi, representing a 13 percent increase in use.

Programming

The Charles County Public Library is a vital educational institution providing free, high-quality continuing education for people of all ages. The library engages the community in educational and enriching activities throughout the year. Early literacy is promoted through weekly story times. In addition to the traditional story times, there are a wide variety of enrichment activities for children including Minecraft, rubber-band weaving, Spanish Class for Little Amigos, and Lego Robotics.

In fiscal 2015, the library was able to offer an additional 750 programs, bringing the total to 2,300 classes and programs. During the summer months, the library reinforces reading skills and strives to stop the impact of summer reading decline through a wide array of educational and entertaining programs.

In summer 2014, more than 4,000 parents, children, and teens participated in the Summer Reading Program. The library expanded beyond the traditional summer reading program by offering more classes related to science, technology, engineering and math. One of the more innovative programs was the library's "Game of Drones" program. To celebrate National Teen Tech Week, teens learned to pilot mini quadcopters through an obstacle course in the library. At the end of the flight, participants took a picture with cameras attached to the drones. Teens were taught videography and film editing through The Teen Film Club. Another class for teens taught presentation skills, communication skills, email, cell phone, and social media etiquette. Homeschooled children benefitted from the Homeschool Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math Club.

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

College of Southern Maryland

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) is a regional community college serving Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties. CSM serves more than 25,000 credit and continuing education students at its campuses in Leonardtown, La Plata, and Prince Frederick, and other facilities including the Waldorf Center for Higher Education, Center for Trades and Energy Training (CTET) and Center for Transportation Training in La Plata.

A new regional campus will be located on 74 acres in Hughesville. The campus will provide offerings and programs to serve the entire region in a more cost-effective and convenient way. The master plan, as designed and presented by Grimm + Parker Architects, will create a sense of community and includes five phases of growth. The first phase will be the construction of the CTET, which has outgrown its currently leased 18,000-square-foot facility in Waldorf.

The college's newest facility is the Community Education (CE) Building at the La Plata campus, which opened in fall 2014, and it has earned Silver LEED (Leadership in

Energy and Environmental Design) Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The new building has 48,000 square feet with 18 classrooms, as well as specialized rooms for nursing programs, veterinarian tech, criminal justice, geography, and a Macintosh computer lab. The first green classroom building on the La Plata campus, the CE Building includes expansive daylight in learning spaces and a high-efficiency mechanical and lighting system. Rain gardens and bio filters slow rainwater to clean and recharge the local groundwater aquifers. More than 22 percent energy efficiency and 40 percent water savings are expected.

With tuition and fees about half the cost of a state four-year, public university, CSM offers more than 100 associate and certificate programs, as well as continuing education courses for professional and career development. CSM offers more than 50 guaranteed transfer admission programs and continues to expand these with bachelor-degree institutions to provide a seamless transition. Last year, 1,762 CSM students transferred to 226 different four-year colleges and universities in 45 states and the District of Columbia.

Among its most recent partnerships this year is CSM's dual admission agreement with the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) to bring a seamless transition from the Associate of Science in Nursing to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree to Southern Maryland. CSM partnered with UMSON to design a dual admission program for current or incoming nursing students. Students apply to both schools simultaneously and progress through the nursing program satisfying requirements of both schools. In addition to transfer credits for completed coursework, UMSON will award students 30 credits toward their UMSON BSN upon verification of an active Registered Nurse (RN) license. BSN coursework can be completed through Web hybrid courses taught on-site at CSM by UMSON faculty.

CSM has been recognized by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance. To meet the growing need for information security professionals, CSM joined an international initiative with (ISC)[®] to establish a joint framework for industry-academic cooperation to bridge the workforce gap between the increasing demand for qualified cybersecurity professionals and the amount of skilled professionals entering the industry.





CSM has been designated as a 2015 Military Friendly® School by Victory Media as well as designated as a Top School in the Military Advanced Education 2015 Guide to Colleges and Universities, which measures best practices in military and veteran education. As one of the largest veteran-serving colleges or universities within Maryland, CSM is proud to serve more than 830 military students and their dependents each year. Of these students, more than 50 are active duty military members.

The Nonprofit Institute at the College of Southern Maryland launched an online giving portal, Southern Maryland Gives, to make it easier for the community to support nonprofit organizations' projects. The online hub, at www.southernmarylandgives.org, highlights the nonprofits addressing our region's needs through the environment, historic preservation, humanitarian aid, health, education, arts and culture, youth services and programs, animals, and more.

"Southern Maryland Gives will be a game-changer for many of our region's nonprofits," said CSM President Dr. Bradley Gottfried. "This online giving hub will let

the community know the exact needs of our nonprofits, while enabling people to demonstrate their generosity and to give back to their community. This initiative has truly been a labor of love that came out of a discussion with those in our nonprofit community on how we can better bring together different sectors and individuals. Our hope is that people will visit the site often to give to the local needs that they care about most."

The Diversity Institute at the College of Southern Maryland presented the 2015 Unity in Our Community Diversity Forum, focusing on "Shaping a Stronger Charles County Together." Charles County residents attended the free forum to begin crafting a community action plan. Earlier in the fall, the Diversity Institute presented "A Community Conversation: Searching for Justice and Understanding," which included a panel discussion with youth, parents, law enforcement, educators, and community leaders.

For information about the College of Southern Maryland, [visit www.csmd.edu](http://www.csmd.edu).

REVITALIZING HISTORIC TREASURES

Benedict War of 1812 Enhancements

In 2014, Charles County completed the Benedict Waterfront Village Enhancement Project, including construction of a pedestrian boardwalk and gateway signage/landscaping at the intersection of Route 231 and Benedict Avenue. These enhancements reflect a major capital investment to one of Charles County's most historic communities. The pedestrian boardwalk was completed near the historic center of the village and includes landscaping, benches, and interpretive signage designed and installed by the National Park Service as part of the Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. Completed in August 2014, the boardwalk is now a focal point in Benedict Waterfront Village.

As part of the War of 1812 commemoration, Benedict residents participated in a community beautification contest, decorating their properties with patriotic-themed landscaping and flying the 15-star American flag. The Charles County Garden Club judged the contest. In addition, the Department of Planning and Growth Management and the Charles County Historic Preservation Commission hosted a series of lectures highlighting the role of Benedict during the War of 1812. In August, more than 100 participants attended a village tour offered by local historian Howard Post.





Stagg Hall

Port Tobacco Historic Village Plan

The Port Tobacco Historic Village is the centerpiece of Charles County's heritage tourism. The village plan recommends developing the Courthouse Green into a vibrant, heritage-themed, public lawn and community gathering place lined with a handful of historic and reconstructed buildings. As part of the project, the county is reusing one of Port Tobacco's key historic sites, the 18th century residence known as Stagg Hall. During fiscal 2015, the county worked on acquiring other key Port Tobacco Historic Village land parcels to further the Courthouse Green revitalization and provide visitor-supported services for the village. The county also continued to provide tours and visitor services at Stagg Hall and Burch House, another historic building in the village.

Established in 1727, Port Tobacco's village history spans three centuries. Today, the village includes three surviving 18th century buildings, a reconstructed courthouse, and museum around the remnants of the former public square. The tourism office has two part-time employees at Stagg Hall who provide tours and visitor services on weekends.



Stagg Hall



Early Morning at the Rail Trail

PARKS AND TRAILS

Setting the stage for the much-anticipated development of the **Popes Creek Rail Trail**, Charles County purchased three properties, in partnership with the Trust for Public Land. The county purchased the former (historic) Popes Creek Branch Railroad and several adjacent properties – a total of 220 acres of undeveloped land. This is the location for the county’s next Rails-to-Trails conversion project, and will eventually offer a 2.8-mile recreational trail running from Route 301 to the Potomac River shoreline.



In addition to providing significant outdoor recreational opportunities, these purchases ensure permanent protection for the important tidal marsh, wetlands and mature forested land following this abandoned railroad corridor. The Popes Creek project preserves relevant historical resources, and gives the county another venue for public interpretation and education. All of these attributes have the potential to increase tourism and contribute greatly to economic development efforts.

Another major project moved forward with a county land purchase in fiscal 2015. Charles County acquired a 149-acre land parcel between Chapel Point Road and Port

Tobacco, just south of the historic Port Tobacco Village. The waterfront property will serve as a passive recreational park and as a natural resource protection area. The purchase of land for **Port Tobacco River Park** allows the county to protect the natural, scenic, and historical resources of this riverfront community.

Planned public recreational opportunities include hiking trails, kayak access to the Port Tobacco River, and wildlife viewing areas. Additionally, the park was designed to complement planned enhancements at historic Port Tobacco Village.

As with the Popes Creek Rail Trail land acquisition, this land will allow the county to permanently protect 149 acres of sensitive wetland, tidal marsh, forested uplands and cleared fields that border the Port Tobacco River. Habitats at the boundary of the freshwater and estuarine wetlands will be protected. Opportunities will be available to restore upland forest and increase rainfall run-off filtration. The property serves as an important buffer to the adjacent marshland, and will play a role in efforts to restore a river impaired by past erosion and septic issues.

The Department of the Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Coastal Wetlands Conservation Program and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Program Open Space Fund provided grant funding for both projects.

QUALITY OF LIFE

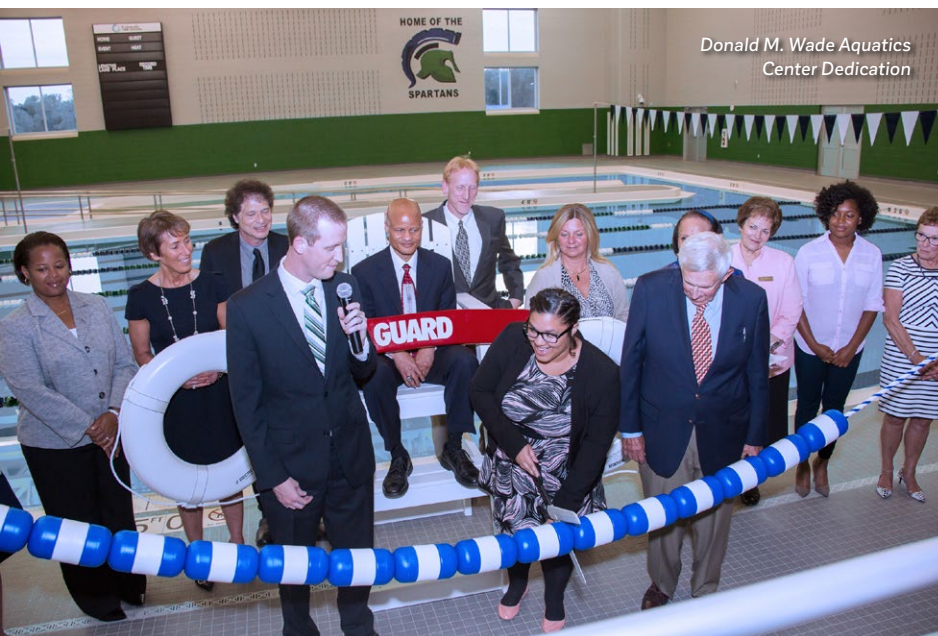
Offering Youth and Family Quality Activities

The Department of Community Services' Recreation Division provides quality sports, recreation, and leisure activities for citizens of all ages. The Recreation Division consists of aquatics, community centers, trips and tours, gymnastics, indoor sports, and summer camp programs.

In partnership with Charles County Public Schools, the Recreation Division operates eight school-based community centers, and six shared-use pools (three indoor and three outdoor pools). The newest indoor pool, the Donald M. Wade Aquatics Center, opened in June 2015 at St. Charles High School in Waldorf. This six-lane, 25-yard pool offers recreational and competitive swimming, along with numerous aquatics programs. Also, the Recreation Division operates two stand-alone facilities, Port Tobacco Recreation Center and Elite Gymnastics and Recreation Center.

The Charles County Commissioners proclaimed May 2015 as Water Safety Month as swimming and aquatic-related activities play a vital role in physical and mental health, and quality of life. During the month, the Recreation Division collected 1,582 individual water safety pledges from residents pledging safe habits around the water and promoting personal water safety.

The division continued to expand program offerings for both youth and adults. Throughout fiscal 2015, participation increased in the following programs: afterschool, aquatic, drop-in, summer camps, gymnastics, leisure classes, fitness activities, special events, and indoor sports programs and leagues.



CHARLES COUNTY VISION 2020

A mission to fight poverty.

The mission of the Charles County Vision 2020 program is to significantly reduce the number of Charles County residents living in poverty, by the year 2020. Ten identified individuals and/or families participate in the program each year to achieve the goal of moving out of poverty and into long-term, sustainable living conditions. The first cohort of participants completed the program in fiscal 2015, and continues to independently work toward personal goals and build upon the success they experienced. The participants celebrated their achievements during a celebration ceremony in April 2015.

The second cohort, selected in fiscal 2014, is currently in their second year of the program and receives assistance from the social worker on a regular basis. In fiscal 2015, a third cohort, comprising 25 children and 15 adults, was selected. Seven adults obtained stable employment since beginning the program.

New in fiscal 2015, Vision 2020 program staff implemented life skills workshops focused on financial awareness and success to further educate participant families on financial management strategies.

The Vision 2020 Advisory Committee, composed of local agency representatives, met monthly with the primary focus of selecting program participants for each cohort. The committee continually seeks ways to enhance the program to better reach and serve the community.

The program enjoyed success in partnering with community organizations and agencies to ensure service continuity for participants. These partnerships allowed program participants to access valuable community resources to meet established goals. Participants obtained employment, learner's permits, driver's licenses, vehicles, stable housing, rental assistance, health insurance, and medical care. Also, participants enrolled and/or completed GED courses and improved school attendance and grades.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Serving Our Senior Citizens

The Aging and Senior Programs Division serves as the designated Area Agency on Aging in Charles County, and as the lead agency for the Maryland Access Point (MAP), a statewide initiative for creating a “no wrong door” for options counseling on long-term care and supportive services for aged and disabled adults. Through a combination of federal, state, and county support, the division assisted 4,298 older adults in fiscal 2015, with a year-end total of 256,153 units of service to senior citizens, disabled adults, and their family caregivers.

In fiscal 2015, the division continued implementation of several federal initiatives aimed at re-balancing Maryland long-term care services and supports. These programs are a ‘win-win’ as they allow frail or disabled adults to receive care services in a home-like setting, but often at significant cost-savings to the state.

The division renewed a successful partnership with the Charles County Department of Health to operate the Western Charles Family Medical Center within the Nanjemoy Community Center. Utilization of the clinic grew steadily, which allowed the division to offer health promotion and disease prevention activities to a wider audience in this geographically isolated area of the county.

Due to the overwhelming success of enhanced day, evening, and weekend outreach activities, a large number of new clients learned about and received assistance with supportive services, benefits coordination, and options counseling. The goal is to serve residents where they naturally gather, and to educate and connect them with county, state, or federal programs that may improve their quality of life.

Senior Centers In Action

The Department of Community Services’ Aging and Senior Programs Division operates four senior centers – located in Waldorf, Indian Head, La Plata, and Nanjemoy – for residents aged 60 or better. The division also operates the Nanjemoy Community Center, which provides recreation, education, health promotion, and community services for children, youth, and families throughout western Charles County. Combined attendance at the four senior centers included 3,455 older adults who participated in a wide array of program options, including: health promotion and fitness, recreation and leisure activities, educational and personal enrichment, weekday lunches, and nutrition education.

Building on a long history of excellence, senior center personnel received awards for outstanding and innovative activity programming. The Indian Head Senior Center received recognition from the National Council on Aging for its innovative program “Creating Art through Patience and Trust.” The Maryland Association of Senior Centers recognized both the Waldorf and Indian Head Senior Centers for programs of excellence. The Waldorf Senior Center received two first place awards, and the Indian Head Senior Center received an honorable mention for excellence in senior activity programming. The programs focused on encouraging seniors to become civic engagement leaders and to share their personal histories.

The division continued to work toward the development of a new senior center in the greater Waldorf area. When this vision is fully realized, the Waldorf Senior Center will serve as a community focal point, uniquely staged to meet the diverse needs of senior residents in the most populated section of the county.



Senior Center Walking Club



Volunteer Recognition Ceremony



Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walk



Early Childhood Day Event

Serving Our Youngest Citizens

The Charles County Advocacy Council for Children, Youth, and Families (Local Management Board) develops a comprehensive array of human services and monitors and evaluates contracts provided by county government and private agencies. In partnership with Charles County Public Schools, the summer meals program operated for a sixth consecutive year, serving more than 15,000 lunches, an increase of more than 60 percent from the prior fiscal year. The summer meals program serves youth, age 18 and under, in communities the State Department of Education identifies as “area eligible.” The program expanded in fiscal 2015 to include a partnership with the Charles County Public Library. For the first time, participants received free books in addition to the free meals. Also, the program modified the meal options at three locations to offer hot meals instead of cold sandwich lunches.

The Summer Youth Achievement Program served 83 middle-school youth through collaboration between the Charles County Sheriff’s Office and Charles County Public Schools. Youth identified as “at-risk” for poor outcomes based on school attendance, disciplinary problems, or low test results are recommended for the program. The youth

enrolled received life skills, were exposed to an anti-bullying curriculum, and participated in field trips.

The Charles County Early Childhood Advisory Council, under the direction of the Charles County Advocacy Council for Children, Youth, and Families, hosted its annual Early Childhood Day. More than 30 vendors offered learning activities for children and families to support the “parents as first teachers” message. There were 685 children and families at the event, which promotes school readiness for youth age five and younger.

In partnership with Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, the Summer Youth Employment Program enrolled 36 youth identified as having, “barriers to success.” Barriers may include teen pregnancy, involvement with the legal system, or low income households. On average, youth enrolled in the program worked 35 hours per week earning a minimum of \$9 per hour. Two youth retained employment beyond the summer months while the remaining youth returned to high school, a General Educational Development (GED) program, or college/technical institute enrollment.

SAFE COMMUNITIES

Charles County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Troy D. Berry leads the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), one of the largest employers in Charles County with more than 600 personnel including police officers, corrections officers, and civilians. Elected in 2014, Sheriff Berry is the first African American to serve as sheriff in the agency's 356-year history.

The mission of the CCSO is to serve the public through superior performance. The protection of life is the agency's highest priority. In fiscal 2015, members of the agency were honored for acts of bravery, which included disarming a suicidal man in one case and apprehending a man who nearly killed his girlfriend and then threatened officers in another case. Corrections officers were honored for saving the lives of inmates with medical emergencies, and many civilian employees were recognized for outstanding work and going above and beyond their regular job duties.

The CCSO is deeply committed to public outreach programs and offers hundreds of events that engage citizens in public safety efforts and positive interaction. During the fiscal year, the agency hosted numerous events including the Torch Run for Special Olympics, a Crime Watch Community Kick-Off, a youth basketball camp, a youth football camp, and a youth baseball camp. In addition, the agency participated in the Relay for Life, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and Shop With a Cop, among other events. In April, detention center employees renovated the yard of a war veteran's 91-year-old widow as part of the Christmas in April program.

The CCSO's community crime prevention programs include Crime Solvers, Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out, and Citizens on Patrol. Other initiatives, such as the School Resource Officers program, the Criminal Justice program, and an Explorers post, help young people learn to make good choices. Each year since 1988, the CCSO has earned the Maryland Governor's Crime Prevention Award for its successful programs.

In December 2014, the agency lost a kind-spirited member of their family. Cpl. Jamel Claggett died in a car crash after finishing his midnight shift. Thousands of people attended funeral services for Cpl. Claggett, who was remembered for his random

acts of kindness. His legacy was highlighted on every single news station in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

The CCSO is headquartered in La Plata with district stations in La Plata, Bryans Road, and Waldorf. As a full service law enforcement agency, the CCSO provides police protection and other law enforcement services for the entire county, and operates the Charles County Detention Center. The agency has mutual aid agreements with the Maryland State Police, La Plata Town Police, Department of Emergency Services, and Calvert and St. Mary's County Sheriffs' Offices, among others. Mutual aid agreements ensure allied agencies work together to address cross jurisdictional public safety issues.

The CCSO earned accreditation from the Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in 2001, and has since earned the Gold Standard of Excellence Award, designating it as one of the best among accredited law enforcement agencies worldwide.





State Patient Tracking Initiative

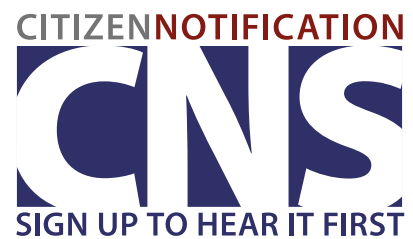
In fiscal 2015, Charles County became the first Maryland jurisdiction to fully implement the state's Patient Tracking Initiative. A grant from the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), enabled the Department of Emergency Services to equip all frontline transport ambulances with new tablet computers with the HC Standard Patient Tracking System. The department worked closely with MIEMSS and their software developer to test and implement this new program. The new patient tracking software is used during a disaster to track patients from the field to the hospital, and eventually assist with family reunification.

Charles County Citizen's Notification System Update

Following an extensive bid process, Charles County Government selected Everbridge, Inc. for its updated emergency notification platform. This new and improved Charles County Citizen Notification System (CNS) allows the county and affiliated agencies to send emergency notifications to residents.

CNS is a software application used to send alerts, notifications, and information to registered users via landline telephones, mobile phones, email, SMS text messages, mobile applications, social media, and website updates. Charles County Government, along with affiliated county agencies, use CNS to send notifications directly to contacts contained in the CNS database. Anyone can sign up to receive notifications about events affecting their home, workplace, school, and other designated locations.

CNS is used for routine, non-emergency notifications as well as during emergency events. In the event of an emergency, CNS will be used



to notify citizens about imminent threats to health and safety. Additionally, CNS allows subscribers to receive automated weather alerts from the National Weather Service. Subscribers can establish a "quiet period" indicating times they do not want to receive alerts. Tornado warnings are the only alerts delivered during the "quiet period." If the location added during registration is within the path of a tornado warning, subscribers will be notified regardless of the time of day.

SAFE COMMUNITIES

Incident Management Team

The Department of Emergency Services develops and implements the Charles County Incident Management Team (IMT). All-hazards IMTs, derived from the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System, started principally after breakdowns in response and recovery efforts to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Charles County's IMT consists of emergency response professionals from the department, the Charles County Sheriff's Office, and the Charles County Volunteer Fireman's Association.

During disasters or large scale pre-planned events, the IMT is asked to help plan and coordinate efforts needed to safely and effectively manage an incident. Most recently, the IMT was called in action for the county's July Fourth celebrations and the annual Charles County Fair.

Emergency Planning Exercises

The Department of Emergency Services engages routinely in exercises to enhance communication, test skills, and emergency response plans. During fiscal 2015, the department's Emergency Management Division, in partnership with the County Government Building security officer and the Charles County Sheriff's Office, conducted an active shooter tabletop exercise. The purpose of the exercise was to test and refresh employees' knowledge from the previous active shooter response training earlier in the year. The exercise focused on employee safety and response, and included discussions on what to do in the event of an active shooter situation in the County Government Building (according to the county's Building Emergency Plan); and how employees would be notified of the event.

Facilitators shared and discussed multiple scenarios with County Government building employees. The scenarios were limited to active shooters in the building. This exercise taught County Government building employees how to protect themselves and their fellow employees during active assailant events to ensure a more disaster-resilient work force.

In September 2014, the department participated in the southern region 2014 tabletop exercise, a four-hour activity including facilitated and break out discussions, grouped by campus. Participants included county, state and federal agencies, and private sector partners, working in Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. Attendees consisted of individuals that would have a response role during an active shooter-related incident. The exercise provided a learning environment for participants to exercise emergency response plans, policies, and procedures pertaining to a coordinated armed assault at the College of Southern Maryland's three campuses.

A two-phased approach, the exercise will conclude with a full-scale exercise in November 2015. The full-scale exercise will further refine and coordinate response resources for the three local jurisdiction emergency response agencies.

Training Captain

In fiscal 2015, the Department of Emergency Services hired a new training captain. When the new captain started, there were 31 Emergency Services and the Charles County Sheriff's Office dispatchers. Some of the dispatchers' certifications had expired. The captain redeveloped the training program, renewed dispatcher certifications, and coordinated expiration dates so certifications are now due on the same month and day, which simplified tracking. Supervisors and level two dispatchers are now required to attend the Charles County Government Leadership Academy training, to promote advanced education for staff. Also, the captain created a five-week basic training academy, which all new dispatchers must complete before they are allowed to begin live training in the 9-1-1 center. The basic academy includes completion of the state-mandated Emergency Telecommunicator class; the National Academy of Emergency Dispatch training for police, fire, and medical; and state licensure. Once a dispatcher is ready to transition to live training, they are paired with a Captain Training Officer (CTO) for nine months of advanced training.

Most recently, the captain initiated a quality assurance/improvement program. The program allowed staff to identify service areas that meet or exceed benchmarks for performance and areas where immediate improvements can be made.

Since the addition of a training captain to the staff team, the department received positive feedback regarding new dispatcher proficiency. New dispatchers are much better prepared to train in the fast-paced environment of a 9-1-1 center. Adding a captain and additional dispatchers resulted in positive outcomes such as enhanced and improved service to internal and external customers.



Hands Only CPR

In fiscal 2015, the Department of Emergency Services trained more than 25,000 residents in life-saving Hands Only CPR. Hands Only CPR is a new technique involving no mouth-to-mouth contact. It is best used in emergencies where someone has seen another person suddenly collapse. The Hands Only CPR technique increases the likelihood of surviving cardiac emergencies occurring outside of medical settings.

The Hands Only CPR program started as a public outreach and education initiative in fiscal 2014, Charles County's program, which was modeled after a similar program in Seattle, has reached new levels of success. Supported by the county's Safety Office, Hands Only CPR was taught to every Charles County Government employee and to residents interested in learning this skill. The department's unofficial motto is, "if you give us five minutes, we can teach you to save a life."

Memorandum of Understanding for Shelter of Vulnerable Populations

The Charles County Commissioners, Department of Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, Department of Health, Department of Social Services, and Lifestyles of Maryland Foundation, Inc., established a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOU sets forth each agency's responsibilities regarding protecting vulnerable populations during extreme weather events.

The County Commissioners wanted the departments to implement a "freezing weather plan." The agencies involved determined a freezing weather plan alone was insufficient, and elected to establish an MOU instead, which addresses potential gaps in shelter provisions for vulnerable populations.

The agencies executed the MOU in May 2014 and placed it into action for the first time in fall 2014. Since that time the agencies met twice to further refine standard operating procedures to ensure all MOU requirements are met.

SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING



County Funded Housing Programs

The Department of Community Services' Housing Authority administers programs to assist low- and moderate-income residents. In fiscal 2015, staff continued outreach efforts to inform residents about the Rural Housing Initiative, which provides financial assistance for home and indoor plumbing repairs. Flier distribution to more than 750 residents resulted in more than 200 inquiries.

Consulting firm BAE Urban Economics completed a housing stock study in fiscal 2015 to assess current Charles County housing availability and examine housing inventory supply and demand compared with income. BAE submitted the study to the Housing Authority Board for review and comments. Followed by a presentation from BAE on the study's findings, the County Commissioners adopted the study, which showed the county's current housing market is affordable with many housing options available for median family income households. Also, the study showed despite overall affordable housing conditions affordability challenges remain for the lowest income households and some higher income homeowners.

Charles County's Settlement Expense Loan Program (SELP) provides up to \$6,000 in settlement expense assistance to first-time home buyers. Staff processed nine SELP loans totaling \$54,000.

The Robert J. Fuller House, a 21-bed, men's emergency and transitional living facility owned by Charles County Government, provided more than

3,860 bed nights and assisted 51 men during the fiscal year. An on-site vendor manages the Fuller House and provides individualized case management to assist residents in obtaining permanent housing.

Another county-owned property, Martha's Place, is a three-bedroom transitional house providing supportive living services for women and children experiencing homelessness. During the fiscal year, 12 individuals stayed more than 2,190 bed nights at Martha's Place.

On September 20, 2014, the Housing Authority Board, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, hosted a six-hour foreclosure prevention workshop at the College of Southern Maryland's La Plata campus. Housing counselors, attorneys, and loan services talked with attendees about how foreclosure can be prevented and how Maryland's foreclosure prevention laws affect them. More than 64 households were represented at the workshop.



State Funded Programs

The Housing Authority administers programs funded through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to assist homeowners, home buyers, and local homeless shelters.

The State Special Loans Program offers low- and no-interest loans to eligible homeowners for housing rehabilitation projects or total home replacements. In certain cases, loans may be deferred completely until the property is sold or transferred. Housing rehabilitation such as new plumbing, windows, or doors can be financed. In limited cases, grants pay for indoor plumbing installation in substandard units. In fiscal 2015, the Housing Authority helped settle more than \$287,600 in rehabilitation loans.

The Housing Authority received more than \$123,250 – a record amount – for the Emergency Solutions Grant program. The funds were used to manage two emergency and transitional housing facilities and one homeless prevention program. Additionally, the Housing Authority received a Community Development Block Grant of \$250,000 for down payment financial assistance to low- and moderate-income home buyers. Assistance of \$15,000 per household is available to 16 eligible home buyers.

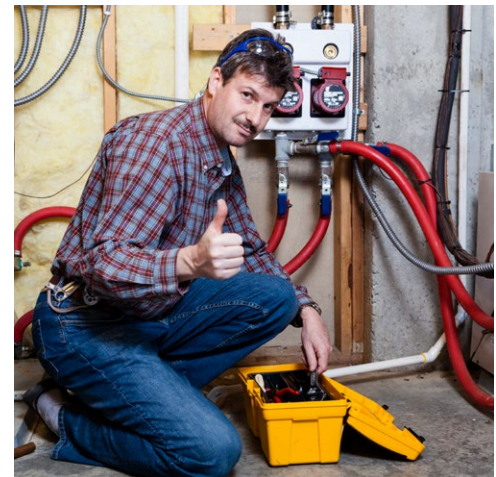
DHCD awarded the Housing Authority \$100,000 in Neighborhood Conservation Initiative funds to give home buyers between \$15,000 and \$40,000 in down payment assistance, based on family income. Three home buyers received a total of \$45,000 in down payment assistance during the 2015 fiscal year.



Federally Funded Programs

The Housing Authority administers a Housing Choice Voucher Program, funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In excess of \$9 million in Housing Choice Voucher program funds supported approximately 810 low-income households with monthly rental assistance. More than 90 individuals were new program participants in fiscal 2015.

A small number of Housing Choice Voucher program participants became homeowners under the program. Monthly assistance payments are made towards the homeowner's mortgage. Participants eligible for the homeownership program must have sufficient income to obtain mortgage financing through an independent lender.



PUBLIC HEALTH

University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center

The University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center (UM CRMC) is a regional, not-for-profit, integrated health system serving Charles County and the surrounding areas of southern Maryland. The 110-bed medical center is a member of the University of Maryland Medical System. In fiscal 2015, UM CRMC achieved several milestones and completed enhancements, such as:

Awards

UM CRMC received the Joint Commission's Top Performer on Key Quality Measures award for the third consecutive year, for exemplary performance in evidence-based clinical processes shown to improve outcomes for heart failure, pneumonia, and surgical care. Also, for the second consecutive year, UM CRMC received The Delmarva Foundation Excellence Award for Quality Improvement for hospitals that excel in patient safety and quality improvement. The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association awarded UM CRMC with its "Get With the Guidelines: Stroke Gold-Plus Quality Achievement Award" and "Target: Stroke Honor Roll" for implementing quality improvement measures to reduce death and disability for stroke patients.

The hospital won Workplace Excellence and the Health and Wellness Seal of Approval awards from the Alliance for Workplace Excellence for outstanding commitment to overall workplace quality and employee health and wellness. This award was received for the 11th consecutive year.

The Center for Wound Healing at UM CRMC received two honors in 2015. First, the center was recognized as a Center for Distinction for the third consecutive year by meeting high quality standards for Healogics, Inc. This recognition is awarded to only 172 of 506 centers nationally. Also, by achieving this milestone, the center was awarded the prestigious Robert A. Warriner III, M.D., Center of Excellence Award.

Birthing Center Renovations

In May 2015, UM CRMC completed the first part of the two-phased \$1.2 million birthing center renovation project, which equips the post-partum unit with centralized nursing care, all private patient rooms and advanced specialized equipment.

Power Upgrade

UM CRMC received a \$2 million Federal Emergency Management Agency grant to replace three emergency generators and automatic transfer switches, which will ensure the hospital can continue providing critical services during extended power outages.

Business Development

The University of Maryland Charles Regional Rehabilitation Center opened in March 2015 offering sports and orthopedic rehabilitation services in an outpatient setting. The facility is part of the University of Maryland's Rehabilitation Network.

Community Health

UM CRMC completed a comprehensive county Community Health Needs Assessment survey in March 2015. The assessment identified Charles County residents' top health needs, and will serve as a benchmark for community health improvement initiatives over the next three years.





Department of Health

The Charles County Department of Health works to improve and renew community health services for county residents. Public health provides services that may not be otherwise available in Charles County. Services provided include: soil and water testing, restaurant inspection, septic and sewer inspections, communicable disease detection and investigation, prenatal care counseling and classes, behavioral health counseling, oversight of mental health and disability services, competency assessment of the aging, vaccinations and immunizations for all ages, and health education. The Western County Family Medical Center is a model for locally supported medical clinics for residents in medically underserved communities. All of these services are vital for the health of a community.

The department's dental clinic continues to be a community necessity. The clinic provides dental services five days a week to children and adults. During the past year, clinic staff performed 1,972 adult treatments and 6,681 child treatments. Also, the clinic provides oral health education, fluoride and sealant treatments, and oral health screening for children at Title I schools. Oral health screenings are offered at community events.

Recent concern over opioid use prompted the department to take action in response to this issue. The department worked with agency partners to convene countywide drug forums, and developed and implemented an opiate prevention plan. The department trained the Charles County Sheriff's Office and the La Plata Town Police in the use of Narcan, a medication used to treat overdose victims. The Substance Use Services Division provided additional assistance to county detention center residents and the Family Recovery Court.

Public health emergency preparedness was an area of robust activity during the past year. The department sponsored a Forensic Epidemiology and Bioterrorism Training for county agencies. The recent Ebola virus outbreak prompted a review and update of communicable disease procedures with other county response agencies. The department participated in a multi-agency preparedness exercise sponsored by the College of Southern Maryland. The Charles County Department of Health continues to seek new and innovative methods to improve the health of all residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

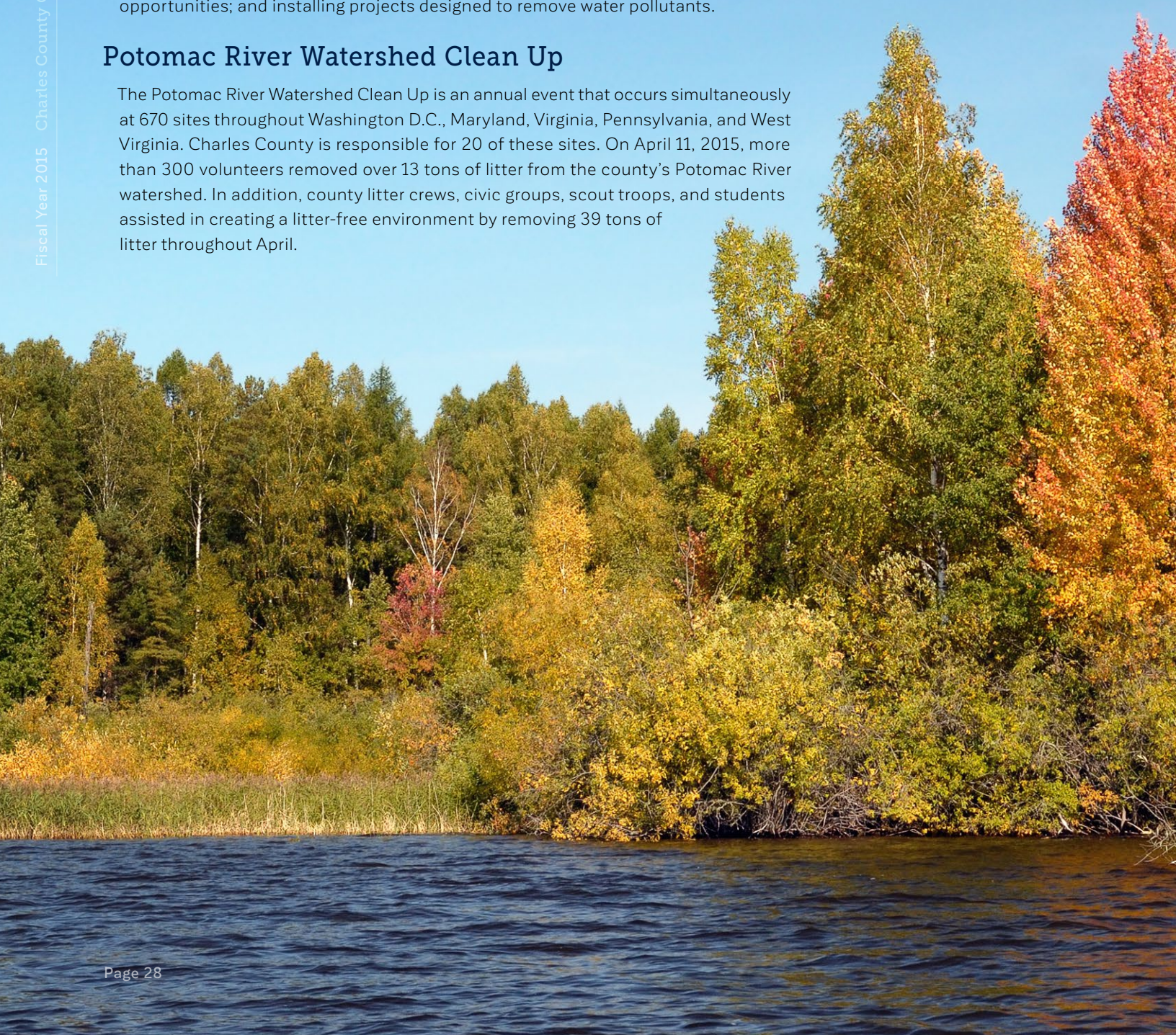
Protecting Sensitive Waterways

Protecting sensitive waterways is a local priority funded by the Watershed Protection and Restoration budget of \$2.1 million in fiscal 2015. These funds are set aside to support programs that protect local waterways.

Some of the ways the Department of Planning and Growth Management works to protect waterways include: preventing illicit discharges caused by businesses and homes; sweeping streets and cleaning drainage inlets to keep silt and trash out of the streams; inspecting stormwater management facilities to ensure they are maintained and function properly; monitoring stream water quality; training staff in pollution prevention; conducting stream walks to determine watershed restoration needs and opportunities; and installing projects designed to remove water pollutants.

Potomac River Watershed Clean Up

The Potomac River Watershed Clean Up is an annual event that occurs simultaneously at 670 sites throughout Washington D.C., Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Charles County is responsible for 20 of these sites. On April 11, 2015, more than 300 volunteers removed over 13 tons of litter from the county's Potomac River watershed. In addition, county litter crews, civic groups, scout troops, and students assisted in creating a litter-free environment by removing 39 tons of litter throughout April.





Environmental Resources Outreach Event

The Departments of Public Works and Planning and Growth Management collaborated with University of the Maryland's Extension Office to provide compost and rain barrel workshops as part of a larger Environmental Resources Outreach event to include free document shredding. During the event, residents learned green practices and created environmentally-friendly household items. The May 2 event marked the first rain barrel workshops provided to residents. Attendees purchased more than 70 rain barrels. In the compost workshops, enthusiasts and beginners constructed a compost bin and learned how to compost.

The shred event was again a successful effort. More than 190 cars dropped off paper (up to five boxes per vehicle). In all, 6.25 tons of paper were shredded and recycled.

PLANNING AND SMART GROWTH



Comprehensive Plan

After several years of public debate and revisions, the next phase of the draft Comprehensive Plan started. The county made revisions, including incorporating a state-regulated “tier map,” which limits development in areas not served by public sewer systems. The map is consistent with the Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act. In addition, the new draft Comprehensive Plan further protects the Mattawoman Creek stream valley by establishing a new watershed conservation land use district. The plan promotes smart growth, transit, historic village revitalization plans, and economic development.

The State of Maryland provided review comments on the draft Comprehensive Plan, moving the plan forward for review and approval by the Planning Commission. Once the Planning Commission transmits a certified version of the Comprehensive Plan to the County Commissioners, the Commissioners will consider the revised plan and decide if additional changes are needed before final adoption.

Indian Head Joint Land Use Study

In 2014, Charles County Government started a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for the Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head. The study is a cooperative effort between Charles County, the Town of Indian Head, and NSF Indian Head to identify land use compatibility issues confronting the civilian community and the naval base. The goal of the study is to recommend strategies for addressing issues in the context of the county’s and town’s planning policies. The study is funded by a grant from the Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA).

NSF Indian Head is one of the county’s most important economic assets. The JLUS is a key tool to help ensure the continued viability of the base’s mission and, at the same time, to protect the surrounding community. In fiscal 2015, the county, with assistance from study committees, consultants, and the public, developed draft recommended strategies to address compatibility issues found during the study. A report was drafted and circulated for review. Once the report is approved by the study’s policy committee, it will be presented to the Planning Commission and County Commissioners for adoption.

Preserving the County's Working Farm and Forest Land

In November 2014, the Commissioners approved the Charles County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. PDR program development has been a long standing recommendation in the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan. The established PDR program allows Charles County Government to purchase and retire transferrable development rights from willing sellers, preserving productive agricultural and forest land for future generations. The program augments the private market for transferrable development rights by providing an additional funding source and market for their sale.

The PDR program is an additional preservation tool in the span of Charles County's existing land preservation programs, including the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, Rural Legacy, and Transferrable Development Rights Programs. Collectively, these programs permanently preserved 16,387 acres of farm and forest land in rural areas.



PLANNING AND SMART GROWTH

Hughesville Village Revitalization Plan

In 2007, the County Commissioners adopted the Hughesville Village Revitalization Plan to address economic development and design improvements in the county's largest village. The plan provides a market analysis, urban design, streetscape, and adaptive reuse recommendations to improve the village's overall appearance, help existing businesses, and attract new business and investment.

The county is moving forward with implementing the plan. The county is working on a package treatment plant project to evaluate public sewer service alternatives. In fiscal 2015, the county began rewriting the Zoning Code to enhance infill development opportunities and improve design. The State Highway Administration, in partnership with Charles County Government and the community, began a project to provide an attractive streetscape for Old Leonardtown Road, the historic "Main Street" of Hughesville. During the same fiscal year, the county received a State Community Legacy grant to renovate the façade of one of the village's key historic tobacco warehouses and provide an adjacent public plaza.

Building and Floodplain Code Update

Charles County adopted an updated Floodplain Management Ordinance in fall 2014. The update allows the county to continue property owner participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released maps in 2015 to address new flood elevations throughout Charles County. In order to use the maps, the Commissioners needed to approve an amended Floodplain Management Ordinance. The Commissioners requested staff review the possibility of the county participating in the Community Rating System based on the final phase of revised FEMA flood insurance rate maps.

The Commissioners approved an ordinance updating the Charles County Building Code to implement the 2015 International Construction Code. This action included adopting the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code, which sets forth the latest energy efficiency requirements for new construction in Charles County. The Building Code update addressed issues associated with safety, sewage backflow, and fire sprinkler standards for existing and new structures.

Enforcement of County Nuisance Abatement Rules with Clean and Lien Program

The Department of Planning and Growth Management plays a major role in addressing Charles County property maintenance concerns. Based on the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance, complaints increased, requiring the Nuisance Abatement Board to meet monthly to address the county's nuisance and property maintenance complaints. The board's case load increased significantly, a steady rise since 2011. Charles County is authorized to implement "clean and lien" standards for Zoning Ordinance, Building Code, and Nuisance Abatement Ordinance violations. The number of clean and lien properties increased to 90 between July 2014 and June 2015. To implement cleanups on violation sites, the county paid more than \$100,000 to companies hired to address nuisance-related issues.

As part of the county's adoption of the 2015 International Construction Codes, and part of the Charles County Building Code update, the county re-adopted the International Property Maintenance Code. This code is used to address property standards for complaints before the Nuisance Abatement Board, and property maintenance complaints faster using the board instead of the lengthier court process.

The Codes, Permits, and Inspections Services (CPIS) Division continued to monitor a web-based complaint system for residents to submit emails on properties with property maintenance, zoning, or drainage issues. In fiscal 2015, CPIS processed 144 web-based complaints. This program helps to identify problem properties and initiate nuisance or zoning violation cases. Also, the Department of Planning and Growth Management adjusted the process so complaints received by the Commissioner's office qualify for consideration as a nuisance-related complaint, improving the timeliness of response.

INFRASTRUCTURE: SEWER

Sewer Infrastructure

The Capital Services Division continued to address wastewater management in the interest of public safety. In fiscal 2015, the division started or completed a number of projects central to maintaining the county's sewer systems.

Piney Branch Interceptor Capacity Upgrade

Phase two of the Piney Branch Interceptor Sewer Capacity Upgrade project was designed and permitted in 2010, along with phase one. The Capital Services Division contracted additional services to secure a new Army Corps of Engineers permit, which had expired, and to provide additional protection measures to minimize impacts to forested wetlands.

JP Morgan Court Sewer Rehabilitation

The JP Morgan Court sewer needed repair due to a partially collapsed sewer run and because it was contributing considerable amounts of hydrogen sulfide to the Mattawoman Interceptor Sewer system. The Capital Services Division managed the design and repair of this sewer, which eliminated the threat of future collapse and eliminated the excess hydrogen sulfide being produced due to the flat and reverse grade of the sewer line. The division completed the project in June 2015 at a cost of \$733,000.

MD Route 5 Pump Station Force main

The Route 5 pump station force main is under design to redirect flows from the Route 5 Pump Station to the St. Mark's Pump Station. This will free up 150,000 gallons per day in the Route 5 pump station, which in turn will allow for an equivalent amount of capacity for the Waldorf Urban Redevelopment Corridor. Completion of the design is scheduled for December 2015.

Mattawoman Inflow and Infiltration Implementation

The Mattawoman Sewer Service Area comprises northern Charles County and a portion of southern Prince George's County. The major interceptors transporting wastewater to the Mattawoman Wastewater Treatment Plant are the Mattawoman Interceptor, the Piney Branch Interceptor, and the Bryans Road Interceptor sewers. The first portion of the sewer system, which was constructed in the late 1950s, is made of asbestos cement pipe. The entire sewer system is comprised of asbestos cement, PVC, and ductile iron pipes ranging in size from six to 66 inches. Operating expenses experienced an increase of three times the normal flow during wet weather, which indicates significant inflow and infiltration exists in the system.

To address the inflow and infiltration issue, the Capital Services Division performed a thorough evaluation and assessment of the existing sewer system, and developed a schedule of recommended prioritized rehabilitation projects to reduce the inflow and infiltration within the Mattawoman Interceptor Sewer service area. The project will address the inflow and infiltration problem by phasing in improvements within sub sewer areas.

Bryans Road Interceptor Rehabilitation

The Bryans Road Interceptor sewer was identified as contributing 0.9 million gallons per day of inflow and infiltration to the Mattawoman Interceptor sewer. The Bryans Road Interceptor rehabilitation project will repair areas of the Bryans Road Interceptor contributing to inflow and infiltration. When complete, this project will save up to \$2,046 per day in wastewater treatment costs.

Bryans Road Sewer Improvements

The Capital Services Division is managing the Bryans Road Sewer Infrastructure Improvements project, which consists of designing and constructing approximately two miles of gravity sewer along Route 224 and Bumpy Oak Road. When complete, this sewer will also serve the Maryland Airport in Indian Head.

Bryans Road Well #7

In August 2014, the Capital Services Division completed construction of a water production well in Bryans Road. The addition of this well to the Bryans Road water system ensures adequate capacity and pressure. The project cost \$740,000, with \$650,000 funded by a grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Maryland Department of the Environment.

The Water Resources Advisory Committee recommended the Bryans Road Well #7 project to arrest water level decline in the Bryans Road and Indian Head areas. Use of these highly productive Patuxent Aquifer wells reduces water withdrawals from the Lower Patapsco Aquifer, which private wells also use for water supply. This project consisted of an engineering evaluation, design, and construction of a new well on MD 224 near MD 227, and a new water line along MD 227 to connect to the existing Bryans Road water system.

INFRASTRUCTURE: WATER

Providing Safe Drinking Water and Efficient Treatment of Wastewater

The Department of Public Works' Utilities Division now has responsibility for the county's largest pump station, one of the largest in Maryland. The 3B Pump Station will dramatically improve wastewater management supporting St. Charles and surrounding areas. Also, in the Waldorf area, the division conducted annual water hydrant flushing without incident. Hydrant flushing ensures residents have safe, clean, potable water. As an added safety measure, in-house lab staff performed enhanced water testing, which ensures compliance with federal and state regulations.

The Utilities Division, which is centrally located at the Mattawoman Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) implemented significant improvements at the plant. For example, new barscreens were constructed and installed at the Mattawoman WWTP's influent point. The system ensures continuous and uninterrupted inflow, while removing debris. In addition, the fiber optic ring surrounding the Mattawoman WWTP was installed, a first step towards automating the facility. The fiber optic ring will provide operational staff with information remotely concerning equipment status and control. Also, the division replaced the truck weighing scale and upgraded the scale's software. The truck weighing system generates revenue as waste haulers utilize the Mattawoman WWTP to dispose of wastewater.

The Cliffton and Bel Alton WWTP facilities received upgrades. A new tank was installed at the Cliffton plant.

The Bel Alton WWTP was covered to ensure more consistent temperatures, which is critical for proper chemical interaction.

Other activities included staff completing the third phase of the meter change-out program, which involved installing wireless meter reading capability. Also, the division improved compliance inspection levels for the cross-connection control program, which reinforces the county's drinking water safety in conjunction with the pre-treatment program, which reduces restaurant grease, flammable liquids, toxic chemicals, and other harmful pollutants in the wastewater system. The Utilities Division brought all of its initial 33 Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition sites online. This change allows staff to remotely receive information and alarms about conditions at well-water and sewer pump station locations. During the winter season, the Utilities Division worked tirelessly to repair 37 water main breaks and several sewer line breaks, keeping water and wastewater facilities operating despite inclement weather.

As part of Utilities Division's administrative management responsibility for a nearly \$30 million operating budget, the financial support group implemented new tracking systems for all expenditures. The financial team finds the best prices and rates for contracts and supplies, while supporting Charles County businesses.

Cliffton Wastewater Treatment Plant





Swan Point Tower

Water Towers

The Department of Planning and Growth Management explores repair and maintenance programs to address stormwater management, sidewalk repairs, sink holes, erosion, private roads, rural water supply, and other private property where issues of public safety exist. In fiscal 2015, the department made the following progress on water infrastructure efforts:

Swan Point Tower Rehabilitation

The Swan Point Tower Rehabilitation project involves performing repairs to the existing 400,000 gallon steel spheroid tank located off Abelia Court in Issue. The tower was built in 1991, and has not been rehabilitated for more than 20 years. Needed repairs include: repainting the tank interior/exterior; fixing concrete and welding; roof vent and manhole replacement; interior ladder replacement; new cathodic protection; and painting the Swan Point logo.

Chapel Point Water Tower Relocation Feasibility Study

The county is conducting a feasibility study on the relocation of the Chapel Point Water Tower. An existing tower at the Waldorf Fire House, built in the early 1960s, has not been in service for several years. The 200,000-gallon steel pedestal tower still has years of useable life with some rehabilitation work, but is not needed for the Waldorf water system. If feasible and cost-effective, relocating the tank to the Chapel Point system, at or near the Jude House county-owned well site off of Crain Highway, will provide consistent pressure and fire flow capacity and protection to the community.

Waldorf Tower# 6 (Site Design & Waterline Extension)

Waldorf Tower #6 project involves preparing project drawings and specifications to construct a waterline extension, and civil site design to supply potable water to a proposed two-million-gallon, elevated storage tower. Once constructed, the tower will supplement existing peak demand storage and fire suppression storage in the Waldorf service area, and will connect to the Waldorf Water System via an existing 16-inch water main located along Billingsley Road.

Smallwood Drive East Tower Rehabilitation

The county received bids in April 2015 for constructing/rehabilitating the Smallwood Drive East Water Tower, located off of Smallwood Drive in Waldorf. The project will repair the existing two-million-gallon, multi-leg elevated water tank. The project involves cleaning and repainting the tank, installing a new cathodic protection system, miscellaneous metal and site work repairs, pipe insulation, electrical improvements, and safety upgrades to the tower leg ladder.

Bensville Water Tower #8 Feasibility Study

According to the 2008 Water and Sewer Engineering and Operations Plan, a new, two-million-gallon water tower will be required for Bensville by 2020. It is anticipated the new tower will be a composite structure located at a site off Route 229 (Bensville Road). A feasibility study will evaluate three potential sites.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

Roads Improvements

The Department of Planning and Growth Management's Capital Services Division strives to provide Charles County residents with cost efficient and safe infrastructure and resources for the community's improvement. If there is construction underway in Charles County unrelated to commercial or residential development, chances are it is the Capital Services Division at work. In 2014, the division began and completed a number of traffic signal and roadway projects to improve county road safety.

Billingsley Road

The Department of Planning and Growth Management directed a study to determine where safety improvements were needed along the Billingsley Road corridor from Middletown Road to Route 210. Staff reviewed previous traffic alternatives as viable optional routes for Billingsley Road traffic. The department performed an investigation that addressed multiple needs: identified substandard roadway segments; identified and categorized needed improvements in correlation with recent crash data; completed a road safety evaluation; and prioritized segments requiring improvements.

The road safety evaluation found general strategies to improve overall corridor safety.

The strategies range from low to moderate costs and would take from 60 days to a year to complete. Activities would include: installing additional roadway caution signage; removing tree and stump obstructions; cleaning existing driveway and roadway culverts; maintaining existing roadside ditches; installing rumble strips; widening shoulder areas and/or pavement; and correcting roadway drainage problems.

Also, the Road Safety Evaluation pinpointed several geometric improvement strategies to improve overall corridor safety.

Mill Hill Road Upgrade

Based on the adopted fiscal 2015 budget, the Mill Hill Road upgrade was downsized from four lanes to two, and design continued on road safety improvements from Davis Road to Devonfield Avenue. The Capital Services Division managed the design of the road improvements, and anticipates construction will start in fall 2015. When complete, this project will bring this portion of Mill Hill Road up to County Road Ordinance standards. The estimated project cost is \$3.4 million.

Western Parkway Phase 2

The department continued to work on Western Parkway Phase 2 road improvements, which will upgrade Western Parkway from Acton Lane to Pierce Road. Design and permitting is complete, and land acquisitions are ongoing. When completed, Western Parkway Phase 2 will provide the second of three links for a local bypass of Route 301 from the northern county line to St. Patrick's Drive.

Western Parkway Phase 3

The Capital Services Division continued to work with a developer to complete a memorandum of understanding concerning the design and construction of the Western Parkway Phase 3 road improvements project. This project will extend Western Parkway from Pierce Road to Route 301 north of Mattawoman Drive. When completed, the road will provide the final link for a local bypass of Route 301 from the northern county line to St. Patrick's Drive.



Fiscal Year 2015 Snow Removal

The Department of Public Works' Roads Division mobilized and responded to 11 winter weather events in fiscal 2015, ranging from freezing rain to several inches of snow. The first storm began on Jan. 6, 2015, and the final storm was on March 19, 2015. This year was an eventful season producing a total of 26 inches of snow and ice. The department spent an estimated \$1.8 million to clean up more than 2,000 county roads. The department managed a contract fleet of dump trucks, 4-by-4 trucks, tractors, and small equipment to keep roads safe and passable for motorists.

Neighborhood Traffic Calming

The Department of Planning and Growth Management played an important role in reviewing the County Road Ordinance. Staff reviewed private road standards to implement the state land use legislation's new seven-lot minor subdivision criteria. Draft legislation was presented to the Planning Commission for review before moving forward to the Commissioners.

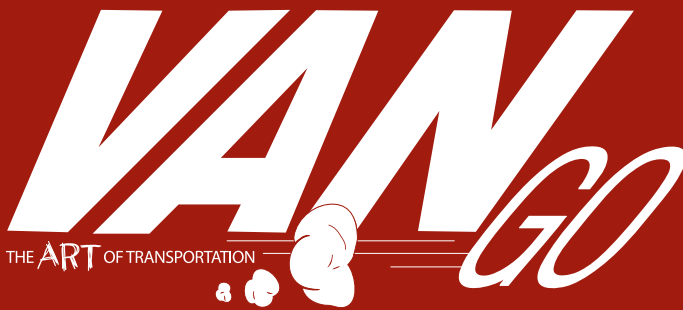
Last fiscal year, a Neighborhood Traffic Calming program was established by legislation. Members of a task force joined staff in reviewing traffic calming programs in other area locations. Based upon this research and staff support, the task force presented the Commissioners with recommendations to address speed and safety concerns in existing and future neighborhoods. Staff drafted amendments to the Road Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to implement design recommendations in fiscal 2015. With the approved legislation, the county will apply traffic calming standards to new development projects and start the process to implement a petition program for implementing traffic calming in existing neighborhoods in a fiscally prudent manner.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Analysis Zones Update

When most people think of demographics and growth projections, they think in terms of census tracts. However, when Charles County Government plans for infrastructure expansions or enhancements, more detailed analysis is needed. For this level of detail, most jurisdictions use smaller geographic areas known as Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZ). Originally used for macro-level transportation planning, TAZs are now used for any type of infrastructure planning, including water and sewer planning, landfill waste generation, and school capacity planning.

The TAZ process begins with existing population, households, and commercial use information by zone. Next, projections in each zone are completed based on growth and development activity indicators. The projections are used to analyze the impacts of growth across the county and to plan for necessary enhancements to infrastructure. Enhancements may include roadway expansions, water and sewer improvements, and landfill or recycling programs. In fiscal 2015, the Department of Planning and Growth Management completed an update of all Charles County TAZs, including new projections to the year 2040. TAZs are powerful tools using on-the-ground data to plan for future needs.



Public Transit

VanGO public transit services transported more than 900,000 passengers in combined fixed-route and specialized, door-to-door services during fiscal 2015. Throughout the year, VanGO operated 83,000 hours of service, traveling more than 1.6 million miles.

In cooperation with St. Mary's and Calvert counties, the county developed specifications for a light duty bus and initiated a competitive bid process resulting in a multiple-year contract award. Combining purchasing efforts guaranteed a larger quantity of buses than each county could acquire individually, and realized a savings of 10 percent over previous

small bus purchases. The buses will be used to support specialized, door-to-door VanGO service for Charles County's elderly and disabled residents.

In January, VanGO added a route serving the new community of Gleneagles South, St. Charles High School, and Regency Furniture Stadium. The rapid development of Gleneagles South, combined with opening of the new high school, created demand for adding a new route. At the same time, the Indian Head service schedule increased in frequency from 1.5 hours to a bus every hour throughout the day.



Precision Concrete Cutting

DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT SIDEWALK AND CURB REPAIRS

The Department of Public Works' Roads Division dedicated \$150,000 in budgeted funds to removing and replacing lifted and damaged sidewalk panels. Work was completed in the following neighborhoods:

Neighborhood	Panels
Ashford	15
Streamview	41
Bannister	144
Carrington	34
Charles Crossing	35
Dorchester Greens	45
Fox Run	44
White Oak	55
Wakefield	93
Pinefield	228
Sentry Woods	50
Worthington	41
Somerset	75

The Roads Division continued to use new sidewalk repair technology – called Precision Concrete Cutting. This allows sidewalks to be repaired without removal. Precision Concrete Cutting saves the county approximately 60 percent as compared to conventional removal and replacement techniques. Precision Concrete Cutting technology was used in the following neighborhoods:

Neighborhood	Panels
Wakefield	242
Pinefield	503

Maintenance of county sidewalks is important to reduce trip hazards that could result in injury.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

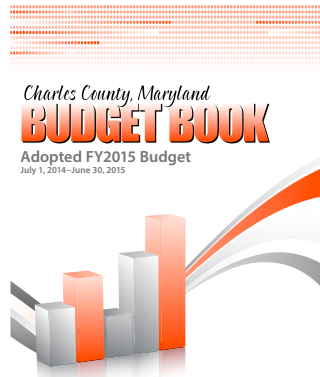
The Department of Fiscal and Administrative Services is responsible for the county's financial and technological services. The department's goal is to effectively and efficiently manage Charles County Government's fiscal operations based on sound, comprehensive, short- and long-term fiscal policies. The department consists of five divisions: Accounting, Budget, Information Technology, Purchasing, and Treasury.

Accounting Division

The Accounting Division is responsible for processing payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, risk management, and general accounting functions, including water and sewer billing. For the 13th consecutive year, the Accounting Division received the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for the fiscal 2014 Consolidated Annual Financial Report.

Budget Division

The Budget Division develops the annual budget and five-year capital improvement projects' plan, and monitors revenues and expenditures. For the 19th consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada awarded the Budget Division the Certificate of Distinguished Budget Presentation award for the fiscal 2015 budget book. The certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental budgetary reporting. To receive the award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, operation guide, financial plan, and communication device. The budget book contains approximately 500 pages, and is available in local public libraries and on the county's website, www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/fas. The budget book provides descriptions of county programs and dedicated funds, in addition to facts, figures, and historical information.



Purchasing Division

The Purchasing Division is responsible for: conducting formal procurement of commodities, equipment, services, and construction; overseeing county departments' non-formal procurement, over which the County Commissioners exercise expenditure control; disposing of surplus property; and overseeing the Minority Business Enterprise program.

Also, the division administers the Small Local Business Enterprise program, implemented in fiscal 2013, including: developing policies and procedures, conducting marketing and outreach, processing and registering applicants, ensuring inclusion in formal and non-formal procurement, and monitoring performance.

Treasury Division

The Treasury Division collects and invests county funds, excluding pension plans. The division administers and collects county property taxes, and taxes for the incorporated towns of Indian Head and La Plata and for the State of Maryland. The division administers and collects the county transfer tax, a new tax enacted by the County Commissioners in fiscal 2015 in effect since Saturday, Aug. 8, 2015. The rate of the transfer tax is one half of one percent (0.5 percent) of the purchase price of the property. The Treasury Division also collects payments for county-sponsored services such as utility bills, tag-a-bags, liquor licenses, permits, dog tags, motor vehicle registrations, red light fines, and speed camera fines. A senior tax credit is available to qualified seniors residing in Charles County. The division is headquartered at the Charles County Government building in La Plata, and has a satellite location in Waldorf adjacent to the Sheriff's Office District III station.

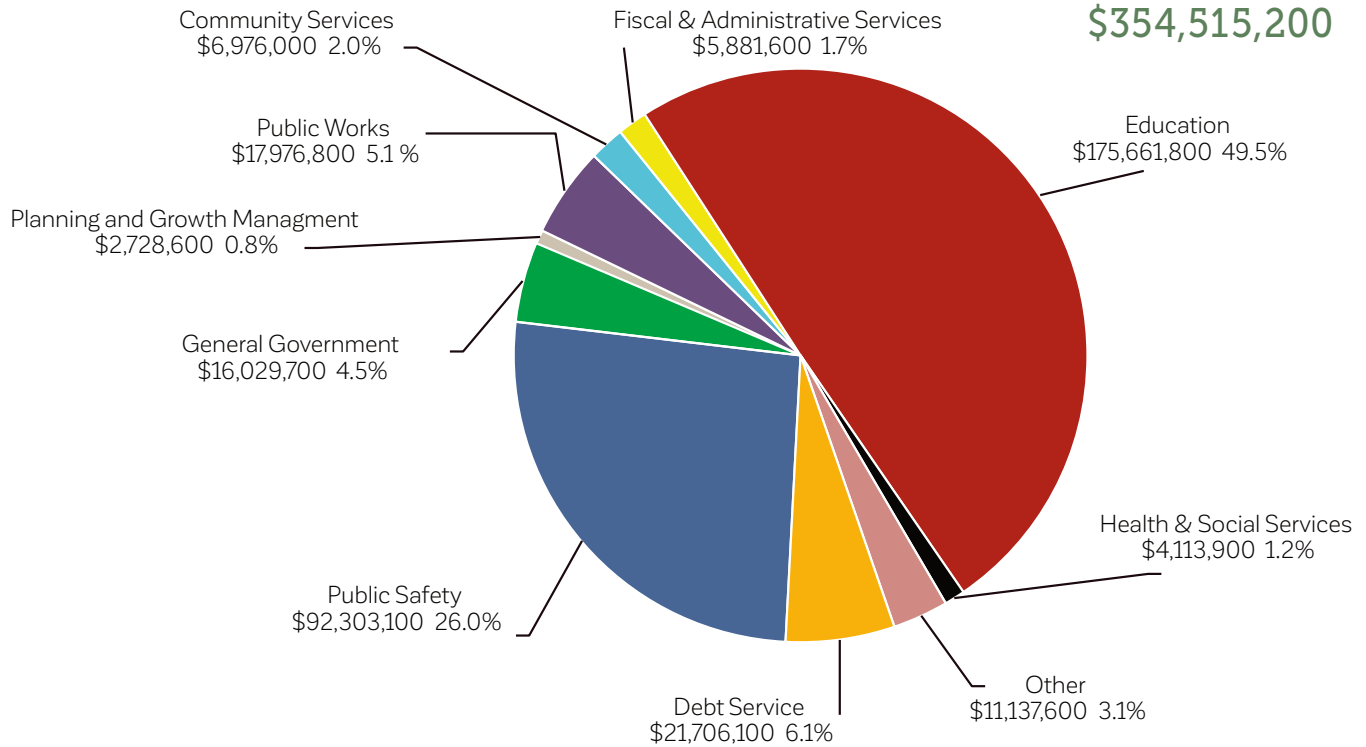
Information Technology

The Information Technology Division's primary responsibilities are the acquisition, design, development, maintenance, and enhancement of technology infrastructure, applications, and telecommunications to support Charles County Government operations and services to residents. The division is divided into three areas: applications, network services, and project management. In 2015, the Center for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties selected the Information Technology Division as one of the nation's most digitally advanced counties. This is the 13th consecutive year for the division's recognition as a leading example of counties using technology to improve services and boost efficiencies.

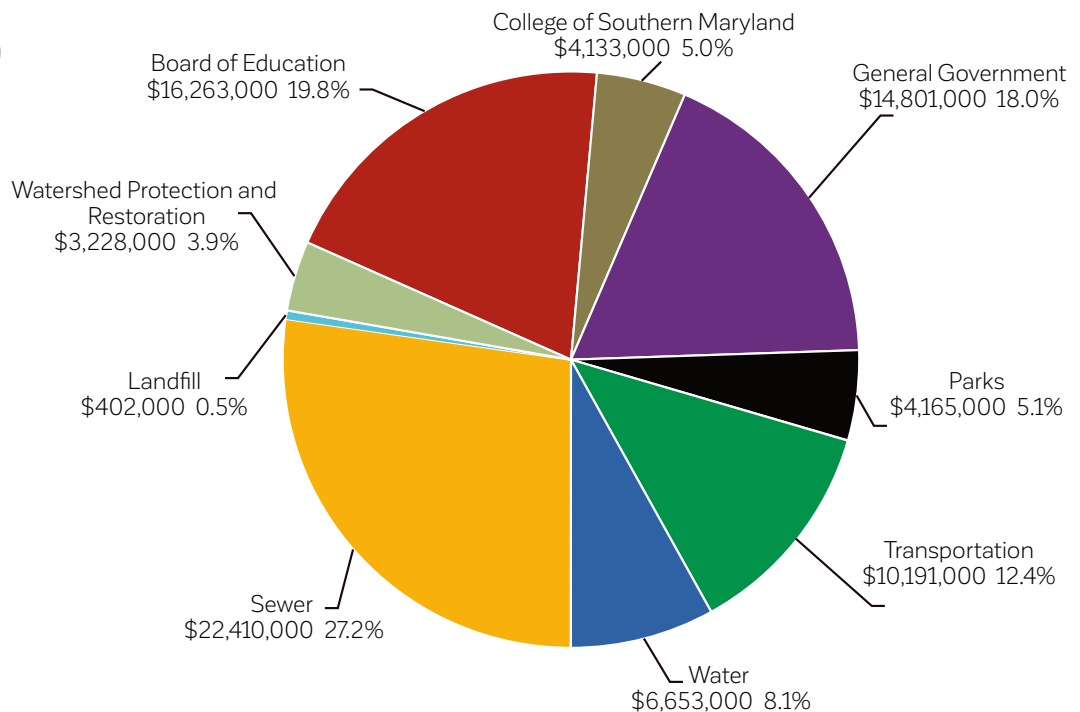
OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

Fiscal Year 2015

**General Fund
Operating
\$354,515,200**



**Capital
\$82,246,000**

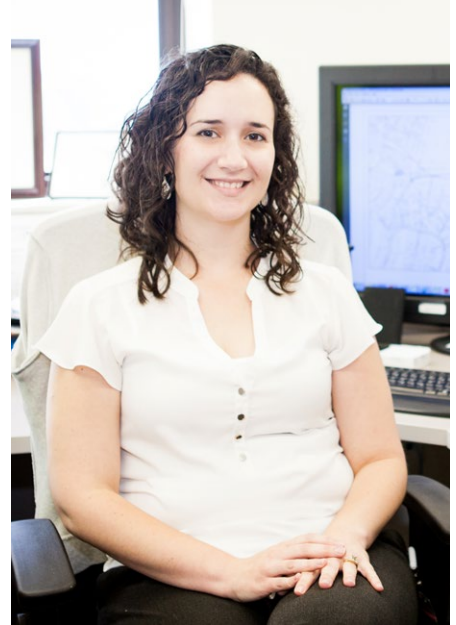


GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Recruitment and Diversity

In fiscal 2015, the Department of Human Resources recruited 59 positions and received nearly 3,900 applications. These positions were categorized as: officials/administrators, professional, technical, office/clerical, skilled craft, and service maintenance. Approximately 49 percent of applicants were women, and 44 percent were minority applicants.

In September 2014, the department, in conjunction with the Information Technology Division, began the process of purchasing NeoGov, an online application system that allows job seekers to establish an online account to apply for multiple jobs without re-entering application information. NeoGov offers enhanced features for applicants, including electronic notifications of job openings in the applicant's field of choice, the ability to save and edit an application, and automatic receipt confirmation.



Safety Office

The County Commissioners continue to hold safety as a top priority. The Safety Office manages and coordinates all aspects of occupational safety and health for county employees. Also, the office develops and implements programs that determine risk, exposure, and loss prevention to protect Charles County Government's assets, the general public, and public property. The safety officer conducts and documents safety assessments and prepares compliance reports to ensure adherence to occupational safety and health regulations. Charles County Government remains self-insured for workers' compensation, and manages a strict return-to-work program, which saves money on work-related injury costs. The office is part of the Commission for Individuals with Disabilities, and attends monthly meetings to help inform the public about available services.



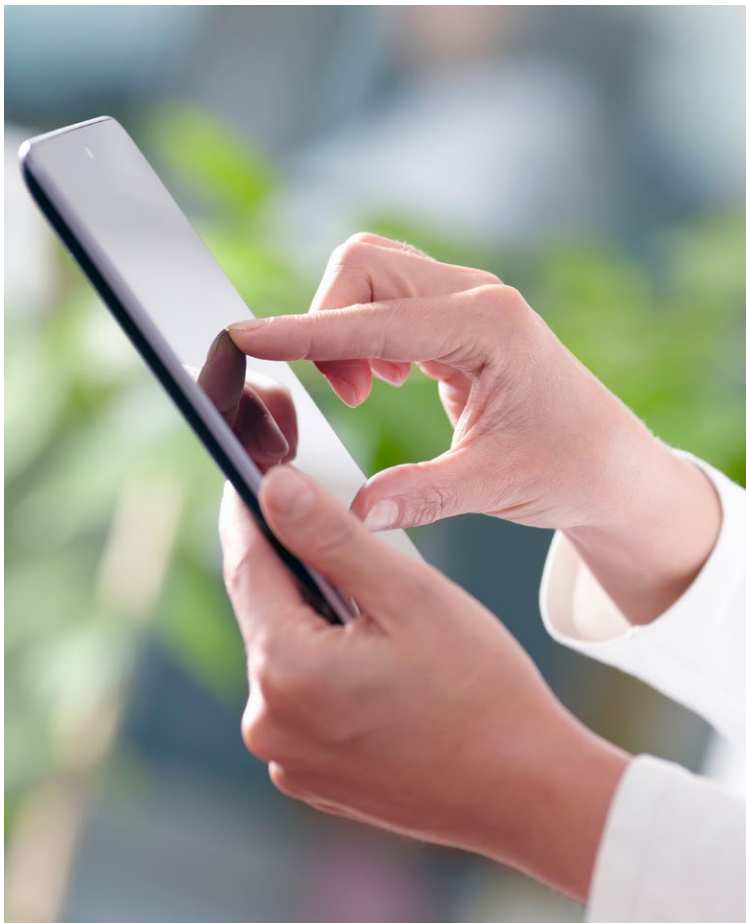
Employee Incentives

The Department of Human Resources, through the Human Resources Employee Committee, continued to explore incentives and initiatives for county employees. County government employees' participation in the Leadership Academy — an initiative developed in 2013 to provide supervisory training for managers — continued with 138 employees completing Leadership Academy courses. The Leadership Academy requires employees to complete seven core courses and four elective courses. These courses include training on various leadership-related topics, such as supervision, communication, and problem solving. Also, the County Commissioners approved the committee's recommendation to reinstate tuition reimbursement funding.

In January 2015, the second in a series of all-employee meetings was conducted by the acting county administrator. These meetings offer employees an opportunity to ask the county administrator questions and offer feedback. It also allows the county administrator to provide a briefing on topics of interest.

The department released the biennial employee survey in April 2015. The survey gauged employee opinions on communication, promotional policies, and employee empowerment.





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White Plains Golf Course: [WhitePlainsGolfCourseMD](#)



TWITTER KEYWORDS

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ONLINE VIDEO GALLERY

Keyword:
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ONLINE PHOTO GALLERY

Keyword: [Charles County Government](#)

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Did You Know...

The **Great Blue Heron** is the nation's tallest bird and is Charles County's official bird. The bird is abundant along rivers and creeks and is a superb fisherman.

Charles County's official tree is the **Dogwood**. The Dogwood tree produces beautiful flowers each spring. The flowers are usually small and have four or five petals. The berries that appear in the fall are commonly eaten by birds in the winter.

Queen Anne's Lace, also called wild carrot, is commonly found along roads and through fields, and is Charles County's official flower. Queen Anne's Lace is a biennial with one- to three-foot stems and lacy flowers that do not blossom until their second year.

The Charles County Seal

The Charles County seal incorporates a part of the Maryland state seal, which is designed from the First Lord Baltimore's escutcheon. Charles County was established on May 10, 1658, and named for Charles Calvert, England's Third Lord Baltimore.

The coronet is a silver gilded band, covered with yellow lacquer. The five spheres on top of the crown are plain silver balls. The brim is white with small strawberry leaves.

The cross of red and white on the shield symbolizes the arms of the Crossland family, which was the family of the mother of the First Lord Baltimore.

The black and gold design on the shield is that of the Calvert family. It was given to Calvert as a result of storming a fortification in battle.

The date of 1658, which is on the bottom of the Seal, is the date when the order of erection was approved by the Colonial Governor.

