

**GLOUCESTER COUNTY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S
FEBRUARY 2010 MONTHLY REPORT
Presented Wednesday, March 10, 2010
Prepared by Brenda G. Garton, County Administrator**

CALENDAR ITEMS

Upcoming events:

- Regular Board Meeting and Joint Budget Worksession with School Board, Thu., Mar. 25, Library Community Room, 6:00 pm. (Meeting will be relocated to T. C. Walker Elementary School after convening due to anticipation of larger than typical audience.) Note: There is no March 16 Board of Supervisors Meeting.
- Daffodil Festival, Sat. – Sun., Mar. 27-28.
- Regular Board Meeting, Tue., Apr. 6, 7:00 pm.
- Budget Public Hearing, Mon., Apr. 12, 7:00 pm, Gloucester High School.
- Budget Worksession, Thu., Apr. 15, 7:00 pm.
- Regular Board Meeting and Budget Worksession, Tue., Apr. 20, 7:00 pm.
- Budget Worksession, Thu., Apr. 22, 7:00 pm.
- Board Meeting (Budget and Tax Rate Adoption), Tue., Apr. 27, 7:00 pm.
- Regular Board Meeting, Tue., May 4, 7:00 pm.
- Regular Board Meeting, Tue., May 18, 7:00 pm.

ABINGDON PARK

Construction of the new soccer field at Abingdon Park is continuing. A source of good quality sand was found while digging the stormwater BMP. Sand was harvested and taken to Woodville Park to be added to the dirt road, which will improve conditions there. Final grading of the field will occur soon. An irrigation system that would be used to water the new field and the primary soccer field at the park is under consideration. A decision on if and how to proceed will be based on costs and available funding through Park Partners, Inc.

AIR SERVICE TO NEWPORT NEWS WILLIAMSBURG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Economic Development Authority and the Director of Economic Development have been working with the City of Newport News, the Peninsula Airport Commission, and other Peninsula communities to bring new air service to the Newport News Williamsburg International Airport. One of the goals is to provide direct passenger service to the West Coast. It will be announced that an agreement has been reached with a carrier to bring new, non-stop direct service to Denver. While not fully achieving the West Coast goal, the carrier does have service to the West Coast, and if ridership proves to be revenue positive, the potential for direct service to the West Coast is very real.

ALERTNOW NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Emergency Management Coordinator and other County staff were trained in using the AlertNow Emergency Notification System. We are piggybacking on the School's system for now, with limited application for notification to County employees only. Also, for the Middle Peninsula, the Emergency Management Coordinator has set up an email notification list so all Emergency Managers can communicate and share information during disasters. We have proposed an estimate for a similar capability to send alerts to citizens in emergency situations, and for other types of notifications, in next year's budget.

ALTERNATIVE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM (ASDS)

The Utilities Department continues to meet with other staff members addressing several issues related to Alternative Sewage Disposal Systems (ASDS), including pending legislation, expiration of an exemption extension, and questions raised by citizens and ASDS vendors. Staff from Planning and Utilities Departments have been working with the Alternative Sewage Disposal System (ASDS) Working Group on a memo for the Board of Supervisors to bring the Board up to date on some issues, including the expiration of the grace period that was established to allow the ASDS industry to work to be able to meet the requirements of our ASDS ordinance that was passed in 2007. In addition, staff will be seeking guidance from the Board regarding the state's pending implementation of legislation affecting local ASDS ordinances.

ANIMAL SHELTER FIRE UPDATE

The County Buildings and Grounds Department is coordinating the damage clean-up from a fire which occurred in the Animal Shelter laundry/food preparation room in January. The fire restoration/cleaning contractor working at the Animal Shelter should complete their work soon. Buildings & Grounds staff will also be providing some repair work at the same time (heater replacement, electrical outlet and switch replacement, etc.). The large remaining task necessary is to order a replacement washer and dryer. Our VACO insurance will cover all costs with a deductible of \$1,000.

BEEHIVE SPRING AND SUMMER ISSUE

Notices were distributed soliciting information and announcements for the combined Spring/Summer Beehive citizen publication to be printed the first of April. Identified special features for this issue include FY11 County budget process, National County Government Month, and the annual water quality report (mandatory).

"BE HIP – GET FIT" PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The County Administrator requested that the County Administrator's Health and Wellness Committee develop a fitness program for County employees with incentives offered. We launched the "Be HIP – Get Fit" program, where HIP = Health Incentive Program, during the All Employee Meetings in February and early March. The program provides a checklist of a variety of health, wellness, and safety items for which employees can earn points when completed. Accumulation of 1000 points during the six month trial period from March 1 – August 31, 2010 earns a half day of "HIP" leave. The overall goal is improved employee health, wellness, safety, and morale; reduced health care costs; and reduced health insurance premiums (for the County and employees).

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

The Finance Department has contacted each of the five members of the newly appointed Board of Equalization. The required training by the Virginia Department of Taxation was completed on Friday, February 26. On the afternoon of that day, the Board held its organizational meeting selecting Pat Snyder as Chair and Danny Stuck as Secretary. Additionally, the BOE set appeals process procedures, set a schedule of hearing dates, and discussed their expectations of staff. At this time there are approximately 682 applications before the Board of Equalization representing approximately 1,400 parcels. The Real Estate Assessment Department continues to consider changes to parcel records, which includes research of deeds and plats as well as physical inspections of property. It is hoped that final determinations for these parcels will reduce the number of applications being heard by the BOE. Appeals hearings begin on March 15.

BROADBAND MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN WITTMAN AND ROUNDTABLE ON BROADBAND

The Director of the Department of Information Technology attended the roundtable discussion on broadband held at the Rappahannock Community College (RCC) Warsaw Campus by Congressman Wittman. Discussion centered around efforts to support broadband on the Northern Neck and Middle

Peninsula. The Congressman updated us on efforts to provide broadband to this area. Both Planning District Commission Executive Directors and several citizens spoke. Of major concern is the timing on the second round of applications vs. first round awards. The Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula application for ARRA Broadband Grant funding was denied, and staff is currently working on a Round 2 application.

BUDGET FOR FY10-11

Staff worked through February on the Proposed FY 10-11 Budget. The presentation of the County Administrator's Proposed FY 10-11 Budget was at the March 2, 2010 Board of Supervisors meeting. Elements of the proposed budget have been discussed with Board members and with staff at All Employee Meetings. A meeting with press was held on March 2 to discuss elements of the proposed budget, and the County Administrator's proposed budget and PowerPoint presentation are posted on line. The Public Hearing on the advertised tax rates and proposed budget is scheduled for Monday, April 22. The County Administrator's Proposed Budget is balanced with no increase in the real estate tax rate from the \$.58 equalized tax rate or in the personal property tax rate of \$2.60. The Board authorized advertisement of a \$.61 real estate tax rate and a \$2.80 personal property tax rate for 2010. The School System is projected to lose approx. \$6.3 million in funding, with the vast majority of the loss in funding coming from federal and state revenue streams, though this number will change with the recent adoption of the State budget.

CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT RENEWAL PROCESS WITH COX COMMUNICATIONS

The Directors from Community Education and the Department of Information Technology along with Gloucester School's Director of Technology, met with Cox officials to discuss the renewal of the franchise agreement. Broadband issues and concerns expressed by a community member to the Gloucester Board of Supervisors were specifically addressed and it was clarified that broadband and internet (considered "data" services) are outside the cable ("video" services) realm and are not part of the franchise agreement provisions, as determined and defined by the FCC. Cox officials have communicated that they are agreeable to increasing the capital grant/donation amount to the County which is based on a per subscriber tax on user's monthly bills. Currently the rate is .15 cents per subscriber per month with the proposed renewal to be .16 cents. Cox officials have indicated the County can request an increase but the costs would be passed on directly to the subscribers through their monthly billing. The additional funds collected can only be used for "PEG" (Public, Educational and Governmental) capital and equipment expenditures which would support the two broadcast studios (Colonial Courthouse and Gloucester High School). The increase in capital grant/donation is being considered to help offset the costs of maintaining and enhancing the broadcast facilities and equipment. Staff believes this is the logical means to continue funding so that this very expensive equipment purchased and owned by the County with these funds can be maintained and replaced as technology advances.

CARPET REPLACEMENT - BUILDING ONE

Bids received to replace carpet on the first floor of Building One were significantly less than state contract pricing and as a result, the entire area carpeted on the first floor of the building will be replaced. Replacement is scheduled for April.

CELEBRATE FAMILIES FESTIVAL

Several County departments and agencies including Community Education, Extension Services, and Parks and Recreation, assisted the Gloucester Resource Council in sponsoring and planning the 2010 Celebrate Families Festival with the theme: 21st Century Families. Registration for exhibitors ended this month, with the festival held on Saturday, March 6, 2010. Over fifty community organizations signed up to participate in the event. Numerous activities are scheduled to make Gloucester families aware of the many resources available in the county.

CENSUS 2010

Social Services will be encouraging citizens to complete their census questionnaire by making questionnaires available and inviting Census staff to participate in group activities sponsored by the agency. In addition, up to 25 newly hired Census staff will be receiving their training at Gloucester Social Services as a method to save on transportation to the training sites.

CERT FULL SCALE EXERCISE

Emergency Management staff met with Thousand Trails Campground to begin preparation for a full-scale exercise that will include CERT, Amateur Radio, Sheriff's Office, and Volunteer Fire and Rescue. The date for the exercise is April 24.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Planning Director attended the Chamber of Commerce's Board meeting in February. She updated the group on the status of the Comprehensive Plan and encouraged their participation as we move forward, particularly within the development district and in defining the Urban Development Areas (UDA's) for the County as required by State Code.

CHANNEL 48 VIEWER SURVEY

The Department of Community Education is conducting a viewer survey of Channel 48 (rescheduled from February to March) to try to determine the number of viewers for budgetary purposes. The message appearing on the bulletin board and on the 24/7 crawler states: "IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: A Channel 48 viewer survey is currently underway to determine the number of viewers for budgetary purposes. If you are watching Channel 48, please call 693-5730 **NOW** and report the program(s) you are watching and either your 911 address, general neighborhood or street name." The purpose of the survey is to determine the effectiveness of Channel 48 in relation to the budgetary expenditures required to support this service.

CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE

The EPA will establish and oversee achievement of a strict "pollution diet" known as a Total Maximum Daily Load Program (TMDL) that will drive actions to clean local waters and the Chesapeake Bay. Staff from Planning, Codes Compliance, Public Utilities, and the Health Department attended an EPA webinar on the status of the upcoming bay-wide TMDL and have formed a committee to follow actions by EPA and DEQ, which will meet as needed throughout the TMDL process. The TMDL program sets maximum limits for pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediments which directly impact the health of the Bay and its many resources. Science has shown that high levels of these types of pollutants negatively affect the amounts of oxygen and light that provide for the necessary environment for the Bay's many resources to recover and thrive. The webinar detailed the required steps the EPA, the Commonwealth and other states will be implementing beginning now and continuing through 2025. Staff is monitoring this developing initiative for potential impacts to existing County programs (Chesapeake Bay, Erosion and Sediment Control, Stormwater), existing County services (Utilities and Health Departments), future planning (County Comprehensive Plan), and locally based implementation plans.

CLOSING AND DELAYED OPENING: EMPLOYEE & PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The County Administrator has met with the Assistant County Administrator, Emergency Management Coordinator, and the Directors of Human Resources, Information Technology and Community Education to establish an administrative policy and process for systematically notifying the employees and public of County office closings and delays. The following process will be followed in the future once the decision to close or delay is made: AlertNow phone system will notify all county employees; announcements will be sent to all media including local radio, three major television networks and newspapers; announcements will be made on the County website and Channel 48; e-mail notification will be sent to "all county users" as well as all e-mail news subscribers. It is our intention to inform and notify through as many informational

sources as feasible. If the AlertNow system (county-wide) is included in next year's budget, we can enhance this notification to citizens.

COMMUNICATIONS/DISPATCH UPGRADE

The Director of Public Works reports that System Acceptance Testing of the new public safety communications system was held in February. A multitude of tests were conducted to prove the effectiveness of the many features of the new system. All tests were conducted successfully and acceptance was granted by the County and our consultants. There are many parallel tracks proceeding with the communications system. A sampling of action includes inspection/walk-through of each fire station to determine location of fire station alerting equipment, receipt of permanent FCC licenses for our VHF frequencies, receipt of new dispatch chairs, meeting with Motorola staff to plan for dispatcher and end user system training, and installation of Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software / new CAD software licensing in the temporary dispatch center. We still await a copy of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would clarify roles and responsibilities of the three owners of the regional communications system (York, James City, and Gloucester). This important document will establish mutual expectations with respect to the three localities commitment to operate and maintain the jointly owned system in a manner suiting a public safety system. A meeting between staff in the three localities is currently being scheduled.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Enrichment programs are provided by the Community Education Department and coordinated by the Community Education Coordinators to provide after-school activities to elementary school children to enhance development of interests and hobbies. An impressive and extensive array of classes and clubs are underway with the following being offered: Incredible Edibles, Art Smart, Crackerjack Crafts, Gamut of Games, American Girls, Sudoku, Pet Care, Song Birds, Bowling, Art, Chess, Taekwondo, Chorus, Pep Squad, Intro to Japanese, Yearbook, and Running. A total of 548 children are participating in these programs.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Planning Department staff met with staff from Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) to discuss the status of the PDC's work on the Comp Plan and discussed some of the issues that may need to be addressed in the update. The PDC has prepared some maps of County features. Staff plans to display some of the maps at Celebrate Families to help generate interest in the plan and planning for the County's future.

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES ACT

The Director of Social Services (as the fiscal agent for the Comprehensive Services Act) participated this week in formulating responses to pending legislation as it relates to proposed local match rate changes. Fortunately, HB1086 will not be implemented, meaning that community based services will continue to have a lower local match rate, while a higher local match rate remains for more specialized services such as residential placements or special education private day treatment services. Also under consideration is an increase in the amount of local match for Medicaid services approved under the Comprehensive Services Act. In other Comprehensive Services Act business, the Virginia Office of Comprehensive Services is working on a carve out proposal that could allow localities to use a portion of their allocation to start up new programs. While this is still at the rough draft stage, there is concern that a requirement would be for those localities that choose this option and later need a supplemental allocation, to have to use local only dollars equal to the amount carved out, before a supplemental request would be considered. This would not make this an attractive offer for our locality. In order to understand this process more clearly, the Director of Social Services, the Administrative Services Manager of Social Services, and the Comprehensive Services Act Coordinator participated in a half-day training on financial implications for localities in creating new programs using Comprehensive Services Act funding.

CONSENT ORDER – CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

A meeting was held with the HRPDC Sanitary System Evaluation Survey (SSES) Review Committee regarding the SSES Report submitted in December 2009. The Committee expressed some technical concerns regarding the report and has requested some additional information. It is hoped that following their review of the requested information, the Committee will recommend to the DEQ that our SSES plan is acceptable. A subsequent review revealed that the initial monitoring, while compliant with the Regional Technical Standards, will not be acceptable to the DEQ. A meeting was scheduled for March 4 to discuss this issue with DEQ.

CONTINGENCY FUND

The Contingency Fund looks like the following:

FY 2010 County Administrator's Contingency Fund

FY 2010 Adopted Budget Amount	\$	316,291
Employee Health Insurance Benefits	\$	(113,709)
Replacement of Beaverdam Park Boat Motor	\$	(2,900)
Jail Study for Occupancy Limits	\$	(12,800)
Estimated Unemployment Payment	\$	(47,000) Estimate
Broadband Study for Regional Grant	\$	(2,500)
Repairs/Renovations to Senior Center	\$	(15,000)
DIT Roof Repairs	\$	(535)
Flood Claim Grant Application	\$	(3,150)
COR Equipment	\$	(1,950)
KW Poore FOIA	\$	(893)
Return COR Equipment	\$	1,500
FEMA Grant (Warranty Repairs)	\$	(300)
Furlough Days	\$	<u>(91,686)</u>
 Balance Remaining February 28, 2010	 \$	 25,368

DAFFODIL FESTIVAL PLANS

Andre Viette will broadcast his live show from the Daffodil Festival on Saturday from 8:00 am until 11:00 am. He will also give a 1 – 1 ½ hour talk on Saturday afternoon. The Gloucester Rotary Club will sponsor the 5K run on Sunday beginning at 2:00 p.m. The Rotary Club has purchased a computer chip for each entry to ease recording the times, allowing the race to start in waves, and making the race safer. The poster unveiling celebration will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010. Thus far, about 90 vendors have registered for the festival. The souvenir committee decided to purchase a long sleeve shirt and a short sleeve shirt for this year’s event. The Committee has currently received \$1,950 in sponsorship funds with more expected in the near future. There will be seven tours on Saturday and four tours on Sunday to Brent and Becky’s Bulbs. A group from Maryland has pre-registered 44 people, which will fill-up the first tour Saturday morning. The Emergency Management Coordinator attended the Daffodil Festival Planning Committee Meeting to give a short overview of the Emergency Response Plan on which Emergency Management has been working with the Festival Chair for several months.

DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS

With the departure of our Chief Deputy in the Sheriff’s Office, who had served as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, two individuals from the Sheriff’s Office were forwarded to the Board of Supervisors and approval at the March 2 Board meeting as Co-Deputy Emergency Coordinators.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The organizational meeting of the Economic Development Authority has been held. Supervisor Northstein attended, as did the newest Director, David Weller. The officers for 2010 were elected: John Phillips-Chairman; David Meeker, Vice-Chairman; Jeffrey Smith, Secretary; Wes Wilson, Treasurer; Douglas Meredith, Assistant Secretary. The Authority is considering new operational matters, including new Bylaws and a committee structure, to better define and direct the activities and initiatives of the Directors and staff. The Bylaws were modified with the addition of a Small Business Committee. The proposed committees include the Planning and Policy Committee, Marketing Committee, Main Street Committee, Gloucester Point Committee, and the Small Business Committee. Adoption of the Bylaws is expected at the next meeting of the EDA.

FAMIS – (FAMILY ACCESS TO MEDICAL INSURANCE SERVICES)

The Family Access to Medical Insurance Services Program (FAMIS) is a health insurance program for children and working families whose income exceeds the Medicaid limit but still is low enough to meet federal FAMIS income limits. This week the Social Services Department has seen an increase in the number of families who were previously enrolled in FAMIS but whose income and resources have decreased sufficiently to meet the Medicaid limits. As these situations previously did not occur frequently, the addition to the benefit specialist workload was minimal. This is now having a larger impact on the benefit worker's time.

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN - COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

Staff from the Planning Department and the Building Official's Office in the Department of Codes Compliance received the Insurance Service Office (ISO) review board's grading of the County's Floodplain Management Plan. The plan received an additional 58 points than during its initial submittal in 2008. After reviewing the scoring sheets the ISO used to grade the plan, staff found numerous discrepancies where points were not given for requirements that had been complied with and various sections where points were deducted from the previous submittal that should still have been counted. Staff has written a rebuttal letter and hopes to gain up to 50 additional points during the resubmittal, potentially raising the County's overall score on the plan. These points are used to calculate Gloucester's community "Class Rating"; the rating is based on a scale of ten: 10 rating being the worst and 1 rating being the best. It should be noted that the plan is not the only means of obtaining points toward this rating but rather all of the community's efforts to reduce future flood damage in the area beyond the minimal national standards are used in this calculation.

FROZEN COUNTY POSITIONS

The following County positions are currently frozen. Positions listed as "frozen and unfunded" remain on the position chart, but were not budgeted for FY 09-10 and remain vacant. As positions have become vacant since the beginning of FY 09-10, each position is frozen and the County Administrator makes the decision, on a case-by-case basis, as to whether to allow that position to be filled or to fill one of the other vacant positions which has remained open for a longer period of time. Therefore, there are also some positions which are "frozen and funded", as those positions are funded in the current fiscal year, but have been vacated since the start of the fiscal year and have not yet been released to fill. During February, the Application Programmer position in DIT was taken off the Frozen and Funded list. Due to reorganization of department requested by the County Administrator, this position will be redefined to Application Integrator Coordinator with approval to fill granted. The FT Senior Real Estate Appraiser position was added to the Frozen and Funded list, as the position became vacant this month due to employee resignation.

Office	Position	Type
Frozen and Unfunded:		
County Attorney	Assistant County Attorney	FT
Commissioner of the Revenue	Revenue Technician	FT
Codes Compliance	Inspector I	FT

E-911	Dispatcher	PT
Emergency Services	Administrative Assistant III	FT
Engineer	Public Works Engineer	FT
Buildings & Grounds	Custodian	FT
Tourism	Office Assistant	PT
Utilities	Assistant Director	FT
Utilities	Utility Worker I	FT

Frozen and Funded:

Parks, Recreation, & Tourism	Park Ranger	FT
Codes Compliance	Permit Technician	FT
Purchasing	Buyer	FT
Parks, Recreation, & Tourism	Program Assistant	PT
Planning	Planner I	FT
Sheriff	Major	FT
Reassessment	Senior RE Appraiser	FT

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Planning Department staff has been following some of the land use bills under consideration by the General Assembly. One of our Planning Commissioners has become active in lobbying to improve the language in the proposed legislation that would require localities to allow temporary family healthcare structures by right in single-family districts. Staff provided some information about concerns for this legislation, particularly the language that prohibits a locality from requiring a special exception for this use. It is hoped that the legislation will be modified to provide flexibility for localities in where these structures could be permitted and to allow localities to use a case-by-case process, since not all single-family properties would be appropriate for such a use.

GLOUCESTER BUSINESS PARK

Haywood Flooring, Inc. received final site plan approval, and per the Purchase Agreement, the Director of Economic Development will move to close the sale of parcels L & M. The site plan approved the construction of 6,000 square feet of new office and warehouse space for Haywood Flooring, with the potential for an additional two buildings of 6,000 square feet each.

GO GREEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

During this month’s meeting of the Go Green Advisory Committee, members continued to discuss a recommendation for the County to consider wind energy and hosted a guest speaker from Dominion Virginia Power who specializes in renewable energy. The committee finalized a bulleted list of recommendations to provide to the Board within the timeframe that was allotted. Also, the citizen members would like for the Board to consider a letter of support to the federal bill by Senator Cardin of Maryland known as the “Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act of 2009” and the chair will coordinate this effort with the Board liaison, Supervisor Crewe. Ultimately the committee agreed that they should encourage the Board to endorse this legislation with caution and reservation cited with respect to potential unfunded mandates. A draft letter has been developed and will be passed through the Committee’s Board liaison.

GREEN INITIATIVES TEAM -- HOLIDAY GREETING CARD & PHONE BOOK RECYCLING

Thanks to the efforts of the Gloucester Employee’s Green Initiatives Team, Clean Community staff, and the County employees, over 700 cards were collected to support the St. Jude’s Ranch for Children holiday card recycling project. In addition, e-mail reminders were sent in regards to recycling 2009 telephone books now that the 2010 books are out.

HAMPTON ROADS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE (HREDA)

The Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance (HREDA) Quarterly Executive Committee met in February at the Thomas Nelson Workforce Center in Hampton. Supervisor Ressler and the Director of Economic Development attended the meeting. The Honorable James S. Cheng, Secretary of Commerce and Trade, spoke to the committee and briefly discussed Governor McDonnell's economic development platform. The HREDA Quarterly Marketing Advisory Meeting was held immediately following the Executive Committee Meeting.

HAMPTON ROADS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Emergency Management Coordinator attended the monthly Hampton Roads Emergency Management Committee (HREMC) meeting. Bret Burdick from the Joint Field Office made a presentation on how FEMA declares disasters for individual and public assistance.

HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION (HRPDC) JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING

Planning staff attended the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) Joint Environmental Meeting, where there was a discussion on the upcoming changes to the review standard for the Chesapeake Bay Phase III compliance evaluation. Staff from HRPDC plans to prepare comments representing concerns from the region to forward to the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance (CBLA) and there was a discussion about having some representation in attendance at the CBLA Board March meeting in Williamsburg. While most of Gloucester staff's concerns were voiced during the meeting, as the new standards continue to be drafted, we will be monitoring this situation until a decision is made by the CBLA Board. The meeting was also a strategic planning meeting in which staff from localities provided input to the HRPDC staff as to how they can continue to support local governments in monitoring environmental issues for the region.

HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TTAC)

The Planning Director attended the monthly meeting of Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) which is advisory to the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO). Staff of the TPO briefed the group on legislation under consideration that may tie funds for RSTP money based on performance standards for getting the projects done. If this passes, staff will have to work closely with VDOT to insure that funding is used within a specified time period or it will be lost. HRTPO staff will continue to monitor the status of this legislation. HRTPO staff presented the results of several reports including a Regional Safety Study and the Congestion Management Process with Draft Levels of Service (LOS). The results of these studies can be found on the HRTPO's website- www.hrtpo.org. Route 17 from the Coleman Bridge to the intersection of Guinea Road is operating at a level of service "F", (rated on a scale of A-F similar to school grading). Route 614 also received poor LOS ranking; however, the other major roads in the County are operating at an LOS of A-C. Staff hopes that the signal coordination on Route 17 through the Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding in 2013-2015, along with the widening project at the Point, will help improve the LOS rating on the southern portion of Route 17.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM BEST PRACTICES

Our FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Consultant and our Emergency Management Coordinator gave an informal presentation to Virginia Beach Emergency Management on Gloucester County's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. They are interested in getting involved in the program and saw Gloucester County as a best practice "how-to."

HEALTH RANKING REPORT

The Robert Wood Johnson-funded County Ranking Report (www.countyhealthrankings.org) has recently been released. County Health Rankings are based on a model of population health to include: (1) health outcomes - based on measures of length and quality of life; (2) health factors - based on a combination of

measures of four major factors that influence health outcomes: behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment. Gloucester County ranked 58 out of 132 localities in Virginia compared with 30 for Mathews and 53 for Middlesex.

HISTORIC MAP

Members of the Historic Planning Subcommittee of the Planning Commission have been working with staff from the Department of Information Technology (DIT) on mapping historic and archeological resources for Gloucester County. Volunteers from the Historic Committee have been working with DIT to transpose information from a paper map created in the 1970's into the County's GIS. This is the first step at identifying known resources in the County. We are also working on getting data from the State Department of Historic Resources to compile with local data. This data can be used for educational purposes as well as identifying sensitive areas in the County. Staff is very excited with this process and will continue to work with the group to develop recommendations for the County to consider based on recent state enabling legislation regarding cultural resources.

HURRICANE EVACUATION PLANNING MEETING

The topic of discussion during this month's Hurricane Evacuation Planning Meeting was the State not having enough shelters along the hurricane evacuation routes. Gloucester Emergency Management suggested reevaluating Rappahannock Community College- Glens Campus for a potential site.

JAIL EXPANSION DESIGN CONSULTING CONTRACT

The County Engineer forwarded via letter the Board's resolution approving the mutual termination of the jail design contract with Moseley Architects.

JOHN'S POINT BOAT LANDING

Staff met with representatives of VIMS and VDOT regarding a grant application that VIMS would like to submit to solve the erosion problems at the VDOT owned landing. The project would be a demonstration site for a living shoreline. All parties were supportive of the grant application. The County's role will be assisting with obtaining public input on the project. An award notice will be made in May.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR INTERVIEWS

The Library Director Interview Committee held interviews in February and a candidate of choice was forwarded to Human Resources for reference & background checks, and then to the Library Board of Trustees for endorsement. A recommendation to hire has been made to the County Administrator and we hope to announce a new Library Director next month.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Ware Church Women toured the library with the adult program coordinator. Because of the holiday, the Anime Manga club met on Wednesday evening. The Chess Club met. A local author donated two copies of her book to the library; the illustrator is one of our staff. The Library will be starting One-Click Audio eBooks next week. Any iPod and mp3 player owners will be able to access over 2,000 audio books from their home computers, after an initial sign-up at the library. Over 20 Teddy Bears enjoyed the night at the Main and Point Libraries on Tuesday evening. Look for pictures on our web page. Another successful gardening seminar was held Wednesday evening. The Census Bureau is continuing their job fair at the Main Library. The children's programmer ran a very successful "Mother Goose Rocks" program with 60 children dancing and singing to Mother Goose rhymes. Also, 60 senior citizens, low income and first time taxpayers had their taxes prepared and e-filed by AARP. Unfortunately, weather wreaked havoc with several group meetings and programs which had to be cancelled or postponed.

MAIN STREET ASSOCIATION

The Directors of Economic Development and Planning met a number of times over the past month with the Executive Director of the Main Street Association, concerning an application for Affiliate status as part of the Virginia Main Street Community Program. This plan was presented to the Board of Supervisors at their March 2, 2010 meeting in conjunction with the Courthouse Village Plan.

MARKETING PANEL AT EAST COAST WELCOME CENTER

A co-op marketing panel was installed at the East Coast Welcome Center on I-64E (New Kent). This cooperative effort with West Point and Mathews will be in place through 2010 in a welcome center that sees between 4,000 and 7,000 visitors per day. In addition, a rack card was placed in the brochure rack located just below the panel to give more information on each locality, including driving directions, website and phone number; hopefully, persuading travelers to take Exit 220 and visit us.

MEDICAID REFERRALS

The Social Security Administration has recently begun accepting Medicaid applications for persons who qualify for Supplemental Security Income. They are required to timely send them to Social Services for processing. That agency is also seeing an increase in the number of persons applying for benefits and as a result, Social Services is seeing an increase in the number of applications coming from that referral source. In addition, the Social Security Administration is doing a good job of making persons who apply for any benefits through their agency aware of the programs through the Department of Social Services. Unfortunately, many of those who are applying for regular Social Security or Social Security Disability are not eligible for programs such as Medicaid or SNAP due to income limitations.

METAL DETECTOR USAGE IN PARKS

Carol Steele met with the members of Hampton Roads Recovery Society last week about their request to use metal detectors at Gloucester Point Beach. After following up this week with more research and discussion with staff about their concerns, a request will be going forward to the Board of Supervisors to consider changing the park ordinance to allow usage of metal detectors with specific restrictions. More information will be forthcoming after the matter is reviewed with the County Attorney.

MIDDLE PENINSULA PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION (MPPDC) LOCAL PLANNERS MEETING

Planning staff attended the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC) Local Planners Meeting in Saluda. The main focus of the meeting was a discussion of the upcoming Chesapeake Bay Phase III compliance evaluation review elements. Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department (CBLA) will adopt standards for different aspects of its review to determine if localities are adequately enforcing the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance (CBPO). Several of these changes could greatly impact Gloucester County's upcoming Phase III evaluation in September of this year; however, some of the more "controversial" changes in standards have not been determined by CBLA for review even though they plan to adopt the changes at their March meeting. Staff from CBLA was in attendance to brief the local planners and take down our concerns.

MIDDLE PENINSULA PLANNING DISTRICT MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

The Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC) kicked off the mitigation plan update. The MPPDC is currently addressing the Hazard Analysis. Gloucester Emergency Management made the recommendation to have strategies that are locality specific rather than regional to better tie into mitigation measures already being done in the County.

MOTOCROSS TRACK SPECIAL EXCEPTION APPLICATION FAILED

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) denied the special exception application for a commercial motocross track in the northeastern section of the County off Pierce Lane and Batt Road. The proposal was on property

that was partially in both Gloucester and King and Queen Counties, with the track proposal contained on the Gloucester portion. Citing concerns including noise, traffic, and lack of buffer, the BZA decision was unanimous.

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH – “HEALTHY COUNTIES”

The County Administrator has formed a planning committee, led by the Emergency Management Coordinator, to plan for the April 2010 National County Government Month, which has “Healthy Counties” as its theme. The planning committee met this month and will begin to identify all the existing services, programs, activities, and initiatives that address health, wellness and safety, as well as plan for special events. Also, County Schools and Staff are partnering for a job shadow day.

NEW HIRE

Erin Holmes – Corrections Deputy, Jail – effective February 8, 2010

NO WAKE ORDINANCE AND POLICY

Public Works continues work to develop a proposed policy that would guide the process through which citizens can request new no wake signs (or remove existing signs). With the second Board meeting in March being one of the semi-annual joint meetings with the School Board, this topic will be scheduled in April, with a possible public hearing scheduled for May.

NURTURING PARENT PROGRAM

An impressive number of parent participants (30) are taking part in a 12-week parenting seminar sponsored by the Petsworth Full Service School program in cooperation with the Community Services Board.

PARENT FAIR PRESENTATION

Both Community Education and Parks, Recreation and Tourism staff participated in Gloucester County Public Schools Parent Fair held this week at Gloucester High School. A presentation on summer enrichment opportunities was provided.

PARKS, RECREATION, AND TOURISM WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

Numerous basketball games and classes were cancelled this month due to the snow. A special rental of the T. C. Walker gym was scheduled so that the older youth could prepare for a competition that will be held in Newport News. Make-up youth basketball games have been scheduled and flag-football was cancelled. A meeting of the Program and Events subcommittee of the Civil War Sesquicentennial’s Committee also had to be cancelled. Beaverdam Park was closed over several weekends during the month. Park staff cleared the parking lot and checked on the condition of the trails before re-opening.

PET SHELTERING

Emergency Management staff met with a representative from the Virginia Department of Agriculture to move forward with Gloucester’s planning for pet sheltering during disasters and emergencies. We will be working on training interested volunteers for state pet shelters

PHARMACEUTICALS – DISPOSAL OF UNUSED

The Utilities Department has distributed flyers provided by Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) which contain information on the proper method of disposing of unused prescriptions. The flyers were provided to several pharmacies in the County.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING -- FEBRUARY

The Planning Commission had a fairly light agenda this month and used the opportunity to review their annual report for 2009 and set priorities for 2010. In preparation for this discussion, staff briefed them on the work to date on the comprehensive update of the sign ordinance, which was started in 2006, but has

been postponed by staff turnover and other projects. The Commission decided to set the sign ordinance as its first priority for the coming year, knowing that the Comprehensive Plan update is ongoing and will take up a lot of staff and Commission time during much of 2010. In addition, the Commission would like to work on better defining open space as it relates to development and cluster subdivisions in an effort to insure that meaningful open space is preserved. Our current ordinances are inconsistent in defining open space and do not reflect the Commission's view of what open space is and how it should be protected or preserved as part of a development. The Commission would also like to focus on training related to the County's subdivision and zoning ordinances as a priority item in the coming year. In a discussion of Fiscal Impact Analysis, one Commissioner brought up the idea of having on-call consultants to review development proposals in this regard. The Commission asked staff to look into how this might be accomplished. Staff will continue to work on other projects referred to the Commission by the Board, such as the historical and archaeological potential code amendments.

PLAT AND PLAN REVIEW

The Director of Planning and staff had several meetings this month regarding various plats and plans under review by the department and are trying to work with the applicants to resolve issues or concerns on a variety of issues from wetlands delineation, sureties, and nonconforming lots.

POVERTY DISCUSSION WITH GLOUCESTER RESOURCE COUNCIL

Staff from the Department of Community Education facilitated a discussion with Resource Council members on the issue of poverty. The Governor's Task Force Report on Poverty was recently released and goal areas presented. The council discussed three areas: (1) what has been done/accomplished by the council thus far; (2) what is currently being addressed by the council; and (3) what still needs to be accomplished to significantly impact poverty in Gloucester.

PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Interviews with a short list of firms responding to the RFP for on-call professional Architectural and Engineering services were held during February. Representatives from Public Works, Schools, and Utilities conducted interviews with firms. With interviews completed, we move on to the next step of negotiating with firms deemed to meet our expectations. The interviews indicate that we could design the permanent dispatch center (Emergency Communications Center – ECC) to be located adjacent to the new communications tower at the Law Enforcement Office with this group of offerors.

PROJECTOR REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT IN COLONIAL COURT HOUSE

Department of Information Technology staff worked on the existing projector in the Courthouse, which failed during the most recent Board of Supervisors meeting. DIT worked with the school system, and they provided and installed a new projector in order to be ready for the next public meeting in the Courthouse.

PROPERTY INSURANCE RENEWAL

The Finance Department will issue a Request for Proposals for County property insurance for FY 2011. Although very happy with our current carrier, VACo Risk Management Programs, at least partly because of the competitive market, the Purchasing Manager and Finance Director thought it might be an option to explore. Staff has been working with our property insurance consultant on preparing the Request for Proposals, which is almost ready to issue.

REALITY STORE CONDUCTED AT PEASLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Three hundred youth participated in the Reality Store exercise at Peasley Middle School. This event allows youth to assume responsibility for a family for a month. They must learn to budget their money and purchase all essentials for the family. For many, this exercise is an eye opening experience and makes them aware of future career choices.

REASSESSMENT

The Department of Information Technology provided support during the process to move data from the reassessment session to the current session. This work was needed to allow the Commissioner of the Revenue Office to process land use. This change also affected the websites with assessment data. We were directed to get the 2010 (current data) site up and completed it, but had to rebuild and link to needed data tables for the previous session. This work is now completed.

RECRUITMENT

Recruitment for Domestic Violence Advocate, a part-time grant funded position, began February 10th and applications were accepted through March 5th. In addition to local advertisement, an online ad was posted with MinorityJobs.net, a website which reaches all diverse communities that make up on-line job seekers with the added bonus of automatically sending the post to three of the largest job search engines on the web. The vacancy announcement was also listed on the Gloucester County Government Website and appeared on Gloucester County Government's Cable Channel, as well as several other job boards.

REGIONAL CATASTROPHIC GRANT (RCPT) SHELTER TOUR

School Representatives and Emergency Management hosted a tour of five schools that would be potential shelters during a catastrophic event. This was a shelter assessment done by the consultant group Beck Disaster Recovery (BDR) that is leading the Regional Catastrophic Planning Team (RCPT) project.

REGIONAL CATASTROPHIC PLANNING TEAM (RCPT) GENERAL MEETING

The Emergency Management Coordinator attended the monthly Regional Catastrophic Planning Team (RCPT) meeting. The meeting went in depth to defining the relationship of Hampton Roads jurisdictions through collaboration vs. coordination. The behavioral study results were also present from the phone survey done last fall. An interesting result from the study was that people who are located in storm surge zones are underprepared while those who don't live in storm surge zones plan to evacuate when not necessary.

REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (REMTAC)

The Emergency Management Coordinator attended the monthly meeting of the Regional Emergency Management Technical Advisory Committee (REMTAC) at the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. Highlights from the meeting include that sustainment cost for WebEOC will be allowed through the Homeland Security Grants and a presentation from the AmeriGroup during the Special Needs Committee Meeting. This group now has a Special Needs Sheltering team to assist during disasters.

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION ASSISTANCE

Community Education Coordinators are providing volunteer recruitment assistance at several elementary schools to support the "Response to Intervention" (RTI) program. The RTI program identifies children who are struggling in school to ensure that each of those children receive the right instruction or intervention to be successful. Volunteers are essential to the program. A total of 31 volunteers were recruited to assist with pre-testing at two schools.

ROBINSON, FARMER, COX ASSOCIATES

This month, our Accounting Manager met with our principal from our audit firm, Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates, to discuss the accounting for capital assets and how Finance could improve work records. At the end of the FY 2009 audit fieldwork, Finance talked with the auditors about areas that could be improved. This was one area where we felt we could make improvements.

ROUTE 17 PROJECT - WATER SUPPLY IN GLOUCESTER POINT AREA

The Utilities Department completed a number of potable water tie-ins in conjunction with the VDOT Route 17 Project at Gloucester Point. These modifications to the water supply system were accomplished in conjunction with VDOT.

RURAL ADDITIONS

Planning Department staff is working on developing a procedural policy that will help guide the Rural Addition program of the County. The draft procedural policy will be developed to adequately address the changes to the Rural Addition program requirements, as well as address the concerns of the County Attorney's office to protect the County from unforeseen liabilities associated with these requirements.

SANITARY DISTRICT #1 - DETERMINATION OF BOUNDARIES

At the request of the Commissioner of Revenue, the Utilities Department identified and forwarded to DIT a copy of a survey identifying the boundary of the Sanitary Sewer District #1.

SENATOR WARNER'S LEGISLATIVE AIDE

On Tuesday, April 20, 2010, 10 am - 12 noon, Senator Warner's representative will meet citizens in the Colonial Courthouse to address constituent needs for assistance or concerns on such matters as Social Security, Veteran benefits, Medicare/Medicaid, etc.

SENIOR CENTER ANNEX ROOF REPLACEMENT & BATHROOM INSTALLATION

Courthouse Construction, Inc. (CCI) was issued its Notice to Proceed on the Senior Center Annex project. The contract requires work completion within 90 days, but early discussions with CCI indicate that they may be able to complete the bulk of the work before the Daffodil Festival (last weekend in March). Bay Aging has moved out of the Senior Center Annex and all furnishings have been removed. The project has started with selective demolition of the ceiling both inside the building and under the canopy. Removal of these items has allowed a detailed inspection of the roof structure. While the inspection is not yet complete, it appears at this point that selective structural repair of the roof may be possible. If this proves to be the case, we will reevaluate the project scope and budget to determine if additional work can be accomplished within the building, still remaining within budget.

SEWER SYSTEM -- NEW COMMERCIAL CONNECTIONS

We have had two new commercial connections to the sewer system during February: Juan's Mexican Restaurant and the Whitley Peanut Warehouse. The connection for Juan's included a bored crossing of Route 17. The Connection from the Whitley Warehouse allowed the Department to release a Surety Bond in the amount of \$7,500 which was held in conjunction with a pump and haul agreement.

SIGN ORDINANCE

The Planning Department reinstated its work on the comprehensive sign ordinance update that was initiated by the Planning Commission in 2006, as this project was set as a high priority by the Planning Commission for 2010. In February, a meeting was held by staff of Planning and Codes Compliance to review the proposed changes to the ordinance relating to signs with members of the sign and business community. Approximately fifteen interested individuals, many who worked specifically in the sign industry, participated in that meeting. This number does not include staff and Planning Commission members who also attended. Staff gave a presentation similar to the one presented during the February meeting of the Planning Commission. Sections of the presentation were interactive and members of the audience were given the opportunity to respond to questions on the slides through remote devices. The presentation and draft ordinance are available on the Planning Department's website: www.gloucester.info/planning. Once the final draft has been reviewed by the Planning Commission, additional opportunities for public comment will be available through the public hearings by the Commission and Board prior to adoption of any changes to the current ordinance.

SNAP -- SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM (FORMERLY FOOD STAMPS)

Due to weather conditions, many citizens were unable to get to the Social Services Department during parts of February for their appointments. Most days each benefit intake worker was triple booked for appointment slots in order to accommodate carry over persons. This week also saw an increase in the number of SNAP replacement cards. This can be a problem if the pin number is also misplaced. Fortunately, only one recipient was found to have had their benefits used by someone who found their card and pin. Also in regard to SNAP, staff explored ways to reduce the number of times that citizens must travel to the agency by using telephone interviewing to the fullest extent permitted by federal regulations. Further, in the SNAP program, required purging of closed files has finally reached the timeframe where the increase in cases over the past two years is now showing up in the amount of office associate time necessary to purge closed files at the required intervals.

SOCIAL SERVICES RECOGNIZES BENEFIT PROGRAM STAFF APPRECIATION MONTH

The Virginia Social Services Board, by resolution, announced Benefit Program Staff appreciation month. The resolution reads in portion “Virginia continues to experience unprecedented implementation of complex policies and procedures in all major benefit programs and whereas, Virginia’s benefit program staff have been at the forefront of public efforts to meet needs, steadily maintaining a high rate of application processing to ensure that those qualified for social service financial programs receive them accurately and in a timely manner”. To honor these staff members, the social work staff in conjunction with the administrative staff hosted a luncheon to show their appreciation and providing each benefit program staff member with a small token of appreciation. In a time of making personal dollars stretch, the social services staff are commended for paying for this out of their own pockets.

SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF PARTICIPATE IN IN-HOUSE TRAINING

The six member administrative team at the Social Services Department participated in a training given by two of the team members. The focus was on coaching and mentoring skills for supervisors. While this was a condensed version of information one would normally get if attending a costly training, it was extremely helpful to the team to revisit topics and spend some time focused on coaching staff when the volume of work takes center stage.

SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF PARTICIPATES IN PUBLIC SCHOOL EVENT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND GIFTED STUDENTS’ FAMILIES

Benefit Program staff participated in the second annual combined special education and gifted students’ family night. This was an opportunity for families to become acquainted with Medicaid and the FAMIS program as well as other benefit programs available. Most persons seeking information were looking for additional health resources for special needs students. The FAMIS program is designed to provide health insurance for children whose family income slightly exceeds Medicaid income limits. This is one of the programs that are being considered for capping applications, as a State cost saving measure.

SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF VOLUNTEER FOR FREE DENTAL PROJECT

During February, one fourth of the staff from the Social Services Department volunteered with the Mission of Mercy free dental project that occurred in February, with staff involved with all facets of the project from set-up to clean-up.

SUPERVISOR CREWE’S MEETINGS

Supervisor Crewe scheduled two special meetings for the Gloucester Point area. His town meeting was held on Thursday, February 11. Though citizen attendance was small, participation and discussion was good. This meeting was attended by the Commissioner of the Revenue, the Director of Community Education, and the County Administrator. Additionally, Supervisor Crewe rescheduled his Gloucester Point area business meeting for March 1, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the Abingdon School cafetorium. The Community Education

Department assisted with facility coordination and publicity. In addition to the Director of Community Education, this meeting was also attended by the Planning Director and Director of Economic Development

T. C. WALKER DAY EVENT

The 10th Annual T. C. Walker Alumni Reception and Program was held on February 25, 2010 at T. C. Walker Elementary School, followed by a performance by the grade school pupils in the auditorium. Several Board members, the County Administrator, and other County staff were in attendance.

T. C. WALKER HOUSE

A meeting of the T. C. Walker Committee was held in February at Hampton University. The Director of Economic Development and others attended. No action has been taken regarding stabilization of the home. We hope to have pricing for this work prior to the March meeting. The meeting included discussions of the campus environment concept, which would entail all properties currently owned by Hampton University, including not only the historic property, Mr. Walker's home, but also the additional two houses on Route 3/14.

TIMBERNECK AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The developer of Timberneck has purchased three of the five lots proffered to be sold for affordable units. The developer would like to start the process for determining who will get the houses so that the future owners could be involved in choosing some colors and options for the homes. The County's Department of Housing is responsible for developing the application and advertising, the latter of which will be paid for by the applicant. Bay Aging will be pre-screening the applicants for loan qualification. Staff from the Planning Department met with the Timberneck Developer and Bay Aging to discuss the process in order to move forward.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT GLOUCESTER BUSINESS PARK

The traffic signal project review is complete and we have been waiting for the Saluda Residency to send the completed submittals and Land Disturbing Permit that would allow us to begin construction. This final review and approval is expected soon.

TRANSIT VISION PLAN

Planning Department staff attended a meeting of the Steering Committee for the Transit Vision Plan in February. This is a subcommittee to the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization's (HRTPO) Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC). The plan is looking at fixed transit options for the Hampton Roads Region. Much of the viable options are on the Peninsula and will not directly impact Gloucester. However, how the surrounding localities connect to these fixed based transportation networks, as well as the impacts on surrounding bedroom communities in terms of easier commutes, are issues that will need to be addressed in the County's long range planning and transportation planning. The committee will meet again next month and the consultants hope to have a final plan by the end of the year.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING: 2034 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (HRTPO)

The Planning Director is also on the Subcommittee working on the 2034 Long Range Plan (LRP) for the Hampton Roads region. This plan is required for the TPO to receive federal funding for projects identified in the plan. The plan is fiscally constrained and the projects are to be regionally significant. The projects in this plan are different from the secondary road projects included in VDOT's Six Year Plan and 2035 VTRANS statewide plan. Due to the funding projections for the next 25 years, the committee discussed looking at other options for making projects work and improving transportation in the region. Under the current projections, projects in the plan will be severely limited unless other sources of funding are determined.

VACo RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The Director of Member Services of VACo Risk Management Programs visited with our Accounting Coordinator and Finance Director about their services. We briefly reviewed our property insurance coverage, general liability insurance coverage, automobile insurance coverage, and our crime insurance coverage. Our Accounting Coordinator handles our risk management programs for the County.

VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE (VIMS)

The Director of Economic Development attended the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) Industry Partnership meeting in February at VIMS. The main presentations were from Hank Majdeski of Blackrock regarding Algae Fuel Research and a report from Lee Beach, on the Hampton Roads Economic Development Strategic Plan and the role of the Hampton Roads Research Partnership (HRRP). This is the same plan that Executive Director Dana Dickens discussed with the Board of Supervisors at their February 16, 2010 meeting.

WARE ACADEMY STRATEGIC PLAN

The County Administrator and several county directors met with consultants this month at the request of Ware Academy officials to provide input and information for Ware Academy's strategic planning process.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT CONTINUED OPERATION DURING WINTER WEATHER

The Water Treatment Plant continued the normal 20 hour per day operation during the past few weeks' winter weather, which closed schools and the County Offices. We all thank the Plant Operators whose dedication provided continuous potable water for our customers despite the weather.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS BRENDA GARTON? -- LOCAL BUSINESS INTRODUCTIONS

The February County Administrator's "Where in the World Is Brenda Garton?" visit was to Building One. Following a small reception for all employees downstairs in the conference room, with refreshments provided by the Department Directors, the County Administrator met with each Department in Building One: County Administration, Economic Development, Housing, Registrar, Human Resources, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Purchasing, and Finance. In her ongoing discoveries of Gloucester County during these visits and travels, the Director of Economic Development also arranged visits with the owner or manager of two local businesses: Whitley's Peanuts and Industrial Resource Technologies (IRT) as an introduction to Gloucester's businesses and to learn a bit about the two businesses.

WINTER WEATHER

Emergency Management monitored two separate significant winter storm events in February which impacted Gloucester County. Though no shelter was opened, we were prepared should the need arise. Buildings & Grounds staff worked this month to remove snow in preparation for the start of the business week for several snow events. The Sheriff provided an inmate work crew to help with snow removal. Staff also cleared the private road leading to the water treatment plant for Public Utilities.

WOODVILLE PARK AND MEMORIAL GARDEN

Construction of the road into the Woodville Park has been delayed again due to wet weather. A meeting was held this week with volunteers to review the design concept for the Woodville Park Memorial Garden and to discuss fundraising. Several ideas were mentioned as ways to solicit funds and/or in-kind labor for construction of a gazebo and trail bridges. The need for significant funds for artwork was also discussed at length. The group will meet again on-site in March. The wetlands located in the proposed garden area were re-marked by staff to make laying the gardens and walking path easier. A letter was sent to the Abingdon Ruritan Club asking them to construct a gazebo for the garden. Communications have been made with the Rotary Clubs about building bridges over low areas. The Director of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism presented information on the park and the project at the Gloucester Point Rotary Club meeting on March 2.