

# Annual Report Fiscal Year 2017



**Dorchester County  
Council's Office  
501 Court Lane  
Cambridge, MD 21613**

# County History At A Glance

Home of Harriet Tubman, Underground Railroad conductor, who led dozens of enslaved people to freedom and Anna Ella Carroll, who assisted President Abraham Lincoln in the Civil War.

Also home to seven prior Governors for the State of Maryland: John Henry; Charles Goldsborough; Thomas King Carroll; Thomas Holiday Hicks; Henry Lloyd; Emerson C. Harrington; Phillips Lee Goldsborough.

The County Seal was designed by Andrew Tolley and adopted by the County Commissioners in 1967. It depicts a waterman holding a pair of oyster tongs and a crab pot facing a farmer holding a cornstalk and pitchfork with the popular "bluecrab" at the top. The center shield is divided to show county interests, sailing, religious heritage, industry and shorelines. The background is a map of the County surrounded by blue water. On the small banner under the shield is written in Latin "Populus prope deum habitans" or "people living under the care of God". The gold banded border is imprinted with the County's name and 1669, the year the County became a unit of government.



## Dorchester County Council

<b>District #1</b>	<b>Don B. Satterfield</b>
<b>District #2</b>	<b>William V. Nichols</b>
<b>District #3</b>	<b>Ricky Travers</b>
<b>District #4</b>	<b>Rick Price</b>
<b>District #5</b>	<b>Tom Bradshaw</b>

## Message from the County Manager

I am pleased to present the Dorchester County Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2017. This report showcases the County and its resources and highlights the County's accomplishments. In the upcoming fiscal year, the focus will continue to be on providing exceptional service to the citizens of the County. A few of the highlights of this report include:

- Enactment of
  - ◊ a partial abatement of County real property taxes for the rehabilitation of structures
  - ◊ tax credit against property tax imposed on newly constructed residential property with an automated fire protection sprinkler system
- Continued efforts to place County owned properties acquired via tax sale into productive use
- Staff worked extensively with legislators for the passage of legislation to address blight within the County
- Developed new partnerships and continued relationships with existing partners

For convenience, we have included demographic information about the County as well as fiscal explanations for the FY 2017 budget year.

The County Council and its staff continue to strive for excellence in the delivery of public services, always recognizing that the constituents deserve the utmost in customer service, care and fiscal responsibility. It is my pleasure to provide you with this summary of local government activities.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Goldman

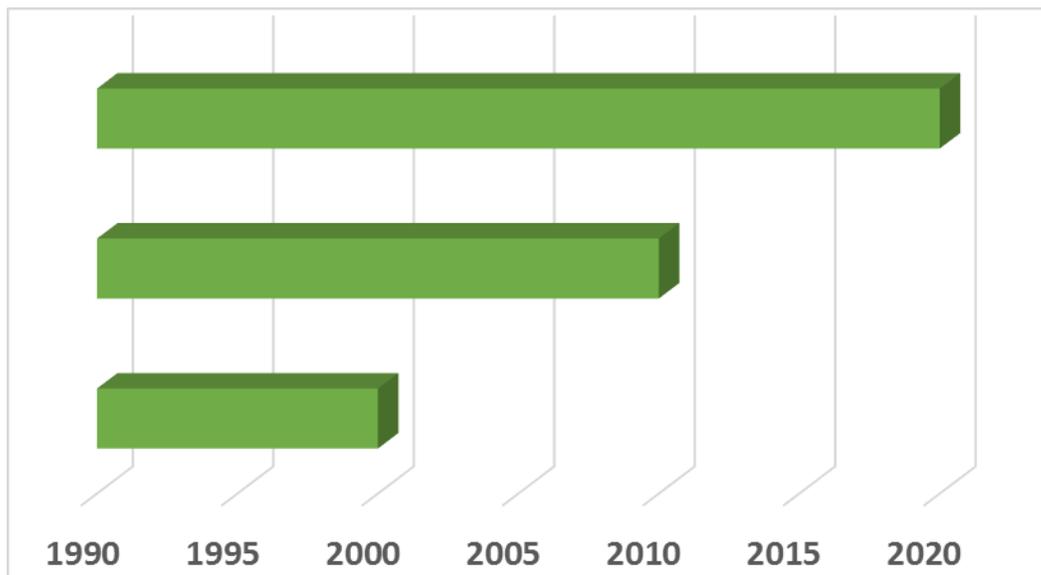
# LOCAL GOVERNMENT GOALS AND PRIORITIES

- To provide effective and efficient government recognizing reduced resources due to economic downturn and State budget impacts
- To adhere to the Charter of the County as adopted in 2002
- To manage all County resources with sound fiscal responsibility
- To appropriately plan for the needs of constituents
- To maintain service levels and seek ongoing efficiencies
- To make Dorchester County a desired place to live and work
- To welcome visitors to the County and showcase our heritage
- To protect natural and historic resources

## Dorchester Demographics

### County Population

2000	30,674
2010	32,618
2020	34,800 (projection)

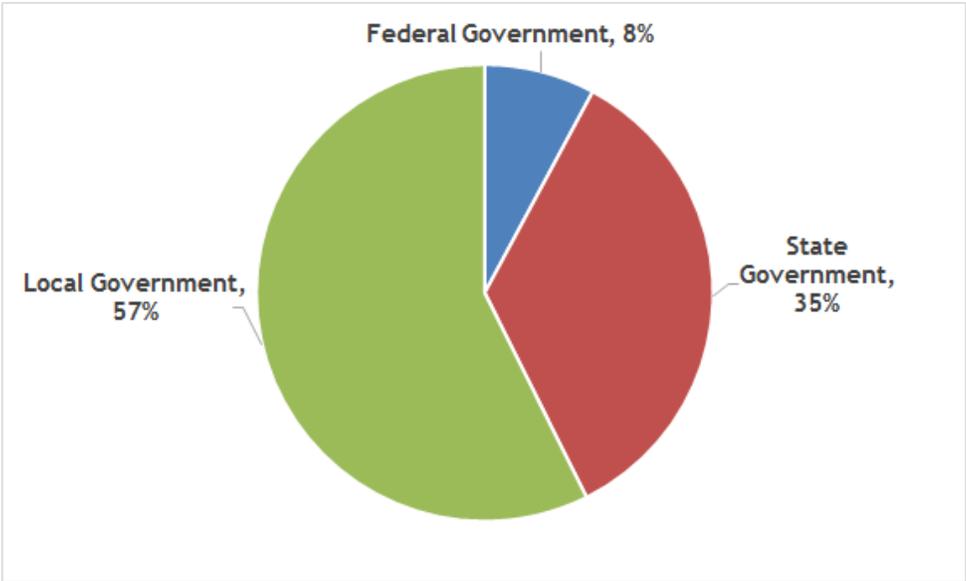


Source: 2017.2 Brief Economic Facts Sheet-Maryland Department of Commerce

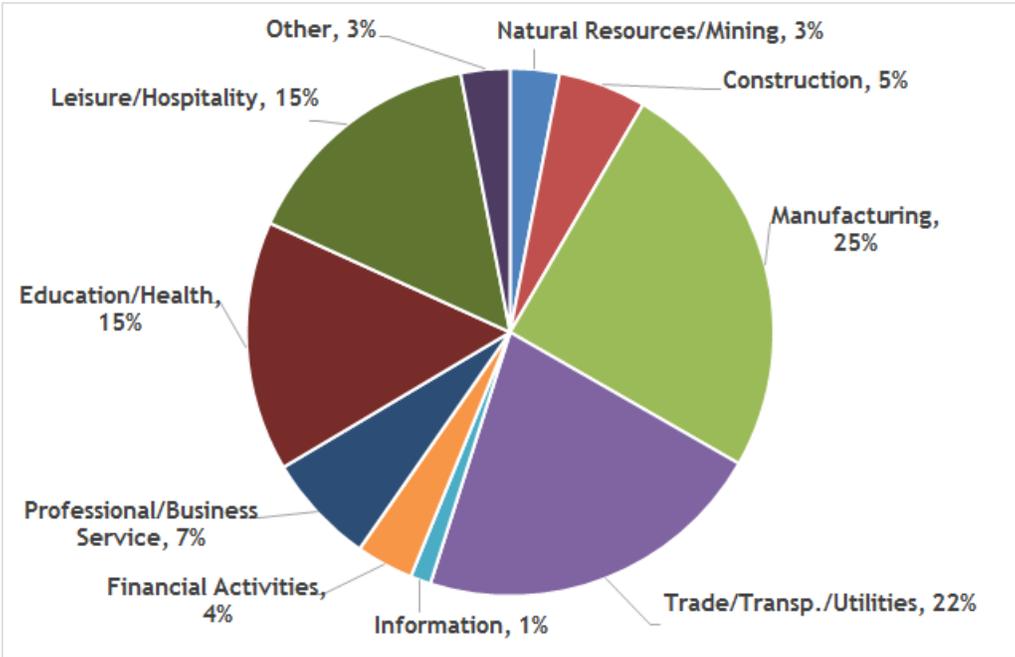
# Dorchester Demographics (continued)

## Employment Statistics

### Public Sector



### Private Sector



Source-Maryland Department of Commerce (2016 statistics)

# FY 2017 Highlights

## EFFORTS TO ADDRESS BLIGHT IN THE COUNTY

During FY17 the County Council continued its goal to address blight in the County by placing properties back into productive use. This was accomplished by transferring the properties obtained by the County via tax sale.

Seventy-eight properties were sold in FY17. Many of the buyers were young investors and first time property owners. Several properties were conveyed to Habitat for Humanity Choptank where homes will be constructed for qualified families.

Several of the purchased properties have been renovated and are now occupied. Including mixed use property on Pine Street. The building on this parcel contains an apartment upstairs and a small market downstairs.

### Before and After Pictures Mixed Use Property-Pine Street



# FY 2017 Highlights

## EFFORTS TO ADDRESS BLIGHT IN THE COUNTY (continued)

Dorchester County staff participated in a partnership with local legislators and other organizations, such as the Maryland Association of Counties and Maryland Municipal League, to draft legislation to address vacant, abandoned and blighted properties. The following is a synopsis of the bills that were passed into law during the 2017 Maryland General Assembly as a result of this partnership.

- Senate Bill 957/HB 1168 “Counties and Municipalities-Land Bank Authorities”
  - ◊ Updates original statutes enabling municipalities, counties and groups of counties to create land banks
  - ◊ Provides the power to a land bank to release liens when a blighted, vacant tax delinquent property does not sell as well as the ability for the land bank to self-fund
- House Bill 1048/SB 875 “Residential Property-Notice of Foreclosure”
  - ◊ Provides local governments notice of foreclosures early in the process
- House Bill 702/SB 1033 Residential Property-Vacant and Abandoned Property-Expedited Foreclosure”
  - ◊ Clearly defines “vacant and abandoned” and blighted property
  - ◊ Provides a process for expediting foreclosures on these types of properties
- House Bill 659/SB 823 “Tax Force to Study Tax Sales in Maryland”
  - ◊ Creates a task force to conduct a study of tax sales in the State with the goal of maximizing resources, facilitating the placement of properties into productive uses and protecting residents

During the 2017 Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference attendees were provided a summary of the above referenced legislation during a panel discussion titled “No Vacancy: Revitalizing Vacant and Blighted Properties.” Attendees were provided an overview of Dorchester County Government’s Tax Lien Property Re-Purpose plan by Cindy Smith, Grants Administrator. She was invited to speak since Dorchester County leads the State in addressing blight with this innovative plan. Ms. Smith shared with attendees the issues the County faces relating to blighted houses, including impacts to public safety, assessed and market property values and to the local and State economy. She also presented before and after photographs of some of the properties that were sold pursuant to the plan including the Pine Street property highlighted in this report.

# County Budget Highlights

Per the County Charter, the Council is required to adopt a balanced budget no later than May 31st of each year. The County's fiscal year is July 1st through June 30th.

In addition to funding County government services, the Council provided funding to the Board of Education and Chesapeake College.

- 38% of General Fund Operating Budget is devoted to education
- Number of County public school facilities: seven elementary schools, three middle schools and two high schools
- Dorchester County is one of five supporting counties for Chesapeake College, a local community college located in Wye Mills, Maryland. Other County partners include Caroline, Talbot, Queen Anne's and Kent

The FY 2017 budget was \$68.3 million:

- \$57 million operating budget
- \$8 million capital budget and \$3.1 million grant budget
- Includes Landfill and Airport Enterprise Funds
- Real property tax rate remained the same

# Grant Activity

The adopted FY 2017 grant budget totaled \$3.1 million which included anticipated funds for the following programs:

- ◆ Family Services-Circuit Court
- ◆ Critical Areas-Planning and Zoning
- ◆ Governor's Office for Children-Local Management Board-Child and Family Services
- ◆ Sheriff's Office-Governors' Office of Crime Control & Prevention
- ◆ Grant Administration-Finance
- ◆ Marketing Tier II Grant, Maryland Heritage Area Authority Operating Grant, IRONMAN Maryland-Tourism, Tubman Wayside Grant
- ◆ Program Open Space-Recreation and Parks

## STATE GRANT FUNDING

Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention Funding for the Sheriff's Office:

- Gun Violence Reduction
- Protective Order Entry
- Sex Offender Monitoring
- School Bus Safety
- Heroin Enforcement
- Highway Safety

Maryland Heritage Area Authority Funding:

- Operation and Management of the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area
- Marketing

Maryland Emergency Management Agency:

- Support of local emergency management operations

Department of Natural Resources:

- Waterway Improvement Funds
  - ◇ Countywide maintenance and improvements at public boating facilities in Dorchester County

Maryland Department of the Environment:

- eCycling Event

Maryland Aviation Administration:

- Land Acquisition-Easements for Obstacle Removal-Airport Capital Improvement Plan
- Special Grant Awards
  - ◇ Automated Weather Observation System Replacement
  - ◇ Installation of Security Gates
  - ◇ Airfield Maintenance Equipment

# Budget in Brief

## BUDGET SUMMARY—FY 2017

Operating Budget	\$ 57,094,622
Capital Budget	\$ 8,071,358
Grants Budget	\$ 3,133,633
Total County Budget	\$ 68,299,613

## Operating Budget By Fund

Governmental Funds	
General Government	\$ 4,848,187
Public Safety	\$12,489,759
Social Services	\$ 2,555,982
Public Works	\$ 5,132,564
Miscellaneous	\$ 7,535,124
Recreation and Parks	\$ 687,292
Natural Resources	\$ 455,180
Economic Development	\$ 981,219
Debt Service	\$ 2,562,104
Education	\$23,199,427
Health	\$ 1,133,641
Special Revenue Funds	
Transfer Tax	\$ 1,125,492
Enterprise Funds	
Airport	\$ 2,047,568
Landfill	\$ 3,246,379
Fiduciary-OPEB Trust	\$ 299,695

## Budget in Brief (continued)

County Bond Rating	
Moody's	A2
Standard & Poor's	A+
Real Property Tax Rate—FY2017	\$.976
Real Property Tax Revenue— FY2017*	\$29,059,496
Homestead Property Tax Credit % Allowed	5%
Local Income Tax Rate	2.62%
Local Income Tax Revenue	\$10,880,737
Recordation Tax Rate (on each \$500 of the value of the transaction)	\$5.00
Recordation Tax Revenue*	\$2,210,651
Transfer Tax Rate (% of total transaction value)	.75%
Transfer Tax Revenue*	\$1,193,644
Hotel Tax	5%
Hotel Tax Revenue**	\$347,904

Source: Budgets, Tax Rates, & Selected Statistics—Fiscal Year 2016 published by the Maryland Association of Counties; County records

Note:

\* Figures were provided prior to the audit and may change after it is conducted

\*\* County's Share—Hotel tax shared with municipalities where establishment located—1% to County /4% to municipality

# Legislative Wrap Up

## Legislation

In Fiscal Year 2017 the Dorchester County Council adopted the following legislation pertaining to local government:

An Ordinance Concerning: 2017-2018 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of Dorchester County.

Pursuant to the Authority of Section 9-236 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to enact a new Article XIX of Chapter 144 of the Code of Dorchester County, Maryland relating to partial abatement of County real property taxes for the rehabilitation of structures.

Pursuant to the Land Use Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, which entrusts local jurisdictions with land use planning authority to guide growth and development and acting pursuant to Title 27, Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays, Subtitle 01, Criteria For Local Critical Area Program Development, of the Code of Maryland Regulations (Comar) and acting pursuant to Section 8-1808 of the Natural Resources Article, Program Development for the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, to repeal the various Chapters in the Dorchester County Code and enact a new Chapter 68 entitled, "Chesapeake Bay Critical Area," providing for the protection of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries in which the repealed sections will be placed.

Repealed and re-enacted with Amendments Section 144-46 of Article XIII and Section 144-48 of Article XIV of the Code of Dorchester County, Maryland relating to the taxation of machinery and equipment used to generate electricity for sale.

Amended Chapter 155, Entitled "Zoning," Section 155 Attachment 1, Table Of Permitted Uses of the Dorchester County Code to add under the Institutional Use Category that Cemeteries, Commercial Human or Animal, shall receive growth allocation in the RR-RCA, Rural Residential - Resource Conservation Area Zoning District.

Repealed and reenacted Chapter 75 of the Dorchester County Code, entitled "Department Of Correction", providing for the creation of a Department of Correction and providing for the creation of the Dorchester County Detention Center and providing for a Director of the Dorchester County Department of Correction and providing for the duties and qualifications of the Director of the Department of Correction pursuant to Section 44-9 of Article 10 of the Code of Public Local Laws Of Maryland, being codified in Chapter 44 of the Dorchester County Code, Repealed and Reenacted Section 44-9 of Article 10 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland relating to the Warden of the County Jail, now known as the Dorchester County Detention Center.

Amended Chapter 155, Entitled "Zoning," Section 155 Attachment 1, Table of Permitted Uses of the Dorchester County Code to add under the Institutional Use Category, Cemeteries, Commercial Human or Animal Including Chapels, Mausoleums, and Crematoriums as a Special Exception Use in the RR-RCA, Rural Residential - Resource Conservation Area Zoning District.

Pursuant to the Authority granted by Section 9-232 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland a Property Tax Credit against the Property Tax imposed on newly Constructed Residential Property with an Automatic Fire Protection Sprinkler System.

# Legislative Wrap Up (continued)

## Resolution

In Fiscal Year 2017 the Dorchester County Council adopted several resolutions pertaining to local government:

Supported the submission of an application to the Maryland Neighborhood Revitalization Program for the stabilization of 505 & 507 Race Street, Cambridge, Maryland.

Supported the submission of an application to the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program for funds for renovations and repairs to bathrooms in the County Office and Court House Buildings.

Amended the County's Schedule of Fees to change fees for various County services, effective July 1, 2017.

Amended the 2004 Dorchester County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan (the "Plan") by changing the designation of an area of land located at 1548 Taylors Island Road, and shown on Tax Map 50, Grid 12, Parcel 23 to Chapter 4 Sewage, Chapter 4, Table 4-1 and to amend the Sewer Service Area Map Exhibit 4-E from S-2, 2 to 5 years to S1, existing to 2 years.

Amended the 2004 Dorchester County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan (the "Plan") by revising the text of Chapter 3, Water, 3.3 Water Service Area, Section 3.3.14, Linkwood (District 14), and by modifying Table 3-5, Immediate, 5 and 10 Year Priorities for Water Development to update the identification and description of Dorchester County Sanitary District No. 2 as it refers to the Bonnie Brook water service area, and to update the table as it refers to Sanitary District No. 2 and the Bonnie Brook water system.

Adopted a resolution regarding Board of Education Alternate Financing Methods.

Supported the submission of an application to the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program for funds for renovation of the receiving facility for Interstate Container, Inc., Cambridge, Maryland.

Amended the 2004 Dorchester County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan by changing the designation of an area of land located on the west side of Laurie Lane, and shown on Tax Map 50, Grid 12, Parcel 204, Lots 2C and 2D, said land being part of the Brad-Vern Park Part III subdivision and amending Chapter 4 Sewage, Chapter 4, Table 4-1 and the Sewer Service Area Map Exhibit 4-E from no planned or denied access to S1, existing to 2 years.

Amended the 2004 Dorchester County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan ("the Plan") by modifying the Groundwater Management Area Boundaries Map which is Exhibit 2a in the list of exhibits contained within the plan.

Supported the application of For All Seasons, Inc., for Community Investment Tax Credits from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development on behalf of Dorchester County, Maryland.

# Fiscal Year 2017 At A Glance

## County Council's Office

- Partnered with Finance Department in the management of County budget
- Coordinated communications between Council and departments of local government, State and Federal legislators and various agencies
- Prepared and maintained records of Council's meetings and work sessions
- Council sat in legislative session 15 days in this fiscal year
- Managed contracts, leases and Council appointed Boards and Committees
- Prepared commendations, proclamations and other documents
- Forwarded items to County Attorney and Special Legal Counsel for review and comment
- Scheduled various meetings, including Traffic Safety Committee, sent media notices and made arrangements for attendance at various events
- Worked with County Attorney on matters relating to Open Meetings Act
- Assisted Department Heads and the public in matters relating to County business

## Information/Technology

- Supported County staff in use of related computer equipment and maintained daily computer operations
- Maintained DocStar Imaging System scanners and assisted local schools with wireless infrastructure
- Attended Maryland Broadband Cooperative meetings as a Delegate to represent Dorchester County based on Council appointment
- Installed cabling for cameras at Eastern Shore Innovation Center and biometric/timeclock devices in several departments
- Obtained quotes and assisted in installation of multimedia access/presentation system in the County Council Meeting Room
- Ordered and worked with RTZ Audio to install new recorder for Orphans Court
- Moved computers, equipment and phones for several departments due to employee reconfigurations
- Worked with Bay Country Security to install a new video system at the Circuit Court House
- Coordinated with Bay Country Communications on proposed upgrade/update of the County's website
- Set up server and all related Judicial Dialogue software for State's Attorney Office

## Human Resources

- Provided ongoing management support for employees and Department Heads/Elected Officials, such as advertising vacancies, interviewing applicants, disciplinary actions
- Acted as Liaison with Health Insurance Broker regarding employee health insurance coverage questions, including managing open enrollment for active and retired employees
- Successfully transitioned Medicare retirees onto Part D for prescriptions
- Worked with United Fund, AFLAC, VALIC and Nationwide-third party benefit providers that employees may choose to participate with, at their full cost
- Acted as Liaison with State Retirement System to provide employees with information regarding retirement benefits
- Provided information to the State of Maryland Unemployment Office and attended hearings, as necessary

# Fiscal Year 2017 At A Glance (continued)

## Finance/Tax Collection

- Continued support of Council Office in development/management of annual budget
- Completed consolidation of Highway Division chart of accounts (spanned FY16 & 17)
- Began roll out of Point of Service machines, credit card acceptance at all locations and decentralizing revenue collection (spanning FY17 & 18)
- Liaison/assistance with outside audit of Volunteer Fire Company SCBA grant
- Continued identification, procurement & management of grant funding for Council initiatives
  - ◊ Total grants for 2017 were \$8.2 million
  - ◊ 6 group homes for disabled individuals were renovated
  - ◊ ADA compliant ramps added to County Office Building
  - ◊ \$150,000 for Homelessness prevention
  - ◊ \$980,000 for Transportation
  - ◊ Additional funding secured (\$91,000) to continue the stabilization of the Hearn building and applied for \$500,000 more
  - ◊ Cambridge South Dorchester High School generator
  - ◊ Interstate Container - Woods Road
  - ◊ Broadband
- Conducted Citizen Survey
- Dorchester County was instrumental in assisting in the crafting of several bills addressing vacant, abandoned and blighted properties which passed into law this year: Land Bank, Expedited Foreclosure of Vacant Properties, Tax Sale Law Study Group
- The County leads the State with innovative tax lien foreclosure re-use/re-purpose process
  - ◊ Donated to municipalities and nonprofits and sold to first time property owners and new businesses
  - ◊ Sold 78 properties in FY17
- FY18 Budget Highlights
  - ◊ Held overall growth in operating budget to less than 1%
  - ◊ Included increases in
    - Public safety funding (highest survey priority) by 4% = \$457,000
    - Education funding by %1
    - Staff compensation
  - ◊ Did not include increases in property, income or recordation taxes

## Planning and Zoning

- Staffed and attended meetings with the Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, Board of License Commissioners and Agricultural Land Preservation Board
- Began utilizing a new in-house inspector to conduct building inspections and plan review
- Due to the addition of the in-house inspector Department now has capacity to increase enforcement of violations of the building code and schedule prompt inspections
- Upgrades to the Geographic Information System (GIS) resulted in updated internal GIS imagery and software with County domain docogo.maps.arcgis.com improving the public web application to include access to land use information such as parcel boundaries and ownership, zoning, critical areas, flood plain, Council district maps and protected lands
- Three new agricultural land preservation easements were funded
  - ◊ 92 farms in agricultural land preservation program under easement
  - ◊ over 14,350 preserved acres

# Fiscal Year 2017 At A Glance (continued)

## Planning and Zoning (continued)

- Issued permits for 42 new single family dwellings, up from 36 permits for the same period one year earlier, and 12 new building lots were created with two lots to be served by municipal sewer, and the remaining ten on septic and well
- Criminal Justice Information System Audit was conducted-County in compliance with regulations/security, commended for 100% Accuracy & 100% Completeness of file information
- Drafted a Unified Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Ordinance adopted by the Council in June
- Received recognition for efforts in promoting sound floodplain management through the Community Rating System (CRS) program under which all flood insurance policy holders in the County earn a 10% discount on their policies

## Dorchester Community Partnership for Children and Families

- Updated Needs Assessment and Community Plan was completed resulting in a shift in priority funding areas through the Governor's Office for Children
  - ◇ Connect for Success-2 generational program designed to address the Impact of Incarceration on elementary school aged children, their primary care giver and the incarcerated parent
  - ◇ Building INDependence Together-program designed to support opportunity youth ages 16-24 not attending school and not working
- Dorchester County Health Department was awarded \$319,413 through requests for proposals process to fund the Connect for Success and BIND programs for FY 2017
- Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention Grant Awards
  - ◇ Teen Court for Dorchester/Caroline Counties (\$54,000) designed to address first time offenders in the juvenile justice system
  - ◇ Safe Streets funds (164,000) to address identification, prosecution, containment and peer support services for our most violent offenders
- Maryland State Department of Education Funding
  - ◇ Healthy Families program (\$363,132)-Early intervention program for high risk mothers
  - ◇ School Wellness Center Program- (\$406,823) funds for somatic and mental health services in North Dorchester Middle & High Schools, Maces Lane Middle School and Cambridge South Dorchester High School
- Resource Director InDorchester is available online at "[www.indorchester.org](http://www.indorchester.org)". Community can log in and search for available resources in the community and community providers can add their program to the site
- Community Capacity Building Trainings offered:
  - ◇ Bridges Out of Poverty
  - ◇ Board Development
  - ◇ Collective Impact Training
  - ◇ What every church member should know about Poverty
  - ◇ Disconnected youth training
  - ◇ Impact of Incarceration training
  - ◇ Results Based Accountability 101

# Fiscal Year 2017 At A Glance (continued)

## Tourism

- The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center opened in March 2017
  - ◊ Average visitors per month - 10,000
  - ◊ Qualitative data indicates an increase in overnight stays, particularly in the Bed and Breakfast sector, and in group travel
  - ◊ Demand for group tour step-on guides has increased
  - ◊ Arrival of buses at Visitor Center at Sailwinds has almost doubled with 29 buses in 2016 and 54 in 2017
- Major renovations by State Highway Administration were made to the Visitor Center
  - ◊ Deteriorated pedestrian board walk replaced from parking lot to front entrance of the center with composite decking and new structural steel
  - ◊ Re-painted the mast
  - ◊ Added an air conditioner unit in the restroom building
- Cambridge International (Rexnord) fabricated and installed a new Welcome sign on the front of the building facing Route 50
  - ◊ Features “Water Moves Us” logo with three dimensional waves
  - ◊ Technology is newly patented product and this was first installation
- In partnership with Sailwinds Park Inc., Tourism created a Use Plan for the Open Spaces at Sailwinds Park
  - ◊ Outlines projects that can be undertaken in the short to mid term
  - ◊ Includes playground, beach, amphitheater, boardwalk and interpretive wetlands
- Events and Activities
  - ◊ Began hosting events at the Amphitheater at Sailwinds Park
    - ◆ During 2017 season hosted seven events including concerts, outdoor movies and a kite festival
    - ◆ Worked with an outfitter to provide Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP), SUP yoga and yoga by land
    - ◆ All events and activities are marketing under the “At the Sail” brand
- The final two murals along the Chesapeake Country Byway have been installed
  - ◊ “Ode to Watermen” at Visitor Center was installed in Spring
  - ◊ “Reflections of Pine” on gateway property at Route 50 and Maryland Avenue was installed in July
- Marketing
  - ◊ Public relations efforts surrounding Harriet Tubman Visitor Center
    - ◆ Almost \$2 million in broad cast mentions as well as publicity through print media
    - ◆ Most notable outlets were CBS Evening News, the Baltimore Sun and the New York Times
- Extensive efforts were made to boost Facebook presence
  - ◊ More than 7,000 people “liked” the page
  - ◊ Another 7,000 follow the page

# Fiscal Year 2017 At A Glance (continued)

## Soil Conservation

- Another record breaking cover crop sign-up by Maryland farmers, Dorchester was sixth in the state with 56,434 acres signed-up
- Prepared Conservation Plans on 17,286 acres
- Best Management Practices accomplished which include Nutrient Management on 2,589.3 ac., Riparian Herbaceous Cover on 557.0 ac., Residue and Tillage Management on 2,189.9 ac., Riparian Forest Buffer on 10.4 ac., Waste Storage Facilities - 9, Animal Mortality Facilities - 7, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans - 15
- “Dorchester Quarterly” the Dorchester SCD Newsletter was re-instated July 2016
- Facebook page” Dorchester Soil Conservation District” was established
- Partnered with Nanticoke Watershed Alliance and Ridges to Reefs for agricultural restoration projects that focused on nutrients and sediment. Identified two farms for design of innovative agricultural restoration projects and will seek funding
- Staff partnered with NRCS and the American Farmland Trust to conduct a “Women’s Learning Circle” with Caroline and Talbot County
  - ◊ Approximately ten women landowners/farmers from Dorchester participated in this workshop to learn about existing resources that are available
- Assisted poultry integrators, contractors, landowners and farmers to ensure that Maryland Department of the Environment and State regulations are followed
- Reviewed Sediment and Erosion Control Plans which include Standard Plans - 29, Forestry Plans - 16, and Engineered Plans - 20
- Conservation Reserve Program saw 14 new enrollments and 44 re-enrollments
- Staff assisted with the Maryland Envirothon and volunteered assistance with National Envirothon that was held in Maryland

## Department of Corrections

- Provided inmate labor for community programs and projects
- New inmate program commenced-Mid Shore Mediation working with inmates with six months or less on family reunification, reconnecting with children and planning regarding living arrangements
- Coordinated with Donald Hall, Program Director, Addictions, Dorchester County Health Department, on reestablishing a Drug and Alcohol Recovery Training Program
- Parenting Class for male inmates was created and classes were held during this fiscal year
- Director attended Behavioral Health Network Forensic Workgroup meeting regarding Crisis Intervention Team Training
- Received approval from Council and purchased a 2017 Ford Passenger Transport Van
- Attended Maryland Correctional Administrator’s Association Conference and Training from June 4, 2017 to June 6, 2017
- Obtained authorization from Council to replace a fresh air/natural gas heat unit on the roof of the Detention Center
- Started a Pre-Trial Release Program which assesses inmates for drug use, mental health and health issues and if the courts assigns them to the program they are released on supervised Pre-Trial release
- In final stages of starting a Pre-Release Program under which inmates that are finishing a local sentence will be seen by the Health Department, Parole & Probation and Mental Health prior to release to assist in relieving the recidivism rate
- New camera system installed throughout the facility

# Fiscal Year 2017 At A Glance (continued)

## Recreation and Parks

- Held Annual “National Night Out” at Dorchester County Pool on August 2, 2016
- Dorchester County pool was open 70 out of a possible 72 days in 2016 season
- Total public attendance at County pool for FY 2017 was 19,671 with average “per-day” attendance of 281 people
- Held sessions of swim lessons
- Summer programs
  - ◇ Drama Camp
    - Over 50 youths participated in a four week camp
    - Learned parts for the musical “Peter Pan”
    - Performed the musical for over 300 family and friends at Cambridge South Dorchester High School Auditorium in July
  - ◇ Youth Tennis lessons
    - Over 25 youths participated in tennis lessons for eight weeks during the summer
  - ◇ Swim Lessons
    - Over 50 youths took lessons at the County pool for two weeks in June and July
  - ◇ Basketball
    - Average attendance of over 30 youths per day
- Fall Activities
  - ◇ Youth Football
    - 102 boys and 68 girls signed-up for a total of four teams and four cheering squads
  - ◇ Youth Soccer
    - 167 boys and girls, ages 8-13, participated in this activity
- Winter activities
  - ◇ Youth Basketball League
  - ◇ Pee Wee Basketball Clinic
  - ◇ Indoor Soccer
- Grounds maintenance of 13 athletic fields, County parks and County pool
- Prepared fields for athletic contests and winterized those which are unused during the winter

## Emergency Services

- FY17 was a successful year for the Department of Emergency Services
- All three divisions made these important strides to improve emergency service to the citizens and act as one Department on the following joint projects
  - ◇ Providing a Teen Community Emergency Response Team course for Dorchester County Career & Technology Center
  - ◇ Developing a new patch and logo for the Department that reflects each division
  - ◇ Coordinating social media for announcements relating to all of emergency services
- Participated in several high-level state-wide working groups on various topics, including Next Generation 911, Rural Health improvement, and mobile integrated health, which raises the County’s profile as a strong voice and advocate for emergency services in rural communities

# Fiscal Year 2017 At A Glance (continued)

## Emergency Services (continued)

### 911 Center

- During the year managed the integration with Cambridge Police Department, to iron out policy and procedure discrepancies and to understand how to better support officers in the field which process identified the need for a police emergency communications manual that is currently under development
- Several vacancies in the 911 Center led to the review and comprehensive revision of the rookie dispatcher training program, which will be piloted during FY18
- The 911 Division, Information Technology and Planning Zoning (GIS) worked together closely to identify upcoming challenges for Next Generation 911 implementation
- In addition to policy and procedural improvement efforts, 911 center personnel worked hard to ensure their training maintains the highest of standards, completing over 2000 hours of continuing education

### Emergency Medical Services

- Focused on policy and procedure improvement throughout emergency medical services operations
- The inventory tracking and management system implemented during FY16 demonstrated significant savings in the supply budget over FY17 and has provided improved personnel accountability for equipment
- Other policy efforts such as attendance/call out, shift swaps, and fueling have improved transparency and understanding of expectations among personnel
- From a medical operations perspective, FY17 saw strides in capabilities and agreements with other county agencies for support, for example
  - ◇ all EMTs have been trained as IV Technicians
  - ◇ providing force multiplication and much needed extra hands to paramedics on complicated advance life support calls
  - ◇ establishing a MOU with the Dorchester County Health Department to assist in improving infection control program
- Medical operations and management of the two Ironman events were greatly improved by implementing a staging manager and co-location with communications to manage units, resulting in noticeably more efficient and effective responses throughout the two major events
- The EMS division purchased its fourth Demers ambulance to continue the replacement plan for the aging fleet

### Emergency Management

- Focused on policy and planning initiatives this fiscal year
- Dorchester County's hazard mitigation and flood mitigation plans were updated during FY17 through a diverse and engaged stakeholder group
- The County's Fixed Nuclear Facility plan was also updated as required by Federal Emergency Management Agency in preparation for September 2017's ingestion pathway exercise
- Continuity of Operations plans, were reviewed and are in the process of being updated in coordination with each department
- Dorchester County did not have any EOC activations during FY17, but did have several successful uses of the Everbridge® emergency notification system to locate lost or missing individuals, including an autistic child and two walk away cases from Morning Star Academy

# Fiscal Year 2017 At A Glance (continued)

## Public Works

### Highway

- Performed routine maintenance at County marine facilities
- Maintained County roads including blacktopping, road signage, ditching, bushing, roadside mowing, bridge maintenance and operation of a maintenance/repair shop
- Performed surface treatments on certain County roads to include approximately 30 miles of tar and chip and approximately 2.8 miles of asphalt paving
- Extended the bid with Vulcan Materials for supplying crushed stone through April 30, 2018
- Continued to sole source with John Russell, President, Russell Paving Co., Inc., to provide hot mix asphalt, labor and equipment and to install approximately 500 tons of hot mix blacktop overlay per day
- Piggybacked on the State Highway Administration's contract for line striping with Alpha Space Control at the rate of \$0.0685 per linear feet for 5" yellow or white line-lined approximately 44.7 miles of road surface
- Awarded grass cutting bid to lowest bidder, Marshall Property Management, LLC, for mowing several County facilities and the tax sale properties in the City of Cambridge acquired by the County through the tax sale process
- Purchased two John Deere roadside mowers and a rear flail mower attachment
- Implemented new computer based program to manage and track concerns and work progress

### Engineering

- Performed routine grading permit, storm water management and subdivision road construction inspections
- Managed expenditures of Maryland Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Grant funds to include countywide maintenance and sanitary services at County marine facilities
- Received Council's concurrence to place a dumpster at each of the County owned marine facilities for the 2016 season through Waste Management
- Awarded the bid to Ruth Brothers for the placement of portable toilets at the County's marine facilities for six months during the 2016 season, which cost is reimbursable through a Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement grant
- Renewed Offshore Blind and Riparian Rights Licenses for the following three County waterfront properties for a three year period, after obtaining Council's concurrence: Rooster Island, Hills Point Cove, and Little Blackwater River properties
- Accepted, with Council's approval, Department of Natural Resources FY18 grant awards under the Maryland Waterway Improvement Fund for construction of the remaining portion of Elliott's Island Marina Jetty of \$50,000 and for the local portion of the United States Army Corps dredging of Tar Bay of \$250,000 with both grants being 100% reimbursable
- Replaced almost 7,000 linear feet of guardrail at the Hooper's Island Causeway, Ragged Point Road, and Galestown dam through a piggyback contract from St. Mary's County of \$140,000

### Maintenance

- Continued Recycling Program for County Offices and the Circuit Court House
- Maintained approximately 111,171 square feet of office space, including custodial services and approximately 14 acres of property

# Fiscal Year 2017 At A Glance (continued)

## Public Works (continued)

### Landfill

- Completed capping project at Old Beulah Landfill
- Recycled wood, scrap metal and tires from Beulah Landfill
- Purchased and placed two eCycling containers with Council's approval- one at Beulah Landfill and the other at the Golden Hill Transfer Station
- Received Council's approval to team with Planet Aid to start recycling textiles and placed two collection boxes at Beulah Landfill, Secretary Transfer Station and Golden Hill Transfer Station
- Received Council's approval to purchase 17 new recycling roll off containers
- Followed County Council's direction to open new Recycling Convenience Center at City of Cambridge Department of Public Works which center will include cardboard, glass, plastic, newspaper, tin and aluminum cans
- Worked with SHA to have front entrance of Beulah Landfill repaired and repaved
- Updated Beulah Landfills leachate monitoring equipment
- Worked with Geosyntec to install 13 new groundwater monitoring wells around Beulah Landfill and future site of the Dorchester County Municipal Landfill
- Planted trees along Gravel Branch Road to shield borrow pit from view

### Airport

- Focused on safety, security, and compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) aeronautical usage requirements consistent with the approved Airport Layout Plan
- Construction and final inspection was completed on the Expanded Parking Apron, Service Road and installation of nine rain gardens required by the Maryland Department of Environment
- Big Hangar Roof and insulation was replaced along with the main door support frame
- Closely worked with the FAA and MAA to install a new Automated Weather Observation System, electric security gates, add 1.5 acres of property, approach obstruction lighting, upgraded wind cone, and fire extinguishing capability
- Refined Crew Car concept, configuration of the new Airport Truck, and configuration of the Airport Vintage truck for emergency aircraft recovery operations
- Worked with the Cambridge Rescue Fire Company to install a "Knox Box" emergency access system, and completed the installation of a new "ductless" air conditioner in restaurant
- Prepared for MAA relicensing inspection which found no discrepancies
- Facilitated the donation of a business jet for picnic area, aircraft tug, and high-lift bucket truck
- New security signs were installed at each Airport access point, and all new aircraft tie-downs were fabricated and installed
- Worked closely with the MAA to secure grants for a new Hustler Super 104 mower, a Gator flight line utility vehicle and Phase One of the Avigation Easement Acquisition Project
- Phase One Avigation Easement Acquisition Project yielded surveys and appraisals of properties which will lead to the purchase of access to remove trees penetrating aircraft approach routes
- MAA application for Phase Two of Avigation Easement Acquisition Project was completed and submitted
- Returned all hangars to aeronautical use so Airport is now compliant with FAA grant assurances
- Continued the effort to have the FAA approved Aerobatic Practice Area removed from the airport and began the effort to "Re-Justify" the planned 923' runway extension being challenged by FAA
- Worked closely with the FAA and B & B Sport Aviation to present a very successful Wings and Wheels event on June 3, 2017

# Fiscal Year 2017 At A Glance (continued)

## Economic Development

### Business Attraction and Retention:

- Worked with several companies as part of business attraction efforts
- Conducted 42 visits of existing businesses

### Marketing:

- Began working on new website
- Sent 11 Newsletters, 55 articles published and made several millennial postings
- Dorchester Regional Technology Park
  - ◊ Appraisal was conducted which paved the process to sell a lot with Economic Development Administration and Maryland Department of Commerce
  - ◊ Started an Aggressive Marketing Campaign to sell lots at new price
  - ◊ Created a new Brochure and promoted via regional ads and mail
- Worked with The Dorchester Banner to create the new Water Moves Us Magazine
- Increased social media likes on Facebook by 378
- Advertised in several print and digital media outlets as well as Comcast
- Hosted Towson University and the Military Office from Department of Commerce on a Defense workshop for businesses that are interested in contracting, MBE Workshop, HUBZone Workshop, Maryland Capital Enterprises workshops
- Worked with the State of Maryland on a Cyber Asset Mapping Project and gathered local STEM data

### Eastern Shore Innovation Center:

- 13 new businesses
- Created 39 new jobs
- Provided 34 skill building and networking opportunities
- Held 62 business mentoring sessions
- Enhanced security with 24 X 7 video surveillance and proximity badge entry
- Partnered with hotDesks in Salisbury, Easton and Bowie
- Through financial support from Rural Maryland Council, and a new tenant, SunX Analytical, added a 1,080 square feet of wet lab
  - ◊ Lab is available for part-time use by startups
  - ◊ Added over \$500,000 in asset value to the center and the County

### Community Partnerships:

- Regularly met with the City of Cambridge Economic Development, Cambridge Main Street, Mid Shore Regional Council, the Mid-shore County Economic Development offices, The Dorchester Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Henry Wagner, Superintendent of Schools, Maryland Economic Development Association, Dorchester Tourism
- Hosted the Cannabis Council Workshop

### Events:

- Attended Several Chamber Events, Dorchester Center of the Arts, Richardson Maritime Museum, Eastern Shore Network for Change, Dr. Wagner's Superintendent's Advisory Group, Cambridge Main Street Events and other events including Ironman, Harriet Tubman Visitor Center Opening