



Queen Anne's County Commissioners' 2007 Progress Report

During 2007 the Queen Anne's County Board of Commissioners successfully made concrete strides toward improving the function of local government, protecting the environment and improving our citizens' overall quality of life while continuing to keep public safety and education in the forefront

Public Safety

- ☑ Improved emergency services response times through dispatching, staffing and purchase of three ambulances
- ☑ Passed legislation enabling a free standing emergency room
- ☑ Instituted community outreach to prevent and/or monitor chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes
- ☑ Consolidated Adult Day medical care at Percy Thomas Center to serve our medically fragile citizens more efficiently
- ☑ Worked with State Highway Administration for roundabout at Thompson Creek Road
- ☑ Installed dry hydrants at Long Point
- ☑ Removed lead from soil at Matapeake to provide environmentally safe public beach
- ☑ Made playing fields at Kent Island High School safe by removing debris hidden in soil
- ☑ Adopted Adequate Pubic Facilities Ordinance
- ☑ Approved RFP for preliminary engineering of sewer & water service to southern Kent Island
- ☑ Facilitated Dredging of Kent Narrows
- ☑ Completed replacement of Groff Road Bridge
- ☑ Completed pedestrian trail on Thompson Creek Road
- ☑ Initiated construction of salt storage facility for snow removal
- ☑ Completed construction of Emergency Medical Services vehicle garage
- ☑ Constructed Sudlersville Church Street water line
- ☑ Implemented a fire marshal / fire inspector program to preserve life and property



Education

- ☑ Fully funded Board of Education for 2008 with additional \$4 million
- ☑ Increased retired teachers' medical benefits to 90%
- ☑ Dedication and opening of Matapeake Middle School
- ☑ Approved planning funds for expansion of Kent Island Public Library
- ☑ Acquired property for two future schools in Sudlersville
- ☑ Installed new playground at Kent Island Elementary
- ☑ Made substantial improvements to Board of Education grounds
- ☑ Established Chesapeake Helps a one-phone-call source (1-866-722-HLPS) to find all available services for families
- ☑ Completed "Results Matter" project providing needs assessment & strategic plans for children and families
- ☑ Developed a system enabling childhood service providers with Community Partnerships for Children and Families to share resources to ensure that every County child will begin life healthy and start school ready to learn
- ☑ Welcomed two delegations from China in hopes of future cultural and educational exchange programs

Providing Opportunities for Economic Development

- ✓ Created a Department of Economic Development & Agriculture
- ✓ Agreed with Planning Commission in continuing the process for developing a Chesapeake College Area Plan
- ✓ Adopted ordinance allowing businesses to add percentage of square footage without additional site plan
- ✓ Directed staff to develop an approach to a proposed business park near Centerville
- ✓ Secured an extension of the Matapeake agreement for evaluation of future use of old Bay Model site
- ✓ Passed Waterman's Bill of Rights
- ✓ Continue to develop relationships with Chinese delegations to facilitate economic development opportunities
- ✓ Completed restoration of historic Matapeake Ferry Terminal Building with Christmas Open House as first venue



Improve Overall Quality of Life

- ✓ Established committee to spearhead a Sports Complex
- ✓ Installed bathrooms, field lighting, and handicap accessible paths at Church Hill Park
- ✓ Added handicap accessible playgrounds at Pinkney and Sudlersville parks and paved walking trail with exercise stations at latter
- ✓ Installed septic system at Pinkney Park in preparation for 2008 bathroom installation
- ✓ Adopted two "setback" ordinances to enable affordable housing
- ✓ Expanded 4-H Park for functionality of parking and future improvements
- ✓ Opened Island Dog Park, the County's first public dog park
- ✓ Authorized continued planning and development of White Marsh Park at Bloomfield Farm and the Grasonville School Pond Park
- ✓ Through the Parks Memorial Program, dedicated lights at Church Hill Park in honor of late County Commissioner Sandy MacGlashan and the sports complex at Route 18 Park in honor of the late John Selby
- ✓ Moved forward on affordable housing for seniors - Foxx Town project in Sudlersville



Protecting the Environment & Managing Growth

- ☑ Adopted Chester / Stevensville Plan
- ☑ Signed Eastern Shore Land Conservancy 2010 Vision
- ☑ Protected Unicorn Lake
- ☑ Preserved 1,726 acres through the MALFP and Rural Legacy programs
- ☑ Adopted Watershed Management Plan for Kirwan and Goodhand creeks
- ☑ Established Council of Governments as liaison between County and Towns
- ☑ Acquired environmentally sensitive Kudner property with State funding, County contribution less than \$2,000/acre
- ☑ Acquired land on Kent Island to create much needed playing fields
- ☑ Adopted Cool Counties Resolution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- ☑ Adopted Impact Fee Ordinance
- ☑ Provided many reforestation and wetlands mitigation initiatives such as planting a tree buffer around Bay Bridge Airport
- ☑ Purchased additional parkland and conservation easements
- ☑ Developed the vision for the future of the County to guide the new comprehensive master planning process and moved forward by issuing a request for proposals
- ☑ Kent Narrows/Stevensville/Grasonville Enhanced Nutrient Removal Wastewater Treatment Plant placed into service
- ☑ Tree planting for the Greenberg Property Wetland Restoration project was completed
- ☑ Completed construction of solar panel for fuel depot
- ☑ Initiated Portfolio Manager for Energy Star Program
- ☑ Received grant funding for Corsica River Restoration project and completed Environmental Site Design Manual
- ☑ Storm-water management facilities were incorporated into the County GIS base map
- ☑ Completed construction of rain garden at Queen Anne's County Free Library
- ☑ Received grant approval for rain garden at Kramer Senior Center
- ☑ Updated Comprehensive Water and Sewerage plan to include biological nutrient reduction septic requirements in critical areas and stream buffers



Improving the Function of County Government

- ☑ Decreased 2008 tax rate by 3 cents/ \$100 of assessed value
- ☑ Adopted Fiscal Note Resolution to clearly identify costs of governmental decisions
- ☑ Reorganized departments of Parks and Recreation, Land Use, Growth Management and Environment, Finance, and County Administrator's Office producing a net savings of more than \$250,000 in government operating expenses
- ☑ Established a Public Works Advisory Committee
- ☑ Established a Grants Procurement Committee
- ☑ Adopted Ethics Ordinance
- ☑ Required Administrator's report as a basis for some changes in government
- ☑ Created Commissioner offices with regular hours
- ☑ Reorganized Department of Planning and Zoning for greater efficiency and cost savings
- ☑ Created position of Chief Operating Officer
- ☑ Initiated construction of Public Works garage to centralize maintenance and improve efficiency of County transit fleet
- ☑ Established Court House Committee to make recommendations on future circuit court house site and future use of existing, historically significant building
- ☑ Extended timetable for submission of citizen text amendments for better service to citizens
- ☑ Approved benefits for attendants working at County transfer stations
- ☑ Transferred responsibility of the three County marinas to Department of Public Works
- ☑ Reformed election process regarding filling Commissioner vacancies
- ☑ Determined way to cover KNSG debt for 2008 without increasing fees

Queen Anne's County Board of Commissioners

Eric S. Wargotz, M.D., Commission President

Courtney M. Billups, District 1

Paul L. Gunther, District 2

Gene M. Ransom III, District 3

Carol R. Fordonski, District 4

