

Queen Anne's County 2010 Year in Review



Eric S. Wargotz, M.D.—Countywide
Courtney M. Billups—District 1
Paul L. Gunther—District 2
Gene M. Ransom III—District 3
Carol R. Fordonski—District 4

IMPROVING EDUCATION AND TAKING CARE OF OUR CITIZENS



Commissioner Gene Ransom, C Eric Wargotz, M.D., C Carol Fordonski, C Paul Gunther and C Courtney Billups at the dedication of the Queen Anne's Emergency Center. The facility is the only one of its kind on the Eastern Shore.

- The Commissioners dedicated the Queen Anne's Emergency Center, a collaborative effort with the University of Maryland Medical System and Shore Health System. The facility is the only one of its kind on the Eastern Shore.
- QAC acquired a \$50,000 grant from the state for preliminary site design work on YMCA of Chesapeake tentatively located in Centreville.
- Broke ground for new Sudlersville Middle School.
- Improved sports fields at Kent Island and Queen Anne's County High Schools.



Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works staff worked steadily for days to clear the roads after the February blizzards.

- Department of Emergency Services improved Emergency Medical Services response times and efficiency by transferring EMS Station 400 to renovated police helicopter hanger and allowing for three more ambulance bays.
- Department of Emergency Services operated Emergency Operations Center and directed operations for February blizzards. **Department of Public Works staff was swift and efficient in keeping the roads clear during the blizzards.**
- Local Management Board brought in over \$1.6 million to the county to support children and family programming.
- Housing and Community Services acquired Community Development Block Grant funding to purchase a vacant home for a transitional shelter. Renovated with donations and volunteer labor, the home officially opened in September
- **Housing and Community Services received over \$125,000 in Emergency Assistance grants to help residents with rent and utilities.**
- Department of Aging utilized federal stimulus funds to continue services for seniors, including computers, meals for homebound seniors and the annual Senior Summit.

RECREATION IN OUR COMMUNITY

- Dedicated White Marsh Park at Bloomfield Farm, broke ground for Davidson Park and received a \$1.3 million grant for expansion of the Cross Island Trail.
- Added on-line registration to Department of Parks and Recreation website.
- Added new recreational programs for north county residents as well as environmental programs and programs for children with disabilities.
- QACTV series showcased various county parks and amenities.
- **Dedicated the newly renovated Watermen's Boat Basin at Kent Narrows.**
- **County residents adopted over 365 dogs and cats from Dept of Animal Services.**



The Commissioners dedicated the Watermen's Boat Basin at Kent Narrows honoring their commitment to the watermen and fishermen of the county.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND MANAGEMENT

- **QAC received an upgrade in its bond credit rating from Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's rating service due to low unemployment, high income and stable financial outlook.**
- **Implemented furloughs and early retirement incentives for county employees in order to offset lost state revenue and help balance the budget.**
- QAC continued its efforts to improve transparency and accountability in government with the web publication of the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, or CAFR.
- For the 11th consecutive year, the QAC Finance Office earned the excellence award for the CAFR.
- The Finance Office implemented the Ready to Serve credit for Sanitary District customers.
- Information Technology recycled over 40 work stations and three servers.
- Information Technology added the Dept of Land Use, Growth Management and Environment to the list of departments going paper free by using the scanning retention system.
- Dept of Public Works secured stimulus funds for repair of county roads and bridges.
- **Established inmate trustee assignment program to provide free labor to departments for county projects.**

INFORMING OUR CITIZENS

- QACTV continued to provide coverage of County Commission, Planning Commission and Board of Appeals meetings, as well as creating and producing new shows aimed at attracting a wider audience, including “View From the Front Porch” and “Friendship Tails.”
- QACTV staff designed and implemented streamlined system for all county press releases in order to consolidate on county web and QACTV blog.
- Created new morning show look, including RSS feed for up to date news on Bay Bridge traffic, local news and weather and QACTV blog content.
- **QACTV provided coverage of local candidates’ forums for broadcast on channel 7 and web.**

QACTV Channel 7 continued to expand with more community based content, including a blog, expanded web service and healthy pets information.

County Commissioner Paul Gunther and QACTV Channel 7 host Fred McNeil film “View From the Front Porch.”



PROTECTING AND IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- Rural Legacy program was awarded over \$3 million for preservation of county lands.
- Federal Ranch Land and Protection program was awarded \$900,000 for lands meeting the Critical Farm definition.
- QAC was awarded \$100,000 grant from Maryland Department of Natural Resources to protect county waterways. .
- Established the Bright Ideas At Work program to solicit and implement ideas for energy conservation in the workplace.
- Dedicated Department of Animal Services quarantine building.
- **Received award from ICLEI for achieving third milestone of the county’s greenhouse gas reduction goals.**

These county employees were honored with Bright Idea Awards for their efforts to conserve energy and save money.



GROWING OUR ECONOMY



The County Commissioners helped dedicate White Marsh Park at Bloomfield Farm.



Planting trees at Tuckahoe State Park was part of the tourism initiative of the Maryland Tourism Council.

- **The Maryland Board of Public Works gave approval to move forward with the development of Matapeake Professional Park.** The project is expected to generate an estimated \$300, 000 in annual property tax revenue, as well as providing jobs.
- **The Commissioners signed a lease with Coastal South for development of the Bay Bridge Airport property.** The project includes a vineyard and winery, a hotel and retail and tourism related businesses and it expected to generate about \$260,000 in property tax revenue as well as hundreds of jobs.
- The County Commissioners adopted the 2010 Queen Anne’s County Comprehensive Plan.
- QAC designed and created a bicycle trail map to help promote the county as an outdoor tourist destination.
- QAC submitted application to the state to create an Arts and Entertainment District in Queen Anne’s County.
- Staff worked with Tourism Task Force to help define and streamline initiatives in order to enhance the benefits of tourism in the hospitality industry.
- Queen Anne’s County continued to be involved in the promotion and marketing of the celebration of the War of 1812 Commemoration.
- Completed compendium of Sacred Sites historic survey, including churches and cemeteries, which will be used to further enhance tourism.