



# Moving forward

A QUARTERLY UPDATE ON  
CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
DEPARTMENTS & DIVISIONS

*A message from County Executive Alan McCarthy*

## Welcome!

Cecil County Citizens,

Welcome to the first edition of ***Moving Forward!***

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide quarterly updates from the various departments within Cecil County Government. We don't want you to miss a beat when it comes to what's happening in Cecil County!

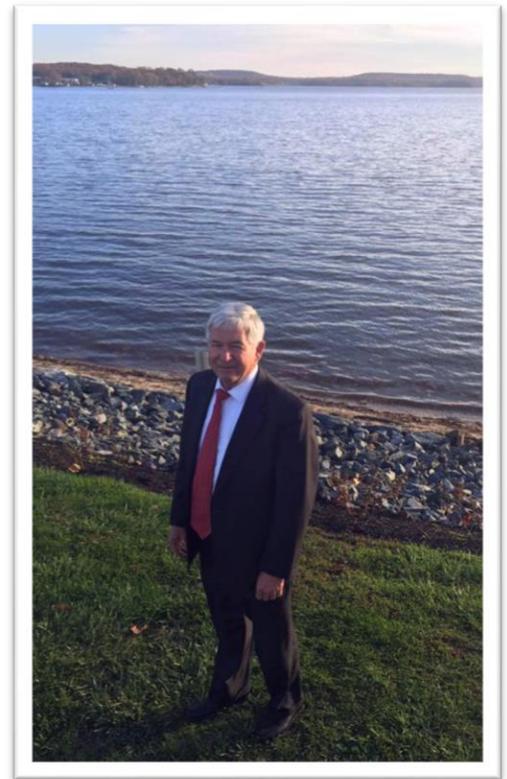
In addition to this new concept, I encourage you to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [website e-notifications](#) for daily and to-the-minute news.

Throughout this newsletter you will find links to our departments where you can learn even more about the services we provide. Our offices are staffed to serve you in the most effective and efficient ways possible. We look forward to serving you every single day!

Look for the next edition of ***Moving Forward*** in late December.

All my best!

[www.ccgov.org](http://www.ccgov.org)



## OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Moving into the third month of Fiscal Year 2019, we are aggressively carrying out initiatives that were approved in the 2019 budget. We have met with the new Superintendent of CCPS and have established regular monthly meetings with he and his staff. We will be doing the same with our other component units well in advance of our FY 2020 budget process and will be doing the same with our Department heads as well. Together, we will move Cecil County forward.

Ground will soon be broken for new sewer mains along Route 40, we have acquired the former Brantwood golf course for a park that is currently under development and continue to work with multiple economic development prospects. The [County Executive and his team](#), which includes all Cecil County government employees, is working collaboratively to solve problems, provide excellent customer service to our citizens and to expand the county tax base to increase revenues. These are challenging times and collaboration will be the key to our future successes. On behalf of our County Leadership team, we look forward to communicating to you through this vehicle.



The Parks and Recreation Department works diligently to enhance the quality of life for Cecil County residents. We offer a plethora of programs for youth and adults (over 250 annually) that promote healthy, active, lifestyles. The department manages over 600 acres of park land and open spaces, 2 indoor facilities and 3 boat ramps.

The M.O.U. that has been signed with Cecil County Public schools, as well as the new Brantwood Park acquisition, have allowed us to expand our program offerings in a more regionalized manner thus, allowing residents to participate in activities closer to their homes.

Our Sports Tourism division continues to promote Cecil County on a national level by attracting tournament group's country wide. October of 2018 we will host 5 tournaments, over 4 weekends, revealing the beauty of Cecil County to approximately 10,000 visitors.

Learn more about our programs by visiting:

[www.cecilrec.com](http://www.cecilrec.com)

Or call

410-656-5125

## LAND USE & Development Services

The **Department of Land Use & Development Services** continues to provide nonpareil service to the citizens by continuing to explore and establish all means to streamline the development process and eliminate cumbersome and/or redundant regulatory hurdles.

These efforts have manifested themselves in a nascent uptick in residential building permit activity over the last several months as well as assisting with the robust rebound with our commercial /industrial activity.

We are persevering diligently with the Maryland Department of the Environment to revise and update the County's Master Water & Sewer Plan. This effort will help with the County's efforts to expand our wastewater presence in our growth area and wit the efforts of private utilities to expand water service as well.

## human resources

The **Department of Human Resources** serves Cecil County Government's greatest resource: the 650+ employees who serve our constituents. DHR is committed to providing excellent customer service to employees in the following important areas: compensation, benefits, leave, risk management, employee relations, wellness, and professional development.

The DHR Team includes: Sally Kilby, Director; Anna Gardner, Chief; Karen Nusic, Risk Management Administrator; Dawn Struble, Human Resources Manager; Sandy Biggs, Human Resources Generalist and Edith Tinsman, Administrative Assistant

Recent departmental accomplishments include a major update to the County's Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual and the first-phase implementation of the Salary & Compensation Study. In the next few months, DHR will be working collaboratively with Departments to update employee job descriptions. Employees may keep up with DHR news via the department's monthly newsletter: *Employee Matters*.

**Job Seekers:** Job openings are posted on the County's website at <http://www.ccgov.org/government/human-resources>

The **Department of Finance** administers oversight of all County funds and securities and provides financial assistance and information to other County departments and agencies. Responsibilities include the preparation, execution and oversight of the operational and capital improvement budgets, preparation of the County's annual financial report, management of available cash funds and investments, implementation of policies and procedures and the billing and collection of tax and sewer bills.

### Real Property taxes due by September 30<sup>th</sup>

(Annual bills or 1st installment of Semi-Annual)

These bills become delinquent on October 1st and are subject to interest at the rate of 1% per month until paid.

As part of our commitment to provide citizens with efficient, convenient services, Cecil County has partnered with Paymentus, a third-party payment provider to offer electronic payments over the internet. The third-party provider will assess a convenience fee each time you utilize their service to make tax and sewer payments by credit/debit card. Cecil County accepts Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards and electronic checks.

[Citizen Self Service](#) can be used to view or pay Real Estate Property Tax, Personal Property Tax or Sewer bills.

The **Department of Community Services** (DCS), through its nonprofit arm, **The Community Services Foundation of Cecil County, Inc.**, (CSF) contracted with **Shattuck & Associates**, an independent planning and evaluation firm, to conduct a countywide community center needs assessment to explore the interest, need and feasibility of constructing a community center(s) in Cecil County. To begin the process, a Community Center Planning Team was formed, which included members from a variety of private businesses and public organizations. The Planning team's primary responsibility was to guide the decision-making process with respect to the evaluation plan and to discuss the implications of findings as they surfaced. In doing so, Planning team members worked together to determine the study process, help choose the provider and community forum format, and to develop the countywide survey that was distributed to community members.

The **Needs Assessment Study** was designed to explore interest in the prospect of a community center(s) in Cecil County and findings from the study indicate that the overwhelming majority of survey participants and forum participants felt Cecil County would benefit from the development of a multi-use community center. The forum participants reported that some of the greatest needs in the county are connecting people to services, youth engagement and transportation. Survey respondents added that there is a focused need for substance use treatment services, mental health services and gathering and entertainment options for youth. Next steps involve organizing a brief presentation of the findings to additional stakeholders and elected officials and determining the need to move forward with a second study that explores location, size, scope and cost.



The [Cecil County Office of Economic Development](#) had a very busy summer.

Highlights include:

- Partnered with Cecil County Farm Bureau to raise awareness for farms and local produce at the Cecil County Fair
- Worked with Cecil County Department of Community Services to secure funding from State of Maryland for expansion of Warwick Mushroom and with Cecil County Department of Finance to institute a clean energy incentive for commercial developments called PACE
- Hosted a successful Commercial Broker/Developer event on September 13th to promote Cecil County. The audience of 75 learned how Cecil County has been successful in attracting jobs, how it can better leverage its proximity to Philadelphia, and how developers and businesses can take advantage of new financial incentives such as Maryland's manufacturing tax credit and federal Opportunity Zone program



Office will be busy over next two months preparing an application for county's Enterprise Zone expansion in Perryville and North East, for Fair Hill International beginning on October 18th, and working with towns to promote and plan an all-new event – a Residential Development event on October 25th.



The [Facilities Management Department](#) recently underwent a change in leadership. With the retirement of Steve Kuhls at the end of August, Steve Reisler assumed the position of Chief. Mr. Reisler is a native of Cecil County and a graduate of Rising Sun High School. Steve brings over 20 years of experience in facilities and property management in both corporate and non-profit environments.

Recently, the Facilities Department undertook a project to improve the appearance and safety of the Help Center/CAC campus. The work included the removal of old landscaping materials and replacing with stone, installing "No Smoking" and "No Dumping" signage, evaluation of the storm water management drainage, and sweeping and striping of the parking lot. All was done with an emphasis on making the lot and sidewalk accessible to those living with disabilities and providing a safer and more welcoming environment for all.

Solid Waste Management Division of the [Department of Public Works](#) conducted its annual [Household Hazardous Waste Day](#) (HHW Day) event on April 22, 2018. Over 600 County residents took advantage of the opportunity to dispose of over 75,000 pounds of household hazardous waste such as pool chemicals, insecticides, old fuel, etc. at no charge. Cecil County Sheriff's Office deputies were on-hand to accept unwanted, unneeded, and expired medications for proper disposal as well. **HHW Day** is an annual event; the next one will be on Sunday, April 28, 2019.

County officials, representatives from companies that worked on the project, nearby residents, and over a dozen campers from the nearby branch of the **Boys & Girls Club of Harford & Cecil Counties** cut the ribbon on July 10th officially marking the completion of the project to replace a bridge and culvert and to upgrade Razor Strap Road, opening the road to thru traffic along its entire length for the first time since the failing bridge over Stoney Run Creek was removed over 20 years ago. The area is within the County's designated growth area and has seen significant residential growth in recent years. A separate, but related, County-funded project constructed a right-turn lane on westbound US40 at Red Toad Road to better accommodate the high volume of traffic making that right turn. The turn lane, coupled with traffic calming measures incorporated into the reconstructed Razor Strap Road, is intended to prevent Razor Strap Road from becoming a high-speed cut-thru for westbound US40 traffic seeking to go north on Red Toad Road.

Officials from Cecil County Government, **Cecil County Public Schools** (CCPS), companies involved in the projects, and members of the student bodies cut the ribbon this past spring on two grant-funded stormwater management projects on the campuses of North East and Perryville high schools. The projects included restoring streams and constructing submerged gravel wetlands, bioretention basins, and other stormwater management features that will not only improve the water quality of nearby creeks and streams but also provide bio-habitats and other features that teachers can incorporate into the curricula of different science classes and which students can, and have, used to conduct project-based research. The projects are the latest results of a long-standing partnership between CCPS and the Department of Public Works to improve stormwater management and enhance learning opportunities on Cecil County school campuses.

**PUBLIC WORKS**