Cecil County Citizens,

2018 has been an excellent year. There are many accomplishments of which we all can be proud and optimistic for our collective futures. Economic development secured many new businesses offering thousands of new jobs. Infrastructure projects, including waste water and natural gas, continued to be installed along the growth corridor after years of dormancy. Parks and Recreation facilities were expanded and upgraded offering citizens of all ages more activities contributing to an active and healthy lifestyle.

This holiday season I am especially appreciative of the dedication of our law enforcement offices and emergency services paramedics and dispatchers. Along with the men and women of our volunteer fire companies all of these individuals work tirelessly, many times at their own peril, to ensure our county is safe and secure.

I want to thank the women and men who work for the Cecil County Government. All of us made extra efforts in 2018 to better serve you, our Cecil County citizens, through our customer service initiative. We promise to work even harder in 2019.

While you celebrate this holiday with family and friends, remember to lend assistance to all less fortunate than you. Through your service to others you will experience a reward far greater than any gift you will receive. In the future, we all will be judged on how well we took care of those in need.

My very best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season and the happiest New Year in 2019!

All my best,

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

As we move into the holiday season, it appears appropriate to reflect upon the progress that we have made as a County over the past year. The following are some of the areas in which we have made significant advances:

- We have striven to improve our customer service efforts throughout all of our departments
- The first section of sanitary sewer on US Route 40 near Marley Road is nearing completion and the contract for the next phase to the east has been executed
- A Request for Proposals was recently released for the design and construction of a new wastewater treatment plant in Port Deposit that will serve the Town including the Bainbridge site
- Exciting new economic development projects that will be announced in the near term future
- Improvements will soon be established in the County’s new park on the former Brantwood Golf course

In addition to the above listed highlights, we remain optimistic going into the FY 2020 budget process although many challenges lie ahead. We must remain diligent as we face the seemingly ubiquitous heroin/opioid problem which has created financial strains throughout our governmental structure. Continued collaboration at all levels will be the key to tackling this issue as well as others. We will continue to do so as we move Cecil County forward.
human resources

The Department of Human Resources (DHR) held a Wellness & Benefits Fair for County employees on October 4th, featuring nearly 30 vendors, free flu shots and biometric screenings.

DHR engaged in employee outreach, hosting multiple “Thank You” Pancake Breakfasts for County employees who work in Cecil Transit, Facilities Maintenance, Roads, Solid Waste and Wastewater divisions to show appreciation for the vital services they provide to the public.

To further the County Executive’s Customer Service initiative, DHR coordinated eight in-house Customer Service training sessions for approximately 250 County employees. Going forward, new employees will receive this training each quarter.

On November 14th, DHR and Department of Community Services (DCS) staff members wrapped up the County’s United Way Charity Campaign with its second annual Chili Cook Off. Eleven employee chefs competed, with First Place going to Nancy Harden (DCS). Second Place was a tie between Lt. Kurtis Eller (Emergency Services) and Gene Crawford (DCS).

The Department of Land Use & Development Services (LUDS) is continuing to provide customer service at an exemplary level. LUDS is preparing to initiate the public hearing process to seek adoption of the new Master Water & Sewer Plan. This process will occur in the early part of 2019.

Additionally, LUDS is moving forward with the creation of the County’s Green Infrastructure Plan. This undertaking should last through June 30 2019.

The Division of Permits & Inspections is diligently working with Information Technology and Infor to complete the upgrades to the Hansen permitting process.

LUDS is also working to assist County Executive McCarthy with his efforts to close the commuter rail gap between Perryville, Maryland and Newark, Delaware. This has manifested itself in various meetings and conversations with key participants such as the Maryland Transit Administration and Amtrak.

LUDS has also been supporting Dr. McCarthy’s efforts to raise awareness of how some of our everyday activities result in environmental harm and degradation. This activity has recently borne fruit with a face to face meeting with Secretary Grumbles of the Maryland Department of the Environment for a frank discussion on how we can work together to achieve a mutually productive approach to resolve these pressing issues.

The Division of Planning & Zoning continues to address zoning violations in the communities of Indian Acres and Lakeside Park in an effort to achieve compliance and enhance the livability of those communities.

The Community Partnerships Division of the Department of Community Services was recently awarded a grant from the United States Department of Justice, Office of the Victims of Crime. The grant, entitled “Enhancing Community Responses to the Opioid Crisis: Serving Our Youngest Crime Victims”, seeks to provide direct services to young crime victims, more specifically, children impacted by the opioid epidemic. The grant will afford the Department the opportunity to contract with trained therapists to provide direct, trauma-focused therapy to children referred by community partners. All referrals into the program will come through the office of the Local Care Team, whose primary role is to provide referrals to community programs and care management facilities for families dealing with significant youth mental and behavioral health issues.

Other elements of the grant initiative involve the development and dissemination of public awareness materials, the facilitation of targeted trainings and community forums related to trauma awareness and responsiveness, the identification, analysis and sharing of data related to the problem and the provision of technical support related to the establishment of organizational procedures for trauma identification.

Congratulations to our Community Partnerships Division, specifically our Local Management Board Director and our Local Care Team Coordinator.
Winter Preparedness from DES

November provided us with our first blast of winter weather! But are you ready for winter? Here are some tips you can use to prepare now!

For your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking, & weather stripping. Make an emergency supply kit for your car - jumper cables; sand/kitty litter, flashlight, blankets, and a phone charger are a good start! Do not forget Fido & Kitty - make sure they are out of the cold!

Stay off the roads if possible, and if you must go out, do not crowd the plow! Give them room to plow & spread salt. If you go outside, dress in layers and limit your time outside to avoid frostbite and hypothermia. If you are shoveling snow, take frequent breaks and drink water! It’s hard work and dehydrating!

Pay attention to local weather reports and watches & warnings of freezing weather and winter storm. The Department of Emergency Services will have the same information on their website, Facebook, and Twitter pages. Get a NOAA weather radio and a battery-powered radio so you can stay informed. Sign up for Code Red, the County’s emergency notification system.

Be Informed. Be Prepared.

The Cecil County Parks and Recreation Department has just finished a busy tournament season. Teams from Colorado, to Florida, to Connecticut, traveled to Cecil County to compete in soccer, lacrosse and ultimate Frisbee events. The 2019 tournament calendar is filling quickly.

The Program Division just wrapped up several fall programs, our Wolfpack football program being the largest. Two hundred youth participated in this program. Moving into the winter, there will be a wide array of program offerings; High School Futsal, Junior Wrestling, Pee Wee Energy and Pre-School Sports, Club Bulldog, Adult Exercise Classes, Middle School Movers Basketball, High School Indoor Lacrosse and much more.

Mark your calendar for Santa Night at the Holly Tree in Perryville on December 15, from 5 to 8pm.

On the project front, the department will be working on Phase 3 of Calvert Regional Park, playground installation at Brantwood Park, Brantwood restoration - North and South side, Elk River dredging and the possible install of a synthetic turf field at North East High School.

We invite and encourage any and all who may have questions regarding Parks and Recreation activities to contact us directly in the Elkton office at 410-996-8101, or at the Rising Sun office at 410-656-5125.

AV equipment installed in Perryville, Rising Sun and Piedmont rooms

Perryville, Piedmont and Rising Sun Conference rooms have been upgraded to include new AV equipment. All 3 conference rooms now have larger display screens and will be able to conduct meetings with parties at other locations. These conference rooms can now be used as over fill rooms for the Elk Room and will be able to view the meeting that is taking place in the Elk Room.

All rooms now have the capability to have a meeting scheduled using the Crestron touch screen that is outside of each room.

Munis TCM went live

Conversion of over 850,000 documents from IBM Content Manager to Tyler Content Manager was completed.

Admin building cell phone users migrated onto AT&T FirstNet

All Cecil County Government cell phones have been added to the AT&T FirstNet Wireless Network. This will help ensure access to communication technologies when they are needed.

The Cecil County Office of Economic Development (OED) continues to grow Cecil County’s economy and create jobs. Highlights from the past three months include the following:

- In late October, OED collaborated with the towns on the first-ever Cecil County Residential Builder & Developer Event. 136 attendees learned about specific development opportunities and why Cecil County is prime for residential growth right now.
- In December, Cecil County hosted Maryland TEDCO’s CEO George Davis and other TEDCO team members to discuss the county’s innovation cluster and how TEDCO can support Cecil County’s start-up companies such as Micropore, Clene Nanomedicine, and Operative Experience

Cecil County Tourism completed a series of videos that highlight the various tourism assets that the county has. See the beautiful imagery at www.seececil.org
Construction is underway on the Elkton West Sewer project, which is intended to install sanitary sewer in the Route 40 corridor between the towns of North East and Elkton. The project is being done in phases, with Phase 1 extending County sewer along Route 40 in the vicinity of Marley Road as well as going underneath Route 40 and up Marley Road for a distance of about 600 feet. Construction on Phase 1 started in September 2018 and is expected to be completed by March 2019. Phase 2 includes construction of a sewer pumping station and installation of sewer main to serve that section of Route 40 in the vicinity of Nottingham Road. The construction contract has been awarded and work is expected to start in spring 2019, with completion expected by the end of 2019. The goal of the Elkton West project is to help facilitate economic development within the Route 40 corridor in order to expand the County's tax base and improve employment opportunities for County residents.

In September, County Executive Alan McCarthy and Cecil County Sheriff Scott Adams announced completion of the first-ever Cecil County Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The SHSP, a joint effort between Cecil County Government (CCG) and the Cecil County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), was developed over the course of a year by a committee comprised of representatives from various CCG departments, CCSO, other local, state, regional, and federal agencies, the Cecil County Fireman's Association, and several of the municipalities in Cecil County. The County SHSP is intended to compliment the State of Maryland’s state-level plan and identifies a total of 20 actions that can be taken at the local level in an effort to reduce the frequency and severity of motor vehicle crashes, including those involving bicyclists and pedestrians, which occur on roadways in Cecil County. DPW played a key role in developing the plan and will help to oversee its implementation.

On November 27th, officials from Cecil County Government, Cecil County Public Schools (CCPS), companies involved in the project, and members of the student body gathered to celebrate the completion of a stormwater management project on the campus of Elk Neck Elementary School. The project included construction of a submerged gravel wetland, bioretention basins, and an outdoor classroom area featuring a pergola and a patio area made with pervious pavers, along with installation of a cistern and rain barrels, and other stormwater management features that will not only improve the water quality of nearby creeks and streams but also beautify the campus and provides bio-habitats and other features that teachers can incorporate into the curricula of different classes. The project was funded with County Capital Improvement Program funds and was undertaken, in part, to meet stormwater management requirements as part of a future project to upgrade Oldfield Point Road. Elk Neck Elementary School is the eighth CCPS campus on which stormwater management improvements have been made as part of an ongoing partnership between CCPS and the Department of Public Works to improve stormwater management and enhance learning opportunities on Cecil County school campuses.

In October, Facilities assisted the Community Services Department with the refreshing of their Senior Center within the Administration building. New carpet was installed as well as a fresh coat of paint throughout the common areas. Additional projects have included improving security at the Courthouse, improving access at the Historical Arts Council, eliminating exterior tripping hazards at the Detention Center, improving the restrooms at the Health Center and creating a new office for the States Attorney’s Office.

As part of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan, and because we want all of our citizens and vistors to Cecil County to be safe, we recently implemented the Safe Commuting in Cecil County campaign. It’s simple enough: Buckle Up. Phone Down. Drive Focused. Arrive Alive. Walk Aware. They are basic reminders to make good decisions when you’re out and about. And, while we recognize that no poster or billboard or social media post is going to put an end to all traffic or pedestrian fatalities, if it means that one person remembers to buckle their seatbelt...or not wear dark clothes when walking...or not text and drive...then our efforts are worth it. Be safe, Cecil!!