Experience vs. Discipline

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

As we move beyond the FY 2020 Budget adoption by the Council that occurred on June 4, 2019, we should take time to reflect on our accomplishments with our first three budgets under the direction of County Executive McCarthy. The FY 2020 budget is the third straight budget that has not used unassigned fund balance as a revenue source to balance the operating budget and we continue to use current revenues for current expenditures.

Another significant decision was to increase the Emergency Reserve Fund from 7.5% to 10.0% of the annual operating budget and to establish the Budget stabilization fund which has been set at 1% of the operating budget. These key actions have set us on the course of fiscal stability well into the future. We will continue to use our newly updated Strategic Plan to guide us with moving the county forward.

Also, our team would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newly appointed Health Officer, Lauren Levy. We are looking forward to her joining our team and collaborating with us to confront the pressing health related issues that are facing Cecil County. Let’s all reach out to welcome Lauren to our community!

On behalf of our leadership team, I hope that you find this update helpful.

Al Wein, Director of Administration

Cecil County Citizens,

Springtime in Cecil County is a beautiful, and busy, time of year.

The month of April was the kick off of our “Go Green in 2019” campaign to help remind and educate us all on ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. I was very pleased with the county-wide participation in both our Trash Bash and Household Hazardous Waste Days. Keeping our neighborhoods clean and our waterways protected NOW, will help our environment for generations to come. I encourage everyone, of all ages, to continue to practice responsible “green living” ideals in their daily lives, all year long.

In May, we took the time to recognize our dedicated government personnel at the Employee Recognition Luncheon. I am very appreciative of the hard work and commitment to excellence that is demonstrated by our Cecil County Government staff. It is not always easy to work in a public service capacity; however, our employees consistently prove their worth and have not failed in representing their departments or the County. Nearly every day, I receive random compliments and words of praise regarding the impeccable customer service that is received by our constituents. There are not enough ‘thank yous’ that I can say to express my gratitude.

As the weather begins to change and the temperatures warm, my hope is that our citizens will appreciate the natural beauty of Cecil County by visiting our parks, exploring the outdoors and enjoying our natural amenities. Late spring and early summer are full of graduations and achievement ceremonies…of memorial services for our fallen heroes, and a wonderful time to enjoy with our loved ones.

As you delight in sunny days ahead, please remember to be safe in your travels and consider children who might be outside playing. Let us all have a blessed summer in Cecil County!

All my best,

Al Wein, Director of Administration
The Department has recently sent the draft 2019 Master Water & Sewer Plan to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for final approval. The document has been through the public hearing process with the Planning Commission and the County Council and we expect MDE’s approval in early June.

Additionally, the County’s efforts in going above and beyond the minimum requirements for participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) were recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through an upgrade in our Community Rating System (CRS) program upgrade to a Level 7 from a Level 8. This upgrade will save each NFIP policy holder an average of $218 on their annual premium.

The Department is also submitting an application to the USDA’s “ReConnect” broadband grant program. If successful, the grant will permit us to partner with Armstrong Utilities to expand broadband service to over 1,200 unserved residences and businesses in Cecil County. The present lack of broadband infrastructure in the underserved areas hinders the County’s economic and educational development and prevents the citizens from capitalizing on a wide array of educational resources and businesses from remaining competitive.

The County is also partnering with Comcast and the Upper Shore Regional Council (USRC) to extend broadband service to unserved residents on Cat Swamp and Barksdale Roads. A grant from the USRC is paying the customer contribution share of the project’s cost which makes it economically feasible for Comcast to extend the service.

The Department is nearing the culmination of the process to create a Green Infrastructure Plan. The initial draft of the document is expected to be completed in June. The Green Infrastructure Plan is looking at the County’s natural life support system of forests, wetlands, and floodplains as well as parks, farms and open space that support native species sustain air and water resources and contribute to the citizen’s health and quality of life. The Plan will identify and contain recommendations to protect a green infrastructure network that can improve our capacity to manage stormwater runoff/flooding and enhance recreational opportunities.
The Cecil County Parks and Recreation Department is getting ready to start a busy tournament season at Calvert Regional Park -- 3 in June and 3 in July, then a break in August & September, and things will start back up in October & November).

We are wrapping up spring programs (Lacrosse, NFL Flag, Karate, Basketball Clinic, After The Bell, Club Bulldog, Adult Soccer, Dance, Drama Club, Peewee Energy, Preschool Sports, Perryville Volleyball, Yoga, Wiffle T-ball).

Ribbon cuttings were held in early May for the opening of Brantwood Park and the Calvert Regional Park Disc Golf course.

We have several summer camps starting next month: Art, Baseball, Basketball, Cheer, Dance, Football, Theater, Soccer, Safetyville, Tennis and Track & Field).

We are continuing to work on the Elk River Park Dredging project. We anticipate a fall of 2019 start date. 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.

The main 911 dispatch center is currently undergoing the radio console upgrades to accommodate our transition to the Maryland First Radio system. Check it out!

View the latest Cecil County Government job openings:

www.ccgov.org
Facilities Management

The end of March saw Facilities Management complete the LED Retrofit Project for the Courthouse. In conjunction with Delmarva’s Power Energy Savings for Business Initiative, this $126,000 project consisted of replacing all lights in the building with LED bulbs. With these higher efficient bulbs in place it is estimated that energy consumption will be driven down resulting in a 10% savings in utility cost to the County.

Several projects at the Historical Arts/Society building were completed. These projects included repairing the handicap ramp at the rear of the building and refurbishing a restroom.

At the Health Dept, the Facilities team removed several mulch beds by the entrances and replaced them with rock. Not only did this improve the curb appeal of the facility but it will also reduce costs by reducing mulch expenses each spring.

Bollards were installed at the main entrance of the Admin Building. These 465 lb. concrete monoliths will prevent vehicles from accidently or deliberately being driven into the main entrance/lobby. The installation of the bollards is a part of an initiative to improve security.

The Department of Information Technology has been busy working on various projects on systems throughout the County.

Completed:

- Enterprise Printing & Copiers – awareness roadshow complete explaining the cost benefits of using copiers with a goal of reducing the number of local desktop printers. Inventory includes 225 copier/printers.
- New Wastewater trailer was brought online with new cabling and infrastructure.
- Eliminated 20 servers in an effort to simplify the environment. Currently supporting 87 production servers.
- Implemented Manage Engine network monitoring and alerting system.
- GIS moved to the cloud as a Software as a Service (SaaS) vendor offering.
- All sites except CCSO/DES have migrated to the new telecomm system.
- New UPS batteries were replaced in the Admin building datacenter.
- Remediation of audit findings for DPW’s Internet of Things (IoT) sensors and devices.

In Progress:

1. Increasing internet connectivity bandwidth and installing redundant internet circuits. This will provide faster speeds and set the foundation for future cloud hosted services.
2. Establishing the foundation for a Cyber Security program. Creating the framework and strategy that focuses on following the best of class and industry standards/controls. Performed an initial baseline assessment that is being used as an input into a risk matrix to help prioritize a timeline and roadmap to remediate security findings and concerns. Employee awareness training will begin in July.
3. Wastewater trailer - installing new AV equipment in their conference room.
5. Supporting special projects at CCDC, DES, CCSO and Community Services.
6. New security video camera system is being installed in the Administration Building.
The Office of Economic Development (OED) recently hosted the staff of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB) for a tour of economic development projects throughout Cecil County. This summer, OED will host Maryland Commerce Secretary Kelly Schulz for a similar tour. Building awareness throughout the Baltimore and Philadelphia regions of all of the great things Cecil County can offer residents and businesses will ensure continued economic growth.

In April, the Cecil County Council approved an incentive package for continued growth of Northrop Grumman Innovation Systems in Cecil County. Northrop Grumman will create 175 new jobs with an average salary of approximately $90k/year. Under different names throughout time, Northrop Grumman had their first rocket engine test in Cecil County more than 70 years ago.

On Memorial Day weekend, two milestones were celebrated in Fair Hill. Not only was it the 85th running of the Fair Hill Races, there was also a groundbreaking ceremony for the Maryland 5* Event. Cecil County’s Tourism and Economic Development offices have both been part of the planning process for the 5* event.

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.

JUNE 30th – The last day of June marks the official end to fiscal year 2019. Pursuant to the Cecil County Charter and Maryland state law, the Finance department will start work on the County’s annual financial statements. This process, which includes an external audit, will last throughout the summer. The statements including a report from the independent public accountants and will be presented to the County Executive and County Council at the end of October.

JULY 1st - Approximately 48,000 property tax bills will be mailed in the first week of July. These bills are due in July and are payable during the month of July, August or September without interest. Bills become delinquent on October 1 and are subject to interest at the rate of 1% per month until paid.
The Department of Community Services will begin providing supervisory and administrative oversight to county programs currently under the administrative supervision of the local Department of Social Services, specifically, the Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Program, the Help Center (excluding the Office of Home Energy Programs) and the coordinating components of the Child Advocacy Center. These programs and services, having always involved strong collaborations between the local DSS and County Government, have grown over the course of the last several years with County Government assuming greater responsibility in relation to funding and personnel. It is believed that this reorganization will streamline finance and human resources functions, allow for greater planning in relation to building renovations and provide the County with greater resources to align strategic goals. This transition will have no impact on services rendered to any DSS customers who seek assistance through these programs, nor will it impact any functions or programs that require co-location at County sites. DCS will continue to work collaboratively with local DSS leadership to ensure a smooth transition.

The 2nd annual 55+ Volunteer Leadership Program (55 VLP), with 17 exceptional participants learning about the Opioid Crisis and Economic Opportunity in Cecil County, while honing their leadership skills is underway. Participants will become knowledgeable advocates in the community about these issues, will join existing efforts to address them, and will generate innovative and creative new solutions. This annual initiative is funded through Senior Corps RSVP.

In the winter of 2018, DCS, through its Housing and Community Development Division, partnered with the Cecil County Health Department to begin working with Pandit Consulting to conduct a study of homelessness in Cecil County. The study, which is in its final phase, included interviews and surveys with homeless service providers and people experiencing homelessness, as well as data collection and analysis. The study is designed to provide an overview of the population and its needs, demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of the current homelessness response system, and provide recommendations to improve coordination of services, resources, and funding. Key findings of the study are expected to challenge as well as quantify some common perceptions of homelessness in the community. Recommendations will be based on evidenced-based practices, literature review, and practical solutions customized for Cecil County. Presentations of the study results will be made to key stakeholders in the coming months.

The Housing and Community Development division celebrated Joyce VanZile for becoming a HUD Certified Housing Counselor. Mrs. VanZile completed study and is certified in six key areas including Fair Housing, Homeownership, and Avoiding Foreclosure.

Cecil County Housing has been a HUD Certified counseling agency since 2006. The counselor certification program was created in 2017 and Joyce becomes the second Cecil housing counselor to be certified since the creation of the certification program. Housing counseling can have a significant impact on homeownership. Over the last year foreclosure counseling has had an 88% success rate at avoiding the loss of homes for Cecil County families.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Dr. Ira Chasnoff, M.D., award-winning author and lecturer is one of the nation’s leading researchers in the field of child development and the effects of maternal alcohol and drug use on the newborn infant and child, will be visiting Cecil County to host two events:

**June 17:** Dr. Chasnoff will be featured at a community evening event, “Building Community Systems of Care,” 6:30-8:30pm at Cecil College Milburn Stone Theater. Attendees will watch the documentary “Moment to Moment” in which young adults speak of their experiences & challenges growing us as a child impacted by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, which also includes substance exposures such as heroin, cocaine & opioid drugs. After the movie, Dr. Chasnoff will lead a community conversation about improving communities’ systems of care and outcomes for families and children impacted by substance use and abuse.

**June 18:** Dr. Chasnoff will host a professional workshop for service providers, “The Mystery of Risk: Drugs, Alcohol, Pregnancy, and the Vulnerable Child,” 9am - 4pm at Cecil College Technology Center.

Join Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh, in partnership with the Community Wellness Division, for a Consumer Protection Forum for Cecil County 55+ seniors, and professionals who work with seniors, on Wed, June 19th from 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm, at the Cecil County Admin Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton.

The forum will focus on several issues including scams, identifying theft prevention, and your rights as consumers in Maryland. AG Frosh will share his personal story about being a victim of identity theft, offer tips on protecting against identity thieves and scammers and discuss how the AG’s office helps Maryland consumers. There will also be a Q&A session.

Please RSVP online to ensure adequate seating for all attendees: [http://www.ccgov.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/682120](http://www.ccgov.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/682120).

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**Cecil Transit** will be launching a new mobile payment application later this calendar year! The application will develop a transfer system by creating daily, weekly, and monthly period passes, will allow passengers to purchase cashless bus fares, and enable greater access and mobility options from Cecil County residents.

Bruce Mayberry, Gene Crawford, Ernest Kariuki, and Bruce Alexander participated in the 2019 Transportation Association of Maryland’s annual bus “ROADEO” competition.

Cecil Transit’s five year Transportation Development Plan is nearing completion and will include recommendations for route modifications to improve on time performance and increase frequency of service along the Route 40 corridor. More info will be available soon. Look for notices of public hearings this fall!
The third class of the Cecil County Watershed Stewards Academy (WSA) concluded in December 2018. Eleven graduates were recognized and awarded the title “Master Watershed Steward” at a ceremony held at the County Admin Building on December 12, 2018. In order to obtain the Master Watershed Steward certification, participants were required to complete 50 hours of classroom instruction; participate in the planning, design, and construction of a class project; and undertake individual or small team capstone projects. The Cecil County WSA is operated thru a partnership between the Stormwater Management Division of the Cecil County Department of Public Works and the University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension. The program trains community members to serve as Master Watershed Stewards in their neighborhoods and communities who can identify and assess areas to implement small-scale stormwater management practices, educate local citizens, and assist the County in helping to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. To date 27 individuals have earned the title Master Watershed Steward in Cecil County. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the program or participating in the next class should contact Mr. Marshall McSorley of Stormwater Management Division at (410) 996-5265 or by e-mail at mmcsorley@ccgov.org.

On February 5, 2019, officials from Cecil County Government and companies involved in the project conducted a ribbon cutting to mark the successful completion of a project to replace failing culverts at three locations on Bohemia Church Road. The project also included repaving and restriping the roadway.

On April 2, 2019, officials from Cecil County Government, the local homeowners association, and companies involved in the project gathered for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the successful completion of a project to upgrade a stormwater management pond serving the Timberbrook neighborhood in North East. The project repaired and upgraded the stormwater pond serving the area and served to convert what had been an eyesore into an amenity for the community, complete with a walking trail around the pond. The project was funded with grant funds from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund administered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Construction continues 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. Phase 1, which was completed in April 2019, extended 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 2 is underway. 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. Completion is expected in early 2020. 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. A public hearing regarding future phases of the project was conducted on May 1, 2019.

Solid Waste Management Division of the Department of Public Works conducted a Household Hazardous Waste Day (HHW Day) event on April 28, 2019 at the Cecil County Central Landfill. Over 600 County residents took advantage of the opportunity to dispose of over 70,000 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 as well. For the last several years, HHW Day has been held once a year in April. Based on the strong demand, DPW is planning to conduct two such events per year, with the next one tentatively set for Sunday, October 6th. The HHW Day events are held on Sundays rather than Saturdays to better manage the traffic flow and keep waiting times down. Saturdays have the highest traffic volumes at the landfill and when HHW Day was held on Saturday in the past, the lines and wait times at the landfill entrance were unacceptably long and so the decision was made to switch the HHW Day events to Sundays.
small businesses...

LARGE BUSINESSES...

CECIL COUNTY BUSINESSES!!!

Want to learn more about the procurement process in Cecil?

The Cecil County Purchasing Office will hold an

INFORMATIONAL PROCUREMENT OPEN HOUSE

for current & prospective vendors.

Cecil County Government departments and divisions, as well as representatives from Cecil College, Cecil County Public Library & Cecil County Public Schools, will be on hand to provide information on upcoming county-wide projects to local vendors in an effort to promote business within the county. Participants will share prospective procurement opportunities that are on the horizon, both capital and non-capital.

Sign up for e-notifications for RFPs & Proposals

Animal Services, Cecil Transit, Solid Waste, wastewater, Roads, & more!

Learn about our permitting process

Wednesday, June 26th ~ 6:30 PM- 8:00 PM ~ Elk Room
Cecil County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton, MD. 21921