



# **County Executive's Report to the People**

**Fiscal Year 2009**



**Richard M. Pollitt, Jr.  
Wicomico County Executive**

## ***Executive Message***

**G**reetings from Wicomico County ... the “hub” of Maryland’s great Eastern Shore and the number one agri-business county in Maryland. For the third consecutive year, and in compliance with the county charter, I am pleased to offer this annual “Report to the People” on the general economic health of our community.

“These are the times that try men’s souls.” So wrote Thomas Paine in December of 1776. He could just as easily have been thinking ahead to December, 2009. Today we find ourselves in unsettled waters, experiencing challenges not seen in our country since the Great Depression. Indeed, today we find ourselves seriously thinking about the quality of life we’ve come to enjoy and expect from our county government while, at the same time, seriously thinking about how we’re going to maintain and even improve our standard of living going forward into the 21st Century.

It’s a discussion that’s going to take all of the dedication, loyalty and commitment we can muster as a community to overcome the challenges before us. Yet America is at her best when challenged and I deeply believe that we will not only prevail through these times but will emerge from our present circumstances stronger than ever with a county government that continues decades of a tradition of efficient and effective government making the best use of the resources available to us. It is in that spirit that I come to you with this report on the progress and good news of the last fiscal year, which ended on June 30, 2009.

During Fiscal Year 2009, the Wicomico County government provided its citizens with the high level of public services that they have come to expect. In addition to that, there have been some true high points. James M. Bennett Senior High School continues to rise from the grounds behind the soon-to-be-demolished old high school. Our marinas were recognized as being outstanding environmentally while providing quality service to boaters. Construction is nearly complete at the airport of a runway extension that will accommodate regional jet aircraft. Our residents do not have to drive five hours to see a Broadway show ... they can enjoy one right here at our Civic Center at our highly successful “Broadway” series. These and many other highlights made up the bright side of a truly eventful Fiscal Year 2009.

Serving as our first county executive has been the honor of my life and I remain steadfast in my determination to lead us through these years of transition with integrity and honest, open governance. As always, I welcome your questions, comments and yes, even your complaints. Because it is when we challenge ourselves that we truly grow and learn to do better. I hope you will enjoy reading of the successes of the past fiscal year and I will look forward to your support as we tackle the challenges in front of us vigorously and with the true heart of a great community.

**Rick Pollitt**

# ***building Bridges, building Community***

## **"100 Best" Signs Welcome Visitors to County**



states applied for the honor. The 100 winning communities span 37 states. Wicomico County/City of Salisbury was the only jurisdiction in Maryland to win.

## **County Receives \$1 Million in Rural Legacy Grants**

On December 18, 2008, the Administration of Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley made \$1 Million in Rural Legacy Grant funding available for land preservation in the Quantico Creek area of Wicomico County.

Enacted by the General Assembly in 1997, Maryland's Rural Legacy Program has provided more than \$174.6 Million to protect 60,882 acres of valuable farmland, forests and natural areas. The 11-member Rural Legacy Advisory Committee and the Rural

Legacy Board, which is comprised of Maryland's Agriculture, Natural Resources and Planning Secretaries, reviews competitive grant applications annually.

## **County Voters Favor Two Money-Saving Amendments**

On November 4, 2008, county voters said "yes" to charter amendments submitted by County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., with the unanimous approval of the county Council.

The first permits refunding of obligations. The county

For three straight years, America's Promise Alliance has named Wicomico County/City of Salisbury, MD as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in the United States. To mark this high honor, road signs were prominently placed at the major highway entrances to Wicomico County.

The 100 Best competition recognizes the 100 outstanding communities across America—large and small, rural and urban—that are the best places for young people to live and grow up. More than 300 communities in all 50

is now able to refund outstanding bonds, certificates of indebtedness, notes and other obligations in accordance with state law. The process is similar to refinancing a home loan to obtain a lower interest rate. Over a number of years, it could save the county taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The second permits the extension of obligation maturity dates and clarification of Bond Anticipation Notes terms. The amendment allows for longer payback times, which will lower the county's annual interest payments.

# ***building Bridges, building Community***

## **Governor Dedicates the New James M. Bennett Senior High School**

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley visited Wicomico County in early Fiscal Year 2009 to dedicate the construction site that was slowly becoming the new James M. Bennett (JMB) Senior High School. On August 15, 2008, the JMB marching band and many of its students, faculty and administrators welcomed Governor O'Malley for an event that rapidly became a songfest. Following the speeches, the musically-talented governor took the stage with a singing group that had performed in the school's popular "Rock 'n Revival."

**THE DAILY TIMES**

Saturday, August 16, 2008 [ delmarvanow.com ] Salisbury Md. ★★ 50 cents



Laura Egan photo

## O'Malley jams out at JMB

Governor celebrates funds for future school, makes some music in the process

By Greg Latshaw  
Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Gov. Martin O'Malley says that for those about to salute new schools, we will rock you.

The Democrat played acoustic guitar and sang vocals in an impromptu jam session with high schoolers in a ceremony Friday outside where the new James M. Bennett Senior High School will be built.

Located behind the existing school on College Avenue, the \$80 million school

will be 44 percent larger and feature several energy-efficient technologies, such as 600 wells for geothermal heating and cooling. The school is scheduled for completion in September 2011.

"This is one of those days that make you feel good about the future," O'Malley said in a speech before playing "Stand by Me" and "Pretty Woman." "It makes you feel good about our neighbors and good about the goals we share."

The state's \$21 million contribution for JMB high school this year is part of a pool of \$140 million O'Malley approved for school construction. He said \$74 million has been approved in the past two years, despite having to raise taxes and make other cuts to balance the state budget.

Wicomico County Executive Rick Puzzit said he is excited the county is building its first new high school in 30 years, but called demolition of the existing James M. Bennett a "bittersweet feeling."

See JMB, Page A2



Laura Egan photo

Gov. Martin O'Malley, James M. Bennett Principal Lori Batts, Wicomico County Board of Education Superintendent John Frederickson celebrate \$21 million in state funding toward a new school building.

### Anticipated Route 113 work finally under way

Phase 2 completion expected at end of '09

By Jenny Hopkins  
Staff Writer

BERLIN — Construction trucks idled in the median of Route 113 near Hayes Landing Road, clearing trees in preparation for long-awaited roadwork that many people in Worcester County say should have been done long ago.

The work being done this week is part of the next phase of the state Highway Administration project to add an extra lane in each direction to Route 113.

SHA officials say that the 2.4-mile section of highway between Hayes Landing and Goody Hill roads should have no lanes of traffic running in each direction by December 2009. Work on this section of Route 113, known as phase 2 of the five-phase project to dualize the 8.33-mile stretch of two-lane highway, comes more than a year and a half after the first stage of the project — from Market Street in Snow Hill to Route 362 — was completed in December 2006.

Robert Halford, president of the County Residents Action for Safer Highways, has been working with the county to lobby the SHA for several years to expand the road, which has been the site of several fatal accidents, into a four-lane highway.

Halford said he was delighted that the next step in the process had finally started.

"Things are moving along," he said. "I mean it's under way, but all they've got funded is this phase under construction. There are two more phases left to go."

# ***building Bridges, building Community***

## **Sheriff Buys New Vehicles with Seized Drug Money Saving Tax Payers over \$100,000**



Faced with the common problem of shrinking budget revenues in Wicomico County, Sheriff Mike Lewis turned to another source to fund his agency's fleet needs. In 2009, the Sheriff authorized the purchase of five brand new 2009 Dodge Chargers using seized drug funds. Since his election in 2006, Sheriff Lewis has encouraged his deputies to aggressively target drug traffickers as they travel in and through Wicomico County.

Of the several seizures made, a notable one stands out. In 2007, SGT Mike Carey stopped a Nissan on U.S. 13 in Salisbury and after seeing a host of indicators, became alert to

possible criminal activity. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed over \$110,000 hidden in the hollowed out compartment that had previously housed the front passenger side air bag. The successful seizure of that money alone enabled the Sheriff's Office to purchase the five Dodge Chargers.

The outfitting of the vehicles was also financed by monies seized during drug investigations. Because of these seized funds, Wicomico County was able to fully equip these vehicles at no expense to the Wicomico County tax payer. Each of these vehicles is equipped with a dash mounted radar unit, DVD recording system and a Mobile Data Terminal. Also unique to these new vehicles is an announcement on the back of each one that seized drug money purchased the vehicle. As our deputies patrol the streets of Wicomico County, these vehicles will serve as a reminder to our citizens of our commitment to rid our communities of the drug dealers that plague them.



# ***building Bridges, building Community***

## **Free County Prescription Drug Program Saves Residents \$141,000**

Instituted with the County Health Department and the National Association of Counties in January, 2008, the Wicomico County Free Prescription Drug Program has saved its 6,119 users \$136,662 as of October, 2009. The program has been an unqualified success by any measure.

The program has been made available at no taxpayer cost through the National Association of Counties (NACo) and Caremark®. County residents use the plan by presenting a free county-issued card at most all area pharmacies. All county residents are eligible regardless of age, income or existing health coverage. A national

network of more than 59,000 participating retail pharmacies also honors the Wicomico County Prescription Discount Card.



and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.”

## **Governor Awards County \$408,000 in Neighborhood Conservation Initiative Grants**

Wicomico County received \$407,928 in grant monies from the Neighborhood Conservation Initiative. The funds are for buyers of foreclosed properties to make down payments, cover closing costs and perform necessary repairs. Governor Martin O’Malley made the grant awards public at a Capital Heights, Md. ceremony on March 19, 2009.

“These projects represent a significant boost to our commitment to invest in Maryland’s most important resource – our families and our neighborhoods,” said Governor O’Malley at the ceremony. Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., said, “It generally doesn’t take long for foreclosed properties to become blighted properties. This grant should prevent this from happening in many Wicomico County neighborhoods.”

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## **New York Bond Ratings Agency Gives "Thumbs Up" to County's Financial Management Practices**

In December, 2008, Wicomico County received an upgrade from the prestigious bond ratings firm of Standard & Poor's (S & P). The county had previously been rated A+.

S & P raised the rating to AA-. The upgrade was anticipated to save Wicomico taxpayers considerable dollars in interest payments on capital projects.

In announcing the upgrade, Standard & Poor's cited the following strengths:

- “The county has proven its ability to maintain its solid financial position while increasing reserves through various economic, financial and governmental changes.
- “The county has a proven record of achieving continuous sound financial performances while growing reserves despite operating under a self-imposed property tax limitation and a recent charter revision.
- “The county is committed to its ongoing conservative management practices, coupled with well-adhered-to existing fiscal policies.”

County officials made

presentations to the three major New York bond ratings agencies in October, 2008.

## **Wicomico County Conducts Successful Bond Sale**

Wicomico County sold \$20,170,000 in bonds at competitive bid on December 11, 2008.

The bonds have been used to finance the on-going James M. Bennett High School construction and various public works projects. There were five bidders, with interest rates ranging from 5.188% to 5.332%. The award went to Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co., the low bidder.

“Based on the latest information on market rates, the 5.188% interest rate is less than what other AA rated groups across the country would receive,” commented County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. at the time of the sale. “In other words, we will be paying a lower interest rate than we could have anticipated, given current municipal bond market conditions and our ratings of AA- (S&P), A+ with positive outlook from Fitch, and A2 from Moody’s Investors Service. We believe this interest rate reflects the bid-

ders’ confidence in Wicomico County and can be directly tied to the ratings upgrade from S&P.”

“I am very pleased with the results of our bond sale,” said Pollitt. “We have prepared two budgets under my administration and in each year we achieved forward progress with the New York rating agencies. It is clear that the rating agencies feel we are managing our financial affairs well.”

The Wicomico County Council met in special session on December 11th, and unanimously approved the sale.

## **County Receives \$250,000 Insurance Settlement on Landfill Theft Loss**

Shortly before the close of Fiscal Year 2009, the County received a \$250,000 insurance settlement check as a result of a claim filed following the theft of fuel and other items from the Wicomico County Landfill between 2005 and 2008.

Also, the three convicted principals in the theft scheme were court-ordered to pay \$205,500 in restitution. Losses at the Landfill as a result of the thefts were estimated to be as high as \$400,000.

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## **Airport Runway Extension Almost Complete**

The 900 foot runway extension at the Salisbury-Ocean City-Wicomico Regional Airport is expected to be in use before December 31, 2009. The extension will make the airport's primary runway 6,400 feet long. The airport will be able to accommodate 50-70 passenger regional jet aircraft. Only turbo-prop aircraft use the airport now.



## **County Finance Launches New Financial Management System**

The Finance Department implemented MUNIS, a new financial management system which allows real-time financial information to be available to all County departments.

In conjunction with Purchasing, Finance also implemented the use of purchase cards. These permit authorized personnel to pay for smaller purchases on the spot. Purchase cards increased the efficiency of the accounts payable process by eliminating the need for approximately 9,000 individual checks.

The two initiatives offer county management additional tools to track and manage spending.

## **U.S. Department of Justice Salutes Corrections**

The United States Department of Justice (D.O.J.) closed its investigation of the Wicomico County Detention Center right before the end of the Fiscal Year and offered its congratulations to Former Director Devenyns and his staff for this "significant accomplishment."

In a letter dated May 29, 2009, the D.O.J. stated that, "Based upon our review of your revised policies and procedures for chronic care along with medical charts and records of inmates within your chronic care program, we find that the County is in substantial compliance with all remaining provisions of the Settlement Agreement."

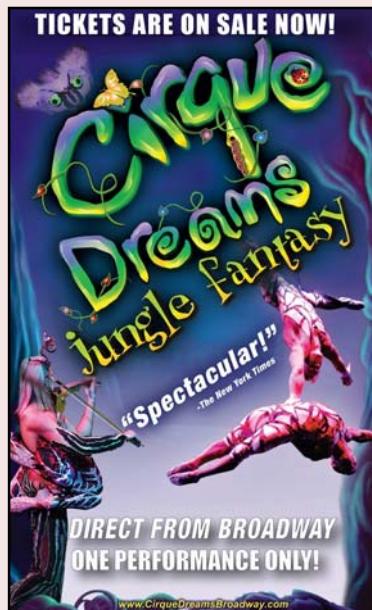
On July 16, 2004, the

D.O.J. entered into a Settlement Agreement with Wicomico County following several years of negotiations brought about by allegations that the Department of Corrections had violated inmate rights in numerous areas. The Settlement Agreement contained specific provisions and stipulations for the resolution and/or correction of the situations cited. According to the Department of Justice, the County has now fulfilled all terms of the Settlement Agreement.

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## **Broadway at the Civic Center**

The Wicomico Youth & Civic Center enhanced its status as Delmarva's showplace with the presentation of 5 Broadway shows. Over 12,000 people came out to cheer for the performances of "Chicago," "Oliver," "Movin' Out," "Cirque Dreams" and "Lord of the Dance." The season was so successful that another set of Broadway shows plus an appearance by Bill Cosby was booked for Fiscal Year 2010.



## **Emergency Services Improves Readiness**

The 911 Center is the most high-profile segment of the county's emergency preparedness operation. In Fiscal Year 2009, Emergency Services placed a sixth 911 answering position in service. According to Emergency Services' leadership, the extra line will be primarily utilized for extraordinary events occurring in the county.

Another key responsibility of Emergency Services is to establish a plan for Continuity of Operations (COOP) for the eight municipalities within Wicomico County and for the county as a whole. The plan was completed and in place by the end of FY 2009.

Emergency services increased its degree of readiness for a major weather event by outfitting two trailers. One holds 350 cots and other shelter supplies. The other is stocked with pet sheltering supplies and materials.

A Hazardous Materials Spill Trailer came into service in FY 2009. It is equipped and designed to support not only timely emergency responses but to initially assist first responders.

The department com-

pleted NIMS (National Incident Management System) training for key county staff members during the past fiscal year.

## **"Out-Of-School-Time" Mini-Grants Awarded by Local Management Board**

In January, 2009, Wicomico County Partnership for Families and Children awarded mini-grants for "Out-of School Time" programs. The Partnership gave the awards to non-profit and/or community service organizations working for the benefit of children and their families in Wicomico County. The money awarded came from the Governor's Office for Children. The total awards distribution was \$47,915.

In 2000, Wicomico Partnership for Families and Children began a commitment to funding arts and other positive youth development activities in after school programs that create positive outcomes for children and youth in Wicomico County.

# ***building Bridges, building Community***

## **New Wetipquin Bridge Open**



The new two-lane span over Wetipquin Creek opened to traffic on June 19, 2009. The previous bridge, which was over 50 years old, was closed on June 15, 2008. The replacement cost was \$2.1 Million with 80% funded by the federal government.

Wicomico County Executive Rick Pollitt, Wicomico County Councilwoman Stevie Prettyman and former Councilman Ed Taylor presided over a July 28, 2009, dedication ceremony. At the ceremony, Pollitt said, "I am very pleased that we have

restored bridge service to this area. It is particularly meaningful in light of the severe cuts that are now in place for funding of our Roads operations."

The new bridge has the same 6-foot navigational clearance at mean high water as did its predecessor. It is 238 feet long and 24 feet wide.

## **County Executive Activates Employee Hotline**

As one of the security measures enacted as a result of the landfill thefts in Fiscal Year 2008, Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. announced on March 5, 2009 that a telephone hotline was available for the use of county employees. Pollitt commented that, "In the wake of the landfill scandal, I pledged that I would institute tighter security measures and improved internal controls in an effort to prevent a reoccur-

rence of this sad chapter in our county history." This employee hotline encompasses both a "whistleblower" system and a way for employees to report unethical or improper behavior.

All county employees received a letter from Pollitt and a descriptive brochure that includes information on an 800 number that they can call to report suspicious, unethical or improper behavior. Calls are handled by an independent third party who reports on the activity to a local panel composed of three county employees. Suspected criminal activity is referred to the proper authorities.

Mr. Pollitt emphasized that this ethics and compliance employee hotline is not a "gripe" line. At the same time, employees are guaranteed anonymity and are encouraged to use the hotline without fear of reprisal.

"I like to think that the landfill thefts could have been stopped much earlier or perhaps would never have started if we had an employee hotline in place," said Mr. Pollitt.

# ***building Bridges, building Community***

## **New Library Branch Building in Pittsville**

The grand opening and dedication of new Pittsville Branch building of the Wicomico Public Library was held on June 30, 2009.

The new building is in front of Pittsville Elementary/Middle School on Old Ocean City Road in Pittsville. The old branch was located in a construction trailer at the rear of the school.

Since the branch opened in January 2006, nearly 10,000 books have been checked out; 1,879 people have participated in various events; 118 adults have taken free computer classes and the computers have been used 13,000 times. Based on the number of people using the branch and the needs of the school; the branch was relocated to the new, larger portable unit in front of the school. The new branch building provides nearly twice as much space.

The move represents the growth of a valuable partnership among the library, the Board of Education, the Town of Pittsville, and Wicomico County.



## **County Acquires Land for West Metro Park**

Using State of Maryland Program Open Space funds, the county acquired 100 acres of western Wicomico County farmland for eventual use as a park. The sale price was \$1 Million and the county settled with the property owner on May 29, 2009.

The site is on Levin Dashiell Road about a half mile north of Rockawalkin Road.

There has been no announcement of development plans.

The site will eventually serve the outdoor recreational needs of approximately 10,500 residents in the area.

## **Wicomico County Executive Elected to Second Term on Maryland Association of Counties Board**

In January, 2009, the Maryland Association of

Counties (MACo) again selected Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., to serve on its statewide Board of Directors. Mr. Pollitt was formally installed on the board by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley on January 8, 2009 at the MACo Winter Conference in Cambridge, MD.

Mr. Pollitt also serves on MACo's legislative committee.

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## **Two County Marinas Cited for Excellence**

In September, 2008, Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources cited Wicomico

County’s Cedar Hill and Nanticoke Harbor Marinas as “clean marinas.”

Cedar Hill was one of ten Maryland marinas recognized by the Governor. When presenting the award, the Governor said, “The voluntary efforts of clean marina owners and managers to reduce

pollution and help protect our rivers and the Chesapeake Bay are truly commendable.”

Nanticoke Harbor joins 131 other Maryland marinas certified as “Clean Marinas” by the Department of Natural Resources. It has 70 boat slips that serve watermen and recreational boaters.



## **HUD Upgrades Wicomico County Housing Authority**

In December, 2008, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development informed Wicomico County that its Housing Authority was no longer classified as “Troubled.” Even better news was the accompanying notice that the Housing Authority had been upgraded to a classification of “Standard.” In public housing parlance, this represents a great step upward.

The elevation to the “Standard” classification occurred when the Housing Authority received a HUD score of 78 out of 100. A score of 70 earns a “Standard” rating. In commenting on test scores, WHA Executive Director Narcinda Church said, “Now, the goal of the WHA is to earn a minimum grade of 90 points and qualify for a ‘Superior’ classification.”

The removal from the “Troubled” classification involved demonstrating proficiency in managing-for-profit, proving efficiency in all areas of operations, improving all aspects of user safety and showing true management ability in achieving operational excellence.

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## **Wicomico County Swears in New Health Officer**



One of the most significant events of Fiscal 2009 was the swearing in of Lori Brewster, M.S., APRN/BC, LCADC as Wicomico County Health Officer on August 20, 2008.

Ms. Brewster had been confirmed as County Health Officer by the State of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in April, 2008. She had been the Acting Health Officer since July, 2007.

At the time of the swearing-in, Ms. Brewster had been with the County Health Department for 17 years. She is a Salisbury University graduate and holds a Masters Degree in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing from the University of Maryland. She served as the County's Deputy Health Officer from 2002 to 2007.

Ms. Brewster was named "Nurse of the Year 1997 for District 4" by the Maryland Nurses Association. She also received the "Outstanding Woman Award" from the Wicomico County Women's Commission in 2001. Ms. Brewster also served as a Town Commissioner of Secretary, MD in 1994-1995.

## **Wicomico River Remains Open to Commercial Traffic After Dredging Controversy**

Each year, Wicomico County receives funding from the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge areas of the main channel of the Wicomico River in order to maintain a federally-regulated depth of 14 feet. According to the Delmarva Water Transport Committee (DWTC), river dredging permits the continuation of waterborne commerce which is essential to the area's economic

survival.

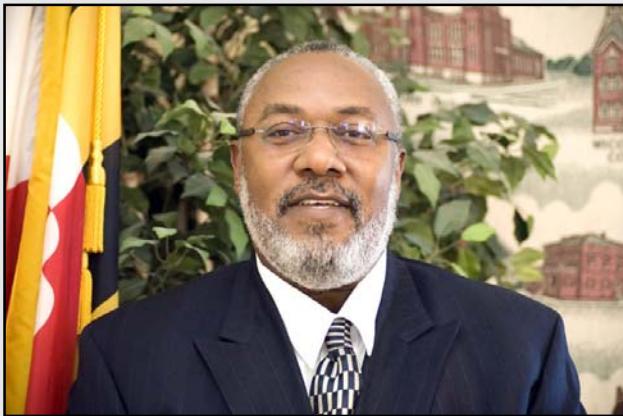
There was controversy throughout Fiscal Year 2009 concerning the proposed use of a county-owned, riverside parcel of land known as "Pirate's Wharf" as a site for dredging spoils. One of the objections to the use of the site involved potential environmental damage. After study, the County deemed that an existing spoils site, "Simms Wharf," would be adequate to receive dredging spoils for 2009 and 2010.

County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., praised the DWTC and local environmen-

tal groups such as the Wicomico Environmental Trust for working closely with him on this issue. "We all want to preserve the unique gifts of our environment while maintaining the economic viability of our region," said Pollitt. "This solution for our dredging needs serves both interests."

# ***building Bridges, building Community***

## **Vance M. Elbert Appointed to Wicomico County Housing Authority Board**



Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. appointed Vance M. Elbert to serve on the board of the Wicomico County Housing Authority on May 28, 2009. "Recently our Housing Authority won high marks from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban development for improvements made in management and financial administration," said Pollitt, "Mr. Elbert's appointment will assure the continuation of that success."

Mr. Elbert recently retired from Delmarva Power after nearly 40 years of service. He currently serves as president of the Wicomico County Building Commission. He is a past member of the Wor-Wic Community College Foundation and has served on the board of Shore-Up!, Inc. and on the Wicomico County Recreation and Parks Commission.

Mr. Elbert is a graduate of the former Salisbury High School and attended Maryland State College (UMES). He is a 32nd Degree Mason.

## **Roads Makes Progress Despite Budget Cuts**

Wicomico County Roads continued its long tradition of excellent service to county citizens during Fiscal Year 2009. Here are some of the larger accomplishments.

- 1 Completion of road and drainage improvements in the Woodlawn Subdivision
- 2 Installation of a new traffic signal at the Beaglin Park Drive/Zion Road intersection and associated road improvements at the Beaglin Park Drive/ Outten Road intersection

- 3 Replacement of the Wetipquin Bridge which crosses Wetipquin Creek
- 4 Reclamation of the Simms Wharf Dredge Spoil Site for preparation of the upcoming dredging project
- 5 Replacement of the County fueling system to improve vehicle maintenance and theft deterrence
- 6 Completion of a blacktop program that resurfaced approximately 27 miles of county roads
- 7 Instituted improved commercial plan review and insulation inspections for energy efficiency as part of the building permit process
- 8 Implementation of new safeguards at the Solid Waste Division

to reduce the risk of another landfill scandal

**Acting Public Works**  
Director John Redden continued to serve as president of the County Engineers Association of Maryland.

# ***building Bridges, building Community***

## **Library Acquires Portraits of Nationally Prominent Wicomico Countians**



On September 5, 2008, County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., accepted a gift of three historic portraits from the Wicomico Historical Society. The portraits are now on display in the lobby of the Wicomico County Library.

The paintings are the likenesses of three prominent past residents of Wicomico County. Elihu Emory Jackson served as Governor of Maryland from 1888-to-1892. Nannie Rider Jackson was First Lady of Maryland during her husband's term. Senator William P. Jackson served in the United States Senate from 1912-to-1914.

Jackson descendants Judge Newton Jackson and local businessman Cameron Jackson unveiled the portraits in a formal ceremony.

## **Work on County Comprehensive Plan Continues**

Following completion of the Water Resources Element phase of creating a Comprehensive Plan, County Planning and Zoning launched a series of citizen-input workshops throughout the county. The October, 2008 meetings covered East-Side, West-Side and Metro-Core issues. As are all Maryland jurisdictions, Wicomico County is required to update its existing Comprehensive Plan.

## **New Munis System Streamlines Human Resources**

Wicomico County's Human Resources Department successfully completed the implementation and one-year operation of its MUNIS H.R. and Payroll Information System. The new automated process has greatly improved efficiency and has brought the county into higher levels of compliance with the rules and regulations associated with the Human Resources function.

## **Wicomico Youth & Civic Center Study Commission Completes Its Work**

After more than a year of scrutiny and analysis, the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center Study Commission submitted its findings to County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. who, in turn, shared the results with the County Council. Mr. Pollitt said that he will share the results with the citizenry in a series of four public meetings.

The report included a *vision* for the WY&CC...

*It is to be a state-of-the-art, multi-purpose, premier destination venue that enhances local and regional participation in cultural, civic, entertainment, educational, economic and youth-related activities.*

...as well as a mission...

*It is to enhance the quality of life for our citizens with specific emphasis on youth and families by providing a venue for entertainment, cultural, civic, convention and recreational activities. This mission is dedicated to all veterans of Wicomico County.*

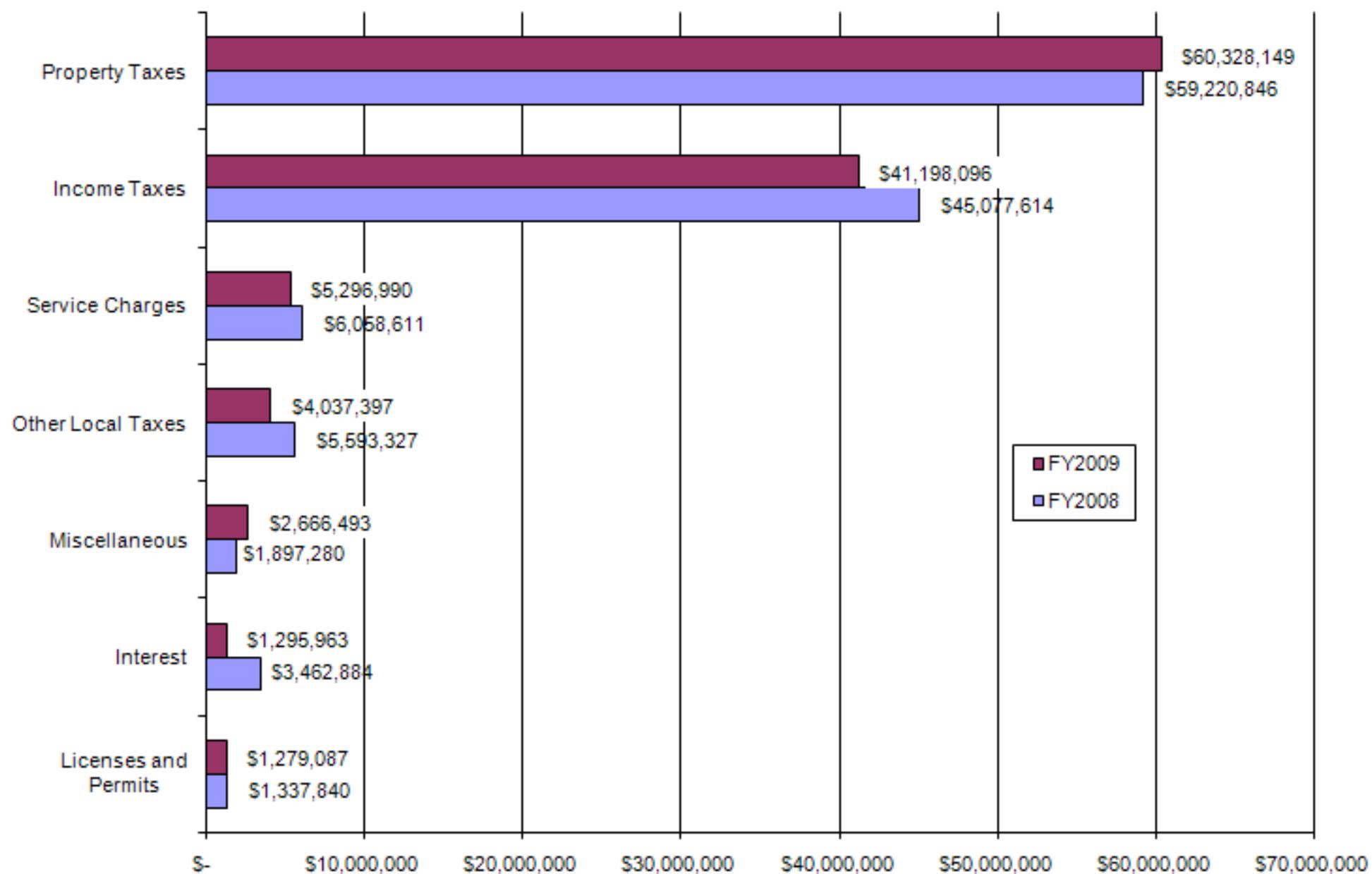
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## **2nd Annual Arbor Day Observance**

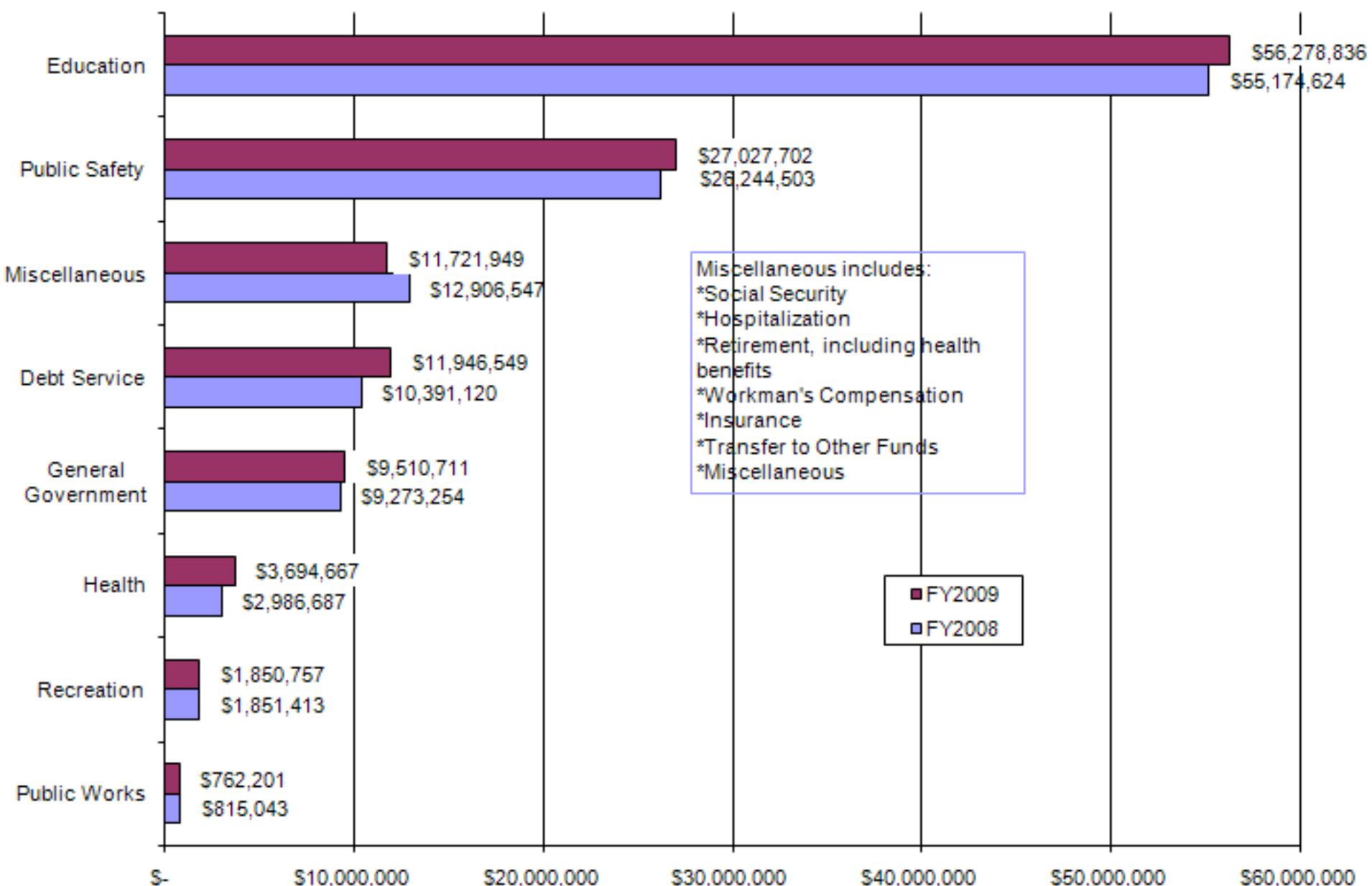
Government Office Building users have a more attractive and safer plaza in front of their building. The opening of the new plaza was formally observed on Arbor Day, April 24, 2009. County and city officials and members of the public planted 6 deep-rooting cherry trees. They replaced their shallow-rooting predecessors that had caused damage to the pavement on a large portion of the plaza resulting in unsafe pedestrian conditions.



## Key Revenues



## Key Expenditures



**General Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2009****ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 23,588,258
Taxes receivable, net	542,355
Other receivables	888,837
Due from other funds	2,464,184
Receivable from other governments	5,192,647
Prepaid expenses	557,603
Total assets	<u>33,233,884</u>

**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES**

## Liabilities:

Accounts payable	2,194,949
Accrued payroll and taxes	941,941
Payable to other governments	365,622
Deferred revenues	496,061
Accrued compensated absences	950,550
Total liabilities	<u>4,949,123</u>

## Fund balances:

Reserved for:	
Encumbrances	640,294
Prepaid expenses	557,603
Unreserved:	
Designated for:	
Subsequent years' expenditures	4,726,824
Fund purposes	9,740,349
Unreserved and undesignated	<u>12,619,690</u>
Total fund balances	<u>28,284,761</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ <u>33,233,884</u>

The County's Fiscal Year 2009 budget was:

New Revenue	120,348,894
Carryforward	9,187,028
Total Revenues	<u>129,535,922</u>
Expenditures	129,535,922

In fiscal year 2009, the County received about \$116.1 million in new revenue and spent about \$123.3 million for County operations, including transfers, resulting in a decrease of about \$7.2 million in Fund Balance in the General Fund.

Total revenues for fiscal year 2009 decreased over fiscal year 2008 by about \$6.5 million, reflecting the softening of the economy.

Spending in almost all areas of County operations increased, with the biggest increases in the areas of Debt Service, Education, Public Safety, and Health.

**Wicomico County**  
**Key Revenues and Expenditures for the year ending June 30, 2009**

<b>Revenues:</b>	FY2008	FY2009	
Licenses and Permits	\$ 1,279,087	\$ 1,337,840	\$ 1,279,087
Interest	\$ 1,295,963	\$ 3,462,884	\$ 1,295,963
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,666,493	\$ 1,897,280	\$ 2,666,493
Other Local Taxes	\$ 4,037,397	\$ 5,593,327	\$ 4,037,397
Service Charges	\$ 5,296,990	\$ 6,058,611	\$ 5,296,990
Income Taxes	\$ 41,198,096	\$ 45,077,614	\$ 41,198,096
Property Taxes	\$ 60,328,149	\$ 59,220,846	\$ 60,328,149
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 116,102,175	\$ 122,648,402	\$ 116,102,175

<b>Expenditures</b>	FY2008	FY2009	
Public Works	\$ 762,201	\$ 815,043	\$ 762,201
Recreation	\$ 1,850,757	\$ 1,851,413	\$ 1,850,757
Health	\$ 3,694,667	\$ 2,986,687	\$ 3,694,667
General Government	\$ 9,510,711	\$ 9,273,254	\$ 9,510,711
Debt Service	\$ 11,946,549	\$ 10,391,120	\$ 11,946,549
Miscellaneous	\$ 11,721,949	\$ 12,906,547	\$ 11,721,949
Public Safety	\$ 27,027,702	\$ 26,244,503	\$ 27,027,702
Education	\$ 56,278,836	\$ 55,174,624	\$ 56,278,836
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 122,793,372		

INCLUDED SOCIAL SERVICES IN MISC

# ***building Bridges, building Community***



## **Wicomico Youth & Civic Center**

The Wicomico Youth and Civic Center is operated by the Wicomico Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism, which represents the county government's commitment to an outstanding quality of life for its citizens. The Wicomico County Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism aims to provide high quality events and programs, to preserve unique natural resources, to acquire, develop and maintain park land and recreation facilities, and to market our community for the purpose of attracting visitors.

Interested in advertising your business or product in front of nearly 250,000 people each year? Consider becoming a sponsor at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center. Join current corporate sponsors such as Pepsi, Comcast, Lankford-Sysco, Lombardi's Pizza. Integrated packages featuring signage throughout the building, electronic matrix board messages, box office naming rights and much more are available for a variety of budgets. For more information on sponsorship opportunities at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, please contact Building Manager Chuck Rousseau at 410-548-4900 ext. 127 or email [crousseau@wicomicrocounty.org](mailto:crousseau@wicomicrocounty.org).

# **building bridges, building community**



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*Look for "Ask Rick" on the County Website*

**This report was produced in-house by:**

Wicomico County Information Technology  
Wicomico County Planning & Zoning  
Wicomico County Department of Corrections  
Wicomico County Public Information Office  
Wicomico County Department of Finance