

COUNTY OF FREDERICK, VA

Spring 2016 FINANCIAL NEWSLETTER

FY 2017 Budget is Approved

Written by Jennifer Place, Budget Analyst, Frederick County Finance Department

The FY 2016-2017 budget totals \$389,179,525. This is an increase of 5.5% over the FY 2015-2016 adopted budget. This budget includes a \$0.04 increase in the real estate tax rate which increases the rate from \$0.56 to \$0.60 per \$100 of assessed value. The personal property tax rate remains unchanged at \$4.86 per \$100 of assessed value. Fund balance funding for FY 2017 equals \$3,600,000, which represents a decrease of \$3,700,000 compared to FY 2016. The General Fund transfer to the School Operating fund equals \$75,038,173, an increase of \$2,962,105 or 4% over FY 2016. The General Fund transfer to the School Debt Service Fund equals \$15,972,475, an increase of \$1,346,324 or 9% over

FY 2016.

The Board of Supervisors held several budget work sessions and the Budget Public Hearing was conducted on March 23, 2016. The budget was formally adopted on April 13, 2016.

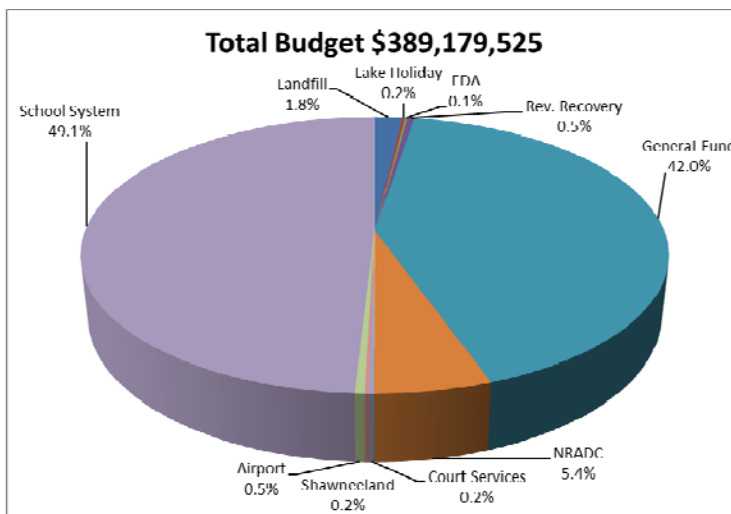
The largest funds that make up the budget are the General Fund, Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center Fund, School Operating Fund, and School Debt Service Fund. The General Fund budget, which includes the county transfers to school operating and school debt funds, totals \$163,306,583, a 5.5% increase over FY 2016. The Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center Fund budget totals \$21,161,388, a 5.4% increase over FY 2016. The

School Operating Fund Budget totals \$153,211,000, a 3.5% increase over FY 2016. The School Debt Service Fund budget totals \$16,446,289, a 7.9% increase compared to FY 2016. The increases mainly consist of six Sheriff Deputies, ten Firefighters, an Assistant County Attorney, an HR Specialist, an Assistant Commonwealth Attorney, and an Adult Protective Services Supervisor, Millwood Station Fire Department operating expenses, increases in funding for the Regional Jail, Social Services, Airport, Handley Library, health department, tourism, school debt and the opening of the new Frederick County Middle School.

The 2016-2017 Fiscal Year begins on July 1, 2016.

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Overall Fund Performance

Frederick County's overall General Fund revenue comparison through March 31, 2016 shows a total increase of \$3,724,678. Included in this increase are the property taxes, which are the largest single revenue stream in the General Fund, other local taxes, permits and privilege fees, and recovered costs. See pages

4 and 5 for increase details.

Total FY 2016 expenditures, including transfers, have increased \$13.7 million from the previous year. The increase includes \$2.9 million expenditure increase made up of \$661,874 for tax refunds, \$162,538 for the local share for the Jail, and

\$222,458 for the County share of the Courthouse maintenance. Transfers to the Schools increased \$10.8 million and also contribute to the overall expenditure increase. Increases include \$3.8 for School Operating, \$3.2 million for School Construction, and \$3.8 million for School Capital Projects.



Photo courtesy of Gloria Puffinburger

General Fund Revenue Comparison

	FY2016 Revenue	FY2015 Revenue	Monthly Variance
JUL	4,413,435	4,355,544	57,891
AUG	5,215,600	5,043,704	171,896
SEPT	4,815,623	4,547,960	267,663
OCT	5,209,465	4,407,694	801,771
NOV	31,056,667	22,051,147	9,005,520
DEC	18,272,446	25,652,046	(7,379,600)
JAN	4,535,022	4,593,554	(58,532)
FEB	6,868,736	6,230,893	637,843
MAR	6,306,308	6,086,082	220,226
APR	-	5,003,761	-
MAY	-	24,874,916	-
JUN	-	54,468,518	-
Totals	86,693,302	167,315,819	3,724,678

School construction projects contributed to the increased transfer to the Schools and include the following:

\$1.2 million—4th high school, \$1.5 million—12th elementary school, and \$500,000—addition and renovations at Armel Elementary.

A School capital projects transfer for \$4 million include maintenance projects, school bus replacements, and technology equipment.

General Fund Expenditure Comparison

	FY2016 Expenditures	FY2015 Expenditures	Monthly Variance
JUL	4,575,117	5,860,637	(1,285,520)
AUG	6,427,245	6,220,837	206,408
SEPT	9,582,489	4,800,555	4,781,934
OCT	6,521,120	6,414,000	107,120
NOV	4,931,431	4,779,231	152,200
DEC	48,818,993	44,249,391	4,569,602
JAN	5,930,517	6,148,055	(217,538)
FEB	9,105,330	4,325,547	4,779,783
MAR	4,741,821	4,134,280	607,541
APR	-	5,243,126	-
MAY	-	4,384,200	-
JUN	-	65,077,275	-
Totals	100,634,061	161,637,134	13,701,528

Unreserved Fund Balance 5-year Comparison

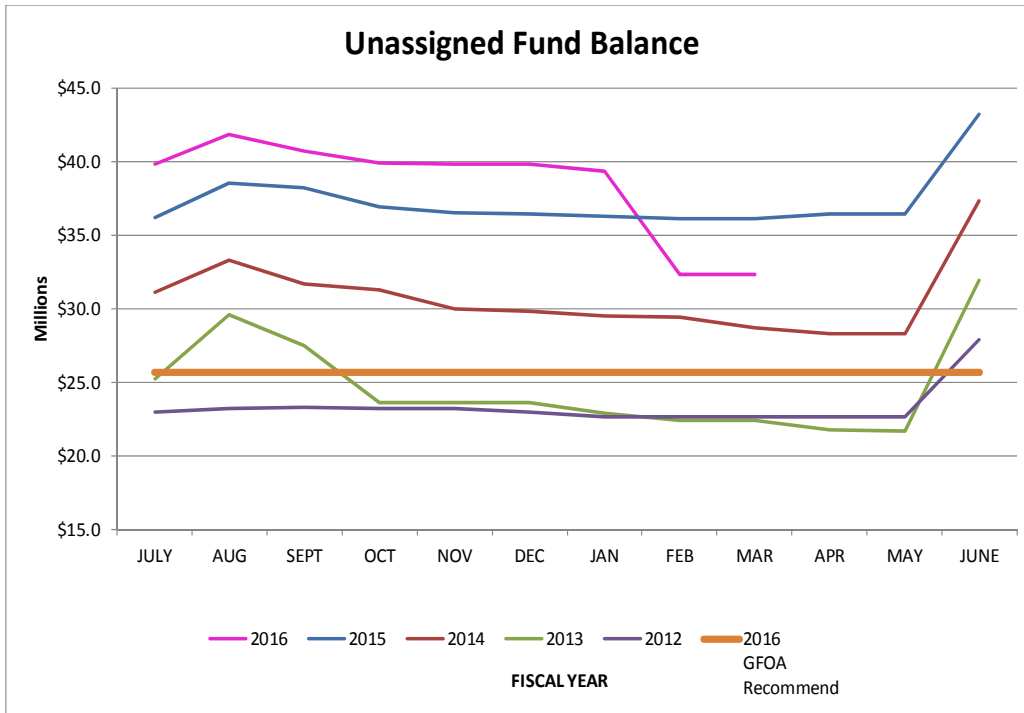


Photo courtesy of Lorraine Mossburg
County Administration Building Front

The Importance of Fund Balance

Fund Balance is the excess dollars of what the County owns (assets) and what the County owes (liabilities). There are several reasons that fund balance is important. It is a critical factor in financial planning and budgeting. It provides funds for unforeseen expenses or emergencies. Fund balance reduces the need for short-term borrowing for operations and cash flows. Cash flow becomes a critical component since half of the largest revenue source is collected at the end of the budget year with the June 5th tax collection.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends that unreserved fund balance be maintained at no less

than two months of regular operating revenues or regular operating expenditures and states that it “is essential that governments maintain adequate levels of fund balance to mitigate current and future risks and to ensure stable tax rates.” For Frederick County’s general fund, that equates to approximately \$25.7 million or 16.7% of the total general fund operating budget for FY 2016. Currently, the County’s fund balance is above the recommendation at 20.9% (\$32.3 million).

The County monitors unreserved general fund balance monthly. Over the years, fund balance has been used to balance the General Fund budget. The General Fund fund balance was reduced by \$7.3 million to balance the FY

2016 budget and \$3.6 million to balance the FY 2017 budget (57% schools, 43% county general fund). Fund balance has been regularly used to balance the budgets in the past. At year-end those funds have been routinely returned to unreserved fund balance as a result of unbudgeted revenues or unspent expenditures. Management and the Board of Supervisors remains committed to retaining a healthy fund balance.

In February, \$7 million was appropriated to address the one-time critical capital needs of both the Schools (\$4 million) and the County General Fund (\$3 million) in the current fiscal year.

Unreserved General Fund fund balance at March 31, 2016 is \$32,326,479.

Revenue Information

Property taxes include real estate, personal property and machinery and tools tax. Total property taxes increased \$1,740,326 year to date and includes real estate (+\$578,952), personal property (+\$1,083,000), and public services (+189,644). Another category that has an

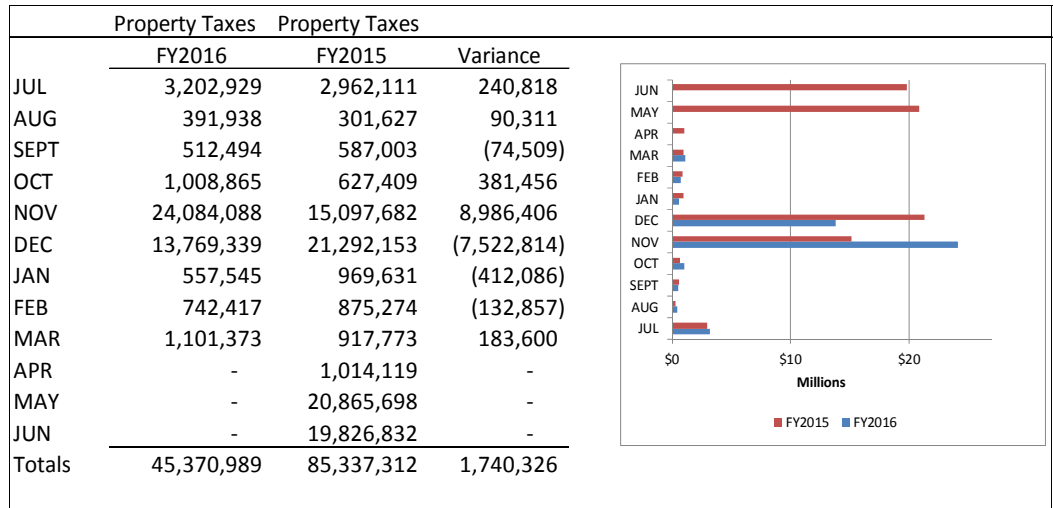
impact on the property tax variance is penalties, interest & administration fees for liens & distress, credit card charges/delinquent advertising (-\$111,270).

Included in the permits and privilege fees are land use, transfer fees, development review fees,

building, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, sign, land disturbance, commercial burning, septic haulers, and sewage installation permits. These permit collections fluctuate with the economy and housing industry. The total permits and privilege fees increased

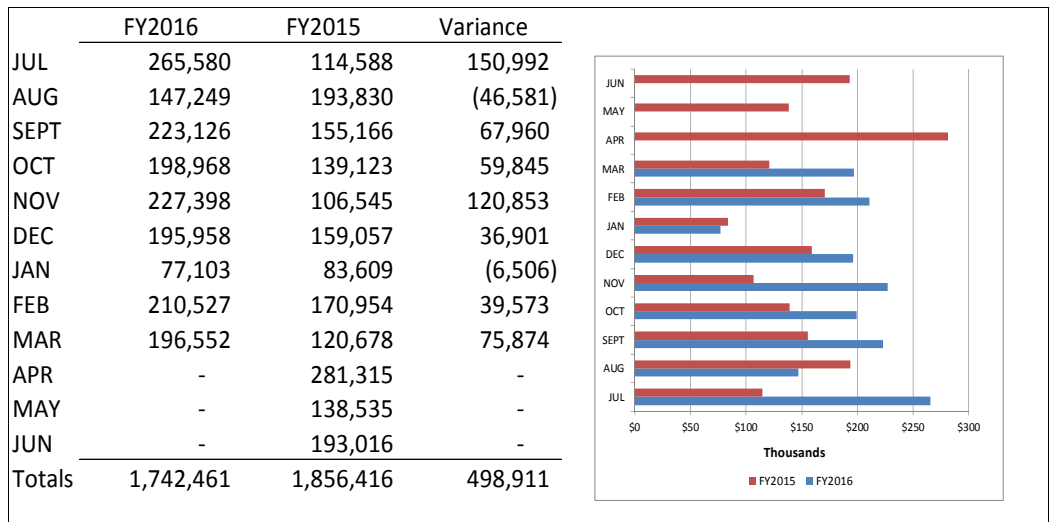
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Property Tax Comparison 2015–2016



Permit Fees Comparison 2015–2016

Permit fees increased 40% in FY 2016 compared to the third quarter of FY 2015.



Other Local Taxes Comparison 2015–2016

	Other Local	Other Local	Variance
	FY2016	FY2015	
JUL	251,182	220,665	30,517
AUG	787,799	644,602	143,197
SEPT	2,446,560	2,444,536	2,024
OCT	2,207,227	2,016,705	190,522
NOV	2,025,762	2,097,167	(71,405)
DEC	2,384,059	2,279,425	104,634
JAN	2,577,618	2,381,805	195,813
FEB	4,803,435	4,171,007	632,428
MAR	3,729,123	4,069,494	(340,371)
APR	-	2,233,383	-
MAY	-	2,812,049	-
JUN	-	6,943,959	-
Totals	21,212,765	32,314,797	887,359

Included in other local taxes are: local sales and use tax, communications sales tax, utility taxes, business licenses, auto rental tax, motor vehicle licenses fees, recordation taxes, meals and lodging taxes, street lights, and Star Fort fees.

Sales Tax Comparison 2015–2016

	Sales Tax	Sales Tax	Variance
	FY2016	FY2015	
JUL	1,122,773	1,058,161	64,612
AUG	1,080,475	1,085,666	(5,191)
SEPT	1,069,363	1,046,724	22,639
OCT	1,106,524	1,065,768	40,756
NOV	1,072,560	1,004,656	67,904
DEC	1,070,229	1,030,054	40,175
JAN	1,118,937	1,047,517	71,420
FEB	1,169,279	1,102,682	66,597
MAR	913,666	880,286	33,380
APR	-	833,425	-
MAY	-	965,460	-
JUN	-	1,010,733	-
Totals	9,723,805	12,131,132	402,291

Revenue Information

(Continued from page 4)
\$498,911 year to date. The volume of permit fees was a contributing factor of the increase. The increase is a positive indicator for the building industry in Frederick County.

Local sales taxes consist of the portion of the state sales tax that

is remitted to the locality. The state sales tax rate is 5.3% with the state returning 1% back to the locality. The sales tax increased \$402,291, or 4.3%, through the third quarter of FY 2016 compared to the prior year.

The total increase of \$887,359 in

other local taxes through March is a net increase which was significantly impacted by the increase in local sales tax, business licenses, and recordation taxes. Local sales tax is a component of other local taxes.

Recordation taxes increased \$152,628 over the prior year.

This is another indicator that the housing market is rebounding in the area.



NRADC Entrance

Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center

The Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center is a 540 bed, medium security, direct supervision corrections facility located in Frederick County. The Jail, organized in October 1989, in accordance with Article 5, Title 53.1-105 Code of Virginia, serves the counties of Clarke, Fauquier, and Frederick, and the

City of Winchester. The Jail is governed by a Regional Jail Authority composed of appointed members from each of the four participating localities.

The Detention Center's mission and organization remains unchanged in FY2016. The Jail continues to provide correctional services in support of criminal

operations in Clarke, Fauquier, and Frederick Counties, and the City of Winchester.

2016 Funded Capital Expenditures

- Mobile X-Ray Unit: \$6,000
- Dodge Caravan-Handicap Accessible: \$41,197
- Office equipment: \$13,960
- Keywatcher: Community Corrections \$7,500 and Emergency Ready Room \$6,775

The Keywatcher illuminated with locking slots is the automated key system. All keys used by staff are located in these key-watcher systems. They afford us instant and continuous accountability of all keys. This is an expansion of the system to include all buildings at our facility. Prior to the automated system we relied on a manual logging system which was very time consuming for staff and far less accurate.

NRADC Revenues

	FY2016 Revenue	FY2015 Revenue	Monthly Variance
JUL	1,170,600	1,065,524	105,076
AUG	2,165,278	2,136,419	28,859
SEPT	2,132,709	1,047,175	1,085,534
OCT	2,378,816	3,025,093	(646,277)
NOV	64,910	667,044	(602,134)
DEC	3,908,688	2,034,270	1,874,418
JAN	930,274	1,925,089	(994,815)
FEB	779,300	663,257	116,043
MAR	2,220,012	1,674,450	545,562
APR	-	886,292	-
MAY	-	568,990	-
JUN	-	3,276,352	-
Totals	15,750,587	18,969,955	1,512,266

NRADC Expenditures

The year to date increase in revenue of \$1,512,266 is a result of the timing of local contributions in the current year.

	FY2016 Expenditures	FY2015 Expenditures	Monthly Variance
JUL	1,555,454	1,276,476	278,978
AUG	1,361,070	1,233,221	127,849
SEPT	1,803,094	1,859,507	(56,413)
OCT	1,425,529	1,376,596	48,933
NOV	1,619,682	1,418,045	201,637
DEC	1,786,451	1,706,069	80,382
JAN	1,491,708	1,417,639	74,069
FEB	1,420,082	1,526,294	(106,212)
MAR	1,871,611	1,811,082	60,529
APR	-	1,387,557	-
MAY	-	1,378,345	-
JUN	-	2,069,394	-
Totals	14,334,682	18,460,225	709,753

Frederick County Sanitary Landfill

The landfill provides non-hazardous solid waste disposal needs for Frederick and Clarke Counties and the City of Winchester.

2016 Funded Capital Expenditures

- Leachate Treatment Plant Upgrade: Replace and upgrade existing equipment at the landfill leachate pretreatment facility. The existing system was installed in 2003 with a life expectancy of ten years. The current system has now been in place for almost thirteen years. Operation and maintenance of the new system shall be of similar nature and costs as the existing system. \$350,000
- Waste Heat Project: This project would involve using heat exchangers to convey the waste heat from the coolant to use in newly installed forced

air heaters inside the maintenance facilities, which would allow the current gas flow used in the landfill gas heaters to be used for the engines to create additional power. In addition, currently used landfill gas radiant heaters require maintenance will be reduced by this project. \$100,000

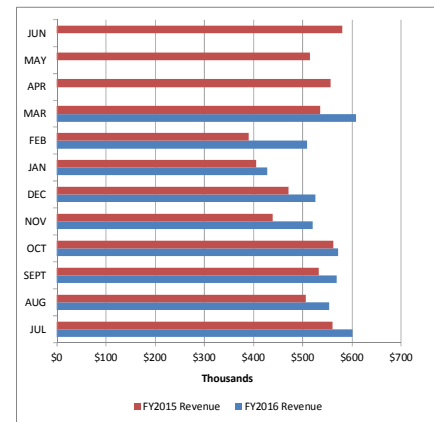
- Gas Field Expansion: Additional gas collection components need to be installed as the landfill continues to increase in size. This project is part of an ongoing effort to collect and control landfill gas produced through the decomposition process. \$100,000



Rainbow over the Landfill
Photo courtesy of Steve Frye

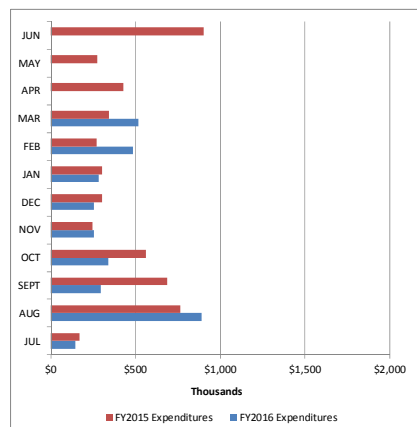
Landfill Revenues

	FY2016 Revenue	FY2015 Revenue	Monthly Variance
JUL	600,368	560,097	40,271
AUG	553,644	506,408	47,236
SEPT	568,275	531,929	36,346
OCT	571,152	561,291	9,861
NOV	520,505	439,209	81,296
DEC	525,900	470,295	55,605
JAN	427,698	405,328	22,370
FEB	509,288	390,012	119,276
MAR	608,187	535,319	72,868
APR	-	556,239	-
MAY	-	514,858	-
JUN	-	579,818	-
Totals	4,885,018	6,050,803	485,130



Landfill Expenditures

	FY2016 Expenditures	FY2015 Expenditures	Monthly Variance
JUL	146,027	170,880	(24,853)
AUG	887,619	765,547	122,072
SEPT	294,839	685,905	(391,066)
OCT	339,544	559,938	(220,394)
NOV	255,943	245,160	10,783
DEC	255,790	301,059	(45,269)
JAN	284,316	303,706	(19,390)
FEB	484,008	269,226	214,782
MAR	516,896	341,527	175,369
APR	-	429,659	-
MAY	-	273,027	-
JUN	-	902,525	-
Totals	3,464,982	5,248,159	(177,966)



Revenue increased \$485,130 year to date reflecting the commercial/ industrial rate increase from \$45 to \$47 per ton and municipal rate from \$12 to \$14 per ton. The decrease in expenditures reflects a reduction of capital expenditures in the current year.

Earth Day is a Month Long Celebration

Written by Gloria Puffinburger, Solid Waste Manager, Frederick County Public Works Department

“Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

-Margaret Mead, educator, author, Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient

A small, committed group of individuals braved a steady rain on a recent Saturday morning to collect roadside litter along Martinsburg Pike. Composed of mostly Stonewall Elementary School teachers, the eight-member team was led by Carrie White, a first-grade teacher at the school who recruited her co-workers, friends and husband to help clean up the Clear Brook community in celebration of Earth Day, April 22. Working in cooperation with Frederick County Clean Sweep, the group picked up 720 pounds of litter.

Mrs. White said she hopes this is the start of something much larger and sustainable. This year, several of her students crafted litter prevention posters which were placed in the community. Next year, she’s hoping to get more county schools involved and host outdoor environmental activities for children.

Aside from this first-ever Clear Brook Community Clean Sweep, the county’s litter crew collected a total of 1,300 pounds of litter during April, primarily along Route 37.

Other outreach efforts during Earth Month included:

Spring Cleaning Community Shred: 239 participants safely destroyed 12,840 pounds of sensitive paper documents. All cardboard and paper were recycled, resulting in the conservation of 109 trees; 44,940 gallons of water; 2,440 gallons of petro-

leum; energy savings, and pollution prevention. Community partners included Records Management Solutions Inc., Southern Scrap/William’s Recycling, Shockey Companies, SMG Sales, and Stephen’s Restaurant Jazz Café.

Those utilizing the shredding service also donated children’s books to benefit the Little Free Library project and enough canned goods to provide 169 meals through the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.



Annual Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Sale: The sale enforces the importance of water conservation and solid waste reduction while providing bins and barrels at a reduced cost to area residents. Only about a dozen \$55 rain barrels remain for walk-in customers.

eCycle: With one event remaining for the month of April, the Regional Electronics Recycling Program collected 17,600 pounds of electronic waste.

Earth Day: Environmental activities with 100 first-grade students at Stonewall Elementary School.

Litter Prevention: Shared John Madden’s “The Wartville Wizard” with Browning Troop 40327. Discussed importance of a clean environment and pollinators in preparation for a butterfly garden they will plant with Frederick County Recycling.

“A Celebration of God’s Creation”: Held at Greenwood United Methodist Church, the event

was attended by about 40 church and community leaders, and is hosted by the United Methodist Church in order to reinforce the message of environmental stewardship. The recycling office helped guests make take-home bird feeders.

Climate Change: Provided an environmental education display during the climate change meeting of the local chapter of the Audubon Society, attended by about 60 guests.

Seedling Distribution: Distributed 250 evergreen seedlings to area schools in celebration of Earth Day/Arbor Day.

Save-a-Sole: First United Methodist Church (100 pair of shoes), Berryville Baptist Church (520 pair) and the Kindness Team at Indian Hollow Elementary School (497 pair) all conducted shoe drives to benefit the county’s shoe recycling program. The program took in over 1,500 pounds of used shoes during March. (see photo back cover)

Real Estate Tax Sales & Collections

Written by Angela Whitacre, Deputy Treasurer, Frederick County Treasurer's Office

A tax sale (also known as a "judicial sale" or "bill in equity") is a tax foreclosure sale of real property. Virginia Code 58.1-3965 allows the Treasurer to sell property with delinquent real estate taxes. To qualify, the taxes must be at least two years delinquent.

A tax sale is basically a lawsuit, filed in the name of the County. The sale is administered by a Special Commissioner, who is

appointed by the Court. The property can be redeemed up until the date of the sale. Once sold, the sale must be approved by the Court.

Frederick County gives notice of tax sales on our website (www.fredtax.com) and in The Winchester Star. Tax sales are generally held on the steps of the Joint Judicial Center. In the past decade, Frederick County has held 12 judicial tax sales. This is

one of the many collection tools that our Treasurer has employed to keep real estate collection rates high. A tax sale is often the last resort once other processes have been exhausted. Initially, the Treasurer offers payment plans for qualifying properties to avoid tax sales.

Below is a twenty year history of the total amount of real estate tax billed and the balances left uncollected.

	Real Estate tax levy	balance due	% of levy collected
1996	\$ 15,737,891.00	\$ 14,024.46	99.911
1997	\$ 16,453,020.00	\$ 14,089.79	99.914
1998	\$ 16,864,231.00	\$ 15,069.78	99.911
1999	\$ 17,427,580.51	\$ 15,032.18	99.914
2000	\$ 19,815,989.68	\$ 17,487.42	99.912
2001	\$ 21,374,593.34	\$ 17,762.82	99.917
2002	\$ 22,459,940.14	\$ 17,990.99	99.920
2003	\$ 28,438,313.33	\$ 23,411.46	99.918
2004	\$ 30,124,515.83	\$ 25,456.31	99.915
2005	\$ 33,996,183.69	\$ 30,348.36	99.911
2006	\$ 36,511,311.21	\$ 32,832.06	99.910
2007	\$ 38,469,683.55	\$ 38,409.54	99.900
2008	\$ 40,073,054.27	\$ 50,862.22	99.873
2009	\$ 40,493,422.84	\$ 65,800.71	99.838
2010	\$ 40,996,006.69	\$ 85,783.25	99.791
2011	\$ 40,896,422.01	\$ 116,086.46	99.716
2012	\$ 44,265,671.30	\$ 162,135.56	99.634
2013	\$ 44,579,010.01	\$ 211,824.24	99.525
2014	\$ 45,349,686.51	\$ 337,841.97	99.255
2015	\$ 46,605,661.72	\$ 710,274.38	98.476
total	\$ 640,932,188.63	\$ 2,002,523.96	99.688



Real Estate and

Personal Property

Tax

Payment

Deadline is

June 6, 2016

Welcome Aboard!

Written by Karen Vacchio, Public Information Officer, County Administration



Becky Merriner
HR Director



Mike Ruddy
Planning Director

Two new department directors were selected to join the leadership of Frederick County in February 2016. Mike Ruddy, was promoted to the position of Planning Director and Becky Merriner was hired as Human Resources Director. While both are new to their current positions, neither is new to Frederick County nor to their area of expertise. Mr. Ruddy has been employed by Frederick County since 2004 as the Assistant Planning Director and Mrs. Merriner was born and raised in Frederick County, even attending Frederick County Public Schools.

Rebecca A. “Becky” Merriner became HR Director on February 17 and hit the ground running initiating a new direction for an employee wellness plan, scheduling open enrollment meetings for insurance selections, bringing to light free training opportunities for employees, and working to assure that the county continues to provide a good benefits package for a reasonable cost.

In her prior position at Valley Proteins, Becky was responsible for managing the training and development function by directing the design, planning, and implementation of corporate training programs, policies, and procedures. She will rely on her background as she moves forward with a training and development for County employees. “Following several years of budget cuts, training opportunities have moved to the back burner. But, in this day of webi-

nars and online training, there are a lot of new possibilities out there for little or no cost and we will be bringing those to light for our employees.”

Becky has always believed that “the one thing that truly differentiates one business from another is the people who work there. Organizations may replicate processes, materials and structures of other successful organizations, but only the talent of an organization makes it unique and distinguishes it from all its competitors. So, I can’t think of a better job than to be able to recruit, develop and retain talented individuals that provide services to the community in which I live.”

She enjoys the variety of HR as there are a lot of avenues: workforce planning, employee relations, benefits, organizational development, training, diversity initiatives, regulations, compliance, and employee development. There is never a dull moment in HR; there is no typical day. So, how does this HR professional balance her workload: “Every day is different and every day means a new challenge in my world. Whatever “checklist” I thought I was going to accomplish, rest assured will need to be changed by the end of each work day. Needless to say, it is important for me to prioritize work in order to meet the needs of the county employees.”

One of Becky’s favorite quotes is ‘Do what you love, and you’ll never work another day in your life.’ “I absolutely love what I

do! Loving your job is a wonderful thing. Working here in HR gives me a rewarding feeling and sense of fulfillment and satisfaction at the end of each day.”

With a lot more initiatives on her agenda, Becky tries to practice what she preaches as far as work-life balance: “I try to convince our employees that they need total separation from their jobs in their off hours. It’s hard for me and for a lot of others because they are very dedicated. I try to heed my own warnings by keeping things like checking emails and reading trade publications to a minimum during my off hours.”

Becky has earned the credentials of Professional in Human Resources (PHR) from HRCI and SHRM Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) from SHRM; Certified Professional in Learning & Performance (CPLP) from ASTD; Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Qualification with the Center for Applications and Psychological Type and CPP.

Becky holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management & Organizational Development from Eastern Mennonite University and a Master of Business Administration Degree from Shenandoah University. She lives in Frederick County with her husband and son.

Michael T. “Mike” Ruddy began his position as Director of Planning and Development at the beginning of February and has. Mike started his planning career

(Continued on page 11)

Frederick County Finance Committee

Summary of Action Items—FY 2016 QTR 3

The primary function of the committee is to review matters of a financial nature including proposed changes to fiscal/procurement policies and the review and recommendation for matters of a financial nature coming forward to the Board including, but not limited to, supplemental appropriations, transfers and contracts.

The following are the meeting dates for the third quarter of fiscal year 2016:

January 20, 2016

February 17, 2016—canceled

March 16, 2016

All Finance Committee Agendas and Reports can be found online, www.fcva.us/fincomm.

The Finance Committee generally meets at 8:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in the First Floor Conference Room in the County Administration Complex. The committee is comprised of three board members and three citizen members.

The following are **General Fund** supplemental appropriation requests which required no local funds:

- \$26,509 for the Sheriff's Department for insurance reimbursements;
- \$1,195 for the Voter Registrar to reimburse for the Russells precinct relocation; and
- \$30,000 for the Sheriff's Department for Abbott Grant funds.

The following are **General Fund** supplemental appropriation requests which required local funds:

- \$1,142 to return unspent FY15 VJCCCA funds to the State; and
- \$4,390 to accept Security Drive in the State Secondary System.

The committee also held discussions on the following topics:

- The FY 2017 budget;
- The FY 2015 CAFP presentation;
- The internal audit process; and
- A Grant Application & Acceptance Policy.

Merriner and Ruddy

(Continued from page 10)

with Frederick County in 1995. In 2000, he became the Planning Director and Assistant Town Manager for the Town of Purcellville. Mike rejoined the County in 2004. In total he has been employed with Frederick County for over 15 years.

Ruddy notes, "we have recently had a number of large rezoning efforts come to fruition and one goal I have is to keep the public informed about these types of projects, to make sure everyone has an opportunity to voice their opinion." Public input is very important to the growth and planning and development in Frederick County.

Mike grew up in Nottinghamshire, England and moved to the United States at the age of 18 to attend University. He is excited to continue his professional development in Frederick County, the community in which he has lived for the past 20 years, and to help influence the growth of the community in a positive way.

In addition to being an avid soccer fan, Mike enjoys being outdoors and traveling with his wife, Angela, and their children and extended family. Between Mike and Angela, they have 6 children, ranging in age from 10 to 20. He has long been involved with community soccer organizations and is privileged to

coach youth soccer with the Winchester United Travel Soccer Club. This provides Mike with the opportunity to work with many kids in the community, share his enthusiasm for the sport, and meet some great families.

When asked about his "to do" list for your department Mike said, "It is our intent to make the Planning Department as accessible as possible to the community and to effectively communicate the planning efforts that are ongoing in the County, especially the update to the 2035 Comprehensive Plan." He feels it has been an enjoyable transition into his new position, one that has

been made easier by great support from his family, friends, and co-workers.

Ruddy holds a B.A. Parks and Recreation Management and a M.A. Geography and Regional Planning from California University of Pennsylvania. Other positions held by Mr. Ruddy include Zoning Administrator, Planner II and Planner I for Frederick County Department from 1995-2000, Planning Intern - City of Winchester Planning Department, 1995, and Planning Associate/G.I.S. Intern - Lord Fairfax Planning District Commission also in 1995.

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Photo courtesy of LeeAnna Pyles
Graphics courtesy of Jeremy Coulson

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National & Local Headlines

- Trex, headquartered in Frederick County, has launched Trex University. The leader in high-performance, low maintenance outdoor living products is offering a new, hands-on way to experience the Trex brand. The 10,000 square-foot facility will serve as an educational and training center for visitors-including dealers, distributors and TrexPro contractors-to learn all about Trex, from its products and materials to its eco-friendly legacy and how the industry leader is Engineering What's Next in Outdoor Living.
- Centro Global Solutions locates to Frederick County. Centro is looking to reduce expense and customer care cycle times without sacrificing agility and innovation. Centro looks for the greatest long-term value proposition for its clients by leveraging competencies and cost-arbitrage options in different delivery markets.
- Regional unemployment rate for March 2016 was 3.6% compared to 4.3 % in March 2015.



Indian Hollow Elementary School's Kindness Team, under the direction of sponsor Jeanette Gluszack, collected 497 pair of shoes in April to benefit the county's Save-a-Sole shoe recycling program. The Kindness Team conducts various service projects throughout the school year such as writing thank-you letters to military members and local fire departments, volunteering as bell ringers for the Salvation Army, and collecting shoes for recycling!

Photo courtesy of Gloria Puffinburger