

WANTED - PRO BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS

The following letter from BQA Chairman, Mareen Waterman was emailed to the BQA Membership on August 14, 2009. A modified version of this letter will be sent to prospective members of BQA and will be printed in next month's newsletter!

Members and Past Members:

As you are aware, we've got a General Election coming up in about 15 months, and a Primary just about one year off.

Of our five sitting Commissioners it appears only one will seek re-election. Commissioner Gunther has been business friendly and is likely to be re-elected; however, we must have at least three business friendly votes on the next board.

Business Queen Anne's is undertaking a campaign which will focus on the benefits of moderate growth to the Public at large, as well as the business community.

We believe the no-growthers will be working just as hard and spending vast amounts of money to elect anti-growth people. We must counter that.

We've been involved in the campaign against 08-25, and in the process have donated several thousand dollars towards legal fees and lobbying by the Chamber of Commerce and Farm Bureau. We intend to continue an alliance with other groups having a common goal with Business Queen Anne's – A VIBRANT LOCAL ECONOMY.

For the first six months of 2009, a grand total of only 23 new homes were permitted – a number so low as to cripple numerous businesses.

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INFORMATIONAL AD MAKES DEBUT

The first of the weekly ads to run in The Update made its debut in August. Here is the content of that ad:

WAKE UP ROLL CALL

Those of you who are longtime residents may remember in Queen Anne's County....

WHAT WE HAD
AND
WHAT WE DIDN'T HAVE

Life is, without question, different, but we believe in many ways it is certainly a more quality and better life.

In the coming weeks, we'll be presenting informative facts and eye-opening statistics, which we feel will prove our point- THAT COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL GROWTH is what has allowed us to enjoy and sustain an improved lifestyle in Queen Anne's County. This is a large part of our tax base and we count on this to provide a multitude of county services. Any effort to address our economic problems will require a thorough understanding of this issues and willingness to take action. To make a real and lasting impact we must seek to do more to create new opportunities for years to come.

The simple truth is that we cannot afford to stay silent anymore!

Please WATCH this page in the forthcoming weeks to stay informed about things in QAC that you absolutely need to know about!

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Pro-Business Commissioners Cont'd...

We need your participation in this campaign. If you already belong, consider increasing your dues payment. If you no longer belong, please rejoin – an application accompanies this letter.

If you never belonged, it's time you did! The past seven years of local government has seen new rule after new rule – all expensive, all discouraging the new growth needed.

Our commercial tax base has shrunk to an all time low.

We simply can't survive another group of similar thinking Commissioners.

We need you as a Business Queen Anne's Member, as a participant in Business Queen Anne's policy making, and as a participant in Public Meetings.

We also need your thoughts or candidates for the upcoming Election. Who do you know who might consider running and would be worthy of business support? Let us know about them.

There is less than a year before filing deadline for the next Election and it will go by quickly, so think about it now!

Please help Business Queen Anne's with your dollars, your attendance at meetings and your ideas for business friendly candidates.

Very truly yours,



Maren D. Waterman

Informational Ad Cont'd...

For the first seven months of 2009, ONLY 27 new home permits were issued, compared to 460 in 2002 and 211 in 2005. Despite the economy, we had opportunities leading up to the recession, poor choices exacerbated our problems.

Our tax base is shrinking ONLY 7% (compared to 12% in 2002 in the state). How will business owners "hang on" to increase customer base without moderate growth? Less money in local economy spells less business in QAC.

If you have any thoughts regarding the content of the ads or would like to write the copy for an ad, please contact Camille O'Donnell at cdove@atlanticbb.net

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT...

Chesapeake College CAC

The draft plan is out and will go through a 60 day review. The formal public hearing will be on September 10th...BQA will have representatives there!

KI South Water & Sewer

According to Alan Quimby, Chief Sanitary Engineer with the QAC Sanitary District, the next public meeting regarding this issue will probably be in November or December. The Dept. of Public Works Advisory Board wants a month to review and then a month is needed for the public to review before the meeting. BQA will be sure to let you know when that meeting will take place!

Vision Workshop Report

News on this in next month's newsletter, but check out this link until then...

<http://www.qac.org/default.aspx?pageid=1075&template=3&PageLevel=2&toplevel=34&cid=73>

BLUE RIBBON PANEL MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS

CENTREVILLE- At its most recent meeting on August 7, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Smart Growth and Rural Development made several preliminary recommendations, all of which were passed unanimously.

“Our meetings have been and continue to be very dynamic and educational, with input from many different facets of the community and the region,” said County Commissioner Gene Ransom, who co-chairs the Blue Ribbon Panel with Frank Frohn, chair of the Queen Anne’s County Planning Commission. County Commissioner Paul Gunther is also a member of the panel.

The Blue Ribbon Panel was created in January in response to proposed county ordinance 08-25, The Rural Preservation and Development Act. The panel’s members are representative of the county and include farmers, business people, conservationists and leaders from local municipalities.

Over the past several months, panel members studied various preservation programs and methods and heard presentations concerning growth management practices across the region and the state. The panel also received input from real estate appraisers and attorneys, bankers, county staff, farmers, realtors, developers and conservation groups.

The group recently finished its analysis of 19 proposals concerning zoning changes, new growth areas, transfer of development rights, barriers to development and agricultural preservation. The following preliminary recommendations were made:

- The County Commission should pass legislation allowing for voluntary agricultural districts. The districts could be used as a tool to allow for private groups, or the County Agriculture Board to purchase development rights.
- The County Commission should expand the priority preservation area to an area greater than the rural legacy district.
- The County Agriculture Board should do a comprehensive study of the use of preservation funds. The study should include a review of other jurisdictions, the use of staggered or periodic payments, and an action plan to increase applications for Federal and State dollars.
- The County Commission should write to the Department of Natural Resources, and other elected officials to request a change in State law to allow for a greater use of Program Open Space dollars to purchase development rights, and
- The County Commission should be asked to employ the Parks and Recreation impact fee collected in the rural area for preservation programs.
- The County Commission should continue to aggressively apply for Rural Legacy, Program Open Space and MALPF money for preservation.
- Remove the towns of Price, Kingstown, Pondtown, Ruthsburg and Starr from the list of proposed new growth areas and recommend that the Comprehensive Plan update include discussions of new growth areas.

The panel has more work to do and additional recommendations to make. The panel’s next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 22 at 8 a.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room at the Department of Land Use, Growth Management and Environment on Coursevall Drive.

BUSINESS

Queen Anne's

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of BUSINESS Queen Anne's is to actively advocate sound economic growth; review proposed State and local legislation and regulations as they pertain to business; provide an objective assessment of proposed development in Queen Anne's County and it's incorporated towns; endorse and support countywide growth that is well managed and consistent with adopted State and local planning and regulatory guidelines, comprehensive plans, and State and local initiatives; create positive and constructive relationships on behalf of the business community with our elected and appointed officials; and support business activity that promotes and encourages a vibrant economy, development of an adequate labor pool, a fiscally responsible and accountable County government, and a continued unique quality of life in Queen Anne's County.

YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS WHEN PAYING YOUR MEMBERSHIP INVESTMENT!

You may select a sponsorship level rather than choose a level of support based upon number of employees. By becoming a sponsor, your additional commitment to the organization will further support our continued success!
Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

To make certain that member contact information is correct and up to date, please complete the following information form:

Business Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____
Type of Business: _____
Contact Person: _____
Your Name (please print) _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____

Sponsorship Levels of Membership



Gold - \$2,000
Silver - \$1,000
Bronze - \$500
Flat Rate of \$150
Takes new members
to July 31, 2010!!
\$750 1-25 Employees
\$500 25-50 Employees
\$1,000 50-100 Employees
and above
(Circle One)

Any questions, please contact Membership Chair Cecile Weich at 410-604-1111

BUSINESS Queen Anne's
2009-2010 Board Members

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ER GROUND BREAKING

Not only were several BQA board members present at the Ground Breaking event for the Shore Health Systems Emergency Room on August 17th, our very own Chair, Mareen Waterman was on the Gala committee along with board member Camille O'Donnell and BQA Vice Chair Nick Deoudes' wife, Kathy who Co-Chaired the event with Alisa Pipkin. That event was a great success and netted over \$80,000 back in May for the Emergency Room which will be one of two stand alone ERs in the state of Maryland.



BQA Chair, Mareen Waterman shares a few moments with Congressman Frank Kratovil at the ER Ground Breaking

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Check out the blog at....

www.queenannesbusiness.net