

BOARD SUGGESTS JOINT EFFORT

Your Board of Directors determined at its last Meeting that we would assist with funding opposition to 08-25 by contributing funds to both the Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce and the County Farm Bureau.

We hope this will foster co-operation between the existing three groups, which are concerned about the continuing expansion of County Regulations on Private Property and down zoning without compensation.

Hopefully, this can result in a permanent coalition wherein the combined number of members will be better noticed by our Commissioners.

It was Benjamin Franklin who said, "We must all hang together, or we each HANG separately" – a very appropriate quote when looking at expanding Government regulations.

WYE MILLS AREA COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

The Citizen's Advisory Committee has submitted their report to the Planning Commission. It outlines four major land uses for the Wye Mills area. The Planning Commission will study the report, make their recommendations and then there will be a 60 day review period, during which the public can weigh in with their thoughts.

The advisory report identified four major land uses which include an Ecological Business Park, an Education Center, a Health Care Center and what is being called the "Wye Mills Village Center" which could have small businesses, some new homes, and public and private schools.

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The CAC approved the draft plan with a 9-2 vote and a minority opinion report was submitted by Carol Bilek and Betsy Gallagher; the two who voted in opposition.

The report can be found on the county's website (www.qac.org) or you can find the links on the BQA website under "News".

ORDINANCE 08-25 UPDATE

In response to proposed Ordinance # 08-25, the Rural Preservation and Development Act, a committee titled the Blue Ribbon Panel on Smart Growth and Rural Development was put together.

This panel includes our very own Mareen Waterman who stands for business interests as a Chamber of Commerce representative.



There are representatives from the agricultural industry, and two panel members from the Queen Anne's County Council of Governments (COG) which represents the eight incorporated towns in the county.

While some say that the bill will direct development to the county's growth areas and will preserve the rural areas and county farms, Business Queen Anne's feels that the ordinance would take away private property rights and cause a dramatic decrease in the value of farm land which would make it difficult for farmers to get the loans they need to do business on a daily basis.

QAC-TV Chanel 7 will be airing the meetings held by the Blue Ribbon Panel and there will be a page on the Queen Anne's County website (www.qac.org) dedicated to this panel, including minutes from the meetings and resource information.

COMMISSIONER WARGOTZ VISITS BQA BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Eric Wargotz accepted an invitation to attend the Business Queen Anne's Board Meeting held on January 29th. He was given a presentation that was put together by Board Members Camille O'Donnell, Nick Deoudes and Mareen Waterman, which outlined the need for more Commercial Development to boost our tax base, an open and interesting conversation ensued.

The conversation touched on the following issues:

Economic Development – Dr. Wargotz stated that he would like to see the package offered by Economic Development Commission to businesses enhanced and that the Commissioners frequently waive fees for commercial projects.

Permitting Process – Mareen Waterman expressed dismay over the fact that sometimes businesses follow the county guidelines in place and are still rejected. He used the Emerson Mines as a most recent example.

Infrastructure Issues – Dr. Wargotz stated that before any growth, the Water & Sewer problems need to be addressed, more so than roads. Nick Deoudes suggested that one way to build infrastructure is for towns to partner with developers who would bear the costs of improvements.

Special Interests – Businesses that consider coming to our County are aware that local special interest groups make it nearly impossible to move forward in a permitting process that is already confusing and tedious. Queen Anne's County needs to promote a business friendly atmosphere.

Wye Mills – Eric feels the Planning Commission will make a recommendation in March and then it's time for the public to weigh in during the 60 day review.

08-25 – Dr. Wargotz stated that he was against the vote of the other Commissioners to form a committee to study 08-25 as he felt it should have been left in the hands of the planning commission. Eric stated this ordinance was part of his campaign platform. Nick Deoudes questioned this because he had worked on the campaign and didn't recall it.

Matapeake – Eric stated that the Commissioners have put out a RFI (Request For Interest) for projects at the Matapeake location on Kent Island. He also mentioned that a selection committee includes a representative from MEDCO. (MD Economic Development Corporation)

Bay Bridge Airport – Members of the BQA board voiced their opinion that while this gateway project should be attractive, the Commissioners should strive to balance the County's demands with the developer's profitability.

Dominion Road Property – Commissioner Wargotz explained that State dollars were used to purchase land through environmental watershed grants. The property owner (Bozek) kept some land and will build a few houses, which will generate taxes.

Cemetery Rd/Bennett Point Rd. – Most of the funds for this purchase (4.6 M) were provided by the State's "Project Open Space". The county is getting money from Ag leases. Mareen Waterman pointed out that Grasonville now has nowhere to expand.

Four Seasons – This development has preliminary site approval and final site approval for Phase 1. There are still two lawsuits waiting for decisions to be handed down. (One of which was brought by Queen Anne's Conservation who has been involved with several Four Season's lawsuits. See the "Special Interests" note in the previous column!)

**THANK YOU TO OUR
RECENT RENEWALS!**

- Atlantic Broadband
- C&D Concrete
- Champion Improvements, Inc.
- Claiborne Farms
- Davis, Moore, Shearon & Associates
- Deoudes-Magafan Realty, Inc.
- Kent Island True Value Hardware
- Kentmorr Marina Properties
- KRM Development Corporation
- Ledo Pizza
- Richard C. Graves, CPA LLC
- Stevens, Phillips & McCann, LLC
- WNAV - Sajak Broadcasting Corp.

Richard Graves, a CPA in Centreville resigned from the Board due to business commitments, however renewed his membership as he is “still in agreement with advancing the business friendly climate for Queen Anne’s County.”

BQA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This committee is looking to expand! Any member of Business Queen Anne’s interested in serving on the membership committee should contact Membership Chair, Cecile Weich at 410-604-1111.

If you lack the time to make a permanent commitment to the membership committee, you can help out by signing up ONE new member. Print out the membership application in this newsletter and carry it with you until you’ve gotten someone to complete it!

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT...



COMMISSIONER RANSOM

Gene Ransom has been hired by the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) as their new Executive Director. MedChi serves as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health. Gene will complete this term as Commissioner, but will not run for office again.

Congratulations Gene!

**NEW PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS
APPOINTED**

Jennifer Schmidt of Sudlersville and Luke Howard of Millington were both appointed to the Planning Commission by the County Commissioners on Dec. 23.

BUSINESS NEWS ON WNAV



Tune into WNAV 1430 AM the first Monday of every month at 8:45 AM and you may hear BQA Board Member, Camille O'Donnell giving a report on business in Queen Anne’s County!

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 its 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 - \$2500

SILVER - \$2000

BRONZE - \$1500

(Circle One)

Annual Membership Investment

\$250 1-10 Employees

\$500 11-25 Employees

\$1,000 26 Employees

and above

(Circle One)

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

BUSINESS *Queen Anne's*
2009 Board Members

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*Have you visited the
BQA Website lately?*



Access your newsletters via the BQA website!
Visit www.businessqueenannes.com
and click on "News"!

There's a new blog in town!

This is the first business blog to help you shape the future of our county. We must stand together for the present and for our children's future!

www.queenannesbusiness.net

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