

UPDATE ADS

The following letter was sent to the membership via email on March 10th...

Dear Member,

You must be aware of our ad series running in the **UPDATE**.

It was originally intended to counter the anti-growth element in the County,

AND IT SEEMS TO BE WORKING

We have had numerous letters and e-mails supporting the effort and most of our directors report many people telling them, "keep it up".

Keeping it up is worthwhile, but expensive. The ads cost \$399.00 per week. Our organization has paid most of this, but just over 14 weeks (\$5,700) have been paid for by donations from individual members.

We need to keep the ad campaign going and are asking you to consider a special donation for this purpose.

\$399.00 pays for another week and if you can contribute that, please send your check as soon as possible. If you can't handle \$399.00, send in half that amount.

We're convinced that, unless we can help to elect at least three pro-growth candidates this Fall, many of us may well be out of business.

Your investment in one of our ads could make a real difference to our County and to your business.

It will be money well spent.

Thanks for your contribution which should be mailed to:

Business Queen Anne's
P.O. Box 1065
Stevensville, MD 21666

Very truly yours,



Mareen D. Waterman
BQA President

(See a copy of a recent ad on page 3!)

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!!

Matt Isdell, President
MDIT
(State and Federal Contracting)
340 Timber Lane, Grasonville, MD 21638
mattisdell@gmail.com
Office - 410.975.8797
Direct - 410.726.6949
Fax - 410.975.4582

Steve Donovan
Title One & Associates, Inc.
www.titleone-md.com smd@annapolis.net
Title Abstracting, Research, Recordation & Foreclosure
237 Burton Air Drive
Centreville, MD 21617-2150
Tel: (410) 758-1831
Fax: (410) 758-1832





MASSIVE BUDGET SHORTFALLS FACING QAC!

The County’s finance department is gearing up for their next Comprehensive Financial Report that will cover the 2009-2010 fiscal year. (The report is presented to the County Commissioners and the county citizens before the end of 2010.)

They are also working on the 2010-2011 budget to be presented sometime in June of 2010. At this time, the County Administrator John Borders is projecting a 16.5 million dollar shortfall.

- 7.5 M reduction of State funding for roads
- 3 M debt service for bonds that were sold
- 6 M State income tax revenue reduction

To put this in perspective the entire county payroll is around 16 million dollars. Plus, there are still other variables to be considered...that figure could grow!

We are most likely looking at a huge tax increase to close this gap.

A penny increase in your real estate taxes is approximately \$750,000 dollars in additional county revenue. 10 cents would equal 7.5 million. A 10 cent increase would cover just the reduction in the road funding; not the other shortfalls and no new services.

The law requires a balanced county budget be presented. It won't be easy and it won't be pretty.

See recent ad in Update on Page 3!

THE FASTC 411

The public comment period on the FASTC project in Ruthsburg ended on March 12th. The next step in the process will be the environmental study which should be completed mid March - early April. After it is presented, the public will have 30 days to comment on the study.

The Bay Times ran an article entitled “*Silent majority’ supports training center, group says*” on March 10th. That “group” is the Eastern Shore Leadership Council who hired Hart Research Associates to conduct a poll regarding the facility. Business Queen Anne’s has stood with that group and the QAC Chamber to vocally support the project. The poll regarding the facility showed that over 60% was in favor of the project.

Outrage over video on public access channel 7!

Business Queen Anne’s was extremely upset that our County Commissioners agreed to air a biased video on our public access channel 7! Taxpayer dollars are used to run that channel and it is limited to QAC county government activities. Business Queen Anne’s requested the immediate removal of the video both from the TV and the website. The video was produced and edited by the same person leading the boycott against local businesses for expressing their opinions on FASTC. Shortly after, the video was removed from both locations.

An offer was made to run a pro-FASTC video for equal time, but the producer of that video along with Business Queen Anne representatives believe that to accept such an offer would make us guilty of the very thing that we found offensive in the first place!!

To watch the video produced by Ryan Mitchell which makes a statement about FATSC, Jobs and the State of the Local Economy, please go to:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_TSYibrWoA

Trim the Fat!

QAC Operational Budget

2010
\$110 Million
49,200 Population

Hmmm...73 more QAC employees, although there's only 4,930 more people who live here now since 2003

2003
\$66 Million
44,270 Population

\$ 110 million
— \$ 66 million
\$ 44 Million
In additional spending!

**QAC will enter the new budget cycle with a 16.5 million shortfall!
If that doesn't wake you up, you are NOT paying attention!!!**

Ask the commissioners:
Who is making the big bucks? Are we on a spending spree?
Where does our taxpayers' money go?? Follow the paper trail....

Join BQA to help shape the future of Queen Anne's County.
Sign up at: www.businessqueenannes.com

BUSINESS

Queen Anne's

P.O. Box 1065, Stevensville, MD 21666
Phone: 410-643-6288 Fax: 410-643-6278
www.businessqueenannes.com

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 - \$250

SILVER - \$100

BRONZE - \$50

New Membership Stimulus Rate!!

Flat Rate of \$150

Takes new members
to July 31, 2010!!

\$50 - 10 employees

\$1,000 - 25 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

Mareen Waterman

Coldwell Banker/Waterman Realty
410-643-5005
e-mail: mareenwaterman@mrisc.com

Karen Oertel

Harris Crab House
410-827-8104
e-mail: whh@dmv.com

Al Helfenbein

Helfenbein Insurance Agency
410-643-2291
e-mail: al@helfenbein.com

Nick Deoudes

Deoudes-Magafan Realty, Inc.
410-827-5441
e-mail: ndeoudes@atlanticbb.net

Tim Champion

Champion Improvements Inc.
410-643-4886
e-mail: improve@atlanticbb.net

Cheryl Russell

Delmarva Power
410-758-4127
e-mail: cheryl.russell@delmarva.com

Mike Dahle

Bay Carpets Flooring America
410-820-7288
e-mail: mdahle@baycarpets.com

Bob Wilson

Mears Point Marina
410-827-8888
e-mail: bobwilson@mearspoint.com

Camille O'Donnell

O'Donnell Properties
443-786-0200
e-mail: cdove@atlanticbb.net

Dave Thompson

Centreville National Bank
410-643-2233
e-mail: david@cnbmd.com

Sandra Early

Administrator
410-643-6288
e-mail: sandra.early@verizon.net

BQA BOARD MEETS WITH COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES

At their board meeting held on February 25th, BQA board members got to interview with three Commissioner Candidates. (*Dave Olds – Republican District 4, John McQueeney – Republican, At Large and Phil Dumenil – Republican, District 3*)

The hope is to find candidates that will support business and economic development to create future stability in our County. Some of the issues discussed included balancing the budget, the Comprehensive Plan Update and commercial and residential growth in the county.

COMP PLAN UPDATE DRAFT

The Planning Commission hopes to release the Comprehensive Plan Update Draft by March 29th.

BQA will let you know when it is available and how to obtain a copy for your review. Stay tuned!

BUSINESS
Queen Anne's

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www.businessqueenannes.com