



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

Fiscal Year 2010



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



Executive Message



Dear friends:

I am very pleased to present my fourth “Report to the People” to the citizens of Wicomico County. In this annual publication I try to give our citizens a snapshot of the activities of their county government over the past year and give a hint of things to come in the next. I urge you to read it carefully and to contact me with any comments.

When I took the oath of office on December 7, 2010, to begin a second term as your County Executive, I said that I intend to work on a bipartisan basis to keep Wicomico County strong. I believe that the time has come to grasp the reins of government with vigor and solid purpose to bring our community to its fullest potential. It is time to bring an end to the hand-wringing and the moaning and groaning about how bad things are. I submit that we, as one community, must declare our independence from despair and commit ourselves to the obligations of citizenship that will create a bond among us as we make Wicomico County a better place to live, work and raise a family.

What do I mean by the “obligations of citizenship?” In two words, it means “Get Involved.” Representative Democracy is not a spectator sport. We elect leaders to make decisions that directly affect our quality of life and success as a community. We must then give our leaders the tools necessary to perform. We do that by speaking up, volunteering, attending meetings and generally staying in touch with what goes on in county government.

While we face challenges of near-historic proportions, our community is facing them well. We are strong and we are involved. One need look no farther than the pages of this report for proof that positive things happen in Wicomico County on a regular basis.

It is a unique personal honor to serve as our first County Executive. I am proud of the accomplishments of the people who work so hard to provide the services we expect from county government and I look forward to reporting even greater success next year.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollitt



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Wicomico/Salisbury Named Among “100 Best” For 4th Time



City and County Officials Participate at the “100 Best” News Conference at East Salisbury

Wicomico County/Salisbury was named “*One of the Nation’s 100 Best Communities for Young People*” for the 4th time out of 5 years by America’s Promise / Alliance For Youth.

The *100 Best* designation recognizes those communities that make youth a priority by implementing programs that help keep children in school and prepare them for college and the 21st Century workforce. Wicomico/Salisbury was named because of its public and private partnerships that prepare young people for success.

On September 21st, Wicomico/Salisbury and other winners spanning 37 states were recognized at a ceremony in front of the Washington Monument. More than 350 communities in 50 states sought the recognition in 2010.

Dry 2010 Sees First Burn Bans Since 2007



On July 7th, due to extreme heat and near drought-like conditions, County Executive Pollitt placed a burn ban in effect for Wicomico County. The order prohibited all outdoor burning with the exception of the use of gas or charcoal

grills and the staging of professional fireworks shows. The ban continued, along with the hot, dry weather until early October.

Safe Sidewalks at Salisbury Middle School



August 31, 2010, was the first full day of class for all students at Salisbury Middle School. It was also the official opening and completion of The Safe Routes to

School project in the neighborhood. Funded by a \$351,000 grant from the Maryland State Highway Administration, Wicomico County Public Works installed 31,000 square feet of new and improved sidewalks around and near Salisbury Middle School. County officials marked the occasion by walking along the new sidewalks with the school children.



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Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System (LEOPS) Study



In May, Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. announced that he has established a committee to study the feasibility and affordability of introducing the LEOPS (Law Enforcement Officer's Pension System) retirement plan for Wicomico County Sheriff's deputies.

The committee is composed of county staff directly involved in law enforcement and Human Relations. On the Eastern Shore, the City of Fruitland offers LEOPS to its police personnel. It is joined by Cambridge, Chestertown, Hurlock, Princess Anne, City of Salisbury (police & firefighters), and Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Worcester Counties.

Pollitt said that, "Despite the current economic climate, I think it is crucially important to provide a pension plan for the brave men and women who serve us in law enforcement. We need to recognize the unique risks involved with their profession. Unlike most of us, when they leave home to report to work, there is always a chance they may not return. We need to do all that we can to not only secure the conditions of their retirement years but we also need to make our law enforcement jobs attractive to top-level candidates."

Phase 1 of Naylor Mill Road Collector Dedicated, Ribbon Cut For Phase 2



County & State Officials Cut the Ribbon to Start Phase 2

In a September 9, 2010, ceremony, Executive Pollitt and key local officials dedicated the completed Phase 1 of the Naylor Mill Road Collector and "cut the ribbon" to mark the official opening of work on Phase 2. The mile-long Phase 1 had been open to traffic since March.

The completion cost for Phase 1 was \$2.8 Million. Funding came from Wicomico County bonds. The 0.6 mile-long Phase 2 will run from Brick Kiln Road to Levin Dashiell Road. The anticipated cost is \$1 Million and the Department of Public Works expects an opening date of Fall, 2011. All financing and rights-of-way are in place for Phase 2. Phase 3 of the total 2.7 mile project will run from Levin Dashiell Road to Crooked Oak Lane, with additional improvements on Crooked Oak all the way to Nanticoke Road.



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Jacob R. Day Appointed to Planning Commission



Jacob R. Day

On August 17, 2010, the Wicomico County Council affirmed County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr.'s appointment of Jacob R. Day to serve on the County Planning Commission.

Mr. Pollitt said, "Jake Day is without doubt one of the most highly qualified individuals ever appointed to the Planning Commission. No one need take my word for it...one only need examine his resume and his record of service to our country and our community. I am pleased that a majority of the County Council recognized that and I look forward to many great contributions from Jake."

County Acquires Parking Lot Space At "Old Mall"



After months of negotiations, the County Department of Law concluded the \$1.5 Million acquisition of 5 acres of land for

Civic Center parking. The property is at the junction of Civic and Glen Avenues and sits directly north of the WY&CC. Funding came from a Program Open Space grant approved by the Maryland Board of Public Works in February, 2009.

Civic Center officials have strongly urged the acquisition stating that more parking is essential to the arena's ability to attract major events.

Free County Prescription Drug Program Saves Residents \$186,856

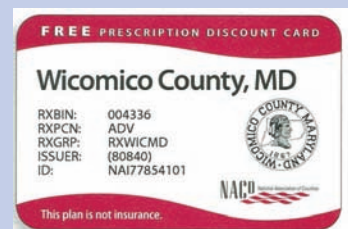
Instituted with the County Health Department and the National Association of Counties in January, 2008, the Wicomico County Free Prescription Drug Program has saved its 8,712 users over \$186,000 as of October, 2010. The program continues to be an unqualified success.

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 which can be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage,

and which are accepted at most of the county's pharmacies. A national network of more than 59,000 participating retail pharmacies also honors the Wicomico County Prescription Discount Card.

At the beginning of the program, County Health Officer Lori Brewster said, "Using the NACo prescription discount card is easy. Simply

present it at a participating pharmacy. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance."



Tear off this card and start saving today!

It's easy

Simply present your card, provided to you in a joint effort of your local county government and the National Association of Counties (NACo), at a participating retail pharmacy and save an average of 20% on your prescription medicine. Finding a pharmacy is easy; 9 out of 10 pharmacies nationwide accept your discount card. No enrollment form, no membership fee, one card, immediate use.

No limits

You and your family may use your prescription discount card any time your prescription is not covered by insurance. There are no restrictions and no limits on how many times you may use your card.

Savings

Visit caremark.com/naco to look up a participating pharmacy, a price estimate for your prescription, check drug interactions, or read news articles from leading health journals. For more information, call toll-free 1-877-321-2652.

Información en Español en la parte atrás del folleto



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The Winter of 2010... County Public Works and Roads' Biggest Challenge

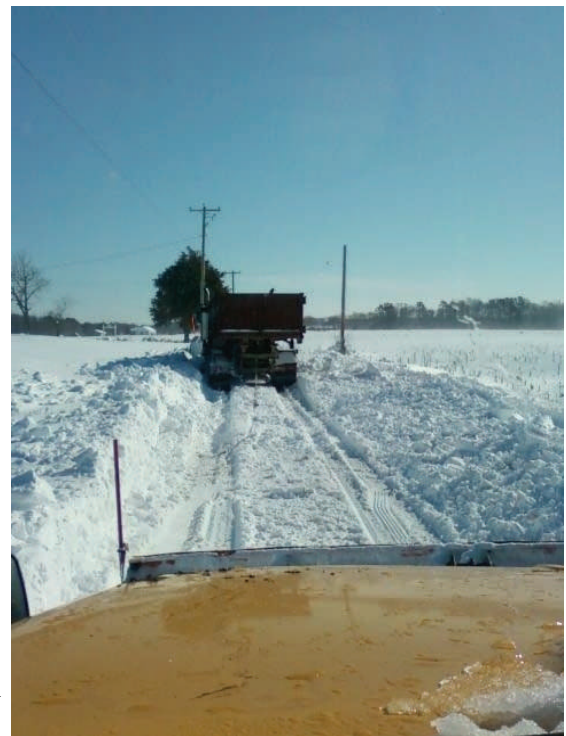
The following article appeared in "The Daily Times" on March 9, 2010



“At 1:00 A.M. on Thursday, February 11th, most of us were well settled-in for a ‘long winter’s nap’ following the blizzard that was the last in a series of snow storms that started pounding the region on January 30th. This was not the case at the Wicomico County Roads Division. It was roll call for 63 men and women from Roads and Solid Waste, most of whom who had gotten off of work only 7 hours before. The task before them was to; once again, start clearing the 730 miles of county roads for which they are responsible. Even getting in to the Roads Barn was a challenge considering that the Mayor of Salisbury had ordered motorists off of the streets the previous afternoon and the County Executive had closed government offices

for the second consecutive day. Many of the Roads and Solid Waste staff (part of Public Works) would work 21 consecutive days during the unprecedented snow emergency.

“In the aftermath of the ‘Three Great Snows of 2010,’ praise is certainly in order for the county employees who fought the storms in very difficult conditions. But, now that the snow is gone, many challenges from the event remain. Our roads have taken a once-in-a-lifetime winter beating and crews are repairing the damage but probably not as quickly as many citizens would like. Repairs will come and the roads will be made safe but resources are limited. Prior to this winter, the Public Works/ County Roads budget was basically gutted by a 90% state cut-back of the Highway User Fee. It hasn’t been too long ago that Roads received as much as \$8 Million from the state. The figure now is about \$350,000. With that in mind, the storms delivered a knock-out punch to the Roads budget. While all the numbers aren’t in, Acting Public Works Director John Redden says that \$500,000 in extra costs attributed to the snow would not be a bad estimate.”





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Draft Wicomico County Comprehensive Plan Now Available

The County's Planning & Zoning Department has concluded over two years of work in preparing a draft update of the County's Comprehensive Plan as required by law. The entire Comprehensive Plan was last revised and adopted in 1998.

The Plan is long-range in nature, typically providing policy recommendations and guidance for the next 20 years. The Draft Plan is comprehensive as it encompasses the entire County and includes all functional elements that have an impact upon growth and development including, but not limited to, economic development, transportation, community facilities, land use, and sensitive areas. It summarizes general goals, objectives, and implementation strategies. This Plan will assist in the planning of future programs and capital improvements, as well as possible revisions to the existing subdivision and zoning regulations."

In addition to the Introduction, Development Goals & Objectives, and the Community Profile, the revised Draft Plan is comprised of 11 elements developed to form an integrated, unified plan.

These elements include:

- *Sensitive Area Protection* – Planning for the protection of natural resources and sensitive natural areas.
- *Water Resources* – Planning for the careful use and protection of ground and surface water.
- *Agriculture* – Planning for the protection and conservation of agricultural areas.
- *Land Use* – Planning for the most appropriate future use of land.
- *Transportation* – Planning for the most appropriate general location, character, and extent of highways, rail, air and port facilities, and other means of moving people and commodities.
- *Community Facilities* – Planning for the most appropriate future location, character, and extent of public lands, buildings, and facilities.
- *Historic and Cultural Resources* – Planning for the conservation of the County's historic and cultural resources.
- *Housing and Community Development* – Recommending ways of assuring a decent residential environment for all citizens.
- *Economic Development* – Planning to maintain the County's status as a regional center of economic activity.
- *Mineral Resources* – Planning to assure a future supply of mineral resources.
- *Implementation* – Recommending policies, programs, and regulations which will carry out this Plan.

The Draft Comprehensive Plan is available for review on the county website, www.wicomicocounty.org.



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National Guard Leases Goldman Annex



On September 22, 2010, Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., turned over the keys to the Goldman Annex to National Guard Major Charles M. Taylor. The National Guard and the County successfully came to terms on a lease to the Guard for the property and the buildings. The complex had been most recently used as a minimum-security annex for the Wicomico County Detention Center. It had been vacant since June, 2009.

The National Guard will be paying \$117,000 a year for the use of the facility.

Wicomico County Pockets Big Savings With Reduced Electric Rate

The county received some good financial news at the beginning of the Fiscal Year. Due to a contract with a new electric energy supplier, the county saved taxpayers \$173,132 in electric bills in Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009).



The county's contract with Direct Energy has a rate of \$0.0947 per kilowatt hour versus the old average rate of \$0.117579 from Delmarva Power. The lower rate covers about 75% of all county use. The remaining 25% of county users were buying power from Direct Energy as of July 1, 2010. In FY 2009, the county used 7,567,306 kilowatt hours from Direct Energy @ \$0.0947 per/kwh for a total cost of \$716,624. Under the previous electric supply contract, that usage would have cost \$889,756.

These savings are a direct result of County Executive Pollitt's vow to reduce costs and increase efficiencies wherever possible.

County Executive Elected for Second Term

On November 2, 2010, Wicomico County's first elected Executive, Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., was elected to a second term as he defeated Republican challenger Joseph Ollinger with about 52% of the vote. Mr. Pollitt began his second term with a swearing-in ceremony at Courtroom 5 (the Ceremonial Courtroom) on December 7, 2010.





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State Grant Funding Assists Buyers of Foreclosed Properties and Housing Rehabbers



On October 20, 2009, the county received \$407,928 in grant monies from the Neighborhood Conservation Initiative. The funds were for buyers of foreclosed properties to make down payments, cover closing costs and per-

form necessary repairs.

At the same time, the county received \$256,775 in grant funds from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DCHD) to assist in housing rehabilitation for low and moderate income families and to also make renovations to the building owned and operated by the Maryland Food Bank.

County Goes to On-Line Auctioneering



First On-Line Auction Item Sold

The long-standing tradition of the one day county auction went by the board in 2010. Wicomico County is now disposing of surplus items on a daily basis through GovDeals, an online auction service. In a published report, Purchasing Director Fred Harris said, "The approach works a lot like eBay. It gives people from across the world a chance to engage in a bidding war for the county's used machinery, vehicles and office

equipment." Mr. Harris predicts that the new practice will cut auction costs in that there will no longer be expenses incurred for transporting and storing items, advertising the event and paying overtime to stage it on the usual Saturday.

The first surplus item sold on GovDeals was a 1990 Dodge Ram Van. It brought \$909.99 of which \$841.74 was deposited to the General Fund.

On July 1, 2010, George Kaloroumakis became the Director of the Wicomico County Department of Corrections. Mr. Kaloroumakis had been the Interim Director since his appointment by County Executive Pollitt on November 7, 2009.

New Director at Department of Corrections



George Kaloroumakis

Mr. Kaloroumakis served as Assistant Warden at the Eastern Correctional Institute (ECI) from June, 1998 to December, 2005. In 1999, he was acting warden for five months. Prior to this, Mr. Kaloroumakis worked at ECI and the Poplar Hill Pre-Release Unit in various capacities beginning in 1984. His professional career in corrections began in 1975.

Mr. Kaloroumakis is a graduate of Washington College in Chestertown, MD.

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Governor’s Capital Projects Plan for Wicomico in FY 11 Hits \$37 Million

Governor Martin O’Malley’s \$37 Million capital project plan for Fiscal Year 2011 in the county included:

Salisbury University – New Perdue School of Business Building	\$9,869,000
WOR-WIC Community College – Allied Health Building	\$9,375,000
James M. Bennett Senior High School	\$7,000,000
City of Fruitland – Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion	\$3,931,800
City of Fruitland – Enhanced Nutrient Removal	\$2,800,000
Salisbury Water Distribution System – Milford Street Elevated Storage	\$3,182,000
PRMC – Post-Partum and Nursery Renovation	\$240,000
Program Open Space Grants	\$175,350
Aging Schools Program	\$106,627
Port of Salisbury Public Marina – General Maintenance and Improvements	\$99,000
Wicomico County Public Boating Facilities – General Maintenance and Improvements	\$50,000
Wicomico River and Port of Salisbury – New Marine Fire/Rescue Boat and Equipment	\$50,000

Charles R. “Chip” Dashiell, Jr., Assumes Chair Position of County-City Planning & Zoning Commission



Charles R. Dashiell

On February 18th, Charles R. “Chip” Dashiell, Jr., Esq., convened the first County -City Planning & Zoning Commission meeting as its chair. In January, Mr. Dashiell was appointed to the key leadership post by Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., and Salisbury Mayor James Ireton. Both the Salisbury City Council and the Wicomico County Council unanimously approved the appointment.

Mr. Dashiell succeeded Corinne LesCallette who led the Planning & Zoning Commission since 1983. She recently announced her retirement from the Commission on which she served with distinction since 1978.



Mayor Ireton, Chairperson Dashiell, County Executive Pollitt

Mr. Dashiell is the president of the law firm of Hearne & Bailey, P.A. He also served as the chair of the Greater Salisbury Committee and served on the Wicomico County Council from 2002-to-2006.



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New ‘High-Tech’ Floor for the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center’s Normandy Arena



Delegate Conway & Executive Pollitt at the July 7th WY&CC “floorbreaking” ceremony

Delegate Norman H. Conway and County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., welcomed elected officials and interested citizens to a “floor-breaking” ceremony on July 7th in the Normandy Arena of the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center. The new floor was in operation in September.

The floor replacement, budgeted at \$540,000, is one part of a \$2 Million WY&CC restoration project. The new floor is much more “event-friendly” than the old one and greatly enhances the arena’s marketing appeal for groups staging trade shows, concerts, conventions, etc.

The new “Hi-Tech” floor features 27 utility boxes in a concrete surface. Besides electricity, floor users now have access to potable water and communications cables. Arena officials noted that “the days of wires crisscrossing the arena floor are over.”

County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., said, “Preserving and improving the viability of the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center has been a major goal of my administration. The WY&CC is truly an economic engine for the county contributing some \$11.6 Million per year to the economy of Wicomico County. We must keep it competitive. The installation of the new floor does that. As is so often the case, Delegate Norm Conway is responsible for securing a large portion of the funding for the new floor. I salute him as he continues to fight for us and our economy on the State level.”

Among other improvements in the overall WY&CC restoration project are new parking lot lights, roof and masonry repairs, HVAC replacement, new video and scoreboard equipment and basketball floor replacement. Funding for the overall project was from State and county bond issues and not from the county General Fund. Debt service will be paid from hotel and admission taxes.

Maryland Department of Education Grants Maintenance of Effort Waiver to Wicomico

Following a May 25, 2010 appearance by Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. and Director of Finance Patricia Petersen before the Maryland State Board of Education in Baltimore, the Board voted 8-to-4 in favor of granting a waiver of the county’s Maintenance of Effort requirement for education funding. As a result, the Wicomico County Board of Education received an additional \$1.5 Million in State funds.

Upon receiving the news of the positive vote, Mr. Pollitt



said, “Against all odds, we were able to persuade the Board that Wicomico County would not be able to provide its required share of funding to our K-12 school children in next year’s budget. I suggested to them that they could mitigate the impact of county cuts somewhat by granting the waiver. We are delighted that the State Board agreed and that our school program will receive the extra funding.”



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Wicomico Neighborhood Congress Thrives in Fourth Year



In his first “State of the County” address in 2006, Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., issued a call for the creation of an all-volunteer neighborhood congress. Mr. Pollitt said that the purpose of the congress

would be to “bring together all of the neighborhoods of our county for their common good and improvement.”

The WNC has grown from an idea to a thriving organization composed of 68 members including Home Owners Associations, Neighborhood & Condominium Associations and individuals. As the organization continues to grow, Mr. Pollitt cited the vital contributions of Cindy Pilchard, Michael A. Pretl, Salisbury Mayor James Ireton, Salisbury City Councilwoman Debbie Campbell and neighborhood activist George Burnett.

Autumn Beer, Wine Festivals Are Successful

Wicomico County Recreation, Parks and Tourism continued an autumn tradition as it staged the 7th Annual Wine festival and started a new one with the first Good Beer Festival.

2010 Good Beer Festival

This new event took place on October 9 & 10 at Pemberton Historical Park. Though only in its first year, it is the largest craft beer festival on the Lower Shore. Paid attendance was 2,378 with 1,628 attending on Saturday and 750 on Sunday. Admission was \$20 in advance and \$25 day-of. A ‘designated driver’ and youth admission was offered at \$5.

Total revenue for the Good Beer Festival was \$51,000 versus expenses for the event of \$53,000. Tourism officials said that this was a great start and that they were “ecstatic” about the event’s future.



2010 Autumn Wine Festival

The 7th incarnation of this popular event took place on October 16 & 17 at Pemberton Historical Park. According to officials, the event is now more than twice its original size. The event is sanctioned by the Maryland Wine Association and there were 18 wineries participating. This year’s attendance was 4,651. The cost of tickets was the same as those for the Good Beer Festival. Ticket revenue was \$75,955 and revenue from vendors was \$18,780 bringing the total revenue to \$94,735. Expenses totaled \$70,944. The event made a profit of \$23,791. Organizers said that the Wine Festival will be back for its 8th time in 2011.





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Executive's Council on Physical Fitness and Healthy Living

On December 29, 2009, the County Executive's Council on Physical Fitness and Healthy Living kicked off at Youth Exercise Services (Y.E.S) gym in Fruitland.

In last year's "State of the County" address, Mr. Pollitt said that the fitness initiative would begin with him. Mr. Pollitt shed 30 pounds in anticipation of the Fitness kick-off. Mr. Pollitt said, "If I could reverse a lifetime of bad habits and get in shape at my age, others would be motivated to give it a try as well."

The Council is chaired by former Green Bay Packer and Washington Senator star Tom Brown, a well-known and highly respected proponent of youth sports activities in Wicomico County. Assisting Mr. Brown on the organizational efforts of the past year have been leadership staff from the



Matthew S. Gunby photo

Wicomico County Executive Rick Pollitt works out on a machine Tuesday during a kickoff of the County Executive's Council on Physical Fitness at Youth Exercise Services in Fruitland.

Citing his own turnaround, Pollitt touts fitness council

Group to champion healthy causes for all ages

By Greg Latshaw
Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Standing behind a metal chest-press machine rather than a polished podium, Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt Jr. traded in his pressed suit for a hoodie and pair of Nikes.

Pollitt normally commands operations at the Government Office Building, but Tuesday

he summoned a crowd at Youth Exercise Services gym in Fruitland.

The 57-year-old executive, who says he's dropped 30 pounds since beginning to exercise a year ago, wants to use himself as an example that it's never too late to get fit. It's why he's created the Wicomico County Executive's Council on

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County Executive's Fitness Council and his workout make front page news.

Health Department, the Board of Education, county and city government and local businesses.

The now-active Council is primarily a public information resource of available fitness and health-related programs. The Council has a web site directly linked to the county website and will also utilize all communication tools available.

"We shall focus on bringing greater attention to issues such as childhood obesity, workplace fitness, senior athletics and many other key health issues," said Pollitt.

County Receives \$1.8 Million for Road Paving



In 2010, the Wicomico County Roads Department received \$1.8 Million for road paving as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also known as the Federal Stimulus Bill. The funding was used to improve 15 roads throughout the county that had previously been identified as 'major' roadways. All paving work is complete.



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2009 : Wall Street Maintains, Affirms Wicomico County's Strong Bond Rating



Despite the challenging economic climate, Wicomico County retained its favorable bond rating with the three key Wall Street ratings agencies in 2009. As a result of this, the county conducted a successful bond sale on December 1, 2009. County Executive Pollitt said:

"I am pleased to announce that my administration has received a large vote of confidence from Wall Street financial experts. Despite the extremely difficult economic times, Wicomico County has retained its favorable ratings with all three rating agencies – Moody's Investors Service, Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's. Bond investors also confirmed this confidence by buying Wicomico County bonds at highly favorable rates on December 1, 2009.

"The county has sold 'Build America Bonds' in the amount of \$16,465,000 for Bennett High School construction, architectural and engineering work related to Bennett Middle School, and for the Allied Health Building at Wor-Wic Community College. The interest on Build America Bonds is subsidized by the federal government at 35%, making the subsidized interest rate on these bonds to be 3.54%. The County also refinanced its 2001 outstanding bond issue totaling \$ 3,790,000 at an interest rate of 2.49 %. This refinancing is expected to save the County about \$236,000 in interest costs over twelve years.

"In retaining the County's A2 rating, Moody's cited a strong record of conservative fiscal management and a willingness to make cuts to balance the budget. Moody's said that the county has a 'manageable debt burden.' Despite recent healthy financial operations, they believe the recessionary economy will place unique budgetary pressure on an already constrained budget.

"In its A+/Stable rating release, Fitch Ratings noted a moderate debt burden, solid reserve levels, and a stable employment base. They also cited the revenue cap's impact on property tax revenue, and deterioration in the County's financial flexibility due to the broad recessionary environment.

"In its rationale for Wicomico's AA-/Stable rating; Standard & Poor's cited the County's diversified economy rooted in agriculture, a healthy and stable property tax base, sound financial performance, conservative management practices, and a low debt burden. They also noted my proactive stance to address mid-year cuts in state funding and declining income tax revenues. The County's financial management practices are rated 'good' under S&P's methodology."

In April, the three Wall Street bond rating agencies reaffirmed the county's strong financial standing prior to issuing new bond ratings. Despite the extremely difficult economic times, Wicomico County retained its favorable ratings with Moody's Investors Service (A2), Fitch Ratings (A+/Stable) and Standard & Poor's (AA-/Stable).



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2010 : County Scores High Marks Again From Wall Street, Conducts Successful Bond Sale



In November, 2010, Wicomico County received a well-earned vote of confidence from the three New York bond rating agencies as Wall Street published the annual assessments of the financial health of the county's government. In October, 2010, County Executive Rick Pollitt delivered formal presentations to the agencies in anticipation of selling bonds to fund this year's capital projects. The county received scores of Aa3 from Moody's Investors Service and AA-/stable ratings from Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's. Despite the challenges presented by current economic conditions, the scores remained constant after two consecutive ratings improvements in Pollitt's first two years in office.

Commenting on the news from New York, Pollitt said that, "These are strong ratings. Our citizens should be pleased that the county's fiscal credibility has not weakened despite substantial declines in revenue." Acknowledging the county's property tax revenue cap, Fitch Ratings stated that a *"Key rating driver" ... for the county was its... "ability to respond to likely pressure on the two primary sources of revenue, property and income taxes, resulting from operating constraints attributable to a charter-imposed property tax revenue limit and the broader recessionary environment."*

Later in November, Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr., announced that the county sold \$6,795,000 in bonds at competitive bid. Part of these bonds (\$2,590,000) will finance architectural and engineering costs for Bennett Middle School, a small sum to finish the Allied Health Building at Wor-Wic Community College, and another small amount to make capital improvements at the county-owned Perdue Stadium. The balance (\$4,205,000) is to refinance bonds sold in 2002 to take advantage of a lower interest rate.

There were 3 bidders, with bids ranging from 3.27% to 3.88%. The award was to Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc., the low bidder.

Of particular note is the \$127,000 savings realized in interest expenses by the refinancing of the 2002 bonds.

"I am very pleased with the results of our bond sale," said Pollitt. "It was clear that the rating agencies felt Wicomico County was managing its financial affairs well, and that is reflected in our solid ratings and the market based interest rate we received on the sale."



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Maryland Board of Public Works Fully Funds JMB High School Construction



The New James M. Bennett High School

In May, Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt, Jr. and Wicomico County Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Fredericksen jointly announced that the Maryland Board of Public Works approved \$9,975,425 in funding for the completion of the new James M. Bennett High School.

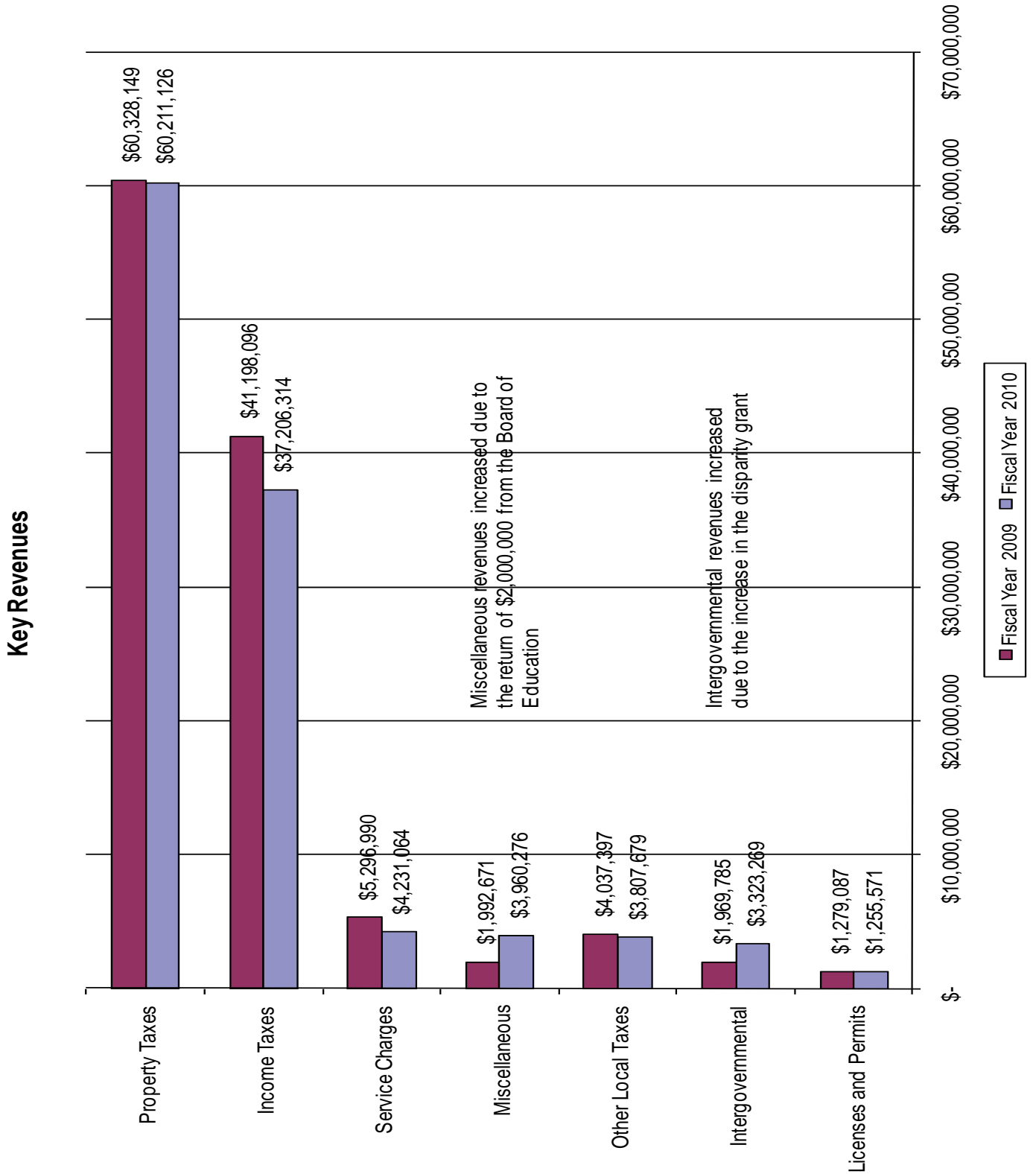
In January 2010, only \$7,000,000 had been allocated to complete the project. Both Pollitt and Fredericksen made personal appeals before the Board of Public Works to increase the allocation by almost \$3,000,000. Dr. Fredericksen said, “The success of our appeal was made possible by the efforts of Appropriations Committee

chair, Delegate Norman H. Conway (District 38B) and members of the Wicomico legislative delegation. This type of support in Annapolis is what will make for a great 2010-2011 school year for the first group of students to enter the new JMB.” Pollitt had high praise for the BPW members, Governor O’Malley, Treasurer Kopp and Comptroller Franchot for their “high level of concern for the schoolchildren of our county.”

James M. Bennett High School opened its doors to students in August, 2010...a full year ahead of schedule.

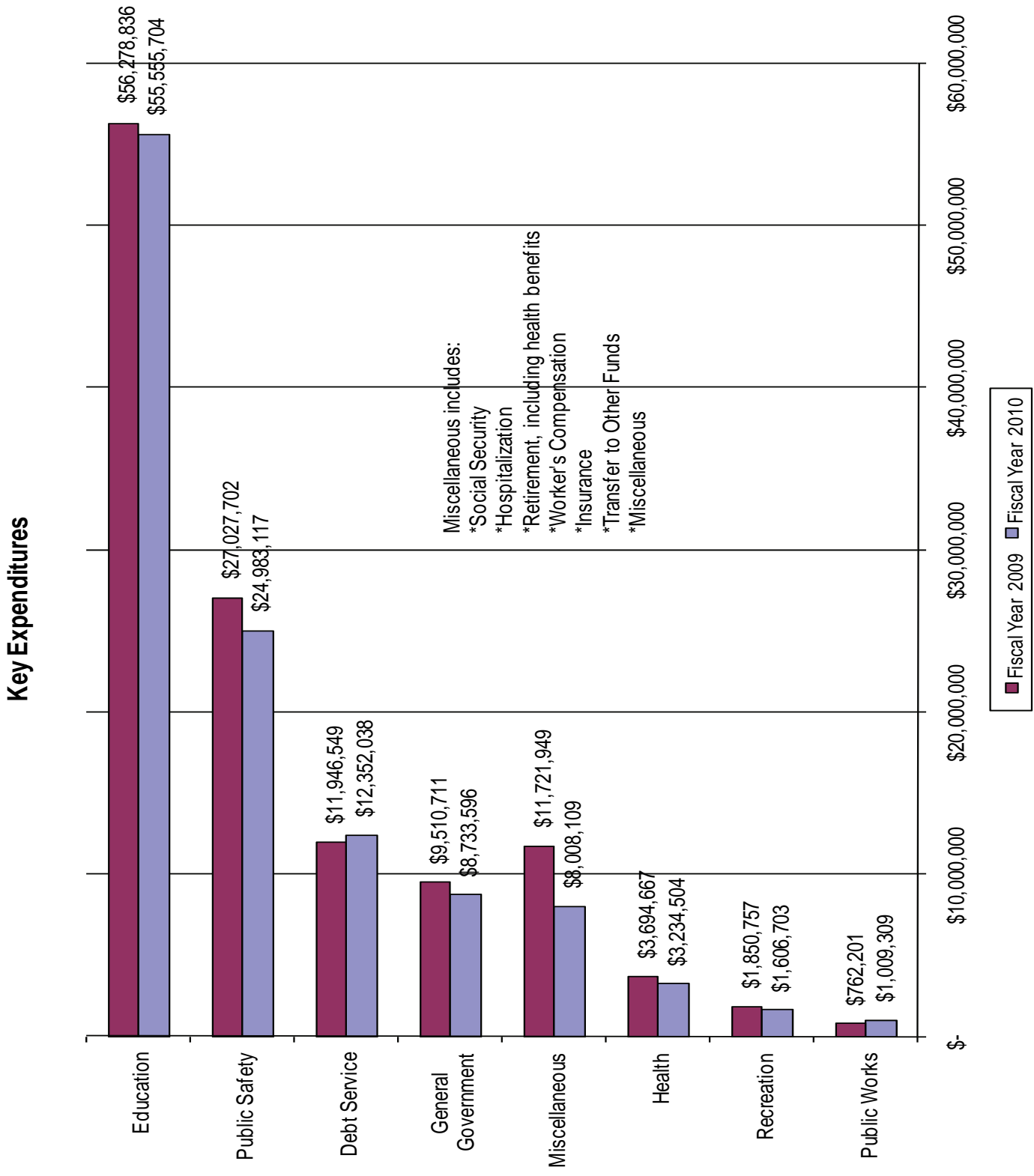


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General Fund Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2010

Wicomico County Key Revenues and Expenditures for the year ending June 30, 2010

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 24,753,189
Taxes receivable, net	1,593,079
Other receivables	1,003,574
Due from other funds	1,142,755
Receivable from other governments	3,943,091
Prepaid expenses	157,373
Total assets	32,593,061

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	1,842,791
Accrued payroll and taxes	1,004,565
Advance from other funds	1,000,000
Payable to other governments	1,053,766
Deferred revenues	555,053
Accrued compensated absences	772,430
Total liabilities	6,228,605
Fund balances:	
Nonspendable	2,370,813
Restricted	918,848
Committed	10,895,887
Assigned	1,563,650
Unassigned	10,615,258
Total fund balances	26,364,456
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 32,593,061

Revenues:

	FY10	FY09
Licenses and Permits	\$ 1,255,571	\$ 1,279,087
Intergovernmental	\$ 3,323,269	\$ 1,969,785
Other Local Taxes	\$ 3,807,679	\$ 4,037,397
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,960,276	\$ 1,992,671
Service Charges	\$ 4,231,064	\$ 5,296,990
Income Taxes	\$ 37,206,314	\$ 41,198,096
Property Taxes	\$ 60,211,126	\$ 60,328,149
	\$ 113,995,299	\$ 116,102,175

Expenditures

	FY10	FY09
Public Works	\$ 1,009,309	\$ 762,201
Recreation	\$ 1,606,703	\$ 1,850,757
Health	\$ 3,234,504	\$ 3,694,667
Miscellaneous	\$ 8,008,109	\$ 11,721,949
General Government	\$ 8,733,596	\$ 9,510,711
Debt Service	\$ 12,352,038	\$ 11,946,549
Public Safety	\$ 24,983,117	\$ 27,027,702
Education	\$ 55,555,704	\$ 56,278,836
	\$ 115,483,080	\$ 122,793,372
Transfers	\$ 334,858	\$ 543,738
	\$ 115,817,938	\$ 123,337,110

The County's Fiscal Year 2010 budget was:

New Revenue	115,975,248
Carryforward	4,726,824
Total Revenues	120,702,072
Expenditures	120,702,072

In fiscal year 2010, the County received about \$114 million in new revenue and spent about \$115.8 million for County operations, including transfers, resulting in a decrease of about \$1.8 million in Fund Balance in the General Fund. This decrease was about \$2.9 million less than the \$4.7 million that was budgeted to be used.

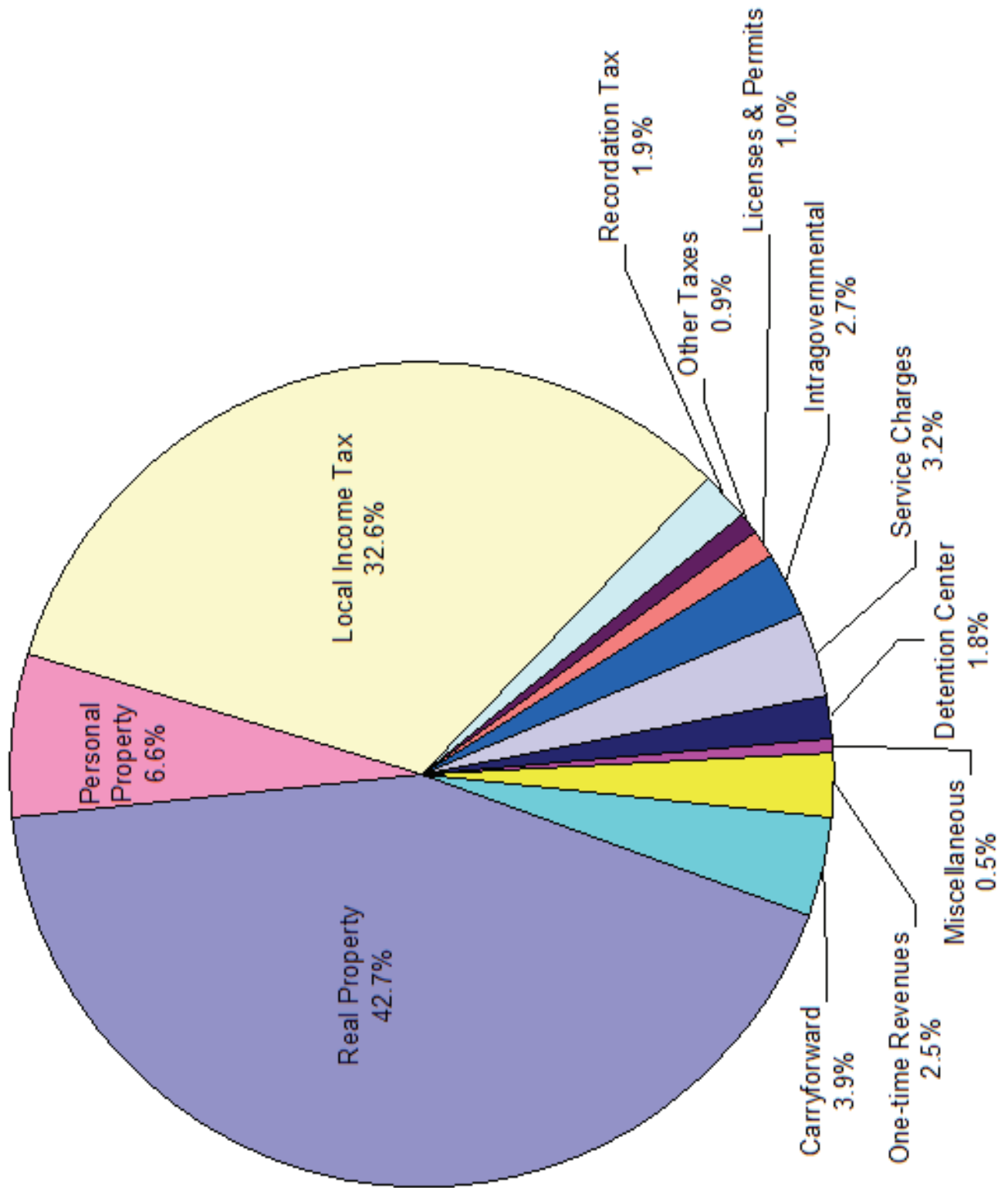
Total revenues for fiscal year 2010 decreased over fiscal year 2009 by about \$2.1 million, reflecting the softening of the economy.

Spending in almost all areas of County operations decreased, with the exception of debt service. Although Public Works also shows an increase over last year, it is due to the reclassification of Shore Transit to Public Works and not due to additional spending.

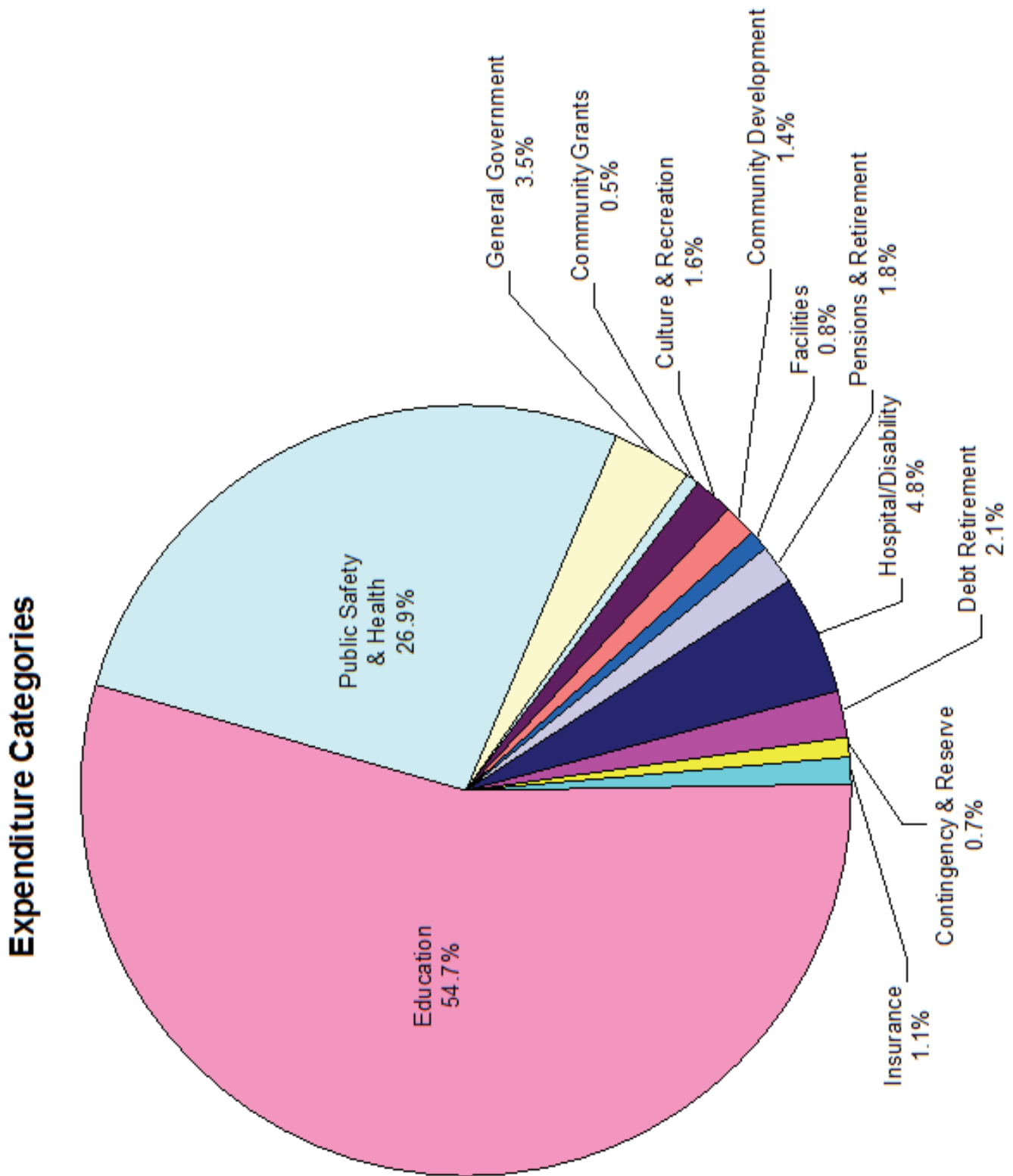
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Revenue Estimates



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THE DAILY TIMES

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WICOMICO

Kratovil: County airport 'impressive'

Congressman pledges help securing grants, speaks with young veterans on Shore trip

By Greg Latshaw
Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Airport Manager Bob Bryant said it was nearly 30 years in the making, but the Salisbury facility finally has a runway long enough to accommodate jet airliners.

On Monday, he showed it off to U.S. Rep. Frank Kratovil, the Maryland 1st Congressional District representative in town for a day while Congress is on break. The presence of the

6,400-foot-long runway has led to Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport getting into talks with a national carrier about setting up non-stop flights from Salisbury to Orlando, Fla., Bryant said. He said the carrier has asked not to be identified.

"The runway extension first appeared in the 1980 Master Plan. It's taken that long," Bryant said.

Kratovil pledged to help the airport secure more grants from the federal government.

On Monday, he walked through the airport's main terminal and rode in a van around the runways. Joining him and Bryant were Wicomico County Executive Richard M. Pollitt Jr. and other government officials.

"It's an impressive airport. It opens up more economic opportunities for this area," Kratovil said. "The next step (for me) is making sure additional parts of the project continue moving forward."

Piedmont Airlines, a subsidiary of U.S. Airways, flies passengers to its parent company's hubs in Philadelphia and



Todd Dudek photo

From left, Robert Dickey, chairman of the Salisbury-Ocean City: Wicomico Regional Airport Commission, talks Monday with County Executive Richard M. Pollitt Jr., Airport Manager Bob Bryant and Rep. Frank Kratovil about securing money for the airport during a visit from Kratovil.

See KRATOVIL, Page A11

AIRPORT



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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@wicomicocounty.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