

COUNTY OF FREDERICK, VA

# Fall 2016 FINANCIAL NEWSLETTER

## What's happening in IT?

Written by A. Scott Varner, IT Director, Frederick County Information Technology Department

The technology (IT) department has been very busy this month with several projects that range from critical technology infrastructure to desktop replacement. Technology specialists, Evan Pangle and Jose Trujillo, are working hard to complete this year's desktop replacement program. They completed the majority of the County Administration building by October 3rd. They are now moving on to the Public Safety building and the Economic Development Authority. In total, 59 computers will be replaced by the time Evan and Jose are done. The desktop replacement program allows the county to replace aging computers with high quality desktops. It is a great example of county departments working hard to find improvements in service while being mindful of cost, which ultimately benefits the citizens.

The technology team has been working on a large project to replace our aging virtual server environment with a new virtual envi-



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## Overall Fund Performance

Frederick County's overall General Fund revenue comparison through September 30, 2016 shows a total increase of \$1,181,528. Included in this increase are the property taxes, \$540,345, which are the largest single revenue stream in the General Fund. Other increases

include other local taxes of \$372,804; permits and privileges \$9,929; use of money and property \$51,600; charges for services \$62,631; miscellaneous \$82,689; recovered costs \$43,575; and revenue from the Commonwealth \$25,481.

The total FY 2017 expenditures including transfers have increased \$121,491 year-to-date compared to FY 2016 for the same period.

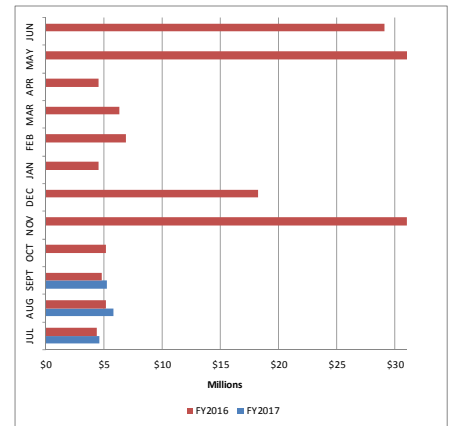


Photo courtesy of Lorraine Mossburg  
**Frederick County  
 Administration Building**

*The July 2017 expenditures increased \$3.1 million and includes the \$1.3 million Children's Services Act transfer due to projected increase of expenses. These funds were not transferred until January in the previous year. Additionally, the timing of \$1.3 million quarterly local contribution to the Jail was not transferred until August of previous year.*

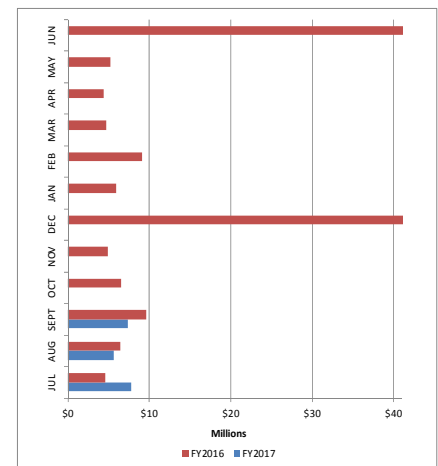
## General Fund Revenue Comparison

	FY2017 Revenue	FY2016 Revenue	Monthly Variance
JUL	4,586,426	4,413,435	172,991
AUG	5,797,831	5,215,600	582,231
SEPT	5,241,929	4,815,623	426,306
OCT	-	5,209,465	-
NOV	-	31,056,667	-
DEC	-	18,272,446	-
JAN	-	4,535,022	-
FEB	-	6,868,736	-
MAR	-	6,306,308	-
APR	-	4,515,909	-
MAY	-	36,910,774	-
JUN	-	29,106,723	-
Totals	15,626,186	157,226,708	1,181,528



## General Fund Expenditure Comparison

	FY2017 Expenditures	FY2016 Expenditures	Monthly Variance
JUL	7,720,698	4,575,117	3,145,581
AUG	5,620,773	6,427,245	(806,472)
SEPT	7,364,871	9,582,489	(2,217,618)
OCT	-	6,521,120	-
NOV	-	4,931,431	-
DEC	-	48,818,993	-
JAN	-	5,930,517	-
FEB	-	9,105,330	-
MAR	-	4,741,821	-
APR	-	4,385,611	-
MAY	-	5,245,822	-
JUN	-	49,874,528	-
Totals	20,706,342	160,140,023	121,491



## Unassigned Fund Balance 5-year Comparison

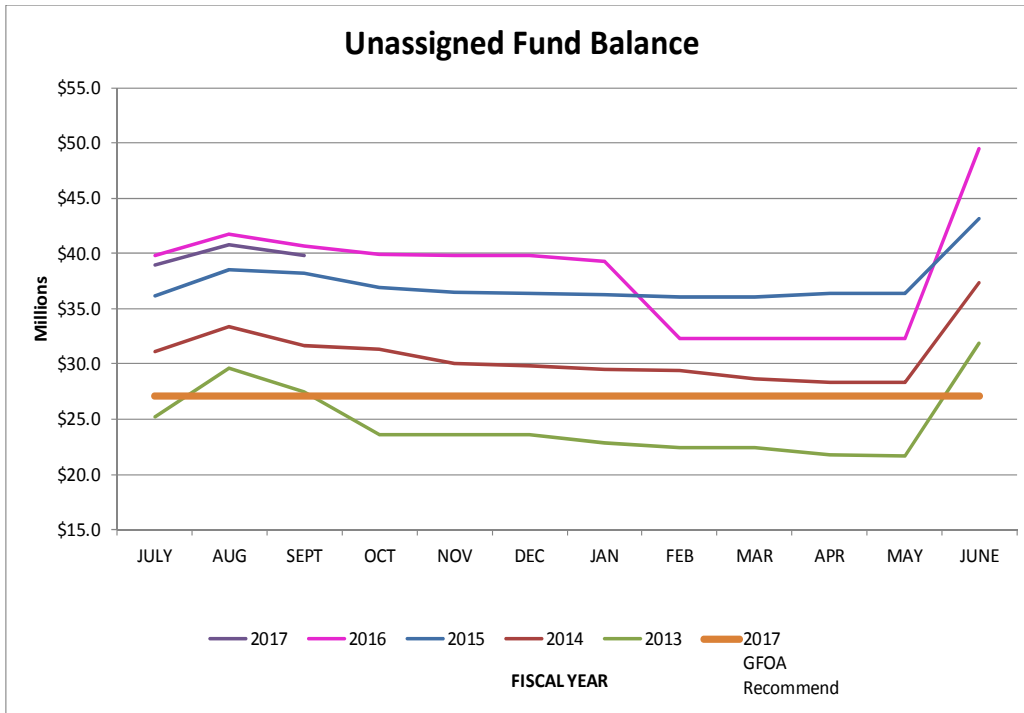


Photo courtesy of Gloria Puffinburger  
Pumpkins & gourds, oh my!

## 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 bal-

ance 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 \$27.2 million or 16.7% of the total general fund operating budget for FY 2017. Currently, the County's fund balance is above the recommendation at 24.4% (\$39.8 million).

The County monitors unassigned 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 \$3.6 million to balance the FY 2017 budget (57% schools, 43% county general fund). This represents a decrease of \$3.7 million compared to the fund balance funding used to balance the FY 2016 budget. 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.

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*Unassigned General Fund fund balance at September 30, 2016 is \$39,801,576.*

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## Revenue Information



Photo courtesy of LeeAnna Pyles  
Sunflowers

Property taxes include real estate, personal property and machinery and tools tax. Total property taxes increased \$540,345 or 13% for the first quarter of FY 2017 compared to FY 2016 and includes real estate (+62,681) and personal property (+\$448,431). The most comparable quarters would be the sec-

ond and fourth due to tax collection due dates. The remaining category that has an impact on the property tax variance is penalties, interest & administration fees for liens & distress, credit card charges/delinquent advertising (+\$29,233).

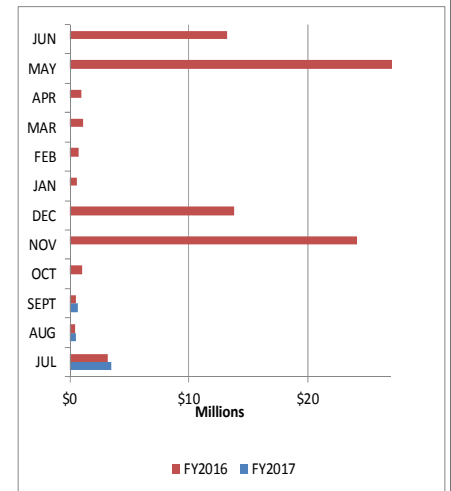
Included in the permits and priv-

ilege fees are land use, transfer fees, development review fees, building, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, sign, land disturbance, commercial burning, blasting, septic haulers, and sewage installation permits. These permit collections fluctuate with the economy and housing industry.

(Continued on page 5)

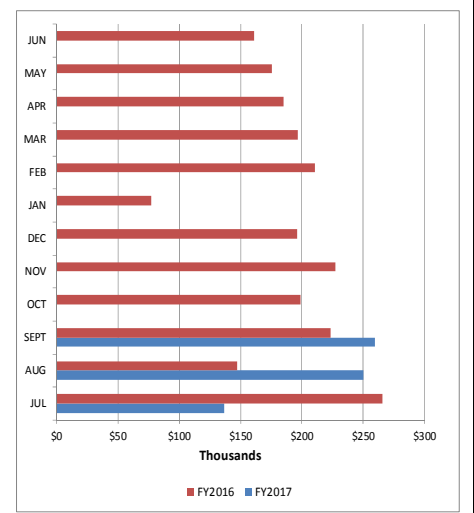
## Property Tax Comparison 2016–2017

	FY2017	FY2016	Variance
JUL	3,502,459	3,202,929	299,530
AUG	522,486	391,938	130,548
SEPT	622,761	512,494	110,267
OCT	-	1,008,865	-
NOV	-	24,084,088	-
DEC	-	13,769,339	-
JAN	-	557,545	-
FEB	-	742,417	-
MAR	-	1,101,373	-
APR	-	955,118	-
MAY	-	31,743,966	-
JUN	-	13,217,406	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,647,706</b>	<b>91,287,479</b>	<b>540,345</b>

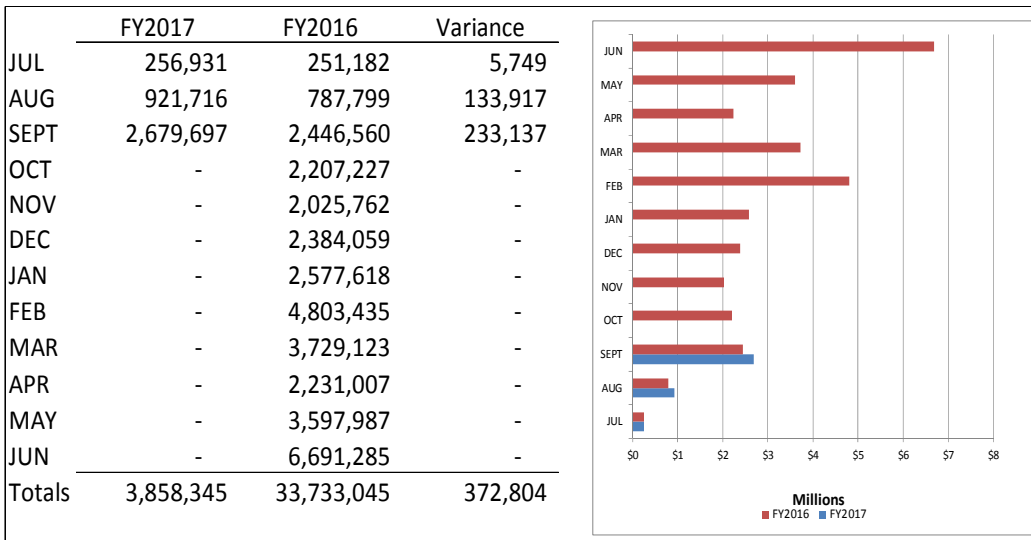


## Permit Fees Comparison 2016–2017

	FY2017	FY2016	Variance
JUL	136,573	265,580	(129,007)
AUG	250,088	147,249	102,839
SEPT	259,223	223,126	36,097
OCT	-	198,968	-
NOV	-	227,398	-
DEC	-	195,958	-
JAN	-	77,103	-
FEB	-	210,527	-
MAR	-	196,552	-
APR	-	185,147	-
MAY	-	175,549	-
JUN	-	160,944	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>645,884</b>	<b>2,264,101</b>	<b>9,929</b>

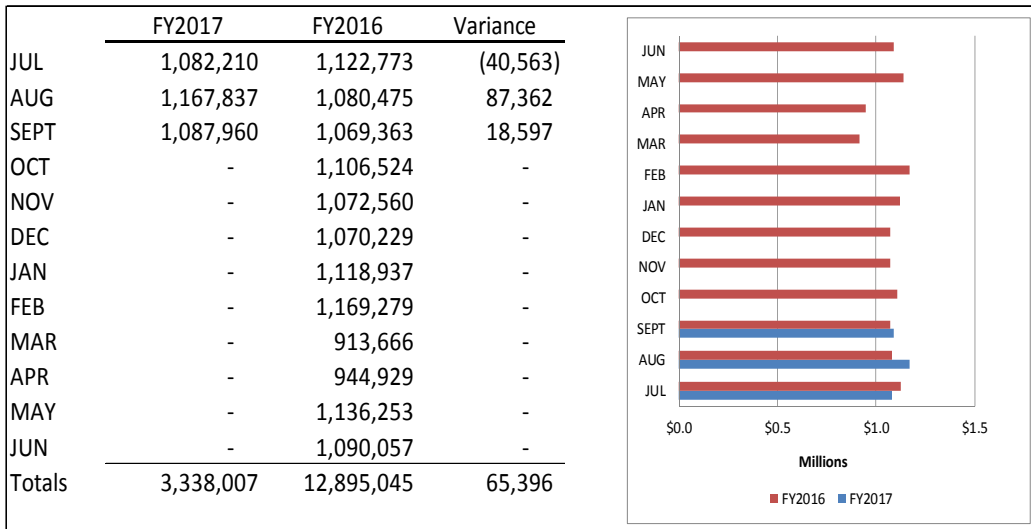


## Other Local Taxes Comparison 2016–2017



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 2016–2017



## Revenue Information

(Continued from page 4)

The total permits and privilege fees increased minimally, \$9,929, year-to-date.

The total variance of \$372,804 in other local taxes through September is a net increase which was significantly impacted by the increase in utility taxes, busi-

ness licenses, motor vehicle licenses fees, recordation taxes, meals tax, and lodgings tax. Recordation taxes increased \$50,775 over the prior year.

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

Local sales taxes consist of the

portion of the state sales tax that is remitted to the locality. The state sales tax is 5.3% with the state returning 1% back to the locality. The sales tax increased \$65,396, or 2%, through the first quarter of FY 2017 compared to the prior year.

# Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center



NRADC Entrance

The Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center is a 840 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.

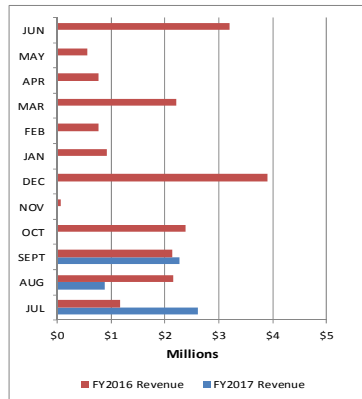
The Detention Center's mission and organization remains unchanged moving into FY2017. The Jail continues to provide correctional services in support

of criminal operations in Clarke County, Fauquier County, Frederick County, and the City of Winchester. In addition to traditional incarceration operations, services include Community Inmate Workforce Activities, Work Release, Home Electronic Monitoring, Local Offender Probation, and the formal monitoring of criminal defendants awaiting trial (Pretrial Services).

This budget includes Local Offender Probation operations and services. Both the Local Offender Probation Program and the Jail's Pretrial Services functions are partially funded by a grant provided by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. The remainder of expenses for Pretrial is supported by the localities, whereas Probation is supported by client supervision fees and drug testing fees.

## NRADC Revenues

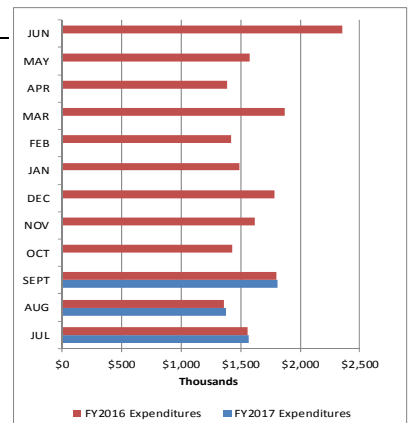
	FY2017 Revenue	FY2016 Revenue	Monthly Variance
JUL	2,612,481	1,170,600	1,441,881
AUG	892,368	2,165,278	(1,272,910)
SEPT	2,265,165	2,132,709	132,456
OCT	-	2,378,816	-
NOV	-	64,910	-
DEC	-	3,908,688	-
JAN	-	930,274	-
FEB	-	779,300	-
MAR	-	2,220,012	-
APR	-	766,253	-
MAY	-	559,668	-
JUN	-	3,197,037	-
Totals	5,770,013	20,273,545	301,426



## NRADC Expenditures

*The year-to-date increase in revenue of \$301,426 is a result of the increase in local contributions in the current year.*

	FY2017 Expenditures	FY2016 Expenditures	Monthly Variance
JUL	1,568,300	1,555,454	12,846
AUG	1,375,815	1,361,070	14,745
SEPT	1,810,330	1,803,094	7,236
OCT	-	1,425,529	-
NOV	-	1,619,682	-
DEC	-	1,786,451	-
JAN	-	1,491,708	-
FEB	-	1,420,082	-
MAR	-	1,871,611	-
APR	-	1,384,973	-
MAY	-	1,574,185	-
JUN	-	2,351,775	-
Totals	4,754,446	19,645,614	34,828



# Frederick County Sanitary Landfill

The Frederick County Sanitary Landfill provides non-hazardous solid waste disposal needs for Frederick County and Clarke Counties and the City of Winchester. The landfill property includes 932 acres of which 90 acres have been permitted under Subtitle “D” Regulations as a municipal solid waste facility, and 50 acres permitted as a Construction Demolition Debris waste facility. The additional acreage is maintained as borrow area and a buffer.

In addition to operating the two permitted landfills, the facility operates a fully equipped Citizens Convenience Center offering disposal options for several waste streams including: household municipal, construction demolition debris, household hazardous waste, electronics, and numerous other recycling opportunities.

A program to convert gas to

electricity was established in 2010. Currently two Jenbacher model 320 engines are fueled by the Landfill gas and are capable of producing approximately two megawatts of power. This program is designed to expand as the landfill continues to grow. An update on the gas to energy program can be found on page 9.

In addition, the landfill operates and maintains a leachate pre-treatment system designed to collect and provide treatment from all three of the permitted landfills located at the facility.

Landfill revenues and expenditures are shown below for FY 2016 and FY 2017.



Photo courtesy of Gloria Puffinburger

## Landfill Revenues

	FY2017 Revenue	FY2016 Revenue	Monthly Variance
JUL	548,429	600,368	(51,939)
AUG	675,808	553,644	122,164
SEPT	601,162	568,275	32,887
OCT	-	571,152	-
NOV	-	520,505	-
DEC	-	525,900	-
JAN	-	427,698	-
FEB	-	509,288	-
MAR	-	608,187	-
APR	-	604,283	-
MAY	-	602,618	-
JUN	-	634,597	-
Totals	1,825,398	6,726,516	103,111

## Landfill Expenditures

	FY2017 Expenditures	FY2016 Expenditures	Monthly Variance
JUL	160,518	146,027	14,491
AUG	701,181	887,619	(186,438)
SEPT	857,583	294,839	562,744
OCT	-	339,544	-
NOV	-	255,943	-
DEC	-	255,790	-
JAN	-	284,316	-
FEB	-	484,008	-
MAR	-	516,896	-
APR	-	488,525	-
MAY	-	229,898	-
JUN	-	1,197,362	-
Totals	1,719,282	5,380,767	390,797

*The \$103,111 increase in Landfill revenue includes fees, tire recycling, recycling electronics, and renewable energy credits. Expenditures increased \$390,797 and were impacted significantly by capital costs for the CDD landfill partial closure of Area 1, Phase 1.*

## Final Figures Presented for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016

*“The county ended the fiscal year with \$9.5 million in unspent, budgeted expenditures.”*

The FY 2016 year end figures were presented to the Finance Committee on September 21, 2016 and reported expenditures in excess of revenues. The actual revenue exceeded projections by \$9,240,405 and the county had unspent budgeted expenditures in the amount of \$9,456,085. At this time, these numbers are unaudited and staff anticipates any changes to be minimal.

The majority of the budgeted revenue surplus was realized in property taxes (real estate, personal property, machinery and tools, etc.), other local taxes (sales, communications, utility, wills/recordation and meal taxes,

business license, vehicle decals, etc.) and recovered costs. The largest variance from budget to actual is in the machinery and tools tax (M & T) in the amount of \$1.2 million, which falls in the property taxes category. This was a result of the budget not being increased with the uncertainties in the economy.

The actual revenue increase in M & T from FY 2015 to FY 2016 was minimal at \$199,379. Another significant variance is in recovered costs, which include proffers collected in the amount of \$1.8 million. Proffers can not be budgeted or used for General Fund operating costs, which results in this category always

showing a variance. For the third year in a row, the Permits & Fees category does not reflect a budget deficit. When comparing actual revenue for FY 2015 to FY 2016 in this category, there is a 21.9% total increase and a 29.6% increase in building permits alone.

The county ended the fiscal year with \$9.5 million in unspent, budgeted expenditures. \$1.7 million of the unspent expenditures represent purchase orders which remained outstanding at year end for both the County and the Schools. This amount was re-appropriated in FY 2017. A breakdown of the remaining unspent funds by category include the following:

- Schools—\$1.5 million
- Salaries/Fringes—\$3.1 million
- Capital Contingency Carry Forward—\$2.4 million
- Some of the factors that contributed to the savings in the operating category include the following:
  - Unspent grant funds;
  - Unspent professional services;
  - Unspent gasoline funds;
  - Reduced F&R overtime;
  - Staff turn over and vacancies.

REVENUE	AMENDED BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
Property Taxes	100,608,073	104,029,379	3,421,306
Other Local Taxes	31,899,849	33,733,043	1,833,194
Permits / Fees	1,663,682	2,264,101	600,419
Fines / Forfeitures	355,000	285,390	(69,610)
Rev. from Use of Prop.	160,420	199,252	38,832
Charges for Services	2,478,226	2,694,962	216,736
Miscellaneous	249,390	215,760	(33,630)
Recovered Costs	1,323,724	3,566,501	2,242,777
State/Federal	9,247,938	10,238,319	990,381
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>147,986,302</b>	<b>157,226,707</b>	<b>9,240,405</b>

EXPENDITURES	AMENDED BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
Administration	11,283,868	10,797,524	486,344
Judicial	2,460,695	2,283,308	177,387
Public Safety	33,728,503	31,056,396	2,672,107
Public Works	5,223,188	4,318,992	904,196
Health / Welfare	8,422,956	8,005,073	417,883
Community College	56,000	56,000	0
Parks, Rec. & Cultural	6,548,678	6,085,794	462,884
Community Development	2,297,261	2,168,019	129,242
Transfers	99,574,959	95,368,917	4,206,042
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>169,596,108</b>	<b>160,140,023</b>	<b>9,456,085</b>



## Gas to Energy Plant Update

Written by Ron Kimble, Environmental Manager, Frederick County Landfill

The landfill gas to energy plant continues to operate at the facility with an average overall availability of 87% during the 2016 fiscal year. Downtime includes periods when Rappahannock Electric trips our units offline due to issues with the distribution lines or the substations, along with maintenance of the engines or wellfield. The major amount of downtime was experienced this past winter when the two Jenbacher engines were down for scheduled 40,000 hour service. Each engine was off line for approximately three weeks while maintenance crews provided the service. The engines receive major overhauls every 20,000 hours, including

replacing the heads, rods and main bearings. The generator is also inspected and couplers replaced. This service helps to ensure that the engines are maintained in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and to help prevent catastrophic failures.

Financially, the plant generated revenue in the amount of \$491,938 from the sale of power and renewable energy credits. Budgeted revenue for fiscal year 2016 was set at \$510,882. The shortfall in the revenue is directly related to power pricing over the past year. The average price that we receive per Mwh dropped from \$46.33 in fiscal year 2015 to \$36.96 in this past

year. This decrease is due to several factors including the mild winter which contributed to reduced demands and the continued relative low cost of natural gas. According to the U.S Energy Information Administration natural gas pricing this past March was the lowest price since 1999.

Total expenses for the year were \$581,166 with the majority associated with the 40,000 hour rebuilds. Since inception of the project in November 2010, revenue totals \$3,376,214 while expenditures total \$2,327,634. To date, the revenue has exceeded expenditures by \$1,048,580.

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*"To date, the revenue has exceeded expenditures by \$1,048,580."*

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## IT Happenings

*(Continued from page 1)*

ronment with more processing power and considerably more storage. Dell engineers were onsite at the County Administration and Public Safety buildings the first two weeks of October to install and test the new equipment. Network technician, Brett Farmer, supervised the installation team throughout the process and was instrumental in the success of this project. Brett has successfully migrated the majority of the virtual servers and storage from the old environment to the new environment. This project will allow for the growth of our server and storage needs for years to come and pave the way for new projects.

The GIS and Technology team

presented at the 2016 Worlds of Work (WoW!) event. This event ushered in 7th graders from the counties of Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Warren, and the City of Winchester to explore hands-on career options with real-world business and industry representatives. GIS and IT had two exhibits to showcase. The team built an interactive sand table that allows for real-time modeling and simulation of land topography and land disturbance due to water runoff. It was the biggest hit of the event. The second exhibit involved a new interactive white board displaying real-time heat mapping of election results. The team members that contributed to this



Photos courtesy of Ron Kimble

**Andrew Farrar demonstrates the interactive white board display.**

event were Robin Cummings, Kyle Schwizer, Andrew Farrar, Alisa Scott, Patrick Fly, Farmer, Pangle, and Trujillo. We plan to have a show and tell for County employees of both exhibits at the County Administration building in the near future.

## Thinking Outside of the Blue Box

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

Clearing out the clutter this fall? Just because you are tossing a broken space heater, that doesn't mean it belongs in the garbage pile. Keep in mind that the county's recycling program is not limited to bottles, cans and paper. With a little thought and sorting, a diverse number of

items can easily move from refuse to recyclable, conserving landfill space, natural resources and becoming raw material for another product.

Frederick County's solid waste management program boasts an array of opportunities to recycle nontraditional materials:

**Clothes and Shoes** -- Gently used clothing, linens, drapes, fabric, throw rugs, stuffed animals, hats, belts, luggage, back-

packs and shoes and boots in any condition may be recycled through the ReThreads and Save-a-Sole programs. Collection stations are located at each convenience site and the regional landfill's citizens' center. Shoe drops are also located at the Frederick County Animal Shelter and the Total Image/Workingman's Store. Items must be dry and bagged and shoes

bandaged together in pairs. During fiscal year 2016, these programs shipped 24.5 tons of used shoes and textiles to domestic markets and Third World countries where they are re-worn.

**Retail shopping bags** -- Combined with plastic wrap from cases of water or soda, clean shrink wrap or Ziploc bags, plastic bags may be bagged together and recycled with the plastic jugs and bottles drop-off at any convenience site or the landfill.

**Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's) and fluorescent tubes** -- Drop off at the landfill or leave with the attendant at any convenience site.

**Household batteries** -- Although most non-rechargeable batteries contain little hazardous materials, recycling is encouraged. These batteries, including potentially harmful rechargeable button batteries (watches, hearing aids) and nickel-cadmium batteries such as those used in cell phones, are accepted for recycling at the landfill and any citizens' convenience site.

Several recycling options are found solely at the landfill's citizen's center:

**Electronics** -- The Regional Electronics Recycling Program captures materials from the fastest growing portion of the nation's waste stream, collecting 264 tons of material in 2015. Televisions, computer screens and all peripherals, laptops, cables, cameras, c.d. players, VCR's, satellite television receivers, copiers, toner cartridges

and the like are accepted twice monthly at the landfill's citizens' center.

**Lead acid batteries** -- cars, trucks, campers, boats, lawnmowers, some children's toys

**Auto Fluids and Filters** -- Tanks are available at the landfill for the recycling of used household motor oil and anti-freeze. Fluids must not be mixed with water or any other petroleum product such as gasoline. Drained oil filters may also be dropped off for recycling. Just over 61 tons of waste oil was recycled by the landfill in 2015.

**Cooking Oil** -- Up to five gallons of cooking oil may be recycled during a single visit to the landfill.

**Tires** -- 80 cent fee for car tires, payable at the scale house; \$3 for truck tires 17-inches and up; additional \$1 for tires still on a rim

**Yard Debris** -- Leaves, limbs, grass and other yard debris are accepted all year and ground into mulch which is re-used at the landfill facility. Cut trees are accepted at all convenience sites except Greenwood Road during the holidays.

**Asphalt and concrete** -- Derived from construction projects and reused on landfill roads

**Scrap metal** -- During 2015, 1,075 tons of scrap metal was collected. This includes everything from old metal shelving, lawn furniture and grills to bicy-

*(Continued on page 11)*



Photos courtesy of Gloria Puffinburger

James May, Site Attendant, prepares to empty the collection box.

# Frederick County Finance Committee

## Summary of Action Items—FY 2017 QTR 1

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 Treasurer and the Commissioner of the Revenue serve as non-voting liaisons.

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 were the meeting dates for the first quarter of fiscal year 2017:

July 20, 2016

August 17, 2016

September 21, 2016

All Finance Committee Agendas and Reports can be found online, [www.fcva.us/fincomm](http://www.fcva.us/fincomm).

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

- \$11,519 for the Sheriff's Department for donations and reimbursements;
- \$2,000 for the PSAP Education Program Grant for E-911;
- \$100,173 for an increase in the Victim Witness grant;
- \$37,771 in proffer funds for Greenwood Volunteer Fire & Rescue for the ladder truck;
- \$25,000 in eSummons funds for the Sheriff's Department;
- \$750 for the Walk Your Human initiative from a Keep Virginia Beautiful grant; and
- \$4,845 for an auto insurance reimbursement for Fire & Rescue.

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

- \$35,000 carry forward for unspent FY16 Clearbrook citizens' convenience site testing;
- \$2,366,365 carry forward of unspent FY16 capital contingency funds;
- \$13,163 carry forward of unspent FY16 Rose Hill Park funds;
- \$4,111 carry forward of unspent FY16 Sherando Park Master Plan funds;
- \$157,333 for the local contribution to the Airport Capital budget;
- \$108,032 carry forward of unspent FY16 data refresh funds for IT;
- \$514 carry forward of unspent FY16 Abbott grant funds for the Sheriff's Department; and
- \$670,619 carry forward of unspent FY16 School operating funds.

The committee also held discussions on the following topics:

- Reserving the funds collected to date in the Parks & Recreation PLAY Fund;
- The County's transfer of funds policy;
- The annual review and reassessment of the Finance/Audit Committee Charter; and
- FY 2016 year end financial information was provided by the County and the Schools.

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## Recycling

*(Continued from page 10)*  
cles, lawnmowers (fluids drained), microwave ovens and major household appliances. The sale of scrap generates about \$100,000 a year.

**Propane tanks** – Tanks may be dropped for recycling at the

landfill.

Together, these programs not only keep materials out of the landfill, extending the life of the facility, but the landfill has found beneficial uses for mulched yard waste as daily cover; chipped tires as aggregate,

avoiding the cost of purchasing inert stone which saves about \$40 a ton. Asphalt and concrete is processed and recycled by the landfill and used on landfill roads, again avoiding the cost of purchasing stone.

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Photo courtesy of LeeAnna Pyles  
Graphics courtesy of Jeremy Coulson

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## National & Local Headlines

- *Regional unemployment rate for August 2016 was 3.4%, compared to 3.7% in August 2015.*
- *Frederick County government, as an employer, had \$105 in unemployment claims for the September 2016 quarter compared to \$3,299 for the previous year.*
- *The Winchester Regional Airport will receive \$1,498,845 in funds from the Federal Aviation Administration to pay for a substantial addition to the airport's taxiway.*
- *Home Depot will open its third distribution center in Frederick County this fall. The company will occupy 250,050 square feet of a new 330,050-square-foot facility being constructed in Stonewall Industrial Park. The Home Depot space will serve as an overflow facility, complementing the company's other domestic distribution center at 480 Park Center Drive. Home Depot also operates an international distribution center in southern Frederick County.*



Apple Tree Market in Round Hill

Photo courtesy of Gloria Puffinburger