

COUNTY OF FREDERICK, VA

Summer 2015 FINANCIAL NEWSLETTER

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 ★ **Special point of interest:** ★
 ★ Revenue and expenditure information is not provided in this edition of the Financial Newsletter due to the fact that the County's fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. The FY 2015 revenue and expenditures have not been finalized at this time.
 ★ Prior to the year end information being provided, revenue received and expenditure payments after June 30 must be applied to the previous year.
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Round Hill Fire Station & Event Center

Written by Joe Wilder, Assistant Director, Frederick County Public Works

The new Round Hill 18,000 square foot fire station and 9,500 square foot events center is being built in the Silverlake Development off of Route 50 West in Frederick County. The buildings are on a five acre tract of land owned by the County. The project involves building portions of two new roads: Corporate Place and Spinning Wheel Lane.

The project, which began in August 2014, is 70% complete. The anticipated completion is set for the fall of 2015. The general contractor for the project is Caldwell Santmyer out of Berryville, VA.

The total price tag for the project is \$6.3 million (including change orders to date). The fire station will be owned by the County and

the event center will be paid for, Hill Community Fire Hall. owned and operated by the Round



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Outstanding Achievement Awards for Financial Reporting

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded, for the twenty-ninth consecutive year, to the County of Frederick by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. The Certificate of

Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly

communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA has also given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Frederick County for its Popular Annual Financial Re-

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Yes, You Can Recycle Those Holey Socks!

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

“...the program diverted 23,540 pounds of textiles from the regional landfill...”

The next time you clean out your closets and drawers, don't forget to take along the recycling bin!

Those ripped jeans, holey socks, or worn towels deserve a second life. Castoffs may travel across the U.S. or halfway around the globe to such places as Central America, Africa and the Middle East. As explained by a native of the Central African Republic of Cameroon, the late Tim Kofum, townspeople eagerly await for shipments of clothing and shoes from the U.S. Shipments provide affordable clothing (.34 cents for a pair of pants) and jobs to the one-third segment of the population that must survive on just \$1.25 a day.

Started in 2010, the Frederick County's ReThreads Textile Recycling Program is an outgrowth of the shoe recycling effort begun in partnership with Kofum in 2008. Before instituting the program, staff considered any potential impact to local thrift shops and clothes closets. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a total of 2.5 billion pounds of textiles were landfilled in the U.S. in 2013. The average American throws away about 70 pounds of clothing each year, according to industry figures. Additionally, professional textile recyclers purchase unsaleable



textiles from local charities, a source of revenue. For its part, the county's vendor, Mid-Atlantic Clothing Recyclers, makes an annual contribution to the county's Drug Abuse Resistance Education program, administered through the Sheriff's Office.

Convinced that Frederick County recyclers would take advantage of convenient drop-offs for their used textiles, bins were placed at six convenience sites. Items accepted include gently used clothing, uniforms, linens, table cloths, drapes, towels, fabric, sleepwear, coats, sweaters, area rugs, stuffed animals and even undergarments. All items must be bagged and kept dry. Although gently used garments are solicited, any textile, regardless of condition, may be recy-

clad as long as it is clean and dry.

Besides diverting usable textiles from the local landfill, textile recycling conserves natural resources such as water used in growing crops and energy consumed for manufacturing when used textiles can be substituted. About half of all textiles collected are sold as reusable garments, the remainder is turned into wiping cloths, insulation, paper, yarn, and carpet padding. Stuffed toys become filling for car seats and automobile insulation.

As the county's newest diversion effort, the program diverted 23,540 pounds of textiles from the regional landfill during FY 2015. A small rebate paid by the county's vendor offsets the cost of transporting both textiles and shoes from the various convenience sites to a final collection point at the regional landfill before transport to Mid-Atlantic's sorting facility in Maryland.

In April, Frederick County Recycling was awarded a \$500 grant from Keep Virginia Beautiful which will fund heightened awareness and expand the ReThreads program to include all citizens' convenience sites.

FY 2015 PROFFER PROJECTS

Round Hill Event Center: \$146,790 appropriated for the Round Hill Fire & Rescue Company's share of the design costs for the new fire station and event center.

Round Hill Fire Company: \$1,000,000 appropriated for station replacement.

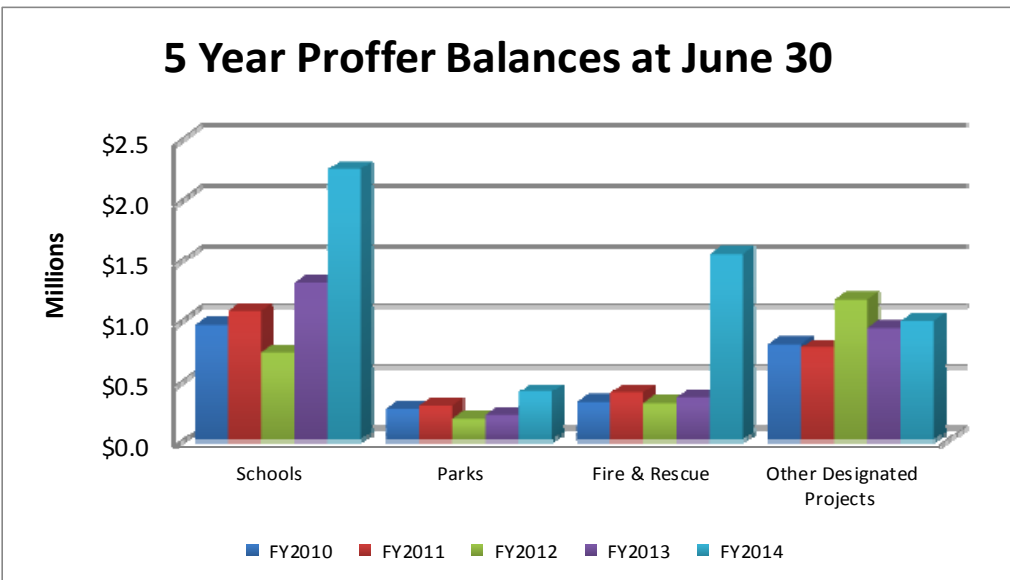
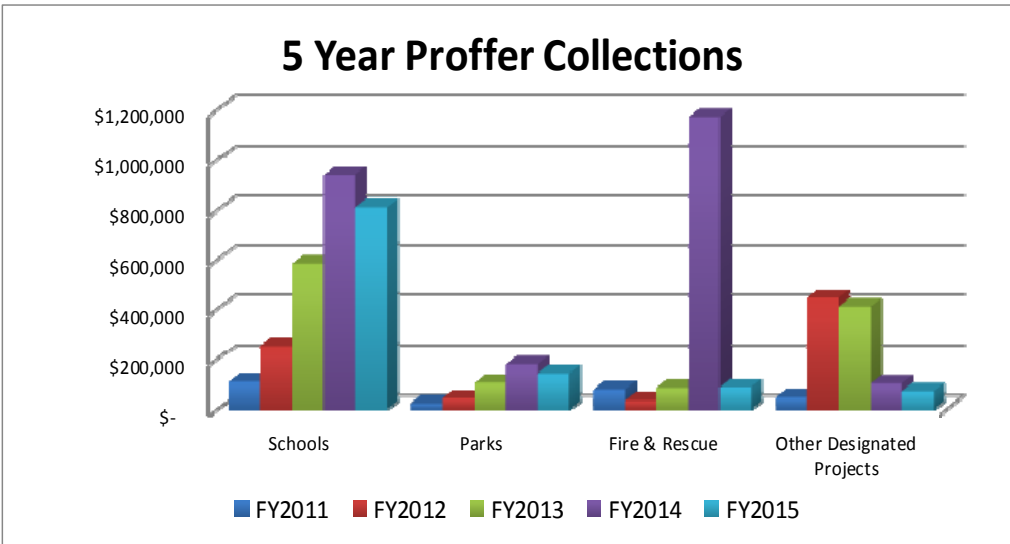
Parks & Recreation: \$15,000 appropriated for site plan for northwestern corner of Sherando Park. Site plans was completed and \$710 was unused.

Below are the FY 2015 collection totals and June 30th balances for each category, followed by a five year history illustration.

	Schools	Parks	Fire & Rescue	Other Designated Projects	Total
FY2015 Collections	\$ 809,401	\$ 141,909	\$ 89,428	\$ 72,191	\$ 1,112,929
FY2015 Balances	\$ 3,054,707	\$ 529,570	\$ 491,139	\$ 1,061,293	\$ 5,136,709

Note: Other Designated Projects include Transportation, Library, Sheriff, Historic Preservation, Solid Waste, and Administration Building.

A proffer is an offer of cash or property. This usually refers to property, cash or structural improvements offered by developers in land development projects to mitigate the impact of development on the taxpayer.



“Tires are processed through a mobile chipper that generates a product that can be used in place of stone for different engineering purposes.”

Regional Tire Operations Program

Written by Ron Kimble, Environmental Manager and C. Steve Frye, Landfill Manager, Frederick County Landfill

In 1995, Frederick County assisted in forming the Regional Tire Operations Program (RTOP) which is overseen by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission. This program was initially funded through a grant provided by the Department of Environmental Quality for the purpose of cleaning up waste tire piles and providing an appropriate outlet for managing waste tires in the state. In 1999, staff from the Frederick County Landfill took over the responsibilities of daily operations and management of the program. The county tracks all time and materials associated with the management of the program and is reimbursed by the planning district for all expenses. The Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission has remained the fiscal agent for the program.

Over the course of time, the program has expanded to assist municipalities outside of the local planning district. These include, Fauquier County, Montgomery County, Pulaski County, Rockbridge County, Augusta County, and Highland County.

Initially, the program processed over 300,000 tires per year. The numbers have consistently decreased to an average of 120,000 tires per year. This decrease is mainly due to the completion of cleaning up tire piles within the service area. With the decrease, Frederick County will be making the processing unit a stationary unit that will be located at the Frederick County Landfill. This will require that all tires be delivered to the landfill for processing, thus simplifying the

program. All tires received at the landfill are charged a tipping fee of \$80 per ton which covers the costs associated with processing. This fee correlates to approximately 80 cents per passenger car tire and \$4.00 for large truck tires. In turn the planning district bills Frederick County at a rate of 65 cents per passenger tire and \$3.00 per truck tire. Currently all equipment is debt free and the program has been operating with a positive cash flow since Frederick County took over operations in 1999.

The goal of the program is to provide an appropriate means of disposal for used tires at a reasonable cost to citizens and businesses. Tires are currently processed through a mobile chipper that generates a product that can be used in place of stone for different engineering purposes. Over the life of the program, the fees have remained consistent and the program has proven to be viable. As we move into the future, the program is positioned to remain an asset to the localities of the Northern Shenandoah Regional Commission.



Tire Chipper (top) and processed tires (bottom)

Photos courtesy of C. Steve Frye

Treasurer's Payment Processing

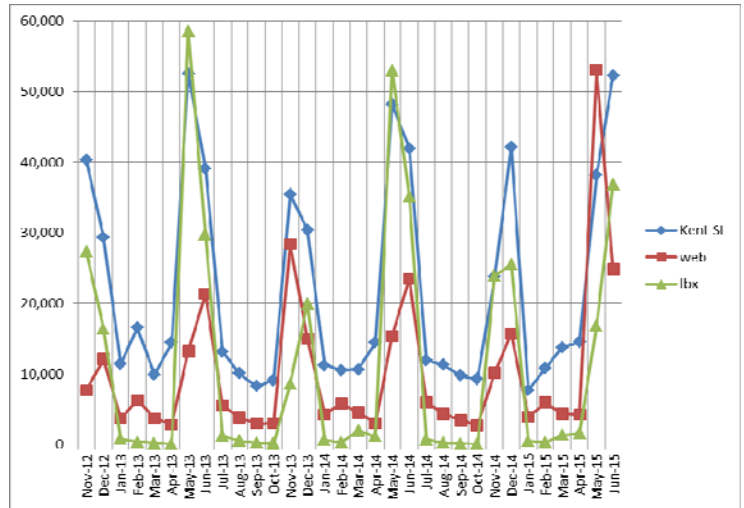
Written by Angela Whitacre, Deputy Treasurer, Frederick County Treasurer's Office

For the December 2012 tax season, the Treasurer's Office began using our bank's lockbox service for payment processing. Previously, this process had been handled in-house. So far, the process has lived up to our expectations. Mailed payments now go to our Merrifield post office box, where our lockbox processor picks them up the same day they are delivered. The mailed payments are actually received by our lockbox quicker than our Winchester post office box (due to changes in mail processing by the postal service). These payments are picked up, processed, and depos-

ited the same day.

The costs are on target with our expectations. The cost of the lockbox service per year is the same as the price of the new equipment alone (not including maintenance or personnel costs). We are averaging about 58,000 transactions per tax season through this service. The chart below shows lockbox usage in relation to our other methods of receiving payments. It also shows the totals for our Kent Street office, which includes some mail, our walk-in customers, and file payments (mortgage companies, banks, etc.). Finally,

it shows our online web payment usage. All of these options will continue to be available in an effort to make tax payment as convenient as possible.



Parks and Recreation Launches a Blog!

Written by Karen Vacchio, Public Information Officer, Frederick County Parks and Recreation

The Frederick County Parks and Recreation Department strives to enhance the quality of life through recreational opportunities and programs, parks, and facilities for the community and to protect resources for future generations. As an outreach tool, our blog will enhance our efforts to connect with the community by providing a wide range of information on making life better.

will help us bring you a wide variety of information all with one goal in mind: making life better!

So far we have covered topics such as getting outside to play (for kids and grownups!), the importance of moving during your work day, the effects of sugar on your health, and getting back into the game as an adult!

Through our blog you will find information on making your life better, whether it is through recreation and leisure activities or better health and wellness or learning more about being a vital part of our community. Staff will be writing posts and submitting articles of interest and we will also have guest bloggers that

You can easily follow our blog by clicking the "follow" button and you will receive an email whenever a new post goes up. We hope you enjoy this effort and we look forward to reading your comments and suggestions. Visit www.destinationparksandrec.net and connect with us!



eCycle Anything With a Cord

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

Since 2001, the Regional Electronics Recycling Program has captured nearly anything with a cord and shipped it off for reuse and recycling, keeping potentially harmful metals such as lead, cadmium, barium and mercury out of the local landfill while providing the raw materials necessary to create a myriad of new consumer goods.

First piloted in September of 2001, eCycle has diverted 5.3 million pounds of electronic waste from the regional landfill. During FY 2015, collections

during the twice monthly events brought in 532,283 pounds of material from local residents and businesses compared with a record 611,580 pounds gathered during FY 2014. This decline can be attributed to the continued light-weighting of larger electronics such as televisions and computer monitors and increased local opportunities for reuse and diversion.

During July, 232 customers recycled 291 televisions, 129 monitors and 51 processors not including other old electronics such as printers, copiers, cables, DVD players and stereos for a total of 41,980 pounds. Fees collected for the management of screens totaled \$4,560, nearly offsetting \$5,000 in monies paid to the county's vendor, C2 Management LLC of Berryville, for the transport and proper management of materials collected.

Once an old television is left for recycling, the unit is wrapped and prepared for shipment by landfill staff. C2 transports loads to its facility where 34 employees manually demanufacture all county items in less than two days, managing hazardous materials, sorting metals, memory boards, and cables. High-end flat screen televisions are tested, repaired if possible and sold online. Most televisions are shipped out intact to Ohio, a costly process during which the leaded and clear glass is removed. Much of the metal inside the set returns to a local recycler. Clear glass is ground into cullet which may be used as an aggregate

material for concrete, fiberglass insulation, ceramic tiles, glass block, flat-panel electronic displays, mobile devices, solar panels, and vehicle glass. Leaded glass is primarily reused for televisions containing cathode ray tubes.

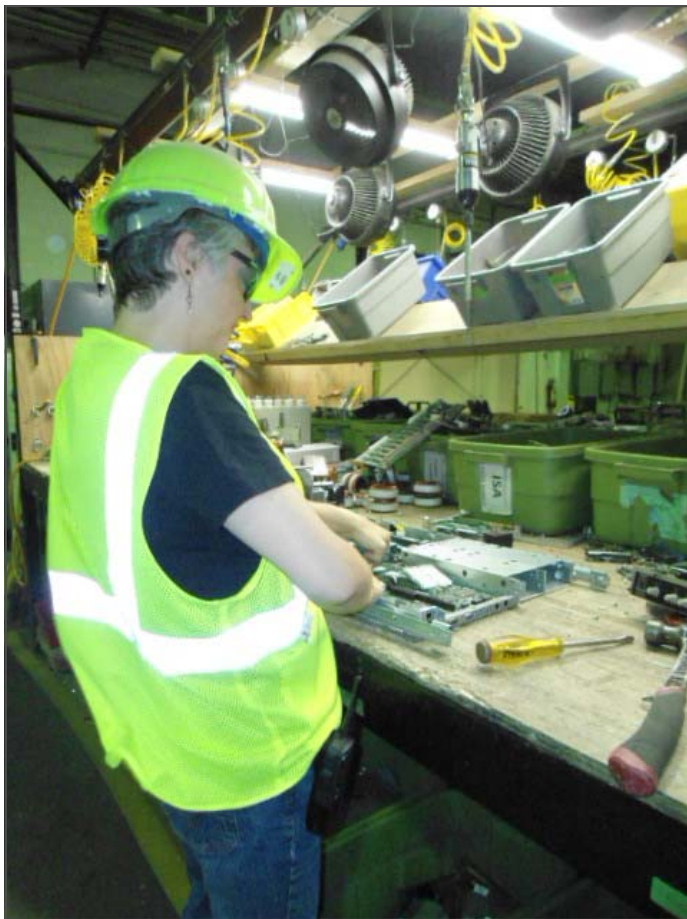
From C2's loading docks, circuit boards are bound for Baltimore. Ink cartridges are shipped to Arizona where they are refilled. Metals and plastics end up on the global market. In an effort to improve efficiency and speed processing, later this year C2 will begin shredding some electronics such as printers and VCRs prior to shipment. The company also offers data destruction services to various agencies including the federal government and is approved as an electronics vendor with the Commonwealth. It now also provides electronics recycling services for the counties of Prince William, Loudoun and Fairfax.

Nationally, electronics recycling has grown steadily from just 10 percent in 2000 to 29 percent in 2012. Computers are 95 percent recyclable and C2 Management either reuses or recycles 100 percent of the e-waste it receives.

Find news, tips, and events with Frederick County Recycling on **facebook**



“...the twice monthly events brought in 532,283 pounds of material from local residents and businesses...”



Stephanie Brown, Quality Assurance Director at C2 Management, dismantles old electronics.

Photo courtesy of Gloria Puffinburger

Frederick County Finance Committee Summary of Action Items

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 fourth quarter of fiscal year 2015:

April 15, 2015

May 20, 2014—canceled

June 3, 2014

All Finance Committee Agendas and Reports can be found online at www.fcva.us/fincomm.

The following are supplemental appropriation request for the **General Fund** which required no local funds:

- \$16,060 for radios and equipment through a Local Emergency Management Performance grant;
- \$2,642 for funds collected through the SCBA Part/Repair services for Fire & Rescue;
- \$5,286 for an automobile claim for the Sheriff's Department;
- \$10,659 for prisoner extradition reimbursement for the Sheriff's Department;
- \$335,600 for state/federal share of Social Services;
- \$8,560 to reimburse CLEAN for the Glow Run 5K registrations collected by Parks & Recreation;
- \$600 for a donation to the Sheriff's K-9 program;
- \$3,183 for a reimbursement to the Sheriff from the Secret Service;
- 27,000 for a vehicle for the Inspections Department.

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

- \$170,530 for overtime expenses for Fire & Rescue;
- \$24,495 for the June Republican Primary election;
- \$7,280 excess revenue collected by Fire & Rescue to be used for vehicle & powered equipment expenses;
- \$10,000 reduction for the county share of Social Services.

The committee also held discussions on the following topics:

- A Grant Application & Acceptance policy;
- The Economic Development Incentive Grants;
- The Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Abuse Coalition funding request.

GFOA Awards

(Continued from page 1)
port for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. The award is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports. In order to receive this award a government unit must publish a document whose contents conform to pro-

gram standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal. This is the eighth consecutive year that the County has received this award.

Both documents are available online at www.fcva.us/cafr and www.fcva.us/pafr.



County of Frederick

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National & Local Headlines

- The national average price of gasoline is at \$2.756 a gallon, compared to \$3.578 a year ago.
- The National Unemployment rate for May 2015 was 5.3%.
- The regional unemployment rate for May 2015 was 4.5% compared to 4.7% in May 2014.
- Frederick County government, as an employer, had \$13,190 in unemployment claims for the June 2015 quarter compared to \$362 for the June 2014 quarter.
- Winchester MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) is #15 on Forbes' 2015 list of Best Small Places for Business & Careers.
- Winchester MSA is #24 on NewGeography's recent list of Best Small Cities for Job Growth.
- Threshold Enterprises, the nation's second largest distributor of nutritional supplements and natural health and beauty products, locates to Frederick County.
- TalentWise, a leading cloud solutions provider for the Human Capital Management industry, opens its new East Coast operations center in the Fort Collier Industrial Park in Frederick County.



Flags fly high at the County Administration Building as seen from the corner of Kent and Piccadilly Streets.

Photo courtesy of Lorraine Mossburg