



## New Development at Sherando Park

*Written by Jon Turkel, Park & Stewardship Planner, Frederick County Parks & Recreation*

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*“The key to the development vision will be the support of the Virginia Department of Transportation.”*

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Most people are unaware of the true size of Sherando Park. Acquired in 1974, 334 acres of land makes up the entirety of the park. However, most visitors are familiar with the area south of Rt. 277 (typically referred to as South Sherando Park) directly adjacent to Sherando High School, and the department receives quite a few positive comments from visitors who enjoy the tree lined roadway and welcoming feel. This area now offers multiple playfields, playgrounds, open space, shelters, trails, a lake and outdoor pool.

Less known is the area north of Rt. 277 (North Sherando Park) which stretches back beyond the visible softball fields and around to road frontage along Warrior Drive. The land area encompasses over 200 acres, nearly double that of the south side. Residents are becoming more aware of this large area through recent additions such as the completion of a shared use path and mountain bike trails, as well as through existing amenities such as a disk golf course and model airplane flying field. Still, an

area nearly the size of the entire south portion of Sherando Park is waiting to be developed into useable park amenities and this is what the Parks and Recreation Department has been working to do.

Recently the Board of Supervisors approved the pursuit of starting to open more of North Sherando Park for the public to enjoy. The vision is to create an entrance and parking area off of Warrior Drive allowing for formal access to the existing shared use path and mountain bike trails. Additionally the installation of an adult fitness park, (think of an outdoor gym), and some general grading for future amenities such as a pavilion and restroom are part of this initial effort.

The key to the development vision will be the support of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Parks and Recreation has applied for funds through VDOT’s Recreation Access Program and is eagerly awaiting their response. This grant program is designed to

fund access to public recreation facilities in the state. One example of this is that this program provided funding for the existing roads in South Sherando Park leading to the pool, lake, etc. To meet the match requirement the Parks and Recreation Commission has recommended using proffered development funds. Likewise the Commission recommended using proffer funds to construct the parking, adult fitness park, and general grading, leaving no general fund impact from this project.

If the project goes as hoped and grant funds are received it will represent another example of how strong partnerships can bring recreation development, and the quality of life improvements that go along with recreation to the community. In this case the partners include Frederick County, VDOT, and the development community. So be on the lookout for news of the VDOT Recreation Grant Program awards, and let’s hope we can continue to transition all of Sherando Park to its intended purpose!



Example of an adult fitness park.

# FY 2016 PROFFER PROJECTS

**Frederick County Public Schools: \$3,000,000** appropriated for the design of the 4th high school (\$1.2 million), design of the 12th elementary school (\$1.5 million), and an addition and renovations at Armel Elementary (\$300,000).

**Clearbrook Fire Company: \$100,000** appropriated for a monetary contribution from the Stephenson Village Planned Residential Community, known as Snowden Bridge.

**Parks & Recreation: \$95,000** appropriated for a restroom at Rose Hill Park and **\$92,000** appropriated to acquire additional park property on Old Charlestown Road.

Below are the FY 2016 collection totals and June 30th balances for each category, followed by a five year

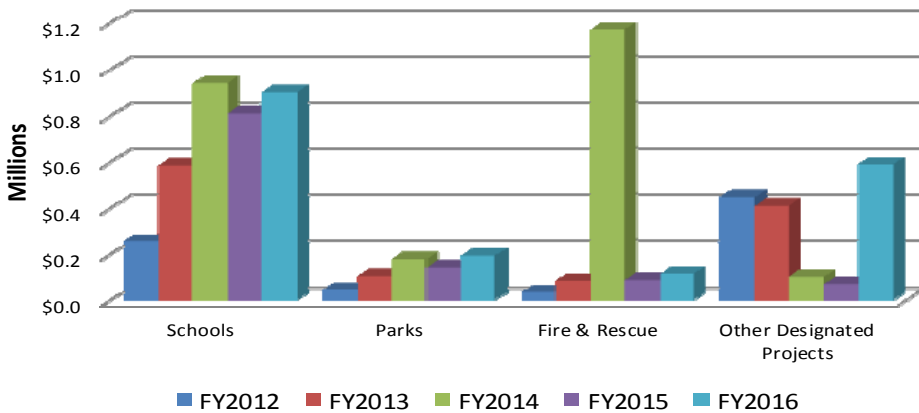
	Schools	Parks	Fire & Rescue	Other Designated Projects	Total
FY2016 Collections	\$ 898,698	\$ 192,678	\$ 116,860	\$ 589,119	\$ 1,797,355
FY2016 Balances	\$ 953,405	\$ 535,959	\$ 508,000	\$ 1,650,412	\$ 3,647,776

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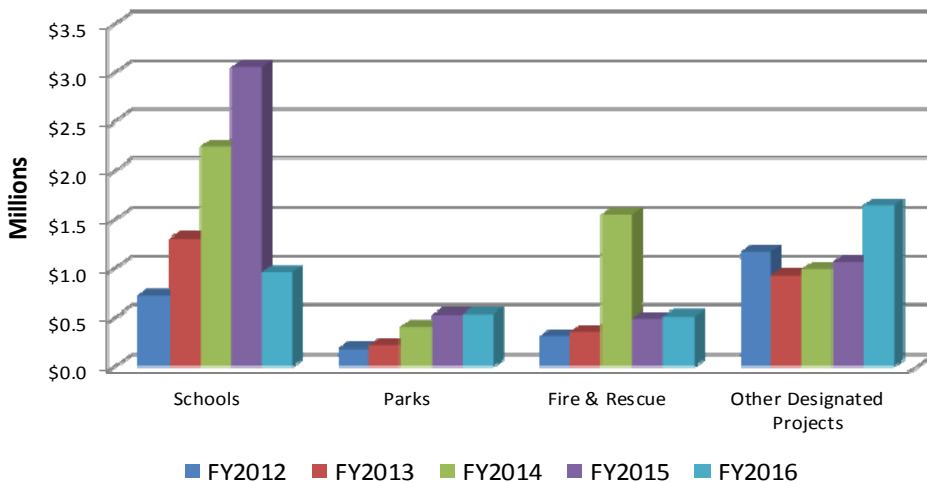
*A proffer is an offer of cash or property. This usually refers to property, cash or structural improvements offered by developers in land development projects to mitigate the impact of development on the taxpayer.*

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## 5 Year Proffer Collections



## 5 Year Proffer Balances at June 30



## Meet Frederick's New IT Director

Written by Scott Varner, IT Director, Frederick County IT

*"My inner geek came out early and after I wrote my first program, I was hooked."*

Scott Varner is the new Director of Information Technology. He started on May 2nd after serving

as the Director of Information Technology and GIS for Gloucester County, Virginia for the past four years. Scott's technology career started at the age of 12 with his first computer, a Commodore VIC-20.

"My inner geek came out early and after I wrote my first program, I was hooked." The U.S. Navy recruited him a few years later as a Cryptologist and he was immersed in state-of-the-art technology. Scott augmented his Naval training with college classes at night at the University of Maryland, Harold Washington College, University of San Diego, and City Colleges of Chicago. It was in the Navy that Scott met his future wife, Tonia. Tonia was a photojournalist in the Navy and provided exclusive coverage of the Cuban and Haitian migration while in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During his time in the Navy and after, Scott wrote custom code and developed web platforms for small and medium businesses that allowed businesses to go beyond a static web presence and engage with their customer base.



During his tenure as Director in Gloucester, Scott was responsible for virtualizing the data center, bringing in

Voice over IP (VoIP), implementing Microsoft O365, and project management for replacement and migration of the County ERP software system. Prior to being the Director of IT and GIS

in Gloucester County, Scott was the Applications Integration Coordinator and also held the position of Database Coordinator for Gloucester County Public Schools. While in Gloucester he helped lead the technology team to nine consecutive top 10 awards in the NACO and GOVTech Digital Counties Survey.

"I was extremely interested in the Director of Information Technology position in Frederick County because my wife and I love the area so much. I grew up in Spartanburg, South Carolina, in the shadow of Chimney Rock and Lake Lure, North Carolina. I have always loved the mountains and brought my wife to the Shenandoah Valley and Winchester for several of our anniversaries. Also, I have worked for Brenda Garton before and we did great things for

Gloucester County and I knew with her leadership I could do amazing things for Frederick County."

Scott has a three year old daughter and balances the stress of the job by playing lots of dress up with his little girl, Elora. "After trying to have a baby for 16 years and giving up, this little miracle showed up. She is our bliss. Any stressful day on the job is mitigated when I get home and she asks me to put on a tutu."

In his first two months on the job, Scott has worked on an assessment of the technological infrastructure of Frederick County. "Overall the County is in good shape with technology. We have a highly skilled technology and MIS staff that is focused on customer service and industry best practices." He plans to focus on staff development and strategic planning in the new fiscal year. Scott also has his eye on the future looking to leverage his knowledge and experience to explore technologies that will increase mobility and efficiency throughout the County. "I see some opportunities for the County to leverage cloud solutions with moving email to Microsoft O365 as well bringing in SharePoint for inter-department collaboration."

"The thing I love the most about technology is that it changes by the minute. Every day is new and when you can leverage technology to make someone's job a little easier or make tasks more efficient for the enterprise, it is a great feeling."

## Walk Your Human

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

What do birds, bees, butterflies and the family dog have in common? They're all working together to make Frederick County a greener community, thanks to two small grants awarded to the Public Works Department.

The first award by the Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation (LCEF) will help fund a pollinator garden, planned for the Bowman Library. Although spring rains delayed installation, Frederick County Recycling has recruited Girl Scout Troop 40327 to assist. The garden is part of an on-going effort to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators and educate homeowners about native plantings which provide healthy habitats.

The department hopes to expand outreach, recruit new volunteers and generate excitement via an innovative approach to litter prevention called "Walk Your Human". As part of its 30 in Thirty campaign, funding for "Walk Your Human" was announced by Keep Virginia Beautiful (KVB) in June. Participants will collect litter while walking their pet and utilizing a toolkit comprised of a litter grabber, pet waste bags, and a pedometer to measure their walks. Walkers will also be strongly encouraged to take "litter selfies" to be submitted through a free on-line app, Litterati, which will provide global tracking of results. This program will allow individuals to have fun on their

smartphones, exercise and enjoy their pet, while taking a responsible role in the community by reducing litter.

"The inspiration for "Walk Your Human" is Butch, a boxer mix belonging to Dave and Carrie White of Clear Brook," said Gloria Puffinburger, Solid Waste Manager. "A teacher at Stonewall Elementary, Carrie explained that during neighborhood walks, Butch worked with her and her husband picking up bottles and cans carelessly tossed along the



side of roadway. Although Butch passed away in 2013, his paw print has touched not only the lives of his owners, but that of the community he helped to clean up."

Frederick County

Clean Sweep will partner with the Frederick County Animal Shelter at various shelter events in order to solicit volunteers.

KVB's Thirty in 30 grants were made possible by Trex, Altria, Keep America Beautiful and WestRock Foundation and address issues such as litter prevention, recycling, cigarette litter prevention and beautification. LCEF supports grassroots community projects in communities where Lowe's retail stores or distribution centers are located.

## Sheriff continued

(Continued from page 1)

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office is a member of this program and utilizes it whenever possible to acquire equipment. A written description of the item, the quantity, and sometimes a photograph are posted to a website for limited time periods, usually 10-14 days. The screener must request the item(s) through the website and item(s) are awarded to the first agency to make a request, if approved by DLA and the state coordinator. The requesting agency then has 10 days to go to the military base to pick up the items. With over 8,000 agencies vying for the same equipment, competition is fierce and the website requires near constant monitoring for needed items.

Requisitions cover the gamut of items used by America's military

-- clothing and office supplies, tools and rescue equipment, vehicles, rifles and others small arms. Of all the excess equipment provided through the program, only five percent are weapons and less than one percent is tactical vehicles.

Frederick County Sheriff's Office has received numerous items throughout the years from DRMO to include fully automatic weapons, pickup trucks, and two years ago an MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicle. The MRAP has no weapons; it is strictly a defensive vehicle that can be used to protect and rescue deputies and civilians in hostile situations. The Frederick County Sheriff's Office tries to utilize military bases on the east coast to keep down travel costs, but we have

gone as far as Texas to pick up equipment.

Last July the general assembly tasked law enforcement agencies with search and rescue and the Frederick County Sheriff's Office organized a Search and Rescue Team to meet the needs of Frederick County citizens. The Sheriff's Office utilized DRMO to obtain some needed specialized equipment to include, backpacks, compasses, medical supplies, and office equipment.

Other items that the Sheriff's Office has received in the last 6 months are 2 pickup trucks, 2 vans, 3 cargo trucks, and 2 buses. All of these vehicles can be used by the Search and Rescue Team, the Dive Team, and the SWAT Team to move people and equipment to incidents in Frederick County.

## Be a Part of the Career Pathways Program

*Written by Wendy May, Marketing Manager, Frederick County Economic Development Authority*

The Frederick County Economic Development Authority's Career Pathways program is in full swing! Events like the B&E Summit, Widget Cup, Educator Tours & OnDemand Student Tours, and the Worlds of Work Expo (WoW!), create awareness of career opportunities in our community and further seek innovative ideas to lessen the regional skills gap.

### **Educator Tours & OnDemand Student Tours**

Educator and student tours represent the longest-standing piece of the EDA's Career Pathways program. More than 5,600 students and 1,400 educators have toured nearly 60 businesses over the last 17 years. Frederick County teachers can request a tour of a local business through the EDA's website,

[www.ExploreFrederickCareers.com](http://www.ExploreFrederickCareers.com),

at any time during the school year. Each fall, the EDA also partners with Frederick County Public Schools to host educator tours for an assigned school. This year Frederick County Middle School teachers, counselors, and administrators will tour businesses and hear from a panel of local business leaders.

**Get Involved!** If your business is interested in sharing your operation, let us know!

### **B&E Summit**

More than 130 business, education, and community leaders attended the inaugural Business & Education Summit in April, where they spent the day learning about the current state of local education and how it aligns with employer workforce needs. Participants broke up into teams to brainstorm on a variety of topics and vote on the most important issues to address first.

**Get Involved!** The B&E Task Force, comprised of 26 community stakeholders from business, education, government, and non-profits, welcome additional support and participation with community partners as they move the plan forward!

### **The Widget Cup**

The 3rd Annual Widget Cup will take place Friday, April 7, at Sherando High School. Eight-person teams of Career & Technical Education students from each of the area's four high schools will compete as they design and build a pre-determined widget, and then present their prototypes to a client!

**Get Involved!** The Widget Cup is possible because of the support of area businesses and the local school systems. Let us know if you have a project idea, are able to serve as a volunteer for the day of the event, have materials to donate, or would like to serve as an event sponsor by making a monetary donation!

### **WoW!**

Worlds of Work Expo is a career exploration event managed by Lord Fairfax Community College Career Pathways Consortium, in partnership with Barrett Machine, Inc., Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, and the Frederick County EDA. On October 12 & 13, more than 3,000 seventh graders from the region will participate in hands-on activities with more than 80 area businesses at Body Renew Fitness & Family Sports Center to learn about the types of careers awaiting them after graduation.

**Get Involved!** Interested in exhibiting or being a sponsor? Students will interact with businesses from the following sectors this year: agriculture, communications, construction, finance, health science, hospitality & tourism, manufacturing, public service, STEM, and transportation & logistics.

### **ExploreFrederickCareers.com**

Learn about all of the EDA's Career Pathways initiatives at [www.ExploreFrederickCareers.com](http://www.ExploreFrederickCareers.com). Contact Sally Michaels at the EDA to learn more about the Career Pathways program and see how you can get involved!



# Frederick County Finance Committee

## Summary of Action Items—FY 2016 QTR 4

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 2016:

April 20, 2016

May 18, 2016

June 15, 2016—canceled

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

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

- \$1,461 for outer carrier vests for the Sheriff's Department through the Byrne JAG grant;
- \$2,938 for prisoner extradition reimbursements for the Sheriff's Department;
- \$2,996 for DARE t-shirts;
- \$5,202 for an auto claim reimbursement for the Sheriff's Department;
- \$245,000 for Social Services budget adjustments to reflect additional State/Federal funds;
- \$15,485 for an increase in the Victim Witness grant; and
- \$671,000 for a VDOT Recreation Access Grant for the Northwest Sherando Park project (pending award).

The following are budget transfers for the **General Fund**:

- \$75,000 transfer from operational contingency to cover the Airport Operating Fund deficit for FY 2016.

The committee also held discussions on the following topics:

- The Village at Orchard Ridge requested an alternative real estate tax consideration.

## GFOA Awards

*(Continued from page 1)*  
port for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. 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 ninth consecutive year that the County has received this award.

Both documents are available online at [www.fcva.us/cafr](http://www.fcva.us/cafr) and [www.fcva.us/pafr](http://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 is #24 on NewGeography's recent list of Best Small Cities for Job Growth.
- Winchester MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) is #15 on Forbes' 2015 list of Best Small Places for Business & Careers.
- 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*