



Courthouse News

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of Counties

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September 3, 2008



A Message from the President

As all of you know, I am currently recovering from triple bypass surgery and regret that I was unable to join you at our annual Summer Conference in Ocean City. From what I understand, the 2008 Conference continued this event's proud tradition of providing the State's elected and appointed officials with important opportunities to learn how to enhance the effectiveness of our service to our constituents.

effectiveness of our service to our constituents.

I am deeply grateful to David Bliden and everyone at MACo who worked so hard to make the Conference a success yet again. I am feeling better every day, and I look forward to working with each of you very soon to continue our important work to support a stronger Maryland.

I also want to commend Wilson Parran, who as First Vice President was called upon to assume my many Summer Conference duties at the very last minute. He did a great job for which we all owe him a "thank you."

Sincerely,

James T. Smith
President

Some Conference Perspectives

As MACo 1st Vice President, I know I express all our strong wishes to Jim Smith for a speedy and complete recovery. Jim advised that one of the blocked arteries the by-pass surgery corrected is known as the "widow maker." So, we are so glad he chose to get treated promptly and responsibly - a lesson to us all.

It surely pained Jim not to join us for the Summer Conference for which he was so prepared and so enthusiastic. In fact, I am told he tried to negotiate a surgery delay with his doctors to attend the Conference. This is the first negotiation about which I am aware that Jim has lost.

(continued on next page)

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Next Legislative Committee Meeting October 8 - 11:00 am

(No Sept. 10 or Oct. 15 Meetings)

October 8 Speakers:

David Lever, Executive Director,
Public School Construction Program
and Jon Laria, Chairman, Growth Commission

MACo Winter Conference "Know Best - Grow Best"

January 7-9, 2009

Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel

Visit www.mdmcounties.org for registration, hotel and schedule

2008 Officers

- President James T. Smith, Jr.**
jimsmith@baltimorecountymd.gov
- 1st VP Wilson H. Parran**
parranwh@co.cal.md.us
- 2nd VP David R. Craig**
dcraig@harfordcountymd.gov
- Secretary Wayne Cooper**
cooperw@charlescounty.org
- Treasurer Robert M. Hutcheson**
rhutcheson@allconet.org

Important Dates

- October 22-24, 2008
Adm./Attys. Fall Conference, Governor
Calvert House, Annapolis
- January 7-9, 2009
Winter Conference, Hyatt, Cambridge

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The Conference was clearly a great success- more exhibits and programs than ever and a full house for many Sessions. As the articles that follow evidence, the meetings your Board and Officers had with State leaders were successful and focused on issues of interest to all county officials.

The Winter Conference theme recommended by the Conference Planning Committee and approved by your Board is "Know Best - Grow Best", focusing on growth management & infrastructure challenges, which will surely get much attention during the 2009 Session. MACo staff is already planning conference sessions so please convey to them any thoughts you might have about the program. It will be another great conference and I urge you to attend.

The September Legislative Committee has been rescheduled for October and Jim Smith is planning to attend. We all look forward to seeing him then and to his always much appreciated input and MACo enthusiasm.

Best wishes,



Wilson H. Parran
First Vice-President

Governor O'Malley Meets with Board of Directors

Governor O'Malley's very visible participation in the MACo Summer Conference included a meeting with the MACo Board of Directors Friday and concluded with his address to conference attendees Saturday morning. At both events the Governor offered get well wishes to MACo President Jim Smith, who participated briefly in the Friday Board meeting by phone.

Filling in for President Smith, Calvert County Commission President and MACo 1st Vice President Wilson Parran welcomed Governor O'Malley to the Board meeting. "We've been there" for you, observed Commission President Parran, highlighting MACo's upfront support for the Governor's budget reconciliation proposal. He noted MACo's pride in the quality of its relationship with the O'Malley Administration, specifically thanking the Governor for his focus on school construction and renovation funding and for advocating to minimize the "pain" local

governments would bear in the resolution of the State's structural deficit.

Governor O'Malley noted appreciation for MACo's support, highlighting his abhorrence for the "...shift and shaft approach" to solving budget challenges. He reflected on the recent "...market's counter balance" to the State's budget reconciliation effort, suggesting the present challenge is cyclical, not structural. There are "...good things beneath the surface," he explained, such as the success in enhancing the DNA sample bank with its positive impact on law enforcement. He urged pushing "... the envelope of the possible..." stressing "... room for continued progress. We'll get through it together."

Citing the positive experience MACo had in working with the Administration on its Critical Area initiative, Wicomico County Executive Rick Pollitt urged the Administration to "make MACo a full partner" in any growth management initiative. MACo Executive Director David Bliden noted the great challenge in reaching consensus on the Critical Area proposal arising from its late introduction as a bill. In this regard, he suggested early consultation about any Administration growth management initiative.

There will be a "... focus on a State plan," complying with a longstanding statutory mandate that has not been honored, advised the Governor. He suggested the plan would "focus on where to put POS funding", looking toward a "statewide map of green print." County Executive David Craig suggested the plan be based on a "bottoms up" approach, relying on an already strong comprehensive planning process.

St. Mary's County Commissioner Tom Mattingly urged a "focus on the present," noting frustration in criticism of county land use practices often being premised on 1994 data. "It would be helpful to focus on unique [county] efforts," he continued, suggesting that "one size does not fit all" and counties do not get deserved credit for their growth management efforts.

"You have to add some reality," argued Frederick County Commission President Jan Garder, in noting that the suggested one unit to 20 zoning in preservation areas "...doesn't fit everywhere." In this regard, County Executive Pollitt suggested that the collaborative approach between Wicomico County and the Department of Planning in addressing density adjustments is a better tactic. It was argued that using agricultural preservation program certification as

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leverage in local density debates was unrealistic and could compromise successful programs.

Commission President Gardner also raised the dilution of county representation on the Growth Task Force Commission, objecting to suggested quantifiable standards to grade county comprehensive plans. She argued the magnitude of variables, including political realities, makes this suggestion unrealistic. As an example, she criticized discussion of utilizing projected Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMTs) as a standard, particularly since such a standard does not reflect the unique zoning characteristics and histories of each county.

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett urged the Governor to continue resisting efforts to shift State fiscal burdens to the counties, arguing that, if any additional cuts are necessary, that they be temporary and not structural. He raised continuing county challenges, highlighting transportation funding shortfalls, exacerbated by the General Assembly's failure to accept the Administration's proposal to share new transportation revenues. "I hear you. That's what I will endeavor to do" responded Governor O'Malley.

Charles County Commission President Wayne Cooper raised frustration with the speed camera bill failing last Session. Governor O'Malley noted his disappointment with the bill's failure and that he looked forward to the bill passing in the future.

Executive Director Bliden noted the Governor's Chief Legislative & Policy Advisor Joe Bryce's belief that the bill failed to get the final vote in the Senate necessary for passage simply because there was too much other pressing business the final evening of Session. He raised MDOT Secretary John Porcari's interest in a separate bill for work zones, suggesting that it could jeopardize passage of the local government authority bill and that it made no sense to distinguish road workers from children in neighborhoods or school zones. The Governor directed his staff, who were present, to "put that on the list."

"You guys have been great," said the Governor, after Commissioner Mattingly explained that with interoperability, "all is coming together." In this regard, Commissioner Mattingly highlighted the reconstituted governance group, with significant local representation, and that upgrades are "in sync," with the needed State investment hopefully being programmed. "I will do my best..." and will "...move as

far as we can," said the Governor.

"I want to do that bill," responded the Governor to Anne Arundel County Council President Cathy Vitale's request for legislation to create a rigorous registry to address the escalating problem of scrap metal theft. The bill "...has to be statewide," observed County Executive Craig.

The meeting concluded with Howard County Executive Ken Ulman observing the meeting's "theme of partnering. You tell us where you want to go and we will work a way to get there." In this regard, Executive Director Bliden cited the great success of the consultation protocols issued by the Governor's Chief Legislative & Policy Advisor, Joe Bryce, observing that "...in my over 17 years with MACo, insofar as working with an Administration, the 2008 Session was the best ever." He asked the Governor to accent the quality and importance of the MACo relationship to his Cabinet.

Contact: David S. Bliden

Governor Focuses on Energy Issues in Closing Address

Governor Martin O'Malley focused on state energy policy during his closing address to attendees at the Summer Conference on August 16. MACo First Vice President and Calvert County Board of Commissioners' President Wilson Parran thanked the Governor for having a close working relationship with the counties. "There can be no doubt where MACo stands with Governor O'Malley," he stated.

The Governor responded, "On behalf of everyone in the O'Malley-Brown Administration, I thank you so very much for your hard work, your partnership, your support for the important and shared work of advancing the common good of the people of Maryland... I hope that MACo takes pride that we are doing better than before," highlighting "... We are making sure every dollar of Program Open Space funding is spent on the purchase of open land... We've increased by 350% what we spend on school construction funding."

He noted that his Administration has formed partnerships to strengthen the middle-class and improve public safety and education, but warned that Maryland's energy future had not yet been addressed. "Free markets alone will not secure that future," the

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Governor cautioned, "If we want a more secure, more renewable, and more affordable energy future, then there are things that we must do together to bring about that stronger future that we prefer."

Governor O'Malley cited several energy policy accomplishments of his Administration, including: the recovery of \$2 billion dollars for Maryland energy consumers; ending unfair billing practices that added \$85 million annually in costs to energy consumers; striking down rules that allowed generators to charge above-market prices; and participating in a four-state coalition that brought a \$12 billion federal complaint against generation-holding companies.

"But we are by no means out of the woods," he advised, "The road ahead is going to be far more challenging..." He warned that the State faces the prospect of brownouts and rolling blackouts by 2011 unless the State's power generation and transmission infrastructure is improved.

"There are two hard realities that we must accept if we are to move forward," he explained, "First, deregulation alone – that is free market competition under current [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission] rules – has failed us... Which brings me to the second hard reality: our energy future is closely and inextricably linked to rapidly rising global market demand."

"Against these new realities come our shared imperatives. In the short term, our mission is to combat unfairly tilted markets and profiteering on energy prices, while committing ourselves to great conservation in order to avoid the economic and social disruption of rolling brown-outs or black-outs. And in the long term, our mission is to accelerate a better mix of new power generation technology and renewable resources to take us through the next several decades."

Governor O'Malley offered six suggestions to address the challenges he cited: (1) partnering with counties and municipalities to develop smaller scale "peaking plants" that would generate power during peak usage times; (2) becoming a national leader in renewable energy by better harnessing wind, solar, and bio-fuel; (3) accelerating the deployment of "smart meters", which would charge consumers less for electricity during non-peak times; (4) encouraging federal agencies to maintain on-site generation that can also act as peaking plants; (5) providing assistance to lower income citizens who are struggling to afford

energy costs; and (6) directing the utilities to find or build new energy generation to address future supply shortfalls.

He stated that re-regulation would not solve the State's energy problems. "With that said," he clarified, "if we're willing to reach a consensus that re-regulation can mean something other than taking back power plants, there are solid potential options. We've asked the [Public Service Commission] to investigate and offer a report on several of them."

The Governor expressed hope that Baltimore County Executive and MACo President Jim Smith would quickly recover from his recent triple bypass surgery. He expressed regret for the passing of two members of the MACo family – former Montgomery County Council Member and MACo President Marilyn Praisner and MACo Administrative Specialist Becky Black. He also acknowledged the service of outgoing MACo Executive Director David Bliden.

Contact: Leslie Knapp Jr.

State Leaders Meet with Officers During Conference

During the Summer Conference, MACo's officers met with House Speaker Mike Busch, Attorney General Doug Gansler, and House Environmental Matters Chair Maggie McIntosh. MACo 1st Vice-President and Calvert County Commission President Wilson Parran coordinated the conversations, filling in for MACo President Jim Smith, who missed the Conference due to heart by-pass surgery.

The Thursday meeting with Chairperson McIntosh focused on anticipated 2009 Session growth management and speed camera legislation, issues that would be considered by her committee. MACo Immediate Past President and Frederick County Commission President Jan Gardner joined the conversation, as one of MACo's two representatives to the Growth Task Force.

Commission President Parran highlighted the successful collaboration between MACo, the Administration, and the Critical Area Commission that secured passage of the Administration's Critical Area bill, urging that a similar format be used for consideration of any growth management proposals.

Chairperson McIntosh advised she initially felt the bill would not pass in 2008 and was pleased with the collaboration that ultimately secured its passage. She indicated the dialogue provided an appropriate format for future deliberations on complicated and controversial bills.

Commission President Gardner raised concerns with the dilution of MACo representation on the Growth Task Force, objecting to the discussion of creating an empirical model for assessing county comprehensive plans. She also objected to efforts to impose one unit to 20 acre zoning in preservation areas, noting the efforts' failure to consider political realities and other county preservation successes. Harford County Executive David Craig suggested that efforts to impose the density requirement through MDP leveraging agricultural program certification could undermine a program in his county that has been rated the 10th best in the country.

Executive Director David Bliden noted that MACos' support of the 2006 Agricultural Stewardship bill, that made plan certification significant, was premised on the specific intent for an annual \$20 million new investment in agricultural easement acquisition. He argued that the envisioned program enhancement, which has never materialized, would ameliorate objections to downzoning in preservation areas. Without the investment, he continued, leveraging plan certification is both "unfair and unrealistic."

"We get a bum rap," noted Commission President Parran, suggesting a general failure of State policymakers to appreciate the challenges of landuse management. Executive Director Bliden noted that the move of Delegate Barry Glassman, a former Harford County Council member, from the Committee, due to his assumption of a vacated Senate seat, was problematic, as Senator Glassman was knowledgeable and engaged in local landuse issues. Chairperson McIntosh assured the officers that her Committee has a foundation in land use, observing that she had always accommodated MACo requests for Committee briefings and meetings with her personally.

Responding to Charles County Commission President Cooper's stated disappointment with the failure of the speed camera bill, Chairman McIntosh expressed both her disappointment and anger. She indicated she was working for its 2009 passage, having spoken to Senate President Miller on several occasions.

Allegany County Commissioner Bob Hutcherson

MACo Annual Winter Conference



Know Best Grow Best

January 7-9, 2009

Hyatt Regency

Chesapeake Bay Hotel

Hotel Reservations:

(800) 233-1234 or

(410) 901-1234

\$131 single/double

72-hour cancellation policy

(Room block released 12/5)

For More Details:

www.mdmcounties.org

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raised the immense challenges arising from the steep decline in POS funding. He suggested a revisit of the \$21 million diversion of local POS funds to State parks, when economic conditions improved.

The Friday lunch meeting with Speaker Busch began with Commission President Parran raising concern that although the House leadership appreciates the MACo partnership in addressing the structural deficit, other members may not. We are "...very appreciative," responded the Speaker, specifically citing MACo's support for State tax increases as being most noticed.

"I don't envy that," observed the Speaker, responding to Commission President Parran's explanation of the great challenge that growth management presents to county officials. He expressed frustration with a failure to appreciate county efforts and successes, raising again, with County Executive David Craig, concerns with advocacy to mandate one unit per 20 acre zoning in preservation areas. "We don't have sprawl," advised Commission President Cooper, referring to Charles County preserving more than 50% of its acreage. Speaker Busch acknowledged the need to maintain landuse decision-making at the "local level."

"It was a great example of a collaborative effort," observed the Speaker, referring to last Session's passage of Critical Area legislation reform. We "...urge using Critical Area..." as a model for any future growth management deliberation.

"I hope the economy proves strong enough so [the State] will not pass..." additional burdens to the counties, said the Speaker, suggesting that passage of the slots referendum might justify accessing the State's reserve fund to ameliorate the burdens of the economic downturn. He specifically noted the fiscal stress to counties resulting from the drastic decline in recordation and transfer tax revenues.

I am "with you," advised Speaker Busch regarding securing another year's waiver for local health departments making an OPEB payment to the State, estimated at \$25 million for FY 2009. He also raised the future prospect of adjusting the \$21 million deduction from local POS, now dedicated to State parks.

Commissioner Hutcheson thanked the Speaker for his leadership in school construction and renovation funding. He highlighted the county contribution of over \$2 for every State dollar, making last Session's \$333 million appropriation result in an over \$1 billion investment.

During the Saturday meeting with Attorney General Gansler, the Attorney General advised that he was considering advocating for the broader federal standard for standing in court cases affecting permits. Executive Director Bliden raised MACo's consistent objection to any easing of standards for a person to bring an action regarding county permit actions. Commission Presidents Cooper and Gardner noted the practical implications of project delays, with Commission President Gardner citing a \$2 million cost increase for a specific project delay.

Attorney General Gansler suggested county attorneys might prefer the federal standard, as it would facilitate the litigation being in State rather than federal courts. Mr. Bliden agreed to share comments from county attorneys regarding the proposal, once the Attorney General's Office (AOG) provided specifics.

Commission President Parran suggested developing protocols for consultation regarding bills of likely concern to the counties which the AOG might seek to be introduced or on which the AOG may be taking a position, explaining the great success MACo has had with similar protocols issued by the O'Malley Administration. Attorney General Gansler observed that the bills would have to clear county impact, and with that caveat, agreed to implement protocols. He asked MACo to craft the initial proposal. Mr. Bliden advised the proposal would incorporate the tenets of the Administration protocols.

Mr. Bliden raised the protocols issued by former Attorney General Joe Curran regarding relations between local government law offices and the AOG, controlling matters such as litigation in which both the State and a county are parties. He suggested that a review and "re-invigoration" was now appropriate. The Attorney General advised that review had already been initiated, with Mr. Bliden suggesting that a formal meeting be convened during the October 22-24 Administrators and Attorneys Conference in Annapolis.

Contact: David S. Bliden

2009 Legislative Initiative Selection Process Underway

One component of MACo's "interim" legislative activities during the period between legislative sessions is the selection of its initiative legislation for the coming year. Each year, MACo's Legislative Planning Committee focuses on suggestions from county officials and eventually proposes a slate to the MACo Legislative Committee for approval. This year, the Legislative Planning Committee met twice this summer, and has directed MACo staff to continue researching remaining items in contention.

Two initiatives have been selected for several consecutive years. MACo has been regularly focusing on the need to defend county budgets against untoward cuts or shifting of responsibility resulting from state budget reconciliation. Additionally, MACo has used the initiative process to highlight county commitment to public school renovation and construction, which has served to bolster the state's commitment to school capital funding in recent years. Each of these topics remains on the list for consideration.

The Legislative Planning Committee has reduced a list of more than 20 submissions to six, and will meet October 8 to finalize its recommendations for the Legislative Committee's approval at its meeting that day.

Contact: *Michael Sanderson*

indication of stress on homeowners... as many such properties are likely in mortgage default as well." He also cited additional activity from banks and lenders making tax payments to redeem defaulted property taxes.

Two county budget officers joined Mr. Sanderson to share a perspective from county finances. Jonathan Seeman, Director of Prince George's County's Office of Management and Budget, detailed the county's plan to "already look to make some cutbacks" in the just-begun fiscal year. He noted that the county was "reopening discussions with labor unions," to address expected revenue shortfalls, as he observed that the county "has limited revenue options." He forecasted "difficulty with the year ahead."

Ted Zaleski, Director of Budget for Carroll County, spoke of that county's "very thin margin for error." He noted that the county had been prudent in planning for difficult times, and "avoided making costly commitments with short-term revenues or one-time surpluses." He stated that the county's fiscal situation was stable, but "there's very little room for more bad news. We are okay now, but can't really take much more."

The county panel was followed by a discussion with several municipal representatives, who echoed similar observations and focused on city and town reliance on property taxes.

Contact: *Michael Sanderson*

County Budget Perspective Offered to Senate Committee

The Senate Budget and Taxation Committee discussed the Maryland economy, with an eye toward revenues at its July 8 meeting. A presentation from the Department of Legislative Services reviewed a variety of indicators detailing the "sluggish" economy, and revealed indicators from employment data, unemployment claims, and unsold housing stock that suggested a continuation of the current weakness.

In his comments to the Committee, MACo Legislative Director Michael Sanderson reflected on the spring's county tax sales as a "bellwether" for overall economic troubles – and he reported that counties "are seeing an increase in properties going to tax sale, an

Public Information Act Concerns Discussed at Workgroup Meeting

MACo and MML representatives met with members of the MD-Delaware-DC Press Association on July 17 to address concerns raised by both groups about Maryland's Public Information Act (PIA). Maryland Attorney Generals Office and the Open Meetings Compliance Board representatives were also in attendance.

During the 2008 Session, the Association raised two issues about the PIA: (1) uniform access to police records; and (2) better protocols for electronic record (e-record) requests. Delegate Dan Morhaim, Chair of the Government Operations Subcommittee, requested that

a stakeholders group be formed between local governments and the press to address each side's concerns. In response, MACo, MML, and the Association formed an informal workgroup.

At the meeting, Press Association President John Murphy clarified the issues the Association would like to see addressed with respect to police and e-records: (1) uniform access to police records throughout the State; (2) access to arrest records on a compilation, rather than an individual basis; (3) clarification on a jurisdiction's requirements to perform database queries based on a press request; (4) requiring jurisdictions to provide e-records in a user-friendly electronic format; (5) creation of websites that act as "reading rooms" where the press can freely access certain data without making a PIA request; and (6) creation of an ombudsman, committee, or other intermediary to resolve PIA conflicts without having to go to court.

MACo and MML also raised several PIA concerns, including: (1) abusive information requests; (2) the requirement under the PIA that jurisdictions must get a court order before they can release certain categories of information; and (3) abuse of court discovery rules through the PIA.

The two groups agreed to provide specific examples of the problems they cited. The PIA workgroup is set to meet again on September 4.

Contact: Leslie Knapp Jr.

Counties Receive Advisory on Income Tax Distributions

Each county's budget or finance officer received guidance on August 11 from the Office of the Comptroller regarding expected income tax distributions, essentially arising from new tax laws going into effect for calendar year 2008. The letter detailed the expected county losses from the increase in personal exemption amounts from \$2,400 to \$3,200 for most taxpayers. Because county income taxes are based on the state-defined taxable income, an increase in most taxpayers' personal exemption means a reduction not only in state tax liability but also in county tax liability.

The letter also discusses difficulties in predicting and accounting for employer migration to revised tax

withholding tables, making a forecast of county-by-county projections for quarterly distributions even more problematic than usual. The letter specifies that "to avoid [an] overdistribution and, perhaps more importantly, the misinterpretation of revenue performance that could result, we are considering altering the distribution methodology." While the mid-year distributions, and the formula for arriving at them, is being discussed, the ultimate distributions will remain the same. A summarizing comment in the letter indicates, "each county will continue to receive by the time of the last reconciling distribution for a tax year every dollar of local income tax that is reported on an individual income tax return."

County officials with additional questions are invited to contact Michael Sanderson at MACo, or George Freyman at the Office of the Comptroller for more information.

Contact: Michael Sanderson

County Government Salary Survey Underway

MACo Assumes Project

MACo has undertaken the project of conducting an annual Maryland County Government Salary Survey for distribution to county human resource directors, budget and finance directors and county administrators and other interested parties. This survey was previously conducted bi-annually by the Institute for Governmental Service and Research (IGSR) University of Maryland. However, due to funding constraints, IGSR opted to discontinue the survey and publication.

Previous IGSR surveys included both county and municipal government salary information. The MACo survey will only include county government salary information and there is a similar project underway by the Maryland Municipal League to survey municipalities.

A workgroup of several county human resources directors and staff began meeting this spring to review the IGSR 2007 Survey and develop the model for the 2008 Survey. Workgroup members include Carole Hammen and Kim Frock, Carroll County, Teresa Tacka, Baltimore County, Art Griffin, Howard County, Beverly Churchill and Tina Miles, Queen Anne's County, Donna

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Nichols and Barbara Imwold, Cecil County, Joe Adler and Michael Lewis, Montgomery County, Marlene Carter, Anne Arundel County, Becky Dennis, Dorchester County, Brian Westfall, Allegany County, and Karen Gates and June Robrecht, St. Mary's County.

A special thanks should be extended to the final workgroup members who met on August 12 to make the final changes and corrections. They include Beverly Churchill, Kim Frock and Art Griffin.

The surveys are being mailed this week to the primary HR contact in each county. The deadline for submitting the completed surveys is October 15. The targeted date for publication in book form and on www.mdcounties.org is the end of November.

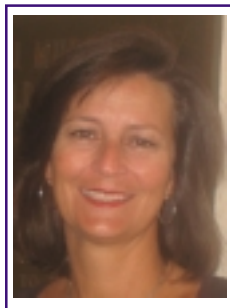
New MACo staff member, Karla Hutchins khutchins@mdcounties.org and Ellen Clarke eclarke@mdcounties.org are conducting the Survey and should be contacted for more information at (410) 269-0043.

Contact: *Ellen Clarke*

New MACo Colleague: *Karla Hutchins*

Karla Hutchins has joined the MACo staff of eight members. She joined the MACo team two weeks prior to the Annual Summer Conference in Ocean City.

Karla comes to MACo after serving as an Administrative Assistant for the Harford County delegation in the House of Delegates during the 2008 Legislative Session. Prior to that time, she served as a sales and marketing representative for NVR, Inc., a residential developer, where she received several awards for excellence; as a campaign manager for United Way of Central Maryland; and as a flight attendant for US Airways, where she worked 10,000 flights across the world.



She has a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Baltimore and is a member of the International Toastmasters Association.

“Karla really proved her capabilities at the Summer Conference, where she hit the ground running without a single misstep. She will be a great asset to the MACo team”, said Executive Director David Bliden.

Karla and her husband, Keith, reside in Annapolis with their two dogs, Pebbles and Selma. She enjoys reading and traveling.

Contact: *Ellen Clarke*

Promoting Technology in County Government

MACo's Annual Summer Conference in Ocean City again exceeded expectations, with a record breaking 284 exhibitors. The Conference lived up to its theme of “Promoting County Government Through Technology” with general sessions and many affiliate sessions carrying out that theme.

The conference featured a full day of programming on Wednesday, beginning with a Base Realignment and Closure Program (BRAC) briefing by Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, Secretary of the MD Department of Planning (MDE) Rich Hall, and presidents of the Army Alliance, the Fort Meade Alliance, and the Southern Maryland Naval Alliance.

MACo affiliate meetings included those of the County Human Services Directors, Parks and Recreation Directors, Administrators, Budget and Finance Directors, Public Information Officers, Health Officers, and Attorneys. State government group meetings included a Critical Area Briefing, and an Open Forum with MDE Secretary Shari Wilson and MDP Secretary Rich Hall. Other groups holding meetings included the Upper Shore Regional Council, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council Management Committee, and the MEDA Board. MACo Committee and Board meetings and a County Elected Officials Breakfast were also held.

The closing address on Saturday featured Governor Martin O'Malley, who addressed a packed room of county and State officials on state energy policies. Other elected official participants included U.S. Congressmen Dutch Ruppersberger, Speaker of the House Mike Busch, Senate Majority Leader Ed Kasemeyer, Senate Finance Chairman Mac Middleton, Senators George Edwards, Jim Robey, and Nancy Jacobs, House Appropriations Chairman Norman

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Conway, House Environmental Matters Committee Chair Maggie McIntosh, Delegates Addie Eckardt, Murray Levy, Adrienne Jones, Talmadge Branch, Dana Stein, Jim Mathias, and Dan Morhaim.

Other prominent speakers included American University Professor Joseph Graf, Communications Consultant Carolyn Sawyer, *Maryland Politics Today* blogger Ken Burns, Dr. James Ball, President, Chesapeake College, and Jeanne Allert, President, Ellipsis Partners.

Mark your calendars now for the upcoming Annual Winter Conference January 7-9, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel in Dorchester County. Hotel, schedule, and registration information is now

posted on www.mdcounties.org

The 2009 Summer Conference will be held again August 12-15, 2009 in Ocean City. It is strongly recommended that hotel reservations for Ocean City be made by the first of the new year, and cancelled later as needed.

Contact: *Ellen Clarke*

Briefly

Maryland's Online Farmer's Market Website

The Environmental Finance Center located at the UM announces the launch of Foodtrader.org, a virtual farmer's market that will connect both buyers and sellers with local food as soon as it is harvested. In concert with its sister site Agtrader.org, Foodtrader.org will give consumers access to the rich diversity of agricultural resources within the state. With Foodtrader.org, farmers can create an instantaneous listing that will identify the description, quantity, price, and location of their items. Consumers can search listings within specific categories and communicate directly with the farmer to buy the food at the farm, at a farmers market or at another prearranged location. This site also allows for producers and consumers to post listing for events and wanted items. Visit www.foodtrader.org, or contact Joanne Throwe at 301/405-5036.

NACo launches Healthy Counties Database

The National Association of Counties today announced the release of the Healthy Counties Database, a new resource containing more than 100 profiles of model policies, programs and initiatives that counties nationwide enacted to prevent childhood obesity. The database is designed to help county officials promote healthy living by improving the health of their environments. Each individual profile includes a brief description of the practice, county demographics, contact information, funding sources and additional resources. The Healthy Counties Database is available at www.healthycounties.org/database. Support for the Healthy Counties Database is provided by Leadership for Healthy Communities, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

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Job Openings

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST III (TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGER), FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – MONTGOMERY COUNTY, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850. Requisition #3297. Salary: \$59,345 - \$98,513. Paper resumes are not accepted. All applicants must apply online. Employee will be responsible for managing the inventory, distribution and maintenance of telecommunications technology devices (including radios, wireless phones, blackberries and pagers), as well as recommending and implementing new devices and technology, within the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS). Requires: Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or related field and 3 years experience in a program/ specialization area directly related to the assignment, i.e., mobile and portable data communications devices. Equivalency applies. For job specific information, Preferred Criteria and online application submission, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov – click on “Careers” - “Current Job Opportunities” – “Information Technology” – Requisition #3297, IT Specialist III (Telecommunications Manager). **Closing date 9/19/08.** EOE MFD

ADMINISTRATOR TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL - HOWARD COUNTY - Seeking an Administrator to the County Council. The Administrator supervises the staff of the County Council and oversees the legislative process. The ideal candidate will be experienced in managing and motivating staff; knowledgeable about local law, the legislative process and the structure of governance; and skillful at drafting legislation, conducting legal and policy research, and writing. Minimal requirements include at least 8 years of related experience and a bachelor's degree; a graduate or law degree and senior-level, related administrative experience are preferred. Salary range: \$91,915 to \$148,283. Applicants should submit a Howard County job application (available at www.howardcountymd.gov), a resume, and a letter of interest **by October 6, 2008** to Administrator, Howard Co. Council, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III (LABOR RELATIONS SPECIALIST) MONTGOMERY CO. FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES (MCFRS), 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850. Position involves work in labor and employee relations, including the coordination of investigations with the MCFRS Internal Affairs Officer; conducting disciplinary examinations of employees; preparing Statement of Charges documents, Notice of Disciplinary Action documents and other adverse employment action documents; representing the department in alternative dispute resolution processes, including the preparation of cases for hearings; receiving and evaluating employee responses to proposed adverse actions; and providing advice to staff concerning discipline, labor and performance matters. Requires: Bachelor's Degree and 3 years experience in employee relations and/or labor relations. Equivalency accepted. View additional job specific information, preferred criteria, and on-line application at www.montgomerycountymd.gov – click on “Careers” –

“Current Job Opportunities” - “General Professional” category and click on Requisition #3293, Administrative Specialist III. Paper resumes are not accepted. All applicants must apply online. **Closing date is 9/23/08.** EOE MFD

LAND SURVEY SUPERVISOR – DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION – MONTGOMERY COUNTY – 101 Monroe St. 9th Fl. Rockville, MD. Requisition ID 3280. Salary Range: \$54,054 - \$89,596. Paper resumes are not accepted. All applicants must apply online. Employee will be responsible for directing field survey crews, ensuring integrity of all land surveying requirements, evaluating and advising on survey data, and computing mathematical and geometric information necessary prior to assignment of work to field crews. Duties include: directing the work of field survey crews and computational survey technicians; evaluating and certifying survey work for topographic and boundary surveys; preparation and/or review of documents such as plats, legal property descriptions, or deeds; evaluating and approving survey work for right-of-way design and construction performed by consultants or County staff; interpreting and explaining survey data to project managers, engineers, attorneys, etc.; and researching County land records. The incumbent works independently and is technically responsible for survey work and the data obtained. Guidelines are available in the form of State survey laws and Department policies and procedures. The complexity of the work is characterized by the analysis of the field survey data, deeds, and plats where information is frequently incomplete, inaccurate, or contradictory. The incumbent must make decisions concerning the adequacy and accuracy of this information in order to validate the results. The work of the incumbent affects the accuracy of survey work and, consequently, the accuracy of plats, deeds, and baselines and right-of-way lines for construction projects. An incumbent of this class is required to occasionally respond to the field to assist the County survey crews, to observe field conditions, or to verify data and information obtained by the County survey crews or by consultants. The incumbent may need to contact other agencies for information, such as horizontal and vertical controls; confers with other interested parties concerning survey data; prepares reports, survey work cost estimates, records of unit activity, and correspondence for signature of senior personnel regarding survey work and data; and performs other duties as required. Field work may involve exposure to a variety of conditions (e.g. bad weather, traffic, dust, noise, etc.); the use of safety equipment such as safety shoes and reflective vests; occasional periods of standing, walking over rough terrain, bending, stooping and occasional lifting of objects up to 50 pounds. Minimum Education/Experience: High School Diploma or GED and extensive seven (7) years experience in procedures, practices, use of equipment, review of collected data, review of plans, plats, and deeds, and conduct of construction survey work. Licensing: Possession of certification as a Professional Land Surveyor or Property Land Surveyor by the State of Maryland. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be substituted except there is no equivalency for the licensing

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requirement. To view entire job announcement and to apply online, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/careers. **Position is open until filled.**

MANAGER III (VOLUNTEER MANAGER), FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - MONTGOMERY COUNTY - 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850, Requisition #2988 Salary: \$63,411 - \$115,901. Job Summary: Paper resumes are not accepted. All applicants must apply online. Immediate opening to work under the direction of the Chief, Division of Volunteer Services, in the promotion and integration of activities of the volunteer and career fire and rescue personnel. Primary duties include providing technical, operational, budgetary, administrative support and assistance to the Local Fire and Rescue Departments (LFRDs); coordinating, planning, researching, developing and implementing programs with the LFRDs to improve volunteer recruitment and retention, risk management, and volunteer training under the direction of the DVS Chief. Applicants with experience in a combination fire and rescue service delivery system are preferred. Minimum Qual.: Bachelor's Degree in Public or Business Adm. or related field and five (5) years of progressively responsible professional experience in planning program management work related to volunteer organizations. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be substituted. For more information, including preferred criteria and application process, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov - click on "Careers" then "Current Job Opps." then continue to the Managerial Executive Career Field, Requisition ID 2988. Applications **must be received by 9/10/2008**. EOE M/F/H

HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST III (GAIN SHARING) – OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES – MONTGOMERY COUNTY - 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD. Requisition #3288 - Salary Range: \$56,631 - \$93,944. Job Summary: Paper resumes are not accepted. All applicants must apply online. This is a term position, funded through June 30, 2010, continued Employment beyond that date is contingent upon renewal of term. This position coordinates the application of a bonus incentive system (i.e., Rewarding Excellence program) covering, potentially, all County employees. The work requires significant knowledge/ understanding of the concepts and methods of Gain Sharing as a mechanism to motivate employee performance as well as understanding of the audience to which Gain Sharing is targeted which will vary from department to department. The work requires considerable resourcefulness and creativity to communicate the key aspects of Gain Sharing to a wide and diverse audience and to relay the importance of participating in the Rewarding Excellence program. Measuring feedback and making modifications/ adjustments in the message, accordingly, is another key component of the job to assure successful communication. Additionally, the incumbent is responsible for coordinating the availability of Countywide training to ensure adequate preparation for the various participants. Finally, as the focal point in this Countywide effort, the incumbent is in a position to observe, track, and report on the operation of the Rewarding Excellence program; provide up-front guidance

to those participating or planning to participate; and provide first/initial response to problems. Successful candidate must be able to work collaboratively with employee organizations and within the confines of the collective bargaining agreements. Minimum Qualifications: Requires a Bachelor's Degree and three (3) years applicable experience in program management/ development and conducting training needs and assessments. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be substituted. Preferred Criteria: Resumes should include information specific to the preferred criteria listed below. 1. Demonstrated knowledge of principles, practices, requirements, systems, procedures and methods of the compensation/ performance rewards area of human resources. 2. demonstrated experience in calculating bonuses for non-exempt employees where the employees work overtime. 3. Demonstrated experience in communication and oral presentations, communicating new concepts and ideas relevant to Gain Sharing principles, procedures, and requirements to multiple audiences with demonstrated cultural competence and with organizations in varying situations. 4. Demonstrated experience in facilitating participation through collaboration and coordination with union and mgmt. officials/staff at all levels and with a diverse group of individuals. If selected for consideration for a position, you may be required to provide evidence that you possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities indicated on your resume. To apply, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov <<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/>> Click on Careers, click on Current Job Opportunities, scroll to General Professional Category, and click on Requisition #3288, Human Resources Specialist III (Gain Sharing). **Position closes on 9/15/08**. EOEMFD

MANAGER III – CHIEF PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT SECTION – DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION - MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Salary: \$63,411 - \$115,901. Paper resumes are not accepted. All applicants must apply online. Seeking a highly motivated individual with a Bachelor's Degree and five (5) years of progressively responsible professional experience in pavement management, highway maintenance, highway design, or highway construction. To view entire job announcement and to apply online, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/careers. Requisition ID 3255, **closes September 5, 2008**.

MANAGER III – CHIEF HIGHWAY OPERATIONS – DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Salary: \$63,411 - \$115,901. Paper resumes are not accepted. All applicants must apply online. Seeking a highly motivated individual with a Bachelor's Degree and five (5) years of progressively responsible professional experience in highway organizational management involving the maintenance, repair and construction of transportation infrastructure to include highways roads, bridges, storm drains and related structures. To view entire job announcement and to apply online, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/careers. Requisition ID 3257, **closes September 5, 2008**.