



# Government Affairs Newsletter

Oct. 14 - Oct. 18

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## LOWER EASTERN SHORE ACTIVITY

Good Afternoon Everyone,

A reminder to keep an eye out for MIA's information gathering session coming in two weeks as well as the public hearing for the R-1 and Mobile Home rental restrictions in Ocean City on October 22nd. I'm in the process of drafting our statement on this matter so please share any thoughts you have with me. I'm attaching a draft of that statement in this email.

Also, we have set February 12th for Lobby Day in Annapolis. Please let me know if you're interested in attending so I can get a sense of numbers. Also, there will be vacancies with MR's RPAC Trustees. This is a good opportunity for CAR members to have a voice in evaluating state-level candidates. Let me know if you're interested and we can begin the application process.

I was made aware of a \$1,000 grant available to us through MR. I want to talk about how we want to use that money before the funds expire at the start of the new year.

Please call or email me with any questions or concerns. And please let me know of any issues you hear.

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# Worcester County

## ***R-1 UPDATE***

I'm not seeing much regarding Worcester this week. Again the R-1 public hearing in this next Tuesday at 6:30PM.

I'm attaching the statement I've drafted to be read by Lauren Bunting that evening. The official agenda packet has not been released so this is still a working document. Until I see what the new proposal is, I won't be able to finalize this. Please give me your feedback on this matter. A final copy should be ready Monday for you all to review. Again, I'm waiting for the town to publish their statement before moving forward with something final.



# Wicomico County

## HEALTH UPDATE

Matthew McConaughey delivered his quarterly update to the County Council. He gave a chart which shows the status of septic permitting process which I took a screen shot of.

Environmental Health Applications					
Update on Septic Permitting					
Prepared on July 1, 2024					
Septic Permitting					
*Applications Received after 1/18/2023	Current Applications	Closed Applications	Open Applications	Added Since Last Report (6/17/24)	Completed in FY 2024 (Mthly Change)
Overall	281	159 (56.6%)	122 (43.4%)	5	122 (+4)
Change From Prev. Mth	5	4	1		
Application Type					
New Construction	73 (26.0%)	62 (39.0%)	11 (9.0%)	2 (40.0%)	52 (42.6%)
Replacement	191 (68.0%)	80 (50.3%)	111 (91.0%)	3 (60.0%)	59 (48.4%)
Tank Only	17 (6.0%)	17 (10.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	11 (9.0%)
Application Received (Fiscal Year)					
FY 2023*	92 (32.7%)	63 (39.6%)	29 (23.8%)		26 (21.3%)
FY 2024	189 (67.3%)	96 (60.4%)	93 (76.2%)		96 (78.7%)
FY 2025	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)		0 (0.0%)
Average Business Days (excl. weekends and holidays)					
From App. Received to Completion		53.7 days			
From App. Received to 7/1/2024			139.3 days		



# Wicomico County

## **PERDUE LAWSUIT**

A suit from five plaintiffs has been filed against Perdue for the exposure of PFAS “forever chemicals” into local drinking water.

A suit was filed against Perdue in Wicomico County alleging that the recent PFAS chemical testing which revealed elevated levels in nearby waters was known to Perdue for up to a year before they released a public statement on the matter.

Perdue has urged nearby homeowners to test their well water and has provided water bottles to 140 homes they believe could be affected by PFAS and has reached out to 550 property owners.

Testing had been happening leading up to this suit and MDE has determined that Perdue is responsible.

[WBOC has an article on it here.](#)



# Wicomico County

## INTERVIEWS FOR SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS

### Interviews with Nominees for Supervisor of Assessments:

The department currently has 10 staff: Three commercial and residential assessors, one residential assessor, one part-time assessor, three clerical staff, an Assistant Supervisor, and the Acting Supervisor of Assessments.

#### 1. Catherine Hovance.

- Resume: Current acting Supervisor of Assessments in Wicomico. Been with the department for 17 years. Started in Worcester County as an assessor, then promoted to assessor supervisor, then assistant supervisor. Holds an Environmental Planning degree from Salisbury University. President of the Maryland Association of Assessing Officers.

#### 2. Chelsea Hogue:

- Resume: Currently a Director of Operations at Davis Strategic Development where she has worked for eight years. Started as an Executive Assistant and saw the company grow from just herself and Mr. Davis to 25 employees.

#### 3. Kimberly Sean Clog:

- Resume: Currently the Assistant Supervisor of Assessments in Worcester County. She has been with that department for over 25 years but has been a Salisbury resident for over 35 years. Has a Masters in Education from Salisbury University and a Bachelors in Psychology. Has trained and hired assessors for Wicomico County.

#### 4. Diane Jump-Lyons:

- Resume: Has been with the Wicomico Assessment department for 6 years. Began in aerospace procurement and was there for nearly 20 years. Was a loan originator for a local company. Is the Vice President of the Maryland Association of Assessing Officers. She is currently a residential assessor.

#### 5. Jessica Turner:

- Resume: She was unable to attend.



# Wicomico County

## ***COUNTY EXEC. UPDATE***

Wicomico County's credit rating has been upgraded.

Ground has broken for a project from St. John's Properties and their company is looking at more real estate to have a larger footprint in Salisbury.

Also, the HORIZON Tax Credit will be looked at during the next council meeting. This would likely be a public hearing in two weeks.



# Somerset County

## *SOMERSET COUNTY UPDATE*

I see no new news in Somerset.