

## FY11 Initiatives Update

Following is a status report of the Board of Supervisors' FY11 Initiatives through May 2011:

- **Complete the redistricting process, including the revision of district boundaries and any associated changes to precinct boundaries and polling place locations:** The Board of Supervisors adopted the 2011 Redistricting Plan on May 11, 2011. If approved by the U.S. Department of Justice, these local voting districts will be in place for the next 10 years.
- **Continue the fiscal reality assessment to determine long range impacts of the recession and key service level goals:** County staff and elected financial officers (Treasurer and Commissioner of the Revenue) continue to meet monthly to review all financial trends.
- **Update the subdivision ordinance:** This update will assure that the subdivision ordinance conforms to all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements. The Board's Community Development Committee is expected to review the draft in May, after which it will be sent to the Planning Commission for review.
- **Develop strategies that more effectively serve at-risk children served through the Comprehensive Services Act in the community:** A major part of this initiative is the creation of the new Kids' Interdisciplinary Treatment Team (KITT), a collaborative effort between the departments of Social Services, Community Resources and Community Services. KITT provides intensive community-based treatment for troubled adolescents and reduces the use of expensive and ineffective group homes or hospitals. It is intended to help keep families together and help keep children at home and in their communities. Ten children are being served so far.
- **Explore with the Historic Courthouse Area Committee and the Historical Society the possibility of enhanced uses of the 'old stone jail' for historic tourism:** The Old Stone Jail is located at Hanover Courthouse (just south of the historic Courthouse) and dates back to about 1840. It has not been used for its original purpose since about 1960 and is currently used by the Hanover Historical Society as a place where old artifacts are stored, with limited public access. The Board asked the Historical Society and the Historic Courthouse Area Committee to consider improvements to stabilize the structure and whether it could be made more accessible as a historic tourism feature. The Board accepted recommendations for short-term improvements and a plan for historic tourism access to the jail in December.
- **Coordinate a long-range water study plan with the Town of Ashland:** The State Water Control Board has asked all localities to develop local or regional water plans to be reviewed and permitted by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). County and Town staff have developed a draft and a public hearing could be held in late summer.
- **Establish an Urban Development Area that will meet State-mandated higher-density requirements:** The General Assembly mandated localities to analyze local growth patterns and have a plan to designate at least one Urban Development Area (UDA) on the County's Comprehensive Plan. The UDA(s) must be able to accommodate projected County growth for at least 10 years and up to 20 years. After staff review the Board determined in March that the existing Comprehensive Plan satisfies the UDA requirements.
- **Promote a "Buy Local Hanover" campaign to encourage County residents to shop at Hanover County stores, restaurants, and other businesses:** The County is encouraging Hanoverians to spend their money with County businesses by emphasizing the financial benefits. This echoes initiatives that have been undertaken by the Town of Ashland and the Retail Merchants Association. A joint initiative with the Public School system in the spring of 2011 resulted in a very successful receipts program.

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- **Continue to implement energy management strategies and encourage employee participation in environmental best practices:** Hanover County has undertaken a number of steps to conserve energy and protect the environment and these efforts continue. In January 2011 the County received its second consecutive “Go Green” Award, given by the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League to localities that implement specific environmental policies and practical actions that reduce carbon emissions.
- **Continue Bond Referendum project construction, including the implementation of the new communications system, construction of parks projects, and further development of the Black Creek Fire Station:** The new communications center and system became operational in the fall of 2010. The new concession/restroom facility at Pole Green Park has been completed and will be used during the upcoming spring sports season. Athletic field lighting at Pole Green and Poor Farm is expected to be completed this year along with a new picnic shelter and new multi-purpose fields at Poor Farm. New multi-purpose fields will also be constructed at Taylor Park and the parking lot expanded. Construction on the new Black Creek Fire Station is nearly complete and a grand opening will be held in June 2011.

## FY12 Adopted Initiatives

The following initiatives for Fiscal Year 2012 were adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 27, 2011:

- **Support the High Speed Internet Committee and review recommendations to determine local government's role in enabling high speed internet providers to better provide services in underserved areas:** The Board of Supervisors appointed a High-Speed Internet Committee which is meeting monthly to review the various issues associated with this initiative. The Board was updated in April. The committee will make a final report to the Board by the end of 2011.
- **Conduct the 2011 Citizens Survey:** The County will contract with the National Research Center, Inc. for a survey that will be mailed to randomly-selected households later this year. Answers to standard questions asked on previous surveys will allow the County to benchmark against past performance as well as to comparable localities in the U.S. The survey will also ask three unique questions.
- **Initiate the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan in 2012:** This will include establishing the timeline and identifying the scope and key issues to be addressed in the 2012 update. The Comprehensive Plan is updated every 5 years with the last update having occurred in 2007.
- **Update and reorganize the Zoning Ordinance:** This will be the first comprehensive review and update of uses in all of the business districts. Goals include simplifying use descriptions and where possible adding uses that did not exist when these districts were created; creating a mechanism and providing the criteria for non-listed uses; clarifying terms and removing repetitive or inconsistent use descriptions that may have developed over time; and adding definitions to clarify existing uses and for new uses that are being created.
- **Enhance the County's economic development potential in support of the Comprehensive Plan by extending water and wastewater service to the Rt. 33/I-295 corridor:** The notice to proceed with construction was issued in April and clearing has begun. Construction is expected to take about two years and the project is currently on time and under budget. The 2007 update to the Comprehensive Plan designated this corridor as being appropriate for business park development.
- **Complete the revision of the Subdivision Ordinance:** This initiative began in FY11 and will be completed in FY12. Policies will be revised and updated as appropriate to comply with State law and complement changes in the zoning ordinance.
- **Develop the model for an overall County Strategic Plan:** This will include reviewing the current vision and mission statements and defining mission focus areas and the process by which other strategic plans models would be developed, monitored and updated.