

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: November 1, 2012

Status Report

1. Melford Residential Concept Plan Discussions

On Wednesday, October 31st, staff met with representatives of St. John Properties to begin discussions regarding amending the current City covenants to allow a residential concept for Melford, per Council's direction at the September 18th City Council Meeting. Architect Mike Rosen of The Martin Architectural Group presented a schematic drawing showing a possible neighborhood design. The design includes multifamily senior housing units, "brownstone" townhome units, several types of multifamily (primarily rental apartment) units, and approximately 29,000 square feet of supporting retail uses. The concept preserves the setting of the historic Melford house and creates a major east-west boulevard along which the major land uses would be organized. A large recreational amenity, such as an amphitheater, is shown at the eastern end of the boulevard overlooking an existing stormwater management pond. Another possibility shown on the plan is construction of a pedestrian bridge across the Science Drive stormwater pond to provide access to and from the future hotel site at Melford. Staff provided comments on some of the design aspects of the proposed project and the concept in general. St. John Properties is very interested in obtaining feedback from City Council on the residential concept before going any further. A presentation will be scheduled on the December 3rd agenda.

2. M-NCPPC Formula 2040

Staff attended the briefing held last week by the Park and Planning Commission. The agency is attempting to plan park and recreation needs for the next thirty years, as depicted in the attached materials.

3. American Water Resources

The City has received the attached letter from American Water Resources regarding a program they offer to provide for water line and sewer line protection for private property. We wanted the City Council to be aware of this upcoming solicitation. The

company has a right to market their product. We will ensure that the company does not represent this program as being affiliated or endorsed by the City.

4. I-Net

Included in this week's package is a copy of the 2012 Annual Report for the Prince George's County Intergovernmental Network (referred to as I-Net). The I-Net is a secure, and reliable fiber optic communications network connecting 15 local governments (including Bowie), Prince George's County government, and specific educational and public agencies. Its mission is to provide cost-effective opportunities for resource sharing between authorized users and to provide bidirectional communication between entities during both normal operations and during major emergencies.

Construction of the I-Net began in 1999 and was completed in 2002. A governance structure comprised of eight (8) separate committees was established to oversee the operations and maintenance of the system. Staff from the City of Bowie serves on seven (7) of those committees.

In 2008 the I-Net was recognized by the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) as the Community Broadband Network of the Year. The network received this prestigious award in honor of its unique governance structure and its success in connecting the County, 15 municipalities, numerous schools, and first responders over fiber; for serving government and educational needs over the network; and for demonstrating how communications technology can enhance government services, save on expenditures and save energy.

This Annual Report is produced by the Prince George's Intergovernmental Network Community Coordinating Committee.

5. Red Fox Concern in "K" Section

This past week a resident reported to Animal Control that a red fox has been seen frequently in the vicinity of Kenway Lane and Killian Lane. Our Animal Control staff has indicated that it has been seen by them as well several times in the daylight hours. It appears to be an older, healthy fox. When approached, it runs away. The fox is eating from several food sources provided by residents who are feeding cats, birds and maintaining wildlife habitats. Staff advises that it is not uncommon to see wild animals such as foxes that are normally nocturnal by nature wandering around during the day. Displaced animals that are forced to coexist often change their behavior patterns.

Animal control agencies have limited authority when dealing with wildlife. All wildlife is property of the State of Maryland and protected by law with the exception of those species open for hunting and only in areas where it is permitted. Staff can apprehend wild animals when they are sick, injured or inside of a residence. Staff is not permitted to pursue healthy or nuisance wildlife. The resident has the option of obtaining a permit

for trapping using their own trap and releasing it on site. It is a violation to relocate healthy wildlife unless you have a nuisance wildlife cooperator permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources. Residents may also hire a cooperator to trap animals on their property and either euthanize or relocate them.

Animal Control continues to educate the public on these issues whenever possible. Staff does not promote trapping and promotes using exclusionary methods. Feeding is also ill advised. Staff will continue to respond to wildlife complaints (sick, injured, or located within a residence) and educate the public as frequently as possible.

Attachments



Parks and Recreation Fact Sheet

The M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County strives to be a leader in managing and maintaining public resources and delivering quality customer-focused programs by:

- Providing stewardship of our county's natural, cultural, and historical resources
- Providing recreation and leisure opportunities
- Partnering with our diverse community

Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County at a Glance

- Park Police and Park Rangers to provide safety and environmental education
- 90% funded by property tax
- Offer thousands of programs annually

THE DEPARTMENT MANAGES AND MAINTAINS

225 PICNIC AREAS
 3 tennis bubbles
 3 archery ranges
 214 outdoor tennis courts

303 playgrounds
 11 aquatic facilities

26,000+ acres of parkland
 1 marina
 3 ice rinks

43 COMMUNITY CENTERS
 3 nature centers
 4 athletic complexes
 Prince George's Equestrian Center/ ShowPlace Arena

127 PICNIC SHELTERS
 College Park Airport
 4 arts centers
 2 child care centers

8 CONSERVATION AREAS
 27 park buildings
 4 regional parks
 23 historic sites/landmarks
 1 Trap & Skeet

148 neighborhood parks
 7 cricket fields
 Prince George's Stadium

Sugar Ray Leonard Amateur Boxing Center
 5 senior activity centers

342 athletic fields
 90+ miles of hiker/biker trails
 4 golf courses



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M-NCPPC, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

LEARN ABOUT the future of your parks and recreation and give us your opinion!

Visit www.pgparcs.com/Formula2040 to:

- Review the draft recommendations and provide comments;
- Watch a video presentation on the draft recommendations;
- Request a staff presentation at the next meeting of your group or organization;
- Help us organize a focused conversation with community leaders.

What is Formula 2040?

Formula 2040 – Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Space is the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Initiative that will guide the future of parks and recreation in Prince George's County for approximately 30 years.

Incorporating community input and data gathered through the Parks & Recreation: 2010 and Beyond needs assessment, the plan is based on the concept that Parks + Recreation = Experience. Therefore, the plan's mission is to determine the right combination of land, facilities and programs that will provide the most satisfying experiences for residents of, and visitors to, Prince George's County.

What is a functional master plan?

A functional master plan is countywide in scope and is generally prepared at the request of the County Council. Functional master plans have been prepared for highways, historic sites, parks and recreation, trails, schools, and public safety.

Why are we planning for 2040?

It is estimated that by the year 2040 Prince George's County will be largely developed, with limited possibilities of acquiring larger tracks of land for conservation, facilities, and/or maintenance yards. It is important to plan for the needs of the Department of Parks and Recreation now to ensure it is able to continue to provide the most satisfying experiences for residents of, and visitors to, Prince George's County into the future.

How can I get involved?

We are looking forward to your input and participation in this process. We want to hear from you throughout the development of the draft plan. Your thoughts are essential in shaping the future of parks and recreation in Prince George's County!

To help you stay involved in the process, we ask that you:

- 🍃 Invite us to speak at your group or organization meeting by emailing Formula2040@pgparcs.com or contacting the Customer Service Help Desk 301-699-CALL (2255), TTY 301-699-2544 or help4smartlink@pgparcs.com
- 🍃 Sign up to receive email updates and provide your contact information by sending an email to: Formula2040@pgparcs.com
- 🍃 Check our website www.pgparcs.com/formula2040 for ongoing updates and additional ways to participate.
- 🍃 Contact the Customer Service Help Desk 301-699-CALL (2255), TTY 301-699-2544 or help4smartlink@pgparcs.com with any questions regarding the project.

For up-to-date information and ways to participate, visit www.pgparcs.com/formula2040

Together we can make parks and recreation an important and positive component of Prince George's County's future!

The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation by calling 301-699-CALL (2255).

Parks & Recreation
M-NCPPC
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FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan Goals

↔ CONNECTIVITY

Connect Prince George's County residents to quality parks, trails, recreational facilities and programs, and schools.

\$ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Contribute to Prince George's County economy and the financial sustainability of the community.

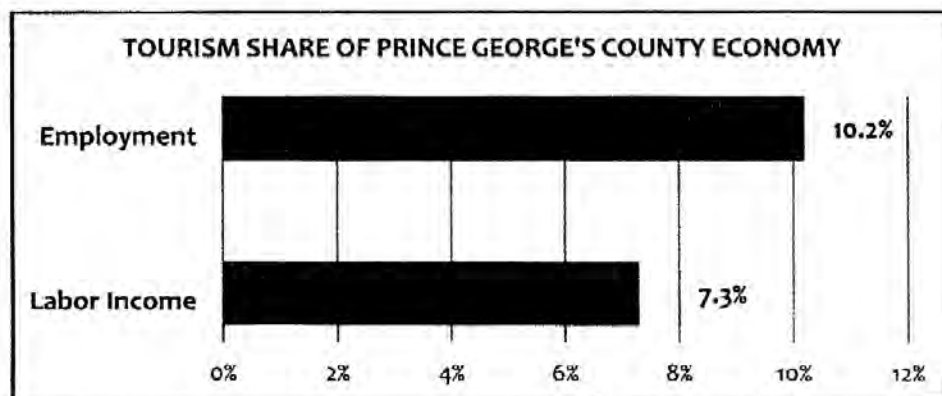
♥ HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Improve the health (physical, mental and environmental) of Prince George's County residents and promote a wellness ethic for the community as a whole.

Opportunity - Grow in economically and financially sustainable ways that use tax dollars wisely.

Background -

- We have nearly 1 million square feet of recreation facilities in our system today. We need 1.5 million square feet to serve the 1 million residents expected in the year 2040.
- Maintaining what we have is the #1 community priority. The Department needs \$130 million to take care of the current maintenance backlog.
- We have 43 community centers. Continuing to build the current model of smaller community centers is financially unsustainable.
- Prince George's County needs park and recreation facilities of regional or national prominence that regularly attract overnight visitors from outside the County. Current facilities such as the Sports & Learning Complex in Landover and the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro are limited because of insufficient hotels and restaurants. Such "signature" facilities can make significant contributions to tourism and economic development by increasing the tourism share of the County economy.





Recommendations -

1. Establish criteria for funding that will elevate the importance of facility maintenance. Some facilities do not meet new code requirements, e.g. requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Establish criteria to improve funding of maintenance projects through the capital projects budget.

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2. Provide richer recreational experience for all residents through development of larger and financially sustainable multi-generational facilities.
Ability to offer a variety of programs for the entire family at the same time will be possible at these new facilities. These community centers will be connected to the trail network and located on major routes that will have future public transit service.

♥ ↔ §

3. Add a "signature" facility or program that will raise the regional profile of Prince Georges County and stimulate economic development by attracting visitors to the county.
The County economy will benefit from facilities that attract overnight visitors.

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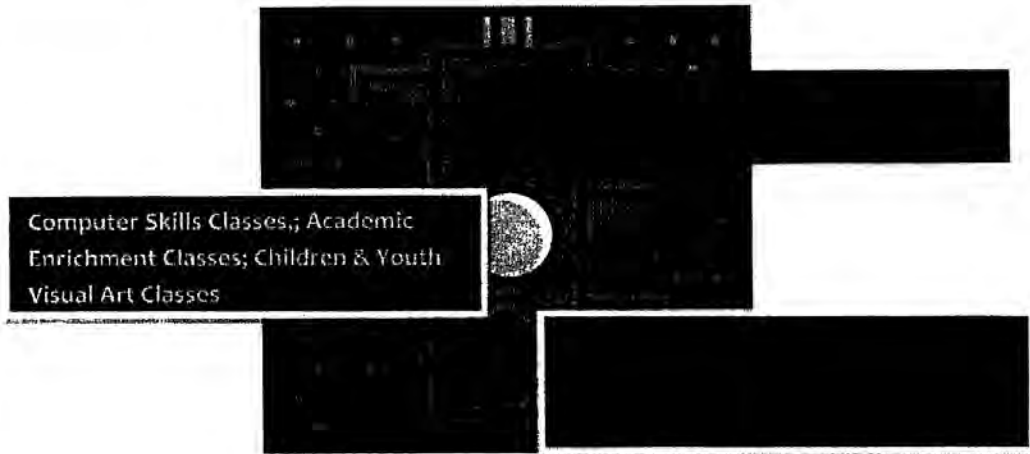
 **Parks &
Recreation**
M-NCPPC

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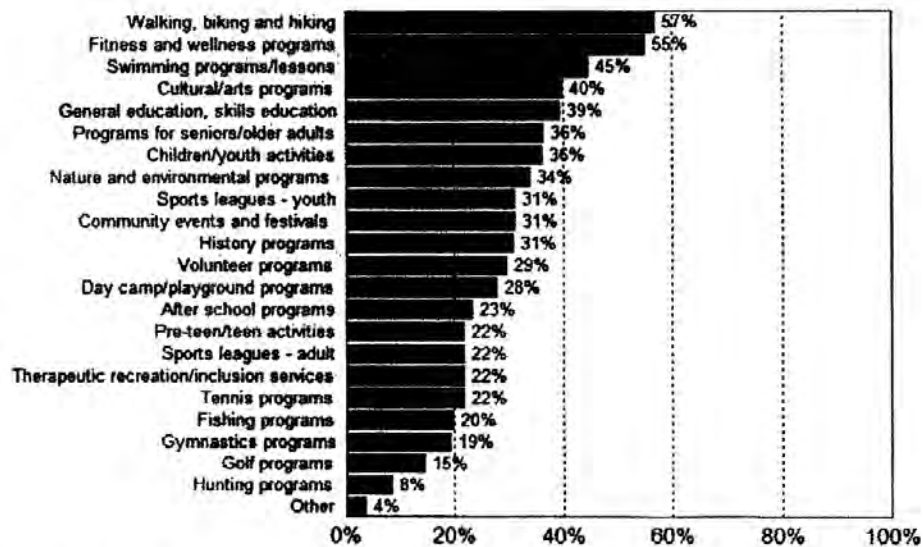
Recommendations - Use the StopLight model to establish a cost recovery strategy for every category of programming. ↔ \$ ♥

StopLight Model - Red =Value Added/Primarily individual benefit; Yellow= Important/Community and Individual benefit; Green = Essential/Community benefit



Q10. Recreation PROGRAMS That Households Have a Need For

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (July 2012)





PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

↔ CONNECTIVITY

Connect Prince George's County residents to quality parks, trails, recreational facilities and programs, and schools.

\$ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Contribute to Prince George's County economy and the financial sustainability of the community.

♥ HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Improve the health (physical, mental and environmental) of Prince George's County residents and promote a wellness ethic for the community as a whole.

Opportunity - Assure efficiency and accountability to taxpayers for our costs and charges for programs

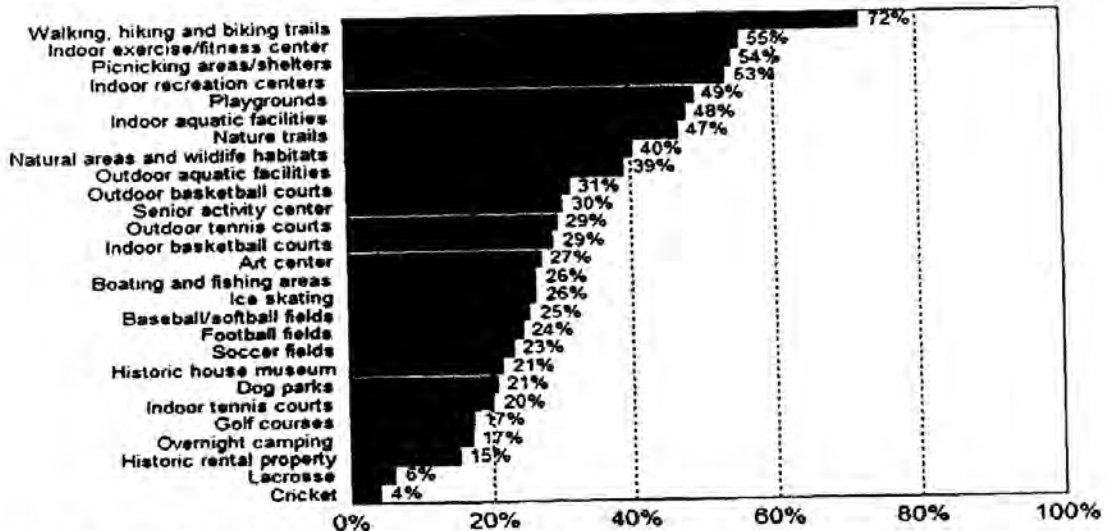
Background –

- It costs the average home owner about \$477 in taxes a year for parks and recreation services delivered by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The costs to the homeowner has been steadily declining as a result of the decline in property values.
- Your tax investment provides support for nearly 27,000 acres of parkland, a wide variety of facilities and a host of programs that add to the quality of life in the county.
- As the county population expands by 150,000, it is essential that we define and establish a pricing and cost recovery system that reflects community values. Cost recovery is the amount of revenue an agency brings in from fees, charges, and alternative funding in relation to total operating costs.
- The Stop Light Model framework establishes criteria for sorting program offerings into three categories based on the individual benefit versus overall benefit: Value Added/Important/Essential. This framework clarifies why some programs such as Safe Summer and Therapeutic Recreation are more heavily supported by tax dollars and offered at a low cost or no cost because they support a significant community need. Value added programs may already be provided by other providers and have a primarily individual benefit. These programs should be priced at the current market rate and recoup up to 100% of the cost of the program.
- During recent public meetings on FORMULA 2040, attendees generally agreed that programs with public benefit should be available at low or no cost, while those with individual benefit should be fee based and recover all or some of their costs.
- Nationally, the average amount of cost that is paid from program fees is 30%; the current rate for the Department is 6%.



Q8. Parks and Recreation FACILITIES That Households Have a Need For

by percentage of respondents (multiple choices could be made)



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (July 2012)

Recommendations

- 1. Update Developer Contribution to Park System via Mandatory Dedication**
Mandatory Dedication is a commonly used tool where developers make contributions of land, money or facilities through the planning and development process. This is a valuable tool, but the procedure for determining the contribution of land, money or facilities is currently not balanced. It must be updated to ensure fairness in value for both county residents and the development community. \$
- 2. Add a tool to address the adequacy of park and recreation facilities during the development process.** New design standards can help make sure that plans for parks and recreation facilities are sufficient to meet the needs of new residents. ♥ ↔ \$
- 3. Establish an aggressive program to add over 200 miles of new trails.**
We have 90 miles of existing trails; we need over 200 miles of new trails to serve the projected population. ♥ ↔
- 4. Set land and resource acquisition priorities.**
Important natural and historical resources can be lost in the development process. New criteria will help establish priorities for acquiring and preserving these assets. ↔ \$



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LAND RECOMMENDATIONS

Plan Goals

↔ CONNECTIVITY

Connect Prince George's County residents to quality parks, trails, recreational facilities and programs, and schools.

\$ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

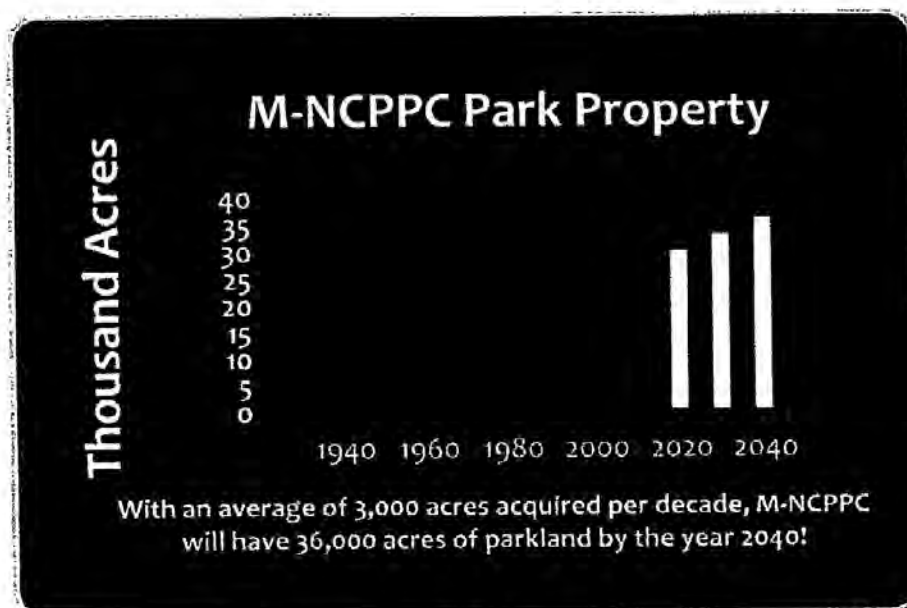
Contribute to Prince George's County economy and the financial sustainability of the community.

♥ HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Improve the health (physical, mental and environmental) of Prince George's County residents and promote a wellness ethic for the community as a whole.

Opportunity - Future opportunities for acquiring needed land for parks and recreation facilities

Background – The County is expected to grow to 1 million people by 2040 – an additional 150,000 people. The current land acquisition goal is 35 acres per 1000 people, which equals 35,000 acres for 1 million people. We currently have 27,000 acres; therefore, the need is for 8,000 additional acres by 2040. Growth projections indicate that opportunities for major land acquisition will disappear by the year 2040; therefore, we must act strategically and aggressively to reserve land for major new facilities, save our most important historic resources and preserve environmentally significant natural resources. The most significant need across the county is for additional trails, according to a recent statistically valid survey.



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Of Maryland

1025 Laurel Oak Road
Voorhees, NJ 08043

RE: Notice of Mailing to Prince George County Homeowners

1/0/0****AUTO**MIXED AADC 430
David Deutsch
City Manager
City of Bowie
15901 Excalibur Rd
Bowie, MD 20716-3910



Dear David Deutsch:

We are writing to you as a municipal leader in the Prince George County area to inform you of our upcoming mailing and educational efforts.

As you may know, most homeowners are not aware that they are responsible for the water and sewer lines running through their property. American Water Resources of Maryland will soon send a letter to Prince George County residents, informing them of their service line maintenance responsibilities. The mailing will explain that: (i) normal wear and tear can cause water line leaks or sewer line clogs and blocks, (ii) homeowners are responsible for making the necessary repairs, and (iii) repairs can cost thousands of dollars. The Water Line and Sewer Line Protection Programs offered by American Water Resources of Maryland provide homeowners with an optional means to affordably protect themselves from the expense and aggravation of service line repairs.

Please be assured that this letter explains that our programs are offered by American Water Resources of Maryland and that we are independent of Prince George County.

Based on our research, it is our understanding that service line maintenance responsibility extends from the home to the meter and from the home to the sewer main in Prince George County. We pride ourselves on accurately educating homeowners, so please let us know if this is not the situation.

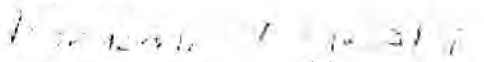
In case Prince George County homeowners have questions about American Water Resources of Maryland, below is a list of key information:

- American Water Resources is a subsidiary of American Water, the largest publicly traded water company in the country, which has served homeowners for over 126 years.
- Servicing nearly one million customer contracts nationwide.
- We are an A+ rated member of the Better Business Bureau.
- American Water Resources will only use licensed, Prince George County area contractors for repairs.
- We have been selected by the New York City Water Board as their official service line protection provider.
- 93% of our customers are very satisfied with the overall value of our program.

In addition, Prince George County can partner with American Water Resources to jointly educate homeowners in your area about their service line responsibilities and programs available to protect them from any unexpected service line repair bills. If your city is interested in partnering with us and receiving a share of the revenue, we would provide you with a turn-key program that requires minimal effort by your city.

For additional information about AWR, our programs, or how to partner and create a new revenue stream, please visit www.AWRUSA.com/info, contact me at BarbaraB@amwater.com or 856-359-2794.

Respectfully,


Barbara Boyarsky
Vice President and General Manager
American Water Resources of Maryland
1025 Laurel Oak Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043
856-359-2794