

FISCAL YEAR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Dorchester County Council's Office
501 Court Lane
Cambridge, MD 21613

County History At a Glance

Home of Harriet Tubman, Underground Railroad conductor, who led dozens of enslaved people to freedom and Anna Ella Carroll, who assisted President Abraham Lincoln in the Civil War.

Also home to seven prior Governors for the State of Maryland: John Henry; Charles Goldsborough; Thomas King Carroll; Thomas Holiday Hicks; Henry Lloyd; Emerson C. Harrington; Phillips Lee Goldsborough.

The County Seal was designed by Andrew Tolley and adopted by the County Commissioners in 1967. It depicts a waterman holding a pair of oyster tongs and a crab pot facing a farmer holding a cornstalk and pitchfork with the popular "bluecrab" at the top. The center shield is divided to show county interests: sailing, religious heritage, industry and shorelines. The background is a map of the County surrounded by blue water. On the small banner under the shield is written in Latin "Populus prope deum habitans" or "people living under the care of God". The gold banded border is imprinted with the County's name and 1669, the year the County became a unit of government.



Dorchester County Council

District #1	Jay L. Newcomb
District #2	William V. Nichols
District #3	Ricky C. Travers
District #4	George L. Pfeffer
District #5	Libby Handley Nagel

Message from the County Manager

I am pleased to present this Annual Report for Dorchester County for Fiscal Year 2020. This has proven to be a challenging year which included the ransomware attack of our computer system and the Covid-19 pandemic. I am very proud to have the honor to work with the dedicated County employees during these challenging times.

Their ability to adapt to these circumstances is admirable. Other agencies closed during the pandemic but all county departments remained open with some restrictions.

This report is intended to showcase the County and its resources and to provide up to date information on the County's activities. Also included is demographic information about the County and fiscal explanations of the FY 2020 budget year.

The County Council and its staff continually seek to achieve excellence in providing service to our citizens, always recognizing that the public deserves the utmost in customer service and care. I am pleased to provide you with this summary of local government activities.

Sincerely,

Keith Adkins

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GOALS AND PRIORITIES

- To provide effective and efficient government
- To adhere to the Charter of the County
- To manage all County resources
- To appropriately plan for the needs of constituents
- To maintain service levels and seek ongoing efficiencies
- To make Dorchester County a desired place to live and work
- To welcome visitors to the County and showcase our heritage
- To protect natural and historic resources

DORCHESTER DEMOGRAPHICS

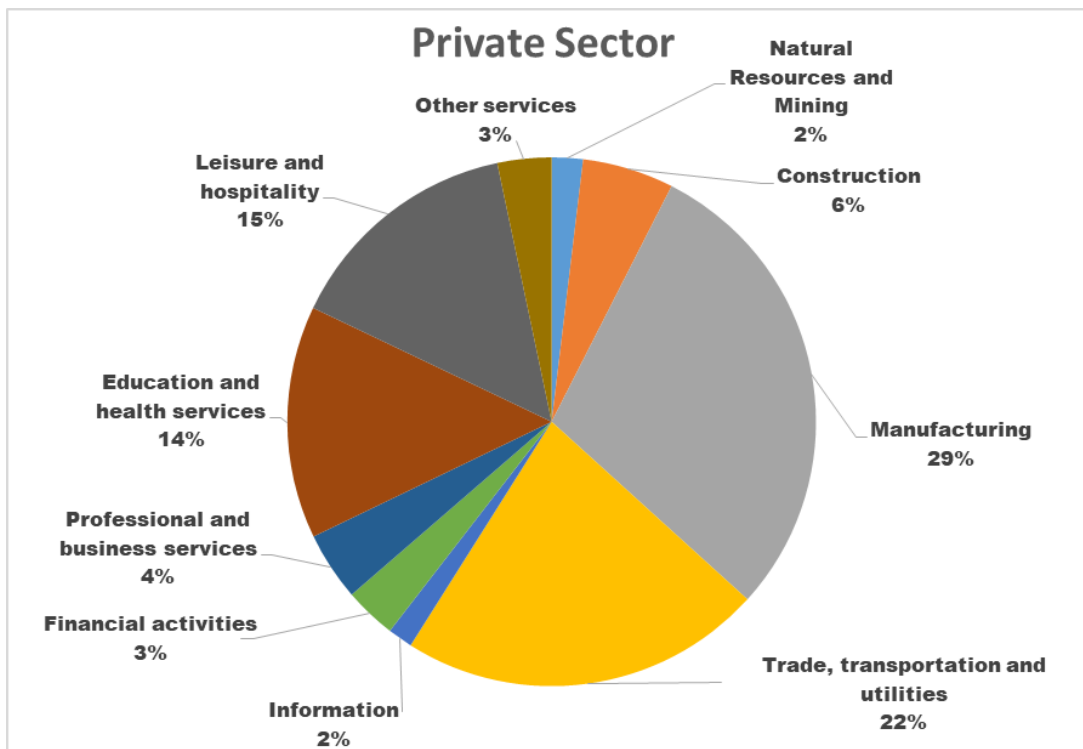
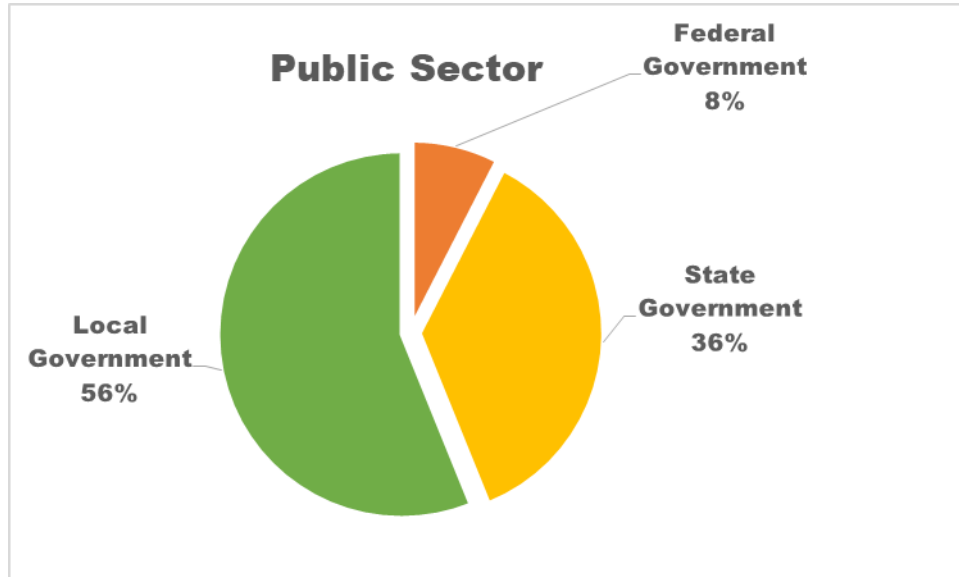
County Population

2000	30,674
2010	32,618
2020	34,300 projection

Source: 2019.2 Brief Economic Facts Sheet –Maryland Department of Commerce

DORCHESTER DEMOGRAPHICS (CONTINUED)

Employment Statistics



Source: 2019.2 Brief Economic Facts Sheet-Maryland Department of Commerce

COUNTY BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Per the County Charter, the Council is required to adopt a balanced budget no later than May 31st of each year. The County 's fiscal year is July 1st through June 30th.

In addition to funding County government services, the Council provided funding to the Board of Education and Chesapeake College.

38% of General Fund Operating Budget is devoted to education

- Number of County public school facilities: seven elementary schools, three middle schools and two high schools
- Dorchester County is one of five supporting counties for Chesapeake College, a local community college located in Wye Mills, Maryland. Other County partners include Caroline, Talbot, Queen Anne's and Kent

The FY 2020 budget was \$67,841,938 million:

- \$ 60,916,022 million operating budget
- \$ 3,632,245 million capital budget
- \$ 3,293,671 million grant budget
- Includes Landfill and Airport Enterprise Funds
- Real property tax rate remained the same

GRANT ACTIVITY

The adopted FY 2020 grant budget totaled \$3,293,671 million which included anticipated funds for the following programs:

- Family Services, Truancy Court-Circuit Court
- Critical Areas-Planning and Zoning
- Governor's Office for Children-Local Management Board-Child and Family Services
- Sheriff's Office-Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
- Grant Administration-Finance
- Marketing Tier II Grant, Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Operating Grant
- Program Open Space-Recreation and Parks

FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING

- Bulletproof Vests
- Emergency Planner Grant

STATE GRANT FUNDING

- Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention Funding-Sheriff's Office:
 - ◇ Gun Violence Reduction
 - ◇ Protective Order Entry
 - ◇ Tobacco Compliance
 - ◇ Sex Offender Monitoring
 - ◇ Highway Safety
 - ◇ Heroin Enforcement
- Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention Funding-LMB-Child & Family Services
 - ◇ Healthy Families
 - ◇ School Based Wellness
 - ◇ CSAFE/Safe Streets
 - ◇ Adventure Diversion
 - ◇ Juvenile Drug Court
- Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Funding:
 - ◇ Operation and Management of the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area
 - ◇ Marketing
 - ◇ Mini Grants
 - ◇ 350th Anniversary
 - ◇ Augmented/Virtual Reality
- Maryland Emergency Management Agency:
 - ◇ Support of local emergency management operations
- Department of Natural Resources:
 - ◇ Waterway Improvement Funds

BUDGET IN BRIEF

BUDGET SUMMARY-FY2020

Operating Budget	\$ 60,916,022
Capital Budget	\$ 3,632,245
Grants Budget	\$ 3,293,671
Total County Budget	\$ 67,841,938

OPERATING BUDGET BY FUND

Governmental Funds	
General Government	\$ 5,137,358
Public Safety	\$ 12,454,687
Social Services	\$ 176,614
Public Works	\$ 3,465,262
Miscellaneous	\$ 6,675,545
Recreation and Parks	\$ 595,314
Natural Resources	\$ 481,571
Economic Development	\$ 767,394
Debt Service	\$ 4,006,986
Education	\$ 21,181,485
Health	\$ 56,075,857
Special Revenue Funds	
Transfer Tax	\$ 852,919
Eastern Shore Innovation Center Fund	\$ 155,500
Enterprise Funds	
Airport	\$ 665,206
Landfill	\$ 2,866,845
Fiduciary-OPEB Trust	\$ 299,695

BUDGET IN BRIEF (CONTINUED)

County Bond Rating	
Moody's	Aa3
Standard & Poor's	A+
Real Property Tax Rate-FY2020	\$1.00
Real Property Tax Revenue- FY2020*	\$27,583,422
Homestead Property Tax Credit % Allowed	5%
Local Income Tax Rate	3.20%
Local Income Tax Revenue	\$14,575,935
Recordation Tax Rate (on each \$500 of the value of the transaction)	\$5.00
Recordation Tax Revenue*	\$1,990,266
Transfer Tax Rate (% of total transaction value)	.75%
Transfer Tax Revenue*	\$1,053,831
Hotel Tax	5%
Hotel Tax Revenue**	\$287,452

Source: Budgets, Tax Rates, & Selected Statistics-Fiscal Year 2020 published by the Maryland Association of Counties; County records

Note:

* Figures were provided prior to the audit and may change after it is conducted

** County's Share-Hotel tax shared with municipalities where establishment located- 1% to County/4% to municipality

LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP

Legislation

In Fiscal Year 2020 the Dorchester County Council adopted the following legislation pertaining to local government:

- Added New Article Xx, Entitled “Clean Energy Loan Surcharge – Clean Energy Loan Program”, To Chapter 144, Entitled “Taxation” Of The Dorchester County Code For The Purpose Of Defining Certain Terms; Establishing A Clean Energy Loan Program For Commercial Property Owners; Establishing The Scope Of And Eligibility For The Clean Energy Loan Program; Providing For Qualifying Criteria; Establishing A Calculation Of The Clean Energy Loan Surcharge; Providing For A Recorded Notice; Providing For The Collection Of Loan Payments; Establishing Default Procedures; Providing For Financing Of A Loan Under The Clean Energy Loan Program; Providing For The Application Of This Act; And Generally Related To The Clean Energy Loan Program And Real Property Taxes
- Pursuant To Section 40-20 Of Chapter 40 Of The Dorchester County Code Closed And Abandoned A Portion Of County Public Road Known As “Hooper Neck Road” Situate In The Fourth Election District Of Dorchester County, Maryland
- Adopted the 2020-2021 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance
- Repeal And Reenact Section 144-37 To Chapter 144, Entitled Taxation, Article X, Entitled Building Excise Tax To The Dorchester County Code To Provide That The Building Excise Tax Is Suspended For A Period Of Two Years Commencing On July 1, 2020 And Ending On June 30, 2022 And To Provide That The Building Excise Tax Does Not Apply To Building Permits Filed Between July 1, 2020 And June 30, 2022

Resolutions

In Fiscal Year 2020 the Dorchester County Council adopted the following resolutions pertaining to local government:

- To amend the County’s Schedule of Fees
- To declare an Open Air Burning Ban
- To amend the membership for the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area Management Board
- To support the submission of an application of the County Council Of Dorchester County, Maryland to the Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program for funds for Critically III Initiative for Dorchester County

FISCAL YEAR 2020 AT A GLANCE

County Council's Office

- Partnered with Finance Department in the management of County budget
- Coordinated communications between Council and departments of local government, State and Federal legislators and various agencies
- Prepared and maintained records of Council's meetings and work sessions
- Council sat in 9 legislative session days in this fiscal year
- Managed contracts, leases and Council appointed Boards and Committees
- Prepared commendations, proclamations and other documents
- Forwarded items to County Attorney and Special Legal Counsel for review and comment
- Scheduled various meetings, including Traffic Safety Committee, sent media notices and made arrangements for attendance at various events
- Assisted Department Heads and the public in matters relating to County business

Information/Technology

- Supported County staff/agencies in operation and use of related computer equipment while maintaining daily computer operations
- Rebuilt, replaced, installed, and configured County infrastructure equipment after water damage and then after ransomware
- Established a standardized cyber security awareness program to help educate end user
- Replaced windows 7 operating system with windows 10 operating system
- Replaced and installed 50 new computers while rebuilding the replacement computers with new hard drives and operating system
- Rebuilt Eclipse Imaging System server, software, and related peripherals along with upgrading all computers that use the Eclipse software
- Rebuilt all file servers and active directory for County users after ransomware attack
- Worked with Public Works to upgrade scales software at Beulah landfill
- Attended Maryland Broadband Cooperative meetings as a Delegate for Dorchester County
- Moved computers, equipment and phones for several departments due to employee reconfigurations, water damage, or ransomware attack
- Installed wireless cell phone boosters at the Technology Park and Sheriff's office for better cell phone coverage while in the building with plans for expansion
- Setup/configured network for computers at the County pool and Parks to conduct contact tracing
- Worked with different agencies to configure equipment to facilitate employees working from home during the pandemic along with setting up the equipment in their home
- Worked with our Sheriff's Office, Corrections, and vendors to setup thermal cameras at the courthouse and jail for use during pandemic as well as sensors in Sheriff's office squad cars
- Worked with JDS (judicial dialog software) to rebuild server for States Attorney office
- Staff prepared for training of staff/users of the new CAD software Spillman
- Setup/configured and installed several interfaces on equipment for the new CAD software
- Maintained/configured Avaya phone system for County use
- Removed and replaced all xerox printers at each location while updating and configuring computers to use them and removed, replaced and configured 12 new printers in States attorney office
- Installed, replaced and configured new cameras in Finance
- Worked with Finance department to help deploy new Edmunds software
- Worked with State vendor to setup and install new cross match finger print machine in sheriff's office
- Repaired flare monitoring computer for landfill
- Installed, setup and configured new permits system server for Planning & Zoning
- Worked with vendor to relocate, setup, and configure Calvert Cliffs emergency phone in EOC

FISCAL YEAR 2020 AT A GLANCE

Finance/Tax Collection

- Implementation of and training with new financial software, Edmunds GovTech
- Due to COVID-19, tax sale postponed to September, held in Governor's Hall.
 - ◊ Record number of bidders registered
 - ◊ 110 properties sold for \$3.4 million and \$312,137 in taxes collected
- Transition to new audit firm, TGM Group

Planning and Zoning

- The Draft of the Dorchester Comprehensive Plan was posted on the County website in June 2020
 - ◊ Comments have been received from the State's clearinghouse, and is currently in its final stage of editing and implementation
 - ◊ Expected publication: December 2020
- County Community Rating System (CRS) for the floodplain program is holding at 6
 - ◊ This represents a reduced flood insurance premium from previous years.
 - ◊ Granting of all appropriate evaluations of flood premium impacted properties continues
- Dorchester County Planning and Zoning has a strong partnership with the Maryland Agricultural and Preservation Foundation, and farms continue to be preserved through the program
- The GIS viewing program is consistently implemented with new and updated information regarding Forest Conservation, FEMA flood lines, update of Tidewater Buffers, etc.
 - ◊ A large project is currently underway to update all 911 addresses throughout the County
- COVID-19 has caused major disruption in the flow of permit application process since March
- Planning and Zoning receives about 60 permit applications monthly
- Software is being implemented to update the permit intake
 - ◊ The 1996 program is being replaced by a more performant entry system, which will increase the speed of permit review and issuance

FISCAL YEAR 2020 AT A GLANCE

Soil Conservation

- Prepared Conservation Plans on 11,995 acres
- Cover crop sign-up with 104 applicants for 45,064.7 acre, total in payments of \$2,158,062.00
- Awarded National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Grant for third year to provide funding for Conservation Planner
- Best Management Practices accomplished: Nutrient Management on 223.5 ac., Riparian Herbaceous Cover on 43.3 ac., Residue and Tillage Management on 9,058 ac., Riparian Forest Buffer on 1.6 ac., Livestock Pipeline – 248 feet, Heavy Use Area Protection - .3 acre, Watering Facilities – 3, Early Successional Habitat - 281.8 ac. and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans – 4
- “Dorchester Quarterly” Newsletter was published and mailed out
- Dorchester Soil Conservation received award for Outstanding Newsletter from MD Association of Soil Conservation Districts in August 2019
- Assisted poultry integrators, contractors, landowners and farmers to ensure that they follow Maryland Department of the Environment and State regulations
- Reviewed Sediment and Erosion Control Plans: Standard Plans- 43 on 21.28 ac., Forestry Plans -10 on 385.5 ac., Engineered Plans – 18 on 246.74 ac. and Shoreline Plans – 2 on .5 acres.
- Conservation Reserve Program saw 2 new enrollments and 16 re-enrollments

Department of Corrections

- Working towards starting additional programs for inmates and have received recognition for some of the programs currently implemented
- On track to hold Homeland Security (ICE Detainees) and State inmates that were getting ready to return to the County for their last 12 months of detention
- Completed and passed an ICE inspection before COVID-19 shut everything down
- Due to COVID-19 the facility changed the way it ran to include processing and housing of new inmates and the implementation of video visitation
- Correctional Officers have embraced the new measures put in place to protect all who enter the facility and have been adhering to safe protocols while off duty to protect others from being infected with the virus
- Working with the Health Department to provide medical assistance treatment to the facility as this will be law by 2023
- Average daily number of Inmates: 126

FISCAL YEAR 2020 AT A GLANCE

Recreation and Parks

- New Programs In: Culinary; Adult Futsal (Soccer); Women's Fitness; Aqua Fitness; Youth Tennis; Youth Volleyball; Youth Track Series
- Supported Independent Youth Sports Programs: Dorchester Lacrosse; Cambridge Little League; Tri-City Little League; AYF Football/Cheer
- Youth Sports Participation: Fall 2019 Soccer – 166 children; AYF Football/Cheer – 236 children; Winter 2020 Basketball – 140 children; Spring 2020 Tee Ball – COVID cancelled
- Added online program registration to Recreation and Parks website
- In first full year, social media page reaches nearly 1,000 followers / some posts reach thousands of people
- Coastline Pool Services returns swim lessons (Youth and Adult) to County Pool in July/August of 2019
- Worked with Coastline Pool Services and Dorchester County Health Department to plan for and achieve a safe opening of the County Pool to the public in 2020
- Steps taken to acquire additional indoor recreation space
- Worked with Sailwinds Park Inc. Board and Director of Tourism to plan improvements to Sailwinds Park at the Visitor Center
- Worked with municipal government officials to plan improvements for comprehensive renovation of Cornish Park property
- Worked with DNR to plan submissions of project applications requesting POS funding
- Consistent maintenance and upkeep of all Dorchester County owned Recreation and Parks properties
- Successful installation of new roofing systems on R&P Willis Street buildings
- Successful installation of new camera systems on R&P Willis Street buildings and at County Pool
- Successful installation of roll-up security door at pool snack bar
- Participation in MRPA sponsored "Recreation University" cohort
- Since March 2020 worked with County Departments, other Governmental Agencies, Dorchester County Health Department, many community stake holders and private sector businesses to address public health concerns related to COVID-19
- Since March 2020 communicated weekly with Recreation and Parks Directors statewide

FISCAL YEAR 2020 AT A GLANCE

Public Works

Highway

- Performed routine maintenance at 14 County marine facilities
- Maintained 568 miles of County roads including blacktopping, road signage, ditching, bushing, roadside mowing
- Bridge maintenance– 27 bridges
- Operation of a maintenance/repair shop
- Awarded the bid for supplying crushed stone
- Awarded the bid for the supply and delivery of bituminous materials
- Awarded bid to repair Smithville Boat Ramp which was completed
- Awarded bid to pressure wash the County Office Building which was completed
- Awarded bid to replace Courthouse seat cushions which were replaced
- Completed Taylors Island Boat Ramp Project
- Repairs made to Ragged Point Boat Ramp
- Continued contract with private contractor to mow County facilities and properties acquired by the County through the tax sale process
- Continued maintenance on the Hoopers Island Causeway
- Road improvements such as grading dirt roads, tar and chip and hot mixed road surfaces
- Sold surplus vehicles and equipment from various departments
- Assisted other departments with equipment maintenance as needed
- Assisted with County time capsule project
- Purchased/coordinated cleaning supplies and Personal Protective Equipment due to COVID-19 response for various County departments

Engineering

- Performed routine grading permit, storm water management and subdivision road construction inspections
- Received Council's concurrence to place a dumpster at each of the County owned marine facilities for the FY20 season
- Continued contract with Harman's Septic Care Inc. for the placement of portable toilets at the County's marine facilities for six months during the 2020 season, which cost is reimbursable through a Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Grant, upon receiving Council's approval
- Managed expenditures of Maryland Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Grant funds to include countywide maintenance and sanitary services at County marine facilities
- Renewed Offshore Blind and Riparian Rights Licenses for the following six County waterfront properties for a three year period, after obtaining Council's concurrence: Cassons Neck Road, Hoopers Island Road (north end of causeway), Hoopers Neck Road (south end of causeway), Wharf Road, Ragged Point Marina Road and Hoopers Island Road (Wallace Creek)

FISCAL YEAR 2020 AT A GLANCE

Public Works (continued)

Landfill

- Replaced skid steer
- Purchased new litter fence for working face
- Purchased new trash containers
- Purchased new trailers for Golden Hill and Secretary Transfer Stations
- Awarded bid for repairs to Beulah's bathroom and exterior
- Purchased new service truck for landfill
- Paved residential trash container area
- Continued working with Geosyntec on new landfill permit
- Partnered with Republic Services to improve Dorchester County's recycling program
- FY20 Landfill Tonnage-68,592 tons

Maintenance

- Continued Recycling Program for County Offices and the Circuit Court House
- Maintained approximately 111,171 square feet of office space, including custodial services.

Dorchester Community Partnership for Children and Families (Local Management Board)

- Awarded \$755,000 in grant funds for programs & services from the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth & Victim Services
- Children & Youth Division funding that totaled \$452,000 which funds supported
 - ◇ LMB Administration
 - ◇ Connecting for Success Program
 - ◇ Poverty Reduction Lab Development/training
 - ◇ Non Profit community capacity building workshops
 - ◇ Trauma Training
 - ◇ Cleaning supplies for 45 day care programs that served essential employees
 - ◇ 28 lap tops provided to Dorchester Academic Alliance to support virtual learning during COVID-19
- Crime Division funding totaling \$210,000 for:
 - ◇ Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN): County Wide law enforcement collaboration to reduce violent crime with funds supporting an attorney, law enforcement overtime, additional pole cameras for surveillance, heroin coordinator, gun grant for Sheriff's Office
 - ◇ Pre-trial Coordinator at the Dorchester County Detention Center
- Department of Juvenile Services funding totaling \$92,000
- Diversion program for justice involved youth called Adventure Diversion Program in partnership with Robbins Family YMCA

FISCAL YEAR 2020 AT A GLANCE

Human Resources

- Provided ongoing management support for employees and Department Heads/Elected Officials, such as advertising vacancies, interviewing applicants, meeting with new hires, disciplinary actions
- Acted as Liaison with Health Insurance Broker regarding employee health insurance coverage, questions, including managing wellness program, open enrollment for active and retired employees
 - ◊ Kept premiums for employees/retirees the same for sixth year in a row.
 - ◊ Assisted employees and retirees with insurance related issues and billing problems
- Worked with United Way, AFLAC, VALIC and Nationwide-third party benefit providers that employees may choose to participate with, at their full cost
- Acted as Liaison with State Retirement System to provide employees with information regarding retirement benefits
- Provided information to State of Maryland Unemployment Office and attended hearings, as necessary

Airport

- Primary accomplishments of the Airport staff include:
 - ◊ Transitioned to new Airport Director
 - ◊ New Runway Seal Coat / Markings successfully applied March 2020. (75% funded by MAA). Seal Coat extends life of runway surface 4-5 years
 - ◊ Secured CARES Act grant for CGE in the amount of \$30,000.00 which grant monies can be applied to Airport operational and maintenance costs
 - ◊ Obstruction Removal – Phase 1: 1.83 acres of required non-tidal wetlands successfully purchased with federal funding .79 acres re-allocated from credits purchased for the Runway Extension project with Tree removal (construction on schedule to begin November, 2020)
 - ◊ Wildlife Fence – Phase 1: Design complete and project awarded with construction planned to begin January 2021
 - ◊ Hangar space is at full capacity with 21 persons on the waiting list
 - ◊ Kodiak Bucket truck and Aircraft Tug repaired in house and returned to service
 - ◊ New secondary wind cone and airport beacon installed with MAA assistance to improve flight safety
 - ◊ Security lighting at T-Hangar #s 9 thru 32 upgraded to LED to reduce energy consumption and re-wiring of T-Hangar #s 1-8 for safety
 - ◊ Bird-netting and audio bird repellent installed in South Hangar to reduce damage
 - ◊ Installed an “Aircraft Recovery” structure for centralized and convenient storage of jacks, dollies, tow bar, Power Bunny and equipment for quick removal of aircraft from the Runway in case of minor incident
 - ◊ Revised/updated CGE Rules and Regulations, CGE Minimum Standards and COOP Plan

FISCAL YEAR 2020 AT A GLANCE

Economic Development

- The Dorchester County Economic Development (DCED) staff worked with over 190 businesses through visits, technical assistance, startup assistance, site location/relocation and marketing
- Increased marketing of the Tech Park through Loopnet with over 6,000 prospects viewing 20,000 times and the incubator had over 2,000 prospects with over 7,000 views
- New Marketing Water Moves Us Ads were created
- Placed advertising in national and regional magazines and digital media
- Recreated the DCED Newsletter and updated the mailing list to over a 1000 email recipients.
- Released the 2020 Water Moves Us Magazine- “A profile of a county on the Move”
- Speaking Engagements at the TEDCO Entrepreneur Expo in College Park, Rotary Club, Lower Shore Economic Forecast at Salisbury University and several smaller groups
- Hosted a Secretary Roundtable with Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Schulz
- COVID Response
 - ◇ Worked with the Dorchester Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Development Center, Cambridge Economic Development, Cambridge Main Street and Dorchester Tourism to mitigate response and in placing newspaper ads, social media, web blogs and emails to ensure a clear message was released
 - ◇ Held informational webinars on federal and state assistance programs and regulatory updates
 - ◇ Shared an impact planning report for Dorchester County COVID’s response
- Created application and application process for Small Business COVID grants
 - ◇ Worked with 52 Businesses in the first round of the grants
 - ◇ Collected crucial Economic impact data through surveys included on the grant application
- COVID Centered Marketing Campaign released named Find Your Space highlighting brand awareness and our community assets
- Partnered Dorchester County Public Schools through DCTC, served on the Educational Equity Taskforce and assisted DOL with the apprenticeship program to increase workforce opportunities
- Partnered with Harvesting Hope to bring Marcus Bullock to Mace’s Lane Middle School – the speaking engagement focused on Entrepreneurship and smart life choices
- Partnered with Salisbury University – BEACON on Eagleman & Ironman Economic Impact Study

Eastern Shore Innovation Center

- 4 Businesses graduated out of the incubator and 3 remain in the County
- Added 1 new business and 2 new co-work members
- Two Maryland Secretaries toured ESIC, Construction Owners Association Conference and several one on one tours
- Partnered with Maryland Department of Labor for a Hiring Event
- Hosted the German Partnership
 - ◆ ESIC was a sponsor at the TEDCO EXPO in College Park
 - ◆ Improved Wet lab space with larger door
 - ◆ Partnered with WBOC to create a Delmarva Life Segment on the ESIC
 - ◆ Hosted and Intellectual Property Workshop

FISCAL YEAR 2020 AT A GLANCE

Tourism

- Released Dorchester County Visitor Guide in partnership with Chesapeake Bay Magazine
 - Coordinated with Eastern Shore Tourism Departments, Heritage Areas and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development to draft and submit a nomination for the Chesapeake Country Scenic as an All American Road, a designation of the Federal Highway Administration
 - Hosted the Smithsonian WaterWays exhibit in partnership with Downtown Cambridge and Dorchester Center for the Arts
 - Coordinated 350th anniversary celebration for Dorchester County featuring the opening of the time capsule which was sealed 50 years ago and packed and sealed another time capsule to be opened in 2069
 - \$25,000 awarded in mini-grants to 11 organizations in FY2020
 - Visitdorchester.org saw a 6% increase in web users in FY 20 with 147,844 which included an increase in new users by 4.5%
 - HarrietTubmanByway.com saw a 32% increase in web users with 62,308 users. Which included an increase of new users by 35% and an increase in the amount of sessions by 36%
 - Interest continues to grow as people are responding to the Take My Hand Mural in Downtown Cambridge, the movie Harriet that was released in November 2019 and the 170th emancipation anniversary.
 - ◇ Significant media mentions include CBS and NBC Evening News, CBS This Morning, and USA Today Article and Related Syndication
 - Highlights of the “I Love Dorchester County” Facebook page in FY20:
 - ◇ The number of followers increased by 12% to 10,872 with 653 posts created reaching more than 2.1 million unique users and 182,110 engaged users
 - ◇ Top-performing posts included a local photographer’s video of the log canoe races, which reached 64,000 people and had 32,000 views on Facebook and a post sharing the news that Old Salty’s was named one of “America’s 35 Best Seafood Shacks” by the Daily Meal, which reached more than 24,000 people and had nearly 4,000 engagements (likes, comments, or shares)
- Highlights of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway Facebook page in FY20:
- ◇ The number of followers increased by 26% to 17,108 with 208 posts created reaching more than 980,345 unique users and 120,915 engaged users
 - ◇ The top-performing post was about Harriet Tubman as a military veteran, serving as a scout and spy in the Civil War, with a reach of 122,025 and 12,458 engagements (likes, comments, or shares)

FISCAL YEAR 2020 AT A GLANCE

Emergency Services

Emergency Medical Services

- Calls for Service: 5,338; Transfers: 1,478
- Updated Infectious Disease Plan to meet annual requirement and then to add COVID-19 responses
- Evaluated, restructured and completed multiple programs such as AED, Stop the Bleed, and
- Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Process
- Updated and Implemented Controlled Substance and Scheduling Guidelines, purchased vaults to secure the substances in EMS units and established a chain of custody
- Obtained Academy status under the Maryland Council of Academies through MFRI and MIEMSS and worked with other Maryland jurisdictions to provide free education to EMS employees
- Held Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Skills Class (recertification) in house
- Completed and Successfully Passed VAIP inspections with MIEMSS
- Implemented Check and Inject EPI kits for medication administration and trained career and volunteer clinicians
- Trained employees in other County Departments and associate agencies in various courses including law enforcement care under fire program through MIEMSS
- Participated/provided EMS for various community events such as parades, football games, Triathlon
- Worked with various agencies to adjust response procedures, protective equipment use and practices due to COVID-19

Emergency Management

- Administered Homeland Security Grant Programs and Emergency Management Performance Grant
- Submitted applications for Mitigation grant funding for various project including elevation projects and updating the All Hazards and Flood Mitigation Plans
- Designed and executed a plan to set up the Emergency Operations Center
- Emergency Manager and Emergency Planner worked with Exelon and Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in regards to nuclear planning and disasters
- Successfully completed the FEMA assessed exercise with MEMA on September 17, 2019
- Worked with Election Board with emergency planning in regards to past and upcoming elections
- Collaborated with Health Department in COVID-19 planning, response and recovery and Board of Education with emergency planning, COVID-19 and school safety
- Provided oversight of County's Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Assisted Information Technology due to Ransomware attack and requested MEMA/State assistance
- Coordinated Community Emergency Response Training

911 Communications Division

- Nick Kovach began his role as 911 Communications Manager
- Total calls handled, 144,194; Non-Emergency, 97,878
- Continued renovation of the 911 Center
- Trained and certified 6 communication specialists during fiscal year
- Received approval from Numbers Board for Mission Critical Assessment which was conducted
- Completed majority of Radio Project
- Coordinated with Motorola on the replacement of sirens that were in need to replacement
- Worked on CAD project
- Worked on Vesta Refresh with State
- Updated protocols to meet national standards and COVID-19 protocols
- Maintained, fueled and ensured UPS systems and generators were in operational readiness status
- Made improvements to 911 Communications break room, Training area, meeting room and hallway