

News and Happenings

Calendar

All County offices will be closed on the following days:

Veteran's Day, Monday, November 11, 2019



Thanksgiving, Thursday and Friday, November 28 & 29, 2019



Stay in touch with what is happening in the Department of Inspections and Permits. Request to have this quarterly newsletter sent directly to your email.

Send your request to treynolds@aacounty.org to be added to our distribution list.



The Permit Center opens at 10:00 a.m. the first Thursday of every month in order to facilitate monthly training for staff.

Message from the Director



Happy Halloween!

Bill No. 68-19.

According to the USEPA, Anne Arundel County leads all Maryland counties in estimated forest and wetland loss from 2010 through 2017. County Executive Pittman endeavors to pursue Forest Conservation efforts in addressing the environmental effects of growth. Bill No. 68-19 (Forest Conservation Bill) more clearly defines priority retention areas, lowers the conservation threshold of the amount of acres allowed to be cut down without mitigation, increase the reforestation ratio for replanting, and adjust the fee-in-lieu of replanting to more closely capture the true value of a forest. We will be closely working with the Council in shepherding this bill, hopefully,

into law.

Strategic Plan. I&P has embarked on a strategic planning process whose output is a four-year Strategic Plan. To date, staff has analyzed the mission and work priorities of the department, conducted a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats), and held rounds of discussion on organizational structure. I believe that strategic planning provides clarity, direction, and focus for our organization in delivering services to our customers and stakeholders.

Employee Recognition Program. In the very near future, I&P will launch an Employee Recognition Program to recognize current merit employees who distinguished themselves through exemplary performance or through specific individual or team actions,

which have benefited the Department, and ultimately the citizens of Anne Arundel County. The type of recognition awards may be in the form of a certificate, plaque, moderate gift, lunch, dinner, monetary awards, etc. I will share the details of this program to all employees shortly.

Management Development Program. Several department directors, including myself, were invited by the Office of Personnel to create a middle management development program. We will be working with the Anne Arundel Community College to design the details of this program. I project that this program to be closely aligned with the go Community College to design the details of this program. I project that this program to be closely aligned with the goals in our strategic plan.

The 2020 Census is Coming!

What Is the 2020 Census? The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our nation—our population, where we live, and so much more. The results are critically important because this once-a-decade census data helps businesses, researchers, and communities make decisions. The data can help inform where your community needs a new fire department, more funding for school lunches, or new roads. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data.

The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. The 2020 Census counts the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire—online, by phone, or by mail. This will mark the first time that you will be able to respond to the census online.

The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. In fact, every employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life.

April 1, 2020 is Census Day. For more information on the 2020 Census go to: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/complete_count.html.

September is National Preparedness Month

Now is the time to "Save" for Emergencies

Natural and man-made disasters can strike at any time. Improve the chances of surviving and recovering from any type of disaster by preparing now and be ready when an emergency happens.

An emergency supply kit provides simple items that will prepare you and your family to be self-sufficient for at least three days, the time it may take for a coordinated response in a disaster.

While there is a abundance of resources that guide us on how to prepare and assemble emergency supply kits, it requires a substantial time and financial commitment.

However, you can start today by making a plan to gradually but regularly add items to your emergency kit and help alleviate the financial burden.

Here are a few tips to help build an emergency supply kit on a budget:

- **Collect Supplies at Home:** Start by gathering supplies that you probably already have on hand in your home such as flashlights, batteries, basic first aid supplies, moist towelettes, spare clothes, old blankets, etc. Assemble them now so you do not have to scramble to find them in an emergency.

- **Gradually Gather Supplies:** Slowly add items to your kit by purchasing one or two things from the checklist when you do your regular grocery shopping. Use manufacturer's coupons to help reduce the cost of

supplies such as canned goods, granola bars, toiletries, etc.

- **Store Your Own Water:** Use empty soda and juice bottles or jugs with screw on tops to store water. Avoid jugs used for milk and avoid breakable glass bottles. Before filling with chlorinated (tap) water, thoroughly clean the containers with dishwashing soap, rinse, and sanitize the bottles by cleaning with a solution of 1 teaspoon of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach to a quart of water. Then rinse and refill with tap water. Water that has not been commercially bottled should be replaced every six months. Filled bottles and jugs can also be stored in the freezer to help keep food cold in power outages.

- **Buy in Bulk:** Purchasing items, including non-perishable food and bottled water, in bulk can be less expensive than buying



Inspections and Permits participated in the 5th Annual Preparedness Expo Saturday, September 21, 2019

individual items. Find a neighbor or friend and buy items together.

Another form of "saving" for an emergency

is having the financial resources to begin getting back to our normal lives after a disaster or other emergency.

In emergency and recovery circumstances, having access to personal financial, insurance, medical, and other records is crucial for starting over.

Invest time now to collect, reproduce and secure critical records. Doing so will ensure that you have the documentation needed to start the recovery process immediately.

- Gather financial and critical personal, household, and medical information.

- Consider saving money in an interest-bearing emergency savings account that could be used in any crisis.

- Keep a small amount of cash at home in a safe place. It is important to have small bills on hand because ATM's and credit cards may not work during or immediately following a disaster.

If recovery lasts longer than three days, having cash on hand will help you purchase depleted supplies, fuel, and other materials needed to repair damages.

For more information on saving for an emergency, visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) at <https://www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness>.

For a recommended list of items in an emergency supply kit, visit <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>.



Congratulations to the following employees who were promoted in the third quarter:

- ◆ Christina Braun promoted from Office Support Specialist to Management Aide.
- ◆ Jan Misal promoted from Planning Tech II to License Inspector.

Congratulations and best wishes to Susan Hurst who retired in July with 12 years of service.

It's Time for Taxicab Inspections

The Department of Inspections and Permits, Licensing Division will conduct inspections on all commercially licensed taxicabs on October 9th, 10th, and 16th, 17th, between 10am—2 pm at Police Headquarters on Maxwell Frye Road. Inspections are conducted two times a year in order to ensure that vehicles meet operational standards, are safe for transporting passengers and that meters are correctly calibrated and charging fares accurately.

