

Good evening, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

With all the really awful things going on in with the leadership of our Federal Government, from the President's apparent adoration of Vladimir Putin, to the aggressive dismantling of our federal agencies, and the horrible treatment of career civil servants, it is hard to find anything positive about the state of our Country today.

But if you zoom in to the local level, you will find that Charles County government has terrific staff that demonstrate both why we need government, and how well government services *can* be dispensed.

The County's Environmental Resources division and Recycling & Litter Control team exemplify that terrific staff.

I am the Stewardship Chair for the Conservancy for Charles County. The Conservancy holds donated Conservation Easements on privately owned properties throughout the County, including the Pomonkey Forest owed by the County. When we discovered that parts of the property had been used as a dump site, we reported it to the County. The County's Recycling & Litter Control team, led by Meg Romero, responded right away, and a site visit survey was scheduled with Meg, Michelle Smith, and Bill Wood to determine the best course of action to clean the littered areas. What a terrific group of people!

A title that includes litter control is not particularly glamorous. But it is *so* important. Tires and debris "thrown away" into the woods will slowly disintegrate and allow micro plastics to be released into the streams and soil and compromise the health of the woodlands. Since that site survey, over 3 tons of debris and tires have been removed, with pictures shared that document the cleanup. I will have the opportunity to meet with the team again next week as they work on a more definitive plan to address an additional litter site. The Litter Control Crew, and Environmental Resources division deserve our thanks and appreciation for all their hard work, demonstrating why and how good government works, and for giving us something positive to focus on in these grim times.

On a separate, really terrific topic. I hope all of you and the public is aware of the County's amazing interactive GIS maps that are managed by Glenn Gorman the County's GIS Analyst. This interactive map has recently been upgraded, and is an invaluable tool for the Conservancy, and anyone interested in land use. You can select any property in the County, and find the address, how it is zoned, the watershed it is in, and link to the SDAT information on that parcel.

So a big shout out to Meg Romero, Michelle Smith, Bill Wood, and Glenn Gorman, and the teams that work with them, for the tremendous job they continue to do for the people of Charles County.

Thanks again.

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