

Local Development Council

I have spent evenings and weekends this fall walking the neighborhoods of District 32 and talking to our residents. One of the most asked questions was – “where is the casino money going?” I would like to take this opportunity to discuss this topic.

Anne Arundel County receives 4.51% of the revenue generated by the Maryland Live! video lottery terminals (slots). The State law requires that the County expend the revenue for “*improvements in the immediate proximity to the video lottery facilities.*” The County may expend funds for: infrastructure improvements; facilities; public safety; sanitation; economic and community development, including housing; and other public services and improvements.

The County Executive is responsible for the budgeting of these funds, with the assistance of the Local Development Council. The Local Development Council was established by the legislation authorizing gaming in Maryland, their sole purpose is to advise the County Executive on the priorities of the communities surrounding “Maryland Live!”

The funds are held in a special Video Lottery Facility Local Impact Grant Special Revenue Fund. This money is now in a separate fund so that spending can be more closely monitored. The County auditor has audited the expenditures.

The County has used these funds for:

- Police
- Fire
- Transportation
- AACC
- Anne Arundel Economic Development
- Anne Arundel Workforce Development
- Provinces Library
- Education
- Local Development Council

The Local Development Council has distributed grants to Communities such as:

- Villages of Dorchester – street lights and security camera system, soil erosion control
- Provinces Civic Association – landscape traffic islands
- Quail Run Homeowner – additional security
- Hebron Harman Elem. School – outdoor learning space, iPads, class field trips, Marquee sign
- BWMC – education sessions, SNAP food vouchers
- Severn Elem. School – ipads,
- Boys and Girls Club of Annapolis & AACounty
- Anne Arundel County Food Bank
- Meade Middle School PTSA - iPads
- Ridge Forest Homeowners Assoc – Community Entrance Monument
- Severn Improvement Association – septic system

This list names only a few of the grants offered, you can review the actual expenditures at: <http://www.aacounty.org/lcd/#.VC2GvGddXYE>. This site also lists the members of the Local Development Council, the Grant Guidelines, the map showing the 3 mile radius and the schedule of meetings.

http://www.aacounty.org/LDC/index.cfm#.VDQwL_IdWQw. This process is very transparent as you can see from the website.

The next meeting of the Local Development Council will be October 23, 6:30 p.m. at the Harmans Community Center at Arundel Mills Mall.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Best regards,

Pam Beidle