

Responding to Community Priorities

Integrity • Innovation • Stewardship • Learning



County of Albemarle, Virginia
2007 Report to the Community

www.albemarle.org

Citizen Survey 2006

FAST FACTS

Citizens were asked to rate the quality of life in Albemarle County on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best possible place to live and 1 being the worst.

Seventy-four percent rated the County's quality of life an "8" or better and 19% rated the County a "10".

On the whole, county citizens displayed a positive attitude towards local government, with **85% of citizens saying they were satisfied with the value they receive for their tax dollar and 78% reporting themselves satisfied with their experiences in contacting and dealing with the County.**

Citizens reported 90.6% overall satisfaction with County programs and services. Satisfaction was highest for emergency rescue, fire protection, residential safety and library services. Residents were least satisfied with efforts to make it easy to use public transportation, managing growth, and recycling services.

The survey indicated continued support for the County's major growth management policies, with approximately **73% of respondents favoring concentrating development in the urban areas to protect the rural areas.**

Nearly two-thirds of County residents (63.6%) indicated that slower growth was in the County's best interest. Just over 30% preferred the County to grow at the same rate, while very few residents (3.4%) supported faster growth.

Your Tax Dollar is Working Hard in Albemarle County



59¢ funds Education

Highlights:

- Henley Middle School addition
- Monticello High School auditorium
- Increased teacher compensation
- Meeting federal No Child Left Behind regulations



13¢ funds Public Safety

Highlights:

- Hollymead Fire Rescue Station
- New EMS and fire apparatus
- New police officers
- New firefighters
- 100% of basic operating costs for all volunteer fire and rescue stations



8¢ funds Human Services

Highlights:

- Tax relief for the elderly & disabled
- Bright Stars programs at six schools
- Family Support programs at 16 schools
- Increased support for JAUNT public transportation



8¢ funds Community Development

Highlights:

- Sidewalk construction
- Stormwater management
- Road construction
- Acquisition of Conservation Easements
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund



5¢ funds Operations

Highlights:

- Technology improvements to improve customer convenience
- Managing human resources
- Financial planning and fiscal policy
- Support for local, state and national elections



3¢ funds Revenue Sharing

Highlights:

- \$9,742,748 paid to Charlottesville, an increase of 21% from last year, as part of the City/County Revenue Sharing Agreement



4¢ funds Parks, Recreation & Culture

Highlights:

- Trail and greenways development
- Expanded library services
- River and lake access
- Athletic field development

To Members of Our Community:

Our last several annual reports have talked about the challenges our County faces as we transition our development areas into more attractive urban environments while protecting the rural areas that give Albemarle much of its character and appeal. The Strategic Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors for 2007 - 2010 focuses our efforts on these priorities, and many of the funding decisions made in both our capital and operating budgets in recent years have supported the concept of "protecting rural spaces and creating urban places."

Thanks to these efforts, we are making significant progress in meeting the critical challenges related to growth and development as well as continuing our important work in areas such as human services, education and public safety. We are guided by the Board's vision for Albemarle County:

Albemarle County will feature walkable and self sufficient communities. The countryside will be rural. The County's natural resources and natural beauty will be maintained. The County's educational system will be world class and the County's quality of life will be exceptional.

In this Annual Report, we have outlined the highest ranking community priorities as identified by citizens in the 2006 survey, connected those priorities to our Strategic Plan, and highlighted specific ways in which the County has responded during the past year. We hope this format will demonstrate how citizen priorities truly are shaping the Strategic Plan and providing the framework for our important programming and budget decisions. We also can see where our continued energy should be directed to increase satisfaction with our response to major issues.

While we certainly have not met all the challenges of our evolving community, including areas like affordable housing, infrastructure, traffic, and meeting human service needs for all citizens, substantial progress has been made and will continue as we work in partnership with our citizens.

We hope this report will be helpful to you in learning more about the county in which you live and about your local government as we focus on our mission of providing the highest quality of public service to the community. We appreciate your participation and support as we work together to balance the priorities and respond to the needs of our community.

Robert W. Tucker, Jr.
County Executive

What our Citizens Said About...
Quality Education

Important/Very Important - 99%
 Satisfied/Very Satisfied - 88%

In The News

How our Strategic Plan Responds . . . Our Goal is to Support a World Class Education System

Albemarle citizens identify quality education as the community's number one priority, and the strategic plan reflects that by supporting the School Division's goal to achieve recognition as a world class education system. One important point of collaboration is making sure that all county children enter the school system ready to be successful learners.

Our Progress in 2006

- All schools are fully accredited by the Virginia Department of Education. Full accreditation is the highest rating a school can earn.
- The School Division met or exceeded every growth requirement for student performance on statewide standardized tests in reading and math in the 2005-06 school year.
- Albemarle County was one of 11 school divisions in Virginia selected for the Governor's Commonwealth Scholars Program.
- Albemarle County is the first school division selected for the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program.
- In 2006, 63 percent of our high school graduates earned Advanced Studies Diplomas. Our School Division ranked third in Virginia for students graduating with Advanced Studies Diplomas in 2005.
- 100 percent of our schools participated in the 2006 national Make A Difference Day initiative, providing more than 936,000 hours of community service.



JANUARY

County finance official Robert Walters is the first local government official in Virginia to be certified as both Master Governmental Deputy Treasurer and Master Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue.

Albemarle's Walnut Creek Lake is named best park in the region by C-Ville Weekly.

FEBRUARY

Citizens are invited to a biodiversity presentation sponsored by the newly formed Natural Heritage Committee to learn about the County's geological resources.

The Board of Supervisors accepts applications and forms the Crozet Community Advisory Council.

MARCH

The Board of Supervisors appoints a task force to review and improve the County's development processes, including citizen participation.

Downloads from the County website top the one million mark for 2005 according to newly released statistics.

What our Citizens Said About . . .
Emergency Rescue, Fire and Police

Important/Very Important - 99%
 Satisfied/Very Satisfied - 94%

How our Strategic Plan Responds . . . Our Goal is to Enhance the Quality of Life for All Citizens

Public safety and emergency response is another critical responsibility that citizens expect from county government. Our quality of life strategic plan goal encompasses the many innovative initiatives underway in our police, fire, and emergency rescue systems that keep Albemarle County a safe and desirable place to live and work.

Our Progress in 2006

- Construction began on the new Hollymead Fire Rescue Station.
- Eight new firefighters/advanced life support providers were hired to begin new ambulance service for the Hollymead/Forest Lakes communities.
- Completed the regional 800 megahertz radio system and transferred all public safety staff to the new system.
- Purchased three new traffic motorcycles and used unmarked traffic vehicles to combat traffic problems on the county's busiest roadways.
- Experienced a continued decrease in traffic fatalities for the fourth year in a row, down from 22 in 2002 to 8 in 2006.
- Received the John W. Brit Community Service Award for new approach to safety and security at the Foxfield Races.
- Expanded career staff assistance to the Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad to five days per week.



In The News

APRIL

Assistant County Executive Roxanne White represents the public sector at a meeting with Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates to share local government needs.

Ella Carey, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, is named President of the Virginia Municipal Clerks Association.

MAY

The County's Historic Preservation Month Program focuses on Albemarle's Rosenwald Schools', one- and two-teacher schoolhouses built in the 1920's to improve education for African American children.

Albemarle hosts its 12th Annual County Government Open House for the community.

JUNE

Producers of the Universal Pictures comedy "Evan Almighty" which filmed in Crozet donate trees to be planted along bike trails in Albemarle County.

The Albemarle County Electoral Board announces the hiring of Richard "Jake" Washburne as the new County Registrar.

What our Citizens Said About . . . Water Resources

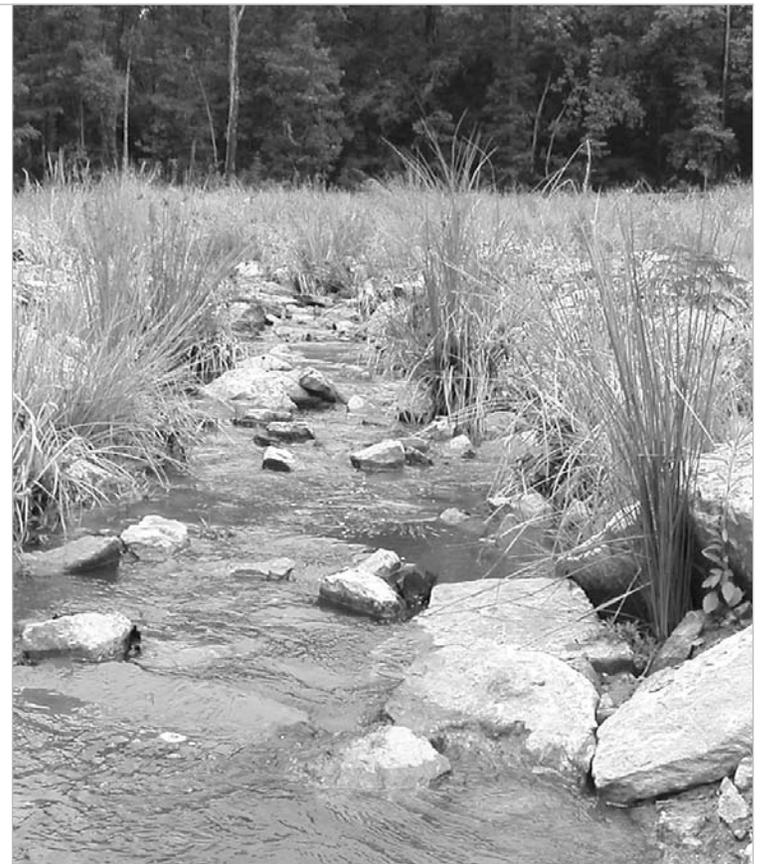
Important/Very Important - 99%
Satisfied/Very Satisfied - 79%

How our Strategic Plan Responds . . . Our Goal is to Increase Quality, Supply and Protection of the County's Water Resources

Our strategic plan reflects Albemarle's leadership role in water resource protection and our aggressive pursuit of water resource strategies and practices that promote water quality and supply and address potential impacts of land use and development.

Our Progress in 2006

- Approved the Ragged Mountain Reservoir expansion as the preferred alternative for the community's future water supply.
- Allocated \$650,000 for future stormwater management projects.
- Received a water quality improvement grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to fund the restoration of riparian buffers.
- Hosted a series of free presentations on water quality protection, wildlife habitat, groundwater basis for well owners, and stormwater management for the public.
- Joined the Rivanna River Basin Committee.



What our Citizens Said About Customer Service and Fair Tax Assessments

Important/Very Important - 99%
Satisfied/Very Satisfied - 80%

How our Strategic Plan Responds . . . Our Goal is to Fund the County's Future Needs

Our strategic plan recognizes that while there are significant financial and service pressures in our transition from a predominantly rural and suburban locality, it is critical to citizens that we maintain our strong customer service focus and our prudent fiscal policies.

Our Progress in 2006

- Established an on-line tax payment system on the County website to allow for easier, more convenient service to citizens.
- Instituted a permanent vehicle decal program that eliminates the need to replace vehicle decals annually, resulting in savings and public convenience.
- Transitioned from a biennial to an annual real estate reassessment process to allow a quicker, more accurate reaction to changes in the real estate market.
- Ranked in the top ten websites for our population nationally by the Center for Digital Government, the fifth year in a row that the County was recognized.
- Created a counter planner position in the Community Development Department to assist with walk-in customer service.



What our Citizens Said About . . . Public Facilities & Infrastructure

Important/Very Important - 98%
Satisfied/Very Satisfied - 85%

In The News

How our Strategic Plan Responds . . . Our Goal is to Develop Policies and Infrastructure to Address Growing Needs

Increasing transportation congestion along with a decrease in state funding and construction has caused the County to consider new roles and responsibilities in addressing infrastructure needs. This strategic plan goal indicates a more aggressive approach to creating the multi-modal transportation systems our community needs to prosper.

Our Progress in 2006

- Created and hired a new position, County Transportation Engineer, to speed progress on high priority transportation projects.
- Approved an alignment for the Jarmen's Gap Road project in Crozet to allow VDOT to move ahead with designing and constructing the project.
- Joined in regional transit discussions with the City of Charlottesville to identify shared opportunities for transit improvements.
- Dedicated \$2 million in new funding in the budget to support priority transportation projects.
- Completed the Free Bridge Trail walking path under Free Bridge connecting Darden Towe Park with the Old Mills Trail.
- Began construction of a sidewalk on Rio Road to connect residential neighborhoods with retail and commercial areas on Route 29.



JULY

Albemarle begins its biennial citizens survey conducted by UVA's Center for Survey Research.

Albemarle ranks ninth in the nation for use of information technology by the Center for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties (NACo).

AUGUST

Albemarle County announces the availability of additional downpayment assistance to income-eligible, first-time homebuyers under the Virginia Housing Development Authority's (VHDA) HomeStride Program.

Albemarle hosts the third annual Virginia Public Safety Summit for fire rescue professionals across the state.

SEPTEMBER

The County's Tactical Team finish 1st overall in the regional SWAT competition, the first time that Albemarle County has won this competition.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) presents the 2006 Organizational Health/Safety/Survival Award to the Albemarle County Department of Fire Rescue.

What our Citizens Said About . . . Growth & Development

Important/Very Important - 99%
Satisfied/Very Satisfied - 73%

How our Strategic Plan Responds . . . Our Goal is to Effectively Manage Growth and Development

The success of our efforts to protect the County's rural areas depends on our ability to concentrate growth in attractive, livable, functioning development areas that are vibrant places for people to live and work. Our strategic plan focuses on master planning as the major tool for creating high quality urban environments that can absorb the majority of our community's growth.

Our Progress in 2006

- Re-engaged in the Pantops Master Plan process with several community meetings and work sessions with the Planning Commission.
- Continued work on the Places29 Master Plan with two major public workshops in the spring and summer.
- Selected an architect and a site for the new Crozet Library and approved funding for creating a downtown Crozet zoning district.
- Received a grant from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to locate, survey and document between 270 and 300 potentially historic Crozet properties.
- Renovated and expanded multi-purpose athletic fields at Henley Middle School.
- Renovated the Albemarle High School practice football field and added three full size multipurpose fields for community use.



In The News

OCTOBER

The County celebrates the 25th Year Anniversary of the conversion of Lane High School into the County Office Building.

Albemarle County sponsors bulky waste amnesty days allowing county residents to deliver specified large trash items to the Ivy Materials Utilization Center (MUC) free of charge.

NOVEMBER

The Board of Supervisors selects a site for the new Crozet library.

Assistant County Executive Roxanne White announces her retirement after 20 years of service.

DECEMBER

Albemarle County zoning officials announce that an agreement has been signed to mandate completion of the remaining clean up of the Cismont junkyard site.

The County is awarded a grant to survey historic resources in the Crozet community.

What our Citizens Said About . . . Opportunities for Citizen Input

Important/Very Important - 99%
Satisfied/Very Satisfied - 81%

How our Strategic Plan Responds . . . Our Goal is to Enhance the Quality of Life for All Citizens

Quality of life includes the ability of citizens to actively participate in planning for the future of their community through meaningful engagement opportunities. This goal encompasses the many ways in which we are creating effective community partnerships that are shaping our shared future.

Our Progress in 2006

- Initiated podcasting of all Board of Supervisors and School Board meetings.
- Established the Crozet Community Advisory Council to help with community activities related to master plan implementation.
- Surpassed one million downloads from the Albemarle County website, including citizen board and commission applications and meeting agendas.
- Sent regular A-mails — our county enews service — to our subscriber list of over 1800 citizens.
- Hosted major public open houses on a variety of topics including the Crozet library, rural area phasing and clustering and the mountain overlay district proposals.
- Created a Community Engagement Specialist position to focus on public participation opportunities.



What our Citizens Said About . . . Natural Resources & Environment

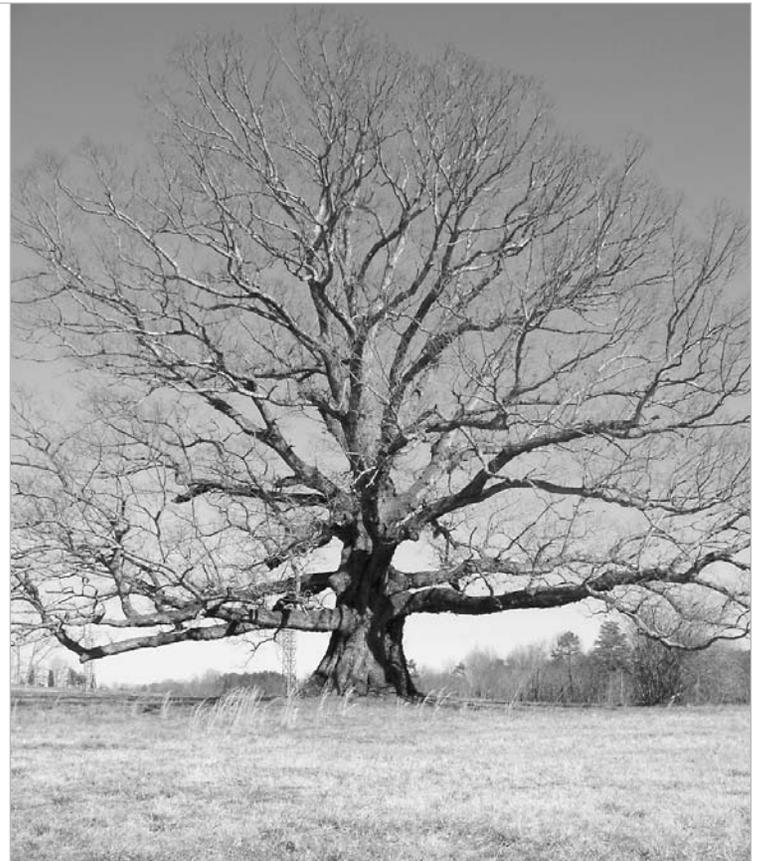
Important/Very Important - 98%
Satisfied/Very Satisfied - 78%

How our Strategic Plan Responds . . . Our Goal is to Protect the County's Natural Resources

Stewardship of the county's resources means protecting our rural lands as well as conserving and using efficiently those resources that are important to all county residents such as water and open space. Our strategic plan mandates resource protection through innovative initiatives as well as sound policy directives.

Our Progress in 2006

- Celebrated the one-year anniversary of the successful green roof on the County Office Building.
- Hired an environmental compliance manager to spearhead efforts in advancing Albemarle's environmental stewardship.
- Joined ENERGY STAR, a national program that will help reduce energy consumption throughout County-owned-and-operated local government facilities.
- Increased funding for the Acquisition of Conservation Easements (ACE) program which has protected 3,776 acres and eliminated 258 development rights in the program's first four rounds.



Meet County Officials and Management Staff

Who to call if you want to . . .

Board of Supervisors

Albemarle County is governed by a six-member Board of Supervisors elected by qualified voters from the County's six magisterial districts. The County adopted the County Executive form of government and organization in 1933, which designates the Board of Supervisors as the policy-making body of the County. The Board has responsibility for land use decisions, growth and development policies and for adopting the capital and operational budgets.

- **Dennis Rooker**, *Jack Jouett*
- **David Slutzky**, *Rio*
- **Kenneth Boyd**, *Rivanna*
- **Sally Thomas**, *Samuel Miller*
- **Lindsay Dorrier**, *Scottsville*
- **David Wyant**, *White Hall*

Any citizen who wishes to bring a matter to the Board's attention may do so by contacting the Board Clerk at 296-5843 or by making a short statement at Board meetings. The Board of Supervisors meets the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. and the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Lane Auditorium of the County Office Building. Board Agenda Line - 972-4082.

School Board

The School Board, composed of seven elected members, governs the School Division and is primarily responsible for overseeing educational programs and laws, policies, budget, and on-going assessment and evaluation of the School Division.

- **Diantha McKeel**, *Jack Jouett*
- **Pamela Moynihan**, *Rio*
- **Sue Friedman**, *Rivanna*
- **Jon Stokes**, *Samuel Miller*
- **Stephen Koleszar**, *Scottsville*
- **Barbara Massie Mouly**, *White Hall*
- **Brian Wheeler**, *At-Large*

The School Board meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Lane Auditorium of the Albemarle County Office Building. Please call the School Clerk's Office at 972-4055 for specific meeting and/or agenda information.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is composed of seven members appointed by the Board of Supervisors to help develop and guide policy on issues related to the County's Comprehensive Plan, long range development, transportation and housing.

- **William Edgerton**, *Jack Jouett*
- **John Cannon**, *Rio*
- **Calvin Morris**, *Rivanna*
- **Eric Strucko**, *Samuel Miller*
- **William Craddock**, *Scottsville*
- **Duane Zobrist**, *White Hall*
- **Marcia Joseph**, *At-Large*

The Planning Commission meets every Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Lane Auditorium of the County Office Building. Please call 296-5832 with questions or for more information. Commission Agenda Line - 296-5824.

County Staff

The day-to-day operations of the County are managed by the County Executive, his staff and heads of the various departments that provide services and respond to the needs of Albemarle residents. The County Executive, Robert W. Tucker, Jr., promotes a strong philosophy of customer service and quality improvement among all county employees. Email contact with county employees is available through the county website at www.albemarle.org.

County Executive	Robert W. Tucker, Jr.	296-5841
Assistant County Executive	Tom Foley	296-5841
Assistant County Executive	Roxanne White	296-5841
Community Development	Mark Graham	296-5832
Community Relations	Lee Catlin	296-5841
County Attorney	Larry Davis	972-4067
Finance	Richard Wiggans	296-5855
Fire/Rescue *	Dan Eggleston	296-5833
General Services	George Shadman	296-5816
Housing Office *	Ron White	296-5839
Human Resources	Kimberly Suyes	296-5827
Information Technology	Michael Culp	296-5814
Management and Budget	Melvin Breeden	872-4516
Parks & Recreation	Pat Mullaney	296-5844
Planning	Wayne Cilimberg	296-5832
Police*	John Miller	296-5807
Registrar	Richard Washburne	951-6798
School Superintendent	Pam Moran	296-5826
Social Services *	Kathy Ralston	972-4010
Strategic Planning	Lori Allshouse	296-5841
Zoning/Current Development	Amelia McCulley	296-5832

* Indicates staff who are located at the County Office Building 5th Street location

GET INFO ON
PARKS & REC
296-5844

LEARN ABOUT
WATER RESOURCES &
WATER PROTECTION
296-5832

CHECK SCHOOL
CLOSINGS
296-5886

GET A BURN PERMIT
OR OTHER FIRE
PREVENTION INFO
296-5833

START A
NEIGHBORHOOD
WATCH
296-5807

GET GENERAL INFO
ABOUT THE COUNTY
296-5822

LEARN MORE ABOUT
RECYCLING
296-5816

START A BUILDING OR
OTHER LAND USE
ACTIVITY
296-5832

Spotlight on Human Services...

Budget Highlights: Fiscal Year 2006/2007

Albemarle County is very focused on meeting the human service needs of the community that contribute to a good quality of life for all residents. Individual and family self-sufficiency and affordable housing issues are primary areas of emphasis.

Our Progress in 2006

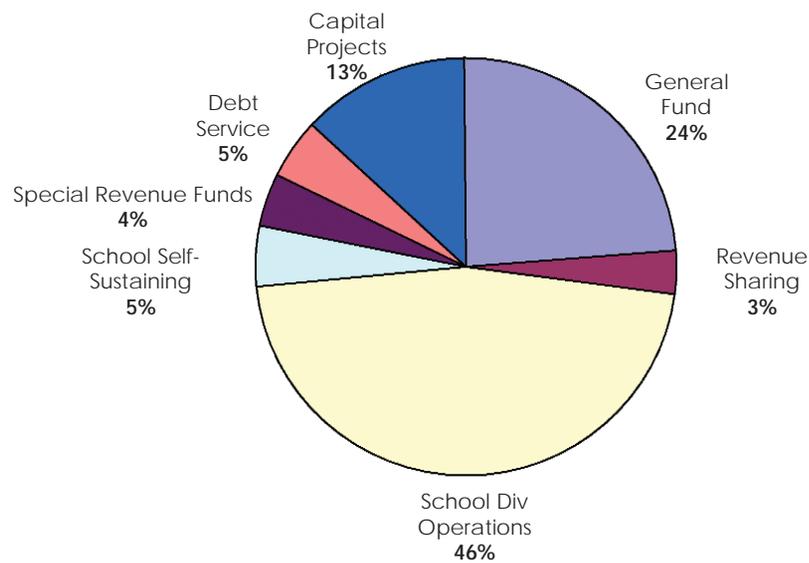
- The County received our first cash proffer, \$300,000, earmarked for affordable housing.
- The Park View project on South Pantops opened, providing 90-units of senior housing with sixteen units offering subsidized rents.
- Received an allocation of \$500,000 in down payment assistance funds from the Virginia Housing Development Authority.
- A Bright Stars pre-kindergarten readiness program was added at Greer Elementary School, making it the county's 7th program.
- Funded the Urban Vision's Educational Equity Program at Mallside.
- Provided ongoing relief to Hurricane Katrina victims and their families.
- Increased Medicaid reimbursement to UVA Hospital from \$21.8 million to \$23.3 million.
- Received Adoption Incentive Funds from the state as a result of our efforts in adopting special needs children.

For more information, visit us online at:

www.albemarle.org

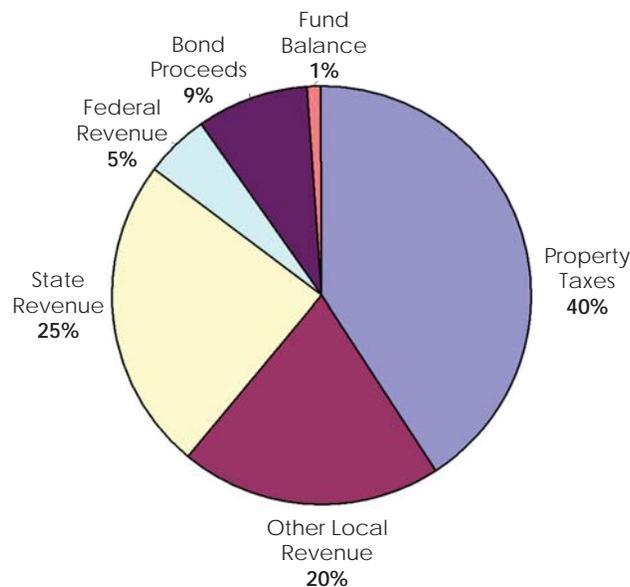
FY 2006/2007 TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES

ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION
\$298,633,884



FY 2006/2007 TOTAL COUNTY REVENUES

ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION
\$298,633,884



•Property tax rate — \$0.74 per \$100 of assessed value

•12.6% increase in school transfer for a total of \$91.2 million (an increase of \$10.2 million)

•Schools receive an additional \$12 million for capital projects and debt service

•Budget includes \$25.7 million for public safety and \$5.8 million for parks, recreation, and libraries

•Funding for Acquisition of Conservation Easements (ACE) is \$1.4 million, (equivalent to one cent of the tax rate)

KEEP UP TO DATE ON ALL THE COUNTY NEWS

Subscribe to Amail, Albemarle's enews service, by visiting the website at www.albemarle.org, and get regular email bulletins sent right to your desktop.

Budget Calendar for FY 07/08 Budget

March 7
Public Hearing on the County Executive's Recommended Budget and CIP

March 12
Budget Work Session

March 14
Budget Work Session

March 19
Budget Work Session

March 21
Budget Work Session

April 4
Public Hearing on Board's Proposed Budget and 2007 Tax Rate

April 11
Board adopts operating and capital budgets

