



Jack B. Johnson
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT



Department of Public Works and Transportation
Office of the Director



July 9, 2009

Dear Fellow Prince Georgians,

As we begin the new Fiscal Year 2010, I wanted to thank you for your partnership and support of this department that helped lead us to a successful year of service delivery this past fiscal year. Certainly, FY 2009 brought about many unexpected challenges for our county and this department, many of which resulted from the economic downturn that has and is still being experienced across the nation.

FY 2010 will be equally as challenging. The county has implemented strict cost containment measures, which include the termination of our Vacuum Leaf Collection Program. As a result, the 351 communities that were provided with this service will be included in the Department of Environmental Resources' (DER) Yard Waste Management Program. For additional information, you may contact DER at 301.952.7630 or go their Website at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov.

Rather than raking your leaves to the curb for vacuuming in the fall, you will now bag your leaves and take them to the curb for collection on your regularly scheduled yard waste days. Leaves will be collected if they are placed in securely tied, heavy-duty paper or plastic bags, or heavy-duty trash cans with handles that are secured with a lid. Cardboard boxes are not acceptable containers and will not be picked up. Of course, you also will have the option of mulching your leaves and/or composting them.

Available lawn care services are listed in the yellow pages that can assist in the removal of or in the raking and bagging of leaves from your yard for curbside pick-up. In addition, students in grades sixth – twelfth grades are required to obtain 38-hours of community service in order to graduate from high school. Consequently, you might want to consider contacting your local middle or high schools to obtain assistance for leaf removal, and, at the same time, help a local student acquire his/her community service hours. In addition, Van Caldwell, Chair of the *Livable Communities* Initiative, notes that local Boy Scouts are looking for community service projects, as well. If you are interested in pursuing this further, please call Van at 301.883.5600.

Although there will be other changes made in various service delivery areas of this department in the upcoming fiscal year, the discontinuance of the Vacuum Leaf Collection Program is the biggest change that will be experienced by you. I remain optimistic about the upcoming fiscal year and am confident that we, the staff of the Department of Public Works and Transportation, will continue to provide a high level of service delivery to our citizens. With your continued support, this department will maintain our position as a leading government agency in Prince George's County.

Sincerely,

Haitham A. Hijazi, Ph.D., P.E.
Director

Inglewood Centre 3
(301) 883-5600

9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 300
FAX (301) 883-5709

Largo, Maryland 20774
TDD (301) 985-3894