

NOTICE

Issued by the Department of

Planning & Growth Management

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Government

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Equal Opportunity
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Say No To Drugs

CHARLES COUNTY FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS (FIRM) PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING

The Department of Planning & Growth Management will be holding two (2) public outreach meetings on August 8, 2012 related to the updating of Charles County's **FIRM**. The first meeting will be held at 3:00 pm in the Commissioner's Meeting Room in the Government Building. The second meeting will be held at 6:30 pm in the Government Building Conference Room. The Government Building is located at 200 Baltimore Street in La Plata.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (**FEMA**) is in the process of a Map Modernization program to update Charles County's flood maps. The new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (**FIRM**) maps will be based on digital technology. The preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) and the preliminary Flood Insurance Study (**FIS**) will soon be released by **FEMA**.

The revised preliminary maps are available on the internet at www.rampp-team.com/public.htm. Paper copies of the maps may be reviewed at the County Government Building.

To assist with this process, the Maryland Department of the Environment (**MDE**) created a Flood Risk Application tool on a DFIRM outreach website at: www.mdffloodmaps.com. Users can type in their address to see how they might be affected by the new maps. It also provides them with recommendations on what they should do in their particular situation including the advantages of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) **Grandfather Rule** (i.e. purchasing a flood insurance policy before the maps become effective to receive a grandfathered rate).

The maps are still preliminary. There will be a 90 day Public Comment Period beginning July 27, 2012 ending October 25, 2012. This is a time when citizens will have the opportunity to submit **technical and/or scientific data** to file a protest regarding their individual property, or an appeal regarding the accuracy of the mapping process in general. Once the appeals and protests are reviewed and once any needed map changes are incorporated, FEMA will issue a Letter of Final Determination. It is expected that the effective date of the new maps will be sometime in 2013.

Other important information

1. Flood Hazard Mapping - www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/fq_genhm.shtm or 1-877-336-2627.
2. FEMA Map Information Exchange - www.msc.fema.gov or 1-800-358.9616.
3. Specific questions about flood insurance - www.floodsmart.gov or 1-800-427-4661.

"Those citizens with special needs, please contact Terri Green, Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management; Codes, Permits & Inspection Services, voice phone number @ 301-645-0700 or Maryland Relay Service TDD 1-800-735-2258."