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NEW ONLINE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) UNVEILED BY
ORANGE COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

Orange County, VA – The Orange County Planning & Zoning Department unveiled a new online Geographic Information System (GIS) on July 1, 2014. The new website, available through the county's main website (orangecountyva.gov) and at orange.gis.timmons.com, is hosted by Richmond-based Timmons Group and offers greatly expanded mapping abilities to the citizens and other members of the public.

Josh Frederick, Senior Planner, project manager, states that, "This new GIS, while only the first phase of the project, will allow us to maintain a much higher degree of accuracy and transparency with land-use related information, e.g. tax parcels, in the county. As the county will now be directly responsible for maintaining this information in the GIS, updates will be more frequent and timely, and specific corrections, such as inaccurate parcel boundaries, will be able to be addressed much more efficiently than before. This allows the county to provide to the public, and specifically those who use the online GIS frequently, a more accurate, advanced and capable product."

The GIS provides users the ability to view a host of county geospatial information, such as tax parcels, topography, floodplain, zoning, county-operated facilities, etc., all on one interactive digital map. The new site offers additional information that was previously unavailable on the old site, including the location of wetlands, historic places, dam inundation zones, etc. Additionally, users have the ability to choose from different basemaps, customize the map view, measure and draw objects, and link to Google Street View.

An exciting new feature provided by this system is a mobile version of the site intended for use on smartphones and tablets which will expand access to county information beyond personal computer. With the new online GIS, the county will be able to provide much improved accuracy of the map information as well as update this information more frequently. This marks the beginning of a phased transition to a county-maintained GIS that is expected to be wrapped up by late 2015.

For more information, please contact Josh Frederick at (540) 672-4347.

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