

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Edward R. Buck III, Treasurer

Rockingham County ended 2005 in good financial shape. This was indicated by the fact that during 2005 the County:

- Met all financial obligations on a timely basis
- Obtained borrowing at continued relatively low interest rates
- Maintained an excellent Moody rating

The highlight of a busy spring was the sale of \$4 million General Obligation Bond and the sale of \$16.9 million in a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). Rockingham County issues TANS during the year to cover obligations and expenses until receiving tax revenue from the towns in December of each year.

The TAN was purchased by Banc of America Securities LLC at a net interest rate of 2.5799% and was paid on Dec. 30, 2005. There were eight bidders on this issue.

Moody's assigned an MIG-1 rating for the \$16.9 million note, the best note rating possible. The MIG-1 rating applies to short-term loans only. The relatively low interest rates coupled with the high ratings from Moody's Investor Services were a definite plus for the County.

The general obligation improvement bond was sold to Fidelity Capital Markets at a net interest rate of 3.035398% and is due June 15, 2012. There were nine bidders for this bond. This sale will finance improvements to the County's assisted living facility and jail.

In addition, Moody's Investor Services upgraded Rockingham County to Aa2 from Aa3 rating which included the current issue. This rating alone will save the County thousands in our future borrowings. Strong financial operations, substantial tax base continuing to grow, and minimal debt burden were reasons cited by Moody's for the upgrade.

Theresa Young of the Finance Office deserves credit for putting these complicated financial matters together and was instrumental in the excellent County ratings. The entire finance staff worked hard to achieve great fiscal health for the County.

During the year, the Treasurer's Office collected \$ 36,505,736 in taxes from the thirty-seven cities and towns of Rockingham County.