



Issue #13

April 2010



The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners members are, from left, Linda L. Kelley, Gerald W. "Jerry" Clark, Wilson H. Parran, Barbara A. Stinnett and Susan Shaw.

*The days are getting warmer and the region's boaters are surely eager to get back out on the water. We are very excited this month to reveal a major new powerboat race event scheduled for this fall. We are also proud to announce new stimulus funding for energy efficiency upgrades at Mt. Hope Community Center, and we take a look at our local business climate through a recent survey of business owners. Finally, we once again urge everyone to participate in Census 2010.*

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## Mt. Hope Community Center to Receive Energy Efficiency Upgrades

### Grant Program Funds Improvements to Historical Facility



The Mt. Hope Community Center in Sunderland will receive an energy efficiency makeover following the award of a \$438,000 grant from the Maryland Energy Administration. Work to implement efficiency upgrades in county facilities is an ongoing initiative, and the grant award will help us meet this goal at Mt. Hope Community Center with

### What's Happening in Calvert County

#### April 24

American Chestnut Land Trust Guided Spring Hike  
*ACLT Trailhead, Port Republic*

#### May 1

Robbie Miles 5K Family Run/Walk  
*Calvert Hospice, Prince Frederick*

no fiscal impact to the county.

Built in 1926 as an elementary school, the center has not had a thorough renovation in nearly 30 years. The energy efficiency grant will fund improvements such as new windows and lighting, a more efficient heating and air conditioning system and upgraded wall and ceiling insulation. A reflective roof is now being installed on the building, which had been budgeted for as part of the county's energy efficiency program.

Funding for the improvements comes through a U.S. Department of Energy grant program supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, also known as the stimulus package. The program provides funds to develop and implement projects that improve energy efficiency and reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions.

The building became the county's first community center in 1981. Last year, more than 14,000 people participated in programs at the facility. The county's Parks and Recreation Division organizes a host of programs at Mt. Hope, including dance classes, karate, crafts, language instruction, scrapbooking, bingo and more. The center is also available to the general public as a venue for parties and other events. To learn more about programs at Mt. Hope Community Center, visit the county's [Parks and Recreation Division online](#).

#### A Storied History

Mt. Hope Community Center also has a rich historical past. Harriet Elizabeth Brown was a teacher there when it was the segregated Mt. Hope Elementary School, though she was paid half the salary of white teachers with similar experience. In 1937, Brown petitioned local and state school officials to change the system because she saw it as a violation of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

A young Thurgood Marshall helped Brown with her case. At the time Marshall was head of the Maryland Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and he later became a Supreme Court justice. The case was settled with the Calvert County Board of Education and is considered the turning point for salary equity in Maryland. A historical marker at the entrance to Mt. Hope Community Center commemorates Brown's struggle.

## Powerboat Races Set for Solomons

### *October Event Brings National Tour to Calvert County*

Calvert County will host a major powerboat race beginning this year when the Solomons Offshore Grand Prix debuts October 1-3. Up to 50 race teams and thousands of fans are expected on this stop of the world championship tour.

Boats racing in the series vary from 26-foot single-engine boats to 50-foot turbine-powered catamarans. Races are organized so fans have the opportunity to get a first-



#### May 1

Solomons Maritime Festival  
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons

#### May 8

Calvert Wine and Arts Fest  
All Saints Episcopal Church, Sunderland

#### May 11

Police Memorial Calvert Pines Senior Center, Prince Frederick

#### May 15

COSMIC Symphony "Beethoven and Bess"  
Huntingtown High School, Huntingtown

Visit the [events calendar](#) to learn more.



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hand look at the boats and meet the racers. The racing season starts in May and ends in November with the world championships located in Key West, Fla.

The Solomons Offshore Grand Prix will be held on the Patuxent River just off the Solomons Island Riverwalk. The four-mile course will stretch from the Thomas Johnson Bridge toward the Chesapeake Bay and back. Each straightaway will be two miles long with sweeping turns at both ends of the course. An onshore spectator area will line the Solomons Riverwalk and an area for spectator boats will be set up on the St. Mary's County side of the course. Safety plans for the event and coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard are already under way.

Race organizers expect nearly 15,000 fans over the course of the weekend, providing a major boost for the county's tourism industry. To learn more, visit the [Offshore Powerboat Association](#) or the [Chesapeake Bay Power Boat Association](#).

## County Survey Takes Pulse of Local Business



The Calvert County Department of Economic Development (DED) recently compiled the results of an informal survey of county businesses aimed at gauging the local business climate. The survey, conducted every two years, helps the county identify issues and respond with appropriate support when needed.

Business owners answered questions regarding their industry sectors, products and services offered, plans for expansion, obstacles faced in growing or managing their companies and promotion methods used.

In terms of the overall business climate, 40 percent of respondents reported having expanded their employee base over the past five years, and more than 29 percent indicated that their industry is growing either moderately or dramatically. More than 23 percent of respondents indicated they have plans to renovate or expand their building or facility and nearly 26 percent of those expected the improvements to take place within two years.

When asked which media they most frequently use to promote their businesses, the top three answers were word of mouth, the Internet and print ads. Nearly 63 percent of the businesses have a Web site and use the medium for informational purposes or sales promotions and e-commerce.

Several questions asked whether the respondents needed additional information or help doing business with the government or marketing or relocating their business. Businesses reported several challenges, including the zoning and permitting process, signage and tax issues.

Owners who requested assistance will be connected with business experts from DED or the Small Business Development Center to ensure their needs are met. Some of the free services available to county businesses include online employment classifieds, financial referrals and assistance, training and educational seminars, marketing assistance and site location and expansion assistance. In addition to the bi-annual business survey, DED staff conduct site visits throughout the year to gauge the business environment and assess needs for support.

Visit the [Department of Economic Development's Web site](#) for more detailed information about the business community and available county resources.

## Calvert County Sets the Pace for U.S. Census Participation



As of this writing, 75 percent of Calvert County residents have completed and returned the 2010 Census form. We thank all those who have participated and encourage those who haven't to do their part.

Your participation matters. Census information is used to allocate billions of dollars in government funding, but that is not all. Data collected from the 2010 Census will determine how many seats

Maryland will have in Congress and impact redistricting of both state and local voting districts and school districts. A complete response to Census 2010 will ensure your community makes its voice heard at all levels of government.

Participating in the census is easy and safe. The 2010 Census questionnaire has only 10 questions and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Census data is confidential and protected by law. The Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other government agencies.

Help ensure that every Calvert County resident is counted. You can view a copy of the [Census 2010 questionnaire](#) online. The [Calvert County Web site](#) also includes a counter showing local participation.

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We hope you find **Calvert Currents** informative and valuable. We welcome your input and suggestions about future content. Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,  
Wilson H. Parran, President  
Gerald W. "Jerry" Clark, Vice President  
Linda L. Kelley  
Susan Shaw  
Barbara A. Stinnett  
*Calvert County Board of County Commissioners*

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