



# Calvert Currents

A monthly newsletter from the Board of County Commissioners

Issue #25

April 2011

Welcome to this month's **Calvert Currents** newsletter. This month we review plans for a new substance abuse treatment facility that will begin serving citizens early next year. We also announce a grant application that will help county coastline protection efforts, preview the upcoming residential home sprinkler requirement, look at the Business Appreciation Week event and report on free rabies clinics for pet owners. Thanks for reading.



The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners members are, from left, Steven R. Weems, Gerald W. "Jerry" Clark, Susan Shaw, Evan K. Slaughenhaupt Jr. and Pat Nutter.

## Substance Abuse Treatment Facility is One Step Closer

*Project Will Streamline Much-Needed Services*

At its March 22 meeting, the commissioners unanimously approved a construction contract for a new \$3.7-million, 12,000-square-foot substance abuse treatment facility to be located on Stafford Road in Prince Frederick.

The \$2.17-million construction contract was awarded to Rainbow Construction of Waldorf. Additional funding for the facility will come through the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which will provide

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### FREE Rabies Clinics are Set for April

Calvert County pet owners can take advantage of free rabies clinics during the month of April to have their pets protected with the three-year rabies inoculation.

31 percent of the total project cost, or up to \$1.15 million. Construction on the new facility is expected to begin in late April 2011 with completion by January 2012. The facility will provide addictions services to approximately 1,100 outpatient clients each year.



Architectural rendering of the new facility

The board's action capped an effort begun in 1996 to consolidate county substance abuse services. A community advisory board at the time recommended the county streamline services by combining separate treatment programs for alcohol and drug abuse. Treatment services have since been available at four sites

across the county: at the Calvert County Health Department in Prince Frederick and at sites in Barstow, Chesapeake Beach and Lusby. Up to 18 staff members at the health department and Barstow locations will move to the new facility when it is completed.

Recent local statistics show an alarming increase in the abuse of prescription drugs. The new facility will help make services available to more citizens and will enable a continuum of care that is vital in combating the problem of drug and alcohol abuse.

*Calvert Substance Abuse Services, founded in 1996, runs the county outpatient treatment program through the Calvert County Health Department with staff made up of both county and state employees. Its target population for services is anyone over the age of 12 who is experiencing problems related to substance abuse or substance dependence. The agency offers outpatient substance abuse treatment to the general public and to residents of the Calvert County Detention Center.*

[Learn more about Calvert County substance abuse programs.](#)

## County Aims to be Coast Smart

### *Grant Application is Part of Effort to Protect Coastal Areas*

The Board of Commissioners has approved the submittal of a grant application for the state Coast-Smart Communities Initiative Grant that can help address the problem of erosion along the county's bayside cliffs.

The grant program is administered by the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) and provides technical and financial assistance to the state's coastal communities to help address their vulnerability to the impacts of



The free clinics will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the following times and locations:

#### **April 20**

Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department, 450 Solomons Island Road

#### **April 28**

Solomons Volunteer Fire Department, 13150 H.G. Trueman Road

Pet owners should bring proof of prior vaccination, and all cats, dogs and ferrets should be in a carrier or on a leash.

Calvert County pet licenses will also be available for purchase. License cost is \$7 for spayed/neutered pets and \$20 for non-spayed and non-neutered pets.

The clinic is made possible by the volunteers from the Chesapeake SPCA in conjunction with the Calvert County Health Department and the Calvert County Animal Control Unit.

For information call Chesapeake SPCA at 301-855-6950 or the Calvert County Animal Control Unit at 410-535-1600, ext. 2526.

**What's  
Happening in**

climate change.

If the application is approved, Calvert County would receive approximately \$45,000. The funds will support

- the development of a county shoreline development guidance document;
- the streamlining of the permitting process for shoreline erosion control and development activities within critical areas;
- a review of related county ordinances, and;
- the salary of a county watershed planner who will work with shoreline communities.

Grant funding will also support the activities of the county's Cliff Stabilization Advisory Committee that is working toward solutions for homeowners living near fragile cliff faces. Ultimately the county will have a shoreline development and protection plan that will govern these sensitive areas. We will share details of this initiative as the process unfolds.

## Board Approves Sprinkler Requirement for New Residential Homes

### *Measure Takes Effect in 2013*

Calvert County will soon join 10 other Maryland counties in requiring all new one- and two-family dwellings to be built with residential fire sprinkler systems. The commissioners approved the measure at its April 5 meeting as part of the process for local adoption of the 2009 International Building Code and the 2009 International Residential Code.

The requirement will take effect July 1, 2013. Any single-family home submitted for building permits after that date must include sprinklers. Multi-family dwellings and commercial buildings are already required to have sprinkler systems.

The decision came after a March 8 public hearing on building code changes, consideration by the Calvert County Building Board and input from residents. We thank all those who took the time to weigh in on the issue.



While we considered the costs involved and the nature of development in areas not served by public water systems, we believe the requirement has its greatest impact on public safety. According to the National Fire Protection Association, people with home smoke alarms have a 50 percent better chance of surviving a fire than those without. The combination of sprinklers and smoke alarms increases survival chances by over 85 percent.

Since Maryland passed legislation in 1992 requiring sprinklers in newly constructed townhomes, there have been no fire fatalities in those dwellings. That same year, Prince George's County enacted an ordinance that mirrors the one we are implementing. From 1992 to 2007, there were 101 fire deaths and 328 civilian injuries in single-family homes or townhomes that did not have sprinkler systems. No deaths occurred in homes with sprinklers during that time and there were only six civilian injuries. Additionally, having sprinklers cut the property loss by almost one-half.

## Calvert County

### March 18

Annmarie After Hours: AHH!  
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, Solomons

### April 16

Discovering Archaeology Day  
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, St. Leonard

### April 16

Easter Festival  
Town of Chesapeake Beach

### April 18

Otter Day!  
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons

### April 22

Indian Village Day  
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, St. Leonard

### April 23

Fossil Egg Hunt  
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons

### April 30

Celtic Festival & Highland Gathering  
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, St. Leonard

### May 1 and May 7

Maker's Market  
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, Dowell

### May 7

Fossil Field Experience  
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons

### May 7

Colonial Family Day:

The two-year period before implementation of the requirement in Calvert County will give builders time to incorporate the change into their designs.

A complete overview of proposed changes to the building code is [available online](#).

## Business Appreciation Week 2011

### *Fostering Healthy Business*

Each year we celebrate local businesses during Business Appreciation Week the first full week of May. The event acknowledges the many contributions local businesses make to our community and thanks them for locating in Calvert County. This year we recognize the health care industry as well as offer special events, seminars and networking activities designed to foster healthy businesses of all kinds.

Below is a list of this year's events. [Visit the Department of Economic Development online](#) to learn more.

#### Monday, May 2

Evening Kick-off Reception (by invitation only)  
Boardwalk Café at the Chesapeake Beach Resort & Spa

#### Tuesday, May 3

Company Site Visits  
Five Ambassador Teams will visit with businesses, express their appreciation and answer questions from business owners.

Free Panel Discussion: Building a Legacy of Business Owners  
Hosted by Calvert County Minority Business Alliance  
6 - 8 p.m., College of Southern Maryland Prince Frederick Campus

#### Wednesday, May 4

The Power of E-mail Marketing  
Hosted by the Calvert County Department of Economic Development  
(FREE - Seating is limited)  
9 a.m. - noon, Calvert Library, Prince Frederick

Women's Business Roundtable Networking Event  
Co-hosted by the Small Business Development Center  
(FREE - Seating is limited)  
6 - 8 p.m., Calvert Memorial Hospital

#### Thursday, May 5

Calvert County Chamber Business After Hours Mixer  
Hosted by Davis, Upton & Palumbo, LLC  
132 Main Street, Prince Frederick

Thanks for reading **Calvert Currents**. Now we want to hear from you! Click the Feedback link at the right to send us your questions or story ideas.

Sincerely,  
Susan Shaw, President  
Pat Nutter, Vice President  
Gerald W. "Jerry" Clark  
Evan K. Slaughenhoupt Jr.

Colonial Toys &  
Games  
Jefferson Patterson  
Park and Museum,  
St. Leonard

#### May 8

Mother's Day Brunch  
and Evening Cruises  
Calvert Marine  
Museum, Solomons

#### May 12-14

Solomons Plein Air  
Street Fair & Exhibit  
Annmarie Sculpture  
Garden & Arts  
Center, Dowell

#### May 14

Solomons Maritime  
Festival  
Calvert Marine  
Museum, Solomons

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



We want to hear from you. [Click here](#) to e-mail your feedback.

Steven R. Weems  
Calvert County Board of County Commissioners

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