



# Calvert Currents

A monthly newsletter from the Board of County Commissioners

Issue #33

December 2011

Season's greetings from the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners. In this final 2011 edition of **Calvert Currents** we celebrate the county's selection once again as one of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People. We also honor the winners of the 2011 Sustainability Awards, review the county's new floodplain regulations and announce Commissioner Clark's nomination to the state Critical Area Commission. Here's wishing you a joyful holiday season.

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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.

## Calvert County is Named Top Community for Second Year

*National Honor Lauds Dedication to Young People*

Calvert County has been named one of the country's 100 Best Communities for Young People for 2011 by America's Promise Alliance following its first-time selection for the award in 2010. The 100 Best Communities award

## Clark Named to State Critical Area Commission

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley has appointed Calvert County Commissioner Gerald W. "Jerry" Clark to an interim position on the state Critical Area Commission. Clark's membership

celebrates America's young people and the communities most dedicated to helping local youth graduate from high school. The competition honors cities, counties and towns working to decrease high school dropout rates and create brighter futures for young people.



America's Promise Alliance lauded Calvert County for its commitment to education and collaboration among the agencies, nonprofits, businesses and community organizations that provide services to children and youth. The organization also recognized the county's high graduation rate, the provision of family services through the Calvert County Family Network and the school system's service learning component.

A wide variety of Calvert County citizens were involved in the award application as part of the Interagency Council for Children and Youth, with the Calvert Collaborative for Children & Youth (CCCY) serving as the lead organization. The application process comprised four months of research, drafting and coordination.

In 2011 more than 300 communities in all 50 states and Washington, DC, were nominated for the 100 Best competition. The winners come from 39 states.

The award includes two signs designating the county as one of the 100 best places for children and young people. To learn more about the award, visit the [America's Promise Alliance Web site](#). Visit online for an [America's Promise Alliance profile of Calvert County](#) along with [award details from Calvert Collaborative for Children and Youth](#).

becomes official upon confirmation by the Maryland Senate during the upcoming General Assembly session.

Clark represents Calvert County on the commission and fills a position that had been vacant since June 30. Clark's four-year term begins retroactively to July 1 and he may serve up to two terms.

The Critical Area Commission, comprised of 29 voting members, was created by the 1984 Critical Area Act. The commission reviews and approves all changes to the Critical Area programs of local jurisdictions. It also reviews and approves all development projects in the Critical Area on state land.

The Critical Area Act identified the "Critical Area" as all land within 1,000 feet of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The goals of the law include minimizing the adverse impacts on water quality that result from runoff pollutants; conserving wildlife and plant habitat in the Critical Area; and establishing Critical Area land use policies that accommodate growth while protecting natural resources. Local governments have adopted Critical Area programs based

## Board Adopts New Floodplain Regulations

On Nov. 29 the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted to adopt amendments to the county floodplain regulations. The changes include new floodplain maps and an increase in the minimum "freeboard" height of structures within the floodplain.

Adoption of the regulations and the new floodplain maps developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will ensure the county remains eligible for the National Flood Insurance Program. Residents may use



the floodplain maps to investigate their flood risk status and determine whether to make modifications to flood insurance coverage. The maps become effective on Dec. 16, 2011, and [may be viewed online](#).

The new freeboard height is a factor of safety and calls for a structure's lowest floor to be two feet above the estimated 100-year flood level (freeboard), up from a one-foot freeboard previously specified in the regulation. The two-foot freeboard requirement was recommended by the Calvert County Planning Commission and adopted by the BOCC.

For more information on the county's floodplain program, [visit online](#).

## County Honors Winners of Sustainability Awards

To recognize the contributions that local entrepreneurs make toward a more sustainable community, the BOCC honored the winners of the 2011 Calvert County Sustainability Awards at its Nov. 15 meeting.



Calvert County  
SUSTAINABLE  
AGRICULTURE  
A W A R D

Each year the county presents awards for sustainable agriculture and sustainable business. The 2011 Sustainable Agriculture Awards were presented in four categories:

### **Sustainable Farmer of the Year Award** **Jim and Patty Bourne of [The Lamb's Quarter](#), Owings**

The Bourne family has been farming the same land on Bourne Road since 1690. The Lamb's Quarter has a Soil Conservation Plan and a Nutrient Management Plan and employs best management practices to control runoff, maintain grass cover and minimize plowing or soil

disturbance. The Bournes primarily follow organic practices and minimize the use of herbicides or pesticides. The farm has a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operation that now includes 90 shareholders. The shareholders buy in to the program and receive boxes of produce on a weekly basis.

### **Green Grocer of the Year Award** **William Kreamer, [Chesapeake's Bounty](#), St. Leonard**

Chesapeake's Bounty sells local produce, seafood, meat, baked goods, canned goods, dairy, honey, nursery plants, Christmas trees and firewood. Local products are featured heavily and many products are grown on site. A pick-your-own strawberry patch accompanies crops such as tomatoes, okra, eggplant and peppers. Chesapeake's Bounty also hosted a small-scale CSA in which share owners selected crops they wanted grown in rented raised beds. Kreamer's staff planted and tended the gardens which the shareholders harvested themselves.

### **Buy Local Restaurant of the Year Award** **Dee and Ricky Hardesty, [Hardesty Haven Catering](#)**

With the support of their children, Blake and Holly, the Hardestys created a family catering business that has been active for five years. Dee is a third-generation farmer and strives to bring her love of farm-fresh food to the catering business. Her dishes often feature food produced on her own farm as

on criteria developed by the commission.

[Learn more about the state Critical Area program.](#)

## What's Happening in Calvert County

**Through Jan. 1**  
Brightest Beacon on the Bay  
*Chesapeake Beach*

**Through Jan. 14**  
Holiday Train Garden  
*Tan's Cycles, North Beach*

**Dec. 19**  
Calvert Eats Local Book Discussion: "The Town That Food Saved"  
*Calvert Library, Prince Frederick*

**Dec. 22**  
Polar Express  
*Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Chesapeake Beach*

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



well as a wonderful assortment purchased from farms throughout Southern Maryland. The Hardesty's mobile farm kitchen and catering trailer allows them to cook on site and serve immediately. The farm kitchen is also a great resource for the 4-H "Dirt to Dinner" group that Dee started and leads, which allows children to see farm products turned into meals.

#### **Sustainable Meat Producer of the Year**

**Debbie and Dale Jones, [Windy Willow Farm, Sunderland](#)**

**Chris and Bryan Dowell, [Crooked Branch Farm, Sunderland](#)**

This new award category resulted in a tie. Both farms treat their animals humanely, never feed animal by-products, only use antibiotics if medically necessary for the health of the animal and do not use growth implants. The farms also have Nutrient Management Plans and Soil Conservation Plans.

The Joneses of Windy Willow Farm are third-generation farmers who raise beef, lamb and goat. Careful attention to breeding has led them to a beef cross between a limousine bull with red angus heifers to produce cattle that thrive on a 100-percent grass-fed diet. The result is a lean meat with a full and distinct flavor. The Joneses have a following at the North Beach Farmers Market where they often sell out.

The Dowells at Crooked Branch Farm breed and raise beef primarily on grass and hay with a grain finish. Cattle are moved between summer and winter pastures to allow the land to rest and grass to recover between grazing. All the hay needed for winter forage is also produced onsite. Crooked Branch sells custom butchered beef that is cut to the customer's specifications.

The **Sustainable Business of the Year Award** for 2011 went to **[Absolute Quality Contractors \(AQC\) of Prince Frederick](#)**. AQC is a general contractor, custom builder and remodeling company that has served Southern Maryland for more than 15 years. AQC earned the sustainability award by specializing in many "green" services including photovoltaic solar and thermal solar installations, radiant heat, metal roofs and even rain barrel installation. AQC is also building Calvert County's first straw bale home in Port Republic using an earth-friendly type of construction dating back to 1890s Nebraska. Straw bales are a natural and renewable building material with very high insulation values. Building with bales also reduces the amount of lumber used and therefore the number of trees consumed in typical construction.



Congratulations to this year's Sustainability Awards winners.

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. Slaughenhaupt Jr.  
Steven R. Weems  
*Calvert County Board of County Commissioners*

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