



Issue #23

February 2011

Welcome to this month's **Calvert Currents** newsletter. In this issue we review the Board of County Commissioners' decision to intervene in the regulatory process for a major new utility project planned for the mid-Atlantic that will have an impact on our community. We also check in on an innovative medication disposal program run by local agencies and recap the savings our residents are realizing with the county's prescription drug discount card. Finally we recognize Calvert County Government's Employee of the Year. 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.

### In This Issue

[County Takes a Hard Look at Pepco Transmission Project](#)

[Local Agencies Mark First Year of Medication Disposal Effort](#)

[County Residents Save Big with Drug Discount Program](#)

[Calvert County Employee of the Year](#)

[Grant Announced for "Growing Grapes for Wine" Program](#)

[What's Happening in Calvert County](#)

### Quick Links

[County Commissioners Meeting Summaries](#)

[County Government on the Web](#)

[Calvert County Business and Tourism](#)

## County Takes a Hard Look at Pepco Transmission Project

***Commissioners Intervene in Case to Reduce Local Impact***

Calvert County has often been a friendly host to utility projects that help support the region's energy sector. We are home to the state's only nuclear power plant and to one of the nation's largest liquefied natural gas import facilities. These sites are major county taxpayers and fit well with the county's development goals outlined in our Comprehensive Plan.

The key, however, is that projects meet the high standards we set for our

**2011 Grant Announced for "Growing Grapes for Wine" Program**

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) is offering grants to farms in

community. When they do not, as in the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) pole project in Huntingtown, we work hard to see that corrections are made. Recently Pepco has been working with the county on the [Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway](#), or MAPP. We believe that portions of this project can have a negative impact locally, and we have petitioned to become a part of the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) proceedings on the project to ensure that our concerns are addressed.

The MAPP project consists of a transmission line that would increase the ability to transport power across three mid-Atlantic states and would purportedly bring more reliable power to the region. Plans call for a massive, 65-foot-tall industrial facility called a converter station to be located in Calvert County. The station would convert electricity between AC (alternating current) and DC (direct current) for long-range transmission. The Port Republic site Pepco has identified for the station would occupy 34 acres in close proximity to Route 4 near the headwaters of Parkers Creek, one of the largest and most environmentally sensitive creeks in the county.

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) contends that construction of the facility on Pepco's preferred site would create a blight on the landscape and would be in violation of the [Calvert County Comprehensive Plan](#) and the [Calvert County Zoning Ordinance](#). If built at this location, the facility would also have a significant impact on Parkers Creek.

We are intervening in the PSC case because we believe that none of the current parties in the case adequately represent our interest in protecting the Parkers Creek watershed or in seeking compliance with the county's comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance. We have concerns about the environmental and aesthetic impacts related to the location and construction of the converter station. Much of the land surrounding Parkers Creek has been preserved from development as part of an effort to maintain the creek and the surrounding area in their natural condition. We aim to keep it that way.

We have remained firm with Pepco about our priorities and we hope the company will work with us to identify a proper site for the converter station. We will also continue to push Pepco for full, open communication as the process moves forward. The BOCC will give its testimony on the case before the PSC at public hearings on the project scheduled for September. Follow ***Calvert Currents*** for regular updates.

***The MAPP project is being considered by the PSC under Case Number 9179. Information is available on the [Maryland Public Service Commission Web site](#). To learn more, please contact Linda Vassallo, director of Calvert County Department of Economic Development, at 410-535-4583.***

## Local Agencies Mark First Year of Medication Disposal Effort

Over the past year a local working group led by the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse, Inc. (CAASA) has spearheaded an effort to properly dispose of prescription medications. The first-year results are in: Disposal programs developed through a partnership among various public and private agencies have gathered more than 700 pounds of prescription medications in Calvert County.

Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties to aid in the purchase of wine grape vines to support the development of a competitive wine industry in Southern Maryland.

The grant program requires matching funds supplied by the farm owner for the purchase of grape vines of recommended grape varieties compatible with the region. The Grapes for Wine Program is offered together with the University of Maryland Extension which will provide ongoing training and production expertise.

To be eligible an applicant must own or be co-applicant with the owner of at least five acres of land currently in agricultural use. Existing grape growers and new growers may apply, unless the farmer is a prior recipient of a SMADC Farm Viability Grant awarded specifically for vineyard enhancement. Past participants of the Growing Grapes for Wine cost-share program are eligible.

Awards for this spring will be contingent upon farms having suitable soils that have already been tested for nematodes. Grant applications



Participating Calvert County pharmacies collected 600 pounds of unused prescription drugs in 2010 while county residents dropped off more than 146 pounds of medications at a Calvert County Sheriff's Office drop box.

The effort is a response to a rise in prescription medication abuse and news about the presence of pharmaceuticals in water supplies. The proper disposal of unused medications can combat both

problems by removing drugs from circulation and offering a safe alternative to simply flushing them down the drain.

Two community pharmacies, Chesapeake Pharmacy of Chesapeake Beach and Calvert-Arundel Pharmacy in Owings, are part of Maryland's "Take-Back" program and accept the return of non-narcotic prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs and supplements. The Calvert County Sheriff's Office maintains a "24/7" pharmaceuticals drop box at its headquarters on Church Street in Prince Frederick that can be utilized at any time with no questions asked. County residents may also dispose of unused pharmaceuticals through one of the [quarterly household hazardous waste disposal events](#) sponsored by the Calvert County Division of Solid Waste.

Further information is available in a brochure entitled "Prescription Drug Abuse: Proper Disposal Methods" which details the issue of prescription drug abuse, provides guidelines for proper disposal and offers resource information. The brochure is available at local pharmacies, doctors' offices and in the offices of participating agencies.

The group of local agencies involved in the effort is comprised of CAASA, [Calvert County Sheriff's Office](#), Calvert County State's Attorney's Office, [Calvert County Solid Waste Division](#), [Calvert County Division of Parks and Recreation](#), [Calvert Memorial Hospital](#), [Calvert Substance Abuse Services](#), Calvert County Commission on Aging, [Chesapeake Pharmacy](#), [Calvert-Arundel Pharmacy](#), [Department of Juvenile Services](#) and [Maryland State Police, Barrack U.](#)

For more information, visit the [Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse, Inc.](#) online or call 410-535-FREE.

## County Residents Save Big with Drug Discount Program

Calvert County's free prescription drug discount program is 18 months old, and county residents have filled more than 4,500 prescriptions at discounts averaging more than 25 percent (\$13.86 per prescription), for a total savings of more than \$62,000. If you have not gotten your card yet, get one now and you too can save.

Introduced in July, 2009, the program helps county residents



are due to SMADC by March 4, 2011.

Download the [grant application and guidelines](#), visit [www.SMADC.com](http://www.SMADC.com) or contact SMADC staff at 301-274-1922, Ext. 1.

### What's Happening in Calvert County

#### February 19

Comedy Invasion for Project Graduation  
*Huntingtown High School Auditorium*

#### February 20

Sunday  
Conversations:  
African-Americans of Calvert County  
*Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons*

#### February 21

School is OUT;  
Art is IN  
*Annamarie Garden, Dowell*

#### March 5

Northern High School Family Nite  
Bingo  
*Northern High School, Owings*

#### March 10

PEM Talks: The Calvert Cliffs Conundrum  
*Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons*

#### March 12

Volunteer Workshop  
*Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum*

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

cope with the high price of prescription drugs. The county makes the free prescription drug discount cards available under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo). The cards may be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income or existing health coverage and are accepted at all of the county's pharmacies. A national network of more than 59,000 participating retail pharmacies also honors the card.

To use the discount card, residents simply present it at a participating pharmacy. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance. The card also covers pet medications available at participating pharmacies.

There is no cost to county taxpayers for NACo and Calvert County to make these money-saving cards available to our residents. Cards are available at all [Calvert County libraries](#), [senior centers](#), the [Health Department](#) and the [Calvert County Department of Community Resources](#), located at 30 Duke Street in Prince Frederick. County residents can call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit [www.caremark.com/naco](http://www.caremark.com/naco) for assistance with the program.



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

## County Names Employee of the Year

Wayne Gross, highway maintenance crew leader with Public Works/Highway Maintenance Division, was named Employee of the Year at the county's annual Employee Recognition Program February 8.

An Employee of the Month for June 2010, Wayne was recognized for the outstanding work he did in learning and maintaining the Highway Maintenance customer service database during the medical absence of the employee normally charged with this task. He then simultaneously served as customer service coordinator while ensuring that his own crew continued to effectively carry out its duties. He not only learned an entirely new database, he maintained a high level of personal commitment to both the crews performing the work and the citizens calling the county.



**2010 Employee of the Year  
Wayne Gross**

Wayne embodies the professionalism and dedication that is the hallmark of our county workforce. We offer our congratulations and sincere thanks for his efforts.

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*

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to slaglekr@co.cal.md.us by [info@co.cal.md.us](mailto:info@co.cal.md.us) |  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Calvert County Board of County Commissioners | Courthouse | Prince Frederick | MD | 20678