



Issue #10

January 2010



*Happy New Year from the Board of County Commissioners. We look forward to a promising 2010. This month we announce the availability of a new online system for vendors to access county bid opportunities. We also commend the Calvert Marine Museum on its accreditation, introduce a new course for local weather watchers and preview a year of events from the Calvert County Commission on Women. Let us know if you have suggestions for other topics you would like to see in **Calvert Currents**.*

New Purchasing Process Opens Opportunities

eMaryland Marketplace Provides Online Access

In an effort to give vendors access and exposure to more Calvert County government bidding opportunities, the county's Purchasing Office will be using the Internet-based eMaryland Marketplace as of March 1.



Vendors seeking to do business with the county can register through eMaryland Marketplace and receive e-mail notifications of bidding opportunities. Once registered, vendors can access all current county solicitations. Since eMaryland Marketplace is used by jurisdictions across the state, businesses can also access bid opportunities from other counties and state agencies.

No costs were incurred as part of the transition to eMaryland Marketplace. In conjunction with the new process, the purchasing section of the Calvert County Web site will be upgraded to provide better vendor information and instructions.

The county's Purchasing Office has a computer dedicated to eMaryland

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Retirement and Investment Workshop for Regional Farm Community

The Retirement and Investments Workshop is the fourth in a series of financial planning workshops created to assist the region's

Marketplace registration for vendors who need assistance. Walk-ins are welcomed.

E-mail purchasing@co.cal.md.us for more information eMaryland Market Place. The Purchasing Office is located in the County Services Plaza, 150 Main Street, Suite 105 in Prince Frederick.

Calvert Marine Museum Receives National Acclaim

American Association of Museums Awards Accreditation



The Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) has achieved its third accreditation from the American Association of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition for a museum. AAM accreditation measures quality assurance, self-regulation, and public accountability, and earns national recognition for a museum for its commitment to excellence in all that it does: governance, collections stewardship, public programs, financial stability, high professional standards and continued institutional improvement.

There are approximately 17,500 museums in the United States, 775 are currently accredited, and more than 300 have gone through the process three times according to Calvert Marine

Museum Director Doug Alves. The CMM accreditation "is a reflection of all the hard work and dedication that staff and volunteers have put into making CMM an exceptional museum," Alves said. CMM is one of only 12 museums in Maryland to be accredited, and has been accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1981.

The rigorous accreditation process examines all aspects of a museum's operations and generally takes three years. To earn accreditation, a museum first must conduct a year of self-study, then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers.

The Calvert Marine Museum has provided historical lore, education and culture to Southern Maryland for nearly 40 years. We congratulate Doug Alves and his staff for their achievement in earning accreditation and for their continued contributions to our community.

The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and those with a valid military I.D., and \$2 for children ages 5 - 12; children under 5 are free. Visit [Calvert Marine Museum online](#) or call 410-326-2042 ext. 17 for more information.

agricultural and farm business owners prepare for their financial future as the Tobacco Buyout comes to an end. The general public is also welcomed to attend.

Learn how to plan for a secure and successful retirement and avoid common retirement planning mistakes by understanding your sources of retirement income. Workshop topics will cover the allocation of investments in your retirement plans, understanding spousal benefits and the differences between IRA, Roth IRA and 401k, Required Minimum Distribution, and guidance on determining how much income a retiree can withdraw from savings.

This is not a sales presentation. The workshop is presented in partnership with the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission and Wealth Management Partners, an independent financial planning firm located in Waldorf. The workshop is intended solely as a way for farming families and residents of Southern Maryland to become more informed about their retirement planning options.

The free workshop will take place on Wednesday, January 20 at 6 p.m. in the SMECO Auditorium located at 15035 Burnt Store Road in Hughesville.

Department of Public Safety Hosts SKYWARN® Weather Spotting Course

National Weather Service Course Trains Local Volunteers

The Calvert County Department of Public Safety is hosting a SKYWARN® Weather Spotter Basics I class on **February 22, 2010, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Calvert County Fairgrounds.**

Established by the National Weather Service (NWS), SKYWARN® is a program that trains volunteers to provide timely, accurate reports of severe weather to the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Sterling, Va.

SKYWARN® spotter volunteers identify and describe local severe storms. This information, coupled with Doppler radar, satellite and other data, enables the weather service to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

The Basics I class is the introductory course and prerequisite for all other courses offered. The course covers the following:

- The basic organization of the National Weather Service
- The role and importance for the SKYWARN® Spotter
- NWS products and the watch/warning/advisory system
- Thunderstorms and thunderstorm threats
- How to report vital information to the National Weather Service
- The role of amateur short-wave (HAM) radio in the spotter program

To register, contact the Calvert County Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, at 410-535-1600 or 301-855-1243, ext. 2638 or e-mail oem@co.cal.md.us.

Calvert County Commission for Women Sponsors *A New Year, A New You*

Monthly, 6:45 to 9 p.m.
Calvert Library, Prince Frederick branch
Meeting Rooms 2 and 3
850 Costley Way, Prince Frederick, MD

The Calvert County Commission for Women is hosting a year-long series of free programs on a wide variety of topics for women and families. These free courses, all held at the Calvert Library's Prince Frederick branch, feature speakers who are recognized professionals in the topic being discussed.

The first session on January 26, entitled *Your Money and You*, will cover tax issues, money-saving strategies, credit and budgeting. Other sessions during the year will explore teen relationships, self empowerment, women's health, careers and much more.

Attend as many as you like. Pre-registration is requested; e-mail Tracypcccw@aol.com or call 301-367-7412. Visit the [Calvert County Commission for Women online](#) to view the full schedule of events.

Registration is requested. For more information and to RSVP please contact SMADC staff at 301-274-1922. In case of cancellation due to inclement weather call 301-274-1922 and enter 29 to hear a recording. For more information on related programs visit the SMADC Web site at somylandsgood.com.

What's Happening in Calvert County

January 29

Fashion Show - Project Runway
Southern Community Center, Lusby

February 4

Mother/Son Whacky Valentine's Event
Southern Community Center, Lusby

February 20

Guided Winter Hike
Double Oak Farm,
Prince Frederick

February 28

COSMIC Family Concert and Ballet Caliente
Huntingtown High School, Huntingtown

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



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



Commission Openings

The Calvert County Commission for Women is seeking applicants for one vacancy. The commission, which serves as a clearinghouse for information and activities important to local women, meets the third Thursday monthly at 7 p.m. Please call 410-394-0070 for more information.

There are also several other ways to serve the community through local commissions and advisory boards. For a full listing of volunteer opportunities, visit the [Calvert County Web site](#).

We hope you are finding **Calvert Currents** informative and encourage you to share it with others. Our goal is to show how local government is serving the community. Click the Feedback link on the right to let us know how we are doing.

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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