



Issue #15

June 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.

It has been a busy spring around Calvert County. We adopted a tight fiscal year 2011 budget and are proud to report that we were able to meet our goals of no tax increases, minimum or no impact to county services and no furloughs or layoffs of county employees. Below we offer a fuller budget picture. We also review the opening of two county amenities and the groundbreaking for a third. In addition we take a look at road resurfacing projects and seek nominations for the Calvert You Are Beautiful Volunteer Awards. Thanks for reading.

A Tight County Budget for Tough Times

Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Meets Modest Goals

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopted a \$224.97 million fiscal year (FY) 2011 operating budget on May 25 following one of the toughest budget processes in recent memory.

The board laid out three goals for this budget: no tax increases, little or no impact to county services and no furloughs or layoffs of county employees. We are proud to say we were able to meet those goals while promoting the prudent and restrained use of your tax dollars.

Property taxes continue to be the county's major revenue source,

In This Issue

[A Tight County Budget for Tough Times](#)

[Budget Outlook: Education](#)

[County Road Resurfacing Projects to Begin This Month](#)

[County Attractions in the Spotlight](#)

[Nominations Accepted for 'Calvert You Are Beautiful'](#)

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

Quick Links

[County Commissioners Meeting Summaries](#)

[County Government on the Web](#)

[Calvert County Business and Tourism](#)



Nominations Now Being Accepted for 'Calvert You Are Beautiful'

comprising \$146.5 million or 65 percent of total revenue. We chose to keep the property tax rate constant at 89.2 cents per hundred dollars of valuation. This rate has not changed since 1987.

Income taxes, the second largest revenue source, are low and come in at \$56 million -- the approximate amount the county received five years ago for FY 2006. State-controlled revenues have continued to drop from a high in FY 2008 of \$15.35 million to \$2.97 million in this budget.

To help meet revenue reductions, county departments cut an average of four percent in operating costs for FY 2011. At the same time we were able to provide for important priorities. The budget includes funding for four new employees at an expanded work release center, which will provide much-needed capacity relief to the detention center. To further enhance public safety, we are adding three sheriff 's deputies and a new assistant state's attorney.

We also continue to provide assistance through the Homestead and Homeowner Tax Credit programs to help homeowners with their property tax bills. The budget plans for almost \$7 million in credits in FY 2011. The credits help homeowners deal with home value assessment increases -- and the resulting tax bills -- by limiting the increase in taxable assessments to 10 percent or less each year.

In our capital improvement plan (CIP) budget, new schools and roads are by far the largest funding commitment for FY 2011. We provide funding to complete the renovation of Calvert High School and the addition of a second building at the College of Southern Maryland. We also target funds for additional work on the Prince Frederick Loop Road to address traffic congestion on our central corridor of Route 4 and for improvements to Williams Road at the College of Southern Maryland. The FY 2011 CIP budget totals \$46.38 million.

We thank the citizens of Calvert County for their contributions as we worked through a trying budget process. Our goal has always been the implementation of a prudent, responsible, long-range financial plan and the prudent use of your tax dollars. We believe that, with your help, we realized that goal.

You may view the [complete budget document online](#).

BUDGET OUTLOOK: Public Education

Partnership with Public Schools Sustains Local Education Funding



Calvert County has long held a commitment to providing quality school infrastructure and funding for public education. Because of this commitment, the county is consistently ranked among the best performing school systems in Maryland.

We have heard some criticism during

The Calvert County Department of Economic Development is now taking nominations for the annual "Calvert You Are Beautiful Volunteer Awards."

This project recognizes individuals whose volunteer service improves the quality of life for Calvert County citizens and visitors.

Nominated volunteers might be a tour guide at a museum or historic landmark, someone who organizes a local fair, festival or parade, or the person committed to making a difference by giving generously of their time to hospices, hospitals, homeless and other social service agencies. All nominees must be residents of Calvert County.

Nomination forms are available online or by calling the Department of Economic Development at 410.535.4583. Completed forms should be returned to "Calvert You Are Beautiful" c/o Tammy Loveless, Department of Economic Development, Courthouse, Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678. Applications must be postmarked or hand delivered by July 23, 2010.

this budgeting cycle regarding education, specifically in relation to teacher pay. However, it is important to understand that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) simply sets the local contribution for public education funding each year based on formulas detailed below. Calvert County Public Schools staff budgets that money and negotiates employee contracts with Board of Education approval.

State law requires that local education funding be no less than the amount per pupil provided the prior year. This is the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement that makes a county eligible to receive state education funding. Calvert County contributions for public education have consistently exceeded MOE standards. From FY 2006 through FY 2011, county education funding outpaced MOE requirements by an average of \$4.2 million annually. The county contributed a total of \$25.2 million above MOE requirements over that period.

In addition to the state MOE requirement, the BOCC and the Board of Education (BOE) collaborated on a funding formula based on student enrollment, the consumer price index and an adjustment factor to fund new initiatives or new state mandates. The formula, in place through FY 2012, will provide \$105 million in operations funding for FY 2011, an increase of approximately \$1.4 million or 1.35 percent.

This FY 2011 funding increase illustrates our commitment to education in a very tough economic climate. We believe that our working partnership with Calvert County Public Schools helps ensure effective financial planning for both the school system and the county.

County Road Resurfacing Projects to Begin This Month

Federal Stimulus Funds Support Effort

The Calvert County Department of Public Works will oversee a \$1.34-million project to pave more than four miles of county roads beginning the week of June 14.

Approximately 4.3 miles of various Calvert County roads will be resurfaced and treated to new pavement markings. The following road sections are part of the project:

- 5th Street in North Beach from Boyd's Turn Road To Greenwood Avenue
- Brickhouse Road from Ward Road to 900 feet south of Chaney Road
- Emmanuel Church Road from Stinnett Road to Wilson Road
- Huntingtown Road from Hunting Creek Road toward Holland Cliffs Road

The resurfacing project is expected to last four to six weeks. It is funded through the U.S. Department of Transportation as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act stimulus package.

Motorists may experience delays during construction. Residents who have questions may contact the Calvert County Department of Public Works at 410-535-2204.



All Calvert County nominees will be honored at a local awards ceremony sponsored by the Board of County Commissioners in fall 2010; one "special" nominee will be chosen as the volunteer of the year.

What's Happening in Calvert County

June 18

Campfire on the Beach
Town of North Beach

June 18

Calvert County Relay for Life
Hallowing Point Park, Prince Frederick

June 20

Father's Day Breakfast
American Legion Auxiliary 206, Chesapeake Beach

June 20

Father's Day Fling
Annmarie Garden, Solomons

June 20

Father's Day Brunch and Dinner Cruises
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons

June 23

Summer Fun Event: Mad Science
Calvert Library, Prince Frederick

June 24

Summer Fun Days Children's Programs
Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

County Attractions in the Spotlight

June 26

Household
Hazardous Waste
Collection Day
*Appeal Landfill,
Lusby*

July 3

Chesapeake Beach
Fireworks Display

July 4

Fireworks Cruise
*Calvert Marine
Museum, Solomons*

July 4

Fireworks Display
Riverwalk, Solomons

July 8

Bay Breeze Concert
*Chesapeake Beach
Railway Museum*

July 10

SHARKFEST!
*Calvert Marine
Museum, Solomons*

July 16

Sunset in the Tropics
Cruise
*Calvert Marine
Museum, Solomons*

July 19

Intergenerational
Summer Camp
*Calvert Pines Senior
Center, Prince
Frederick*

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



We have been busy over the past month traveling the county celebrating old, new and future county amenities. Each of these projects is part of what makes Calvert County a great place to live.

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



The Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center officially opened June 8 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Patrons were admitted for free from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.



We broke ground May 25 on the Solomons Town Center Park, a 20-acre site that will feature multi-purpose fields, an entrance road, parking and a playground. Construction of this first phase should be complete by fall.

Summer is upon us, so here's hoping you get out and enjoy what makes Calvert County great. Visit a park, Take a boat ride. Play a round of golf. Check out a farmers market. Discover something new and make some memories.

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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