



# Calvert Currents

A monthly newsletter from the Board of County Commissioners

Issue #27

June 2011

Welcome to the June issue of **Calvert Currents**. This month we announce the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2012 budget. We also take a look at the Calvert You Are Beautiful program, the 20th annual Employees and Friends Golf Tournament and the local adoption of the state noise ordinance. Don't forget to check out all the other events and happenings throughout Calvert County. 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.

## County Adopts \$232 Million Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

**Measure Includes No Tax Rate Increases; Capital Projects Come In at \$22.5 Million**

Following a May 24 public hearing, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 budget at its June 7 meeting. The balanced budget, totaling \$232 million, includes no tax rate increases or use of the county's fund balance.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Hall Aquatic Center Birthday Bash**

Celebrate the Hall Aquatic Center's first year of operations at a Birthday Bash on **Saturday, June 18, from 1 to 5 p.m.** Join

The measure represents a \$7.07 million increase -- or 3.1 percent -- over FY 2011. This increase is due to a collaborative grant with the Board of Education, since county revenues remain flat. The budget does not include a cost of living adjustment or step increase for employees and, conversely, no layoffs or furloughs. Staff has worked hard to gain efficiencies, increase productivity and maintain our level of services while absorbing cuts in operating expenses over the last three years. We are very proud of their hard work and resilience during these tough economic times.

County funding for education has increased by approximately \$4 million to just over \$109 million. Approximately \$2.5 million of this increase is one-time funding related to the collaborative grant agreement with the Board of Education. The balance of the increase -- \$1.5 million -- is a result of the school funding formula. Education funding comprises 52.4 percent of our General Fund budget.

On the revenue side, we are seeing the decline of real property taxes as local assessments drop in value. It is important to note that our tax **rate** has not changed since 1987.

We have also weathered major decreases in recent years due to the state's budget balancing. Highway user revenue, generated by car registrations and gasoline taxes, has declined from \$6 million not long ago to about \$300,000 expected in 2012. The state has also shifted various costs to the counties, including \$620,000 for the local State Office of Assessments and Taxation.

Below are details on other county funds and our Capital Improvement Plan. [You may view the full budget online.](#)

#### **Water & Sewer Fund**

This fund is working through a multi-year phase-in plan to a county-wide rate structure. This is the last year for the phase-in, and the fund is expected to be completely self sustaining by the end of FY2013. The most significant change in revenues is a 50-percent decline in Capital Connection fees, a direct result of the economic decline as fewer homes and businesses are connecting to county systems.

#### **Solid Waste Fund**

This fund includes a tip fee increase based on the Consumer Price Index as required by our contract with Waste Management. Residential fees increase from \$63.89 to \$65.27 per ton and commercial fees increase from \$70.98 to \$72.52 per ton.

#### **Capital Improvement Plan**

The majority of the funding to support capital projects comes from general obligation bonds comprising 58 percent of total revenues. State grants and loans, excise taxes, local grants and user or utility fees make up the balance. FY2012 highlights include:

- Calvert High School Replacement: \$10,591,000
- New College of Southern Maryland Building: \$2,088,000
- Chesapeake Hills Golf Course Irrigation: \$504,000
- Prince Frederick Loop Road/Wilson Road: \$3,457,000
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure: \$2,843,600

## **Nominate a "Beautiful" Person for the County's Annual Volunteer Awards**

Do you know someone whose volunteer service improves the quality of life

us for free activities with paid admission. The first 100 guests will receive free gifts! There will be inflatable obstacle course competitions, raft races, penny toss challenges, cannonball contests and more. For details, call 410-414-8350 or [visit the Parks and Recreation Web site](#) for the aquatic center.

### **What's Happening in Calvert County**

#### **June 17**

Campfire on the Beach  
5th Street & Bay Avenue, North Beach

#### **June 18**

Father's Day Fling  
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, Solomons

#### **June 18**

Willie Nelson's Country Throwdown Benefiting the Calvert Marine Museum  
Regency Furniture Stadium, Waldorf

#### **June 19**

Father's Day Cruises Aboard the Wm. B. Tennison  
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons

#### **June 23 & June 30**

Summer Fun Days Children's Programs  
Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Chesapeake Beach

#### **June 25**

Kid's Pirate Pizza Cruise

for Calvert County citizens and visitors? If so, consider nominating that person for the annual "Calvert You Are Beautiful Volunteer Awards."

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 by visiting [www.ecalvert.com](http://www.ecalvert.com) or by calling the Department of Economic Development at 410-535-4583. Completed nomination 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 to the Department of Economic Development by July 15, 2011.

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

## Annual Parks and Recreation Golf Tournament Celebrates 20th Year

### *Proceeds to Benefit Programs for People with Disabilities*

The Calvert County Division of Parks and Recreation will host the 20th annual Employees & Friends Golf Tournament on Friday, July 8, 2011, at Chesapeake Hills Golf Course in Lusby.



Net proceeds from the event will benefit recreational opportunities for people with disabilities through the Calvert County [Therapeutic Recreation Services program](#).

Sponsorships are available and door prize and raffle item donations from local businesses are also welcomed.

Support for the Therapeutic Recreation Services program ensures that residents of all abilities have recreational opportunities. Through the program, individualized services are provided for those needing assistance in making recreation choices or exploring new possibilities. Specialized

services are open to everyone, but are designed to meet the unique needs of individuals with physical, mental and/or emotional disabilities. Programs include summer swim parties, discovery clinics, social clubs and much more.

We hope you can help keep this program strong. For questions or additional information about the tournament, call 410-535-1600 or 301-855-1243, ext. 2229, or e-mail Phil D'Agostino at [dagostpa@co.cal.md.us](mailto:dagostpa@co.cal.md.us) or Nate Smith at

*Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons*

**June 26**  
Guided Canoe Trip  
*American Chestnut Land Trust, Port Republic*

**July 1**  
257th Army Band Concert  
*Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons*

**July 2**  
Fairy & Gnome Home Festival & Tour  
*Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, Solomons*

**July 2**  
Maker's Market  
*Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, Solomons*

**July 3**  
Fireworks  
*Town of Chesapeake Beach*

**July 4**  
Fireworks  
*Solomons*

**July 4**  
Fireworks Cruise aboard the Wm. B. Tennison  
*Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons*

**July 9**  
SHARKFEST!  
*Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons*

**July 11**  
Archaeology Explorers Camp  
*Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, St. Leonard*

**July 16**  
Moonlight Cruise on the Chesapeake Bay

[smithjn@co.cal.md.us](mailto:smithjn@co.cal.md.us).

## Board Approves Local Application of State Noise Control Ordinance

At its June 7 meeting, the Board of Commissioners voted to adopt the Maryland noise control ordinance for implementation and enforcement in Calvert County.

The final form of the adopted ordinance still faces approval by the commissioners who will also determine the implementation date.

The state noise regulations set maximum sound level limits for industrial, commercial, and residential sources. Sound level limits are set for day and nighttime periods. Following state guidelines, the county program will be complaint driven; it will not seek out noise sources. Complaints will be handled by the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, which will arrange to take sound level measurements at the complainant's property.

If a sound level violation is measured, the responsible party is required to take corrective action. Failure to do so could result in a penalty of up to \$10,000 per each day of continuing violation. Examples of common noise complaints include dirt bike noise, band noise, early-morning construction or trash pickup noise and commercial and industrial equipment noise.

The regulations include exemptions for sources such as emergency warning systems, short-duration events such as parades and general public interest activities like sporting events.

The state's noise control program was established in the mid 1970s with enforcement through the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). By 2005 the state legislature removed funding for the MDE program and noise issues were referred to local governments for action.

[The full Maryland noise control code is available here.](#)

### *Upcoming County Government Meetings and Events*

#### **Water and Sewerage Plan Public Forum**

**Thursday, June 23, 7 p.m.**

**Calvert Pines Senior Center Auditorium, 450 West Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick**

The plan fulfills requirements of Maryland Department of Environment regulations and helps implement county growth management and planning policies.

[The draft plan is available online.](#)

For more information or to RSVP, call 410-535-1600, ext. 2356.

#### **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day**

**Saturday, June 25, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Appeal Landfill, 401 Sweetwater Rd., Lusby**

This event allows Calvert County residents to safely dispose of hazardous substances free of charge.

For more information, call the Calvert County Department of Public Works, Division of Solid Waste, at 410-326-0210 or [visit online](#).

*Town of Chesapeake Beach*

**July 16**

Fossil Field Experience  
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons

**July 18-22**

4-H Camp  
From the Headwaters to the Estuary: Chesapeake Bay Watershed Discovery Camp  
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, St. Leonard

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



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

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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