



Issue #24

March 2011

Welcome to this month's **Calvert Currents** newsletter. In this issue we look ahead to springtime and preview the new slate of offerings from the Parks and Recreation Division. We also look at education funding in the FY 2012 budget, an upcoming organic farming workshop, construction work on Wilson Road, Procurement Resource Day, a caregivers conference and the availability of special farming implements in our region. 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.

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Choose Your Adventure

Parks and Recreation is Geared Up for Spring Programs

Calvert County Parks and Recreation does a wonderful job offering a dizzying array of programs, courses and recreational opportunities for our residents. You need look no further than the new spring program guide just mailed throughout the county to appreciate this vital service.

From arts, fitness and music courses to sports, trips, aquatic programs and much more, there is truly something available



Southern Maryland

Caregivers Conference is April 15

for everyone. Events are hosted all across the county, including at our community centers in North Beach, Chesapeake Beach, Sunderland and Lusby. As we look forward to warmer weather, now is the time to explore programs offered at Breezy Point Beach and Campground, Chesapeake Hills Golf Course and the pools at Cove Point Park, Kings Landing Park and the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center in Prince Frederick.

The Parks and Recreation mailer also includes the Natural Resources Guide featuring nature programs at Kings Landing Park, Battle Creek Nature Center and Flag Ponds Nature Park.

Most spring classes begin the week of March 21 and summer camp registration begins March 14. Don't miss out! [Visit Parks and Recreation online](#) for schedules and registration information.

The 19th Annual Southern Maryland Caregivers' Conference is Friday, April 15, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, 44219 Airport Road, California, Md. Designed for the family caregiver, this one-day event is a wonderful opportunity to enrich one's knowledge and skills in caring for older people.

The \$20 conference fee includes a continental breakfast, lunch, conference materials, exposure to service providers in the exhibition area, and the opportunity to attend professionally presented educational sessions on a variety of topics.

The conference is sponsored by Calvert County Office on Aging, St. Mary's County Department of Aging, Charles County Community Services and the Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program at the University of Maryland Baltimore.

To learn more, contact Rebecca Kessler at 301-475-4200, ext. 1061, or e-mail Rebecca.Kessler@stmarysmd.com. Visit the [Calvert](#)

BUDGET OUTLOOK: Public Education

Education Funding Increase Planned Despite Tight Budget Outlook

As deliberations begin on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 budget, the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has reaffirmed its commitment to public education by planning for funding increases as a result of the funding formula agreement between the Calvert County Board of Education (BOE) and the BOCC.

State law requires that local education funding be no less than the amount per pupil provided the prior year, called the Maintenance of Effort (MOE). This MOE requirement makes counties eligible to receive state education funding. Calvert County contributions for public education have consistently exceeded MOE standards. From FY 2006 through FY 2012, county education funding will have outpaced MOE requirements by an average of \$4.1 million annually. The county will have contributed a total of \$28.4 million above MOE requirements over that period.

In addition to the state MOE requirement, the BOCC and the BOE collaborated on a funding formula based on MOE, the consumer price index and an adjustment factor of 1.25 percent to fund new initiatives or new state mandates. The formula, in place through FY 2012, will provide \$106.6 million in operations funding for FY 2012, beginning July 1, 2011, an increase of more than \$1.5 million or 1.48 percent over FY 2011.

Calvert County Public Schools are consistently ranked among the best performing school systems in Maryland, and we believe our financial

commitment helps maintain that status. Each year during the budgeting cycle we tend to hear criticism regarding education. However, it is important to understand that the BOCC simply sets the local contribution for public education funding based on the agreed upon formula we have with Calvert County Public Schools. It is the elected Board of Education with the school system staff that budgets the money and negotiates employee contracts.

We believe that FY 2012 education funding will illustrate our obligation to education in a very tough economic climate. Our working partnership with Calvert County Public Schools helps ensure effective financial planning for both the school system and the county.

Calvert County officials will present the staff recommended FY 2012 budget at a public meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 7 p.m. at the Calvert Pines Senior Center in Prince Frederick. Presentation of the BOCC's budget will be Tuesday, May 24, 7 p.m., also at Calvert Pines. The final FY 2012 budget is scheduled for adoption on Tuesday, June 7.

Local Workshop to Explore Organic Farming

Interest in organic farm products is growing as people place more emphasis on better health and farm sustainability. The expanding organic sections in many supermarkets is evidence of this trend.

The Calvert County Sustainable Agriculture Workgroup is sponsoring a workshop entitled "The Mechanics of Going Organic" on Thursday, March 17, 6 p.m., at Calvert Library in Prince Frederick for regional farmers interested in capitalizing on this opportunity.

Whether growing grain, vegetables or produce meat, farmers can find out how to earn organic certification and learn tips for the successful production and marketing of organic products.

The workshop will feature organic farmer Ed Fry, who has been farming since the 1960s and has 400 acres of land in organic production at Fair Hills Farm located in Chestertown, Md. Fry will share his successes, near misses and tips to going organic.

Those interested in attending may call Denise Cherry at 410-535-1600, ext. 2340, for further information and to reserve a spot.



[County Office on Aging on the Web.](#)

Specialty Farm Implements Now Available to Farmers

New conservation tillage equipment and specialty farm implements are now available to farmers throughout the Southern Maryland region, due to grants from the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC).

The equipment rental program will help small farmers in Southern Maryland implement conservation practices on their land. SMADC maintains an inventory of new and existing equipment available throughout the five Southern Maryland counties including descriptions of the equipment, appropriate uses and current rental rates.

County agencies are planning training days to demonstrate the operation of the rental equipment. Visit www.smadc.com for equipment listings, schedules and equipment updates or call the local agency listed on the Web site.

Work on Wilson Road to Improve Intersection Safety

What's

The maintenance of county roads is one of the more visible services provided by local government. In the current fiscal year 2011 operating budget, more than \$6.56 million is set aside for local roadway maintenance, upkeep and repair work.



A new project began last month to make improvements to the intersection of Allday Road and Wilson Road in Huntingtown. The work, which will increase motorist safety by improving sightlines at the intersection, will stretch for approximately 1,000 feet along Wilson Road from Allday Road north toward Emmanuel Church Road. Crews will perform extensive earth work related to cutting and lowering the road profiles. The project includes drainage improvements, new paving, striping and signs.

The total cost of approximately \$1 million was allocated in the county fiscal 2011 budget and covers engineering, rights-

of-way acquisition, the relocation of utilities, construction and inspection.

Motorists may experience traffic delays between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. during construction hours and are encouraged to take alternative routes if possible. The project is anticipated to be completed by Nov. 2011.

Calvert County to Host Procurement Resource Day

The Calvert County Department of Economic Development, in conjunction with the Calvert Library, will present a state and local procurement training workshop and procurement fair on Friday, March 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Calvert Library in Prince Frederick.

Howard McLain, outreach and training coordinator with the Maryland Department of General Services, will conduct a hands-on workshop on eMaryland Marketplace, Maryland's online procurement portal. The Web portal allows state agencies and other authorized procuring entities to purchase goods and services from vendors who register with eMaryland Marketplace.

Calvert County advertises all formal and informal bid opportunities on eMaryland Marketplace, so it is the place to go for vendors looking to do business with the county. [Vendors who are not registered can do so online.](#)

Happening in Calvert County

March 18

Annmarie After Hours: AHH!
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, Solomons

March 20

Sunday
Conversations with Chesapeake Authors
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons

March 21

Calvert Eats Local
Calvert Library, Prince Frederick

March 26

5K Run/Walk - "Keep Your Colon Rollin"
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, St. Leonard

April 1

School is OUT- Art is IN!
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, Solomons

April 6

Back To Back Tours - House & Laboratory
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, St. Leonard

April 16

Easter Festival (Formerly Easter Parade)
Town of Chesapeake Beach

April 16

Knap-In at the Indian Village
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, St. Leonard

April 16

In addition to the training, the procurement fair will provide information on upcoming bid opportunities and the purchasing process for local, state and federal organizations. Representatives and procurement officials from SMECO, Calvert County Government, Calvert County Public Schools, College of Southern Maryland, the Maryland Department of Transportation, the Maryland Department of General Services, the Small Business Development Center, Maryland Procurement Technical Assistance Program, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, Southern Maryland JobSource and the Calvert County Minority Business Alliance will be available for informal networking and discussion.

The event is free and preregistration is not required; however, seating is limited for the hands-on eMaryland Marketplace workshop. For more information call 410-535-4583 or 301-855-1880, e-mail info@ecalvert.com or visit online at www.ecalvert.com.

*Discovering
Archaeology Day
Jefferson Patterson
Park & Museum,
St. Leonard*

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



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



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

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