



Issue #14

May 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.

The county budget features heavily at this time of year. We recently traveled to New York to meet with three major bond rating agencies and below we detail the results. Beginning with this issue, we also take a look at spending priorities in the upcoming fiscal year 2011 budget. Our first overview is on law enforcement. We are also proud to announce upgrades to our emergency notification system, but first let's get out on the links for this weekend's grand opening of Chesapeake Hills Golf Course.

Calvert County Once Again Earns Strong Bond Ratings

2010 Bond Issue Will Fund Middle School Construction, Road Improvements and More

We are pleased to announce that three independent credit rating agencies recently gave Calvert County strong credit ratings in light of the county's consistently sound financial operations and historically conservative fiscal policies.

Moody's Investor Service increased its rating for Calvert County from Aa2 to Aa1 and Fitch Ratings increased its rating from AA+ to AAA. The county's rating from Standard and Poor's Ratings Services remains at AA+ while the agency revised its outlook on the county's outstanding debt from stable to positive. The ratings are assigned to Calvert County's 2010 issue

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What's Happening in Calvert County

May 21
Campfire on the Beach
Town of North Beach

May 21
Annmarie After Hours
Annmarie Garden,
Solomons

May 22
Volunteer

of consolidated public improvement bonds totaling \$21.3 million.

The bond rating increases at Moody's Investor Service and Fitch Ratings come after the agencies changed the way they assign grades to the credit quality of state and local governments. This "recalibration" was an effort to make municipal credit ratings more comparable with other sectors. The ratings also follow April presentations to the rating agencies in New York City made by several commissioners and county staff members.

Strong bond ratings typically help ensure lower interest rates on county bond issues, resulting in lower financing costs and substantial savings of county taxpayer dollars. This held true on May 11 as the board of county commissioners voted to accept bids on the 2010 bond issue for a total true interest rate of 2.66 percent.

A percentage of the bond proceeds will refund a portion of the county's 2002 bonds and will result in interest expense savings to the county of more than \$250,000. The remaining proceeds will fund the construction of the new Calvert Middle School and the Marley Run wastewater treatment plant, renovation of the county's work release facility and transportation projects including work on the Prince Frederick Loop Road, Boyd's Turn Road in Owings and Fairground Road in Prince Frederick.

This Weekend!

Chesapeake Hills Golf Course Celebrates Grand Opening



The Calvert County community and the region's golf lovers are invited to the grand opening of Chesapeake Hills Golf Course **Saturday, May 15, from 1 to 5 p.m.**

The event will feature live entertainment, free hot dogs and refreshments and a free golf clinic with professionals on hand to help players improve their game. The day will also include a \$23 special for 18 holes of golf.

The grand opening marks the start of a new golfing season now that the course is owned by Calvert County and is run by the county Division of Parks and Recreation. Since the purchase of the course in November 2008, county staff has implemented a far-reaching plan for course upgrades that includes improvements to the grounds and the clubhouse.

This special event will show the community how far Chesapeake Hills has come as the county's premier public golf course. We believe those new to the course will find great golfing and exciting new program offerings while loyal players will be proud of their home course.

Chesapeake Hills Golf Course is located at 11352 H.G. Trueman Road in Lusby. For more information, visit the [Chesapeake Hills Golf](#)

Firefighters/EMS
Remembrance
Ceremony
*Chesapeake
Highlands Memorial
Gardens, Port
Republic*

May 22
Summer Kick-Off
Cruise
*Calvert Marine
Museum, Solomons*

May 23
Spring Family Fun
Day
*Chesapeake Beach
Railway Museum,
Chesapeake Beach*

June 6
North Beach House
and Garden Club
Tour
North Beach

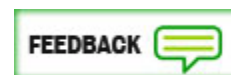
June 6
North Beach Art
Show
North Beach

June 10
Bay Breeze Summer
Concert
*Chesapeake Beach
Railway Museum*

June 12
Free Summer
Concert
North Beach

June 18
Relay for Life
*Hallowing Point Park,
Prince Frederick*

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



[Course Web site](#) or call 410-326-4653.

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

Upgrades Enhance CodeRED Emergency Notification System

Notices Now Available Via E-mail and Text Message

The Calvert County Department of Public Safety is implementing upgrades to the county's CodeRED emergency notification system that will allow residents to receive urgent messages by e-mail and text message in addition to the telephone calls that have been the primary method of notification.



The CodeRED system allows public safety officials to directly contact Calvert County residents in the event of emergency situations such as weather threats, missing children and water/sewer service disruptions. We urge county residents to sign up for the service by providing home telephone numbers, cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Those who previously signed up for CodeRED notifications can update their information at any time. Business owners may also register for the free service.

The new upgrades will enable residents to receive urgent messages regardless of where they may be located, helping those who commute outside of the county daily stay informed.

On May 19, the Department of Public Safety will send a message about the system upgrades to all residents currently registered in CodeRED. This message will include guidance on how residents can update their information with text message contacts and e-mail addresses.

Please remember that CodeRED call notifications may include up to a five-second delay before messages begin. Do not hang up until the message has played. Citizens with caller ID will see the CodeRED phone number listed as 410-535-1600.

To register for the free CodeRED emergency notification system or to update contact information, go to the [Calvert County Web site](#) and click on the [CodeRED Emergency Notification System link](#).

BUDGET OUTLOOK: Law Enforcement

Recommended Sheriff's Office Funding Supports Years of Progress

The annual county budgeting cycle is now in full swing and a public budget hearing is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, at Calvert Pines Senior Center in Prince Frederick. For the next few issues of Calvert Currents we will take a look at the Board of County Commissioners' spending priorities to



explain the reasoning behind the numbers.

In a challenging financial environment, this board has committed to maintain public services and avoid tax increases. This approach helped the county earn strong credit ratings recently from three major rating agencies (see story above). One of our top priorities is a safe and secure community served by robust law enforcement. Our citizens deserve nothing less.

The board's fiscal year 2011 (FY11) recommended budget includes nearly \$11.4 million for the Sheriff's Office. This is the same allocation the Sheriff's Office received in FY10. A tough economy led us to recommend this level funding while other county departments have reduced operating expenses by just over four percent.

Despite our budget challenges, we can be proud of the job our law enforcement personnel have done over the years to protect our community. Calvert County's population has increased by just over two percent during the term of the current board, while the Sheriff's Office budget grew by nearly 35 percent. Total Sheriff's Office staffing increased by 16 positions, or almost 13 percent, over the same period.

From 2007 through 2008, Calvert County averaged the sixth lowest crime rate among the state's 23 counties and Baltimore City. Taking a longer view, from 1999 to 2008 we averaged the third lowest crime rate in Maryland. Our low crime rate is a testament to the effectiveness of the Sherriff's Office in using its resources and pursuing grant opportunities to supplement local funding.

Despite major budget challenges, we have worked together to avoid the furloughs and layoffs experienced in other jurisdictions while enhancing the safety of our community.

We hope you find **Calvert Currents** informative and valuable. We welcome your input and suggestions about future content. Thanks for reading.

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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