



# Calvert Currents

A monthly newsletter from the Board of County Commissioners

Issue #26

May 2011

Welcome to this month's **Calvert Currents** newsletter. We are pleased to announce the county's new credit ratings and a bond sale that will help finance a variety of county projects. We also invite residents to a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2012 budget, review plans for the former Calvert Middle School site, note the installation of roadway evacuation signs, preview a change in how some commercial taxes are paid and welcome everyone to a birthday event for the Hall Aquatic Center. 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.

## Calvert County Maintains Strong Credit Ratings

*Status Helps Secure Low Rate on 2011 Bond Issue*

The commissioners' annual New York trip to present the county's financial picture to the major credit rating agencies again affirmed our relatively stable budgetary outlook. The resulting strong credit ratings by three agencies reflect the county's consistently sound financial operations, strong reserves and conservative fiscal policies.

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### FY 2012 Budget Public Hearing

### Public Notice

The Board of County Commissioners will

Standard and Poor's Ratings Services upgraded the county's credit rating to AAA. Fitch Ratings kept its rating steady at AAA and Moody's Investor Service rating remained at Aa1. The ratings are assigned to Calvert County's 2011 issue of general obligation consolidated public improvement bonds and other outstanding general obligation debt.

We are very pleased with the results. In a challenging economic climate, it is vital that we secure top credit ratings in order to save on financing costs for our bond issues. The benefits were borne out when we voted May 4 to accept the bid on the county's bond issue made by Janney Montgomery Scott, Inc. with a true interest cost of 2.99 percent, the lowest rate of the 15 bids received.

The \$23 million bond sale proceeds will fund the following:

- Calvert High School -- \$14,360,000
- New College of Southern Maryland Building -- \$2,856,000
- Substance Abuse Treatment Center -- \$1,300,000
- Mt. Hope Convenience Center Upgrades -- \$1,000,000
- Lakewood Water System Upgrade -- \$880,000
- Hunting Hills Water System Upgrade -- \$816,000
- Prince Frederick Wastewater Pump Station #2 Upgrade -- \$720,000
- Williams Road Improvements -- \$400,000
- Marley Run Wastewater Treatment Plant -- \$353,000
- Wilson Road Improvements -- \$240,000
- Issuance Costs -- \$120,000

## Process to Determine Future of Former Calvert Middle School Site

### *Five Site Proposals are Now Under Scrutiny*

The old Calvert Middle School site at the corner of Route 2-4 and Dares Beach Road is one of the prime properties in the Prince Frederick Town Center. Since the new Calvert Middle School opened there has been much speculation about the future of the old site.

The future is fast approaching. In Fall 2010 the previous Board of County Commissioners began a process to determine how the property should be used. The county issued a request for proposals encouraging any and all entities to submit concepts for the approximately 16-acre site. We asked that proposals be financially self-sufficient and require no county funds for the life of the project. Five developers submitted proposals by the February 1 deadline.



An aerial view of the former Calvert Middle School site in Prince Frederick

The new board has worked to ensure the site will be developed to the benefit of Calvert County residents. In April we voted to

hold a public hearing to present its budget for Fiscal Year 2012 on **Tuesday, May 24, at 7 p.m. at the Calvert Pines Senior Center in Prince Frederick.** Budget documents will be available in the Department of Finance & Budget, Courthouse, Prince Frederick.

The budget includes a proposed increase in the quarterly water base rate to \$41.94 and variable rate per 1,000 gallons to \$1.95, the quarterly metered sewer base rate to \$106.94 and variable rate per 1,000 gallons to \$3.38, and the quarterly unmetered sewer rate to \$140.74, effective January 1, 2012. [Visit online](#) for a list of affected water and/or sewer systems.

In addition, the budget includes a proposed tip fee increase for the Appeal Landfill effective July 1, 2011. The new tip fee schedule would be \$65.27 per ton for residents and \$72.52 per ton for commercial.

### What's Happening in Calvert County

**May 20**  
Campfire!  
Jefferson Patterson  
Park & Museum,  
St. Leonard

retain a real estate consultant to assist in reviewing proposals to determine the best use for the property and to ensure we have investigated all options fairly. The consultant will help us analyze the proposals to determine their economic feasibility and the fiscal impact of potential tax receipts. Our goal is to have this done by the end of June.

We hope to find a unique concept for this cornerstone location, one that will set a high standard for the Prince Frederick Town Center. The Department of Economic Development is coordinating this effort on our behalf and the public is encouraged to contact the department with any questions. Please call 410-535-4583 or e-mail [info@co.cal.md.us](mailto:info@co.cal.md.us) with your questions or comments.

## County Roadways to Feature New Evacuation Signs

Calvert County evacuation routes will soon be clearly marked as Maryland State Highway Administration crews install 54 evacuation road signs this spring. The signs will be installed on state-maintained roadways throughout the county by June 1.

The blue circular signs, pictured at right, will be installed approximately every 2.5 miles. Funds from the federal Department of Homeland Security are being used for the project.



The signs mark normal evacuation routes to be used in the event of an evacuation ordered by the Maryland governor or local government officials due to an extreme emergency. Evacuation routes may change, however, depending on the nature of the emergency and residents would be directed by local emergency management officials.

Visit the county's Department of Public Safety on the Web to learn more about [evacuation procedures](#) and [emergency preparedness](#).

## Change Allows More Businesses to Make Semiannual Tax Payments

***Total Eligible Taxes Increased to \$100,000***

During the 2011 Maryland General Assembly session, lawmakers revised a state law that will allow small business owners with a tax bill of less than \$100,000 to pay their real property taxes in two installments. The change increased the tax threshold from \$50,000.

Homeowners have had the option to pay their real property taxes in two installments since 1995 to ease the burden of paying taxes in one lump sum. Lawmakers extended the semiannual payment plan to small businesses in 2010. Through summer 2011, commercial properties with tax bills up to \$50,000 receive a semiannual bill for the sum of state, county, municipal corporation and special taxing district property taxes.

### May 21

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

### May 21

Friends of Calvert  
Library Gently Used  
Book Sale  
*Calvert Library,  
Prince Frederick*

### May 21

Eighth Annual  
Inspiration 5K  
Run/Walk for Special  
Olympics of Calvert  
County  
*Calvert Marine  
Museum, Solomons*

### May 22

Free Spring Family  
Fun Day  
*Chesapeake Beach  
Railway Museum*

### May 22

Market Square  
Community Arts  
Festival  
*Calvert Library,  
Prince Frederick*

### May 28

Chesapeake Beach  
Water Park Opening  
*Chesapeake Beach*

### May 28

Larry the Cable Guy  
*Calvert Marine  
Museum, Solomons*

### May 28

Spring Fling Block  
Party  
*Lusby Town Center*

### June 6

Maker's Market  
*Annmarie Garden  
Sculpture Park & Arts*

The new \$100,000 limit for the semiannual payment schedule takes effect July 1, 2012. Under the plan, the first installment is due by September 30. The second installment, which includes a service charge, is due by December 31.

## Birthday Bash Marks Hall Aquatic Center's First Year of Operation

Everyone is invited to come celebrate the Hall Aquatic Center's first year of operations at a Birthday Bash on Saturday, June 18, from 1 to 5 p.m.



The event will feature free activities with paid admission and the first 100 guests will receive free gifts. Come join in the inflatable obstacle course competitions, raft races, penny toss challenges and cannonball contests.

The 41,000-square-foot Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center -- the county's first indoor aquatic center -- opened its doors to the public on June 8, 2010. Located at 130 Auto Drive in Prince Frederick, the facility features a 50-meter competition pool, a beach-style entry leisure pool, a therapy pool, a spa/hot tub, a fitness room, a meeting room and a party room/wet classroom.

Over the past year, aquatic center attendance has topped 140,000, with nearly 23,000 visiting for classes, programs or events. More than 550 classes have been offered at the center, enrolling nearly 6,000 people. The four county high schools have also made the aquatic center their home facility and hosted eight swim meets. Overall attendance for the swim meets reached nearly

2,000.

To learn more, call 410-414-8350 or visit the [Parks and Recreation Web site](#) for the aquatic center.

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*

*Center, Solomons*

### June 5

Children's Day on the Farm

*Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, St. Leonard*

### June 6

North Beach Art Show

*Town of North Beach*

### June 6

North Beach House & Garden Club Tour  
*Town of North Beach*

### June 9

2011 Bay Breeze Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

### June 10

Annmarie After Hours  
*Annmarie Garden Sculpture Park & Arts Center, Solomons*

### June 11

Fossil Field Experience  
*Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons*

### June 11

Kid's Pirate Pizza Cruise  
*Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons*

### June 11

16th Annual Family Community Day  
*Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, St. Leonard*

### June 12

24th Annual Patuxent River Wade In  
*Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, St. Leonard*

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

	  We want to hear from you. <a href="#">Click here</a> to e-mail your feedback.
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