



Calvert Currents

A monthly newsletter from the Board of County Commissioners

Issue #32
November 2011

Welcome to the November issue of **Calvert Currents**. This month we consider a new state law governing roadside signs, review recommendations for county redistricting, announce Pet Amnesty Week and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day and welcome Chuck Johnston as our new Director of Planning and Zoning. 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.

State Implements New Roadside Signage Law

Violators to Face Fines Beginning Jan. 1

A new state law governing roadside signs that took effect Oct. 1 has caused confusion among business owners who rely on signs to attract customers. The issue is particularly thorny in a county where many businesses vie for visibility along the one major north-south thoroughfare. However, it is important to clarify the county's role in roadside signage enforcement.

In This Issue

- [State Implements New Roadside Signage Law](#)
- [Board Backs Recommendations for County Redistricting](#)
- [Calvert County Animal Control Sponsors Amnesty Week](#)
- [Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is Nov. 19](#)
- [Calvert County Welcomes Chuck Johnston as Director of Planning and Zoning](#)
- [What's Happening in Calvert County](#)

Quick Links

- [County Commissioners Meeting Summaries](#)
- [County Government on the Web](#)
- [Calvert County Business and Tourism](#)

Calvert County Welcomes Chuck Johnston as Director of Planning and Zoning

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) regulates signage along state highways, including interstates, US and Maryland numbered routes. In Calvert County, Rt. 2-4 is the primary state road along with smaller arteries like Rt. 231 (Hallowing Point Road) and Rt. 765 (H.G. Trueman Road). On these roads, private signs are prohibited in the medians and along the rights-of-way.



State law now makes placing an illegal sign a civil infraction. Between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, warnings are being issued to businesses placing illegal signs. After Jan. 1, 2012, violators will be issued \$25 fines for each illegally placed sign.

While the law allows counties and municipalities to remove signs from state rights-of-way and issue civil penalties, Calvert County is not taking on that responsibility. We realize that signs are important for promoting local businesses, but we must abide by state law. To help develop solutions to the predicament of business visibility, county staff has been gathering ideas from various groups. In the near future, we will organize a signage working group to tackle the issue. We will report on that effort as it progresses.

To learn more about state signage enforcement, [visit the FAQ page on the new law](#) or [view FAQs on outdoor advertising](#).

Board Backs Recommendations for County Redistricting

Committee Presents Findings of Community Outreach Effort

The Board of County Commissioners has approved recommendations from the Calvert County Redistricting Committee following a nearly five-month process to solicit citizen input.

The approved recommendations are:

- Increase the number of county Election Districts from three to five.
- Commissioner candidates should run countywide to represent the five districts. The candidate from each Election District receiving the most votes would win the district.
- The commissioners' president should continue to be elected annually by the board members.

The nine-member committee mounted a wide-ranging public campaign to garner feedback on local redistricting and more than 740 residents completed a survey distributed by the committee. Survey results showed that 45 percent



We are pleased to announce the addition of Charles "Chuck" Johnston as director of the county's Department of Planning and Zoning, effective Oct. 12.

Chuck is the former director of the Clarke County, Va., Planning Department, a position he held for 22 years. He has also been a planner for several other jurisdictions including Albuquerque, N.M., Aurora, Colo., and Hanover, Va. As a consultant, Chuck worked with local officials on the implementation of state-mandated Chesapeake Bay Critical Area regulations in Talbot County, Md.

He holds a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois.

Chuck's experience as a planner dovetails well with the county's vision for the future as outlined in our

avored no change in the current system while 50 percent preferred more election districts. Sixty-four percent preferred that the BOCC choose its president annually.

The Maryland General Assembly would need to pass legislation in the coming session allowing the county to redraw its election districts. Our local process is part of a larger Congressional and State Legislative redistricting effort underway in the wake of the 2010 U.S. Census.

We offer heartfelt thanks to the Calvert County Redistricting Committee members who took their time to inform residents and spread the word about this important process. [The committee's full report, survey statistics and more are available on the county website.](#) You can also [view the committee's web page](#) to read more about its efforts and learn about the history of the county's election districts.

Calvert County Animal Control Sponsors Amnesty Week

Save on Pet Licenses at Four County Locations

Calvert County Animal Control is offering pet licenses for a fraction of their regular cost to county residents during Amnesty Week Nov. 28-Dec. 4.



The goal of Amnesty Week is to reduce the number of unlicensed pets so residents are in compliance with the county animal ordinance requiring all cats and dogs to be licensed annually. For this week only, licenses for spayed or neutered pets will be available for \$3 and licenses for non-spayed and non-neutered pets will be available for \$10

(cash or check only please). Licensed pets receive a tag number that can help identify them if they are lost and picked up by Animal Control. Pet owners must present the pet's current rabies certification to receive a license.

Amnesty Week events will be held at the following locations:

- [North Beach Volunteer Fire Department](#)
Nov. 28, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- [Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department](#)
Nov. 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- [Solomons Volunteer Fire Department](#)
Dec. 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- [Calvert County Sheriffs Office](#)
Nov.28 -Dec. 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Dec. 3-4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is Nov. 19

Comprehensive Plan.
We look forward to his contributions.

What's Happening in Calvert County

Nov. 19

Sweet Treat Express
Sponsored by Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum
Northeast Community Center, Chesapeake Beach

Nov. 20

Holiday Gift Extravaganza by Windows of Strength, Limited
Dunkirk Fire Department, Dunkirk

Nov. 25 - Jan. 1

3rd Annual Ornament Show & Sale
Annamarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center, Solomons

Nov. 25-26

Chesapeake Community Chorus Concert
Huntingtown High School, Huntingtown

Nov. 25-27

Festival of Trees
Huntingtown High School, Huntingtown

Nov. 27

Brightest Beacon on the Bay
Town of Chesapeake Beach

Dec. 2

Solomons Christmas Walk
Calvert Marine

Safely dispose of your oil-based paints, pool chemicals, solvents, fertilizers and other hazardous items free of charge during Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, Nov. 19, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Appeal Landfill at 401 Sweetwater Road in Lusby.

During the collection day, a licensed contractor will collect household hazardous waste for proper disposal. Collection is limited to Calvert County residents only and proof of residency is required. Commercial businesses are prohibited.



Hazardous items should be separated from regular household trash and disposed of in an environmentally friendly way. Latex paint, however, is not hazardous and may be thrown out with regular trash once it has dried. Hazardous waste collection days are held four times a year in Calvert County - one Saturday in March and September at the Mt. Hope Community Center and one Saturday in June and November at the Appeal Landfill. For more information, call the Calvert County Department of Public Works, Division of Solid Waste, at 410-326-0210 or [visit the Calvert County website](#) for a full listing of materials accepted.

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

Museum, Solomons

Dec. 3

Beach Business Group Fifth Annual Holiday Parade
North Beach

Dec. 3

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

Dec. 4

Annual Holiday Open House
Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Chesapeake Beach

Dec. 10

American Chestnut Land Trust Greens Sale and Beach Hayride
Port Republic

Visit the events calendar to learn more.



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

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to vollanrm@co.cal.md.us by info@co.cal.md.us | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Try it FREE today.

Calvert County Board of County Commissioners | Courthouse | Prince Frederick | MD | 20678