

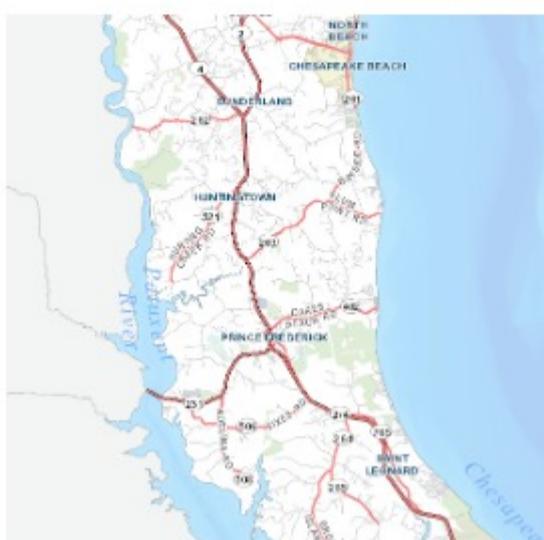
BUSINESS NEWS

Business Appreciation Week

Mark your calendars now for a week's worth of business celebration, May 7 to 11, 2018. Details will be available in the coming weeks on a number of special events, workshops and networking opportunities as Calvert County highlights another year of business success.



[Take a look at our 2017 visits here.](#)



Permit Activity Status System (P.A.S.S.) Online

The P.A.S.S. map was created to make the permitting process easier and more convenient for builders, contractors and permit runners. It displays active and recently completed building permits and planning applications throughout Calvert County. Citizens can track the permits by number or by address, and can view the status of building, condition and inspection reviews. The P.A.S.S. map is connected to the county government's land management system and is updated daily.

To access the P.A.S.S. map, [visit online](#). No password or login information is required to virtually explore Calvert County.

New Sign Regulations

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners adopted new sign regulations on Jan. 31, 2018, to Section 6-8 of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.

Major changes include:

- Content neutrality to comply with the U.S. Supreme Court's Reed v. Town of Gilbert case opinion.
- More user-friendly:
 - Located in one document instead of multiple documents.
 - Sign dimensions, sign types and sign location now appears in charts for easier reference.
 - Maximum sign areas and sign heights for freestanding signs both in and out of the town centers appear in charts for ease of use.
 - All permanent sign regulations are consolidated in one section and all temporary sign regulations are consolidated in another for ease of use.
- A temporary sign is now defined by construction and material make-up of the sign, not a time limit. Temporary sign categories now include air-activated, balloon, flags, banners, blades and yard signs.
- The regulations allow electronic message center signs in the Prince Frederick Town Center and Employment Center zoning districts along MD Route 2/4, West Dares Beach Road and MD Route 231 west of MD Route 2/4.



The county's code enforcement staff will begin enforcing these new regulations by assisting business owners through the transition. Staff will provide businesses that are out of compliance with a zoning inspection report including a correction date (30 days from date of issuance) along with an online link to the new regulations.

Business owners are encouraged to review the new sign regulations [online](#) under Ordinance 04-18.1, Exhibit B. For additional information, please contact the Department of Planning & Zoning at 410-535-2348 or pz@calvertcountymd.gov.

Calvert Welcomes New Business Retention Specialist



The Calvert County Department of Economic Development is pleased to welcome Kathy MacAdams as the team's business retention specialist. MacAdams was most recently employed as a small business consultant with the Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Southern Region, a position she held for over six years. In her previous role, she assisted hundreds of business owners and entrepreneurs with a multitude of business management, financial, operational, growth and acquisition issues and priorities. She has also taught a number of business courses for the SBDC and has taught strategic management capstone courses with a focus on corporate and business level strategies at the University of Maryland University College (UMUC).

MacAdams is a certified import/export specialist and was recently certified as a small business consultant through the Association of Accredited Small Business Consultants. She also has nearly 10 years of experience in budget, acquisition and program analysis work with the Department of the Navy. She has a Master of Science degree in management from UMUC and is a 23-year resident of Calvert County.

For more information on the Department of Economic Development, its resources and the ways team members can help you start, grow or relocate a business, please call 410-535-4583 or visit online at www.ecalvert.com.

Crab Pot Pitch Finals in Solomons, May 10

Made popular by television shows like ABC's "Shark Tank," pitch contests provide a chance for entrepreneurs to present their ideas to a panel of judges or investors in front of an audience. Crab Pot also provides an opportunity for the community to celebrate the efforts of local entrepreneurs and innovators. Audience members get to see what entrepreneurs in Southern Maryland are doing. Entrepreneurs get to practice their pitches and win cash prizes... and a bushel of crabs!



The Crab Pot Finals will be held at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 10. Come enjoy the show!

A Better Maryland



The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) is conducting community outreach for A Better Maryland, the new state development plan. This effort consists of a series of statewide listening sessions and an opportunity for all Marylanders to provide feedback on local priorities through an online survey. Online responses provide for greater representation from Maryland citizens in the outreach effort, allowing you to share your unique opinions directly with MDP. For more information, visit the [MDP webpage](#). Take the five minute survey [here](#).

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