

BUSINESS NEWS

The Buzz About Opportunity Zones



Opportunity Zones (OZs) are part of a new community and economic development program established by Congress in 2017. Designed to encourage long-term private investments in low-income and/or rural communities, the program provides a federal tax incentive to investors who reinvest unrealized capital gains into specially created Opportunity Funds. Maryland designated 149 OZs across the state; Calvert County

has three, including the Patuxent Business Park.

Join us on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center in Prince Frederick, to learn more about OZs. Frank Dickson, Director of Strategic Business Initiatives at the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, will discuss the benefits of OZs and answer questions about how investors, property owners and businesses can benefit. [Visit online](#) to register for this free informational workshop.

Cooperation on Regulation

The Office of Small Business Regulatory Assistance (OSBRA) helps Maryland business owners find timely and effective solutions to a range of problems and issues, including:

- Complying with and adopting regulations such as the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act, commonly referred to as Sick and Safe Leave;
- Facilitating responsiveness of state government to small business needs; and
- Serving as a central clearinghouse for state business assistance programs and services.

Call 410-230-6101 for general business inquiries and assistance or email osbra.inquiry@maryland.gov.

Get Started Here!

Maryland Small Business Development Center

The Maryland SBDC provides training and consulting for new and existing business owners designed for all stages of business development – from start-up and growth to business relocation and exit strategies. Skilled consultants provide guidance in the areas of money, management and marketing for businesses:

- Seeking expansion opportunities;
- Experiencing lack of growth or declining sales;
- Proceeding with loan applications or needing a financial check-up; or
- Searching for third-party reviews of government contracts or marketing materials.

To schedule an appointment with Calvert County's SBDC business consultant, call 410-535-1600, ext. 2726 or email djenkins@csmc.edu.



Maryland Offers Support to Small Businesses Providing Paid Sick Leave



Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Small businesses in Maryland that provide paid sick and safe leave to their employees will soon be able to apply for a refundable tax credit administered by the Maryland Department of Commerce. The Small Business Relief Tax Credit offers businesses that meet certain criteria a state income tax credit of up to \$500 per employee and \$7,000 per small business for every year in which they qualify.

The tax credit program was proposed and enacted by Governor Hogan to help businesses comply with the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act. Passed by the Maryland General Assembly in early 2018, the program requires businesses with 14 or fewer employees to provide unpaid sick and safe leave.

Any small business, including nonprofits, may apply for the credit as long it has 14 or fewer employees. Businesses may apply every year for each employee making less than 250 percent of the annual federal poverty guidelines for a single-person household (currently \$30,350 per year).

The Maryland Department of Commerce will begin accepting applications for the credit for tax year 2018 on Jan. 3, 2019. More information about eligibility requirements and how to apply can be found [here](#).

New Maryland Workforce Expressway Website



The Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and Maryland Department of Commerce, among others, recently unveiled the Maryland Workforce Expressway, a new website that connects businesses to the full array of state workforce development resources in Maryland.

The site hosts nearly 50 workforce resources in one, easy-to-navigate location. Previously spread across many state agencies, the Expressway is a single source for links to talent engagement services, workforce education, hiring incentives, workforce training grants, labor and industry standards and reemployment services.

QuickBooks for Farm Businesses

Learn how to manage files, operate Windows software, protect your computer and develop spreadsheets. Classes are offered through the University of Maryland Extension for \$20 each. Class sizes are limited so [register online](#) today. For questions, email sdill@umd.edu or call 410-822-1244.

QuickBooks for Farm Businesses: Beginners

Jan. 4 OR Jan. 7, 2019 (9 a.m.-noon)
Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD
Instantly create invoices, track payments, manage expenses and access information. Complete transactions faster with convenient access to your customer and vendor balance and transaction histories.

QuickBooks for Farm Businesses: Advanced

Jan. 4 OR Jan. 7, 2019 (1-4 p.m.)
Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, MD
For those wanting more advanced information, this session will address topics like setting up fixed asset accounts, using a business credit card, lines of credit, enterprise accounting and payroll.

Join Kevin Attkins & Janna Howley from Grow & Fortify and the Brewers Association of Maryland, Maryland Wineries Association & the Maryland Distillers Guild

startup seminar

**BREWERY
WINERY
DISTILLERY**

**THURS, NOV 8
6-8PM**

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