



Calvert County NEWS

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Calvert County's Tap Water Takes First Place at Water Taste Competition

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – June 4, 2014 – Employees of Calvert County Water and Sewerage Division did not have to go far to pull a sample for a water taste contest. They walked downstairs and filled a bottle with tap water from a faucet in County Services Plaza.

With that sample, the division won first place in the “Toasting the Tap” water taste competition conducted at the Maryland Rural Water Association (MRWA) annual conference, held May 4-7 in Ocean City.

Members of the MRWA were able to enter a gallon of tap water in the contest. Attendees of the conference tasted samples of each entrant's water and voted for the one they considered the best. The votes were tallied and announced during the conference. There were 10 entries in the contest this year, and judges looked for water that had the best taste, odor, color and clarity.

Calvert County's winning sample was taken from the Prince Frederick water system, which comes from the Aquia aquifer and serves 1,442 customers.

“Calvert County's source water comes from deep production wells,” said Wayne Raither, Water and Sewerage Division chief. “Then it's very carefully disinfected and monitored for quality, as required by state and federal regulations, by a talented group of certified water professionals who operate and maintain the public water system on a daily basis.”

Calvert County Water and Sewerage operates 21 water systems in the county, serving 5,142 customers. All other county residents and businesses are served by either large private systems, which also have deep production wells and must do the same monitoring and reporting on a

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regular basis, or from individual wells, which are not as deep but also require testing when they are initially built.

By winning the state competition, Calvert County Water and Sewerage is now qualified to enter the National Rural Water Association competition at the NRWA Rural Water Rally in Washington, D.C., in February 2015.

The MRWA (<http://www.md-rwa.org/>) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in rural communities regarding safe, affordable drinking water. Its members include water and wastewater systems, industry vendors and individual operators. The MRWA holds the water taste competition to promote the high quality of drinking water provided by small and rural water utilities.

For more information about the Calvert County Water and Sewerage Division, call 410-535-1600, ext. 2329; send an e-mail to waterandsewerage@co.cal.md.us; or visit online at www.co.cal.md.us.

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Calvert County is Maryland's smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to more than 90,000 people and has one of the highest standards of living in Maryland. Major industries include defense contracting, information technology, tourism, energy, advanced manufacturing and administrative services.