

BUSINESS NEWS

Business Confidence Survey Results

We continue to monitor economic trends and reactions in our community through surveys, site visits, phone calls and research. We conducted two “business confidence” surveys in September 2020 and February 2021 to poll our business owners on their opinions on current conditions in Calvert County.

A comparison of these two surveys is below:

CURRENT CONDITIONS



EXPECTATIONS MOVING FORWARD



We're an ACT© Work Ready Community!

The ACT® WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Certificate is a portable, industry recognized credential that identifies an individual's ACT WorkKeys skill level in workplace documents, applied math and graphic literacy. Many groups benefit when their states, counties or regions join the ACT Work Ready Communities initiative.

- Businesses and industries learn exactly what foundational skills are needed for a

productive workforce and can easily communicate their needs to job seekers

- Individuals understand what skills employers require and how to prepare for career success
- Policymakers are able to measure skills gaps in a timely manner at the national, state and local levels
- Educators help close skills gaps using stackable, industry-recognized credentials integrated into career pathways
- Economic developers have an on-demand reporting tool to document—and market—the quality of the local workforce

For more information, please visit the [ACT Work Ready Communities](#) website or email wrc@act.org.

Helpful Resources and Maps

What's Going Where

Explore commercial projects happening in Calvert County or view a list of projects recently completed using our [What's Going Where](#) map.

CalvertToGo

Many Calvert County restaurants, food trucks, wineries, breweries and local farm product producers are currently offering take-out, curbside pick-up and delivery options. Support local businesses by making a conscious effort to order TO GO food and beverages to enjoy at home - because when you support local businesses, we all win! Please contact businesses individually before visiting since many may have altered hours and operations and be sure to wear a mask and maintain social distance. Visit [online](#) and plan a perfect takeaway meal.

Property and Topo

[This map](#) will allow you to find information about real property in Calvert County. The Property Finder Wizard can help you quickly find a property or you can explore this map on your own. Search specific properties for tax records, topography information, zoning and a water or sewer map.

Permit Status

Looking for information on active and recently completed building and planning permits in Calvert County? [The Permit Activity Status System \(PASS\) map](#) provides information by permit number or property address.

Confidently Campaign

We may still be experiencing adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, but know you can still [Shop](#), [Discover](#), [Enjoy](#) and [Indulge](#) confidently – in Calvert County.



Customers are reminded to maintain a minimum six-foot distance from others and follow traffic flow markings on the floor. Businesses are providing hand sanitizers at entrances and on counters, designating separate entrances and exits where possible and enforcing round-the-clock wipe down procedures. Visit our [Reopen Confidently](#) website for the latest information and resources to help business owners and customers enjoy all we have to offer.



SBDC Resources

Our local Small Business Development Center offers many low-cost or no-cost resources to help manage your business, updated frequently with the latest information:

- [COVID-19 Business Survival Guide](#)

- [Online Videos](#)
- [Retail Business Checkup](#)
- [March 2021 Events and Training Calendar](#)

To schedule a confidential, no-cost, virtual consultation with the Calvert County business consultant, Lisa Colavito-Creaseon, email lcreason@csmc.edu or call 301-542-9609

8(a) Business Development Program Information Session



The U.S. Small Business Administration's Baltimore District Office offers FREE live online events to introduce small business owners to the 8(a) Business Development Program. Learn about the 8(a) Program including what it is, program benefits, who qualifies and how to apply. The webinar is intended for 8(a) eligible small business owners who think they may be ready to apply for the program. Click [here](#) to see if you are eligible.

Free, virtual workshops are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. and preregistration is required. Go online to register for sessions being held on [March 25](#), [April 22](#) or [May 27](#). For questions, email md8a@sba.gov.

More Productive Virtual Meetings

Whether you Zoom, Team, GoTo, Hangout or Skype, it's quite possible that virtual meetings and conferences are here to stay – at least for some uses. They're quick, convenient, inexpensive – especially for those who aren't local – and can be useful for sharing complicated information and documents. But they can also be tedious, boring and plagued by technical difficulties as evidenced by the number of times we're told, "You're on mute." But here are a few things that can help ensure more productive and engaging virtual meetings:

- **Be prepared** – have an agenda, know what you hope to accomplish, ensure all participants have accurate log-in information and determine who will host and manage the meeting
- **Be creative** – use presentations and videos, conduct a poll or arrange waiting rooms for small-group discussions
- **Be thorough** – ensure all participants are identified, precede the meeting with background information and follow-up with notes summarizing the discussion
- **Be clear** – determine etiquette for managing open discussion and ensure participants are aware of any assigned tasks before exiting the meeting



The Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland (RMI) & Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) have launched a cost-free air handling assistance program for Maryland manufacturers. Get details on how air handling can impact your company's risk for COVID-19 and how this new program can help mitigate that risk in a free webinar. Details and webinar registration available [here](#).

LEAN ON US

Even though we're not physically in the office, Calvert County Economic Development staff are available to you by email or phone, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Reach out – whether you need help, have a great idea or just want to check in and let us know how you are doing. We'd love to hear from you! [Email](#) or call 410-535-4583. And as we continue to navigate our recovery, don't forget we are here to assist with updates, advice and information.

