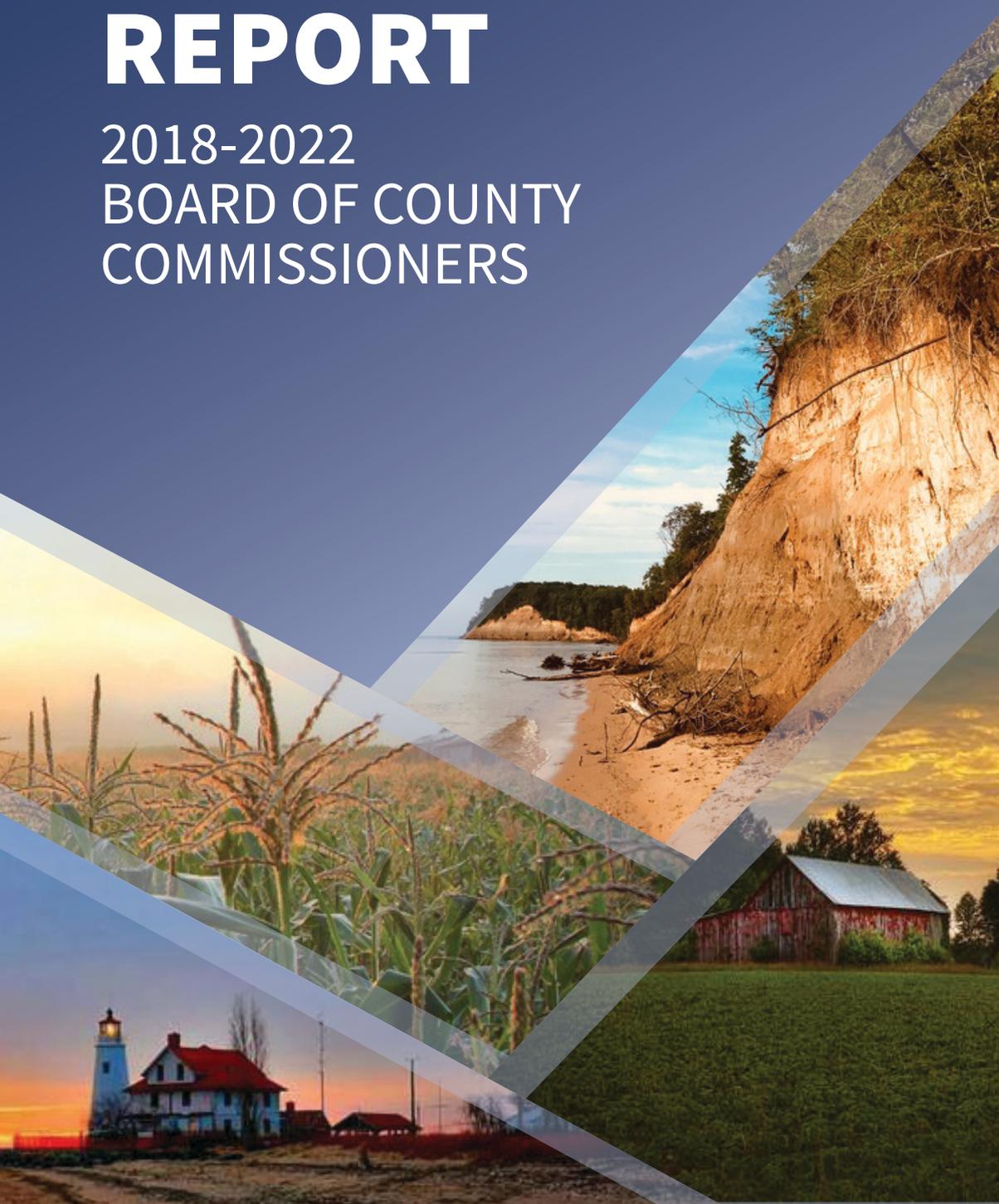




CALVERT COUNTY
Maryland

END OF TERM **PROGRESS REPORT**

2018-2022
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS





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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

We are proud to present this progress report to Calvert County citizens as we approach the end of a challenging and eventful four-year term. In the following pages, we highlight some of the top county government accomplishments and detail the significant milestones of what you elected us to achieve.

Even under the shadow of a worldwide pandemic, we believe the county has flourished since 2018 thanks to conservative financial planning, measured growth, and an ongoing commitment to investing in infrastructure, programs, and services that advance the needs of Calvert County citizens.

These last four years have proven once again that Calvert County's success as a community is driven by the citizens who choose to make it home. What follows is a direct result of our engagement with you and our shared goal of prudent and unwavering stewardship of every tax dollar.

It has been an honor to serve you.

Calvert County Board of County Commissioners

Earl F. "Buddy" Hance, President
 Steven R. Weems, Vice President
 Christopher J. Gadway (2021-2022)*
 Mike Hart
 Kelly D. McConkey

*Thomas E. "Tim" Hutchins (2018-2021)

MISSION STATEMENT

CALVERT COUNTY GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Be responsible and accountable to all citizens of Calvert County
- Provide high quality, effective and efficient services
- Preserve Calvert County's environment, heritage and rural character
- Foster opportunities for responsible and sustainable residential and commercial growth
- Support Calvert County's essential institutions and keep them strong

COMMISSIONERS' GUIDANCE

We established 10 areas of guidance to provide direction and to ensure the effective and efficient use of county resources. The guidance was established in consideration of the goals outlined within the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. Throughout this report, you will see the progress made by county departments toward and in addition to these guidance objectives:

-  Improve transparency through enhanced citizen interaction.
-  Identify access equity for citizens.
-  Improve the business climate.
-  Establish efficient and secure county networks.
-  Ensure public safety services.
-  Enhance public recreation services.
-  Establish efficient financial funding for the Calvert County Board of Education.
-  Establish county-based opportunities for veterans.
-  Identify opportunities to foster new waste management concepts.
-  Identify opportunities to improve public roadways and public infrastructure.



2018-2022 MILESTONES

JUNE 2019

- ✓ CCG launches redesigned website
- ✓ County joins suit against opioid makers, distributors

JULY 2019

- ✓ Career EMS Division funded
- ✓ Property tax rate reduction

AUGUST 2019

- ✓ Calvert 2040 Comprehensive Plan adopted
- ✓ PFVFD (Co. 2) groundbreaking

OCTOBER 2019

- ✓ Parks & Recreation ordinance adopted

DECEMBER 2019

- ✓ Harsh weather protections for animals enacted

JANUARY 2020

- ✓ Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan update begins

MARCH 2020

- ✓ COVID-19 state of emergency declared
- ✓ Transportation Plan adopted

JUNE 2020

- ✓ Calvert St@t Dashboard tool launches
- ✓ Hallowing Point Park 2nd entrance opened

JULY 2020

- ✓ Property tax rate reduction

AUGUST 2020

- ✓ Text to 911 service launches
- ✓ Virtual Senior Citizen Portal opened

DECEMBER 2020

- ✓ \$6 million investment in full broadband buildout

JANUARY 2021

- ✓ COVID-19 vaccine preregistration portal opens

MARCH 2021

- ✓ New Public Safety communications system activated
- ✓ Veterans Affairs Commission established

APRIL 2021

- ✓ Added spousal coverage for retirees

JUNE 2021

- ✓ PFVFD (Co. 2) firehouse complete

JULY 2021

- ✓ Christopher Gadway sworn in to replace Commissioner Tim Hutchins
- ✓ Property tax rate reduction

SEPTEMBER 2021

- ✓ County Services Plaza demolition
- ✓ P&R earns CAPRA accreditation
- ✓ Chesapeake Hills Golf Course Clubhouse groundbreaking

NOVEMBER 2021

- ✓ New TDR Reserve Program established

FEBRUARY 2022

- ✓ Police Accountability Board & Administrative Charging Committee established

- ✓ Adopted redistricting boundaries

MARCH 2022

- ✓ Calvert Broadcast studio opens
- ✓ Completed the first construction phase of Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park, including the opening of three new multipurpose fields

JUNE 2022

- ✓ Approved a market adjustment to all county employee, Sheriff's Office and Detention Center paycales

This included a step increase, or salary increase, for county employees and a restorative step increase for those who were employed by the county on or before July 1, 2011 as well as a 4% cost of living adjustment

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

As the nation continues to grapple with economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Calvert County remains on sound financial footing. We have maintained balanced annual budgets that reflect continued investment in programs and services that provide a high quality of life for citizens.

PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION

In 2019, the county lowered the tax rate from \$0.952 to \$0.937, again in 2021 from \$0.937 to \$0.932, and again in 2022 from \$0.932 to \$0.927, for a total reduction since 2018 of \$0.025. As of July 1, 2021, the county's property tax rate is sixth lowest and income tax rate is seventh lowest in the state.

TOP CREDIT RATINGS

Our sound conservative fiscal approach has earned the county continuous AAA credit ratings from three independent credit rating agencies. For six consecutive assessments, Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Services and S&P Global Ratings have assigned Calvert County their highest ratings due to the county's strong economy, robust revenues and sound financial management. The AAA rating demonstrates an exceptional degree of credit worthiness and helps the county achieve the best interest rates available when selling bonds to fund major county capital projects, saving Calvert County taxpayers millions of dollars each year on the repayment of bonds.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

Calvert County is a community that places high value on quality education and we have been steadfast in support of our public schools. The FY 2022 county budget allocated \$135 million in operating funds to our public school system, totaling 41% of all general fund revenues. Nearly half of the budget each year is earmarked for Calvert County Public Schools and consistently accounts for the largest share of the county's six-year capital improvement plan; in FY 2022, we allocated \$102 million toward school construction and renovation. The county also provided a \$3.9 million contribution for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) for the Board of Education.

In October 2021, we approved a joint resolution with the Board of Education to form a committee to oversee local implementation of the "Blueprint for Maryland's Future" legislation, and to appoint a local implementation coordinator for each fiscal year through 2026. With membership that represents citizens, teachers and educational support staff, the Calvert County Blueprint Committee will coordinate the county's use of funds and policy changes mandated by the state's Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence.



AAA RATING

Calvert County earned its sixth consecutive AAA credit rating in 2021



TAX REDUCTIONS

The county lowered the property tax rate in 2019 by \$0.015, again in 2021 by \$0.005, and again in 2022 by \$0.005, per \$100 of assessed value, for a total reduction of \$0.025 since 2018



EDUCATION \$\$\$

\$135 million was allocated to Calvert County Public Schools in the FY 2022 annual budget

APPLICATIONS



20,246

Job applications received between 2018-2021

INTERVIEWS



3,272

Interviews scheduled between 2018-2021

EMPLOYEES HIRED



1,381

New employees welcomed between 2018-2021

HIRING & RETENTION

Fiscal stewardship includes a responsibility to ensure we hire the most qualified individuals to provide effective and efficient services to Calvert County citizens. We made several improvements to the county government hiring practices to recruit and retain the best employees.

Changes include implementation of a blind hiring process to ensure the best qualified candidates are selected. We also adopted policies that implement a process for voluntary self-identification of disability, and began partnering with veteran support organizations to recruit service members transitioning to the civilian workforce.

In an effort to reduce the county's existing healthcare costs, and to stay ahead of rising costs, we approved a new healthcare plan for county employees. This includes a new wellness initiative and more employee education about healthcare costs.



Although the early pandemic forced us to learn how to work remotely, we found that in many cases, telework led to happier, more productive employees. In July 2020, we adopted an expanded telework policy that allows more employees to telework on a regular basis, reducing certain costs associated with having employees in the office full time and taking us into the future of work.

RETIREE BENEFITS

Employee longevity is crucial to efficient, continuous government operations. We advocated for and approved significant benefits improvements and restructuring to make retirement more affordable for our longest serving employees, without adding cost to taxpayers.

After a study revealed that Calvert County was the only county in its peer group that did not provide a health insurance subsidy to spouses and/or dependents of qualified retired county employees, we adopted the addition of a spousal/dependent subsidy for county government retirees. We also approved a change to how the Employees Retirement Savings Plan defines the date when employees become eligible for retiree health insurance.

ENGAGE WITH CITIZENS

Citizen engagement is vital to our decision-making process. In an effort to enhance the visibility of government operations, we have launched additional information channels to help citizens connect with county government news and information.

A redesign of the Calvert County Government website and launch of new websites for the agricultural community and Chesapeake Hills Golf Course resulted in a web presence that makes it easier for citizens to access the most-searched information, and functions well on mobile devices, which now account for about half of our web traffic.

Several new social media channels and email newsletters provide citizens with regular updates on areas of interest. We also debuted a podcast for those who prefer to listen to the latest county government news. Live and recorded meetings, public service announcements and informational videos are available to view on our YouTube channel. Visit the Calvert County Government website calvertcountymd.gov/residents to learn more about resident resources.

CALVERT ST@T DASHBOARD

To help improve transparency about county government operations, we launched an online dashboard that makes data readily accessible to the public. This data offers the citizens an in-depth look at services and operations, and can be leveraged to help county government and our community make informed, data-driven decisions.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Tune in on Youtube or Instagram

@CalvertBroadcast

www.Youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov



CALVERT BROADCAST

As part of the 2018 Comcast Franchise Agreement, Calvert County Government assumed management of Comcast's Public, Educational and Government (PEG) access channel 1070 HD. In 2019, we began increasing news and information on the PEG station, including emergency updates, public service announcements and live broadcast of public meetings. In 2022, we opened a new broadcast studio for producing enhanced PEG content and providing the public access to professional production services and equipment. This pioneering asset, the first in southern Maryland, will be a regional resource for schools, nonprofit groups, interagency partners and business owners looking to create and share content throughout the community.



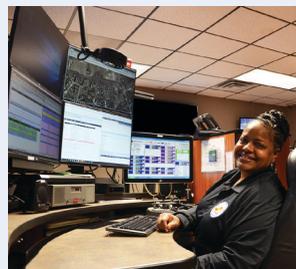
POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

After the Maryland General Assembly enacted the Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021 – Police Discipline and Law Enforcement Programs and Procedures, we quickly began work to establish a Police Accountability Board (PAB) and Administrative Charging Committee (ACC). Our efforts focused on attaining a balanced representation of diverse backgrounds and experiences to execute those powers and duties. We solicited public input on how the PAB and ACC should look and function through town hall meetings, public survey and comments, direct engagement with various civic groups and a public hearing.



VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

In addition to commissions that advise the Board of County Commissioners on a broad range of community issues, we established the Veterans Affairs Commission to advise on issues and programs that will best support and recognize community members who have provided military service to our nation.



“I have the utmost confidence the Veterans Affairs Commission will have a real positive impact and look to them as the foundation to building a stronger support system for our community’s servicemen and women.”

- BOCC President Earl F. “Buddy” Hance

RENEW OUR ECONOMY

PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE

Although businesses suffered from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Calvert County's business sector continued to grow, energized by an entrepreneurial spirit:



- ✓ Nearly 70 new businesses opened in Calvert County while under a local state of emergency, from March 2020 through July 2021.
- ✓ By the end of 2021, Calvert County's departments of Economic Development and Community Resources had disbursed more than \$3.6 million in relief fund grants to small businesses and nonprofits, as well as local restaurants, hotels and other hospitality businesses that were particularly challenged during pandemic shut-downs.

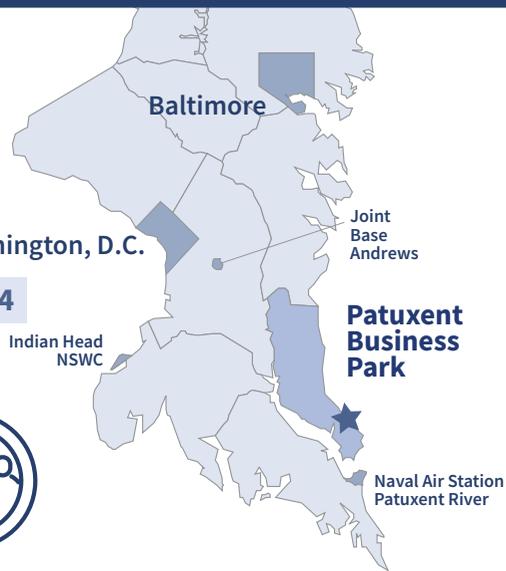


OPEN FOR BUSINESS

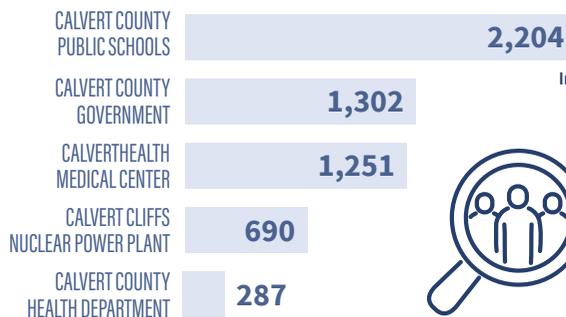
Patuxent Business Park in Lusby, located in one of three federal opportunity zones in the county, continues to attract new business investment, with six out of 14 lots now sold. The federal opportunity zone program encourages investment in low-income and rural communities through tax incentives. PBP is also a Calvert County Commerce Zone, a designation that extends tax credits to qualifying new and expanding businesses.



See available lots at WWW.PATUXENTBUSINESSPARK.COM



TOP 5 COUNTY EMPLOYERS



REGULATORY CHANGES

Directing controlled growth to our town centers remains a top priority.

- ✓ A new Transferable Development Rights (TDR) Reserve program was established in 2021 to allow for the sale and purchase of TDRs through Calvert County Government instead of private buyer/seller negotiations. Currently in its pilot phase, the program is set up as a revolving fund to continually purchase TDRs from Agriculture Preservation District owners and sell them to developers, making it easier to direct growth toward town centers while preserving the county's natural resources, agricultural land and forests.
- ✓ Approved to reduce the density from 24 to 14 dwelling units per acre in the new town district of Prince Frederick Town Center.
- ✓ Approved amendments to the conditions of the land use charts in Prince Frederick Town Center to reinstate the requirement that 50% of the site be reserved for commercial, office or industrial use.
- ✓ Approved amendments to the TDR sliding scale to base the number of TDRs required for multi-family units on the number of bedrooms.
- ✓ A new development review process includes digital plan submittal and paperless review on projects submitted by developers and engineers.
- ✓ An online portal that allows citizens and businesses to pay for, manage and print permits online. The Encompass Portal allows for residential building, electrical, plumbing, gas and grading permits, with more capabilities to be added in the future.
- ✓ Changed administrative variances for commercial properties that include a reduction in setbacks, a decrease in required parking spaces or an increase in sign height in any zoning district, including town centers.

TOURISM: ALWAYS IN SEASON

Thousands of visitors continue to enjoy Calvert County as a destination. The year 2019 saw 481,857 visitors to Calvert, with \$143 million in tourism sales. Though tourism numbers declined during the pandemic, we received 354,034 visitors in 2020, bringing \$108.2 million in tourism revenues. In 2020, more than 1,600 people were directly employed in the Calvert County tourism sector, representing \$74.9 million of labor income. The year 2021 saw tourism bounce back with 509,000 visitors to Calvert.



VISITORS



1.8 MILLION

Visitors to Calvert County from 2018-2021

INDUSTRY SALES



\$392 MILLION

Made in tourism industry sales from 2018-2020

LABOR INCOME



\$252.6 MILLION

Made in labor income from the tourism industry sector from 2018-2020

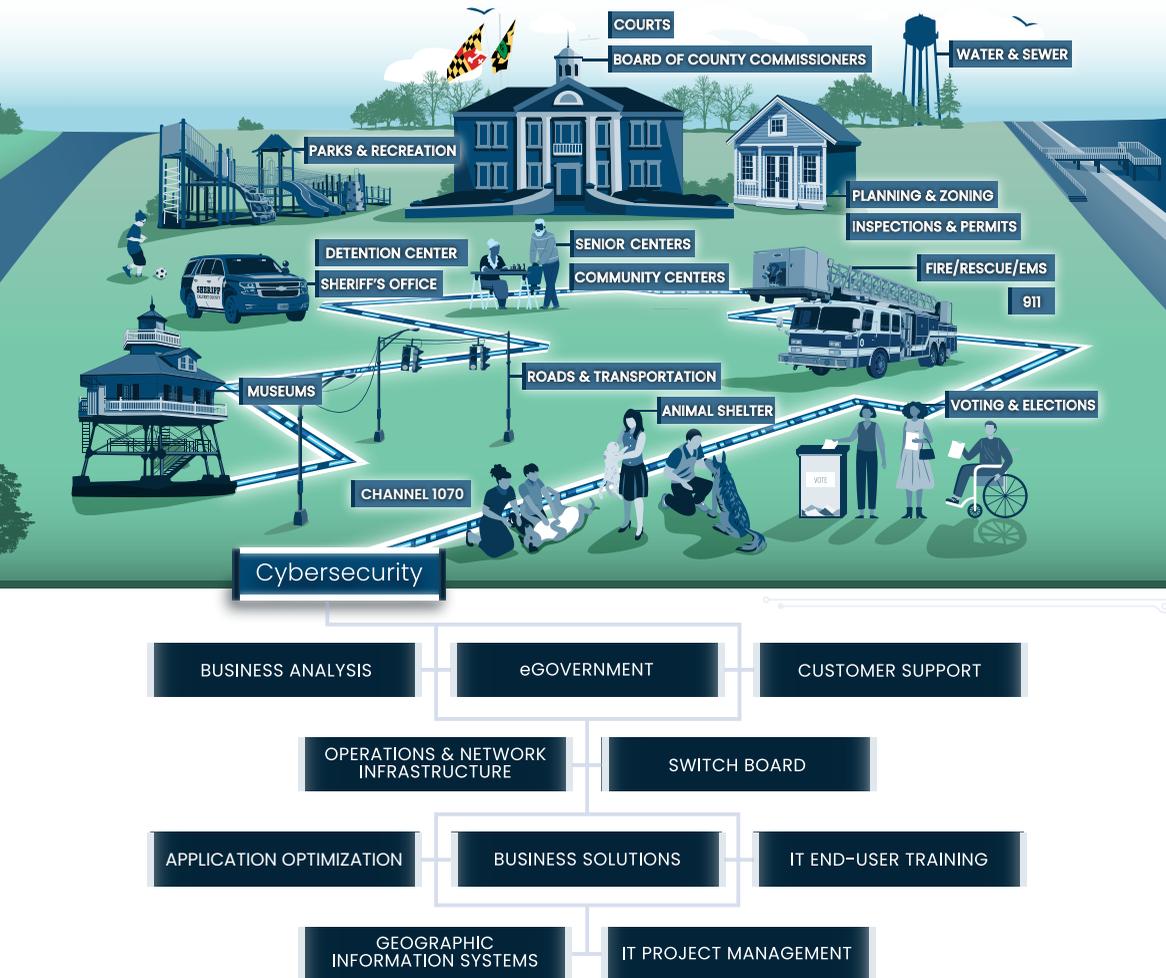
CONNECT & PROTECT TECHNOLOGY

SERVING THE UNSERVED

With the ever-increasing need for all residents to have broadband connectivity, in 2020 we financially committed to completing the full buildout of broadband cable infrastructure in Calvert County, regardless of distance from a main road. This critical investment ensures every household has the opportunity to access cable services.

CYBERSECURITY

As cyberattacks on government agencies continue to increase in frequency and sophistication, we have expanded our cybersecurity program and taken steps to streamline technology support and operations, and prioritized the security of county government technology assets and data, including any citizen information we handle. We approved the creation of two new positions fully dedicated to cybersecurity to ensure county government is well-positioned to meet the challenges of the rapidly evolving cybersecurity landscape. Our comprehensive cybersecurity program protects infrastructure and data through enhanced monitoring and prevention, response and remediation against threats and vulnerabilities, and cybersecurity education, awareness and training.

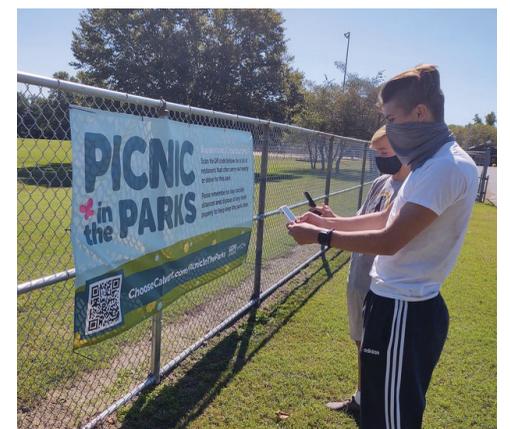


REJUVENATE OUR COMMUNITIES

IN IT TOGETHER

One of our highest priorities has been to ease the heavy financial and emotional burden the COVID-19 pandemic placed on Calvert citizens. Through the departments of Parks & Recreation and Community Resources, we worked to uphold a sense of community and support for residents' overall wellbeing.

- The Department of Community Resources administered over \$4.3 million in federal and state grant funding for rent and utility assistance, non-congregate sheltering, homeless services, pantry food and kid kit distribution, housing stability services, case management, and a senior nurse program.
- Parks & Recreation adapted and designed events to help residents safely go out and have fun, and enabled COVID-safe programs to return as soon as possible.
- We worked cooperatively with the Department of Public Safety, Calvert County Sheriff's Office, Calvert County Health Department and CalvertHealth Medical Center to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to citizens, making Calvert one of the leading Maryland counties in the effort to vaccinate our most vulnerable populations.
- To support families during the pandemic, Calvert County Family Network administered nearly \$100,000 in state and federal grants for: food kits and laptops for childcare providers; fever reducers, cleaning supplies and educational materials for families with young children; winter clothing and bedding for homeless youth; and software for school-based meal distributions.
- The Department of Community Resources developed a plan for sheltering and quarantining homeless adults, first responders and vulnerable populations with COVID-19.
- During the mandated senior center COVID closure, the Office on Aging conducted individual outreach to each of their clients, hosted drive-thru events and 32 vaccine and booster clinics, and delivered 52,510 meals to ensure senior residents stayed connected, supported and protected against the virus.
- When senior and community centers were closed during the statewide emergency response, we launched a Virtual Activity Center and a Virtual Senior Center on our website with classes, learning and entertainment that helped residents keep active and connected from home.



RAMPING UP RECREATION

Programs offered through the Department of Parks & Recreation promote individual well-being and communities by funding positive programs and opportunities for residents of all ages, incomes and abilities. On average, more than 1,000 programs are offered by Parks & Recreation each year, serving more than 92,000 attendees annually.

- ✓ In 2021, Calvert earned national accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies and the National Recreation and Park Association. This mark of distinction indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards related to the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services. During the accreditation process, which began in 2018, Parks & Recreation demonstrated compliance with 154 recognized standards.



- ✓ Calvert County expanded inclusion efforts by offering a summer camp that enables children with disabilities to interact with their peers through recreational and social opportunities.
- ✓ Completed the first construction phase of Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park, including the opening of three new multipurpose fields.
- ✓ Opened the county's third dog park, located at Cove Point Park.
- ✓ Approved new master plans for Cove Point Park and the new Dominion Energy Regional Park.



- ✓ Broke ground on a new Chesapeake Hills Golf Course Clubhouse. This 8,150-square-foot building will be a pleasing addition for golf course patrons and will open new opportunities for public and private events at the course.
- ✓ Began soliciting public input on the design of a permanent Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center in Prince Frederick.
- ✓ Enacted the Parks & Recreation Ordinance, including provisions that ban smoking, vaping and tobacco products at all county parks, and provides protections for natural wildlife and domesticated pets.

RESERVATIONS



19,774

Reservations processed from 2018-2021

PROGRAMS



5,101

Programs offered from 2018-2021

REGISTRATIONS



141,619

Registrations for CCPR programs from 2018-2021

PROVIDING RESOURCES TO COMMUNITIES

- ✓ A housing task force was convened in 2019 to develop a strategic plan for addressing housing affordability and adequacy, with a diverse array of community stakeholders providing input. The Housing for All Task Force initiative made recommendations for strategies to address housing needs for multigenerational communities, with a focus on workforce housing for younger generations and affordable housing for seniors, within close proximity to health services.
- ✓ Administered nearly \$1.94 million in grants for the construction of a food storage and distribution center, in partnership with End Hunger in Calvert County.
- ✓ Delivered county senior citizens an average of 43,526 congregate and home-delivered meals per year from 2019 to 2021.
- ✓ Expanded bus transportation routes and schedules in 2020 to include an additional connection to St. Mary's County and extended service to the White Sands neighborhood.
- ✓ Began providing subsidized transportation services for seniors and persons with disabilities, through the Office on Aging in collaboration with Lifestyles of Maryland and the Maryland Transit Authority. This program services the Southern Maryland and Washington, D.C., area.
- ✓ The Department of Public Works partnered with the Office of Aging and Calvert County Health Department to purchase a facility in Lusby, providing space for additional behavioral health services for southern Calvert.

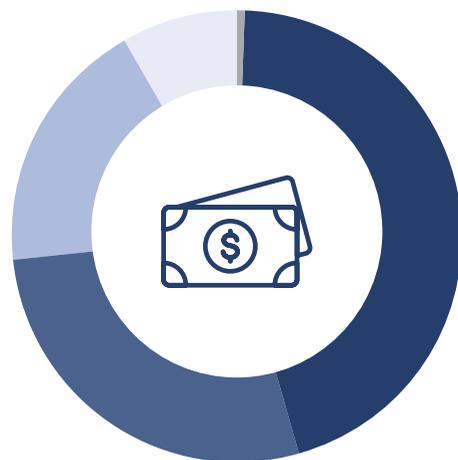
REINFORCE SAFETY

COVID-19 EMERGENCY

On March 17, 2020, we activated the Emergency Operations Center at an enhanced level in order to coordinate a countywide response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the local state of emergency, which expired in July 2021, and beyond, we have worked diligently alongside our local, state and federal partners to ensure the safety and health of our community.

In 2020, we received \$8 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding. Calvert County Government dispersed the funds as follows:

- \$3,639,611.15**
Public Safety initiatives and measures
- \$2,234,288.13**
Grant initiatives for nonprofit and small business organizations
- \$1,481,945.03**
Expand teleworking capabilities and enable compliance with public health precautions
- \$669,409.50**
Non-congregate sheltering, domestic animal sheltering, food distribution and medical transport
- \$65,282.30**
Towns of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach



Public Safety established a temporary decontamination site for police, fire, paramedic, emergency medical services (EMS) and other county vehicles in April 2020, to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission for first responders and the public. Portable decontamination equipment was purchased for each fire department and rescue squad to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

The Department of Public Works ensured that buildings and facilities were safe for employees and the public through enhanced cleaning and decontamination.

In January 2021, county staff created an online COVID-19 vaccine preregistration portal in partnership with the Calvert County Health Department so citizens could easily receive the vaccine once it became available for their vaccine priority group, in accordance with the Maryland COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. We also established a call center to assist residents.

The call center was reopened in October 2021 to help residents register for a booster or third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

As the omicron variant caused increased infections in December 2021, staff worked to establish same-day walk-up testing at Dunkirk District Park. We also quickly established a temporary testing clinic at the request of CalvertHealth Medical Center, to alleviate strain on the Emergency Department from the surge of residents seeking COVID-19 testing.

📞

As of July 2021, the call center had received 13,973 incoming calls and made 11,198 outgoing calls.



TROPICAL STORM ISAIAS

Tropical Storm Isaias tore through Calvert County in August 2020 and caused \$7.5 million in damages in our county alone. To help ease the burden on taxpayers, county staff successfully appealed for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reimburse a major portion of these costs. As of May 2022, FEMA obligated more than \$2,531,687.53 in reimbursements, with 13 projects still in the approval process.



FIRST RESPONDERS

In response to growing concern about the ability to maintain an all-volunteer fire, rescue and EMS team, our FY 2020 budget funded a new Career Emergency Medical Services Division with 25 employees to staff two advanced life support units. The FY 2022 budget added more than 31 new positions to support Career Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Communications, the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center and the State's Attorney's Office.



We funded the \$11-million reconstruction of the Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department (Company 2) firehouse. This 30,000-square-foot facility boasts six large apparatus bays, improved technology to aid call response, energy efficient lighting and HVAC, and more sleeping quarters and training space.

“We rely on our volunteer firefighters, day and night, to safeguard our homes, our families and our lives... We are honored and proud to mark this historic milestone for Company 2 and thank our volunteers for the life-saving work you do every day.”

- BOCC President Earl F. “Buddy” Hance

NEW COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

In March 2021, we activated a new \$21 million public safety communications system. The 800-megahertz P25 digital communications system replaced the county's 25-year-old system to provide enhanced radio coverage and interoperability for the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, fire-rescue-EMS departments and county government agencies.

ENHANCED 911 SERVICES

Efforts to enhance Calvert 911 Services, by implementing the NextGen 911 system, provide residents and visitors enhanced emergency services. Upgrades to digital technology bring improvements to the 911 system, including new hardware and software. In 2019, we began using Smart911, allowing residents and businesses to create a free, secure safety profile with critical details first responders may need during an emergency call.

In 2020, the 911 call center began using text-to-911 service. While a phone call is the preferred way to contact 911, the ability to send a text message to 911 is a critical feature for those who may be unable to place a voice call.



ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

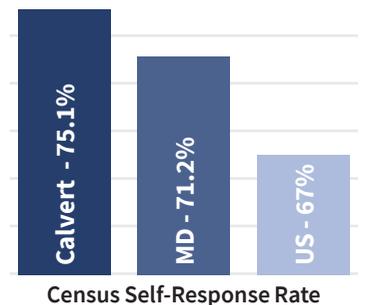
During the first year of our term, staff continued the extensive work of updating the county's Comprehensive Plan. We adopted the updated plan in August 2019, after a series of more than 100 meetings, workshops, open houses and public hearings held since the process began in 2016.

With the Comprehensive Plan as a guide, the process to update each of the seven town center master plans and zoning ordinances is well underway, beginning with Prince Frederick and Dunkirk. These master plan updates support the strategy of directing commercial and residential growth to town centers to preserve Calvert County's rural character, while enabling economic growth. The process will determine land use priorities for years to come; citizen involvement is vital to its success. We encourage all citizens to participate in this process. Each town center master plan update will be followed with updates to the individual town center zoning ordinances.

In March 2020, we adopted an updated Transportation Plan, replacing the 1997 Transportation Plan, serving as a functional guide for future planning which may be implemented through local laws and public investments over the next 20 years. The updated Transportation Plan for Calvert County applies practical and effective strategies to address the county's evolving transportation needs. These strategies include traffic management tools and improvement projects that can be funded or initiated by county government.

2020 CENSUS

Preparation for a successful 2020 Census began nearly a year in advance to ensure a complete and accurate count of Calvert County residents. Census data informs local decision-making when planning resources. It also helps to secure funding for hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other critical programs and services, making a complete and accurate count critical to fulfill the needs of our community. In May 2019, we voted to establish a Complete Count Committee representing a broad range of community interests, to educate the public and motivate Calvert County residents to complete the census questionnaire. The outreach and coordination of the committee members led to Calvert County increasing its self-response rate by more than six percentage points, from 68.8% in 2010 to 75.1% in 2020.



REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Census data is used to evaluate whether population changes warrant the need to alter election district boundaries, to ensure that each commissioner district fairly represents Calvert County citizens. In 2021, we appointed a nine-member Redistricting Committee with representatives from the Calvert County Democratic Central Committee, Republican Central Committee, League of Women Voters and the NAACP Calvert County branch. We approved the committee's recommendation to update the boundaries of all three districts in February 2022.



ANIMAL SERVICES

Since opening its doors in October 2018, through 2021, the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter has taken in over 4,500 owner-surrendered or stray cats, dogs and other animals. In support of the humane treatment of animals, the shelter saves all healthy and treatable animals, even when the

shelter is at its full 200-animal capacity, by partnering with local rescue organizations and foster volunteers.

FROM 2018 THROUGH 2021:



- ✓ More than 1,850 animals have been adopted through the shelter
- ✓ Approximately 1,000 animals were transferred to rescue organizations
- ✓ Nearly 750 animals were reunited with their owners

We also adopted new and amended provisions to the local animal ordinance in 2019, to include stronger protections for domesticated animals, sheltering, tethering, abuse and cruelty. Added provisions also include protections for animals during harsh weather conditions.





IMPROVE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Maintenance and improvement of the county's public infrastructure is vital to our quality of life and safety. Accomplishments include:

- ✔ Six million dollars dedicated in the FY 2022 budget to repave county roadways, with the goal of paving approximately 20 miles of county roads annually.
- ✔ Coupled with the storm drain capital project budget, we have repaired and lined approximately 1,600 linear feet of storm drainage pipes under the county road network along with repaving projects.
- ✔ Between 2019 and 2021, Highway Maintenance crews addressed customer service requests for tree trimming, drain repairs, pothole repairs, road sign replacements and assisted with other citizen calls, averaging more than 300 calls monthly.
- ✔ Improved Ward Farm Road and installed a roundabout at the entrance to the new Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park.
- ✔ Improved Prince Frederick Boulevard with a new roundabout near the Calvert Hills subdivision.
- ✔ Reduced construction costs and waste by recycling material for the installation of parking lots and roundabouts.
- ✔ Completed a six-month road widening and infrastructure improvement project on Fairground Road. Work included extending existing sewer lines, installing new electric lines, widening roads and adding sidewalks.
- ✔ Completed a six-month intersection improvement project at Boyds Turn Road and MD 260.
- ✔ Completed an overlay project for Broomes Island Road to reduce flooding during high tides.
- ✔ Completed the Calvert County Detention Center perimeter fence, stairs and access road improvements.
- ✔ Addition and retrofit of LED ballfield lights with remote capabilities at county parks.
- ✔ Stormwater structure repairs at many completed park facilities.
- ✔ Started the water system improvement project to ensure sufficient capacity and greater reliability for the water system serving the Chesapeake Heights and Dares Beach communities.
- ✔ Completed Solomons Boat Ramp upgrade to increase public accessibility.



PROJECT UPDATES



new building is projected to save more than half a million dollars per year in utility costs and lease payments.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Began work on construction of a new \$49.5-million County Administration Building, beginning with the County Services Plaza building demolition in 2021. Construction of the new 90,000-square-foot facility is slated to begin in 2023 and is expected to be complete in 2025. The building will consolidate county employees from multiple locations. Consolidating staff from leased buildings into the



ELECTRIC VEHICLE RECHARGE STATIONS

Partnered with SMECO to install public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout the county. As of January 2022, four units were operational at Calvert Library Fairview branch, Courthouse Annex, Southern Community Center and Calvert Marine Museum, with additional units planned or underway.

- ✔ Instituted an iron removal project for the Cavalier Country neighborhood water system in Sunderland. Installed an arsenic removal system in the Marley Run neighborhood in Huntingtown.
- ✔ Installed new and upgraded water meters in FY 2019 to allow for more accurate readings. Increased revenues from meter accuracy will be used to maintain systems. Staff has begun planning for Advanced Metering Infrastructure, which will provide the ability to read and operate meters remotely and enable customers to easily monitor their usage at any time.
- ✔ Continued to work with the Maryland Department of the Environment and Calvert County Health Department to identify failing septic system problem areas and sought funding solutions for potential upgrades.
- ✔ In 2020 we added a second scale at Appeal Landfill to allow for faster service to landfill customers.
- ✔ Cleaned and repainted water towers at Chesapeake Heights, Prince Frederick South Tower, the Calvert County Industrial Park and Windy Hill.
- ✔ Upgraded the headworks, septage receiving and the biosolids removal at the Solomons Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- ✔ Mosquito Control is now able to accept spray application requests online to make it more convenient for citizens.
- ✔ Added a certified locksmith to the maintenance staff, which has saved the county \$125,000 every year for the past two years.
- ✔ Upgraded public facilities in Solomons by expanding comfort station sitting area, installing a new deck on the pier and upgrading the septic pump for boaters.
- ✔ Expanded early voting capability county-wide by adding two additional locations north and south of Prince Frederick.

PRESERVING ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE

Preserving the beauty and pristine character of Calvert County has long been a goal of local government. We believe environmental stewardship is a top priority and continue to support programs that help care for our natural resources, while we work to preserve our rich cultural heritage.

LAND PRESERVATION

To date, Calvert County has preserved over 33,000 acres of land through five different state and county conservation programs, toward a goal of 40,000 acres preserved.

We endorsed the expansion of the Rural Legacy Areas through an ongoing partnership with Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D). Through an agreement with RC&D, we submitted an application in February 2022 to expand the North Calvert Rural Legacy Area by over 1,740 acres and to expand the Calvert Creeks Rural Legacy Area by over 15,800 acres, which is currently under review.

Through the Purchase and Retirement Fund program, the county offers to purchase and permanently retire transferable development rights (TDR) to protect farmland from development. We increased the purchase price from \$3,037 to \$4,000 per TDR in May 2020, and to \$4,500 in August 2021.

In 2021, we began the process of updating Calvert County's Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. This plan presents a comprehensive overview of the county's recreation, parks and open space, and identifies potential sites for land acquisition and park expansion.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

After adopting the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit in October 2018, Calvert County has implemented new stormwater management programs to improve water quality and control the discharge of pollutants. This initiative aims to protect our watersheds for a cleaner Chesapeake Bay.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

As stewards of our local heritage, we have continued to invest in programs and activities to preserve our historical resources and grow a local economy that builds upon our cultural heritage. Our historic preservation program and museums promote the documentation and protection of Calvert County's natural and cultural heritage, support programs that focus on local history, cultural geography and folk life and celebrate heritage as a means of creating and nurturing a sense of local identity.

- ☑ Renovated the Lore Oyster House, a Solomons Historic Landmark built in 1933 that is on the National Register of Historic Places
- ☑ Designed, fabricated and installed a new permanent exhibition at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum



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