



Calvert County News

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Nazzal Joins Leadership Maryland Class of 2022

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – March 1, 2022 – Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation Director Shannon Nazzal has been selected to participate in Leadership Maryland. The professional development program is dedicated to building a stronger Maryland by educating, cultivating and connecting the state’s brightest leaders. Nazzal is one of 52 individuals chosen for Leadership Maryland’s 29th class, which will complete the eight-month, hands-on learning program focused on the state’s most vital social, economic and environmental issues.

Following a two-day opening retreat in April, the class will attend five two-day intense sessions traversing the state focusing on Maryland’s economic development, education, health and human services, criminal justice, the environment and multi-culturalism/diversity.

This distinction places Nazzal among a select few within Calvert County Government who share this distinction, including Commissioner Steven R. Weems, Class of 2016; County Administrator Mark Willis, Class of 2014; Deputy County Administrator Linda Vassallo, Class of 2007; Planning & Zoning Director Mary Beth Cook, Class of 2019; Zoning Enforcement Chief Christopher Breedlove, Class of 2021; and Economic Development Deputy Director Danita Boonchaisri, Class of 2008.

“Continuous personal and professional development of county government leadership is key to the success of the county’s collective mission of serving the public,” said County Administrator Mark Willis. “I am incredibly proud to see such a hard-working staff member join Leadership Maryland. This program will provide valuable training to ensure our staff have the tools to be more effective leaders and help shape the future of our community.”

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Shannon Q. Nazzal was appointed as the first Calvert County Parks & Recreation director in July 2017. She previously served more than 12 years in the field of parks and recreation in the state of Florida at both the municipal and county government levels. Nazzal holds a B.A. degree from Florida State University in Physical Education (Sports Management), a M.S. degree from Florida State University in Sports Administration and a M.P.A degree from Florida International University.

Nazzal is a National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Certified Parks & Recreation Executive, one of six individuals in the state of Maryland who have achieved this distinction. She is a 2019 graduate of Leadership Southern Maryland and a graduate of NRPA's Director School and Park Maintenance Management School.

Nazzal serves in various capacities to further the field of parks and recreation to improve opportunities for Calvert County. She is a member of the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association and serves on the Maryland Association of Counties' committee for parks and recreation agencies. Nazzal has experience in accreditation and serves as a site visitor for parks and recreation agency audits across the country. She helped Calvert County through a successful accreditation process in 2021. She also serves as an adjunct professor for Frostburg State University in their Kinesiology and Recreation Department.

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