



# Calvert County NEWS

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*Board of Commissioners*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** Aug. 30, 2016

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### **Applications Now Accepted for the Calvert County Purchase and Retirement Fund Program *Owners of Agricultural Preservation Districts May Apply for the Purchase and Retirement of Transferable Development Rights***

**PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – Aug. 30, 2016** – The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board announce the opening of the application period for the county’s Purchase and Retirement (PAR) Fund program. Through the program, Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) are purchased, retired and permanently removed from the market to protect farmland from development.

Applications are accepted from the owners of Agricultural Preservation Districts and ranked by an established formula. The purchase price approved by the BOCC is \$3,750 per TDR. The Fiscal Year 2017 county budget includes \$2.8 million for the PAR Fund. More than \$700,000 of the total comes from the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, with a small portion from agricultural transfer taxes dedicated to land preservation. Remaining funds come from the prior year land preservation fund balance; none are taken from the county’s General Fund.

The PAR Fund program is part of Calvert County’s longstanding effort to preserve agricultural land. The county has preserved more than 29,000 acres of productive farms and forests over the past 30 years. With the budget allotment, Calvert County can purchase up to 750 of the 7,000 TDRs still eligible for purchase through the PAR program.

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The application deadline is Friday, Dec. 2, 2016, at 4:30 p.m. Applications are available on the county website under Forms in the Community Planning and Building section, or at the following link: [FY 2017 PAR Application](#). Completed applications should be sent to Community Planning and Building, Attention: Rural Planner Rachel O'Shea, 150 Main St., Prince Frederick, Md., 20639 or emailed to [osheard@co.cal.md.us](mailto:osheard@co.cal.md.us). To learn more, email or call O'Shea at 410-535-1600, ext. 2489. For information on Calvert County Government, visit [www.co.cal.md.us](http://www.co.cal.md.us) or like us on [Facebook](#).

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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. (LL)*