

CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

# 2018 PROGRESS REPORT

2014-2018  
BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS



*Another new day for Calvert County citizens ...*

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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 you put us in office to achieve.

We believe the county has flourished since 2015 thanks to conservative financial planning, careful budgeting and smart, measured economic growth. With the support of dedicated county government employees, we completed this board's goals as put forth in the 'Commissioners' Guidance' of 2015. The guidance contained 10 specific objectives aimed at making county government more efficient and Calvert County more business friendly.

These last four years have proven once again that Calvert County's success as a community is driven by the residents who choose to call 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***

Evan K. Slaughenhaupt Jr., President

Tom Hejl, Vice President

Mike Hart

Pat Nutter

Steven R. Weems

# 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

Early in our term 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 Master Plan, primarily the goal of "encouraging a stable and enduring economic base." Throughout this report you will see the tremendous progress made by the county departments, in addition to completing the guidance objectives directed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The 10 guidance areas are:

1. Treat farm and forestry like a business.
2. Create term limits for local offices.
3. Run Chesapeake Hills Golf Course and the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center like a business.
4. Update sign regulations.
5. Evaluate the number and time of day for Board of County Commissioners weekly meetings.
6. Research creative revenue sources.
7. Reevaluate the types of businesses permitted outside of the town centers.
8. Improve customer interaction in all government offices and services.
9. Develop incentives for housing and commercial development that spur economic development and maintain the rural character.
10. Seek ways where some features of the government run more like a business.



**DEC. 2014**  
Opened Dunkirk  
Park & Ride



**APRIL 2015**  
Completed Armory  
Road improvements



**JULY 2015**  
Completed J.W. Williams  
Road widening

# REORGANIZE TO BETTER SERVE

Our mission has always been to provide the best customer service to the public in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. It is with that overarching goal that we approved a county government restructure plan in 2017. Our organizational changes streamlined reporting channels and, as a result, provide efficient and additional operations.

The new plan created two new departments:

- Parks & Recreation (formerly under the Department of General Services)
- Communications and Media Relations (formerly under the Department of Economic Development)



In addition, two departments were renamed.

- The Office of Personnel became the Department of Human Resources.
- The Department of Community Planning & Building returned to its designation as the Department of Planning & Zoning.

The departmental reporting structure realigned along two primary functions: Departments responsible for operations and public services – Planning & Zoning, Community Resources, Economic Development, Parks & Recreation, Public Safety and Public Works – report to the county administrator. Departments providing internal support and administrative services – Communications and Media Relations, Finance & Budget, General Services, Human Resources and Technology Services – now report to the deputy county administrator.



**MARCH 2016**

Started public safety digital communications upgrade



**MAY 2016**

Opened FootGolf course at Chesapeake Hills Golf Course



**MAY 2016**

Began Phase I of Dowell Road improvements

# RETHINK HOW WE CONDUCT BUSINESS

## SERVICE-BASED BUDGET

When we took office, we inherited a structurally unbalanced budget. One of our first steps was to establish a service-based budget approach to demonstrate what it costs to run the business of county government. This method of budgeting allows us to estimate the costs of every service or function county government provides. It also allowed us to determine that 86.34 percent of the general fund budget was mandated by law and an additional 8.6 percent was mission critical.

Faced with a \$9 million deficit in fiscal year (FY) 2017, we made the difficult decision to increase the income tax rate from 2.8 percent to 3.0 percent – the first increase in 13 years – and also increased the real property tax rates from .892 to .952 per one hundred dollars of assessed value. Real property taxes had not been raised since 1987, or in 29 years.

one of the most important economic development projects in Maryland and one of the state's largest in terms of capital investment. It is estimated to bring more than \$800 million in new revenue to the county over the next 15 years.

In FY 2018, we received the planned pre-payment from the Dominion Cove Point expansion in the amount of \$25 million. The Dominion Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) for FY 2019 totals \$50.9 million.



The balanced fiscal year 2019 budget totals **\$296.6 million.**

Today, we have a structurally sound spending plan. The staff recommended FY 2019 budget totals \$296.6 million. In response to our improved fiscal outlook, we directed staff to include a property tax rate reduction for the board's proposed FY 2019 budget.



In 2016 Calvert County earned **AAA ratings** from all three major rating agencies.

A major project that played a part in our fiscal recovery occurred in 2015 when Calvert County drew international attention as we joined Dominion Cove Point leadership, international business partners and Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan to celebrate the groundbreaking for the \$4 billion Dominion Cove Point LNG Liquefaction project. The expansion is

## TOP CREDIT RATING

Our sound financial approach earned the county AAA bond ratings from three independent credit ratings agencies in July 2016, marking the first time in history Calvert County received top ratings from Fitch Ratings, Standard and Poor's Financial Services and Moody's Investors Service. As a result of sound fiscal practices, we maintained the AAA ratings in 2017. The AAA rating demonstrates an exceptional degree of credit worthiness when selling bonds for important capital



**JULY 2016**  
Received third AAA bond credit rating



**JULY 2016**  
Funded \$2.2 million for new volunteer fire/rescue/EMS apparatus



**OCT. 2016**  
Designated Patuxent Business Park as the county's first Commerce Zone

projects. This credit rating results in the lowest possible borrowing rate for the county and saves Calvert County's citizens millions of dollars in interest payments annually.

### INVESTING IN SAFETY

Following a \$21.4 million contract award to Motorola Solutions Inc. in early 2016, work continues to provide Calvert County Sheriff's Office and the fire departments and rescue squads with a new 800 megahertz digital communications system. The 1,100 new mobile radios are replacing the county's 20-year-old system and will enable first responders to better communicate with other county, state and federal agencies when a multi-jurisdictional response is required. The new system also allows us to better communicate with enhanced capabilities for interoperability with improved coordination with other counties.

In March 2018, as the national conversation rightfully shifted to the safety and security of our students and teachers, we committed an additional \$2 million to improve security in every Calvert County public school.

### LINDA L. KELLEY ANIMAL SHELTER

We ended our investment in the Tri-County Animal Shelter and entered into a public/private partnership with Marrick Properties

to open a new animal shelter in Calvert County. The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter in Barstow will open its doors in 2018 as an open admission animal shelter for owner surrendered or stray animals in Calvert County. The 12,910 square foot building will have the ability to shelter 200 animals. The Calvert County Animal Control Unit moved from the Sheriff's Office to the Department of Public Safety in the county government reorganization and will share the shelter's offices. To further demonstrate our support of the humane treatment of all animals, the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter will save all healthy and treatable animals, even when the shelter is full by utilizing rescue partners and fosters when needed.



**The 12,910-square-foot facility will be able to shelter 200 animals.**



**The Board of County Commissioners, Deputy County Administrator Wilson Parran and Animal Shelter Division Chief Crystal Dowd tour the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter.**



**A rendering of the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter to be located in Barstow.**



**NOV. 2016**  
Started Northern High School replacement project



**NOV. 2016**  
Began Phase II of Dowell Road improvements



**JAN. 2017**  
Launched annual Citizens Academy program

## SHRINKING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

The county secured a \$95,000 grant from the Maryland Energy Administration in May 2016 to reduce energy consumption and utilize renewable energy sources. The funding also supported a comprehensive energy audit in all county buildings, resulting in a 15 percent reduction of the county's energy consumption. Early indications suggest a savings of at least \$12,000 per year at the Detention Center thanks to utility rebates and energy efficiencies.

## NEW COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Just as the county in general has grown, so have the demands from citizens for more efficient and convenient access to county services. For that reason, we asked for bonding authority in our 2018 request to the state legislature to build a new county administration building and centralize county government services. The new building will be located at Armory Square in Prince Frederick and will consolidate most county government functions into one location.

## FOUR-YEAR SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

We have been steadfast in our support of public education, earmarking almost 50 percent of every budget to the operation of our public school system. In 2017, we renegotiated a new, four-year public schools funding formula to determine the amount of annual county appropriations to Calvert County Public Schools from FY 2018 through FY 2021. The funding agreement also provides \$1 million in additional funds to offset operating costs for any new

schools. Additionally, it specifies that any unassigned public schools fund balance, or savings, in excess of \$5 million be contributed to the school system's Other Post Employment Benefits trust fund, which includes health insurance.

## NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL

One of the largest capital improvement projects during our term is the \$76.9 million Northern High School replacement, with \$40 million contributed by the county.



**The new multi-story modern Northern High School will provide state-of-the-art equipment and accommodations for more than 1,400 students starting in 2019.**

## EXTENDING SAVINGS TO CITIZENS

Our planning & zoning staff developed three area flood mitigation plans (Cove Point, Broomes Island and Breezy Point/Neeld Estate) with two grants from CoastSmart, a federal program administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Through CoastSmart, county staff also obtained acceptance into the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System program, lowering Calvert County homeowner insurance premiums by 10 percent for countywide savings of \$37,700.



**JAN. 2017**

Hired the county's first Agricultural Development Specialist



**APRIL 2017**

Approved text amendments to enhance family conveyance



**MAY 2017**

Opened Mt. Hope Convenience Center

## CLOSING THE GAP ON MEDICAL COSTS

We continue to partner with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to provide county residents with a prescription drug discount program. Since July 2009, the partnership has saved Calvert County residents more than \$418,293 on more

than 21,137 prescriptions with discounts averaging 30.62 percent, or \$19.79 per prescription. This free program is available to all county residents, regardless of age, income or existing health coverage.

**Since July 2009, our NACo partnership has saved residents more than \$418,293 in prescription costs.**

## CONNECT WITH CITIZENS

### CITIZENS ACADEMY

The Calvert County Citizens Academy, launched in 2017, offers citizens an in-depth look at how Calvert County Government works through an informative, fast-paced and free, multi-week program. County directors and employees provide unique insights into the day-to-day operations of government along with behind-the-scenes tours of county facilities like the Calvert Marine Museum, the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center and the Calvert County Detention Center.



**County Administrator Terry Shannon speaks to Citizens Academy participants.**

### COORDINATING A PUBLIC RESPONSE TO DRUG AWARENESS

Over the past four years, the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse has leveraged 11 new partnerships, developing

initiatives that expand drug prevention outreach to students, parents, caregivers, teachers and employers.

### MAP IT!

The departments of Technology Services and Planning & Zoning launched an interactive online Permit Activity Status System (PASS) map. Citizens can track building permits such as plumbing, electrical and grading permits through every step of the permitting process. It is not the first Geographic Information System map launched during our term. There are several maps available including a “What’s Going Where” map where citizens can learn about commercial buildings currently in process to be built.

### PLANNING FOR CALVERT 2040

During our term, staff continued the extensive work required to update the county’s Comprehensive Plan and rewrite of the Zoning Ordinance. A first draft of the Comprehensive Plan is in review after two years of intensive public interaction including more than one dozen meetings, workshops, open houses and public work sessions.



**MAY 2017**

Completed Solomons sidewalk improvements



**MAY 2017**

Began improvements at Route 231 and Prince Frederick Boulevard



**MAY 2017**

Completed first building at Patuxent Business Park

# REJUVENATE OUR COMMUNITIES

## RAMPING UP RECREATION

The Department of Parks & Recreation strives to promote individual well-being, stronger families and communities by funding positive programs and opportunities for residents of all ages, incomes and abilities.

- ✓ In 2015 the county purchased the former SMECO building on Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick and dedicated it as the interim Harriet E. Brown Community Center the following March. We closed 2017 by purchasing 20 acres adjacent to the interim building for nearly \$2 million and adding an additional 6.98 acres to that property through a land swap with the Calvert County Housing Authority. A new state-of-the-art community and recreation facility will serve county residents.
- ✓ The construction of a ball field at Ward Farm Park brought the total number of county ball fields, including those maintained at our schools, to 67.

- ✓ New playgrounds were built at Mt. Hope Community Center and Hallowing Point Park.
- ✓ A FootGolf course opened at the Chesapeake Hills Golf Course in May 2016. This new course consists of 18 American FootGolf League (AFGL)-certified holes, with two sets of tees to match any skill level. The \$3,625 investment was recouped within four months.
- ✓ At citizens' request, winter hours at Dunkirk District, Hallowing Point and Cove Point Parks were extended in the mornings and evenings.



Chesapeake Hills Golf Course now features a course for the popular sport of FootGolf.



From 2014 to today, Parks & Recreation has held more than 12,380 classes, programs or workshops to proudly serve 17,516 registered households and close to 48,000 individuals. In the same period, our three aquatic facilities have had the pleasure to serve more than 400,000 visitors.



**JUNE 2017**

Adopted enhanced economic development incentives



**JULY 2017**

Implemented county government restructure



**JULY 2017**

Reassigned Animal Control to Public Safety

## PROVIDING RESOURCES TO OUR COMMUNITIES

- ✓ The Calvert County Office on Aging revamped up its fitness programming at the senior centers and saw a 47 percent increase in program participation in the past four years.



**The Calvert County Office on Aging saw a 47 percent increase in program participation in the past four years.**



**Calvert County Family Network supports community outreach.**

- ✓ We received \$381,004 in Community Development Block Grants for two major projects: an expansion of the Southern Pines Senior Center, providing more dining and activity space; and development of the Southern Pines II senior housing facility. Southern Pines II, a senior living community being built in Lusby, will add 67 much needed affordable housing units specifically for Calvert County's maturing citizens. The nearly \$15 million investment occurred, in part, to our donating an 8.7-acre location—an estimated \$740,000 land value.
- ✓ From 2016 to 2017, Calvert County Family Network received 30 percent more in annual grant funding, resulting in new programs to engage transitional age youth in work and education, reduce recidivism and stabilize mothers recovering from substance abuse.

## EXPANDING OUR TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

We were proud to launch, in cooperation with Southern Maryland counterparts, Southern Maryland's first tri-county public transit connection in February 2018 with the addition of a new bus route from Calvert County to Charlotte Hall in St. Mary's County. The new route provides direct connections for transfers between Calvert, St. Mary's and Charles counties while offering a vital link to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for the county's veterans. Commuters also received a much welcomed holiday gift late December 2014 when the new Dunkirk Park and Ride commuter lot opened. With 500 parking spaces, the new lot doubled the parking spaces available to county commuters.

One-way passenger trips aboard Calvert County's transportation system have steadily increased to 423,300 riders in just the past three years.



**JULY 2017**

Created new Parks & Recreation and Communications and Media Relations departments



**JULY 2017**

Budgeted an additional \$3.6 million for new fire/rescue/EMS apparatus



**AUG. 2017**

Hired first Animal Shelter Division Chief

# RENEW OUR ECONOMY

One of our top priorities has been to chart a common direction to build a diverse economy and support a robust business base and empowered workforce. We listened closely to the business community, made significant process improvements, delivered a sound economic development five-year strategic plan and passed several text amendments designed to ease the regulatory burdens associated with business creation and expansion.

## REGULATORY REFORM

Directing growth to our town centers remains a top priority. We made significant headway in the development of the Prince Frederick Town Center by reducing and/or removing zoning restrictions to provide greater flexibility for development in the New Town and Village districts.

We took the following steps to improve business development efforts:

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Changed several Transferable Development Rights (TDR) requirements that direct growth toward town centers where roads, water and sewer systems can better support more intense use.

- ✓ Allowed indoor commercial recreation (indoor sports activities), fitness centers and performing arts (dance, voice, theater or music), boat dealerships and animal shelters uses in Light Industrial (I-1) zoning districts.
- ✓ Allowed non-farm breweries, distilleries and wineries as home occupations in which employees are permanent residents of the dwelling. Also allowed non-farm breweries, wineries and distilleries to be located in the Light Industrial (I-1), Rural Commercial (RC), Marine Commercial (MC) and Employment Center (EC) zoning districts.
- ✓ Expanded access to the Economic Development Incentive Fund by reducing the job creation requirement from 25 new jobs to 10 new jobs.
- ✓ Adopted a growth tier map to identify areas where new major and minor residential subdivisions may occur and the type of sewage disposal systems to serve them.
- ✓ Approved new critical area maps as mandated by the state to reflect a shift in critical area boundaries.



Rendering of the new CalvertHealth Medical Center.



**AUG. 2017**  
Adopted Economic Development Five-Year Strategic Plan



**AUG. 2017**  
Began backup 911 Center renovations



**AUG. 2017**  
Started construction on Prince Frederick Volunteer Rescue Squad (Co. 4)

- ✓ Revised regulations to provide flexibility to property owners who want to convey property to family members.
- ✓ Allowed for some drive-through eating establishments within retail commercial buildings.
- ✓ Updated sign regulations in every town center and added language in the regulations specific to the promotion of businesses.

million investment by Exelon; utilities are separately captured in financial reporting. We also enjoyed consistently low unemployment and strong business growth, adding 288 new business – a 5.8 percent growth rate between calendar years 2015 and 2017. Finally, the Department of Economic Development launched a new mobile-friendly website, [www.ecalvert.com](http://www.ecalvert.com), tailored to local business and prospective new businesses, entrepreneurs, site selectors and individuals interested in the county’s business climate.

## WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The \$4 billion Dominion Energy Cove Point Liquefaction Project, placed in service in early 2018, has had significant economic impact on the county throughout construction and will bring notable new revenue for years to come. This is one of many successes in our local economy.



**Dominion Cove Point LNG expansion project.**

In an effort to further spur commercial development, the board voted in October 2016 to designate the Patuxent Business Park (PBP) in Lusby as the county’s first commerce zone, authorizing immediate real property tax relief for new businesses that seek to open or expand at PBP.

In 2017, a streamlined 15-member, commissioner-appointed Economic Development Advisory Commission was created to promote, encourage and improve the county’s general economic well-being. The commission provides policy feedback to county officials about economic development.

Our commitment to economic development brought additional strong investment into our community. The county recruited over 1.1 million square feet in commercial floor area with an estimated capital investment of \$196.6 million between January 2015 and December 2017, which reflects an economic development climate that is sustainable and growing to meet the needs of business owners and citizens. Not included in the capital investment is an additional \$58

Also in 2017, Calvert Memorial Hospital changed to CalvertHealth Medical Center and broke ground on a \$50 million hospital expansion. The renovation and expansion project will allow for enhanced patient safety, patient satisfaction and operational efficiency.



**SEPT. 2017**  
Groundbreaking for CalvertHealth \$50 million expansion



**SEPT. 2017**  
Streamlined the Economic Development BOCC Advisory Commissions



**OCT. 2017**  
Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter groundbreaking

## AGRICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS

We provided funding to the Department of Economic Development in 2017 for a new full-time Agricultural Development Specialist dedicated to the promotion and program development of agriculture and agri-businesses in Calvert County. Staff continues to work with the Calvert County Farmers Market Association to improve our capabilities in bringing local products to market and also brought together local producers with restaurant owners, CalvertHeath, Calvert County Public Schools and other institutions to encourage local farm-to-table opportunities.



Residents are invited to celebrate local agriculture by spending the day on local farms during the annual Farm Festival.

## TOURISM: *Catch Our Drift*

Thousands of visitors continue to enjoy Calvert County as a special destination. Calvert County experienced a 5 percent increase, with 404,389 visitors to the county in fiscal year 2016, and 423,965 visitors in fiscal year 2017. These numbers have contributed to a strong growth in tourism industry sales, tourism employment, labor income and tax receipts.



County staff promotes tourism sites to bring more visitors to Calvert County.

Nearly 1,300 people are directly employed through the Calvert County tourism sector, representing \$41.6 million in labor income. Tourism tax receipts in 2016 - including federal, state, local and hotel taxes - totaled nearly \$40 million, an increase of almost 5.8 percent over 2015.



The Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) has welcomed more than 250,000 visitors to the museum's exhibits, programs and events since 2015. In addition, the new River to Bay exhibit opened in 2018 following a \$2.1 million renovation and CMM expanded its campus with the acquisition of two new properties. Most recently, this renowned museum was designated the Maryland State Paleontology Collection and Research Center.



**DEC. 2017**

Completed lighting retrofit at the Calvert County Detention Center with Maryland Energy Administration grant



**DEC. 2017**

Appended Growth Tier Maps to Comprehensive Plan



**JAN. 2018**

Conducted second annual Citizens Academy

# RETAIN THE BEST EMPLOYEES

Our employees are, by far, county government's biggest asset. For that reason, we focus on making Calvert County Government a preferred place of employment. Below are just few of the improvements made to employee benefits to ensure we are able to hire, and keep, the best professionals working for our citizens.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Improved recruitment efforts to streamline the application process for potential new employees.
- ✓ Instituted a volunteer program to encourage employee community involvement including administrative leave for one hour each month.
- ✓ Tackled the rising cost of health care by conducting a review of our employees' health plans. By making several changes in our current plans, county government will see an initial annual cost savings of \$117,000 with little impact to employees' out-of-pocket expense.
- ✓ Performed in-house position classification evaluations versus outsourcing the function.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

As part of the Calvert County Government reorganization, the Department of Human Resources absorbed an existing safety and risk management program and created a new safety position to focus on employee occupational and personal safety.

**Establishing this position initially saved Calvert County Government \$54,000 in insurance premiums.**

## ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Instituted a free online defensive and distracted driving course (eliminating a \$25-per-person cost).
- ✓ Reduced the county's sub-contractor liability following an annual payroll audit with certificates of insurance.
- ✓ Started a new safety culture with all the departments in compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.
- ✓ Implemented standard operating procedures in conjunction with the Calvert County Health Department for handling open food for Parks & Recreation events.



**Technology Services GIS Administrator Erick Pate takes coaching from Safety Officer Dan Baker during CPR training.**

- ✓ Trained 212 employees in CPR/First Aid/AED.
- ✓ Placed five automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, in county parks to help responders treat park-goers who experience a medical emergency while at Dunkirk District, Marley Run Recreational Area, Hallowing Point, Cove Point and Solomons Town Center parks.



**JAN. 2018**

Purchased Watson Property with Program Open Space Funds for permanent Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center



**JAN. 2018**

Amended Article 12 of the County Zoning Ordinance to enhance business opportunities for eating establishments

# REINFORCE SAFETY

Calvert County is one of the safest counties in the state, according to a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute report published March 2018. According to the report, Calvert was judged the safest county in Maryland, with just 130 violent crime offenses reported per 100,000 people. That number was a three-year average between 2012 to 2014. Calvert's violent crime rate dropped from 2007 to 2014 from a high of 339 to 130, showing a pattern of decreasing crimes.

In August 2017, we broke ground on the new Prince Frederick Rescue Squad building set to open in the fourth quarter of 2018. The \$7.5 million, 23,000-square-foot facility will replace the 36-year-old building located off Route 4 in Prince Frederick. Funded by a \$350,000 Homeland Security Grant and a \$125,000 Hazard Mitigation Grant, the county completed construction of a backup Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for Public Safety to provide an alternative facility should the primary EOC become unavailable.



**Public safety funding has increased 24 percent over four years**

Since this board took office, public safety funding has increased 24 percent over four years, from \$29,603,043 in the FY 2016 adopted budget to \$36,629,828 in the FY 2019 staff recommended budget.



**The August 2017 groundbreaking at the location of the new Prince Frederick Volunteer Rescue Squad building.**

## ACHIEVEMENTS

In response to a request for help from a committee of chiefs from each volunteer fire/rescue/EMS station in Calvert County who face increasing demands for advanced life support services, medical calls and patient transport, we initiated a phased-in approach to hiring paramedics to supplement the staff of Calvert County's all-volunteer Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) teams. One new position is included in the FY 2019 budget.

We funded nearly \$2.2 million for new fire/rescue/EMS apparatus in FY 2016 and budgeted for additional \$3.6 million in new apparatus in FY 2017. There was \$2.5 million budgeted for apparatus in FY 2018 and in January we added another \$600,000 for a fire boat for North Beach Volunteer Fire Department, bringing the FY 2018 total apparatus investment to \$3.1 million. A public safety field reporting software application was added to the Sheriff's Office laptops in 2015 allowing deputies to write and file their field reports from their cruisers.



**JAN. 2018**  
Adopted sign regulations



**FEB. 2018**  
Launched first tri-county public transit connection



**FEB. 2018**  
Started construction on Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department (Co. 2)

# CONTINUOUS RESTORATION

Proper maintenance of Calvert County's roadways is vital to our quality of life and safety. In 2017, the Highway Maintenance Division staff headed out the door to execute tree trimming, drain repairs, pothole repairs or road sign replacements 460 times every month on average.

Other road projects included:

## DOWELL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

**Phase 1:** In 2016, upgrades included enhancing safety by creating a two-way center lane from H.G. Trueman Road to Annmarie Garden; widening lanes to accommodate bike riders using the "share the road" concept; building new sidewalks for enhanced pedestrian safety and improving drainage with new curbs, gutters and storm water management facilities. Phase 1 cost \$4.7 million.

**Phase 2:** 2017 upgrades helped to complete the county's portion of the project and included enhancing safety from Appeal Lane to Oyster Bay. Phase 2 cost \$2.3 million.

## ARMORY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AND ROUNDABOUT

This \$4.4 million improvement project – including a new roundabout and realignment of Armory Road – was completed in 2015 to move traffic more efficiently in the Dares Beach Road corridor of Prince Frederick.

## J.W. WILLIAMS ROAD WIDENING

The roadway and roundabout widening, and traffic signal installation on J.W. Williams Road at the College of Southern Maryland was a \$2.7 million improvement project to facilitate increased traffic to the College of Southern Maryland, Prince Frederick Campus, the College Station subdivision and Barstow Elementary School.



The J.W. Williams Road roundabout in Prince Frederick.

## MD ROUTE 231 AT PRINCE FREDERICK BOULEVARD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

The intersection improvements on Prince Frederick Boulevard consist of widening existing MD Route 231 in order to create dedicated turn lanes and add bike lanes in both directions. The project budget is \$3.2 million and progress is ahead of schedule for completion by the end of May 2018. The State Highway Administration will install a dedicated traffic signal at the completion of this project.



**FEB. 2018**

Began Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park Phase I construction process



**MARCH 2018**

Launched Permit Activity Status System



**APRIL 2018**

Dominion Cove Point Liquefaction Project placed in-service

## SOLOMONS SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

The sidewalk improvements in Solomons included brick pavers, curbing, drainage and landscaping improvements. The project was completed in 2017 with 80 percent of the \$990,000 price tag covered by a federal grant.

## LAKE KARYLBROOK DAM REPAIRS

The \$350,000 improvement project to address deterioration and aging issues surrounding the Lake Karylbrook Dam in Chesapeake Beach included clearing trees on the dam slope embankments, constructing stone channels and lining the existing spillway pipe and riser.



Armory Road in Prince Frederick.

## RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE



Mt. Hope Convenience Center ribbon cutting.

The newly designed and constructed Mt. Hope Convenience Center opened in May 2017. The two-level layout allows cars to move through the center in a continuous loop on the upper level while solid waste and recycling staff manage and move the refuse containers on the lower level. The \$2.6 million improvement is the model used for the new \$3.4 million Appeal Convenience Center improvement project expected to be completed by summer 2018.

When opened this summer, the new state-of-the-art Appeal Convenience Center will be one of three convenience centers open seven days a week. It is designed to provide one-way traffic flow when disposing of solid waste and recycling materials without having to wait up to 30 minutes for compactor change-outs or combining residential and commercial traffic.



**APRIL 2018**

Began Calvert County Detention Center security improvements



**APRIL 2018**

Completed Lake Karylbrook Dam repairs



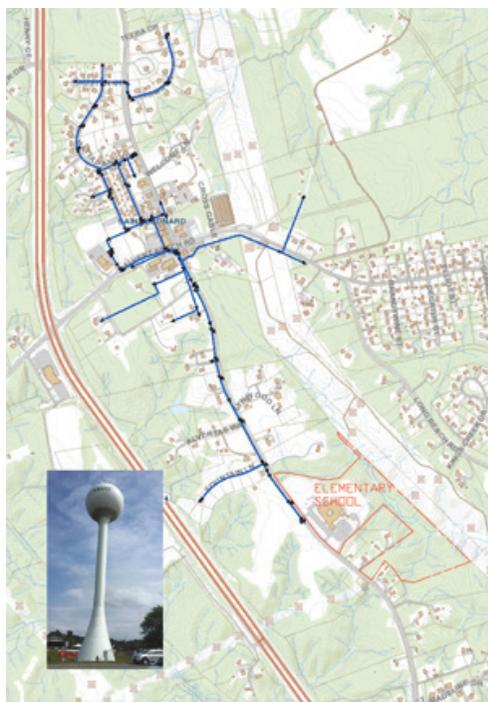
**APRIL 2018**

Committed \$2 million for public schools security improvements

## WATER AND SEWER

- ✓ A new \$2.8 million sewer pumping station and main was installed to connect the Calvert Industrial Park system to the rest of the Prince Frederick sewerage system. The existing 40-year-old system was decommissioned.
- ✓ A nearly \$750,000 project included constructing a pumping station at, and sewer line from, Huntingtown High School to send effluent to the Marley Run wastewater treatment facility. At Marley Run, crews rehabilitated the neighborhood water tower, installed a new \$381,000 water treatment system to address arsenic concerns and invested \$164,000 to mitigate noise and odor concerns created by the facility.
- ✓ Crews and contractors completed an \$977,000 Stafford Road water main extension to provide public water service to the Calvert County Detention Center and other county facilities on Stafford Road.
- ✓ A \$4.2 million well and water storage tower was built in east Prince Frederick next to Calvert High School, adding 217,000 gallons of daily production capacity and 750,000 gallons of water storage capacity to support future growth requirements and improve fire service.

- ✓ When the Solomons force sewer main flow dropped from 700 gallons per minute (GPM) to 325 GPM, crews used a new technology called “ice pigging” to unclog the pipe. This effective, exceptionally low-risk technique uses pumped ice slurry to quickly clean the pipeline. This approach cost \$613,000, 15 percent less than original budget estimates.
- ✓ The design of the St. Leonard well and elevated storage tower project is underway. The new \$2.9 million project includes a storage tower with a capacity of 100,000 gallons and a new well. Construction is planned to begin in February 2019.



The new St. Leonard well and water tower will tie into the existing supply system shown in blue above.

*It has been an honor to serve you.*

# MILESTONES OVERVIEW

## DEC. 2014

- ✓ Opened Dunkirk Park & Ride

## APRIL 2015

- ✓ Completed Armory Road improvements

## JULY 2015

- ✓ Completed J.W. Williams Road widening

## MARCH 2016

- ✓ Started Public Safety digital communications upgrade

## MAY 2016

- ✓ Opened FootGolf course at Chesapeake Hills Golf Course
- ✓ Began Phase I of Dowell Road improvements

## JULY 2016

- ✓ Received third AAA bond credit rating
- ✓ Funded \$2.2 million for new volunteer fire/rescue/EMS apparatus

## OCT. 2016

- ✓ Designated Patuxent Business Park as the county's first Commerce Zone

## NOV. 2016

- ✓ Started Northern High School replacement project
- ✓ Began Phase II of Dowell Road improvements

## JAN. 2017

- ✓ Launched annual Citizens Academy program
- ✓ Hired the county's first Agricultural Development Specialist

## APRIL 2017

- ✓ Approved text amendments to enhance family conveyance

## MAY 2017

- ✓ Opened Mt. Hope Convenience Center
- ✓ Completed Solomons sidewalk improvements
- ✓ Began improvements at Route 231 and Prince Frederick Boulevard
- ✓ Completed first Patuxent Business Park building

## JUNE 2017

- ✓ Adopted enhanced economic development incentives

## JULY 2017

- ✓ Implemented county government restructure
- ✓ Reassigned Animal Control to Public Safety
- ✓ Created new Parks & Recreation and Communication and Media Relations departments
- ✓ Budgeted an additional \$3.6 million for new fire/rescue/EMS apparatus

## AUG. 2017

- ✓ Hired first Animal Shelter Division Chief
- ✓ Adopted Economic Development Five-Year Strategic Plan
- ✓ Began backup 911 Center renovations
- ✓ Started construction on Prince Frederick Volunteer Rescue Squad (Co. 4)

## SEPT. 2017

- ✓ Groundbreaking for CalvertHealth \$50 million expansion
- ✓ Streamlined the Economic Development BOCC Advisory Commissions

## OCT. 2017

- ✓ Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter groundbreaking

## DEC. 2017

- ✓ Completed lighting retrofit at the Calvert County Detention Center with Maryland Energy Administration grant
- ✓ Appended Growth Tier Maps to Comprehensive Plan

## JAN. 2018

- ✓ Conducted second annual Citizens Academy
- ✓ Purchased Watson Property with Program Open Space funds for permanent Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center
- ✓ Amended Article 12 of the County Zoning Ordinance to enhance business opportunities for eating establishments
- ✓ Adopted sign regulations

## FEB. 2018

- ✓ Launched first tri-county public transit connection
- ✓ Started construction on Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department (Co. 2)
- ✓ Began Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park Phase I construction process

## MARCH 2018

- ✓ Launched Permit Activity Status System

## APRIL 2018

- ✓ Dominion Cove Point Liquefaction Project placed in-service
- ✓ Began Calvert County Detention Center security improvements
- ✓ Completed Lake Karylbrook Dam repairs
- ✓ Committed \$2 million for public schools security improvements



## **CALVERT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Calvert County Courthouse  
175 Main St., Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
**Phone:** 410-535-2160 • 301-855-1243  
**Email:** [commiss@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:commiss@calvertcountymd.gov)  
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### **COUNTY DIRECTORY**

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410-535-1600, ext. 2200

**DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**  
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410-535-1600, ext. 2100

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**  
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POSTAL PATRON