

Encouraging Business

Calvert County, Maryland, Department of Economic Development

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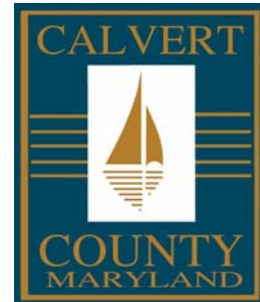
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Quick Links

- Calvert County Department of Economic Development (CCDED)
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- Maryland Technology Development Corporation
- Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
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- Patuxent Business Park

Welcome

Welcome to *Encouraging Business*, a quarterly electronic news bulletin developed by the Department of Economic Development. As the Department identifies useful information, we transmit that information to the business community via this bulletin. We hope that you find these bulletins useful. Please e-mail us at info@ecalvert.com to let us know what is on your mind and how we might assist you and your business enterprise.



● 5 Tips on How to Start Filing Taxes Correctly

- Consult a tax adviser, even if you are a start-up. A professional can save you both money and valuable time and keep you from running afoul of the Internal Revenue Service.
- Pay estimated federal and state taxes four times a year. Your tax adviser can help you determine how much to set aside ahead of time for each payment.
- Keep good records of both income and expenses. Save all receipts.
- Ask your tax adviser about special deductions you can take as a small-business owner such as allowances for health insurance, long-term care insurance, or self-employment tax.
- Schedule a "tax tune-up" at least once a year. Update your tax adviser on your situation and your goals and get his or her advice on planning your tax strategy for the coming year.

Brought to you by SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business."

● Business Resource Center Now Available at Calvert County Library



The Department of Economic Development, through the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), is pleased to partner with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the Calvert Library to offer a self-guided business resource center for public use at the Prince Frederick library. Featuring assorted business reference materials, the business resource center will provide local entrepreneurs with a wealth of information and tools that can answer a host of business start-up or management questions.

Kelly Robertson-Slagle, business retention specialist for the Department of Economic Development, says, "We are pleased to offer yet another tool that our community can utilize to start, grow or manage their businesses. While the business resource center does not replace the valuable counseling or training assistance that is provided by the SBDC, it provides an opportunity for people to conduct their own research or explore the answers to questions that they can then discuss with a small business professional."

Maria Dorsett, local SBDC counselor, hopes the business resource center will provide the spark that people need to start their own business. "Many people are curious about entrepreneurship," she said. "Providing the public with a one-stop place to find information, advice and ideas may give them the motivation needed to take the next step and register for a business start-up class or meet with me."

Patricia Hofmann, director, of the Calvert Library, considered a number of options when deciding how to stock the resource center. "Our reference staff actually receives a lot of business start-up and management questions since many people naturally come to the library when they need information," she said. "We wanted to be sure that the periodicals, journals and reference materials provided for this project would serve the public well and answer the majority of the questions they have about business; I think we've done a good job of providing a range of materials."

The SBDC offers confidential, no-cost counseling to new ventures and existing businesses in Southern Maryland with counselors on-site in Prince Frederick two days a week. They also offer low-cost training and resources. For more information, visit online at www.sbdchelp.com or call 301.934.7583.

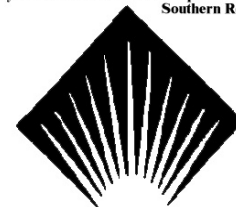
The Calvert Library consists of a main library in Prince Frederick and three branches in Owings, Lusby and Chesapeake Beach. The Prince Frederick branch is located at 850 Costley Way and is open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Friday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, call 410.535.0291 or visit online at www.calvert.lib.md.us/.

For more information on the Department of Economic Development and the many services the County offers the business community on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, call 410.535.4583, 800.331.9771 or 301.855.1880, send an e-mail to info@ecalvert.com or visit on the Web at www.ecalvert.com.

• **SBDC to Offer Free Sunrise Seminar for Restaurants on March 5, 2008**

The SBDC of Southern Maryland - Calvert County Office will offer a special Sunrise Seminar for Restaurants on Wednesday, March 5, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Calvert Marine Museum Auditorium in Solomons.

SBDC NETWORK
Maryland Small Business Development Center
Southern Region



The course will help restaurant owners and managers gain useful insight on how to improve operations and run their business more efficiently and provide tips on customer service, staffing management, fiscal fitness and customer retention. Whether you currently manage a restaurant or are thinking about opening one, this FREE seminar is definitely worthwhile.

The seminar is co-sponsored by the Department of Economic Development and is provided at no charge, but pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, contact the SBDC 301.934.7583 by March 1.

• **Did you know?**



• The Calvert Library is hosting **Key Ingredients America by Food, a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit** from January 11- February 23, 2008. With photographs, illustrations, and artifacts, it explores the connections between Americans and food via the historical, regional, and social traditions of everyday meals and celebrations. In addition to farming, table manners, history, and markets, the exhibition also examines the evolution of the kitchen, the technological innovations that bring us a wide variety of prepared and fresh foods, and the role of public eateries and food celebrations in building a sense of community. For more information, contact Robyn Truslow at 410.535.0291 or rtruslow@somd.lib.md.us.

• The **12th Annual Southern Maryland Legislative** reception will be held on February 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Loews Annapolis Hotel located at 126 West Street. For more information, on reservations or sponsorships contact Helen Fassel at 301.274.1922 or hfassel@tccsmd.org.

- Calvert County's **2008 Business Appreciation Week will be held May 5-9, 2008**. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information about this annual event over the coming weeks.

- The **Calvert Career Center will hold their 20th Annual Bowl-A-Thon** on Saturday, March 8, 2008. The Bowl-A-Thon is one of the school's most important events held to raise funds for students participating in the SkillsUSA program and its competitions. For more information or to participate in the Bowl-A-Thon, contact Kathy Lisko at 410.535.7323 or liskok@calvertnet.k12.md.us.

- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued the 2008 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. **Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be 50.5 cents per mile for business miles driven, 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes and 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.** For further information, visit www.irs.gov.

- The **Calvert Marine Museum offers a monthly First Free Friday program** which occurs on the first Friday of each month. During First Free Friday the museum is open free to the public from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. For more information, visit the museum's web site at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com or call 410-326- 2042 x32.

- The Department of Economic Development offers **free online employment classifieds** to businesses located in Calvert County. For more information, visit www.ecalvert.com.

- **Maryland Business Works** is a workforce training grant program through the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation designed to assist Maryland businesses by providing financial assistance for training existing workers. Employers receive a 50 percent reimbursement of training costs for approved projects. For more information on this program, contact a Southern Maryland Workforce Business Services representative, at 301.645.8712 Ext. 313.

- **Calvert Career Center to Hold Job Fair on April 3, 2008**



On Thursday, April 3, 2008, the Calvert Career Center will be holding its annual Job Fair. This event provides Career Center students with the opportunity to meet with representatives from businesses, unions and professional organizations. Students have the opportunity to discuss potential employment with these businesses, and the business representatives have the opportunity to inform students what qualifications are required for employment. Many Calvert Career Center students have mastered entry level skills in their programs, such as graphic arts, the construction trades (CAD, carpentry, electricity, home improvement, masonry, welding, plumbing, heating and air conditioning), cosmetology, food production and management, health and biosciences, information technology, engineering technology and automotive technology. Last year, nearly 1000 students met with 35 employers during the day-long event.

Interested persons may call Carolyn Hobbs, Job Placement Coordinator, at 410.535.7465 or e-mail her at hobbsc@calvertnet.k12.md.us for registration information. If you will be unable to participate in the Job Fair but would still like to obtain information on how your business could benefit by employing a Calvert Career Center student, don't hesitate to contact Ms. Hobbs.

- **Now Available: Calvert County's 2008 Visitors Guide and Calendar of Events**

The Department of Economic Development is pleased to announce that the County's 2008 Visitors Guide and Calendar of Events are now available. The Visitors Guide contains information on shopping, restaurants and County visitor attractions like Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert Marine Museum, Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum and our three local wineries, among many other attractions. The Guide also features contact information and details on charter boating, marinas, beaches, art galleries, campgrounds, historic churches, accommodations and ecotourism.

The 2008 Calendar of Events contains information for a year of celebrations, activities and special events taking place throughout the County. Additional entries are added weekly to the online version of the Calendar of Events, but the hard copy is a handy reference.



To receive free copies of the 2008 Visitors Guide or Calendar of Events, or for more information on County attractions and events, please contact the Calvert County, Maryland, Department of Economic Development at 410.535.4583 or 800.331.9771, via e-mail at info@ecalvert.com or visit our Web site at www.ecalvert.com.

The Department of Economic Development continues to provide a number of services and resources to support the growth and development of County businesses. Free business services include online commercial real estate listings, confidential in-house counseling, online employment classifieds, marketing assistance, an ombudsman program and training and educational seminars. The County offers an Incentive Loan Fund and Economic Development Loan Fund for well-qualified businesses and produces a number of publications including quarterly business newsletters, an annual Calendar of Events and Visitors Guide and the annual State of the Economy. Additionally, the County's business retention program serves as a resource for local business owners to help them grow and succeed.

For information on the Calvert County, Maryland, Department of Economic Development and services available to assist County businesses, call 410.535.4583, 800.331.9771 or 301.855.1880; send an e-mail to info@ecalvert.com or visit our Web site at www.ecalvert.com

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