



CALVERT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Calvert County, Maryland, Economic Development Commission Selects New Chair and Vice Chair

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – July 3, 2007 – The Calvert County, Maryland, Economic Development Commission (EDC) announced their selection of Nate Pope, president of NPJ Advertising & Public Relations, Inc., as chair, and Ed Baddour, vice president, Royale Dining Services, as vice chair of the EDC for 2007-2008.

Pope replaces Michael Benton as chair. Benton served as EDC chair for three consecutive terms, the maximum allowed by the organization's Bylaws. Pope served as vice chair for three years prior to being elected chair.

"The EDC acts in an advisory capacity to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners," said Benton. "We have tackled many issues over the past three years and the Commissioners have been very open and receptive. I am confident that Nate will be an active and effective chair."

Pope is the founder of NPJ Advertising & Public Relations, Inc., of Washington, D.C., and co-founder and chairman of the board of directors of the Concerned Black Men of Calvert County. He is also a board member of the International Corporation for Investment and Commerce; representative to the Regional Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland; and a member of the American Management Association's President's Association. Pope is a past member of the Advisory Board to the NCAA National Youth Sports Program; Board of Directors for the Calvert Crusade for Children and Barstow Acres Children's Center, Inc.

"The EDC has been active in many economic issues that have faced Calvert County and I feel that the road ahead will continue to be challenging," said Pope. "Our charge has been to advise the Commissioners on relevant business and economic matters affecting the local economy and we will continue to do so."

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Baddour is vice president of Royale Dining Services of Owings. Since 1991, Royale has been committed to serving public schools and businesses in the Maryland/DC/Virginia region with quality products and services focusing on healthy snacks and beverages. Royale Dining Services was recently awarded a \$15 million contract with Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland and employs 52 people; they will soon be seeking additional route drivers, sales and warehouse staff to fill the increasing need for healthy snacks.

For more information, please contact the Calvert County, Maryland Department of Economic Development at 410.535.4583, 800.331.9771 or 301.855.1880, via e-mail info@ecalvert.com or on the Web at www.ecalvert.com.

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Calvert County is Maryland's smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to over 87,000 people and has one of the highest standards of living in Maryland. There are more than 5,200 businesses in the County and a labor force of at least 1.8 million resides within a one-hour drive. Major industries include defense contracting, information technology, tourism and administrative services.