



CALVERT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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News Release

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Southern Maryland Business Center Opens in Prince Frederick *Executive Office Suites Cater to Regional Businesses*

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – October 22, 2008 – The Southern Maryland Business Center celebrates the grand opening of its Prince Frederick location with a ribbon cutting ceremony October 28 at 3:30 p.m. including the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners and other guests.

The business center, located on the second floor of the Market Square Building in Prince Frederick, offers professional office space and amenities for start-up businesses, those that are expanding or those looking to downsize. It will feature 20 office suites, a conference room, a canteen and a copy center. Other features include full-time receptionist services, conference room rental and virtual offices that allow home-based businesses to project a professional image at a fraction of the cost of maintaining an office.

Darlene Breck is opening the business center after six years of successfully running two centers in Waldorf. "This idea offers so many benefits," she said. "It offers start-up companies a professional location and services to help them grow and impress clients. It's a great alternative for companies that are overstretched in their current leasing arrangements. It also brings together a diverse group of business owners who can network and draw on each other's experiences."

Clients will have access to the center 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Those doing work regionally may also use the Waldorf locations to meet with patrons. The new Prince Frederick location offers the additional convenience of a wide variety of retail and restaurant locations within walking distance in the Market Square shopping center.

In developing a business model for the new center, Breck worked with the Calvert County Department of Economic Development to select a location, conduct a needs assessment and estimate her start-up expenses. She also took advantage of the County's incentive loan program to supplement other financing arrangements in order to pay for build out, furnishings and equipment for the more than 5,000 square foot space.

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To learn more about the Southern Maryland Business Center, call 301.645.0525, e-mail info@somdbusinesscenter.com, or visit <http://www.somdbusinesscenter.com>.

For more information on the Calvert County, Md., Department of Economic Development and the 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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