



## CALVERT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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# News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date:** | September 22, 2008  
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### **Calvert County Tourism Continues Strong Growth**

*Visitor Counts Increase for Third Consecutive Year*

**PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – September 22, 2008** – Calvert County, the smallest county in Maryland, posted big increases in visitors this past fiscal year, continuing a three-year boost in tourism to the diminutive district.

More than 475,000 visitors flocked to 15 Calvert County sites between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, an increase of 50,450 visitors over FY 07. The 11.9 percent increase follows annual growth of 18.6 percent in FY 06 and 19.6 percent FY 07.

Visitor counts are reported from each of the County's major tourist attractions and visitor centers. Major tourist attractions include the Calvert Marine Museum, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, Breezy Point Beach, Calvert Cliffs State Park and Annmarie Garden.

Linda Vassallo, director of the Calvert County Department of Economic Development, observed that several factors are making the County a favorite tourist destination. "We've worked hard to realign the tourism program and to spread the word locally and regionally about Calvert County's many

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September 22, 2008

Page 2

charms,” she said. “The County has so much to offer, including trails, beaches, shops, museums, restaurants and marinas. We’ve encouraged our local residents to rediscover the amenities in their own back yard. We’ve also reached out to the Virginia, Washington, DC and Baltimore areas to show that beautiful scenery and fun, engaging activities are all within a short drive. Tourists around the region are spreading the word, and the County’s economic health is better for it.”

For more 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](mailto:info@ecalvert.com), or visit our Web site [www.ecalvert.com](http://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 4,000 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, utilities and administrative services.*