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Sent: Tuesday, July 01, 2008 1:47 PM

To: Ellen Flowers-Fields

Subject: E-Southern Maryland Update

Tri County Council for Southern Maryland



E- Southern Maryland Update

Newsletter of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

June 2008

Greetings!

Welcome to the *E-Southern Maryland Update*, a quarterly electronic bulletin providing updates on the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, transportation, economic development, stakeholder updates, upcoming regional events and other items that may be of interest to you, our readers.

From the Executive Director

The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland's staff have been at full throttle all spring working with our elected leaders and diversity of partners who make our regional cooperative efforts successful. Delegate Sally Jameson as Chair of the Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation Needs, Commissioner Gerald Clark as Chair of the Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee, and Commissioner Gary V. Hodge as Chair of the Council have all put in extra leadership effort in completing the review and obtaining approval of the final report of the Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation Needs. In early July, the report's chapters and Executive Summary will be posted on our web site for easy access by all interested citizens. The report provides a multi-modal approach to meeting the billions of dollars in future transit and highway improvement needs to insure the economic success story of Southern Maryland is sustained over the next twenty-five years. My thanks go out to the staff of the Council, of the state transportation programs and of Cambridge Systematics, the consultant firm that produced the report. I appreciate the many elected leaders, citizens and professionals in greater Southern Maryland and the State whose contributions were critical to the timely production of this important regional blueprint for our transportation needs during the first quarter of the 21st century.

Last fall, the Southern Maryland Economic Development Association (SMEDA) received approval from the Council's Executive Board to explore the recreation of the Southern Maryland Workforce Investment Board. My appreciation goes to the three County Economic Development Directors who arranged and facilitated stakeholder meetings with workforce leaders in each county. Those meetings between local leaders and Andy Moser, Assistant Secretary of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), Ellen Flowers-Fields and I, were essential to crafting a consensus understanding of the operations of and value added benefits to our region. Each Board of County Commissioners recognized the dedication of Assistant Secretary Moser in his regular trips to the region when all 15 county Commissioners voted in support of the restart of the local Workforce Investment Board, to be administered by the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland. Secretary Thomas Perez has also been a steadfast supporter of this effort as part of Governor Martin O'Malley's dedication to advancing workforce opportunities in the state. The Council voted in April in support of administering the new DLLR workforce program. We will this summer be advertising to recruit and fill a number of new positions while working with the Council and the Commissioners to determine the composition of the Workforce Board and working to create a dynamic Board of business and community leaders to aid in the restart and operations.

In this issue

- [From the Executive Director](#)
- [Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission Update - From the Director](#)
- [Transportation Update](#)
- [Economic Development Update](#)
- [Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium Update](#)
- [Upcoming Regional Events of Interest](#)
- [About the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland](#)

Anthony Chinyere, our Regional Transportation Planning Director, has accepted a new community planning position at the Dahlgren Navy Base in northern Virginia. We thank him for his two years of service at the Council during the important time of critical transportation planning and study projects for our region. We will be advertising to fill his position this summer. In the meantime, our dedicated transportation staff will continue to provide, commuter bus, rideshare, GIS and other important transit services. I thank Robin Briscoe for a very successful Bike to Work event at the Indian Head Pavilion this spring. She continues to work with Elaine Lancaster in helping individuals and businesses to connect transportation needs to resources. My focus this summer will be to assist our elected leaders in completing their review of regional transportation priorities for consideration by the Administration as they prepare the next revision of the state five year transportation capital budget and other budget considerations for the 2009 session of the General Assembly.

My congratulations goes out to all the winners and nominees of this years Minority Business and the Leading Edge Awards, too many to list here, but all well deserved. The vitality of our Southern Maryland economy is derived from a healthy mix of small to large employers, minority, woman-owned and other businesses who bring a range of talent and new vision to meeting the needs of the region, state and nation. Congratulations go to the Southern Maryland Minority Business Opportunities Task Force, encouraged by the Council's Executive Board, who is cooperating in a regional approach to improving economic opportunities for the members of the three counties minority business county associations. Meetings are held here at the Council offices with facilitation of the effort provided by Ellen Flowers- Fields. They worked with her this spring in providing a successful minority-business contracting training day hosted at the College of Southern Maryland and made possible by a number of kind sponsors.

Great economic challenges require innovative solutions to creating new opportunities. Working in partnership between all four levels of government and the private sector on a regional basis is a challenge. But the elected and appointed members of the Council are a powerful force for consensus development, decision making and implementation. As we start a new state and Council fiscal year in July, we take heart in last year's successes with the full knowledge that the year ahead will be equally challenging and rich with opportunity.

Submitted by Wayne E. Clark, Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission Update - From the Director



"Southern Maryland Trails - Earth, Art and Imagination" guidebooks are available online at www.somdtrails.com or in welcome and visitors' centers, at partner sites, and the following designated sites: Crain Memorial Visitors' Center, Route 301; Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, SMECO Building, Hughesville; The Dahlia House at Serenity Farms, Benedict; The Royal Tea Room, LaPlata; Willow Oak Flower & Herb Farm, Severn; Cedar Hill Farm, Waldorf; Nick's of Calvert, Prince Frederick; Blue Wind Gourmet, California; North End Gallery, Leonardtown; The Ice Cream Factory, Brandywine; Greenstreet Growers, Lothian; and the Accokeek Foundation, Accokeek.

Buy Local Challenge Week

Counties across Maryland have joined in to declare the last week in July the annual The Buy Local Challenge Week. Taking the challenge is simple, "I pledge to eat at least one item from a local farm every day during Buy Local Week." Conceived by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMDAC), this initiative is one of many programs created by the Commission to boost the local farm economy and to highlight the flavor, nutrition and health benefits local products can provide.

"We encourage people to buy directly from farms, or to frequent stores and restaurants that feature truly locally-grown or harvested foods. This year, among other things, we are encouraging farmers' markets to host special events during the week, and encouraging restaurants to develop a "Buy Local" menu for the week", said Christine Bergmark, director of SMADC. "Buying food locally is good for the local economy, good for family farmers, good for our health, and good for the environment. Not to mention how good fresh, local food tastes!"

The challenge is also intended to highlight the economic benefit to the region when supporting the local agricultural community. When you buy local food, you vote with your food dollar. This ensures that family farms in your community will continue to thrive and that healthy, flavorful, plentiful food will be available for future generations. If every household in Southern Maryland spent \$12.00 per week on local produce for a period of 8 weeks, this would result in over \$54 million dollars going directly back to our farmers.

There are several ways to become involved in the "Buy Local Challenge" :

Maryland residents looking for local farms, farmers markets, menu ideas or shopping tips, etc can go to www.buy-local-challenge.com.

Or, if you are a regional farm, restaurant or retail store interested in participating, you can go to the www.buy-local-challenge.com and click on regional resources or contact the Agricultural Commission at www.somarylandsogood.com or by calling 301.274.1922. Participants receive supporting promotional materials, signs and decals for their patrons.

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission was established to promote diverse, market-driven agricultural enterprises, which coupled with agricultural land preservation, will preserve Southern Maryland's environmental resources and rural character while keeping the region's farmland productive and the agricultural economy vibrant.

To learn more about additional programs and resources, contact SMADC, P. O. Box 745, Hughesville, MD 20637; phone: 301-274-1922; fax: 301-274-1924; email cbergmark@somarylandsogood.com; or visit these websites www.somarylandsogood.com or : www.somdtrails.com.

Nuffield Australia Farming Scholars to Tour Southern Maryland

Working in partnership with the Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission has assembled area experts offering an informative perspective of Southern Maryland agriculture, tours of innovative farms, and a variety of opportunities for exchange with agricultural entrepreneurs

The Nuffield Farming Scholarship Program offers participants an opportunity to travel around the world and learn about practices and policies that could be applied at home to benefit Australian agriculture. Southern Maryland producers and entrepreneurs have a unique perspective to offer on how to transition from tobacco to high-value niche agricultural markets such as organic vegetables, aquaculture, vineyards, and agri-tourism. This tour will serve to highlight the ingenuity and leadership in the region and to introduce the Nuffield scholars to examples of several successful operations. Southern Maryland producers will also have the opportunity to learn from their Australian counterparts.

The tour will offer southern Maryland producers and the Nuffield Scholars an opportunity to engage in an exchange of information and techniques related to the latest agricultural technologies, consumer preferences, and impacts of trade policies. Achieving a better understanding of the global impacts of local actions will help both Marylanders and the Nuffields successfully compete in world agricultural markets.

Submitted by Christine Bergmark, Director, Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission

Transportation Update



Proposals for New Park & Ride Facilities in Southern Maryland

Southern Maryland is one of the fastest growing regions in Maryland. Commuter Bus ridership in Southern Maryland has more than doubled in the last five years. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) expects this trend to continue.

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is proposing two new park-and-ride lots. One lot would service the riders on Commuter Bus Route 902 in Calvert County, Maryland. The MTA met with the community at a public meeting in October to discuss a proposal to build a 480-space Park & Ride lot to replace the temporarily leased 244-space lot at MD 525 and MD 4. The new lot would be built by the State Highway Administration (SHA) on approximately 10 - 12 acres conveniently located at the northern edge of the Dunkirk Town Center on the east side of MD 4. Motorists will be able to enter the facility from MD 4 via both the Town Center Boulevard and Ward Road. Work to date has included field, aerial and topographic surveys, environmental inventories and conceptual design. A draft of a Traffic Impact Study has been submitted to the SHA. Staff has begun detailed environmental planning and preliminary engineering. Preliminary engineering will be completed by the summer of 2008. Construction will begin in Summer 2009. The new lot is scheduled to open in Fall 2010.

Another proposed Park-and-Ride Lot would service the riders of Commuter Bus Route 903, Route 905, and Route 909, all of which service the Charlotte Hall area of St. Mary's County. The current Charlotte Hall Park and Ride is located behind the Charlotte Hall Shopping Center along the northbound side of MD 5, south of Golden Beach Road. This is a temporary park and ride site for the commuters of St. Mary's County. The current lot there is an agreement where spaces are being temporarily leased from the parking lot owner. The MTA is interested in purchasing a lot for longevity and to save on the expenses of a leasing agreement. The proposed lot will have 500 spaces and is expected to be located north of Golden Beach road and east of Triangle Drive. The proposed lot is approximately one half mile north of the existing lot. Preliminary engineering was completed in Fall 2008, Finalizing the Environmental Document and sending it to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is to be completed by Summer 2008.

To learn more about these activities, contact: Mr. Bejital "BJ" Berhanu, Project Manager at
BBerhanu@mtamaryland.com

Regional Transit Coordinator Selected to Attend Travel Training Course

The Southern Maryland Regional Transportation Coordination Program (RTCP) Coordinator recently attended the Easter Seals Project ACTION Introduction to Travel Training Course in Chicago, Illinois. Lancaster received a scholarship to attend the intensive 3-day course which included classroom and field instruction.

Travel training is an emerging field which focuses on increasing the skills, knowledge and abilities of travel training professionals. Travel instruction is a short-term, one-to-one training that is designed to teach people with disabilities and senior to travel safely and independently on fixed-route public transportation in the community.

Annual Southern Maryland Transportation Directory Ready for Distribution

The Southern Maryland Transportation Directory, a comprehensive listing of some of the region's human services transportation providers and the locally operated transit systems has been updated and will be ready for distribution this summer. The Directory provides a "one-stop shop" approach to users interested in finding out about the transportation services in the Southern Maryland Region. If you are interested in receiving a copy please email Elaine Lancaster at; elancaster@tccsmd.org or contact her at 301-870-2520, extension 25.

Bike To Work/Wellness Event

Annually the Regional Transportation Coordination Program in conjunction with the Council's Ride Sharing Program hosts a Bike To Work/Wellness Event for citizens in Charles County encouraging commuters to consider alternatives to driving. Bicycling is one alternative, which improves air quality, provides relief to skyrocketing gas prices, promotes personal health, and helps to reduce traffic congestion.

This year's event was held at the Village Green in the town of Indian Head, Maryland. The day consisted of a live radio broadcast; a visit from The Blue Crabs Baseball Mascot; presentation by H. E. Lackey High School AFJROTC Color Guard; welcome, introduction, and presentation of Charles County Government Proclamation by Commissioner Edith Patterson; remarks by Delegate Peter Murphy; and, Mayor Dennis J. Scheessele of the town of Indian Head. In addition, there was a line dance and exercise demonstration conducted by seniors from the Indian Head Senior Center, and a number of displays from various agencies and organizations in the area promoting transportation and wellness issues.

Maryland Senior Ride Program Grant Awards

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) recently announced that two Senior Ride Programs in Southern Maryland have been awarded funds through Maryland's Senior Rides Program. MTA funds programs that encourage and facilitate the development of volunteer, "door-to-door" transportation services for low-income to moderate- income seniors age 60 or older.

Ministers Alliance of Charles County and Vicinity, and the Southern Maryland Volunteer Ride Consortium, which is administered by LifeStyles, Inc. has been awarded funds to continue their Senior Rides Program. This program is dedicated to providing accessible transportation for seniors with a primary focus on the Western Charles County community.

St. Mary's County Department of Aging Senior Rides Program extends affordable transportation options to a greater population of seniors in the county. The Program provides additional, door-to- door services to seniors outside of what the Department of Aging is currently providing.

The Council continues to assist these programs by offering technical support in the writing and researching of grant funds, training for program participants and staff, and marketing and outreach services.

Southern Maryland Young Driver Program

The Council has been coordinating the Community Traffic Safety Program (CTSP) Coordinators for the Southern Maryland Region by serving as liaison to the local traffic safety meetings. One of the goals of the CTSP is to translate the commitment of safety stakeholders from around the state to the local level through regional programs and activities. Regional approaches will help the state achieve real reductions in traffic related fatalities and serious injuries.

The state has long recognized the advantages of working with the region's Tri-County Councils as a vital part of implementing the State Highway Safety Program (SHSP). Some of the advantages include; the Council must consider the state's SHSP when developing their Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP); the Council has an established transportation program and is better able to understand and deal with competing priorities; and, the Council has ready access to decision makers since their board is comprised of elected officials. If the Council is properly informed and involved in safety issues, then it is in a better position to explain the importance of the issue and gain support at the local level.

Articles submitted by Robin Briscoe, Ridesharing Coordinator; & Elaine Lancaster, Transit Coordinator, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland



Workforce Development

Workforce Development is a critical economic development issue. In recent years, this term has become synonymous with many business attraction and retention efforts. It has also become a focal point for human resource leaders everywhere as the terms "human capital strategies" and "talent mining" have surfaced as key business sustainability drivers. The question often asked is, "What truly is workforce development?"

If you ask this question you may get many answers. Some say its formal education or technical skills training, others say its career pathways or learning circles, still others cry its connection to the workforce for the unemployed. The correct answer is that workforce development is all of the above and more. Workforce development is the fundamental application and implementation of a set of professional goals that aid in accomplishing ones personal success. Simply restated, it is the development of a comprehensive plan that aids an individual in addressing both their professional and personal goals and aspirations. In order to truly develop a workforce that is highly educated, motivated and sustainable, the educational and workplace environment must be holistic.

Workforce development programs have existed for decades and while there have been many successes, much has been learned. The change reflects a growing emphasis on the strategic dimensions of the profession. You cannot address one facet of an individual, i.e. the need for a job, the need for skills training, and expect to impact a sustainable change in that person's economic status or self-sufficiency. What this means for human resource professionals and workforce development professionals alike is that we have to become modern day "life coaches" for our clients. What this means for industry leaders is that employee attraction and retention strategies must shift focus from the traditional measures of productivity and success, and look to redefine how employees can be recognized, incentivized, rewarded and penalized based on these new measures. In order for economies to remain vibrant, business strategies must be purposely designed to flex whenever the economic environment shifts. This means that businesses must foster a work environment that is agile so that it can retain talent during economic downturns without suffering a knowledge drain.

The Southern Maryland education and business community are poised to support the continued development of our areas workforce, ensuring the viability and competitive edge that we will need in the future. The Council is working with these and other stakeholders to address the gaps and identify the opportunities for our region's workforce. The Tri-County Council has been designated the administrative entity for the operations of the Southern Maryland Workforce Investment Board (WIB). the role of the Workforce Investment Board is to act as a convener of local workforce and economic development efforts. We are fostering collaborative efforts with other agencies/organizations to ensure regional strategic planning, information sharing and streamlining of services.

It is critical that a WIB work collectively with the many agencies that share in our objectives and the vision in order to fill the gaps where services are not provided, as well as avoid the costly duplication of efforts and the services that often occur with the lack of coordination. Some of the local and statewide WIB partners include but are not limited to:

State and County Economic Development, Chambers of Commerce, Higher Education, Department of Juvenile Justice, Boards of Education, Governor's Workforce Investment Boards, Maryland DLLR, and U.S. Department of Labor (ETA)

In the coming months and year we will be working to recruit and develop a local board and staff while preparing to shape the framework for our regional workforce delivery system. We are excited about the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Submitted by Ellen Flowers-Fields, Director Regional Economic Development, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium Update



Rewards - and One Award - in the Southern Maryland Heritage Area

Spring is a beautiful time in Southern Maryland and it's also the time when all the local parks and museums get geared up for the busy summer season. So these days the buzz is about more than the bees, it's the new exhibits, buildings, signs and even some digging, all happening in these three counties; Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's and all thanks, at least in part, to funding that has come through the Maryland Heritage Areas Program.

The newsletter is usually devoted to explanations about the Heritage Areas Program and its mission in Southern Maryland. But the last two issues we've going to let the work speak for itself. There are many new projects and exhibits that we have been a very proud part of and the newsletters have featured several. A handful are described below, but check out the online edition on our website, www.SouthernMdIsFun.com for more information.

We are also proud to announce that our newsletter, the Tidekeeper TIMES, has won an award for excellence. We are happy to share with you that we've won the "Q" Award for Best in Category from the Printing & Graphics Association MidAtlantic. For a copy of the newsletter send you name and address to the Heritage Area, or check our website where the TideKeeper TIMES is posted.

A few of the many exciting projects and events that the Heritage Area has helped to fund are reported in that newsletter. A brief recap would have to include the new exhibit at St. Mary's City, the Van Sweringen house. Garret Van Sweringen was a 17th Century Dutch immigrant who operated a lodging house in the new colony. The foundation of the house was excavated and the rebuilt exhibit now contains signage, artist's renditions and audio installations.

In the historic town of Port Tobacco an archaeology project is currently underway that is part of the Search for the Lost Town of Port Tobacco. In mid-June the Archaeological Society of Maryland mounted a major field effort that brought together archaeologists for eleven days to explore and survey the site. Thus far over 25,000 artifacts have been found and the information revealed about the past of Port Tobacco is yet to be determined. The artifacts are being cataloged and packaged and the findings documented.

Things are happening everywhere in Southern Marylan. Down at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum some new exhibits are being installed this summer in the Maritime Exhibit Building. At the Maryland Archeological Laboratory at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum a new information piece has been printed that will explain to the public what is offered at this fascinating site. Also at Jefferson Patterson Park and alternately at the Calvert Marine Museum a series of lectures about the War of 1812 are drawing interested crowds on Friday nights. In Indian Head the Stageworks Festival is putting on 17 concerts in 24 days.

Events and exhibits that draw crowds of residents and visitors alike are an important part of our economic development and that is what defines Heritage Tourism. The Southern Maryland Heritage Area is proud to be an important part of the economy in our region.

CONTACT US. We are always looking for corporate sponsors, members and donations -- you can find a way to help preserve, protect and promote all that is special about our region. Call 301- 274-4083, or visit the Heritage Area office, located in the Tri-County Council offices. Please email for more information about membership, our award-winning Tobacco Barns of Southern Maryland poster, ways to make a donation and information about funding opportunities: SoMdHeritage@tccsmd.org

Article submitted by Roz Racanello, Executive Director, Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium.



Upcoming Regional Events of Interest

The Catalyst Training program is holding the number one requested informational workshop on "How to successfully run a Capital Campaign". This workshop will entail seeking funds to build or rehabilitate a new building for after school programs, recreation center, new office, while answering the following questions:

Does your Board of Directors have the savvy to raise one million or ten million dollars? When should you hire a consultant? How to package your marketing materials for the "ask"? What is the timeline for the funding to begin construction? Come to this workshop where we will take you through a process on how they rehabbed their building and the steps that it takes for the entire process from ground breaking to ribbon cutting.

Date: July 24, 2008 Place: Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mt. Rainier, Maryland 20712

Please, do not miss this opportunity to come to this workshop, it will change your current prospective on obtaining a building for one dollar!

For this workshop there is seating available for 50 persons however, we are halfway there and the workshop was just announced so PLEASE RSVP early by going to www.mdhousing.org - go to Catalyst Training on the left and go to the workshop and click on register on the right to register for this workshop.

Five community meetings have been scheduled to discuss the **St. Mary's County Comprehensive Plan**, which was adopted in 2002 and is titled, "Quality of Life in St. Mary's County - A Strategy for the 21st Century." State law requires that counties review their comprehensive plans at least every six years. The community meetings will be an important part of this review, and will be an opportunity for those who participate to help assess whether the County is on the correct course for development and preservation. Participants will help to identify what kind of future growth pattern will allow the County to best achieve its missions, and to determine what local government policies and actions would best achieve that growth pattern.

These open meetings will be Wed, July 9, 2008 at Lettie Dent Elementary School in Charlotte Hall; Thursday, July 10 at Seventh District Fire Department in Avenue; Wed, July 16 at Leonardtown Middle School; Wed, July 23 in the Lexington Park Library, and Thurs, July 31 at Ridge Elementary School. The meetings will all begin at 7 p.m. The July 9 meeting will be taped and broadcast on Channel 95. Check www.stmarysmd.com for a schedule. Comments on this plan and the process are also welcome by writing to the Board of County Commissioners at PO Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or by emailing bocc@stmarysmd.com.

All citizens are encouraged to review the current document. It is available at www.stmarysmd.com. Click on Land Use Growth Management under the Services box. Then click on Comprehensive Planning. Then click on Comprehensive Plan.

2009 Discover St. Mary's County Destination and Relocation Guide Ad Sales Open

The 2009 guide will celebrate the 375th anniversary of Maryland's founding here at Maryland's birthplace. The glossy magazine-style guide is being published by a partnership of DECD's Division of Tourism and Maryland Life Magazine. To place ads, call Jennifer Webster at Maryland Life at 240-215- 5486. Rate information may be downloaded at www.stmarysmd.com/decd/formsanddocumentscontent.asp. Seventy five thousand guides will be printed and distributed to those seeking to visit or re-locate to St. Mary's County.

Upcoming Jobzone Job Fair for NAS Patuxent River - August 26

Tuesday, August 26 - NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER - JT Daugherty Conference Center - Sponsored by The Fleet and Family Support Center - 3:00pm-7:00pm

Contact JobZone (540-775-4199 or 540-226- 1473) to discuss registration and special pricing. Discounts are available. Visit www.JobZoneOnline.com for more information.

Affordable Ways to Protect Your Business from Disaster

Designed as a call-to-action for business leaders, the Ready Campaign produced by Homeland Security has created the Ready Business Mentoring Initiative. This new initiative is designed to help owners and managers of small and medium-sized businesses prepare for emergencies.

Ready Business Mentoring Initiative includes the Ready Business Mentoring Guides which are designed to teach business owners and managers about affordable ways to better protect their businesses. In addition, the Ready Campaign collaborated with the Education Disaster Extension Network (EDEN) to create presentation materials to support the Ready Business Mentoring Guides.

These materials assist business and community leaders in hosting and delivering business preparedness workshops and training sessions. These sessions and the Ready Business Mentoring Guides outline how businesses can plan to stay in business; talk to employees; and protect assets. Visit www.ready.gov/business/mentor for more information and valuable downloads.

2008 T&E of Unmanned Aircraft (UAV) Conference - September 15-17

The ITEA Southern Maryland Chapter in cooperation with the Patuxent River Chapter of the Society of Flight Test Engineers (SFTE) presents T&E of Unmanned Aircraft "Differences, Similarities, and Integration Issues with Manned Aircraft T&E" on September 15-17 at the Holiday Inn Select Hotel and Conference Center, Solomon's Island.

The workshop will provide a forum for representatives of government, industry, and academia to present formal papers, display poster papers, exhibit products and services, and benefit from instruction related to Test and Evaluation of Unmanned Aircraft. In addition, the purpose of the International Test and Evaluation Association (ITEA) /Southern Maryland Chapter Workshop is to surface ideas, explore concepts, and share experiences of recent efforts, all with the objective of eventually capturing the potential of technologies associated with unmanned aircraft to the benefit of the warfighter. Call for Papers and Event Info: www.itea.org/2008_UAV_ws.asp.

The Calvert County, Maryland, Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) recently announced that beginning July 1, 2008, the Calvert County household income limit for the Maryland Homeowner Tax Credit Program increased from \$50,000 to \$60,000 for eligible property owners.

This County program went into effect July 1, 2006 (FY07). Since FY07, 874 property owners have benefited from the program totaling \$408,656 in credits; \$288,000 is budgeted for FY09, based on prior year credits issued*.

The State and County Homeowner's Property Tax Credit Program provides property tax credits for homeowners that qualify on the basis of a comparison of their tax bill to their household income. Individuals whose combined gross household income is below \$60,000 should consider filing an application for the credit no later than September 1, 2008.

The Homeowner Tax Credit Program can significantly lower a tax bill. "Until recently, property values had been dramatically and steadily rising throughout the region; for low and moderate income families and retirees on fixed incomes, this resulted in increasingly heavy property tax burdens, in some cases threatening their ability to stay in their homes," said BOCC president Wilson H. Parran. "By increasing the household income limits, we hope to supplement the State's program and provide tax relief assistance to maintain these individuals in our community."

Homeowners are required to complete form HTC-60, available through the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation. Please visit www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/taxcredits.html for an application or additional information.

Only one application is required for both the State and County credits. Applications and information can also be obtained by contacting the Calvert County Treasurer's Office at 410.535.1600 x2277, or 301.855.1243 x2277; or the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation at 800.944.7403.

Applications must be filed no later than September 1, 2008.

* FY07 - 420 homeowners were issued credits totaling \$183,656; FY08 - 454 parcels were issued credits totaling \$225,000 through 02/2008 Budgeted; FY09 - \$288,000, based on prior year credits issued. Additional funding will be made available, if necessary.

July in Calvert County

July 3 (6:30 pm) Free Summer Concert/Fireworks Show 5th Street & Bay Avenue at the Pavilion, North Beach. Summer concert followed by fireworks.- Bring a blanket and the kids and watch the fireworks over the water after the concert. www.ci.north-beach.md.us or 410-257-9618.

July 3 (Dusk) Chesapeake Beach Fireworks Chesapeake Beach. Bring your family to enjoy this spectacular fireworks display. Beautiful colors reflecting across the Chesapeake Bay. www.chesapeake-beach-md.us or 410-257-2230.

July 4 (8:00 pm - 10:00 pm) Fireworks Cruise Calvert Marine Museum, 14200 Solomons Island Road, Solomons - Come see the fireworks with the best view in town on board the Wm. B. Tennison. Great food provided. www.calvertmarinemuseum.com or 410-326-2042, ext. 41.

July 4 (Dark) Solomons Fireworks Solomons Riverwalk, Solomons - Celebrate July 4th with a magnificent display of fireworks over the Patuxent River. Music and food vendors. Raindate for fireworks is July 5th only. www.sba.solomons.md.us or 888-580-3856.

July 10 (7:30 pm - 9:30 pm) The Bay Breeze Concert Series Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, 4155 Mears Avenue, Chesapeake Beach - Live musicians performing on the porch. Tempered Brass - show tunes, jazz, marches, popular music. www.cbrm.org or 410-257-3892.

July 12 (10:00 am - 5:00 pm) Sharkfest! Calvert Marine Museum, 14200 Solomons Island Road, South, Solomons - Come pet live sharks with Doug Poole's "SharkPoole." Learn about these mysterious creatures of the deep. See ancient shark teeth the size of your hand. www.calvertmarinemuseum.com or 410-326-2042, ext. 41.

July 19 (12:00 noon - 6:00 pm) Calvert Artists' Guild Outdoor Show Boardwalk/Pavilion, Solomons - Artworks on display and for sale. www.calvertartistsguild.org or 410-326- 2604 or 410-586-3516.

July 19 (4:00 pm - 7:00 pm) Sunset in the Tropic Cruise Calvert Marine Museum, 14200 Solomons Island Road, South - Enjoy a beautiful sunset while listening to Key West music and savor tropical cuisine. Parrot Heads welcome. Pre-registration required. www.calvertmarinemuseum.com or 410-326-2042, ext. 41.

July 24 and July 31 (10:00 am - 11:45 pm) The Good Old Days Today Program Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, 4155 Mears Avenue, Chesapeake Beach - Enjoy an introduction to the good old days with stories, games, and the history of Chesapeake Beach and the railway in the early 20th century. www.cbrm.org or 410-257-3892.

For more information on the Calvert County, Md., Department of Economic Development, our visitor sites and attractions 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.



About the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland



Annotated Code).

The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) was formed on December 6, 1964, as a cooperative planning and development agency to foster the social and economic development of the Southern Maryland Region. In 1965, the Maryland Governor recognized the TCCSMD as the regional planning and development organization for the Region comprising Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties. The TCCSMD's statute was established by Act of the Maryland General Assembly in 1966. The TCCSMD's enabling law was reenacted as State general legislation in 1976 (Article 20, Maryland,

The mission of the Tri-County Council is to serve as a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues affecting the Southern Maryland Region. The Council shall select, advocate and advance those activities which will best serve the interests of all the people of Southern Maryland. These activities shall promote the social and economic development of the Region, environmental protection, include research, information management, and the preparation of a regional plan. All of the activities of the Tri-County Council shall be designed to assist federal, State and county governments in better performing their respective duties.

Members of The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland:

Charles County Commissioner, Gary V. Hodge Chairman

Calvert County

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Charles County

Commissioner W. Cooper * Commissioner * R.B. Collins * Commissioner G.V. Hodge * Commissioner E. Patterson * Commissioner S. Graves * Member-at-Large Harry Shasho

St. Mary's County

Commissioner J. Russell * Commissioner K.R. Dement * Commissioner L.D. Jarboe * Commissioner T.A. Mattingly, Sr. * Commissioner D.H. Raley * Member-at-Large M.L. Stone

State Elected Officials

District 27 - Senator T.V. Mike Miller, Jr. * *District 27A* - Delegate J.E. Proctor, Jr. * Delegate J.F. Vallario, Jr. * *District 27B* - Delegate P.S. Kullen * *District 28* - Senator T.M. Middleton * Delegate P.F. Murphy * Delegate S. Jameson * Delegate M.Levy * *District 29* - Senator R.P. Dyson * *District 29A* - Delegate J.F. Wood, Jr. * *District 29B* - Delegate J.L. Bohanan * *District 29C* - Delegate A.J. O'Donnell

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