

A monthly publication of the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce.

P. O. Box 9 Prince Frederick, MD 20678-0009 (located at 120 Dares Beach Road)

www.calvertchamber.org (410) 535-2577

calvertchamber@calvertchamber.org

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**Calvert County Chamber of Commerce
State Legislative Breakfast**

January 9, 2012

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Rod N' Reel Restaurant

The Maryland General Assembly meets in Annapolis each year for a ninety day Legislative Session to act on more than 2300 bills including the state's annual budget. The 430th session will begin January 11, 2012. This breakfast is an excellent opportunity to hear from our State Delegation about bills and legislation to be presented during the 2012 session in Annapolis.

The Chamber would like to thank Comcast, Constellation Energy Nuclear Group, Dominion Cove Point LNG and SMECO for sponsoring this important event

(See flyer for registration)



**Don't Miss
the**

7th Annual Chocolover♥s Affair!

February 4, 2012

7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn Solomons Conference Center

& Marina

\$85.00 per person/ \$150.00 per couple

\$125.00 per person at the door.

A portion of the proceeds goes to a graduate of each of the Calvert County Public High Schools and The Calverton School.

(See pg. 7 for more)



**16th Annual
Southern Maryland Legislative Reception**

Thursday, February 23, 2012

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Loews Annapolis Hotel
126 West Street, Annapolis MD

This is an excellent opportunity to meet with your elected officials and agency heads from throughout Maryland.

See enclosed flyer for reservation information and how to participate with an exhibit booth.

The Navigator is published by

The Calvert County
Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 9
Prince Frederick, MD 20678-0009
www.calvertchamber.org
calvertchamber@calvertchamber.org

2012 Board of Directors

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President/CEO, Carolyn McHugh

Office Manager, Cathy Wehrle

Administrative Assistant, Sharon Stuart

Receptionist, Lori Morgan



The new IRS business mileage rate for 2012 will be 55.5 cents per mile.



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

January - Annmarie Garden

February - Joint BAH with St. Mary's Chamber at Hilton Garden Inn Solomons

March - Spring Hill Suites by Marriott

April - Chesapeake Hills Golf Course

May - Davis, Upton and Palumbo, LLC

June - Curtis Investment Group, Inc

NETWORKING MADE SIMPLE IN A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE

An excellent opportunity to finish the business day in the company of fellow members and expand your circle of contacts!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS 2012 CORPORATE PARTNERS

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Constellation Energy Nuclear Group
Fantasy World Entertainment
PNC Bank
SMECO

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Chairman's Club Partner
Asbury~Solomons Island
College of Southern Maryland
Dominion Cove Point LNG
First Home Mortgage, Darren Rickwood



For information on the Corporate Partner Program or Sponsor Level Program contact the Chamber at 410-535-2577

The Calvert County Chamber of Commerce Member To Member Discount Program

The Member To Member discount plan provides another networking avenue to Chamber Members.

The discounts are not generally available to the public and only as a benefit to fellow Chamber members. Members offering discounts will be listed in the Navigator and on the Chamber’s website at **zero cost** to you. The Discount Program is easy, economical and a great way to get your name, product and service in front of over 700 professional men and women!

Important things to remember about offering a discount:

- ◆ Make sure your employees know about your discount.
- ◆ If unsure of honoring a discount to a particular member, please feel free to call the Chamber Office to verify current membership. *Only active members are eligible.*

Example discounts:

- ◆ Two for one
- ◆ Percentage discounts
- ◆ Dollar amount discounts
- ◆ Free gift promotion

How can you participate?

- ◆ Contact the Chamber at 410-535-2577 to receive an application. Complete it and send us the form via Fax - 443-295-7213 or Mail - P.O. Box 9 Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity to promote your business!



**PRACTICE YOUR ABC'S
ALWAYS BUY CHAMBER
THE MEMBER-TO-MEMBER DISCOUNT PROGRAM**

36 Participants Providing Various Discounts to Chamber Members

In today’s changing economy the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce provides many valuable resources to help businesses succeed. Among these are member to member discounts available exclusively to Chamber members and their employees.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Alexander Chiropractic Center | American Bellydance, LLC | Arbonne International, Victoria Ronan | Arc of SO MD Chapter |
| Armory Road Self Storage & 231 Self Storage | B-Sure Home Inspection | B&L Biz, Lynda Adams | |
| Calvert Business Machines/One Source | Cash Flow Plus | Choice Floor Center | DiGiovanni’s Dock of the Bay |
| Discount Realty Services, USA Sandra Monger | Dunkirk Chiropractic & Wellness Center | Expressions Catering | |
| Family Auto Mercedes BMW Specialist | Gateau Physical Therapy | Glover’s Septic Services, Inc.& Portable Toilet Rentals | |
| Infinite Errands | InLine Adz | J & J’s Physical Therapy | Jax Photography |
| Jon S. Frank & Associates | Keep Well Fitness Center | Lanham Garage Door Co. LLC | Law Offices of Julie A. Scheibal |
| Little Protégés Early Learning Centre | Mary Lou Too Charters | Meraj Dental Spa | Nature’s Way To Health |
| Polk Insurance & Investments | Shelden Studios, LLC | Sisk Auto Body | The Baynet.com |
| The Calverton School | Wemyss Liquors | Your Silver Lining, Barbara Huber | |

Visit www.calvertchamber.org for a list of discounts available to you as a Chamber member or call (410) 535-2577 to find out how you can provide a discount to your fellow Chamber members!

Press Releases

Rotary Welcomes Newest Member, David Weigel . . .

David C. Weigel, an attorney with Davis, Upton & Palumbo, LLC in Prince Frederick, has joined the Prince Frederick Rotary Club. Weigel grew up in Calvert County after moving from Baltimore at age 1. He spent his formative years first in Lusby and then Port Republic, where he currently resides. He attended elementary and middle school at Calverton and high school at St. Mary's Ryken. He earned his undergraduate degree in Journalism and Mass Communications from Washington & Lee University, where he was a member and Philanthropy Chair of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and frequently anchored the school's news program, *The Rockbridge Report*. A 2010 graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law, Weigel was an Articles Editor on the *Kentucky Law Journal*, as well as a member of the school's Moot Court Board. Following Law School, Weigel spent a year clerking for Honorable Marjorie L. Claggett, Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Calvert County. In September 2011, he joined the Prince Frederick law firm of Davis, Upton & Palumbo, where he currently is an associate. The Rotary Club of Prince Frederick is the local affiliate of Rotary International, the oldest international service club.

Board of County Commissioners Honors Winners of Calvert County Sustainable Agriculture Awards. . .

To recognize the contributions that local agriculture makes toward a more sustainable community, the Calvert County Sustainable Agriculture Workgroup presented the second annual Sustainable Agriculture Awards at the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners meeting Nov. 15. The Sustainable Agriculture Awards were presented in four categories. **The Sustainable Farmer of the Year Award** went to Jim and Patty Bourne of The Lamb's Quarter in Owings. The Bourne family has been farming the same land on Bourne Road since 1690. Good stewardship and a love of the land runs in their blood. The Bourne farm has a Soil Conservation Plan and a Nutrient Management Plan and employs best management practices to control runoff, maintain grass cover and minimize plowing or soil disturbance. The Bournes primarily follow organic practices and minimize the use of herbicides or pesticides. **The 2011 Green Grocer of the Year Award** was presented to Chesapeake's Bounty of St. Leonard. William Kreamer runs the business and sells local produce, seafood, meat, baked goods, canned goods, dairy, honey, nursery plants, Christmas trees and firewood. Local products are featured heavily at Chesapeake's Bounty and many products are grown on site. A pick-your-own strawberry patch accompanies crops such as tomatoes, okra, eggplant and peppers. **The Buy Local Restaurant of the Year Award** for 2011 went to Dee and Ricky Hardesty of Hardesty Haven Catering. With the support of their children, Blake and Holly, the Hardestys created a family catering business that has been active for five years. Dee is a third-generation farmer and strives to bring her love of farm-fresh food to the catering business. Her dishes often feature food produced on her own farm as well as a wonderful assortment purchased from farms throughout Southern Maryland. The Hardesty's mobile farm kitchen and catering trailer allows them to cook on site and serve immediately. A new Sustainable Agriculture Award category this year - **Sustainable Meat Producer of the Year** - resulted in a tie between two local providers. Debbie and Dale Jones of Windy Willow Farm in Sunderland share the award with Chris and Bryan Dowell of Crooked Branch Farm, also in Sunderland. Both farms treat their animals humanely, never feed animal by-products, only use antibiotics if medically necessary for the health of the animal and do not use growth implants. The farms also have Nutrient Management Plans and Soil Conservation Plans. The Jones of Windy Willow Farm are third-generation farmers working the remaining acreage of what was once a 175-acre farm owned by Dale's grandfather. They raise beef, lamb and goat. Careful attention to breeding has led them to a beef cross between a limousine bull with red angus heifers to produce cattle that thrive on a

100-percent grass-fed diet. The Jones have more than 30 regular buyers and many more occasional purchasers who buy directly from the farm. The Dowells at Crooked Branch Farm also come from a long line of Calvert County farmers. Crooked Branch breeds and raises its beef on the farm and boasts approximately 45 acres of pasture and hay. Their beef operation feeds primarily grass and hay with a grain finish. Cattle are moved between summer and winter pastures to allow the land to rest and grass to recover between grazing. All the hay needed for winter forage is also produced onsite. Crooked Branch sells custom butchered beef that is cut to the customer's specifications. Nominees in all categories were judged by a selection committee comprised of representatives from Calvert Eats Local, the Calvert County Agriculture Commission and the University of Maryland Extension Calvert County.

Local Real Estate Agent Ranked 6th in Closed Buyer Volume in October Standings

Cindy Taylor was recently ranked 6th in Closed Buyer Volume in the October standings throughout the EXIT Mid-Atlantic Region. Cindy has been with EXIT By The Bay Realty since October, 2010. "Cindy has worked hard for her clients and this is a well-deserved recognition of that effort," said Jen Anderson, Broker of EXIT By The Bay Realty. EXIT By The Bay Realty of Prince Frederick is a franchise member of the EXIT Mid-Atlantic Region. EXIT Realty is a proven real estate business model that supplies single-level residual income - for agents, security, stability and direction; for agents' families, security in the form of beneficiary and retirement residuals. EXIT's MIND-SET Training Systems offer the industry's best hands-on, interactive sales training. State-of-the-art technology, including the Digital Marketing Strategy, gives EXIT Realty agents the edge in a competitive marketplace. EXIT is a by-invitation-only company focusing on the business of real estate. A portion of every transaction fee collected by EXIT International is applied to its charitable fund. To-date, over \$2 Million has been pledged to Habitat for Humanity. For more information about EXIT By The Bay Realty, please call 443-975-7555. EXIT By The Bay Realty is located at 222 Merrimac Court, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

Calvert County History DVD to Premiere at Calvert Library

On Tuesday, January 10, 2012, Calvert Library Prince Frederick will be hosting "Changing Landscapes in Southern Maryland," the first in a four-part series of local history events. The evening will begin with a presentation on the book *Changing Landscapes in Southern Maryland*, produced and edited by the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association. The first twenty attendees will receive a free copy of the book. The remainder of the program will focus on a web-based tour of the county's agricultural history produced by the Calvert County Historic District Commission (HDC). "Tourists" will learn about local history and hear about life in Calvert County in the actual words of people who shared their experiences with oral historians. The HDC plans to make audio tracks from the tour available for download as podcasts that can be used for self-guided driving tours. Both the audio and video will be available on a DVD, which will premiere during the "Changing Landscapes" event, 7:00 to 8:30 pm at Calvert Library Prince Frederick. For more information, visit calvert.lib.md.us or call Robyn Truslow at 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

Have business information you feel might be useful to share with other Chamber Members? Email Sharon Stuart at (sharon@calvertchamber.org)

Deadline for submissions is the 12th of each month. Space fills up quickly so the earlier you submit an article the better chance you have for it to be included. Due to space limitations, the Chamber reserves the right to edit press releases received.

More Press Releases

Calvert Library To Host Resume Workshop . . .

Is your New Year's resolution going to be "Get a new job"? If so, you may want to register for the resume and cover letter workshops offered at Calvert Library Prince Frederick. Beginning January 3, library volunteer and job counselor Sandra Holler will host small group workshops from 10am to noon two Tuesdays a month, usually the first and third Tuesday. Participants will learn what makes a strong resume and cover letter and will get individualized help. If you already have a resume started, bring it with you so editing can happen on the spot. Registration is required and can be done through the library website at calvert.lib.md.us or by calling 410-535-0291. For more information, call Robyn Truslow at 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

Learn About Trades Training at CSM Career Starters Open Houses, Jan. 9-19 Five Scholarships to be Awarded for Non-Credit Training Programs

The College of Southern Maryland is hosting five Career Starters program open houses beginning with the La Plata Campus on Jan. 9, the Leonardtown Campus on Jan. 10 and the Prince Frederick Campus on Jan. 11 to introduce its slate of non-credit training courses for people who want to kick-start a career in a high-demand industry in 10 to 16 weeks. CSM will host open houses for the Center for Transportation Training in La Plata on Jan. 18 for people interested in commercial licensure and for the Center for Trades and Energy Training in Waldorf on Jan. 19, to introduce construction non-credit training for people who are interested in carpentry, welding, electrical, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), and plumbing careers. Open House guests can enter a drawing for an instant scholarship for the spring 2012 semester with one scholarship to be awarded at each of the five open houses. Career Starters programs include classes offered in short sequences for students to gain skills quickly to enter the workforce. The career fields of business, construction, early childhood, healthcare, hospitality, information technology, transportation, veterinarian and many more are offered through the Career Starters program. During the open houses, prospective students will have an opportunity to meet with a program coordinator and instructors from each career field, learn location and schedule of classes for individual training programs, learn about financing options and register for classes. The Center for Trades and Energy Training, in Waldorf, will offer training courses focusing on construction trades, the Center for Transportation Training in La Plata, will offer commercial licensure courses and all other Career Starters training program courses will be offered at CSM campuses in La Plata, Leonardtown and Prince Frederick. Additionally, through Career Services, students can receive assistance in building a resume and developing solid interview skills as well as have access to the college's online Job Connections employment database. Career Starters Open Houses will be from 4 to 6 p.m. on Jan. 9 at the La Plata Campus, Center for Business and Industry, Room 113; from 4 to 6 p.m. on Jan. 10 at the Leonardtown Campus, A Building, Auditorium; from 4 to 6 p.m. on Jan. 11 at Prince Frederick Campus, Flagship Building, Room 119; from 4 to 6 p.m. on Jan. 18 at the CSM Center for Transportation Training in La Plata; and from 4 to 6 p.m. on Jan. 19 at the Center for Trades and Energy Training in Waldorf. For information on Career Starters, visit www.csmd.edu/CareerStarters or call 301-934-7765 or 301-870-2309, 240-725-5499 or 443-550-6199, Ext.7765.

Friends of the Library Gently Used Book Sale . . .

It is that time of year again! The Annual Giant Gently Used Book Sale hosted by Friends of Calvert Library will begin with a members-only preview night on Thursday, January 12 from 5-8pm. You can join at the door with \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family membership. The sale opens to the public on Friday, January 13 from noon to 4pm and will also be held on Saturday, January 14 from 9am-3pm. The event is in the meeting rooms at the Calvert Library Prince Frederick and there will be thousands of books in good to excellent condition. The books range from classic fiction and the latest best-sellers to non-fiction titles of all types: self-help, military, biography, cooking, politics, history, you name it. The sale is also well-stocked with children's books and videos for all ages - toddlers to young adult - so this would be the perfect opportunity to pick up a bagful of books to encourage reading in the kids you know. You can also buy your tickets for Books & Bubbly at the sale. This event, held on Friday, January 27, 7-9pm at Calvert Library Prince Frederick, is an elegant evening with delicious food, great music, bubbly and other libations. Tickets are a very reasonable \$35 and can be purchased at any Calvert Library location. The proceeds of the sale and Books & Bubbly are used by the Friends of the Library to provide financial support to many of the programs the library offers and to enable the library to offer services and products beyond the reach of tax dollars. For more information call 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

Davis, Upton & Palumbo, LLC Announces Paul J. Dougherty III to Membership

The Prince Frederick law firm of Davis, Upton & Palumbo, LLC announces that Paul J. Dougherty III will become a Member of the Firm, effective January 1, 2012. Mr. Dougherty joined Davis, Upton & Palumbo, LLC as an associate in March 2007 and focuses his practice in the areas of Bankruptcy and Civil Litigation. As one of the leading Bankruptcy attorneys in the area, he has represented individuals and families who file for bankruptcy, as well as banks and businesses to protect their rights as creditors when a client or vendor files for bankruptcy. He also counsels clients in non-bankruptcy financial matters. In addition, Mr. Dougherty maintains an active litigation practice throughout Maryland. He represents individuals and organizations in contract, financial, real estate and other litigation matters in both state and federal courts. Mr. Dougherty earned his Juris Doctor from Villanova University, and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Loyola University in Baltimore, Maryland. He clerked for the Honorable Jerome Herlihy in the Delaware Superior Court and is licensed to practice in Maryland and Delaware.

Murray Levy Joins The Law Offices of Alexander & Cleaver

Managing Partner Denise Bowman announced that Murray Levy joined The Law Offices of Alexander & Cleaver as a Government Relations Consultant. Murray served in the Maryland House of Delegates for six years. He will assist our clients with business development and strategic planning, especially on county and state fiscal and budget related issues. Government Relations Chief Operating Officer Robin Shaivitz commented, "We are proud that former Delegate Murray Levy will join our experienced government relations team to continue the Alexander & Cleaver tradition of statewide 24/7 service to our clients. His years of state and local government service will provide our business, association and nonprofit clients strategic planning and insight to help provide solutions to move them forward." "After years of public service with county and state government, I am excited to join Alexander & Cleaver as a Government Relations Consultant. I will focus my attention to support the firm and its clients, especially in the areas of developing strategy, using my expertise on budget issues and moving our business clients forward," Murray stated.

michael@earlybirdhomeservices.com **Michael Freeburger** Owner
301-440-2053



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Please remember to send in your completed verification forms by January 15, 2012.

The information you send us allows us to update our website and will be used to promote your business in our 2012-2013 Business & Community Services Directory.



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January Event Reminder

- Tuesday, January 3 - LeadShare 8:30 a.m. Chesapeake Church
 - Tuesday, January 4 - Chocovers Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Adam's The Place For Ribs Restaurant
 - Thursday, January 5 - Ambassadors Mtg. & New Member Orientation 8:30 a.m. Chamber
 - Monday, January 9 - Legislative Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Rod N' Reel Restaurant Chesapeake Beach
 - Tuesday, January 10 - Government Affairs Mtg. 4:00 p.m. Davis, Upton & Palumbo, LL
 - Thursday, January 12 - Executive Board Mtg. 8:30 a.m. Chamber
BAH 5:30 p.m. Annmarie Garden
 - Tuesday, January 17 - LeadShare 8:30 a.m. Chesapeake Church
 - Wednesday, January 18 - Board Meeting 4:30 p.m. Chamber
- **Women To Women will not meet in January.

**WELCOME
NEW
MEMBERS**



(Cont. from pg. 1)

Thank you to our Chocolover♥s Affair Sponsors

Curtis Investment Group, Inc.

Michael D. Myers
5260 Linda Lane
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(301) 702 3206 (Fax)
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mikem@curtisinvestments.com

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members by patronizing their businesses.
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- Asbury ~Solomons Island
- Calvert Design Group
- College of Southern Maryland
- Comcast
- Community Bank of Tri-County
- Constellation Energy Nuclear Group
- DJ Dave Karaoke and Entertainment Services
- Fantasy World Entertainment
- First Home Mortgage, Darren Rickwood
- Holiday Inn Conference Center & Marina
- Isaac's Restaurant
- Jax Photography
- Eugene & Vicky Karol
- Kelly's Tree & Lawn Service, Inc.
- PNC Bank
- Polk Insurance & Investments
- Servpro of St. Mary's & Calvert
- SMECO

Come join us for a silent and live auction, music and dancing, delectable food, decadent chocolate desserts and then cast your vote for the winner of the "People's Choice Award" for the best dessert creation. Take advantage of a special offer and book a room at the Holiday Inn Solomons Conference Center & Marina for the night of the event for \$89.00.

See enclosed flyer for more information and for the code to get the special rate.

NAVIGATOR PRINTED BY



Calvert County Named One of America's 100 Best Communities for Young People 2nd Year in a Row

America's Promise Alliance awards communities most dedicated to helping local youth graduate from high school. The competition honors cities, counties and towns working to decrease high school dropout rates and create brighter futures for young people. Calvert County was lauded for its commitment to education and collaboration among the agencies, nonprofits, businesses and community organizations that provide services to children and youth. Chamber member Calvert Collaborative for Children and Youth served as the lead organization in the application process which comprised of four months of research, drafting and coordination.

CHAMBER COMMITTEE INFO

AMBASSADORS

Considered the goodwill arm of the Chamber, Ambassadors serve as the Chamber's primary liaison to new members and play an essential role in member recruitment, communication and retention. They represent the Chamber at a variety of functions, including ribbon cuttings Business After Hours events and new member orientations. In return, Chamber Ambassadors experience above average networking opportunities and maximize their business and social potential. The committee is co-chaired by Darren Rickwood and Brian Compton and they meet **quarterly on the 1st Thursday of the month**. The New Member Orientation is run by the Ambassadors Committee and is open to new and prospective members as well as existing members. This is a great opportunity to network, introduce themselves and their business and find out about the benefits of Chamber membership. The next orientation will be held on **Thursday, January 5th, 2012** at 8:30 a.m. at the Chamber. There is no cost to attend but reservations are required. Please call 410-535-2577.

LEADSHARE

The Leadshare group's core purpose is to reach out to the Calvert County business community and ensure that its members achieve growth by developing relationships with other business owners and entrepreneurs. Meetings involve the sharing of referrals, networking, events, "best practice" ideas for improving one's business and presentations by individuals and guest speakers. Meetings are held at the Chesapeake Church in Huntingtown on the **1st and 3rd Tuesday** of each month at 8:30 a.m. Contact Raleigh Weckbaugh at 410-610-2953 or simplysendcards@yahoo.com for more information.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Chaired by Mark Davis, the Government Affairs Committee meets on the **2nd Tuesday of each month** at 4:00 p.m. at Davis Upton, & Palumbo, LLC in Prince Frederick. Their main focus is identifying important public issues at the local, state and federal levels of government and working to influence positive outcome. Their efforts include building relationships with legislative leaders and helping Chamber members to understand policies that can impact how business is done in Calvert County.

WOMEN to WOMEN

Women to Women lunch meetings are always held on the **2nd Wednesday** of each month at 12 noon at Dream Weaver Café in Prince Frederick. Please make your reservation and lunch choice by calling the Chamber at 410-535-2577. Chamber members may attend for free and may purchase a lunch for \$12. The cost for non-members to attend is \$20 and they may also purchase a lunch for \$12. Non-members must pay in advance and may apply the \$20 towards membership to the Chamber for up to 30 days. The Chamber encourages everyone to pay ahead of time to avoid a crush at the registration table. **Women to Women will not meet this month.**

CHOCOLOVERS

The Choccolovers Committee, chaired by Carrie Polk and co-chaired by Darren Rickwood and Vicky Karol is in high gear preparing for the 2012 Choccolovers Affair. Their next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 4th** at 5:30 p.m. at Adam's Rib Restaurant.

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“The Traveling Apprentice” Works For St. John Vianney Catholic Church & Safe Night

For most of us it was the season to be jolly. To deck the halls with boughs of holly. To nestle all snug in our beds while visions of sugar plums dance in our heads. Unless, of course, there was nothing to be jolly about. Unless we had no halls to decorate. Unless we had no beds. Unless we were one of countless homeless individuals living off the grid in Calvert, living in tents in the woods, living in cars. Living wherever we could.

Homeless? In Calvert? Surely, homelessness can't be a problem in such a wealthy county as Calvert, say you. But it can and is, as the organizers of Safe Night are keenly aware and as I learned as Traveling Apprentice “host” at St. John Vianney Catholic Church when it provided a week of safe shelter in November to Calvert's homeless.

Safe Nights is in its fifth year as a non-profit organization with a mission to shelter to the homeless of Calvert. It started with five churches and now has 24 churches involved in providing evening shelter and hot meals to the homeless from the beginning of November into April. Each church is involved in some way, whether providing a facility for shelter, or transportation, or food, or volunteers, or all of the above. The program can accommodate 18 guests each night and for the safety of all concerned, each guest agrees to undergo a background check.

In none of my previous assignments did I get training before I reported for work. Prior to being accepted as a “host” at Safe Night, however, I attended a two hour training session where I learned sobering facts about homelessness, as well as what my duties would be. Throughout the training, the program directors, Joe and May Ann Zaversnik, stressed the need for churches, hosts and guests to follow guidelines for the program, which were set in place to ensure the safety and comfort of all concerned.

The “average” Calvert Safe Night guests are homeless for a variety of reasons- - foreclosures, evictions, joblessness, mental and/or chronic health issues, substance abuse histories. They're single or part of a family, and they represent all races, color, religions, and sexes. At my actual assignment the guests were all ‘returnees’ and they arrived at Safe Night knowing they would be treated with dignity and that by the time they left the next morning they would have slept in clean linens, dined on a delicious hot evening meal, eaten a hearty breakfast and they'd depart with a bag lunch to hold them over ‘til the next night.

During my evening's assignment and later, when I drifted to sleep in the comfort of my own bed, a thought kept churning in my head and it continues to pop up there even now, unbidden, like a tune on a continuous feed. Unlike a repetitious tune, however, I'm not anxious to subdue this thought. This thought is worthy of repetition. This thought is a gentle reminder that there, but for the grace of God, go I.



The Traveling Apprentice is a monthly column written by Carolyn McHugh, President/CEO of the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce. Each month Carolyn spends a day working for a Chamber member, then writes a column for a local newspaper about the experience. The article is later inserted into Chamber's newsletter and posted on the Chamber's web-site in order to give the maximum exposure to the Chamber member. Her commitment to Chamber members and to the readers is that she's there for Chamber members and that whatever they do in their daily job, she'll do too.



THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL CHAMBER MEMBERS WHO DONATE DOOR PRIZES FOR OUR BUSINESS AFTER HOURS EVENTS!

- Arbonne International, Victoria Ronan
- B & L Biz, Lynda Adams
- Dunkirk Chiropractic & Wellness Center
- Early Bird Home Services, LLC
- Infinite Errands
- Interlude, The Pet Resort & Spa
- Raleigh Weckbaugh, SendOut Cards
- Smoothie King

The Chamber is looking for businesses who would like to donate door prizes for our 2012 Business After Hours Events. If you are interested in participating please contact the Chamber at (410) 535-2577 or calvertchamber@calvertchamber.org Businesses receive recognition in the Navigator, monthly BAH flyers and on the Chamber website.

The Chamber would like to thank the following members for reaching this membership milestone in January!

Five Years

- Bead Boutique*
- First Home Mortgage, Darren Rickwood*
- Eugene M. Karol*

Ten Years

- Patt Parker*

Fifteen Years

- Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse, Inc.*

Twenty Years

- Calvert County Public Schools*

Thirty Years

- Chesapeake Pharmacy*
- Rausch Funeral Home, P.A.*

Forty Years

- SMECO*



The Calvert County Chamber of Commerce presented its annual donation to the College of Southern Maryland's Scholarship Fund.



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Dr. Bradley Gottfried, President of the College of Southern Maryland welcomes everyone to the December BAH



Having a good time at CSM's BAH





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