

CHAPTER II: PEOPLE

Community Interaction

Objectives

- Cultivate and nurture a sense of community.
- Support efforts and implement practices that encourage positive interaction among citizens. Engage them in the life of the community.
- Encourage programs that accommodate diversity.
- Encourage an ethic that recognizes the importance of strong communities, strong families, and effective ways to deal with conflict.
- Encourage efforts that engage youth to participate in creating and maintaining good communities.

Sustainability Issues

Sustainable communities recognize the interrelatedness of all of their citizens and depend on the citizens to stay involved in the life of the community. They adopt policies which:

- *Engage the creative participation of all citizens to responsibly meet the challenges that communities face.*
- *Promote positive interaction among all citizens.*
- *Incorporate, value, and celebrate cultural and ethnic diversity.*
- *Actively include new residents in the life of the community.*
- *Teach the values of good stewardship of natural and cultural resources to ensure a healthy legacy to future generations.*

Discussion

"To settle in a place is to accept the responsibility for creating it."—*Mircea Eliade, 20th century philosopher.*

Whether we are aware of it or not, we influence our surroundings in every way. We can choose to accept responsibility for the impact we have on the places where we settle and, in doing so, consciously direct our actions to the common good. Sustainability issues, addressed by every section of this plan, have a particular importance in this discussion of what it means to be a community and what it means to participate in creating and maintaining good community.

What is a "Good Community"?

A good community possesses a set of social relationships that nurtures individuals and families. A good community promotes healthy personal and family development and honors the concerns and relationships of other individuals and families in the places, activities, and civic life they share.

Community entails fellowship and things held in common. Our plan must allow for diversity of definitions and expressions of community. The plan must also be flexible enough to accommodate change that real, dynamic communities will experience.

Levels of Community

There are at least three kinds, or levels, of communities. First of these levels is community at the county level. Calvert County has a unique identity that has been shaped by the long history of human interaction with its distinctive landscapes. It is important to foster a sense of community on the county level. All residents are invited and encouraged to identify with the community of Calvert County, to find personal relevance for the issues that face all of us as County citizens and, in doing so, recognize the shared responsibility for meeting our challenges.

Second is community at the local level, which could include town centers, tied to a particular place, such as a town or road, subdivision, neighborhood, creek, and so on. It is reasonable to expect that most people will more easily find things in common with people who have chosen to live in the same location. It is also possible that there will be more opportunities to interact with people living nearby.

Third is the community of common interest or activity. This kind of "community" is not necessarily tied to geography. These communities include social and athletic clubs, service organizations, churches, all of which draw their membership from people who intentionally get involved in them.

Community Issues

Numerous governmental agencies and offices deal daily with issues of community: substance abuse programs, prevention programs, health programs,

community resources, and law enforcement, among others. All of these programs, offices, and agencies are concerned with community. The experiences of some of these programs have led to insightful understanding about communities in general.

The list of programs mentioned have a problem-driven approach to community yet, increasingly, they share a vision of community that can help produce healthy, functioning communities. At the base of this vision is the recognition that communities, like virtually all aspects of society, are systems. That means that issues perceived as problems in a community can not be isolated as though they have an existence apart from the community in which they appear. All aspects of any community are interdependent and linked, just as the people are linked in creating their community for good, for bad, or for indifference. This vision of community will serve us well in helping to create community on a county level, in assisting community development on a local level, and in fostering community among persons not bound by geography.

Role of Government

The Comprehensive Plan envisions a specific relationship of government to community. The government may assist communities in identifying resources to help them build and increase the health and functioning of their communities. Government, however, should not be seen as providing the solutions to the problem. The locus of decision-making and problem-solving must be in the communities themselves. This philosophy may require a change of thinking for some individuals and communities. People can and must find themselves empowered to identify and address the concerns that they face as individuals, as families, and as communities.

Tools for Building Community

The County government could provide guidance for community members to develop partnerships among local government, business, and schools to support families of all kinds. Intergenerational interaction answers diverse needs while providing opportunities for building nurturing relationships in a community. For example, the proximity of Patuxent and Appeal

Schools, the Southern Community Center, and senior housing offers a unique opportunity to coordinate intergenerational activities and programs to the benefit of all parties involved in those institutions.

Communities can be encouraged to assess their own needs toward the end of devising community-specific ways of achieving solutions and building good community. The County could provide examples of assessment strategies for possible implementation at the local level. A "community report card" is a possible approach for community self-assessment. The report card would provide a baseline measure of attributes the community has identified as central to a good community. Specific strategies could be devised to enhance strengths and address problem areas. Improvement or decline could then be tracked using this approach. The Department of Planning and Zoning would assist communities in preparing their community report cards.

For building community and reaching commuters, the County could provide outreach communications. Calvert County already makes good use of cable broadcast, which should be continued and perhaps expanded to include more information. Another simple means would be posting major community events at the entry points into Calvert County. Agendas of commission hearings, meetings, and other events have been added to the Calvert County website. The County website can serve as a key point of entry for citizens to learn about Calvert County and to connect with County government.

Examples that work:

- The Calvert County Family Network (CCFN) is a broad-based community partnership. The CCFN begins from the understanding that community and family problems are most effectively addressed through a prevention model, ideally focusing on collaborative efforts to build and maintain strong communities that support families as they raise their children. The CCFN works to facilitate collaboration among many partners who work with children and families identified at risk, including the regular

collection of data that shows strengths and challenges in services. There are other groups that also focus on issues of interest for families and children, building on the collaboration model described above.

- The Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse (CAASA), and Neighborhood Watch, are programs that approach communities holistically. Communities typically call these groups in when communities identify a problem. The problem becomes the point of entry into a community-building process. The community members then must engage in the work to begin to define their own issues and direction.
- East John Youth Center, run by the Lusby United Methodist Charge, serves more than one hundred children daily through its summer programs and provides supervision and guidance after school for doing homework, talking, and sharing. The Center requires children it serves to participate in some kind of community service or educational activity.
- St. Leonard Polling House Park and Garden of Remembrance is the focal point of the town of St. Leonard. Citizens dedicated themselves to creating a place that ties past and future together in an ongoing celebration of heritage and community.
- Not to Strive, But to Excel is an exhibit funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The exhibit tells the history of African-American education in Southern Maryland from the Civil War to integration. In its first years of touring venues in Southern Maryland, it was introduced by retired teachers who served in the African-American schools before integration. The teachers enable students today to better visualize and make local connections to important lessons in history. The culminating exhibit will coincide with Calvert County's 350th anniversary in 2004.
- A number of annual events celebrate unique aspects of Calvert County life. For example, the Calvert County Fair has promoted the County's agricultural heritage for many years. The Calvert County Farm Tour furthers appreciation

of local agriculture. Children's Day at the Farm, sponsored by the Calvert County Commissioners and Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum allows children to learn about traditional farm life. Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD) celebrates the traditional livelihoods that depend on the river. Artsfest at Annmarie Garden provides an opportunity for people to meet and enjoy the work of artists, artisans, and performers in a unique cultural setting. African American Family Community Day is a lively and educational celebration of tradition, history, food, and arts held annually at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

- The North Beach Home and Garden Club's annual tour, the Calvert County Garden Club's tours, and ongoing volunteer beautification activities foster a sense of community and pride.
- The Department of Community Resources, in partnership with Calvert Memorial Hospital, is developing a comprehensive interagency community resource directory in a web-based format that will allow the information to be kept up to date.

These programs and projects involve partnerships among individuals, organizations, and private, as well as public, agencies. The issues they exist to address have been identified from within the communities they serve. They share the goal of positive, inclusive, strengthening of community.

Actions

- II-1 Consider increasing the use of schools as community centers; include multiple uses in designing new schools. [P&Z, BOE, CR]
- II-2 Encourage cultural celebrations at the neighborhood, community, and County level, particularly those that bring together diverse groups. [BOCC, ED]
- II-3 Continue to incorporate heritage and local history projects in the school curriculum, provide in-service instruction in local history and heritage for teachers. [BOE, P&Z, GS]

Actions Continued

- II-4 Sponsor school and community programs that promote civic responsibility and teach effective means for conflict resolution. [BOE, CR]
- II-5 Assist communities in writing and using community report cards. Hold a community workshop to devise a report card and test it, as a pilot project. [P&Z, CR]
- II-6 Encourage the use of volunteers to provide community programs and services that are not feasible for the County to provide. [All Departments]
- II-7 Develop community project and service awards and provide "seed money" for such projects. [CR]
- II-8 Encourage strategies to make it easier for communities to provide recreation and community facilities without an overwhelming insurance burden. [F&B, GS]
- II-9 Encourage employers to increase programs that allow parents more time with children, such as telecommuting, or job-sharing. [BOCC]
- II-10 Encourage family-oriented programs. [CR, BOE, GS]
- II-11 Advertise Calvert County's website to encourage people to use it to learn about County programs and services. [CR, TS]

Health & Social Services

Objectives

- Promote accessible and quality health and social services in the County.
- Promote wellness programs, such as fitness classes, nutrition, checkups, and education.
- Promote programs, services, and policies that nurture strong, healthy families and individuals.
- Provide effective intervention in cases of domestic abuse, violence, or illegal activities.
- Encourage community support of positive youth development activities that help prevent youth from engaging in high-risk behaviors.
- Promote strategies that encourage adults to model positive, healthy lifestyles.

Sustainability Issues

Sustainable communities are proactive in creating a healthy community environment and in dealing with health and social problems. Residents strive for physical fitness and personal growth, avoid illegal and habit-forming substances, and teach their young to do the same. Communities and county governments supplement care, when necessary, for their residents, guide and inform residents, and strive to make conditions conducive for building strong healthy families whose members respect the rights of others.

Health Trends

In 2001, the Calvert County Health Department commissioned a community health assessment. As part of this assessment, researchers compared the hospital's patient data with other Maryland hospitals. Calvert's cancer rate is slightly lower than the state's. Concerning the top 15 leading causes of death in Maryland, Calvert had a lower death rate than the state in all but four categories: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, accidents, nephritis and nephrosis (kidney ailments), and Alzheimer's disease. Motor vehicle fatalities were particularly high (20 deaths per 100,000 in Calvert compared to 12 deaths per 100,000 in Maryland)

In addition to statistical comparisons, the researchers conducted seven focus groups on a wide range of health issues, including access to health services, maternal and child health, staying healthy and quality of life, and populations at risk.

As a result of the analysis, the Calvert County Community Health Improvement Roundtable selected five priorities to address over the next five years:

- Adolescent Health including alcohol, tobacco, and drug usage; mental health, teen pregnancy, juvenile crime, and after-school programs
- Elderly Care and End-of-Life Services
- Health Information including education and access to emergency and acute advice; topics to be considered include tobacco usage, sexually transmitted diseases, and women's health
- Pediatric Dental Care including preventive care
- Recruitment and Retention of Primary Care Providers.

One national trend, which also applies to County residents, is the increasing percentage of working adults without health care benefits. Part-time, seasonal, and temporary employment traditionally does not provide health care coverage, and small businesses and self-employed workers struggle to afford the yearly increased cost of premiums.

Health care coverage has improved for children with the establishment of the Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program (MCHIPS), which enrolls children whose family's income is above the eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) (up to 300% above the state poverty level). Calvert County children from low-income families (MA eligible) are not able to access dental care, reflecting a statewide trend that has been driven by minimal MA reimbursement rates, lack of dentist participation in the MA program, and geographic distance from affordable clinics.

Public Health Services

The local Health Department is the public entity that is responsible for integrating, coordinating, and ensuring that all basic public health services are not only available but also effective in maintaining public health. These services include, but are not limited to, promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors, preventing epidemics and the spread of disease, ensuring the quality and accessibility of health services, protecting against environmental hazards, and preparing for and responding to terrorism and natural disasters.

The State of Maryland and Calvert County have both financially supported the local Health Department. It is in the interest of all levels of government that preventive care is available, that communicable diseases are stopped to the extent possible, and vendors prepare food safely.

Preventive Health Services

Preventive health services are those services delivered to individuals to promote optimum physical and mental well-being, including protection from the development of disease and ill health. The Health Department is responsible for preventive health

activities for a large segment of our population. Services are provided from its central offices located adjacent to the hospital in Prince Frederick. The hospital also conducts numerous wellness programs, such as nutrition counseling, fitness assessments, and health screening.

A Wellness Directory has been prepared which includes all services provided in the County. It is available at a number of community service locations. All residents should be aware of this directory.

Over the next 20 years, the fastest growing age group in the County is projected to be those over age 60. The Office on Aging offers fellowship, services, and programs for the elderly living throughout the County at the three senior centers. Services and programs include health screening, nutrition, counseling, classes, and physical fitness.

Most elderly would prefer to continue to live in their own homes, rather than in special elderly care facilities. Preventive care services can extend the time one can stay at home. Currently, the County provides some in-home assistance, meals, and transportation to services and programs.

Other options will be needed for many elderly who will not be able to stay in their homes or are in need of day care. In 2003, four senior assisted care homes were operating in the County, housing a total of eighteen residents. Currently, two adult day care programs are operating in the County to meet the growing needs of seniors and their families.

Diagnostic and Acute Treatment

The County's only hospital, Calvert Memorial Hospital, has 100 inpatient beds and 18 subacute beds on the Transitional Care Unit (TCU) on the 4th Floor. In 2002, the hospital was staffed by 111 active staff and 77 consulting staff. The hospital is located in Prince Frederick, as are most physicians' offices. However, since Calvert County is long and narrow, the distance to these facilities from certain areas of the County is more than 20 miles. In 1997, the hospital constructed a 25,000 sq. ft. satellite facility with physicians' offices, outpatient care, and a women's

wellness center in Dunkirk. The hospital opened a similar facility in Solomons in 1999 and a third facility in North Beach in 2002.

In 2003, the County was also served by three nursing homes - the Calvert County Nursing Center (149 beds) adjacent to the hospital, the Solomons Nursing Center (87 beds), and Asbury Solomons Health Care Center (42 beds).

Nursing home care is the most expensive form of long-term care, and many of the costs are paid for by the State. The State, therefore, regulates the number of beds that can be built by region as a form of cost containment. It is uncertain whether or not there will be an adequate supply of nursing home beds in the future.

Social Issues

Citizens have raised a number of social concerns including crime, lack of respect for self and for the rights of others, and disintegration of the family. In particular, both citizens and County agency representatives expressed concerns about County youth.

In its 2002 Fact Sheets, the Maryland Kids Count Partnership gave the County an overall 5th highest rating of 16 bench marks for the 23 counties (see Table II-A). However, two categories are cause for concern. Child death (ages 1-14) was the 18th in the State and juvenile violent crime arrest rate was the 14th in the State.

In all societies, most burglaries, robberies, and assaults are perpetrated by adolescents and young adults. Critical to crime rates are parenting and childcare philosophies. Child rearing is difficult in what is becoming a "normless society" where traditional standards of behavior are changing or disappearing. While parents are primarily responsible for their children, everyone's welfare is affected by the proper socialization of each child.

As Calvert County evolves from a traditional agrarian society with close-knit small communities to a more contemporary suburban community, community organizations become a vital forum for articulating community values and standards of behaviors. Schools, churches, service clubs, and community

groups are essential partners with local government to provide a positive, healthy environment for raising our young people and promote social order. Happiness and good health are rooted in communities which have a sense of security, a sense of well-being, mutual respect, and concern for our neighbors. A "sense of community" must be nurtured. Residents must be willing to talk, share concerns, assess needs, and work for the common good.

In a book entitled "What Works in Preventing Rural Violence: Strategies, Risk Factors, and Assessment Tools", published by the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, the authors, Monsey et al, recommend that communities periodically prepare community report cards on the health of their communities, and then seek to use the report cards as a basis to work for improvements. The report cards might include community crime statistics, recreation facility analyses, proximity to services, and existence of community groups and activities, along with specific methods of prevention, detection, and intervention concerning criminal activity.

- *Prevention*

In 2002, the average cost to incarcerate one person per year in the County detention facility was \$25,090. If prevention programs were effective, then they could be much less costly to society, as a whole, than incarceration, not even considering the human costs of broken families, broken dreams, and lost potential.

One of the greatest threats to society is alcohol and drug abuse. According to the 1994 report by the American Bar Association Special Committee on the Drug Crisis, illicit drugs and alcohol are implicated in at least 75% of the nation's homicides, suicides, assaults, rapes, and child molestations. Nearly 80% of those entering prison have a history of alcohol abuse and/or illicit drug use. The report estimated that for every dollar spent on prevention and treatment, \$11 could be saved in future health care costs alone.

In the school system, programs are needed that promote positive values, help identify methods of avoiding physical conflict, identify and report child abuse, and

Table II-A CALVERT COUNTY FACTSHEET Maryland's 2004 Kids Count									
FACTSHEET	THEN			NOW			TREND	RANK	
	NO.	RATE/ PERCENT	BASE YR.	NO.	RATE/ PERCENT	CURRENT YR.			
Babies Born Healthy									
Low Birth Weight (weighing less than 5.5 lbs.)	75	8.3%	(1995)	62	6.1%	(2002)	Better	1	
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	24	5.3	(1993-1997)	26	5.3	(1998-2002)	Same	4	
Early Prenatal Care	688	79.8%	(1990)	817	83.6%	(2002)	Better	18	
Healthy Children									
Binge Drinking		26.0%	(1992)		23.9%	(2002)	Better	14	
Child Death Rate (ages 1-14, per 100,000 children)	15	19.8	(1993-1997)	16	18.7	(1998-2002)	Better	9	
Injury Rate (ages 0-19, per 10,000 children)	51	25.3	(1995)	29	15.1	(2001)	Better	4	
Children Entering School Ready to Learn									
Kindergarten Readiness		63.0%	(2002-2003)		60.0%	(2003-2004)	Worse	11	
Children Successful in School									
3 rd Grade Reading*					60.6%	(2003)	N/A	2	
Violence-Related Suspension (per 1,000 students)	208	18.2	(1992-1993)	657	39.5	(2001-2002)	Worse	8	
Absence from School		9.1%	(1993)		6.3%	(2003)	Better	3	
Children Completing School									
On-Time Graduation		88.5%	(1995-1996)		87.8%	(2002-2003)	Worse	10	
High School Program Completion**		47.2%	(1991)		57.9%	(2003)	Better	7	
Children Safe in Their Families and Communities									
Teen Violent Death Rate (ages 15-19, per 100,000 teens)	12	56.4	(1993-1997)	8	24.0	(1998-2002)	Better	2	
Child Abuse and Neglect (per 1,000 children)	111	7.5	(1990)	69	3.1	(2002)	Lower	4	
Juvenile Non-Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	107	172.0	(1990)	197	186.2	(2001)	Worse	14	
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate (ages 10-17, per 10,000)	12	19.3	(1990)	48	45.4	(2001)	Worse	13	
Stable and Economically Independent Families									
Child Poverty	980	6.8%	(1989)	1,475	6.7%	(2000)	Same	4	
Child Support	1,111	51.0%	(1993)	2,245	93.7%	(2003)	Better	4	
Birth to Teens (ages 15-19, per 1,000 female teens)	85	40.9	(1995)	83	27.2	(2002)	Better	8	
*Percent of students scoring proficient on the Maryland School Assessment									
**Percent of students meeting minimal requirements for the University of Maryland System									
County Rank: 1=Best; 24=Worst									

empower young people to resist alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Churches are a source for teaching moral behavior, self-esteem, and proper social behavior. County and neighborhood recreation programs, arts programs, and service clubs provide useful outlets for youthful energies and for building self-esteem as do jobs for youth in the community, such as cutting grass, routine maintenance, and baby sitting. Young people and the entire community benefit if adults are proactive in providing constructive activities.

Parenting programs and discussion groups can be an effective way of helping parents to set boundaries for their children. Schools, churches, and businesses can provide classes, videos, or discussion sessions on parenting. At community meetings, parents can discuss suggested standards of behavior for children.

Many of the programs mentioned above are already in effect. Residents need to determine whether or not their communities provide these social, recreational, and educational outlets within reasonable proximity to their communities.

- *Detection*

Often the first signs of dysfunctional behavior (i.e., drug abuse or child abuse) show up during the school years. Counselors and specialists in the schools are needed to identify signs of dysfunctional behavior. Training programs and educational materials need to be available for parents to detect alcohol and drug abuse.

Dysfunctional behavior also shows up in communities. Neighborhood crime watch organizations can stop crime at its earliest stages. Community policing allows police to make routine contact with community groups. Obviously, government has a major role in detection of criminal dysfunctional behavior. However, community members are often the first to know that there is a problem and should be sure that authorities are notified. CAASA, the Sheriff's Office, the Health Department, and the school system were providing many of these types of training, education, and crime watch programs in 2003. Residents need to determine whether detection programs are in place in their communities.

- *Intervention*

When a problem is identified, specialists are needed for counseling, education, and supervision. County programs existing in 2003 included:

- Drunk Drivers Monitor Program
- Short-term in-patient facilities for psychiatric care
- Treatment Facility
- Crisis Intervention Center
- Substance Abuse Program
- Mental Health Clinic
- Foster Home Program
- Protective Services Program
- Adoption Program
- Jail Substance Abuse Program
- Project ECHO
- Safe Harbor Shelter
- Adolescent Psych Day Treatment Program
- Neighborhood Youth Panels
- SpotLight on Schools
- Family Coordination Center
- Department of Juvenile Services
- Tri-County Youth Services Bureau
- Boys and Girls Clubs.

During preparation of the Plan, concerns were raised that those in the criminal justice system can "fall through the cracks"—that recidivism occurs because individuals are not provided all the services available. Programs should be monitored to see if they are effective and efficient and that clients who need services are receiving the services. Standardization and computerization of forms used by the various social services agencies could help simplify the process. Where appropriate, information systems should be shared by agencies to help ensure that those who need services receive them.

In October 2002, the County's first predelinquency intervention center was funded. This center will be a key point of contact for families in the County.

Private nonprofit groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, have also played a significant intervention role and should be encouraged.

- *Elder Care and End-of-Life Services*

According to the 2001 Calvert County Community Health Assessment “Between now and 2020, Calvert County’s population of adults 60 years old and older is expected to grow from 9,377 to 26,616 for an increase of approximately 190 percent, making it the fastest growing senior population in the state... About 70 percent of this growth is projected to occur in the next decade.” Seniors have different interests, housing needs, and health care needs than young families with children. Calvert’s Senior Centers, Office on Aging Senior Services, public transportation, and health care facilities are very important for the quality of life of many seniors. The Health Department provides adult evaluation reviews, develops care plans, and coordinates services to the population considered at risk of institutionalization.

The need for high-quality end-of-life care in Calvert County is currently being well-addressed by Calvert Hospice, the County’s only licensed hospice agency. Hospice care is delivered in the residence of the person, whether that is a private home, assisted living, or long-term care facility. However, there is a segment of the Hospice-appropriate population for whom care at home is too demanding or problematic for the family and for whom institutional placement is either not possible or not desired. A Hospice residence would address that need.

Actions

- II-12 Support the Family Network in its work to coordinate services that target children, youth, and families. [CR]
- II-13 Encourage periodic monitoring of County health trends by health care providers and request that the providers develop recommendations to improve health. [CR]
- II-14 Maintain a central source of information concerning available health and social programs. Use public access TV to present wellness programs. [CR]
- II-15 Encourage or require health and social services providers to operate at times convenient to those who are unable to make appointments during normal operating hours. [CR]

Actions Continued

- II-16 Investigate the need for and economic feasibility of operating multi-agency additional facilities in community centers. [CR]
- II-17 Encourage affordable programs that allow the physically and mentally handicapped to stay in their homes and have adequate care and access to services and programs. [CR]
- II-18 Encourage a school health program that provides the services of therapists, nurses, counselors, and psychologists. [CR, BOE]
- II-19 Investigate the need for and ability to develop a standardized data form for clients. Where appropriate, protecting confidentiality, share data among the agencies. [CR]
- II-20 Encourage businesses to adopt pro-family policies, such as "flex time," and to incorporate parenting training during lunch breaks. [CR, ED]
- II-21 Encourage the development of supervised teen activities and/or special after-school programs in communities. [CR]
- II-22 Develop family resource centers, including classes, support groups, information, library, and reference hotline. [CR]
- II-23 Expand mental health programs for adolescents. [CR]
- II-24 Implement a plan to address smoking prevalence, illegal drug use, and chronic drinking of alcoholic beverages. [CR, CA]
- II-25 Encourage the establishment of additional or expanded assisted-living facilities and nursing homes and the related services to meet current and projected needs. [CR]
- II-26 Continue to evaluate the necessary support for senior citizens in their homes and evaluate the need to expand the senior centers to meet the anticipated increase in the number of elderly. [CR]
- II-27 Continue and expand the crisis intervention hotline. [CR]
- II-28 Consider the creation and use of a “211” telephone system to provide health and social services to County residents. [CR]
- II-29 Encourage the development of a Calvert Hospice residence. [CR]

Actions Continued

- II-30 Encourage the development of a long-term care and supportive services plan for Calvert County senior citizens. [CR]
- II-31 In collaboration with the Department of Social Services, support an Adult Protective Services Program to prevent elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. [CR]

Housing

Objectives:

- Encourage the availability of a variety of housing types to serve different age groups, family sizes, and incomes of Calvert County residents.
- Locate new housing in or near town centers, near services and recreational opportunities.
- Encourage a mix of family income ranges and a variety of housing types within new communities.
- Encourage the upgrading of substandard housing through public and private actions.

Sustainability Issues

Sustainable communities meet the needs of County residents in the following ways:

- *Housing is designed and oriented to promote safety, a "sense of community," energy efficiency, and easy access to jobs, services, and recreation.*
- *An adequate percentage of homes are affordable.*
- *Housing is located away from incompatible uses.*

Citizen Concerns About Housing

For many people, Calvert County represents the "American Dream" — home ownership in safe, attractive residential communities. Eighty-six percent of all occupied homes in 2000 were owned by the occupant, one of the highest percentages in the State. Over the last 25 years, Calvert County has witnessed rapid residential growth as families have been drawn to its rural character, good schools, low tax rates, and low crime rates. Most houses are relatively new, and the housing market is strong. However, during preparation of this Plan, citizens raised the following

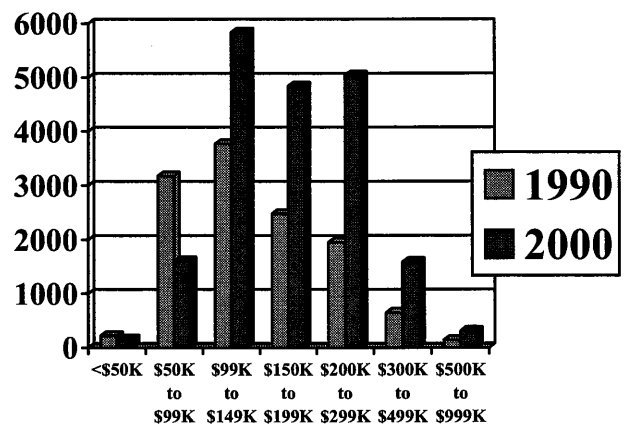
concerns about the current housing stock and development patterns:

- Most housing is out of reach for low-income families and for young people just out of school.
- Most of the new housing has been in old subdivisions recorded before zoning or on large lots in rural areas, despite the objectives of the 1983 Comprehensive Plan, which called for directing growth to town centers. Most of the old subdivisions have substandard roads and lack stormwater management facilities. Large-lot development consumes farmland and forestland, and negatively affects the rural character of the County.
- Most of the County's housing stock is not designed to allow older residents to remain in the home when no longer able to live independently or care for large homes and lots.

Housing Costs

The term, "Affordable Housing" has been defined as housing available for rent or purchase to low- or moderate-income families at up to 30% of their income.

Figure II-A Distribution of House Values



Low income is below 50% of the median income. Moderate income is between 50% and 80% of median income. Median income in Calvert County was approximately \$75,250 for a family of four in 2003. In the 1990s, the moderate-income housing market demand has been met by the private sector, largely due to the availability of inexpensive lots in older

subdivisions. That has dried up in the last few years, as property values have escalated.

The low-income housing market has not been fully met (see Figure II-A). New subdivisions tend to target families within a very narrow middle-to-upper-income range. In 2003, the average sale price for a home was \$262,736. Only 3% sold for less than \$100,000 and 20% were for less than \$160,000. Most homes sell for more than low-income families can afford to pay. One consequence is that some existing households are overcrowded, as families "double up" with relatives. The 2000 census reported 393 households with more than one person per room, which the census defines as overcrowded. The lack of low-income housing may also contribute to homelessness. In 2003, a total of 345 families received some type of County homeless service.

Variety of Housing Types

Calvert's housing stock typifies that of most rural counties in that nearly all of the housing is single-family-detached homes. In 2000, 88.7% of the housing was single-family-detached, 8.8% of the housing was single-family-attached (i.e., townhouse, duplex and triplex), or multifamily (apartment and condominium), and 2.5% was manufactured homes. After 1985, the types of housing in major town centers began to change with the provision of, or upgrading of, community sewer systems. Multifamily and townhouse projects have occurred in Solomons, Prince Frederick, Chesapeake Beach, and North Beach.

The majority of all new housing in the next 30 years will be single-family-detached. Of the remaining 8,400 units to be built in the County, based upon current zoning, only 2,000 to 4,000 are projected to be built in the town centers, where community water and sewer allow for attached dwellings and apartments.

County Development Patterns

The County's pattern of development has been characterized as "sprawl" in that the houses are scattered throughout the countryside. When houses are located away from services and public transportation, families are more automobile-dependent. Each worker in a family needs a vehicle. According to national

studies, the average family spends \$5,000 per year in automobile payments and operating and maintenance costs. Each \$1,000 that could be reduced from automobile expenses would cover the monthly payments on \$10,000 of a house loan. Proximity to jobs, services, and public transportation could reduce automotive costs.

The County's pattern of development also isolates residents from recreational opportunities. Public transportation is limited, and many young people are too far from conveniences to walk or bicycle. Most old roads have no shoulders and are not suited for bicycling.

Another common housing pattern in Calvert County is the separation of income classes. Nationwide, many experts have recommended that affordable housing be blended with a wide range of housing values, rather than concentrating low-income housing into "projects". Many of the older communities do have a mix of housing values. Most newer communities are for narrow-income ranges.

Housing for the Elderly

In 1990, the County's population over 60 years of age was 12% of the County total. By 2020, the population over age 60 is projected to comprise 21% of the total. According to a 1992 survey by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), 84% of the elderly would like to stay in their home and never move, and 80% would prefer living in a neighborhood with people of all ages. However, the nationwide pattern of sprawl development is not conducive for the aging to remain in the home. A majority of those surveyed expressed a need to live near a grocery store, a drug store, a doctor's office, and a hospital. Proximity to such services becomes even more important for those who are not able to drive. There are several options to accommodate the elderly:

- Construct senior housing complexes with services provided, such as Asbury Solomons Island.
- Build new low-maintenance housing close to services to house all age groups.
- Provide services to existing elderly housing located in scattered sites.
- Encourage community responsibility for its elderly population.

Since the adoption of the 1997 Plan, two new elderly housing projects have been added: Town Center Apartments in North Beach (49 units) and Chapline in Prince Frederick (60 units, with another 40 to be constructed).

Local Low-Income Housing Programs

Two organizations in the County have had a significant impact on creation of new affordable housing and renovation of existing housing: the Housing Authority and Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action, Inc. (SMTCCA). Both organizations make use of federal and state funding sources to build affordable housing. They have been supported by the Board of County Commissioners, which has contributed land on several occasions.

In the 1980s and 1990s, federal funding for housing was reduced significantly. Most state funding has been tied to local matching commitments. If affordable housing by nonprofit groups is to be a continued success, there will be need for local financial support and/or dedication of land. In 2000, the Board of County Commissioners created the Affordable Housing Loan Fund, which currently has \$1,424,529. A loan committee has been established to implement the fund. The money is to be loaned for the following purposes: Providing indoor plumbing, providing low-interest loans for families, and providing loans to affordable housing agencies for affordable housing projects.

Even prior to the creation of the loan fund, significant progress was made in renovating substandard housing. Both the Housing Authority and SMTCCA operate housing renovation programs. "Christmas in April" organizes volunteers to repair owner-occupied units for elderly or disadvantaged County residents. According to the 2000 census, 137 (0.5%) dwelling units lacked complete plumbing facilities, out of a total of 18,974 dwelling units, as compared to the 1970 census, which revealed that 1,486 (18.7%) of the housing units lacked complete plumbing facilities. With the Loan Fund, the County should have an effective tool for reducing the number even further and building new houses for County families needing public assistance to obtain housing.

Low-Income Housing Solutions

Most affordable housing solutions not involving heavy public subsidy are geared toward reducing or eliminating land costs. One method is to require a percentage of lots in a subdivision to be for low- and moderate-income families, which is known as "inclusionary zoning." Inclusionary zoning has worked well in Montgomery County, Maryland for moderate-income residents where the projects are on community water and sewer. Density bonuses allow the developer to charge only the cost of the unit (and not the land) to the new occupant. In Calvert County, only the major town centers are served by community water and sewer. Beyond the town centers, environmental constraints often prevent a developer from being eligible for higher density. The Affordable Housing Policy Committee has been looking into inclusionary zoning.

Another method of providing low-cost housing is accessory apartments on single-family lots. These units are affordable and often serve as "starter" homes for young people or as "granny flats" for parents. Ever since the Zoning Ordinance was amended in 1984 to allow accessory apartments, the County has seen them used extensively to provide housing for elderly parents. Young people, however, and/or low-income families have had difficulty making use of the technique, due, in part, to the type of loan programs available. Lending institutions require repayment of the loans for accessory apartments in ten years rather than the normal term of a loan for a house of 20 to 30 years. Short-term loans make monthly payments too high for low-income families.

A third method of providing low-cost housing is to amend zoning regulations to allow new types of housing in town centers on single-family lots. For example, the County allows up to four-unit apartment clusters, which have the appearance of a single home.

Finally, education in home finances can help many low-income families become eligible for a home. The Housing Authority, SMTCCA, the Cooperative Extension Service, and Department of Social Services offer personal finance classes to low-income families so they might be able to own or rent a house.

Actions

- II-32 Encourage the use of accessory apartments and encourage lenders to extend loan payment schedules. Also, facilitate the use of state loan programs for accessory apartments. [CR, P&Z]
- II-33 Facilitate the development of a variety of housing types in town centers by:
- Continuing to allow small clusters of multiple dwelling units (with the appearance of a single dwelling unit) in town centers in accordance with Master Plans,
 - Encouraging the development of low-maintenance, easy-access homes for the elderly so that they can remain in communities longer, if they so choose,
 - Encouraging the development of assisted living group homes for seniors,
 - Encouraging upper- and middle-income housing as an alternative to development in the countryside,
 - Encouraging apartments over businesses. [P&Z, CR]
- II-34 Maintain a public/private housing trust fund to be used for low-interest loans or grants for affordable housing. [CR]
- II-35 Provide needed infrastructure in town centers to provide opportunities for housing development in accordance with Master Plans. [F&B, PW]
- II-36 Encourage training seminars to show how to manage finances to own or rent housing. [CR]
- II-37 Encourage public-private partnerships and/or developer-nonprofit partnerships for the development of affordable housing, elderly housing, or upgrading of substandard housing. [CR]
- II-38 Consider the adoption of inclusionary zoning as a tool to provide affordable housing. [CR, P&Z]
- II-39 Consider legislative actions that will provide tax incentives for retirees to live in Calvert County. [F&B]
- II-40 Develop incentives for new senior housing to be constructed and require covenants to

Actions Continued

- ensure that such housing continues to be occupied by seniors. [P&Z]
- II-41 Promote age-restricted (senior or 55+) housing in Town Centers by reducing the full requirements of the school Adequate Public Facilities regulations, school excise taxes, and/or TDR purchases. [P&Z]
- II-42 Avoid concentrating subsidized housing. Rather, facilitate affordable housing in all areas. [CR, P&Z]

Human Development and Life-Long Learning

Objectives

- Conduct long-term planning for school facilities.
- Co-locate schools with other public services to provide efficient community facilities and services at appropriate locations.
- Consider accelerating land acquisition for school sites to secure preferred locations.
- Construct public school facilities to accommodate the County's population growth.
- Provide quality educational opportunities for County residents.
- Promote partnerships between schools, the business community, and local human service agencies.
- Support efforts to address the diverse learning needs of students in their local communities.
- Prepare students for jobs.
- Assist young adults in making the transition from graduation to the working world.
- Assist adults who are making career transitions.
- Enhance residents' access to library resources.
- Encourage literacy.
- Promote mutual respect and appreciation among all cultures.

Sustainability Issues

Sustainable communities meet the needs of County residents in the following ways:

- *Provide educational opportunities to citizens throughout their lives*

- *Encourage acceptance of diverse cultures*
- *Provide access to information so that citizens can make informed decisions.*

People have the capability and desire to learn new skills and to broaden their horizons throughout their lives. Education is a continual process; it does not cease upon graduating from the twelfth grade. Many older citizens desire to remain active by learning new skills and devoting time to community projects. Unlike years past, when people had single careers, today people have many different careers; thus, continuing education plays a greater role.

Youth Education

A primary goal of the Comprehensive Plan is to create a sense of community. Schools are important in creating a sense of community. Many activities, such as civic organization meetings and recreation classes, occur there. Schools are often the heart of a community.

The Board of Education (BOE) has adopted a vision for the success of the Calvert County Public School System as an overall policy encompassing people, systems, standards, practices, and outcomes to ensure success for every student. The Board of Education has the authority and responsibility for student education. The Calvert County Public Schools ranked second in Maryland on both the Maryland State Performance Assessment Program and California Test of Basic Skills results for school year 2001-2002. The County government funds approximately 61% of the BOE operating budget.

Technology

Technology is providing greater opportunities for students of all ages. Advances in audio, video, and computer technology have created distance learning. Unlike television courses in the past, distance learning allows students and teachers to interact miles apart through audio, video, and computer links. A greater variety of courses may be offered through distance learning. For instance, a teacher could conduct German classes for all four high schools while based at one. In addition to expanding course offerings, distance learning may reduce the amount of commuting to educational facilities outside the

County, such as the University of Maryland College Park. Modern, up-to-date computer labs are in operation in every public elementary, middle, and high school, as well as individual classrooms. More than 6,000 computers are currently in operation in the public schools (2002).

Enrollment

Calvert County's total student enrollment for private and public primary and secondary schools continues to increase. Student enrollment is shown in Table II-B. Between 1996 and 2001, the average annual increase for public and private enrollment was 3.6%. The percentage of average annual increase was 4.1% between 1984 and 1996. A growing number of families in the County are choosing to home-school their children. For the school year, 2002-2003, there were 457 students from 251 families being home-schooled. Parents are required to meet with the BOE staff twice a year to review the student's curriculum, textbooks, and progress.

Table II-B Public and Private Enrollment

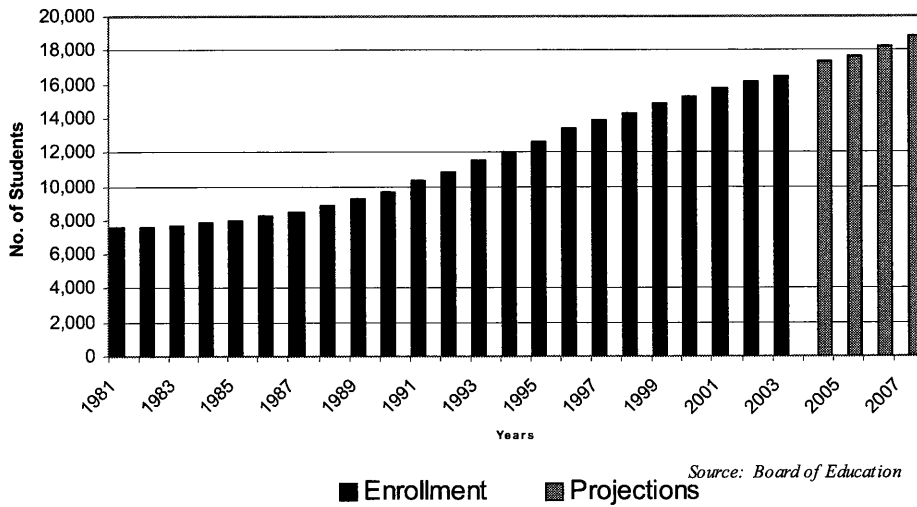
	1984	1996	2001
Public	7,916	13,367	16,292
Private	515	893	1,365
Total	8,431	14,260	17,657

In the near term, enrollment in public schools is expected to increase from 16,358 in Fall 2002 to 18,818 in Fall 2007 (see Figure II-B).

School Facilities

As of the fall of 2002, Calvert County had 22 public schools: 12 elementary schools, six middle schools, and four high schools. Huntingtown High School opened in the Fall of 2004 to serve students in the north-central area of the County. In addition, between 2003 and 2007, one new elementary school is to be constructed, Calvert Middle School is to be relocated and expanded, and the Calvert Career Center is to be renovated and expanded.

Figure II-B Public School Enrollments 1981 to 2003 and Projections to 2007



Although student enrollment is currently increasing, the future need for schools may not be as great, so school location and design become important considerations, should the schools be adapted to other uses. Some former schools have been converted to other uses.

Major portions of State and County funds are devoted to education. Local funding for public school projects consistently constitutes more than 50 percent of the County's overall capital budget. Over the next six years, 2004-2009, BOE projections for capital expenditures total more than \$108 million, reflecting both local and state contributions.

While the County's population is expected to consist of a greater percentage of people 60 years-and-over, the number of young people 19 years-and-under is expected to increase from 23,800 in 2000 to 25,835 in 2020, according to the Maryland Department of Planning (2002). To meet this demand, it will be necessary to construct six new schools (five elementary and one high school), assuming new schools have a 100% capacity of 675 elementary students, 810 middle school students, and 1,340 high school students (See Table II-C). However, a fifth

Table II-C Number of Schools Needed at Buildout

37,000 Dwelling Units 22,000 Students	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	Total Schools
New Schools Needed	5	0	1	6

high school may not be needed, if the County government reduces the number of dwelling units to 37,000 at buildout and pursues other strategies listed below. The student enrollment is projected to be 22,000 for a buildout of 37,000 dwelling units (Calvert County Planning & Zoning Department, 2001).

In the interim, it is projected that there will be 31,500 total dwelling units by 2010, resulting in an estimated student enrollment of 18,800. To accommodate these students, it will be necessary to

construct three new elementary schools at a cost of \$43.5 million of eligible new construction costs (in 2003 dollars). By 2020, it is projected there will be 35,800 dwelling units with an estimated student enrollment of 21,400. By 2020, six new schools (five elementary and possibly one high school), including the three needed by 2010, will be necessary to accommodate the projected number of students at a cost of \$112 million.

The County's share of new school construction includes 100% of land acquisition, architectural and engineering design, and equipment costs, and approximately 45% of eligible construction costs and 100% of ineligible construction costs. The State funds approximately 55% of eligible new construction costs. The County's projected share (in 2003 dollars) for the six additional schools that will be needed at buildout is \$50 million. This figure does not include land acquisition, design, or equipment costs. Excise taxes levied on new dwelling units will pay for some of the County's costs. This figure assumes that the State will continue funding 55% of eligible construction costs. If the State does not, then the County will have to contribute even more. These figures also assume that future schools will be

approximately the same size as existing schools.

Schools also need to be maintained and eventually

renovated. This is becoming a significant capital cost as schools continue to age. The BOE has proposed to completely renovate Calvert High School and Northern High School in the next few years.

One aspect of school facilities also relates to transportation. Students' cars require school parking spaces and add to the traffic. Limiting the number of students who drive to school would reduce the need for parking spaces and the amount of traffic.

The County government and the BOE must work together to provide quality educational opportunities in the most efficient, cost-effective way possible. All strategies should be considered in this endeavor. Calvert County schools have been known for their quality education. This quality should be maintained and improved; the education of our young people should remain a primary focus.

Strategies to reduce costs and provide quality education may include the following:

- Reconfiguring grades (for example, limiting senior high to grades 10, 11, and 12)
- Expanding vocational-technical training
- Expanding opportunities for senior high school students to enroll in college classes
- Requiring attendance three out of four quarters
- Building smaller neighborhood schools for younger students ("mini school" concept)
- Co-locating new schools with existing schools
- Providing early graduation opportunities
- Encouraging more active participation of high school students in the community college.

Strategies are being researched and will be publicly debated so as to forestall the need for a fifth high school. Providing quality education includes ensuring that students master the required skills and knowledge. Students should not be promoted to the next grade if they have not met these requisites.

Partnerships with the Business Community

Since 1986, the Economic and Community Development Institute, College of Southern Maryland has worked with hundreds of Southern Maryland clients to provide a broad spectrum of management and workforce training programs and

business development services. The Center for Corporate Training designs, develops, and implements performance improvement solutions for a variety of clients. The Small Business Development Center helps new firms develop a business plan, acquire capital or loans, obtain certification, and receive the necessary business education to start and run a successful small business. The Entrepreneur and Leadership Center operates and manages business incubators in Calvert and Charles Counties that guide business startups and early-stage firms into becoming sustainable companies. For 20 years, experts from the Maryland Center for Environmental Training (MCET) have partnered with the State's operators and other environmental professionals to improve compliance, optimize plant operations, and prevent pollution. Most recently, MCET developed and delivered health and safety programs through a partnership with the Maryland Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

Businesses are also assisting with the education of secondary public school students through service-learning. Schools are building partnerships with community-based organizations, neighborhood schools, and area businesses to facilitate their service-learning projects.

Literacy

Between 1980 and 2000, the percentage of Calvert County citizens who were high school graduates or had higher education increased from 67% to 87%. However, in 2000, 13% of persons 25 years-and-older did not have a high school diploma, including 3.1% who had less than a 9th grade education. While the education attainment of many County residents has increased, illiteracy is still a problem. The National Institute for Literacy estimated that 14% of Calvert County residents age 16 or over, function at the lowest literacy level, below fifth grade (1992 National Adult Literacy Survey data with the 1990 Census data).

According to the 2000 Census, there were 2,894 people in Calvert County who spoke English "less than very well".

In addition to the importance of literacy to individuals, it is also important to families. Children whose primary care giver is illiterate are twice as likely to be illiterate. All literacy programs are seeking ways to build a stronger learning environment at home in order to increase literacy of all age groups. The Calvert Library has increased Storytime offerings to children from birth to five. Evening Storytimes, Summer Reading Clubs, Family Book Discussions, and special workshops provide free opportunities for family enrichment.

Calvert County is addressing adult literacy problems in several ways. The Literacy Council was established in 1983 and provides one-on-one tutoring. Other opportunities to increase adult literacy and education are through programs provided by the BOE: Adult Basic Education, GED, External Diploma Program, and Even Start (a family-centered program). Most programs are free to participants. There is a fee for the External Diploma Program. The Head Start Program also offers opportunities to increase adult literacy and education. The Calvert Library has built a special collection that is helpful to many adult Calvert Countians who need to gain or improve their reading skills.

Children and Families

Calvert County's percentage of population under the age of 18 was 29.6% in the 2000 Census, higher than the state average of 25.6%. Calvert County ranked first in the State in the 2000 Census for the highest percentage of households with population under age 18 (2000 Census Data, provided by Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2003).

It is important for communities to create an atmosphere of support and opportunities for positive youth development. There is a growing understanding that school readiness requires increased family literacy and the support of collaborating community agencies. The Calvert County Interagency Council on Children and Families is an advocacy group whose mission is "to empower families to pursue continued learning, self-sufficiency, independence, and growing awareness of community services. This group also supports programs of adult literacy, parenting skills, and early

childhood education within the framework of community and interagency collaboration" (mission statement of the Interagency Council). The Interagency Council is comprised of approximately 70 member agencies and organizations that meet monthly for the purpose of networking and collaboration to ensure community awareness and access to services and to avoid duplication of services.

The League of Women Voters in September, 1996, issued the report, "Children at Risk: A Wake-Up Call for Calvert County!" The report set forth specific tasks that need to be done to address children's needs. One result was the creation of the Calvert Crusade of Children (CCC), a nonprofit group focused on "increasing volunteer and financial resources dedicated to programs for children and youth and on building community awareness of youth issues." The County Commissioners designated CCC to spearhead General Colin Powell's America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth, a national initiative calling for families and communities to come together to give all children the support they need to succeed. The County Commissioners also enabled CCC to develop www.calvertkids.net, an easy-to-use family guide to local events and information, through Calvert County Family Network (CCFN) funding.

The Board of County Commissioners established the CCFN, formerly called the Local Management Board, in 1997. The mission of the Network is to assess the quality, effectiveness, and availability of human services to children, youth, and families of Calvert County. The CCFN is focusing on three result areas: children enter school ready to learn, children safe in their families and communities, and communities that support family life. The CCFN supports local agencies that work with children and families through grants, data gathering, training, and stressing the need for collaboration and nonduplication of services.

Higher Education

College of Southern Maryland (CSM)

The College of Southern Maryland is a regionally accredited institution that delivers quality programs

and services to more than 60% of Southern Maryland residents who attend higher education institutions. An open-door, public institution, the CSM works closely with a diverse student population regardless of past academic performance. The CSM received state recognition in June 2003 for being the Maryland community college with the highest four-year graduation/transfer rate for the entering class of 1998, at 40.4%. CSM also ranks first in the State for its three-year graduation/transfer rate, and third in the State for two-year graduation/transfer rate.

The Prince Frederick Campus is located on Broomes Island Road, with a new campus under construction on 75 acres at Route 231 and Williams Road, one mile west of Prince Frederick. This new facility is designed for 1,500 students. It will have 17 classrooms and several specialized rooms for art, science, nursing, and computer science with state-of-the-art technology, as well as enhanced testing abilities and advisement, more learning resources, and larger student activity areas. Enrollment at the Prince Frederick Campus has been steadily growing, with 1,267 students enrolled at the campus for the fall of 2002.

The college offers 38 programs leading to a letter of recognition, 28 programs leading to a certificate, 19 programs leading to an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences, 21 programs leading to an Associate of Arts Degree, one program leading to an Associate of Arts Degree in Teaching (Elementary Education), and four programs leading to an Associate of Science Degree. Due to a continuing high demand for flexible programs, CSM has added 13 online programs, including five associate degrees, five certificates, and three letters of recognition. There are three Distance Learning Programs, which combine web-based courses with telecourses (taped), where students can earn credits for three degrees. Weekend College at the Waldorf Center for Higher Education provides an accelerated way for busy adults to complete associate's degrees by combining weekend and Web-based courses. Bachelor's degree partnerships, developed with University of Maryland University College (UMUC), Johns Hopkins University, Towson

University, University of Maryland School of Nursing, University of Baltimore, and Bowie State University allow students to earn their bachelor's degrees locally.

CSM also plays a major role with the business community through its Economic and Community Development Institute by providing the tools, programs, and networking opportunities to bring them to the next level. CSM's newest training center in Lexington Park signals CSM's continued commitment to deliver convenient, relevant training and resources to the business community. Training in Oracle, Access, Quickbooks, Management and Development courses, and many others are held throughout the year at this location.

Southern Maryland Higher Education Center

The Southern Maryland Higher Education Center (SMHEC) was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 1994 to serve the graduate education needs of the Southern Maryland professional workforce. The Center opened in the fall of 1995 and currently offers 52 master's degrees onsite by nine universities. Degree programs are offered in fields of engineering, education, management, information systems, social work, and nursing. Theology will be offered beginning in Fall 2004. Calvert County residents make up approximately 24% of the 2,200 students enrolled in the Center's courses.

Calvert County government should coordinate with the other Southern Maryland counties, the state government, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission to ensure the SMHEC has the resources to continue meeting the growing high-technology education needs of the region.

Libraries

Libraries also create a sense of community. The Calvert Library is a place where the public may kindle their imagination, locate information, and discover inspiration. The library provides services and materials for life-long learning. All ages are served, from the very youngest to the very oldest, in our community. Lives are enriched through story times, special events for children, teen events, and

programs for adults. Customers borrow materials for educational and entertainment purposes. Materials include books, audio books, videos, music CDs, and DVDs. Computers connect the public to databases and the Internet.

Children from birth through age five attend story times that stimulate the imagination with a variety of activities, including books, songs, and crafts. Children are introduced to stories, vocabulary, and the joy of reading. Story time is a positive step toward children’s entering school ready to learn. Older children attend special events to learn about different countries, build a gingerbread house, or celebrate Harry Potter. Teens gather at the library for special movie nights and game nights. Entertaining family programs are presented as part of the Performing Arts Series.

The County library system includes the main library in Prince Frederick, three branches, and an outreach service. Fairview Branch is located in Owings, Southern in Lusby, and Twin Beaches in Chesapeake Beach. The outreach service visits licensed day cares, institutions, and people who can’t get to the library. Currently, planning is underway for a new main library. It will relocate from its Duke Street location to a new facility in a commercial center at the intersection of MD 2/4 and Stoakley Road. Both Southern and Twin Beaches facilities are in the capital budget to be replaced.

Calvert Library shares a database of materials with Charles and St. Mary’s Counties. Items not available in Southern Maryland are available through interlibrary loan from other Maryland counties. The library catalog is available on the Internet. Customers may access catalog information, review their current borrowing record, place holds, and renew items from home or business. The library subscribes to databases that customers may use to find reliable information on many topics, including health, magazines, and literature. Trained information professionals are available in the library, by phone, or by internet, to link people to information resources.

Actions

- II-43 Use technology, such as web-based and telecourse distance learning, to improve educational opportunities and to support life-long learning. [BOE, CR, CSM]
- II-44 Continue involvement of County agencies in the early childhood and family development councils and organizations. [CR]
- II-45 Work with the business community and service providers to identify and to provide job training to meet local employment needs. [BOE, CR, ED, CSM]
- II-46 Continue offering adult computer literacy training courses in the County. [BOE, CR, GS, CSM]
- II-47 Analyze the need for additional or expanded community centers and activities for County residents of all ages. [P&Z, CR, GS]
- II-48 Locate schools, colleges, recreational, and cultural facilities within or adjacent to town centers. [P&Z, BOE]
- II-49 Identify and purchase school sites in order to secure preferred locations. [P&Z, BOE]
- II-50 Explore ways to reduce the need and the cost of constructing new schools. [P&Z, BOE]
- II-51 Locate and design schools to accommodate community needs and to maximize their flexibility for both education and future reuse. [BOE, P&Z, GS]
- II-52 Expand program offerings at the College of Southern Maryland. [CSM]
- II-53 Consider supporting the continued development and operation of the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center. [BOCC]
- II-54 Maintain library facilities and services to serve a growing population. [CR]
- II-55 Continue to maintain schools and renovate older ones as needed. [BOE, BOCC]

Recreation

Objectives

- Develop a network of recreational sites and facilities, including hiker/biker and horseback riding trails, based on the unique natural, cultural

- and historical features of the County.
- Provide public access to the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Ensure that a wide selection of public recreational facilities and programs are provided to meet the interests and needs of all ages, incomes, and abilities.
- Provide safe access to parks and recreational facilities including, where feasible, pedestrian and bicycle access.

Sustainability Issues

Sustainable communities recognize that access to public recreational open space and to a variety of recreational opportunities promotes physical and mental health as well as positive social interaction. To help ensure that these objectives are met, sustainable communities:

- Establish standards by which the adequacy of public recreation can be measured.
- Maintain an ongoing public participation procedure for identifying community recreational needs.
- Work to ensure that all members of the community and, to a lesser degree, visitors to the County have access to recreational resources.
- Develop partnerships between public, private, and nonprofit organizations to foster a wide range of recreational opportunities.

The Role of Recreation in Community Life

Recreation provides one of the major avenues by which residents can enjoy social interaction and begin to establish ties to the community. In this regard, the provision of adequate recreational space and facilities is not simply a matter of providing for leisure time activities, but an essential part of maintaining public health, safety, and welfare.

Commercial enterprises account for nearly 450 acres of recreational space including marinas in Solomons, Flag Harbor, Chesapeake Beach, and Broomes Island; the Calvert Cliffs Visitors' Center; and golf courses.

Nonprofit and quasi-public organizations provide hiking and cross-country skiing trails, two museums (Chesapeake Railroad Museum and Port Republic

School House), the East John Youth Center, one of the northernmost stands of Bald Cypress (adjacent to Battle Creek Nature Center), and the Fairgrounds. The American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) owns 814 acres and manages an additional 2171 acres within the Parkers Creek watershed, providing more than 15 miles of trails open to the public.

Public Recreation

Prior to 1970, there was virtually no public recreation in Calvert County. Nevertheless, residents enjoyed a wide range of recreational opportunities provided through informal networks of family and friends. Boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, and camping were readily available. In addition, many private landowners provided playing fields for team sports. Today, there is much less privately owned open space available. Many newer residents have no access to County natural areas other than public parks.

Some of the County's public parks provide opportunities to gain a greater understanding and appreciation for the County's historic ties to the water and land through programs and activities sponsored at these sites. Others focus on providing active recreation, including a variety of team sports. These sites play an important role in promoting public health and well-being and fostering strong ties to the community through sports, art, and social interaction.

Recreation Provided by the State - There are three major State-owned parks in the County: Calvert Cliffs State Park provides access to the 15 million year old Miocene fossil deposits, Jefferson Patterson Park focuses primarily on archaeological research and education, and King's Landing Park provides nature trails, an equestrian area, and access to the Patuxent River. Three boat ramps (Hallowing Point, Solomons, and Kellam's Marina) have also been provided by the State. In all, the State provided more than 3070 acres of recreational open space in the County in 2000.

Recreation Provided by the County - To help ensure a balanced mix of recreational opportunities, Calvert County provided recreational sites and facilities at the Countywide, community, neighborhood, and town center level.

Countywide parks include Annmarie Garden on St. John, donated to the County by Mr. and Mrs. Francis Koenig as a center for the arts, Battle Creek Nature Center which focuses on natural ecology, the Bennett O. Hughes Memorial Tree Farm, donated to the County by Mrs. Bennett O. Hughes as a forestry management area and hunting reserve, and the nationally-recognized Calvert Marine Museum. Flag Ponds Nature Park and Breezy Point Park both provide magnificent beaches along the Chesapeake Bay. Since 1997, the County has acquired the Biscoe Gray Reserve, a beautiful farm that will be open to the public for horseback riding, canoe/kayaking and hiking, and Chesapeake Hills Golf Course, a site that will not only provide recreation for County residents but also help attract businesses to the proposed business park in Lusby.

Community sites include the Dunkirk District Park, Hallowing Point Park, and Cove Point Park; school recreation areas; local ballfields including the St. Leonard Park donated by former County Commissioner Garner (Pete) Grover and Marley Run Park; the Calvert Library; several community centers including Calvert Pines Senior Citizen Center, Southern Community Center and the Northeast Community Center; and Hutchins Fishing Pond. In 2002, the County Parks & Recreation program developed a strategy to provide more ballfields through a combination of lease agreements, land acquisition, and development of existing school fields.

Neighborhood sites include Nan's Cove Pier, the Old Broome's Island School, and recreation areas within subdivisions.

Town center parks include the boardwalks and waterfront parks at North Beach, Chesapeake Beach, and Solomons; the boat ramp and fishing pier in Solomons, Boyd and Margaret Shields King Memorial Park located in Prince Frederick, donated by Mr. Boyd King; the Courthouse Green in Prince Frederick, the Dowell House in St. Leonard, and Linden, an in-town farm in Prince Frederick that will be used as a cultural center and headquarters for the Calvert County Historical Society.

Determining Future Recreational Acreage Needs

The State of Maryland has adopted a statewide goal of providing 80 acres of recreational open space for every 1000 citizens. Thirty of the 80 acres per 1000 are to be provided by counties. For the last 10 years, the County has adopted this standard as a measure of adequate recreational space. Table II-E on the next page shows the number of acres that need to be acquired by the County to meet the recommended standard.

Determining Future Facility Needs

A number of studies have been completed during the last several years that can be used to help identify future recreational needs. In addition, there are national and state standards that can be used as guides to future decision-making. These studies and standards are summarized in the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan, available at the Department of Planning and Zoning, and were used to develop the standards listed under "Actions" listed below.

Developing a Recreation Action Plan

The amount and variety of future recreational needs and demands require a comprehensive recreation strategy that brings existing and future recreational sites and facilities into an interconnected recreation network, capable of serving a full spectrum of ages, interests and abilities. This comprehensive approach helps to ensure that dollars are spent efficiently and that sites are utilized effectively. A recreation strategy enables the County to focus on creating a set of recreational amenities that not only service local recreation needs but contribute toward promoting a sound economy, as well. In particular, a good recreation strategy focuses toward those qualities that are unique to Calvert County - its waterways and shorelines, its farms and forests, and its people.

Action Plan

A major objective of the Action Plan is to establish a series of recreation and public open space sites, primarily along the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River, each designed to highlight a distinctive feature of Calvert County's history, culture, and geography.

Table II-D: Number of Acres in County-Provided Recreation

<i>TOTAL NUMBER OF ACRES IN PUBLIC RECREATION PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY AND MUNICIPALITIES AS OF 9/ 2002*</i>	
<i>Countywide Recreation</i>	1560
<i>Community Recreation</i>	498
<i>Town Center & Neighborhood</i>	48
TOTAL RECREATION PROVIDED BY COUNTY	2106

** Since 1997, the County has acquired or developed a total of 397 additional acres of land for public recreation (Biscoe Gray Reserve, Chesapeake Hills Golf Course, Annmarie Gardens addition, Hallowing Point Park addition (lease), New Fairgrounds (1-acre ballfield) and 7 acres of the Old Fairgrounds. Recreation areas in subdivisions, which used to be included in the acreage count, are no longer included because they are not open to the public.*

Table II-E Recreational Acreage Needs		<i>Number of Acres the County should be providing (according to recommended standard)</i>	<i>Number of Acres the County is currently providing (as of September, 2002)</i>	<i>Number of acres the County needs to acquire to meet recommended standard</i>
<i>Projected Population</i>				
2000	75,380 (census)			
2002	77,500	2325	2106	219
2010	86,600	2598	2106	492
2020	95,600	2868	2106	762

These primary sites are to be linked to town centers and to each other by a series of greenways. Types of greenways will vary widely. Some will be designated scenic roadways, with or without adjacent bikeways. Others will be off-road trails for horseback riding, bicycling, hiking, or a combination of two or more. Still others will be waterway corridors, providing opportunities for boating from one destination to another. Finally, there will be wildlife and scenic corridors.

The town centers are to serve as focal points for community-based recreation. Recreational sites and facilities will not only help shape and define the character of town centers, but they will also help attract new residents to towns instead of out into the countryside. They will also make recreation more accessible to more people, particularly young people and the elderly who may not have convenient access to cars. Because town centers are linked to Countywide parks by way of greenways, they will serve as "gateways" to County parks, providing a selection of supporting services.

Actions

- II-56 Update the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan as required by State law.
- II-57 Continue the established standard of providing 30 acres of recreational open space per 1000 population.
 - a. Give priority to preserving and acquiring key Countywide natural, cultural, and historic sites while they are still available. Land banking is highly encouraged for this purpose.

Standard: Sites should provide access to the water, provide part of a greenway trail system and/or provide access to a unique natural, historic, or cultural feature and be capable of connecting with a town center and/or existing or proposed park site by way of an existing or potential trail system. Priority should be given to sites specifically identified in the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. Additional and/or substitute projects should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the

Board of County Commissioners.

b. Develop a full range of recreational sites and facilities serving town centers (especially after-school programs). Emphasize family-oriented activities and increase programs and activities for all ages.

Standard: Each town center should be capable of serving as a major focal point and recreation center for residents of the town and their surrounding areas. Major town centers (Prince Frederick, North Beach, Chesapeake Beach, and Solomons) should serve residents within their districts, and in some cases, the entire County. Each town center should have:

- A town park or "village green"
- An in-town trail and bikeway system that connects to extended greenways
- An outdoor public facility designed primarily for active team sports
- An indoor community center capable of providing a range of activities for all age groups.

In addition, the County needs a total of three public outdoor swimming pools in or near our major town centers (to serve the northern, middle, and southern parts of the County) and one public indoor swimming pool in or near Prince Frederick. The Kings Landing pool will need to be replaced. The water park in Chesapeake Beach, while a very popular recreational amenity, should not count as one of the required swimming pools.

c. Connect Countywide parks to each other and to town centers by way of public greenways. Ensure that greenways do not go through private property without the express permission of the property owner.

Standard: Each town center should be connected to at least one key natural area/historic park by a trail system.

II-58 Continue to require onsite neighborhood recreational facilities in townhouse and multifamily developments and in single-family detached neighborhoods of 50 or more houses. Require recreation fees

Actions Continued

collected through the excise tax for all new houses, and use fees to provide recreational sites and facilities at convenient locations to those who paid the fees.

II-59 Expand recreational opportunities by establishing an intergovernmental review procedure for the design or renovation of all new public buildings including schools, colleges, and community centers to help promote effective and efficient multiple-use of these facilities.

II-60 Develop and maintain interjurisdictional partnerships to promote recreational networks. [F&B, ED, GS, P&Z (all of the above)]

Public Safety

Objectives

- Maintain the existing high level of service by providing essential equipment and professional training for emergency personnel.
- Ensure the coordination of efforts and services between state and local governments and between local government departments and divisions in developing effective public safety programs and strategies.
- Plan the expansion of public safety services and facilities to coincide with projected population growth and identified needs.
- Review and update public safety plans as needed.
- Promote public participation in and awareness of public safety plans and programs.

Sustainability Issues

Sustainable communities are based upon mutual trust; residents treat each other with honesty and respect and deal with conflicts reasonably and without violence. Law enforcement officials and emergency service providers maintain high standards of professional conduct and efficiency.

Law Enforcement

Police protection is provided by the Sheriff's Office and the Maryland State Police, both centrally located

in Prince Frederick. The municipalities of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach provide protection within their jurisdictions through contracts with the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office has four major divisions: Civil Process/Court Security; Patrol Division, Criminal Investigations, and Correctional Services (the Calvert County Detention Center).

The Detention Center/Treatment Facility is charged with maintaining custody and control of all inmates committed, whether sentenced or unsentenced. The original Detention Center opened in 1978 with a rated capacity of 92 inmates. Because of overcrowding, an addition was completed in January 1992, increasing the capacity to 172. By 2002, the facility had reached capacity. The alcohol/drug treatment facility was completed in January 1992 and has a rated capacity of 40. It is contracted out to a private enterprise.

The BOCC and the BOE jointly fund the Resident Trooper Program, which is a contract service with the Maryland State Police. The Resident Trooper is assigned to the BOE and the position's primary function is to work with the school system on a daily basis. The County also maintains a Community Service program, which provides a constructive alternative to incarceration and/or fines in appropriate situations.

Calvert County has the third lowest crime rate in the State. Law enforcement officials do not take credit for the low rate of crime; instead they credit a long-standing tradition of shared customs and values that places a premium on fostering honesty and trustworthiness among its citizens.

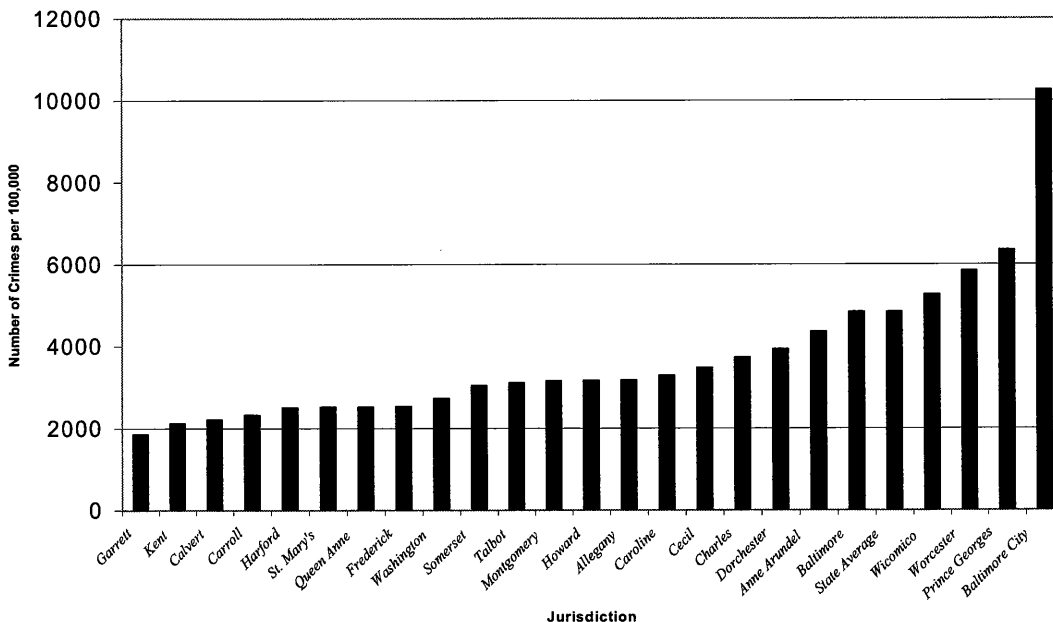
But law enforcement officials are in a position to see early warning signs that may represent the beginning of a breakdown in that tradition. While the values of honesty and trustworthiness still appear to be there, the ability and willingness on the part of parents to pass those values on to the next generation appear to be weakening. Law enforcement officials are observing that too many parents are failing to spend enough time with their children and are leaving them unsupervised too often. This problem has worsened since the last update of the Comprehensive Plan. Too many children are being left alone after school. Transportation for after school activities has been cut. Parents are often not aware of programs that are available to help with child-rearing issues.

Law enforcement officials are also finding that many people who move to Calvert County are not getting to know their new neighbors or the families of their children's friends and this situation continues to worsen. This lessens the ability of members of the community to work together to develop clear rules of

behavior for their children. It also lessens the sense of responsibility to one's community and one's family that is such an effective deterrent to crime. Many parents are also failing to teach their children appropriate ways of dealing with conflict and even simple good manners.

Most crimes (67%) are associated with alcohol and other drugs and law enforcement officials are seeing a substantial increase in drug and alcohol abuse.

Figure II-C Crime Rates in Maryland Jurisdictions



The number of DWI arrests has increased in recent years. This may be due to improved enforcement. However, there has been a substantial increase in drug and alcohol related crime, particularly domestic violence.

Finally, there has been a substantial increase in crimes committed by people who do not live in Calvert County, suggesting that it will not be enough to simply continue to move away from crime-ridden areas. The root causes of crime will need to be addressed at the State and national levels as well as locally.

Actions

- II-61 Focus primary attention on crime prevention. [PS]
- II-62 Ensure that adequate space is provided at the Detention Center. [PS, BOCC]
- II-63 Increase the use of cable television, community groups, schools, newspapers, and places of worship to inform citizens of the availability of community programs that can help provide after school supervision and/or social services. [CR]
- II-64 Encourage schools, churches, and other organizations to provide supervised after-school and summer programs for children. Alert parents to the need to provide supervision for their children. [CR]
- II-65 Encourage neighborhood crime prevention programs, including community policing. Include opportunities for parents to get to know each other and to discuss issues of common concern. [PS, CR]
- II-66 Support school efforts to provide direct assistance to high school students in acquiring job skills and employment. [BOE]
- II-67 Maintain a strong, ongoing drug and alcohol abuse prevention program; encourage the State to provide adequate drug treatment facilities and programs throughout the State. [CR]
- II-68 Improve the coordination of efforts and services at the state and local level. Many effective programs are already in place, but need coordination. [CR]

Actions Continued

- II-69 Promote flexible work schedules and coordination between work hours and school hours to help families take care of their children. [P, CR]

Animal Control

The Animal Control Division enforces the Animal Ordinance and leash laws where applicable. The Division helps to ensure the humane treatment of animals and protects the safety of citizens where animals are involved. In 1995, the division was staffed with three animal wardens.

The two biggest problems reported by the Animal Control Division in recent years are the high incidence of rabies in Calvert County and a substantial increase in the number of abandoned pets. There are also more conflicts between farmers and pet owners and between pets and wildlife. All of these factors indicate a need for more public education on the responsibilities of pet ownership in a rural community as well as the potential problems of encounters with wildlife. As the population continues to grow, the County will need to continue to monitor the need for an animal shelter in Calvert County.

Actions

- II-70 Provide for adequate animal shelter facilities as needed. [PS]
- II-71 Keep current the Calvert County Regulation of Dogs and Cats. [PS]
- II-72 Provide more public information on the problems associated with keeping pets in rural areas and how to deal with the high incidence of rabies. [PS]

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Division is responsible for developing and maintaining an ongoing program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery in the event of an extraordinary emergency including any manmade, natural, war time, terrorist, or technological disaster. Since 1997, an emergency telephone

automated system has been installed and is up and running. In addition, the nuclear power plant, formerly BG&E and now Constellation Nuclear, installed a completely new outdoor warning system as part of its relicensing agreement. The new system was placed in service December 1, 2003.

The division is responsible for the following emergency operating plans:

Emergency Operating Plan (EOP): This is a comprehensive plan covering the response to any emergency, major disaster, or enemy action that occurs in Calvert County. It is a directive to the County government to prepare for and execute emergency tasks to ensure maximum survival of the population and property in the event of an emergency or disaster. A chapter on terrorism was added to the plan.

Radiological Emergency Plan (REP): The purpose of this plan is to coordinate and implement an immediate, effective, and comprehensive County and State response to a radiological emergency at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant.

Cove Point Liquid Natural Gas Receiving Terminal Emergency Plan: This plan provides for the protection of plant personnel and the general public and for the prevention of property damages resulting from an incident at the terminal.

Cove Point-Loudoun Pipeline Emergency Plan: This plan provides information and guidance for operating personnel in preparing procedures in response to any pipeline emergency involving company facilities.

Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant Emergency Response Plan: This plan consists of an Emergency Response Plan and an offsite emergency plan to protect plant personnel and the general public in the event of accident at the plant.

All plans, except those that would affect the security of operations or facilities, are available for review in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of the Courthouse and the Calvert Library.

Actions

- II-73 Increase public awareness and knowledge of disasters affecting the County so that appropriate actions may be taken by citizens, businesses, and industry to reduce loss of life and property. [PS]
- II-74 Maintain an adequate Emergency Management office and Emergency Operations Center staff and resources. [PS]
- II-75 Maintain all disaster and emergency plans in a current status; implement new plans as needed to address safety hazards and population growth. [PS]

Fire-Rescue-EMS

The function of the Division of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is to reduce the loss of life and property in the event of an emergency. The immediate availability of these emergency services is vital to any community.

In 2002 there were fire-rescue-EMS stations located in Huntingtown, Dunkirk, North Beach, St. Leonard, Solomons (two), and Prince Frederick (two). The County also has an Advanced Life Support Unit and a Rescue Dive Team.

The number of calls for fire-rescue-EMS services increased from 5715 in 1993 to 16,223 in 2003. Greater public awareness and prevention programs helped decrease the number of fire-related calls while the number of calls for medical services increased, due largely to an increase in population. A new house-numbering ordinance was adopted in 2002, designed to help ensure that homeowners had their addresses displayed in front of their houses, making it easier for rescue personnel to find them. In addition, a "make the right call" program was implemented to help citizens know who to call in an emergency, thereby cutting down on the number of calls going to 911.

All of the fire-rescue-EMS services are staffed by volunteers - a fact that represents a major commitment to the community on the part of the volunteers and substantial savings to the taxpayer. As the population

continues to increase, however, the number of people willing or able to volunteer, or to remain volunteers for an extended period, continues to decrease.

The County Fire-Rescue-Emergency Medical Services Master Plan was updated in July 2000. The plan includes a) an annually updated inventory and evaluation of all existing equipment together with a maintenance and replacement program, b) an evaluation of the need for career personnel to augment the existing volunteer program, together with a program of recommended incentives to help strengthen the volunteer program and c) a statement of projected future need based upon population growth. In 2003, the Fire-Rescue-EMS Division added a Recruitment and Retention Specialist to their team.

Actions

- II-76 Continue to implement and review for adequacy the County Fire-Rescue-Emergency Medical Services Master Plan. [PS]
- II-77 Continue to monitor response times and periodically evaluate the need for additional stations and personnel. [PS]
- II-78 Support the goal of concentrating population in designated areas as a means of limiting the need for (and consequently the additional cost of) additional stations. [PS]

Control Center

The mission of the Calvert Control Center is to serve and protect the citizens of Calvert County, visitors to our County, and emergency responders. The Calvert Control Center provides high-quality, responsive technical support to the many radio, computer, and special electronic systems used by Calvert County government and its Public Safety agencies. The Control Center operates a state-of-the-art, combined Police, Fire and EMS, Emergency Communications Center, which serves to receive emergency calls to 911 and dispatch the appropriate response agencies to provide assistance. The center coordinates via radio communication, all law enforcement, fire, rescue, and emergency medical functions, from minor incidents up to and including disaster situations.

In 1987, the Control Center dispatched a total of 27,012 calls for service for police, fire, and EMS. By 2002, the Control Center dispatched in excess of 94,000 calls for service for these agencies - a phenomenal increase in 15 years.

Actions

- II-79 Continuously inventory and evaluate all existing radio equipment and analyze the need for additional equipment or enhancements to the system or its infrastructure. [PS]
- II-80 Continuously analyze the functionality of our computer-aided-dispatch system and software. Work toward enhancement or replacement of this system to reduce duplication of efforts throughout the Public Safety Department. [PS]
- II-81 Evaluate space needs for the expansion of operations, equipment, and employees. [PS]
- II-82 Continuously analyze the functionality of the 911 telephone equipment and infrastructure. [PS]

Traffic Safety

There has been an average of more than 1,000 reported traffic crashes per year between 2000 and 2002 in Calvert County. Of these, nearly 500 crashes per year involved injuries and nine involved fatalities, with an average of ten fatalities per year. The number of fatalities increased sharply in 2003, but overall, fatalities per capita have actually declined. This downward trend can be seen throughout Maryland and the United States and is generally attributed to a greater use of seatbelts, improved driver awareness and an overall lower rate of driving while intoxicated.

During the same 2000-2002 time frame, Calvert County typically averaged slightly more than 1.3% of the State's total vehicle miles traveled. Certain Calvert County crashes occurred more frequently than others, those crashes involved motorcyclists (1.7% total crashes, 1.7% injury crashes and 3.0% fatal crashes); young drivers (1.6% total crashes 1.9% injury crashes, and 2.2% fatal crashes) and impaired drivers (1.4% total crashes, 1.7% of injury crashes and 2.1% of fatal crashes).

Young people aged 16 to 20 years old were listed as the at-fault driver more often than any other age group (28% of all crashes) in the County; however this group accounts for only 8% (November '03) of the County's licensed drivers. The majority of at-fault intoxicated drivers were found in the 16 to 20 year age group as well (17%) with 35-39 year old drivers at 16.4%.

Traffic safety can be enhanced through roadway and community design, both of which are addressed more fully in the Transportation Section of this Plan. However, to help ensure that traffic safety issues and circumstances unique to or concentrated in a local area are addressed, the State Highway Administration has designated a Local Highway Safety Coordinator for each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. In Calvert County, the coordinator works with members of the Calvert County Traffic Safety Council to identify traffic safety issues and problems, develop appropriate countermeasures, and implement or advocate solutions.

As Calvert County's population steadily increases and the number of County-maintained roadways expand, grant funding for enforcement and education will continue. Another viable solution would be the development of a neighborhood traffic-calming program, with appropriate staffing. These programs have proven invaluable in many other jurisdictions in the Washington Metropolitan area and would allow law enforcement resources to be directed more appropriately than to radar enforcement on local roadways.

Actions

- II-83 Continue to support the Traffic Safety Council's educational programs through matching funds and in-kind contributions. [PW, PS]
- II-84 Consider developing a neighborhood traffic-calming program. [PS].
- II-85 Maintain adequate traffic patrol staffing. [PS]

Heritage

Objectives

- Exercise stewardship of our cultural, historical, and natural heritage resources.
- Celebrate heritage as a means of creating and nurturing a sense of local identity.
- Recognize the role that our geographical setting, the land and the water, has played in our heritage.
- Support initiatives that emphasize stewardship of the environment, protect open space, and provide public access to water.
- Support and encourage programs that focus on local history, cultural geography, and folklife.

Sustainability Issues

Sustainable communities value heritage as a primary means of developing and maintaining a sense of identity, a sense of place. Heritage can not be abstracted from its physical setting. Cultural heritage is more than the structures built by earlier generations. It is also the way of life—the craft, the traditions, the art, the music, and the stories of the people who have given Calvert County its identity and who have, in turn, been shaped by this place.

Sustainable communities will ensure that the past is not erased from the landscape, and will:

- *Identify, protect, and interpret the buildings, places, and archaeological sites that signify the heritage of the community.*
- *Document and conserve Calvert County ways of life, the memory of the people.*
- *Develop heritage resources as cultural capital to connect the past to the future.*

People have lived in Calvert County for thousands of years. All the activities that people have pursued to make a life here—hunting in the woods, trapping in the marshes, cultivating the land, fishing the waters—have left an imprint on the environment. These ways of life were shaped by the setting. The heritage of Calvert County is completely bound to its land and water. Farmsteads and communities developed in coherent relationship to the local resources on which they depended.

Archaeological remains tell of the earliest inhabitants, Native Americans, who trapped and fished, hunted and harvested here for more than 10,000 years before Europeans settled in Southern Maryland. Calvert County was founded in the 17th century. Early attempts to create towns in Calvert County were mostly unsuccessful, owing to the settlers' preference for more dispersed farms and their reliance on transportation by water.

These land use choices made centuries ago are still readable in the landscape where towns have developed relatively recently. Archaeological studies in Prince Frederick at Chapline Place have recovered the remains of an 18th century plantation. The report for the project is on the County web site. Our archaeological heritage is at risk from development. The County is studying ways to ensure that archaeological resources are considered Countywide before grading or construction begins on projects that might affect significant sites.

Cultural Landscapes

A sustainable commitment to a vision of Calvert County's past would recognize that the environment and the people are inseparable. Every County landscape is a cultural landscape.

1. Some of the roads we travel daily began as trails, connecting water to uplands, traversing the land from Indian village to village. Some roads mark the paths from barns to wharves where hogsheads of tobacco were loaded onto boats bound for faraway ports. Many roads are still called by the names of those who lived at the end of them: Hance, Scaggs, Christianna Parran. Some roads, such as Sawmill or John's Chapel, are witnesses to ways of life that have virtually vanished from the landscape.
2. Churches connect modern people to communities that defined social life in the past. Churches provided fellowship and mutual aid, and the network that eased migration after the Civil War, as well as providing education and other community benefits.
3. Barns, particularly tobacco barns, convey rural life in Calvert County in ways that few other objects can. The oldest barns tell their age by the number

of sheds that have been added around their central structures, and by the horizontal rived siding that is occasionally apparent in a gable end. The ways in which barns were constructed, and the materials from which they were built, offer an opportunity to look back, not only to crafts that are not practiced much anymore, but sometimes to species of wood that are no longer plentiful around us. Massive chestnut, and oak sills still ably support some of the barns that have stood since before the Civil War. Many are still used in agriculture; the many that are not are threatened by neglect and demolition. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has placed Southern Maryland Tobacco Barns on its list of most endangered historic resources in the country. The five counties in the region applied for the listing, which is expected to draw attention to barns. The counties anticipate generating sufficient interest to craft new and better strategies to assist farmers in maintaining and restoring tobacco barns, and to find new non-tobacco uses for them.

4. Boats, landings, lighthouses, shipyards and seafood packinghouses stitch the land to the water at numerous places along Calvert County's long shoreline. Sailing vessels and, later, steamboats were the principal historic means of transportation for people and products into and out of Calvert County. Tobacco was hauled by ox cart to the wharves to be loaded onto vessels that carried goods into the County. Many of the landings are known. Some are near public access points on the Patuxent, such as at Lower Marlboro, and on the Bay near Breezy Point. Many are in disrepair, such as the dock at Sollers Wharf. The possible remains of wharves on St. Leonard Creek were identified in a 1994 underwater archaeological reconnaissance survey. The Cove Point Lighthouse, icon of Calvert's maritime links, is protected by historic designations. In Solomons, the Lore Oyster House and the Drum Point Lighthouse are protected by Historic District designations. The 1899 bugeye, Wm. B. Tennison, still cruises Solomons Harbor from the Calvert Marine Museum. The Tennison is listed on the National

Register. These resources remind us of our continued dependence on the water that surrounds us. The public is able to visit, to learn from and to enjoy most of these places, not only because they have been restored, but also because they are in active museum interpretation programs. These buildings and boats communicate continuity with the past and enrich the experience Solomons offers to people in the present. Other communities in the County have maritime cultural resources that could be similarly protected and developed.

Barns, houses, landings, and other historic structures need not be mere reminders of the past, but could be adapted to new uses. Where they are situated in developable land, they might become centerpieces in open space. The interior spaces could be used for community activities, or even for storage.

There are some good examples of adaptive reuse in the County. The Visitors Center at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant has used one tobacco barn for interpretive exhibits, and has protected and preserved two others on the landscape. The Museum Services Center houses programs of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in the converted 1932 farm manager's complex. The buildings retain their original form and have been sensitively fitted for their new roles. The farm structures still offer a sense of rural life and inspire those who work in the high-tech facilities they house. The Old Field Inn, a Calvert County Historic District, and the Penwick House are historic homes that have been successfully adapted as businesses. Historic schools in Prince Frederick, Broome's Island, Island Creek, Fairview, and Randle Cliff now serve their communities in new roles.

Historic preservation has long been concerned with the finest examples of high-style architecture. Calvert County recognized in its earlier plan that, in addition to excellent examples of rare structures, such as Middleham Chapel, Cedar Hill, and Christ Church, it is also important to protect structures that represent the way most people lived. To that end, the County has designated the Polling House at St. Leonard and farmhouses, among others, as Historic Districts.

It is important to intensify the effort to identify and

protect such "vernacular" architecture and sites. More than 1300 County properties have been added to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. The County files on structures over fifty years old speak of a "typical Calvert County farmhouse". The "typical" farmhouse is becoming harder to find. Calvert County continues to lose its historic resources at an alarming rate. The County, through the Historic District Commission and the Historic Preservation Specialist program, seeks to ensure that all structures more than 50 years old are at least minimally documented before they are permitted to be torn down.

The Historic District Commission took the charge of the earlier Comprehensive Plan, and in 1995, authorized an historic context study, which has enabled the County to target threatened resources for proactive preservation. To date, 70 properties are designated Calvert County Historic Districts. Since 1997 the Historic District Commission has completed projects and publications on historic schools, public meeting places, steamboat wharves, and has continued to update the existing survey of historic sites and has collected numerous oral histories.

Historic buildings may serve as focal points for growing and developing communities. St. Leonard has used its polling house in this way. Every town center in the County has at least one historic site that could focus the development of a coherent visual identity and a useable connection to a real past.

Cultural Capital

To be effective stewards of our heritage, we must educate our citizens about the nature and value of our historic and natural resources in order that we may see opportunities in those resources, rather than see them as obstacles to development. Heritage resources can be thought of as "cultural capital". They can be developed as focal points for tourism promotion with a double benefit: the resources are conserved along with local identity, and they help the community generate needed income. The way that maritime history has been woven into Solomons as a tourist destination may serve as an example. Celebrating heritage is also an obvious means to develop regional heritage and tourism programs that will enrich Southern Maryland as a whole. Heritage can be an organizing principle for sustainability and can integrate

well with other initiatives and plans such as recreation, economic development, transportation, community interaction ...virtually all the sections of the present plan.

Heritage is not just the archaeology, buildings, and landscapes around us in which we can read our past. We recognize it also in the cultural activities that today create an inheritable resource, shaping us and our future—in the arts, in teaching traditional skills, and in our relationship to the land. We may encourage that recognition by promoting the human stories associated with our heritage themes through the development and support of attempts to document local cultural heritage—through oral history projects and interpretive exhibits. The act of documentation, alone, is insufficient. The wealth of information recovered from such projects must be available to the public. The 350th anniversary in 2004 of the founding of Calvert County provides an excellent opportunity to both document our cultural heritage and make it available to the public.

Calvert County has committed to maintaining archives to safely store the product of those projects. Calvert Marine Museum possesses a Folklife Archive, begun by Paula Johnson in the early 1980s for recording the experiences of people working in the water trades on the Patuxent. Oral histories and photographs documenting Calvert County tobacco culture, African-American education, the Cypress Swamp history project, the steamboat wharf study, and other projects have been added to it. Oral histories generated by Historic District Commission projects are added as the projects are completed. Copies of the material are also shared with the new archive at the Calvert County Historical Society at Linden. The Calvert County Heritage Committee has produced a Guide to Record Collections in Calvert County which is also available online. It is important to support efforts to make the information in the archives accessible through indexing projects, computerized inventory, and linked databases so that the information collected through these various cultural documentation projects is a useable resource.

The visual and performing arts are significant ways to recreate cultural heritage in each generation. Communities committed to conserving heritage will attend to the arts practiced in the present. That may be

accomplished by supporting programs in schools, by encouraging and supporting arts organizations, and by providing venues for arts performance and exhibit that no local, independent body is able to provide on its own. Some communities have addressed this issue by establishing cultural arts centers in public facilities—for example, an arts/performance and administrative center housed on a community college campus.

While others are invited to visit and celebrate Calvert heritage, the object of heritage—its substance and form—must be identified from within the community itself. The objective is to build community and deepen the sense of place. This makes the experience of life in Calvert distinctive. Thoughtful conservation and celebration of our heritage resources will allow us to maintain a sense of the uniqueness of Calvert County, and to sustain the identity of this special place where past and present, land and water are woven together.

Actions

- II-86 Promote the documentation and celebration of Calvert County’s heritage. [P&Z, ED, BOE, GS]
- II-87 Explore methods to ensure identification of cultural resources on a site before development, and to ensure that new construction is compatible with neighboring historic areas. [P&Z]
- II-88 Ensure adequate support of programs for the documentation of threatened sites and structures and for the publicizing of strategies and incentives that would encourage preservation of threatened resources. [P&Z]
- II-89 Provide archaeological assessment to indicate potential for archaeological sites, for all development projects of more than five lots. Where important archaeological sites may be affected, require professional investigation to determine site limits, integrity, and significance. [P&Z]
- II-90 Encourage the development of a community volunteer program to repair old buildings, including barns. [P&Z]
- II-91 Continue the annual Historic Preservation Awards program. [P&Z]

Actions Continued

- II-92 Promote adaptive reuse of historic structures and landscapes. [P&Z, ED]
- II-93 Establish an inventory of historic and/or scenic roads and plan for their protection. [P&Z, BOCC]
- II-94 Continue preservation of sites and structures through the designation of Historic Districts; encourage the designation of multiproperty districts. [P&Z, BOCC]
- II-95 Work with agricultural, environmental, and land trust organizations to promote consideration of historical and archaeological resources in open space, or protection through easements or other preservation strategies. [P&Z]
- II-96 Support the Folklife Archive at Calvert Marine Museum as a central repository for local cultural documentation projects; initiate an effort to make the information in the archive accessible through indexing projects, computerized inventory, and linked databases. [GS, P&Z, BOE]
- II-97 Encourage programs that ensure the survival of traditional skills - such as teaching young people about the water trades and agriculture. [GS, BOE]
- II-98 Develop a logo and promotional literature for directing visitors to cultural heritage sites. [P&Z, ED]
- II-99 Encourage the continuity of local place names in new development. [P&Z, ED]
- II-100 Consider creating a cultural arts center in a centrally located public facility. [ED, GS]
- II-101 Affirm the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Management Plan as a strategy to implement heritage education, interpretation, preservation, and promotion goals of the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. [BOCC, ED]
- II-102 Promote protection of tobacco barns and consider alternative uses that would encourage owners to maintain and restore them. [P&Z]