

**TOP STORY** (Continued from Page 1)

to, aviation, pharmaceutical, food, biotechnology, and aerospace/defense. Cassidy Turley was approved by the Dorchester County Council as the commercial real estate broker for the Technology Park. As the project's exclusive broker, Cassidy Turley is currently marketing the build-to-suit sites.

Construction of Innovation Crossroads, the Eastern Shore's first, full-service business incubator, will begin soon. The technology incubator will strengthen Dorchester County's economy by creating the infrastructure, environment, and network to help entrepreneurs and small business owners start or expand their businesses. Innovation Crossroads is the planned anchor tenant of the newly-constructed Dorchester Regional Technology Park. Willow Construction was selected as the construction firm, with Crosby and Associates serving as the architectural firm. The project is due to be completed in 2015.

To learn more about the Dorchester County Economic Development Office, please visit [www.ChooseDorchester.org](http://www.ChooseDorchester.org), subscribe to the Currents newsletter, or follow them on Twitter and Facebook.

Dorchester County Economic Development

Annual Report  
FY 2014

**DORCHESTER**  
water moves us  
MARYLAND

Water. It's our identity. Our heritage. Our opportunity.

## NOMINATIONS NEEDED!

### 2014 Annual Dorchester County Small Business Awards Program Call for Nominations

**Nomination Details:**

- **Nominations Close November 28, 2014**
- Dorchester County Businesses Only
- Winners Announced at Program Dinner
- Online Form Completion and Submission
- Nominate Businesses on:
  - Customer Service
  - Employee Appreciation
  - Community Service

**Nomination Categories:**

- Most Innovative Business Concept «
- 1—25 Employees «
- 26—50 Employees «
- New Business: 5 Years or Less «
- Legacy: 20+ Years «
- Nonprofit «

**Event Details:**

- Monday, December 8, 2014 «
- 5:30 PM—7:30 PM «
- \$37 Per Person Until December 3 «
- Dorchester Center For the Arts «
- 321 High St, Cambridge, MD 21613 «
- Catered by The High Spot «

Complete Online Ballots or Purchase Dinner Tickets at  
[www.ChooseDorchester.org](http://www.ChooseDorchester.org)

For Questions, Contact  
Dorchester County Economic Development  
(410) 228-0155 ~ [info@ChooseDorchester.org](mailto:info@ChooseDorchester.org)

# DORCHESTER Currents

A monthly publication of Dorchester County Maryland

**TOP STORY**

**NOVEMBER 2014**

## County Economic Development Presents Annual Report

Dorchester County Economic Development (DCED) completed its Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report and presented it to the Dorchester County Council, and the public, on October 21, 2014. The presentation highlighted achievements and initiatives throughout the fiscal year.

Keasha Haythe, director of DCED, presented the annual report and shared a new marketing video. Accessible on YouTube, the video features Dorchester County businesses speaking about their successes and the business resources the county offers.

Highlights from the annual report included the Economic Development Office working with businesses to secure \$235,000 from the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center Revolving Loan Fund. Twenty-three business visits and tours of the county were conducted. Eighty-five jobs were created through expansions, and more than 800 jobs remained through retention efforts. Over 200 companies were contacted for attraction and expansion.

Goals and priorities for DCED include business development, expansion, and retention initiatives. DCED plans to diversify the county by attracting industry sectors that are not currently in Dorchester County. Another priority includes partnering with educators to develop programs

that prepare students to be viable contributors to the workforce and enhance programs in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

The Dorchester Regional Technology Park remains a business development priority. The Technology Park is a full utility park that includes water, sewer, and fiber connections for tenants. Strategically located directly across from the Cambridge-Dorchester Regional Airport, the park features 4- to 5-acre shovel-ready lots. The Technology Park has been marketed to several industry sectors through hundreds of emails and the mailing of strategic informational packets to more than ten serious prospects. Industry sectors include, but are not limited

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## FEATURED EVENT Honoring Dorchester County Businesses

Dorchester County Economic Development (DCED) held a business appreciation event to honor businesses and business owners in Dorchester County during Economic Development Week. Economic Development Week was celebrated state wide during

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the week of October 27–31, 2014. DCED chose to celebrate by thanking local businesses for their hard work and commitment to the county.

The celebratory event began with hors d'oeuvres and networking and followed by remarks given by elected officials and Dorchester County Economic Development. Attendees were given a gift bag that included a glass, coaster, pen, and chocolates with the “water moves us” logo. The DCED Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report, Choose Dorchester: A County on the Move magazine, and “water moves us” stickers were also available for guests.

Keasha Haythe, director of Dorchester County Economic Development, awarded owners John and Laura Sydnor of Snappers Waterfront Café a



Certificate of Appreciation for their participation in the event.

To learn more about business opportunities Dorchester County has to offer, please visit [www.ChooseDorchester.org](http://www.ChooseDorchester.org) or call 410.228.0155.



**SMALL BUSINESS**  
**More Than a Furniture Store**

Liv Again, a furniture consignment store and art gallery, opened its doors in downtown Cambridge last summer. Since then, Liv Again has hosted several events supporting the arts by bringing authors, musicians, artists, and much more at their High Street location.

Focusing on re-purposed and up-cycled designs, Liv Again carries brand names, fair trade items, and home décor. Liv Again features an open-space

art gallery on the second floor with pieces by original artists.

Most recently, a sketch artist was on-hand during Second Saturday to draw portraits. Liv Again also hosted a celebratory surprise-wedding proposal on the second floor. Liv Again has opened its doors to the community for a cultural experience that includes much more than a furniture store.

To learn more about Liv Again, please visit [www.livagain.net](http://www.livagain.net) or call 443.515.0063.

**MANUFACTURING**  
**Old Values & New Technology**

Amick Farms is a fully integrated processor of chicken products located in Hurlock offering a diverse line of frozen and fresh chicken products. Amick operates facilities in Maryland, Delaware and South Carolina, where the business is headquartered. From its humble beginnings in 1941, Amick has incorporated old values and new technology to create a business based on service, integrity and quality.

In an act to support a \$150,000 loan secured through the Department of Business and Economic Development from the Maryland Economic Development Authority and Fund (MEDAAF), the Dorchester County Council granted Amick farms a \$15,000 real property



tax credit on their recent expansion. The expansion will result in a capital investment of \$13.5 million and 50 jobs.

The Eastern Shore supports a large agricultural and poultry industry. Amick employs approximately 800 people in their Hurlock facilities. Their poultry products are sold across the United States and worldwide.

To learn more about Amick Farms, please visit their website [www.amickfarms.com](http://www.amickfarms.com).

**SMALL BUSINESS**  
**Local Business Wins 2014 Top 100 MBE Award**

The Robertson Group, Inc. (RGP) is a firm focusing on administrative, logistics, and management services. Recently, RGP expanded to Dorchester County where President Nicole Robertson-Van Schaik plans to continue to grow her business. RGP has over 24 combined years of experience in multi-disciplined fields and stays current with leading trends in the field. Operating out of their Cambridge office, RGP assists federal, state and local govern-

ment clients with professional service contracts.

Most recently Robertson-Van Schaik was a recipient of the 2014 Top 100 Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Award. “This award is a true testament of my personal commitment and also the Robertson Group’s commitment to provide quality services while continuing to pave the way for the upcoming generation of women in business,” said Robertson-Van Schaik. The Top 100 MBE Award program is the mid-Atlantic’s only regional award program that honors outstanding women and minority business owners in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. Robertson-Van Schaik further stated, “To be placed in the category of Top 100 MBE’s for such a prestigious award is an incredible honor.”

RGP was recognized at a ceremony held in Baltimore during the Minority Enterprise Development Week on October 23, 2014. The ceremony’s sponsors included the Mayor’s Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development; Cover Girl; M&T Bank; Southwest Airlines; State Farm; Whiting-Turner, and many more. This esteemed nomination and award comes at a time of development and transformation for the business.

RGP is woman owned, MDOT certified MBE/DBE/SBE, and certified in Delaware’s Office of Supplier Diversity, the Small Business Focus Program, and the

Department of General Services Small Business Reserve. RGP also received their Small, Women-owned, and Minority-owned Business (SWaM) certification in Virginia.

Dorchester County Economic Development is pleased to welcome RGP to the local business community. Keasha Haythe, director of Dorchester County Economic Development, said, “We are excited to have the Robertson Group in Dorchester County and hope to see synergy between other complimentary businesses in the area.”

To learn more about the Robertson Group, please visit their website [www.rgp-inc.com](http://www.rgp-inc.com) or call 301.296.4236.

