

(Continued from page 2)

commitment to their customers and their business since 1970.

The Bay Country Shop features exquisite Eastern Shore finds and unique coastal treasures. Connie Tubman, her daughter Wendy Collins, and her

sister Marilyn Varner operate the family business together. Owner Connie Tubman said, "We are a family that enjoys working together and are still having fun after all of these years. We have always tried to incorporate quality merchandise with kindness and personal attention to our customers."

Always hunting for the latest look, Connie travels extensively to bring cutting-edge fashion back to Dorchester County. Local artwork, books and gifts, and a large selection of your favorite clothing and accessory lines are always available and ever changing at the Bay Country Shop.

~ MARK YOUR CALENDAR ~

April 26–28, 2015: MEDA Annual Conference
Maryland Economic Development (MEDA)
www.medamd.com

August 12-15, 2015: MACo Summer Conference
Maryland Association of Counties (MACo)
www.mdcounties.org

www.ChooseDorchester.org

Currents is the monthly newsletter of the Dorchester County Economic Development Department. For information or suggestions, contact info@ChooseDorchester.org or call 410-228-0155.

TOP STORY

FEBRUARY 2015

New Grocery Store Open for Business

Cambridge's newest grocery store opened for business on February 12, 2015. Carrying over 80 exclusive brands, Save-A-Lot focuses on price, convenience and quality. There are more than 1,300 stores serviced by 16 distribution centers nationwide, making it the fifth largest grocery chain in the United States.

Offering a 40 percent savings over conventional grocery stores, the national chain is dedicated to its customers and their communities. Save-A-Lot is

generally smaller in size than most other grocery stores making it easier and more convenient to shop. Their vision is to help their customers live richer, fuller lives by saving them money and time through a compelling, convenient shopping experience every day by featuring great food and great prices from great people.

With an emphasis on affordable, healthier eating for communities, Save-A-Lot

offers website downloads that include "Finding a Heart Healthy Balance in Food Deserts" and "A Parent's Guide to Healthier Eating for Kids." You can also find recipes, ads and promotions on their website.

Please visit their website at save-a-lot.com to learn more or to become a member of their free Shop Smarter Club for exclusive savings, ability to create shopping lists, and to share recipes.



FEATURED STORY

All-Time High in State's Four-Year Graduation Rate

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) announced an all-time high in the state's four-year cohort graduation rate – 86.39%. We are very pleased to announce that

(Continued on Page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)



the 2014 Dorchester County Public Schools' (DCPS) four-year cohort high school graduation rate rose by 4.09 percentage points to a rate of 87.90 percent – or 1.51% above the state average.

Dr. Henry V. Wagner, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Dorchester County Public Schools, said, "These gains in this most critical data point may be attributed to the collective efforts of our students, staff, parents, and community partners over a period of many years and throughout all levels (elementary, middle, and high) of our educational program. Task forces at all three levels, as well as for minority achievement, have been focusing on the graduation rate as a priority data point."

Dr. Wagner also noted that the gains reflect dedicated programs and grant acquisitions realized over the past five years through the leadership of Dr. James Bell and the Office of Student Services as well as a community-wide team effort.

DCPS will not be satisfied until the graduation rate is 100%; nevertheless, they celebrate the following four-year cohort graduation rate trends since 2010: 2010 – 77.84%, 2011 – 78.53%, 2012 – 79.20%, 2013 – 83.81%, and 2014 – 87.90%.

This remarkable trend data was highlighted by MSDE at a meeting of the Maryland State Board. To learn more about Dorchester County Public Schools, please visit www.dcps.k12.md.us/.

SMALL BUSINESS
Family Thrift Store
Opens Opportunities

Learning to "Live Life Well" is their motto and changing lives is their goal. Anchor Point, Inc. is dedicated to character building in the lives of young people and adults through workforce de-

velopment and vocational training. Anchor Point provides opportunities for mentoring, retreats for men and women in recovery, and, at the same time, shows a new world of possibilities for living life well.

Alan McRae, executive director of Anchor Point, believes we can see a positive change in the world as we do the hard work of opening our lives to one another, valuing each other, and living in community with one another.

The family thrift store recently opened at their new location on 714 Meadow Avenue in Cambridge.



shopping as well as a shared conference room for community use for a minimal fee. Anchor Point's family thrift store offers clothing, furniture, and other household items. Donations are accepted Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., or call them to arrange for a pick up.

Currently, Anchor Point is exploring collaborative partnerships with Chesapeake College, Dorchester County Department of Social Services, and Dri-Dock. Program volunteers working at the store gain valuable job skills with the goal of finding full-time employment. Community volunteers can offer their valuable life and work experiences to the participants. Anchor Point is also a Maryland Food Bank Agency and is working on hunger initiatives in Cambridge.

Volunteer opportunities are open to anyone wishing to gain or share job skills. Community service hours for high school students can also be earned. To learn more about Anchor Point, please visit their website at www.anchorpointmd.org or call 410-330-0210.



SMALL BUSINESS
Dorchester Welcomes
New Business

It has been four months since new business Complementary and Alternative Medicine Formulas (CAMFormulas) moved into their space on Woods Road. The company is an online retailer of high-quality, healthcare practitioner grade products. CAM-Formulas carries over 150 popular brands and over 9,000 individual products of vitamins, dietary supplements, cosmetics, skin care, health and other nutritional products.

Owner Josh Harwell said, "It is our goal at CAMFormulas to provide our customers with the best selection of high-quality vitamins and nutritional supplements to achieve optimal health and promote overall wellness." Harwell employs five people at his Dorchester County location.

Shipping domestically and internationally, CAM-Formulas is ideally located in Dorchester County. Harwell states, "Dorchester County provides CAM-Formulas with a competitive advantage because of the county's proximity to many major metropolitan areas on the East Coast, high-quality talent pool, and low cost of doing business."

To find out more about CAMformulas or to place an online order, please visit www.camformulas.com or contact their customer service department at 1-800-287-1181. "Like" their Facebook page and stay informed with health news and suggestions.

FEATURED EVENT
Celebrating 45 Years
in Business

Let the celebration begin! Customers are invited to join a celebration of 45 years in business on February 25, 2015, from 2 – 5 p.m. Enjoy cake and receive a celebration surprise! The Bay Country Shop's monumental longevity illustrates the family's