

DORCHESTER Currents

A monthly publication of Dorchester County Maryland

TOP STORY

DECEMBER 2017

Message from the Director— 2017 Review

The Dorchester County Economic Development office has had a big year. Several businesses have celebrated monumental anniversaries – including Craig's Drug Store 150 years, the Dorchester Banner 120 years, Simmons Center Market 80 years, Thomas Funeral Home 80 years, C&K Lord 70 years and Kool Ice 45 years.

We are grateful that many of our businesses continue to expand. The office has continued its marketing



plan with the addition of a new tech park brochure and a new website.

Several major projects are in progress

throughout the county: Cambridge Market Place, North Dorchester High School, Phillips Packing House and the Hearn Building to name a few. The county will soon see its first Medical Marijuana harvest. Most recently the Eastern Shore Innovation Center welcomed a new biotech tenant.

We are hoping for another big year in 2018. To learn more about Dorchester County and how we can grow your business visit www.choosedorchester.org.

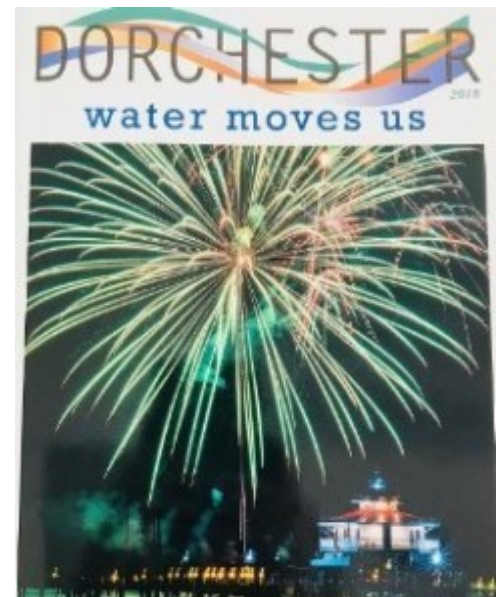
Community 2018 Water Moves Us Magazine

The unveiling of the fifth Dorchester 'Water Moves Us' Magazine was celebrated at the Eastern Shore Innovation Center.

The Dorchester Banner's, Independent NewsMedia Inc. USA, and the Dorchester County Economic Development (DCED) partnered to produce the 47-page, high-quality color magazine featuring a profile of the county. The latest edition demonstrates new projects highlighting a county moving forward.

The free publication was produced and printed by NewsMedia at no cost to the county. Funded by advertisements, the circulation of copies will be distributed through the DCED office and local businesses.

To request a copy please call the Economic Development office 410-228-0155 or email sbanks@choosedorchester.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.

Education
Ironman MD Donated Backpacks

Over 600 Ironman Maryland backpacks have been donated to Dorchester County Public Schools, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Diana Mitchell announced. The backpacks were presented by Gerry Boyle, Race Director of Ironman Maryland.



“We are very grateful to Ironman Maryland for this gift,” said Dr. Mitchell. “Ironman Maryland is a such a valuable partner, supporting our schools and students in many different ways. We look forward to continuing to work together in 2018 and beyond.”

Mr. Boyle said, “We are glad to be able to support Dorchester County’s schools and involve the students in Ironman Maryland in as many ways as possible. This year over 300 students volunteered to help with the event. It is this kind of community support that makes Ironman Maryland a popular race for triathletes.”

The Ironman Maryland

backpacks will be distributed to students through individual schools.

Small Business
Legislative Update on HUBZone

Legislative update on behalf of the HUBZone Council

The 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has been approved by both houses of Congress and was signed into law on December 12, 2017. It includes important changes to the HUBZone Program which represent the culmination of the HUBZone Council’s advocacy efforts in 2017.

The NDAA makes the following changes to the HUBZone Program:

- Freezes HUBZone maps until January 1, 2020, and transitions the program to map updates only every 5 years after 2020. (This means that redesignated areas that were set to expire in 2018 and 2019 will remain HUBZones at least until 2020.)
- Provides state governors with the ability to petition the Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator to designate areas that have an average unemployment rate at least 120% of national or state average, whichever is lower, as HUBZones. (Petitions require annual resubmission.)
- Removes the qualifier “nonmetropolitan” from “state median income” when determining HUBZone Program eligibility for counties, expanding the number of counties that qualify for HUBZone designation.
- Requires the SBA to process HUBZone certification

applications within 60 days of receipt.

- Ensures that Base Realignment & Closure (BRAC) counties receive HUBZone eligibility for a full 8 years, beginning on the date they are designated a BRAC.

Requires the SBA to conduct a study on small business participation on multiple award contracts (MACs). For more information please visit www.hubzonecouncil.org.

Workforce
Hiring Event Held In Cambridge



The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the Workforce Development Board and the M 1 Bus from Chesapeake College collaborated to bring an industry specific manufacturing hiring event to Dorchester. The event was held at the Eastern Shore Innovation Center in partnership with Dorchester County Economic Development.

85 job seekers attended the event including 8 veterans. For more information on the available jobs please visit mwejobs.maryland.gov.