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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

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EASY PICKIN'

INSIDE

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GOV. LARRY HOGAN ON DATA SHOWING RISING CASES OF COVID-19 FROM ATTENDING FAMILY GATHERINGS.

WEEKLY FORECAST

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Thu 7/30 91° 73°F Partly Cloudy Mon 8/3 | Fri 7/31 84° 71°F Scattered Tue 8/4 | Sat 8/1 87° 73°F Isolated Wed 8/5 | Sun 8/2 89° 73°F Scattered Thu 8/6 |
| 86° 71°F Scattered | 84° 70°F Scattered | 84° 69°F Scattered | 84° 70°F Isolated |

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Leonardtwn Library Opens Monday

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Starting Aug. 3, the new Leonardtown Library, located on Old Hayden Farm Lane, will be opened to visitors, though with limited numbers allowed in at any one time and with no fanfare.

The combined library/senior center is one of the biggest public construction projects in St. Mary's County in years and has been widely anticipated by residents for years.

It was scheduled to open this spring, but COVID-19 delayed those plans for months.

John Deatrck, whose Department of Public Works oversaw the construction of the project, had made plans for a grand opening before the spread of the novel coronavirus, but those plans had also foundered long ago.

Still, the public works chief said, it was satisfying to see the library/senior center complex completed and ready to open.

"It's really all about our client... it's their library," Deatrck told The County Times. "We just get it designed and built.

"We take pleasure in watching that design evolve. Ribbon cuttings are

wonderful but it's more for the citizens and the one's working there."

Visitors to the Leonardtown Library will have to wear masks and are asked to keep social distancing of six feet between each other.

Leonardtwn's location will allow between 20 to 24 visitors at a time, as will the Lexington Park Library.

The Charlotte Hall location will only allow 10 to 12 visitors at a time.

Computer sessions will be limited to 50 minutes; library hours will be 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday and Friday through Saturday from noon to 5p.m.

Libraries will be closed on Sundays for cleaning.

Michael Blackwell, director of St. Mary's County libraries, said Aug. 3 was the soonest they could open back up to the public after instituting necessary policies and procedures and staff training to reduce or prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"We had hoped to open earlier," Blackwell said. "We have to separate a lot of furniture and shutdown some computers; we had to order glass partitions for customer service stations.

"We want to open safely and we're taking every precaution we can."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



The new Leonardtown Library

Governor Expands Mask Order

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Gov. Larry Hogan announced Wednesday that he was expanding the scope of the order to wear face masks in public to all areas of businesses and to public places where social distancing is not possible starting July 31.

Hogan made the announcement, he said, due to the rise of COVID-19 cases in Maryland in recent weeks, especially among residents under 35 years old.

"This measure is fact based, apolitical and solidly based in science," the governor said.

Because of the rise in cases, Hogan said, he was ordering a pause in re-openings across the state to remain in Stage 2 of his administration's recovery plan.

The state will "not move into Stage 3 re-openings" until it was safe to do so, Hogan said.

The state's seven-day positivity testing rate is 4.77 percent, Hogan said, and has stayed below five percent for the past 34 consecutive days.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 cases have risen 28 percent in the past 12 weeks, Hogan said, necessitating the pause in moving to a more advanced stage of re-opening businesses.

"The positivity rate of people under

35 continues to climb," Hogan said.

The latest data from contact tracing work shows that 44 percent of new coronavirus cases came from attending family gatherings, 23 percent from house parties and 21 percent from attending outdoor events.

"Sometimes we get a false sense of security spending time with our families," Hogan said. "I'm guilty of this myself... you can get this virus just by going to work."

Hogan said it was important for employers to allow their employees to telework if at all possible.

"Contact tracing data shows that teleworking is helping to keep Maryland open," Hogan said. "And it keeps residents and employees safe."

Hogan said he continued to be concerned about the much faster rise in positive cases in other states, particularly those with a positivity rate of 10 percent of the tested population or greater.

He said the state health agency was issuing a travel advisory for all those states and was imploring residents to either avoid traveling there altogether or immediately get tested and isolate themselves upon their return.

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Mother, Daughter Recount Surviving COVID-19

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Lena Moore turned 79 in late April, but it was while she was in a hospital bed and she couldn't say anything about what was happening at the time.

She was fully intubated and fighting for her life as nurses and doctors attended her in intensive care.

"I don't have a memory of it," Moore told The County Times of her fight to beat COVID-19, which brought her so low that she required physical and speech therapy to begin to return to her normal, independent self.

Marie Moyer, 57, Moore's daughter, who also contracted the disease, said her mother went to MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown Apr. 5 complaining of stomach discomfort; her mother had had that problem for years.

They didn't suspect Moore had contracted the potentially deadly disease.

"Each day after that, her stomach continued to hurt," Moyer said. "She started losing her appetite."

By April 9, she noticed her mother was getting chills.

"I noticed she started getting weaker," Moyer said.

The next day her mother was in intensive care in Leonardtown and fully intubated by 2 a.m.

"From that point for seven days they were just keeping her comfortable," Moyer said.

Moore was completely unconscious.

By April 17, Moore, who has hypertension and diabetes, was in MedStar's Franklin Square facility and her daughter was starting to feel the effects of the virus.

Moyer started suffering fever, loss of appetite and depression over watching her mother in such a state.

"I thought my mom was dying and I had to make decisions," Moyer said.

Moyer had to be in isolation in her home for 14 days while she rode out the virus; her niece cooked for the family and would leave food outside her door.

After about 10 days, she began to feel better and soon her mother would come around.

After Moore's fourth day at the Franklin Square facility, she opened her eyes.

"She couldn't move, she couldn't talk," Moyer said.

Moore, though conscious, was in a difficult state.

"I opened my eyes... I was terrified," Moore said. "I looked at the doctor coming into the room and I thought 'It's got to be bad,'"

"Everything hurt, my throat, ears."

Food repulsed her.

"I drank water and I ate sherbert," Moore said. "My whole life was turned around, before this I didn't need anybody to help me do anything."

She needed physical and speech therapy to begin to regain her full self; she returned home May 11 and still needed some help.

Still, she and her daughter are grateful to God for her recovery; Moore's age and preexisting conditions make her among the most vulnerable to succumb to COVID-19.

"Now, I'm walking, I'm eating," Moore said. "I'm doing so much better."

Strangely, the stomach pain from which she had suffered for years seems to have gone after the COVID-19 infection, she said.

Moyer said her mother's recovery has surprised and encouraged her nurses and doctors.

"She's superseded every goal they set for her," Moyer said of her mother's prog-



COVID-19 survivors left to right, Lena Moore & Marie Moyer. Photos courtesy of Ceandra Scott

ress. "Two weeks ago, she was released to outpatient therapy.

"She just cooked dinner for the first time in four-and-a-half months; she's my comeback hero."

Moore said she can move now without

a walker or cane; she said she credited her recovery to all the prayers from family, friends and church members.

"Thanks to God, I'm here," Moore said. "I'm a better person."

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Left to right: Marie Moyer, Lena Moore, Mary Carr, Helen Simmons, Evie Simmons-Carry. Photos courtesy of Ceandra Scott

Commissioners Move Ahead on YMCA Partnership

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County signed a memorandum of understanding this week to partner with the YMCA of the Chesapeake for a feasibility and fundraising study for a YMCA community center in the county. They also have a headquarters in Easton.

"I want the community to be bought into it," said Commissioner Eric Colvin, in pressing for a community fundraising organization to support building the new facility.

Bennet Wilson, chairwoman of the YMCA Exploratory Committee, which helped find options for placement of a new community center, said its findings recommended entering into the agreement with the private entity.

"The purpose would be for the YMCA of the Chesapeake to create a business plan for the YMCA in St. Mary's County," Wilson said. "A YMCA in St. Mary's County would greatly enhance the quality of life for a diverse range of county citizens."

The YMCA, which originally stood for Young Men's Christian Association, with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, provides health and welfare activities and amenities, mentoring programs and childcare for needy families and other offerings.

"We are confident that there are few to no physical spaces in the county that can offer the ability to support the needs of populations that differ in age, race, ethnicity and education," Wilson said of what the YMCA can offer the county.

She also said there were no organizations in the county with the combination of experience, facilities and organizational flexibility to run a "multi-generational hub" of so many valuable programs.

The \$14.5 million commissioners

had authorized for building a YMCA center was also sufficient, Wilson said, and could result in an "excellent" facility; it would be 35,000 to 40,000 square feet in size.

A YMCA could provide amenities that are not already sufficient in the county, such as fitness centers and aerobic exercise areas, squash, racquetball and tennis courts and spaces for child play.

Space for art classes and the like are also in short supply here, Wilson said, which the YMCA could help provide.

"The key is to find out what the community wants," Wilson said, noting the county's YMCA would not have every amenity mentioned, save what the demands were.

The project would also be economically sustainable, she said.

"The Y will never need to ask the commissioners for any more money if they decide to build the facility," Wilson quoted Robbie Gill, executive director of YMCA of the Chesapeake as saying.

Once built, the YMCA would be responsible for paying for the operational costs, Wilson said.

Wilson said the committee recommended Lexington Park as the location for the first county YMCA.

A parcel adjacent to the Lexington Park Library, a portion of Nicolet Park, or a space at or near the public pool located on Great Mills Road were three recommended sites for the facility, she said.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt said there were several counties in Maryland with multiple YMCAs, while St. Mary's had none.

"I'm totally in support of three of them," Hewitt said. "My vision has always been having one for Lexington Park, one for the Leonardtown area and one for Charlotte Hall."

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Solomons Bridge: Top Priority

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Thomas Johnson Bridge replacement project should be the region's top transportation priority, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted unanimously this Tuesday in a letter also supported by the local senator and delegates.

The letter stood in opposition to a recent, competing missive from the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland that had the bridge share the priority slot with a project for light rail in Charles County and improvements to Route 231 in Calvert County.

The sole top priority for the region's transportation needs should be the Thomas Johnson Bridge, the St. Mary's commissioners' letter stated and the other two should be dropped as regional priority.

Since 2002 the Thomas Johnson Bridge has been the top regional transportation priority but in recent weeks the Tri County Council (TCC) has been split on establishing those priorities.

Commissioner John O'Connor summed up the situation as Charles County, save for the commissioner district there held by Gilbert Bowling, as going its own way.

"You've got three counties, one of which is not trying to be part of Southern Maryland anymore," O'Connor said.

He added that Charles County's interests seemed more aligned with those of Prince George's County with its pursuance of a light rail system.

Commissioner Todd Morgan argued that the light rail system was two-thirds in Prince George's with the remainder in Charles and did nothing for Southern Maryland as a whole.

"We should be striving for

unity," said Sen. Jack Bailey (R-Dist.29), agreeing that the bridge needed to be the top priority. "We need to oppose this letter."

The executive committee of the TCC is set to meet Thursday in an attempt to come to a consensus on the issue, a source close to the situation told The County Times.

That letter from the TCC would then be sent to the state's Department of Transportation as an official representation of the region's top transportation interests.

Del. Jerry Clark (R-Dist.29C) said that the three counties had always worked together in supporting each other's transportation priorities; years ago they fought as a whole to include the Hughesville bypass into the state's transportation plan which was finally completed in the Ehrlich administration.

The bridge project was both necessary to support expansion of work at Patuxent River Naval Air Station and as a regional emergency evacuation route.

"It seems like we're losing focus at the Tri County Council on what's important for the region versus what's important for individual counties."

Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy said the bridge should be the priority project but doubted the letter would be effective since money was not there to fund it in state coffers.

"Charles County is holding very strong for the transit part and some of us are saying we don't really need this [light rail,]" Guy said. "But this letter is probably a waste of time sending it to [Department of Transportation] because we don't have the funding anyway."

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Funding Approved for New Biohazard Lab

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county health department will soon be able to pursue greater levels of testing for COVID-19 after the Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved more funding to build a new biological safety lab at its premises on Peabody Street in Leonardtown.

Known as a biosafety lab level 2, it would provide a capability to handle other infectious disease

"In the health department headquarters there is a lab which isn't the best, shall we say," said John Deatruck, public works chief at the July 28 commissioners meeting. "It works, but it can't run any of the tests that are... required for COVID [-19]."

The type of biosafety lab proposed was what was required to run the emergency tests for novel coronavirus, Deatruck said, which meant test results could be returned faster.

Health professionals have placed a premium not only on testing but the ability to get results quickly to better get a grasp on the virus impacts.

Deatruck explained space currently underutilized would be combined to create the new lab.

Included in the project would be a biohazard cabinet where a technician could work on disease cultures without being exposed to them.

Approval from the commissioners was needed now, Deatruck said, since

the funding for the project came from the federal CARES Act, which provided funds for relief and to fight the spread of COVID-19.

The money had to be spent by December, Deatruck said, or be lost.

Deatruck said the cost was \$82,800 and could be completed in the next five months.

Dr. Meena Brewster, the county health officer and chief of the health department, said the new laboratory would be a "safe space" in which to conduct the rapid testing for COVID-19 but would also expand the department's capabilities in the future in dealing with other infectious diseases.

"Those results can take half-an-hour versus the days were seeing from private labs," Brewster said of the efficacy of rapid tests for COVID-19.

This laboratory would also include a negative pressure area that would ensure air flow from the room would not be recirculated to other areas in the facility, rather back into the room.

Brewster said the capability would be used to protect against release of disease from testing or cultures but in the future it should be expanded to include negative pressure spaces for patients treated at the health department for conditions such as "tuberculosis and other infectious diseases that are emerging."

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The county's health department will get a new lab to deal with COVID testing.

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Town Takes Next Step On Boat Deal

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Leonardtown Town Council voted unanimously to proceed with the contract process that could result in the purchase of a paddlewheel boat aimed at greatly boosting the tourism profile of the town.

The 111-foot vessel, named The Black-Eyed Susan, is currently docked in Havre de Grace.

The vessel requires a \$16,000 security deposit and would require the town to take on a \$190,000 loan.

The security deposit would be returned to the town if conditions of the deal, including the condition of the vessel, were not met.

The town began to move on the deal earlier this month when the council learned it had won a \$100,000 state grant towards the purchase of the vessel.

The total cost of the vessel is \$322,000.

Laschelle McKay, town administrator, said the proposal included the town's potential purchase but it would not be the organization to operate or promote it.

"We would form some kind of organization to run it," McKay said. "It could be a big tourism draw."

Mayor Dan Burris said the goal was to come to a final decision on the deal in about one month.

Before the purchase would become final, though, the boat would have to be thoroughly examined to ensure its worthiness, which would include a professional survey overseen by a committee the town formed for the task, especially to find out all the other costs associated with the purchase.

Council Member Jay Mattingly said the purchase could be a significant opportunity for the

town, but several residents had expressed their concerns over its costs.

"We are not purchasing the boat today," Mattingly said. "It's to do homework and form a committee."

Council Member Nick Colvin, who, in the end, voted to move ahead with the process, was skeptical of the possible purchase.

"With the pandemic going on... we could still be in the thick of this" when the time comes to decide on the purchase, Colvin said. "Maybe this should not be on the top of our priority list."

McKay said the option to purchase the boat "might not be the best timing" but it could draw even more people to the town and the wharf property.

"People are looking for outdoor things to do," she said.

Council Member Mary Maday Slade, who has expressed her support for the deal, said the town had an obligation to do what it could to support town businesses.

"Something like this is what's going to help the businesses survive," Slade said, noting that many had only survived thus far because of government stimulus packages due to COVID-19. "I think that's part of our job, that's what we should be doing."

Andrew Ponti, a county museum division employee, said the purchase could make Leonardtown stand out as a destination.

Ponti was previously employed by a non-profit group that operated a similar vessel in Pennsylvania.

"It had good times, it had bad times; it all depended on how it was operated," Ponti said of the Harrisburg-based venture. "It was a humungous tourism draw."

"The county has been in support of this initiative from the onset," said Katherine Stormont, a specialist with the county's Department of Economic Development. "We have Leonardtown at the center of our strategic plan for the development of St. Mary's County." More than just tourism, Stormont said, the boat could bring more jobs and add another venue for special events in St. Mary's County.

Karen Stone, director of the county's Museum Division, said the addition of the pad-

dlewheel boat would offer another way to engage visitors in St. Mary's County's history, which included steam-powered vessels on its waterways.

"It opens up a huge connection with our past," Stone said. "They would take trips from Leonardtown to Bushwood, people from Washington, D.C. would take day trips here."

"It's a huge part of our history."

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Planning Commission Approves Harris Teeter Gas Station, Convenience Store

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A concept site plan for a refueling station to be operated by the Harris Teeter brand grocery store received unanimous approval from the county's planning commission at their July 27 meeting; the more-than-5,000 square-foot project is proposed for the corner of Shady Mile Drive and Route 235 in California.

The proposed refueling station would also include a small, just 240 square-foot, convenience store in the lot on the end of the restaurant row on Abell House Lane.

It would be contained on a parcel of land just slightly over one acre in size, according to information from the county's Department of Land Use and Growth Management.

Donnie Mills, deputy director at the county public works department, said a traffic study had not been required for the proposed project because it was already part of the Park Place development of lots that had been approved for buildout back in 2006.

The owner of the property is Park Place LLC, headed by local developer John Parlett.

This would be the final lot in that commercial section of the development, Mills said, adding that residential may some day become part of the development.

"The engineer looked at the overall project," Mills said. "Compared to what was on the traffic study in 2006 and compared it with the square footages built and the uses that were built."

"There was no traffic study needed because the trips were actually less for the overall development than what was approved in 2006."

Parlett said the lot was originally designed for a bank to be positioned there, but "bricks and mortar have become less important to banks."

"They would have paid us more for this site," Parlett said, but admitted that banks were more interested in operating digitally.

Kathi Katzenberger, who lives with her husband on nearby Woodlawn Drive, said they would be within just 170 feet of the proposed fueling station and was worried about increased traffic flow in her neighborhood.

"Drivers will cut through to get gas," Katzenberger said. "They already do daily... they do it all the time."

Drivers often did it just to get around traffic on Route 235 or to avoid backups due to collisions, she said.

"We'll have more speeders," said Katzenberger. "It'll be more dangerous to pull out of our driveway."

Increased noise was another worry, she said, particularly from large delivery trucks and trash haulers as well as

the increased traffic from regular motorists looking to refuel.

As one of the conditions for approval, the planning commission required additional plantings of trees along the property line closest to Woodlawn Drive to reduce noise and light pollution from the site.

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The lot next to the Medical Express on Abell House Lane in California is slated for a Harris Teeter refueling station.



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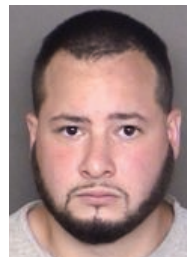
ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

Fail to Register- On July 7, 2020, Det. Hulse responded to the 21800 block of Three Notch Road in Lexington Park, for the individual who failed to register as a sex offender. Contact was made with Janus Scott Freeman, age 56 of Lexington Park. Investigation determined Freeman violated requirements to register and provide information as required. Freeman was arrested and charged with Sex Offense Registry-Fail to Notify/Provide.



Janus Freeman

Assault- On July 9, 2020, Cpl. Knott responded to the 46800 block of Flower Drive in Lexington Park, for the reported assault. Investigation determined Jareth Joseph Brown-Acevedo, age 25 of Lexington Park, pointed a blank gun at the victim and pulled the trigger, while the two parties were arguing. The victim advised the gun appeared to be real and at the time of the incident the victim thought it was a real gun. Brown-Acevedo was located and charged with Assault 1st and 2nd Degree and Affray.



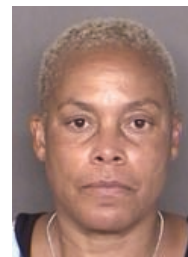
Jareth Brown-Acevedo

Violate Protective Order- On July 15, 2020, Dep. Edwards responded to the 21600 block of Joe Hazel Road in Leonardtown, for the reported protective order violation. Investigation determined Crystal Lynn Wilkinson, age 39 of Leonardtown, contacted the victim numerous times by phone in violation of a current court order. Wilkinson was arrested and charged with Violate Protective Order.



Crystal Wilkinson

Motor Vehicle Theft- On July 16, 2020, Cpl. Reppel responded to 18200 block of Cherryfield Road in Drayden, for the reported motor vehicle theft. Investigation determined Tamathea Carol Hayward, age 60 of Great Mills, took the victim's vehicle without permission, and then refused to return the victim's vehicle. Cpl. Reppel located Hayward and placed her under arrest. Hayward still refused to provide information on the whereabouts of the victim's vehicle. Hayward was charged with Motor Vehicle-Unlawful Taking and Theft.



Tamathea Hayward

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Legal Notice

Commissioners of Leonardtown Notice of Public Hearing

The Leonardtown Mayor and Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Town Office located at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. The purpose of the hearing is to present for public review and comment text amendments to the Leonardtown Zoning Ordinance – Ordinance No. 195 for Property Maintenance; Ordinance No. 196 for Vehicle, Removal and Storage; Ordinance No. 197 for Forest Conservation; Ordinance No. 198 for Streets and Sidewalks; Ordinance No. 199 - Chapters 155-4 and 155-48 to set regulations for small wireless facilities; Ordinance No. 200 to amend the Comprehensive Plan for an Annexation; Ordinance No. 202 – Chapter 155-44 to allow assisted living facilities as an allowed use; and Ordinance No. 203 for Chapter 155-23 to allow for a greater percentage of multi-family housing in PUD's.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 4:00 p.m. on August 10, 2020 to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority:
Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

Churches of Southern Maryland

Grace Chapel Ministries

By Grace McCready
Contributing Writer

Located in Mechanicsville, Grace Chapel Ministries is a 19-year-old church that was planted by the current senior pastor, Dr. Carl Snyder.

Though the church met in Mechanicsville Elementary School for almost a decade, it did move to a new building. Built of stone and decorated with stained glass, the word “chapel” fits it perfectly.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the church is Snyder’s testimony. One significant moment in his story happened at a family member’s funeral.

“It was the first time I had ever seen a dead person,” he stated. “[I was] standing next to the casket, and I asked one of my relatives, ‘What happens next?’ And he said, ‘Well, they dig a hole about six feet deep, throw you in it, and put dirt over you.’ And for a 12-year-old, that was...a visual that I really didn’t want.”

He continued asking the same question for months but found the answer at Camp Sankanac in Pennsylvania, his home state. One night at a campfire, as the camp director spoke, Snyder said that he spotted “a fire with flames probably four or five feet high.” That was when he decided to trust Christ for salvation, and he felt God’s call to ministry a few years later.

Instead of taking seminary classes like he had originally planned, he ran away from his calling to enlist in the Air Force.

“I was scheduled to go to Vietnam,” Snyder explained. “I was part of a crew on a C-130. And, at the last minute, my orders got lost. My squadron shipped out. They had to replace me on the plane. When they got to Vietnam, my plane was shot down, and the whole crew [was] lost.”

When he was getting discharged for health reasons two years later, the clerk in the administration office found Snyder’s orders behind a file cabinet. He shared, “And it was like God saying, ‘See, I protected you. I want you in the ministry.’”

However, because he was still reluctant about ministry, he worked for the Prince George’s County Police Department. When he was injured, his wife was told that he wouldn’t survive. But God spared his life again.

As he was recovering, his wife told him to either choose her or the police



Dr. Carl Snyder and his wife Pat.

department. “And I love my wife... so I resigned from the department,” he said.

Once more, Snyder stayed away from ministry and opened multiple carpet stores, which he eventually had to close. He realized he couldn’t ignore God’s calling any longer, so he surrendered. He enrolled at Washington Bible College.

Though he wasn’t a Wesleyan, the first church he pastored was. After two years, he became the associate pastor of Allentown Baptist Church. But five years into that job, the pastor there prompted Snyder to move on because he couldn’t progress further at that church.

Alongside others, Snyder started La Plata Baptist Church, and he took a position at Grace Brethren Church

in Waldorf eight years later. Regarding the planting of Grace Chapel Ministries, he stated, “I didn’t want to. I was happy at the Waldorf church.”

When he, again, surrendered to God’s calling, he believed he needed to start a church in St. Mary’s County. Though he thought his wife would dislike the idea, she had actually arrived at the same conclusion.

Not only did 50 people come to the first interest meeting, but 110 people came to the first service of Grace Chapel Ministries. The church has more than doubled in size since then, with about 230 individuals attending the church pre-coronavirus.

The 8 a.m. service and the 10:30 a.m. service are the two service times offered. Rather than having a

formal offering, people put tithes in the offering boxes in the back. Regarding music, Snyder added, “We tried to do a blended service because not everybody likes the praise and worship, [and] not everybody likes the hymns.”

Sunday school classes, small groups, and Bible studies are the fellowship options. Adults can get involved with outreach at Grace Chapel Ministries by supporting CareNet, Young Life, The Mission, or SPCA.

Teens, specifically, fellowship through Rise Up Youth Ministry. They participate in service opportunities, like preparing for the church’s Valentine’s Luncheon and helping with projects in the community.

Recently, services have been livestreamed and will continue to be livestreamed. In-person services and Sunday school classes haven’t had significant attendance, but Snyder has been pleased that hundreds have watched the online services and that they’ve watched from around the globe.

“So we’ve been excited about that because that’s just been another avenue of outreach,” he stated. And when church members have mentioned to him that they won’t return to church in-person until next year, he encouraged them to watch the service online.

With multiple ministries still using Zoom, the church isn’t making big plans. Snyder said that “it’s pretty much day-to-day, week-to-week.”

mccreadyjc@gmail.com



Grace Chapel Church

New COVID-19 Data Dashboard Available

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) has launched a new dashboard for sharing local COVID-19 data, available online at: www.smchd.org/covid-19-data

"Over the past several months we have worked hard to provide timely and accurate information related to COVID-19," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "We hope that this new dashboard shares local data visually in a way that helps our commu-

nity understand trends in this pandemic. More information will be added as we are able to provide it."

Please visit the St. Mary's County Health Department's website for local COVID-19 updates and information at www.smchd.org/coronavirus or call the COVID-19 Community Hotline at 301-475-4911 (Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) to get your questions answered.

Press Release from SMCHD

COVID-19 Testing Now in Leonardtown

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) is now offering appointment-free COVID-19 testing, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the SMCHD Main Office in Leonardtown. Testing will also continue to be offered daily at the SMCHD Harm Reduction Program Office in Lexington Park.

Leonardtown Office: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- 21580 Peabody Street, Leonardtown
- For assistance or accommodations, call ahead to (301) 475-4330

Lexington Park Office: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- 46035 Signature Lane, Lexington Park (co-located with U-Haul Moving & Storage)

- For assistance or accommodations, call ahead to (301) 862-1680

SMCHD COVID-19 Testing:

- Walk up for testing, parking is available

- Appointment-free

- No doctor's order needed

- Free of Charge (no out-of-pocket cost, co-payment, co-insurance, etc.)

- Bring health insurance information and identification, if possible - Uninsured community members welcome

Visit <http://www.smchd.org/covid-19-testing/> for more information.

Who should get tested?

- Anyone showing signs or symptoms of COVID-19

- Close contacts (even if they do not have symptoms) of persons who have COVID-19

- Those attending events where social distancing is not maintained

- Anyone returning from out-of-state travel, particularly from areas with rising case rates

- Community members without symptoms (asymptomatic) may also get tested

Please visit the St. Mary's County Health Department's website for local COVID-19 updates, data, and information at www.smchd.org/coronavirus or call the COVID-19 Community Hotline at 301-475-4911 (Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) to get your questions answered.

Press Release from SMCHD.

COVID-19

Positive Cases

Deaths

As of July 29

St. Mary's

886

53

Information provided by St. Mary's Health Department

St. Mary's County Small Business and Non-Profit Grants Still Available!

\$5,000-\$7,500

To qualify:

- Can demonstrate a loss in revenue of 30% or greater
- Have 30 or less employees
- Been operating continuously since March 1, 2019
- Revenues under \$3 million

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Questions?

Email: kellie.hinkle@stmarysmd.com



Pet OF THE WEEK MEET BREE



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Hi folks, my name is Bree. Did you know that we rats make EXCELLENT PETS? I'm SUPER SMART, AMAZINGLY SOCIAL, and I have a TRULY LOVING PERSONALITY. But more than anything, I'm the kind of gal that just LOVES to get out of my cage to spend time with YOU! And, if you think I'm a CUTIE, please check out my many rat buddies currently at the shelter. So race over to that email and contact the wonderful TCAS gang at animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov to schedule an appointment to meet me and all my friends. BE MY MIRACLE and PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

And remember, if there is room in the heart, there is room in the house.

To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Tri-County Animal Shelter Southern MD or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/tri-county-animal-shelter>

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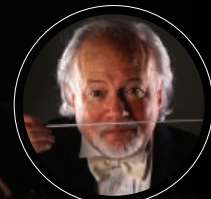
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To view programing, visit:

WWW.SMCM.EDU/RCS

JULY 31: "IT'S A ST. MARY'S THING - OUR BRAND I"

Featuring a veritable who's-who of St. Mary's College musical alumni kicking off the SMCM Alumni Weekend event! Alumni include: Paul Reed Smith of PRS Guitars, Don Stapleson, sax; Sara Jones, vocalist; Rick Humphries, sax; Chuck Orifici, trumpet; Ross Wixon, composer & trumpet; Mark Runkles, oboe; Peter Field, guitar; Rie Moore, piano; Gino Hannah, Ari Pluznik, and Zachary Silberschlag, trumpet.



JEFFREY SILBERSCHLAG
MUSIC DIRECTOR

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The National Public Honors College

Two Countians Named Census Champions

Five Maryland Census Champions have been announced, including two from St. Mary's County. They are:

- BJ Hall, St. Mary's County
- Adrienne Dillahunt, St. Mary's County
- Fai Nelson, Prince George's County
- Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Anne Arundel & Prince George's Counties (District 21)
- Joni Martin Williamson, Wicomico County

A Maryland Census Champion is a person or group that has gone above and beyond in spreading the Census message in their community. Census Champions have devised innovative ways to get their community engaged in completing the 2020 Census. The individual or group being nominated could be a member of a local complete committee, a faith leader, a business leader/owner, or even someone in the

community making a difference. Recipients of the Census Champion will be highlighted in a newsletter, on social media, and on the Maryland 2020 Census Champions web page.

William "BJ" Hall, president of the NAACP Chapter 7025, and Adrienne Dillahunt, Equity Coordinator for St. Mary's County Public Schools, have taken every opportunity to advocate for completion of the 2020 Census. Both serve as members of the County's Complete Count Committee. A big part of BJ's and Adrienne's outstanding effort is a weekly Facebook Live show they host called "Sunday's in the Park," where they continuously provide updates on the Census progress and advocate for completion.

Press Release from MD Department of Planning



William "BJ" Hall, president of the NAACP Chapter 7025



Adrienne Dillahunt, Equity Coordinator for St. Mary's County Public Schools

National Night Out Moved to October 6th

Due to COVID-19 National Night Out (NNO) has been postponed until October 6, 2020. National Night Out occurs annually on the first Tuesday of August and is a community-building campaign that promotes partnerships between neighbors, communities, and law enforcement. National Night Out provides opportunities for

neighbors and police to interact in a fun and positive environment.

Any communities wishing to participate in NNO or anyone requiring further information is asked to contact Deputy First Class Gerard Muschette at (301) 475-4200 extension 78121 or by email at Gerard.Muschette@stmarysmd.com.



Phot Courtesy of St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office

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Crab Season Going Strong

By Bri Corley
Contributing Writer

While coronavirus continues to devastate businesses across the country, Maryland's signature crustacean has remained a monetary powerhouse in St. Mary's County and Calvert. From independent watermen to local crab shacks, high demand and plentiful crab population led to an unexpectedly successful season.

The season started slow for many Maryland crabbers, with watermen catching fewer crabs than expected. This led to prices rising quickly, especially with increased demand coming as a result of families being home and crabs at home being a good replacement for family dinners at restaurants. Statewide, blue crabs are running upwards of \$215 a bushel, varying based on location.

Back in May of this year, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced the results of the 2020 Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey, which estimates the number of blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay each year. It stated that populations for adult male and adult female blue crabs were above average going into the summer. Although he can't speak for all watermen, part-time Patuxent crabber Tommy Thayer of Calvert County said the season has been one of the more successful ones for him in past years.

"I've had really good luck up until about last weekend," said Thayer. "They ran really good, compared to the last couple of years. I've seen a pretty good increase in catching them. They were going for about \$200 a bushel but they usually drop off after July 4th, then after Labor Day they really drop. I think everybody's 'crab craze' is pretty much over by then."

Thayer said that fellow crabbers were worried about how the market would turn out once unemployment rose and jobs started falling through. If this were the case, watermen would be in a predicament of having more crabs than they can sell. However, the result seems to be quite the opposite, where people are using the time at home to bond with their loved ones over a crab dinner.

"I actually found that because of the pandemic, I've been able to get rid of crabs easier because a lot more people are at home," Thayer said. "I sell to the public as well as carry-outs and such, but I try to sell to the public more to make a little better money. I've noticed that this year it's a lot easier to sell crabs during the week because everybody is home. It's like a weekend every day. I remember when it first started and everyone was saying it was gonna be a terrible crab season because of the virus and I just thought 'Well, it is what it is. What are you gonna do?', but really it's been pretty nice."



Maryland Watermen's Association president Robert T. Brown had similar sentiments, saying how the market for crabs has stayed strong during the pandemic, even when other seafood like oysters and rockfish had a slower start. Brown believes this may have a lot to do with the experience of picking hard shell crabs at home versus cleaning and preparing other kinds of seafood on your own.

"Well since restaurants have opened up, that's helped the fishing market a whole lot. The difference is when people get hard crabs, they have to pick them. Well, people don't want to go to a store to buy fish to have to clean it. They want it already prepared for them and stuff, so the problem for watermen came in there...the crab market has stayed stronger than what it generally is at this time of year. Meanwhile, the rockfish market was slow due to all the restaurants being closed."

Seafood markets, such as Thompson's Seafood Corner Market in Mechanicsville, have seen similar successes this season. Manager Denise Ching said that the pandemic truly hasn't made a large impact on their business as they have never offered dine-in seating, which has led to many issues for restaurants that are trying to maintain social distancing inside. Thompson's now only allows six customers in at a time to abide by health guidelines. "We're doing just as well as we usually do, the pandemic hasn't made a huge impact on our sales since we have always been carryout," said Ching.

Matt McCormick, manager of Abner's Crab House in Chesapeake Beach, has said that their business is actually on par with where they were last year, even with restrictions on how many customers they can serve at once, which he views as an indicator for their success thus far. "Our numbers

are about equal to this time last year when we were fully open, even though we can only hold 50% capacity. Our customer base has come back in full force," said McCormick.

One of the largest crab houses in the area, Captain Leonard's Seafood Restaurant, is another business that

found their customers lining up for crabs to help them during this trying time. Cheryl Riley, daughter of the restaurants' owners, said that the community has played a large part in making sure they stay afloat.

"The pandemic has definitely hurt us, being a restaurant," said Riley. "At first, we did solely curbside pickup, we didn't let anyone in the restaurant. Our community and our loyal customers were amazing because they would come two or three times a week. We don't have as many coming in to sit down and eat but we still have lots of carryout orders."

Riley still has customers coming from all over for Maryland blue crabs and says that people traveling to try the state delicacy it helps the business grow year after year, even during a pandemic.

"Our customer base grows as St. Mary's grows more and more each year," said Riley. "We have customers coming from Virginia, Pennsylvania, we get people who come from North Carolina who say 'We drove up here just to get crabs here,' they come from D.C., Prince George's County, they come from everywhere. It's crazy."

Editor Dick Myers contributed to this story.

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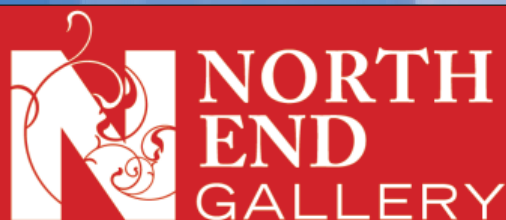
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We will also have special guests from Music from Poplar Hill, come meet them and learn about their upcoming world class (COVID compliant) music series and Master Classes coming soon to Valley Lee in September and October! This series has been created in honor of local musician Jo Ricks, visit www.musicfrompoplarhill.org to learn more!



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Libraries Announce Limited Public Opening

St. Mary's County Library announces they will be welcoming customers back into the library buildings starting Monday, August 3. This initial phase of opening to the public will be limited and will maximize safety for both staff and customers.

Precautions have been put in place that we ask all customers to respect. Travel and community spread can still cause spikes in the COVID-19 virus and they are taking the safety of their staff and customers very seriously. Due to the uncertain nature of the pandemic, there is always a possibility that the St. Mary's County Library will return to only curbside service or close one or all branches once again for an extended period (such actions may be necessary if any employees contract the virus or if other circumstances make these actions their safest course forward.)

What restrictions will be in place?

- Masks are required in the building for both staff and customers over the age of two.
- All customers are asked to maintain a social distance of 6' between one another. Our buildings have been prepared to accommodate social distancing. Some computers have been taken offline, some seating has been removed or otherwise covered, and there are marked waiting points for our customers in line to check out materials. Customers entering with children are asked to stay together, and please make sure to help children maintain social distance from other customers.
- Wipes will be available for customers to use in sanitizing and plastic wrap will be used to protect public keyboards.
- Computer assistance from staff will be limited due to the need for physical distancing. In some interactions, staff may use laser pointers or assist customers via online chat help. Employees are not to come within 6 feet of customers.
- Due to the Health Department's guidelines, the number of visitors to our buildings will be limited. We have followed Health Department guidelines to determine how many customers and staff can be in a building while ensuring physical distancing. The following person limits apply: Charlotte Hall Library will allow 10 to 12; Leonardtown and Lexington Park will allow 20 to 24. Staff will monitor entrances and exits, and will try to accommodate groups. Larger groups may have to wait for a period of time before entering.
- To ensure that as many people as possible may use the Library, each visitor is limited to one-hour per visit. Computer sessions will be limited to 50 minutes in order to ensure time for printing, logging in and out, etc.
- Library hours will be Monday – Thursday, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday - Saturday, 12 p.m. (noon) to 5 p.m. The Libraries will be closed Sundays due to cleaning schedules.
- Customers or staff showing the symptoms of COVID-19 are asked not to enter our buildings or use curbside service. Symptomatic visitors will be asked to leave.

Will curbside service continue?
Yes. In order to serve as many as possible, the existing curbside service will continue, including printing service. Call us for further details during our open hours at 301-475-2846.

What if I have books to return?
The book drops on the exterior of all three Libraries are open. Please continue to return all items through the book drops. Staff will not accept materials returned by hand.

Can I request materials from Calvert Library or Charles County Public Library?
Yes. St. Mary's County Library can now receive materials from our Southern Maryland partners, although items may be delayed more than usual due to implemented safety precautions.

What about interlibrary loan outside Southern Maryland?
Statewide loans will begin August 3. This reopening is not related to our schedule.

When will you be opening the buildings more fully and/or withdrawing your social distancing measures?

Any further loosening of restrictions will depend on guidelines from the State and St. Mary's County Health Department. If this current phase goes well, we will continue to open services and reduce limitations as it is deemed safe to do so.

When will you be holding in-person programs and events again?

Any in-person programming or events will depend on guidelines from the State and St. Mary's County Health Department. We do not anticipate any Library programs or events at our locations through the Fall. To stay current with our programs and events, please visit our website or social media to participate in virtual programming and update your email with the Library to receive our e-newsletters.

Can I (or my group or organization) use the meeting rooms?

No, the meeting rooms will not be available for public use at this time.

What if I have materials to donate?

Unfortunately, St. Mary's County Library and the Friends of the St. Mary's County Library remain unable to accept donations at this time.

How do I know library materials are safe?

All materials, once returned, will be quarantined for 96 hours (4 days) to ensure that any potential for contamination is removed, following best practices recommended by the State Library Resource Center and a national study conducted by Batelle. Please allow up to 7 days for items to clear your account after you have returned them.

Are Your Buildings safe?

Our buildings receive a daily deep cleaning from the County and we also have a daily schedule for sanitizing. As with any public space, there is no guarantee of safety. Due to the frequency of customer visits and the characteristics of the COVID-19 virus, there is a risk of contracting the virus by being in the Library and using Library equipment.

Press Release from St. Mary's County Library.

Tax-Free Week is Coming

Shop Maryland: Aug. 9-15

In a year that has been anything but normal, Comptroller Peter Franchot reminds Marylanders that one thing remains the same: Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week begins Sunday, August 9th with big savings for customers, scholarship opportunities for college and trade school students and a catalyst to spur sales for retailers.

"This is one of my favorite weeks of the year because it's a win for shoppers and businesses, while jolting Maryland's economy during the slow summer months," said Comptroller Franchot. "This year more than ever, it's critical to shop local to support the small retailers who are going above and beyond to continue paying employees, creating a safe environment for customers and finding new ways to sell their products during a global pandemic."

From August 9-15, any single qualifying article of clothing or footwear priced \$100 or less – regardless of how many items are purchased at the same time – will be exempt from the state's six percent sales tax. The first \$40 of any backpack purchase is also tax free.

Although commonly associated with back-to-school shopping, Comptroller Franchot reminds Marylanders that the tax-free savings apply to shoppers of all ages.

Additionally, the Maryland Retailers Association (MRA) is once again offering scholarships to two students attending a Maryland university, college or trade school (\$1,000 for first place and \$500 for second place) by explaining how they helped a Maryland business keep the lights on during the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples might include helping to build or improve a company website, creating unique content for a social media account or going above and beyond as a store employee to fulfill online orders.

Entries may be submitted via email to shopmdtaxfree@marylandtaxes.gov or they can be posted on the tax-free week's social media pages: Shop Maryland Tax Free on Facebook and @shopmdtaxfree on Twitter and Instagram. Business owners, parents, colleagues and friends are encouraged to submit a nomination. Students may also self-nominate.

"Small businesses depend on their community to survive unexpected and long-lasting economic downturns," said Cailey Locklair, president of the Maryland Retailers Association. "We want to hear about the young people who have stepped up during this global pandemic to support their local retailers. They deserve our appreciation and we're happy to provide these scholarships to two worthy recipients."

The University System of Maryland has agreed to match the \$1,000 scholarship award if a student attending one of their universities is selected as the first place winner. Administrators at Stevenson University, Hood College and the Maryland Institute for College Art (MICA) have also agreed to match the \$1,000 first place prize if one of their students is selected.

MRA, which is providing the scholarship money, will select the two entries that best exhibit a young Marylander supporting a small business during these challenging times.

For more information about Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week, visit www.marylandtaxes.gov, hover over the "News" tab and click on Comptroller Initiatives. There, you can find a list of tax-exempt items, a list of frequently asked questions and some helpful facts for shoppers and merchants.

Press Release from Office of MD Comptroller.

SHOP MARYLAND TAX-FREE WEEK
AUGUST 9-15, 2020

PAY NO SALES TAX ON QUALIFYING CLOTHING OR FOOTWEAR PRICED AT \$100 OR LESS. ALSO, PAY NO SALES TAX ON THE FIRST \$40 OF A BACKPACK.

WWW.MARYLANDTAXES.GOV
MARYLAND COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

CSM Grants Support Students, Community

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) was awarded 36 grants totaling \$6.7 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. A large portion of the monies arrived in mid-April when CSM received \$2,707,755 in federal funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help the college with its response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the multiple awards, project proposals totaling more than \$700,000 are pending award notification from funders such as the National Science Foundation and other public and private organizations. What follows is a glimpse of the funding since the first of the calendar year.

COVID-19 Assistance

Under the CARES Act Student Emergency Aid, the U.S. Department of Education granted CSM \$1,289,511 to cover costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus and \$1,289,511 to provide emergency financial aid to students for expenses related to the disruption of on-campus operations. An additional \$128,733 was granted to CSM under the CARES Act Strengthening Institutions Program to address CSM's

continuing institutional needs related to the pandemic. In late May, CSM disbursed \$1,124,855 directly to 2,042 of its students who met eligibility criteria.

Grants were also received to support the CSM Hawks Emergency Fund which was established by the CSM Foundation to support CSM students during the pandemic—whether educational or personal—with one-time financial assistance to help with enrollment-threatening emergencies. Needed funds came from:

\$2,500 from WesBanco Community Relief Fund

\$2,500 from Charles County Charitable Trust COVID-19 Emergency Fund (Round 2)

\$20,000 from Chaney Enterprise Foundation through the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County

“CSM's Grants Specialist Lesley Quattlebaum does an outstanding job collaborating with our faculty and staff to target appropriate funding resources, building relationships and writing incredibly lengthy and detailed applications all aimed at ensuring our students' success,” said CSM Vice President of Advocacy and Community Engagement and the Executive

Director of CSM Foundation Michelle Goodwin. “The amount of coordination with our many subject matter experts is impressive, and so is the CSM-wide effort to compete for these funds.”

Learning Initiatives

CSM was awarded \$20,000 from the Maryland Open Resource Textbook (M.O.S.T) Initiative – Institutional Open Educational Resource Grant Program offered by the University System of Maryland Kirwan Center. This grant will support strategic institutional efforts to increase access, affordability and achievement for CSM students through systemic incorporation of open educational resources (OER) into teaching practice.

CSM was successful in this highly competitive grant cycle as one of only two institutions to receive the award to support significant advances in OER adoption, scaling and sustainability in support of student success. Additionally, CSM will receive strategic planning and implementation support.

Thanks to a \$863,053 Consolidated Adult Education and Family Literacy Services Grant from the Maryland Department of Labor, CSM will be able to provide low/no cost Adult Basic Education (ABE), GED Preparation, and English as a Second Language (ESL), EL civics and family literacy instruction in Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert counties. These classes help to prepare students to enter career pathways to either post-secondary education or through continuing education workforce training. The Maryland Adult National External Diploma Program (NEDP) is also offered. NEDP is a nationally recognized high school diploma option for adults, 18 and older.

Charles County Mediation Center

The Charles County Mediation Center is located at CSM's La Plata Campus to provide a confidential

process for residents involved in a dispute, or who need to have a difficult conversation with the help of trained mediators. This year, the Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office awarded CSM \$22,000 through the Community Mediation Performance Grant for the Charles County Community Mediation Center.

In addition, CSM was awarded \$65,000 through a Conflict Resolution Project Grant, also offered by the Maryland Judiciary Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office to help build out the Community Conferencing practice, which provides participants who are involved in and affected by a conflict or crime, a safe and structured space to resolve matters.

Velocity Center

Included in the FY 2020 grant summary is \$100,000 from a Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond to go toward the CSM Velocity Center in Indian Head. These funds assisted with completion of the build out and capital equipping of the project.

The CSM Velocity Center at Indian Head will have dedicated space for Navy research, ideation and design supporting small learning workshops and seminars, vendors' showcases, and use of visualization tools while maximizing the technology transfer of dual-use technologies and supporting educational partnerships.

Within this space, CSM will also host classes such as computer-aided design, cybersecurity, digital photography, drones/small unmanned aircraft systems, governmental procurement, social entrepreneurship and tech transfer entrepreneurship, among others. As a catalyst for workforce development, the Velocity Center has been described as a critical part of the future creative economic development of the town of Indian Head.

Press Release from CSM.

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Grants Provide Tuition Support for Essential Jobs

Many STEM Jobs Remain In Demand During Pandemic

STEM jobs – in science, technology, engineering and math – are still among the most in demand in today’s ever-changing job market and despite the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. And the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has a way forward for students seeking careers in those fields thanks to a \$953,243 award from the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Scholarships in STEM (S-STEM) program, and a second NSF grant for \$257,912 to help students pursue degrees in cybersecurity.

“It is so important for our students and communities facing such difficult times right now to realize that CSM is here to help them achieve their education and stay on course – or start a new career – in positions that are meaningful, important and will always be considered essential,” said CSM Mathematics Professor Sandra Poinsett, who is a lead on the NSF S-STEM grant. “The NSF grants we received in 2019 provide tuition support to students who are pursuing STEM degrees or certificates in applied science and technology, biological

sciences, computer information systems, computer science, engineering, engineering technology, information services technology, information systems, cybersecurity and physical sciences.”

The New York Academy of Sciences recently reported about the important role of scientists and STEM professionals in the fight against the new coronavirus. “As we’ve seen so often in previous times of extreme challenge, the passion, drive, and innovative thinking of scientists and STEM professionals emerges very quickly. And this new crisis is no exception,” the academy shared.

And tech journals were abuzz July 23 after the International Consortium of Minority Cybersecurity Professionals and the cybersecurity training firm CyberVista, released a joint report on the state of cybersecurity jobs. The report, “Cybersecurity Jobs Report: Q2,” confirmed not only the resilience of cybersecurity jobs at a time of layoffs, but also a resurgence in need of skilled employees.

“The report highlighted that the well-publicized cybersecurity

skills gap means that there is currently a shortage of candidates to meet this demand, finding that 86% of the cybersecurity job openings had attracted under 10 applicants,” wrote James Coker with Info Security Magazine.

Former CSM students Dr. Syria Wesley and Rodrigo Arce – both of whom were interviewed last spring by ABC 7/WJLA about being NSF grant recipients – credit the grant, and their time at the CSM, for their continued success.

When Arce began at CSM, he was learning English and in remedial math as a Peruvian immigrant in 2012. After receiving the NSF S-STEM grant, Arce earned his associate degree from CSM went on to the University of Maryland in College Park to study mechanical engineering.

Wesley, who is a Maurice J. McDonough High School graduate, said her time at CSM transformed her life and put her on a STEM career path to become a pharmacist with a doctorate degree.

“When I was awarded the S-STEM scholarship from 2012-2014, I was able to attend college full time and graduate with

honors,” Wesley explained. “I was also able to utilize so many resources. We had tutors; networking; we went to [Naval Air Station] Pax River; anything you needed to excel, CSM and the NSF scholarship provided.”

New and interested students who qualify as academically talented, with demonstrated financial need and who have declared a STEM major, including programs in applied science and technology, biological sciences, computer information systems, computer science, engineering, engineering technology, information services technology, information systems, cybersecurity and physical sciences can apply for the S-STEM NSF grant.

The window to apply for the NSF S-STEM scholarship remains open. The grant monies not only cover tuition, it also covers support services like field trips, guest speakers, supplies and tutoring. Visit <https://www.csmd.edu/apply-register/credit/scholars-programs/stem-scholars/> for more information.

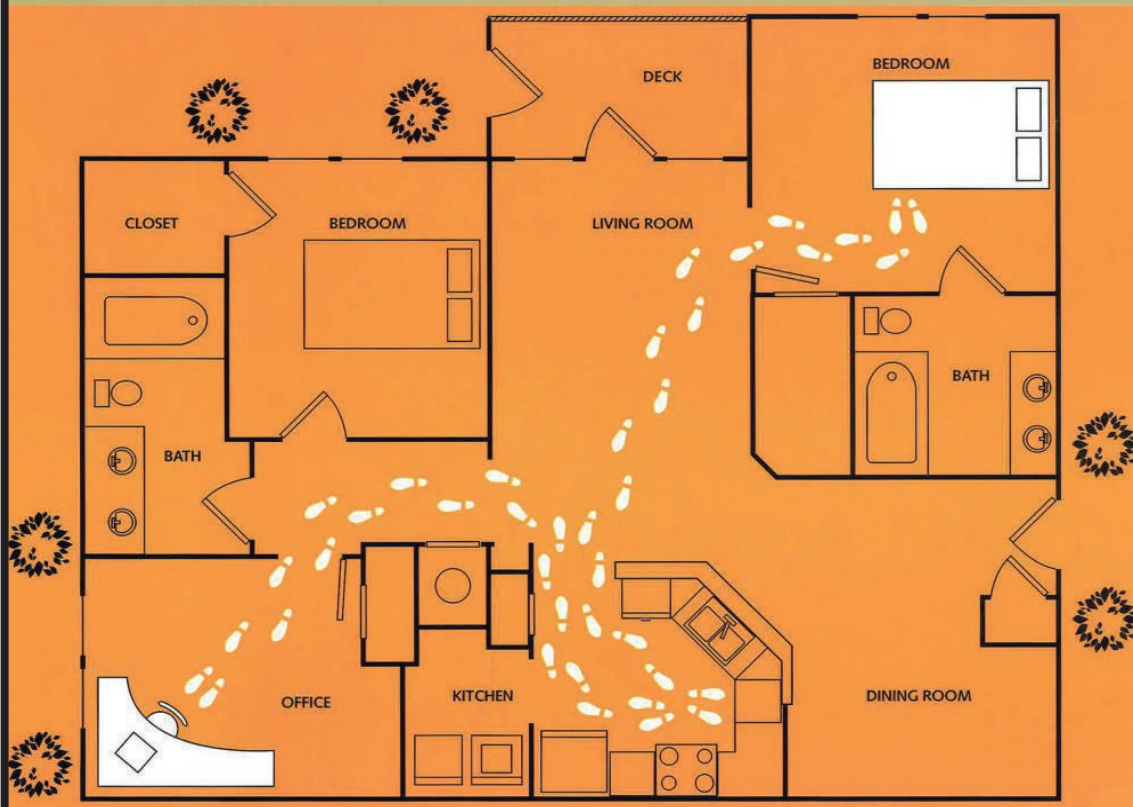
Press Release from CSM.

YOUR NEW COMMUTE.

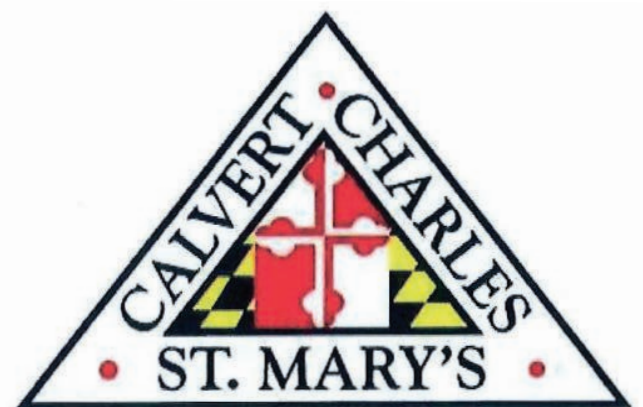
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Tri-County Council
for Southern Maryland

George Clark

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Pianist to Perform Free Virtual Chopin Concert



Pianist Brian Ganz will perform during the special virtual 49th Abbey Bach Festival Thursday, July 30, at 7 p.m. PDT (10 p.m. EDT). Based at the Mount Angel Abbey in Saint Benedict, Oregon, the festival features a free four-day virtual classical concert series, broadcast live each day at 7 p.m. PDT. Photo by Jay Mallin.

Pianist Brian Ganz will perform a selection of Chopin favorites during the special virtual 49th Abbey Bach Festival on Thursday, July 30, at 7 p.m. PDT (10 p.m. EDT). Based at the Mount Angel Abbey in Saint Benedict, Oregon, the festival features a free four-day virtual classical concert series, broadcast live each day at 7 p.m. PDT, with concerts remaining available for viewing through Saturday, Aug. 8.

Ganz took requests a few weeks before the concert, and will perform some of the works requested and more Chopin favorites. Each concert was performed and recorded live. Ganz's performance was recorded at his home in Purcellville, Virginia on Friday, July 17. "I've never played in Oregon in person, so it's a particular pleasure for me to be able to reach out to offer the soul nourishment of Chopin's music to the people of that beautiful state, and across the internet to all Chopin lovers, at this tender time. How we all need beauty right now," said Ganz. The festival will also feature performances by cellist Amit Peled, guitarist JJJ, and pianist Alon Goldstein with the Mercury Chamber Orchestra. For more information on the Abbey Bach Festival, visit <https://www.mountangelabbey.org/bach>.

"There is a very unusual creative spark at work in this festival," said Ganz. "The artistic director of the series, Alon Goldstein, is one of my favorite pianists and dearest friends, and I encourage everyone reading this to explore not just his artistry but also his ideas about music, art and life. Tune in not just on July 30, but for all four free concerts of the festival. They will leave you both musically enriched and eager for more art... and more life," he said. The 7 p.m. (PDT) recital will be preceded by a 15 minute pre-concert interview, at 6:45 p.m., featuring a conversation between friends Ganz and Goldstein.

Ganz's Chopin concert will include the following compositions. (Those preceded by an asterisk were requested by members of the listening community of the Abbey Bach Festival.) *Polonaise in A

major, Op. 40, No. 1; *Etude in E major, Op. 10, No. 3; *Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23; Nocturne in A-flat major, Op. 32, No. 2; *Waltz in D-flat major, Op. 64, No. 1 ("Minute"); *Waltz in C-sharp minor, Op. 64, No. 2; Mazurka in B minor, Op. 30, No. 2; Mazurka in D-flat major, Op. 30, No. 3; *Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 31.

Brian Ganz is widely regarded as one of the leading pianists of his generation. A laureate of the Marguerite Long Jacques Thibaud and the Queen Elisabeth of Belgium International Piano Competitions, Ganz has appeared as soloist with such orchestras as the St. Louis Symphony, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the Baltimore Symphony, the National Philharmonic, the National Symphony and the City of London Sinfonia, and has performed with such conductors as Leonard Slatkin, Marin Alsop, Mstislav Rostropovich, Piotr Gajewski and Yoel Levi.

In January of 2011 Ganz began a multi-year project in partnership with the National Philharmonic in which he will perform the complete works of Frédéric Chopin at the Music Center at Strathmore. After the inaugural recital, The Washington Post wrote: "Brian Ganz was masterly in his first installment of the complete works [of Chopin]."

Ganz is on the piano faculty of St. Mary's College of Maryland, where he is artist-in-residence, and is also a member of the piano faculty of the Peabody Conservatory. He is the artist-editor of the Schirmer Performance Edition of Chopin's Preludes (2005). Recent performance highlights include Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 at the Alba Music Festival in Italy, Mozart's Piano Concerto K. 466 with the Virginia Chamber Orchestra and the Annapolis Symphony, Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto with the Billings Symphony, and a solo recital for the Distinguished Artists Series of Santa Cruz, California. Most recently, he co-wrote, acted and performed in a multi-media program at the Freer Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



HUNTING AND GATHERING



I am in gathering mode. Here in Country Lakes we are planning our neighborhood yard sale day for Saturday, August 1st. One of the neighbors has graciously started a thread on our community Facebook page about it and she will be posting the addresses of those participating on an event page and on the marketplace yard sale sites. Our HOA usually does one each year at our little park as well. I'm excited since it will feel like a bit of normalcy in our changed lives. It should be a lot of fun, kind of like a scavenger hunt for all the yard sale devotees, especially in a neighborhood of over 700 homes. WooHoo! It's a good thing I will be stuck at my own yard sale here at the house, because I would be tempted to hit every street in the neighborhood.

So, I am trying to look around the house and yard with fresh eyes to see what can be sold and what should be kept. I will probably put out some of my prints or artwork too and have my own little Y'ART Sale which I have been wanting to do for a long time. And I have some shabby chic items I have made to put out, and maybe some handmade wreaths too (if they get finished). Right now, it is lots of different piles here and there. My husband will just be happy if everything is out of the guest room, which is my staging/prep area.

As an intrepid list maker, as was my mother, I have started my Y'ART/yard sale to do list. #1 of course is: Don't forget to pooper scoop! All the other basics are listed after that, like go through drawers, go through closets, cabinets, workshop, all rooms, and the yard. You never know what someone may be looking for. My only no sale rules are family heirlooms of course, anything Monkees or Bing Crosby, my father's favorite books, or my Bavarian china.

Hunting for items around the house you want to sell can be so hard. Every day you look at the same things in your home, yet you don't really see them; they have become part of

the fabric of the home. Some items hold sentimental value in my heart, but will they mean anything to future generations? And I worry that I may have a day where I want to look at something again. I try to remember that it really isn't fair to leave all this to your children. I have a document on my computer for my two sons, which mentally walks around our house to let the boys know what is from our family, and the couple things I would like them to keep if they can and what to have their two cousins look at. Some items of course, I have already spoken to my niece about.

Okay, enough maudlin talk, back to the excitement of a yard sale. I had planned on taking it all to the Calvert County Fairgrounds flea market, however they have cancelled for this summer – which is understandable. I feel pretty safe having the yard sale in our yard and being behind a table. I will have out the wipes and sanitizing goop naturally and wear my mask. Mindy the crazy hound dog will be in attendance as long as I can take hound barking all morning.

I am also excited about the good weather forecasted, or let's hope it is. Southern Maryland weather can change in an instant. And the most important thing will be getting the two Rubbermaid containers filled with vintage items left from when I had to close my old vintage booth out of my car. Also, all the empty boxes I have been saving for the sale. That will be nice – hoping there won't be anything left.

So, come on down to the corner of Mill Seat and Tanyard to say hi, and to visit all the other yard sale houses in Country Lakes – you might find a treasure that you want to pass down. Now all I have to do is to stop the gathering.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook



PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

News

Solving the Mystery of Eagles on Pax River's Runways

By Donna Cipolloni
NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs

Following a bird strike in 2019, funding has been approved for a project to track the habits of a large group of bald eagles that have been showing up each fall to roost on the runways at NAS Patuxent River.

The Class A mishap, which involved an E-6 aircraft striking a bald eagle during takeoff, resulted in engine damage worth \$3.5 million and a vital aircraft downed for an extended period of time. Fortunately, no personnel were injured.

"In a test environment like Pax River, that's very costly," explained Jim Swift, the installation's natural resources specialist. "The eagles are a hazard to aircraft that fly at Pax River as well as the mission Pax has. We need to figure out why they're coming to our airfield so we can implement some management strategy to discourage them from doing so."

For the past number of years, each September and October, an influx of bald eagles inexplicably arrive and begin to roost on the runways, said Pax River's Conservation Director Kyle Rambo.

"We can see as many as 50 eagles lined up on our runways at any one time," Rambo said. "They're not here all day; we don't see them showing up at dusk. They arrive

sometime early in the morning hours and they're there when we do our morning airfield sweeps. They'll fly off one runway and fly onto another one. They'll hopscotch around and there's this mess of bald eagles we have to deal with."

Rambo, who noted the birds are communal and will travel together when not nesting, thinks that due to cooler autumn nights, the eagles may be taking advantage of the heat the asphalt absorbs each morning to warm themselves before leaving to forage.

"Maybe they're warming their muscles so they can fly sooner, go further, hunt better and waste less energy," Rambo said. "They're usually gone before noon and we don't see them again until the next morning."

Capturing the birds and the data

The project, spearheaded by scientists from the College of William and Mary's Center for Conservation Biology, involves capturing 10 of the transient birds and attaching not only U.S. Geological Survey leg bands, but GPS transmitters that will relay real-time data about the birds' activities.

Bait will be placed to lure the eagles to specific areas near the airfield where traps are set and the team will use rocket nets to capture

a mixture of adults and juveniles, preferably some from the group of birds that arrive earlier in September and others from the birds that show up later in October.

"We want to find out where else they're roosting while they're here, what route they're taking from their roost to the airfield, and what's their other daily activity," Swift said. "After they leave the airfield around noon, are they feeding out over the water, or in other parts of the county, and do they come back and eat what they catch at the airfield. We're trying to get these pieces figured out to see if there's something we can do to disrupt their pattern and keep them away."

The transmitters will provide location data as well as other pieces of information, such as time and date, and can download this information every hour, every 24 hours, or whatever specific timeframe is programmed.

"The transmitters have good battery life; two to three years is normal," Swift said. "We'll be able to see if these are the same birds coming back each year and where their breeding territory is; whether they're coming from the area of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont; or maybe the juveniles are coming up from the south during their

fledgling dispersal. It's going to be very interesting to see, once we begin getting this data back, how these puzzle pieces will fit together."

When the basic answers to the birds' lifestyle questions are discovered, they may yield a vulnerability that can be exploited by the team.

"We want to find something in their lifestyle that we can disrupt in an attempt to make them not want to come hang out at Pax River," Rambo added. "They're a protected species, but if we can find a quirk about their expected behavior and tweak or manipulate that a little bit, we can make them go somewhere else. We can solve what could be a potentially catastrophic problem."

Ideally, if everything works out as hoped, scientists will be on the ground setting traps sometime in mid-September, and the process of attempting to avoid further disruption to the mission will be underway.

"Aircraft have to be able to fly to test, not just to get the data they want, but to get those products out to the fleet so they can use them," Swift said. "If you're delayed a few months because you're repairing an aircraft due to a bird strike, you're ultimately delaying the fleet being able to get the resources they need."



With a V-22 Osprey in the background, a bald eagle takes flight on the airfield at NAS Patuxent River. A project will soon be underway to study the habits of a large group of eagles who roost on the runways each September and October, with the goal of altering their behavior so they will not return. U.S. Navy photo



Letters TO THE Editor

A Cornerstone of Community Life

To the Editor:

A local newspaper is one of the cornerstones of our community's civic life. It's not just a source of news but a forum for the discussion and debate of important public issues that affect our daily lives as citizens. The steady decline of local and regional news coverage, and the sudden termination of journalists and editors who cover events and issues in Charles County and Southern Maryland, is a cause for concern.

As a close observer and consumer of Southern Maryland news for the last 40 years, I've seen the depth and breadth of coverage in our region of the State steadily wither to a remnant of its former self. There was a time when all of our counties boasted a vibrant mix of newspapers and radio stations with serious news coverage and in-depth interviews. The days of press conferences here with more than one or two reporters asking hard questions are gone.

Our region has long been neglected by The Washington Post and the D.C. area's television stations. We're used to that. It's been years since the Post's Thursday edition of "Southern Maryland Extra" ceased publication. But the reality of being ignored by the metropolitan media emphasizes the importance of having news organizations based here in Southern Maryland that are committed to the future of our community.

In spite of recent developments at APG Media of Chesapeake, the free weekly County Times continues to serve readers in St. Mary's and Calvert counties. And there are a few online news outlets and blogs on social media covering the region.

Over the years it's been a privilege to get to know some of the outstanding reporters, journal-

ists and writers who've wanted to "pry up the lid," become experts on major issues, and get below the surface where things really happen. I've seen firsthand the impact their coverage has had on key public policy decisions, enhancing Southern Maryland's influence at the State level and telling the story of our region's dynamic economic growth and prosperity.

As a subscriber, I'm perplexed by the some of the corporate decisions the Adams Publishing Group (APG Media of Chesapeake) has made. Why would a for-profit enterprise be asking its paid subscribers for donations? Recent draconian staff cuts by APG and the consolidation of their three Southern Maryland papers into one weekly edition is an ominous warning. The Maryland Independent, which has been covering Charles County continuously for almost a century and a half, no longer exists.

The decline and collapse of local journalism in Southern Maryland undermines the quality of our civic life, our sense of place as a community, and the accountability of decisions by our elected leaders at all levels of government.

We're not alone in witnessing the demise of local newspapers. This trend has hit hundreds of other communities across America.

In Charles County and Southern Maryland, the time has come to consider the non-profit model of civic journalism, whose aim is not maximizing profits for distant investors, but serving this community and the people who live here.

Gary V. Hodge
President

Regional Policy Advisors
White Plains, MD

Back To School Or Not?

To the Editor:

COVID-19 has caused schools across the USA to close. It appears that plans for reopening are made at the local level under state guidance. The feeling is that those closest to the situation can deal with it best.

Should kids go back to school? Information is a moving target. The following is my attempt to summarize what I consider the most important information at this time. Decisions should be driven by facts, not politics. We are dealing with life and death matters. According to Center of Disease Control (CDC) Director and virologist Robert Redfield, it is important to open this fall. According to the CDC, children don't suffer as much as adults, and are less likely to spread it.

However, the CDC recommends local officials should consider keeping closed if substantial uncontrolled transmission is in the community. The CDC will work with K-12 to safely open and protect the vulnerable.

The CDC informs that the risks are low for school aged children. According to the CDC, two percent of confirmed cases of COVID-19 were among persons less than 18 years. Children and adolescents under 18 account for less than 0.1 COVID-19 related deaths. Internationally, COVID-19 spreads in schools at low rates when community transmission is low.

According to the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), relatively few children are hospitalized. Fewer children than adults have fever, shortness of breath or severe outcomes.

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos states that kids are at a far, far lower risk than adults, not zero. Data suggests they are not spreaders.

Science Magazine says that children rarely spread or bring home. Also, the benefits of going back outweigh the risks. According to

the same magazine, high school students have mild cases, but are contagious.

Dr. Fauci, one of the leaders of the President's Task Force, recommends going back if the area has minimal problems.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly recommends students be in as much as possible. Re-entry should be data driven.

Teachers are not at higher risk. Ninety percent of the time children get it from adults.

There are three basic models for going back to school which include on-line, in-school, and hybrid, which is a mix of on-line and in-school.

St. Mary's Public Schools are most important to most of this audience. To start the 2020/21 school year there will be on-line.

It is currently a work in progress.

At the state level State Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon noted that the first priority is safety of students and staff. County schools can be in-person depending on local conditions. Masks will be required for all students and staff. Hand washing will also be emphasized.

I have given various numbers on risks for COVID19. What are some costs if we don't reopen? Can we keep 50.8 million children out of school indefinitely? Shutting down affects the economy, academics, special education, mental health, nutrition for the indigent, socialization, and other things. Also, there are more children deaths from the flu, drug abuse and other things.

Now, the question is, what is worse, the disease or the cure. With the facts I have presented and others you know, I will leave you to decide.

God Bless America!
Marilyn Crosby
Lexington Park, MD

(Editor's Note: The writer is a former member of the St. Mary's County Board of Education).

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In Remembrance

Nicole "Nicky" Elizabeth Pires



Nicole "Nicky" Elizabeth Pires, 47 of Mechanicsville, MD passed away unexpectedly on July 22, 2020 at her home.

Nicky was born on December 30, 1972 in San Diego, CA to Dock Swagart of Hollywood, MD and Brenda Watchorn of FL. As a child she lived in San Diego, Key West, FL, Rota, Spain and Pensacola where she honed her soccer skills playing against the best teams available.

Nicky graduated from Escambia High School in Pensacola, FL in 1991. She then went on to study English and graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College with a BA Degree while on a full soccer scholarship. Nicky and her sons moved to Mechanicsville, Maryland in 2009. She has been employed by Wyle Labs, Tri County Transit and currently KBR-Wyle as a contracts manager.

Her talent and love of soccer led her to coach... starting with youth soccer camps while she was in College. She coached numerous youth

teams and assisted at Chopticon High School soccer and Calvert soccer association. When she wasn't coaching or working she enjoyed taking vacations to Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Mexico, the Caribbean and North Carolina outer banks. She loved the outdoors and would often go on hikes, play golf, or take a stroll on the beach. She enjoyed cheering on the Dallas Cowboys and the Chelsea Football Club. She had a special place in her heart for animals and loved Nemo, her Jack Russell Terrier who accompanied her on many adventures.

In addition to her parents and step-mother Deborah, she is survived by her children, Austin Harradine of Clements, MD and Kyle Harradine of St. Leonard, MD; her sister Rhonda Marie Shoopman (Monty) of Alameda, CA, and her granddaughter, Luna Harradine.

The family will receive friends on Friday, July 31, 2020 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment is private.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 10665 Stanhaven Place, Suite 205D, White Plains, MD 20695.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Mary Ellen Albert



Mary Ellen Albert, "Missy", 69, of Great Mills, MD passed away on July 21, 2020 at her home. She was born on March 13, 1951 in Leonardtown, MD and was the loving daughter

of the late Ann E. Jones Poe and William A. Albert. She was preceded in death by her stepfather Thomas F. Poe. Mary is survived by her children James Albert (Marina) of Piney Point, MD, Ann Hills of Great Mills, 4 grandchildren Lindsey Elliott, Daniel Alioto, Nicholas Alioto and Logan Bell. Siblings Anthony Albert (Sandi) of California, MD, Joseph Albert of Hollywood, MD, and Sandra Littleford (Jimmy) of Lusby, MD. She was preceded in death by her son in law Jay Hills.

Mary was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident. She graduated from Great Mills High School in Great Mills, MD and attended the College of Southern Maryland. Mary was a home health caregiver for Mary's Home Care for 30 plus years.

All Funeral Services will be private. Serving as pallbearers will be Nicholas Alioto, Billy Schrader, Logan Bell, William Farr, Cameron Schrader, Robb Albert and Chris Graves. Honorary pallbearer Daniel Alioto.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's P.O. Box 625 Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. Leonardtown, MD.

Shirley Louise Mills Braxton



Shirley Louise Mills Braxton departed this life on Tuesday July, 14 2020. Shirley was born March 24, 1952 in Maddox, MD to the late Truman Lawrence Mills and Louise Nata-

lie Edwards Mills.

Shirley graduated elementary school from Fenwick Elementary in Bushwood, MD. She then graduated high school from Chopticon in Morganza, MD. She attended Towson University in Baltimore, MD where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Science, and a Master's Degree in Education and Administration from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD.

On August 19, 1978 she was united in marriage to Maceo "Mace" Braxton Jr. From this union there were three children named Natalie Bernice Braxton, Maceo Braxton III, and Andrew Lawrence Braxton.

She started her teaching career at Benfield Elementary School in Severna Park, MD. She was the first African American teacher to be hired at Benfield Elementary. Throughout her career Shirley taught in various school systems including Makakilo Elementary in Hawaii, Swansfield Elementary in Columbia, MD, Lakewood Elementary in Washington State, Community Action Agency (Anne Arundel County) Head Start Program, and Doswell E. Brooks in Capitol Heights, MD. She would also occasionally substitute teach in the USD305 school district when she resided in Salina, KS.

While living in Salina, Shirley was actively involved in the Arts and Humanities community through the Salina Art Center. She was also a member of the Pregnancy Service Center and served on the Kansas First District Armed Services Academy Selection Board appointed by Senator Jerry Moran. Shirley was an integral member of the Salina Central High School Fundraising and Booster program and she served on the Salina Regional Health Foundations Board of Trustees. She was the Chairperson of the Rebecca Morrison House Committee and served on several USD 305 and statewide educational task forces. Shirley was actively involved with the NAACP, she was also a member of PEO, Chapter ED, and was a beloved charter member of the "Hot Chicks" club. Her passion for education, her family, her Lord, quality healthcare and serving others permeated her being.

Shirley loved planning events, baking (homemade caramel and chocolate icings, apple pies with homemade crust), watching game shows and award shows, and took great pride in arts & crafts, in addition to spending quality time with family, friends and other loved ones.

Shirley was a devout Christian and while residing in Salina, KS she was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and served on the Church Council. Upon her return back to Maryland, Shirley was a dedicated member of All Saints Lutheran Church in Bowie, MD. She was an usher and served on the Church Council. Shirley was an esteemed member of the congregation in all of her church communities.

She is survived by her three children, Natalie Braxton, Maceo Braxton III, and Andrew Braxton. One sister, Anne Mills Bowie. Three sister-in-laws, Dr. Pam Davis (Trent), Sylvia Braxton, and Denise Braxton. Two brother-in-laws, Dr. John Braxton, Dr. Trent Davis Sr. Four neph-

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In Remembrance

ews, Gen. Robert Bowie (Susan), Trent Davis II, M.D., Dr. Charles Davis (Caitlyn), and Dr. Aaron Davis. Three nieces, Montana Sky Braxton, Savannah and Sierra Braxton. Her (traveling) cousin, Valerie Cooper. Her Godchildren, Samantha and Sydney Bowie, Marlon and Remi Frisby. Her friend-sister, Phyllis Lester, countless cousins, other relatives and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to Susana Eshleman, Children's International, Child: Yoanna Severino Almonte, 2000 East Red Bridge Road, Kansas City, MO 64131 or at: <https://www.children.org/> or <https://www.giftsofhopedc.org/>.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Patricia L. Taylor



Patricia L. Taylor, 61, of Dameron, MD, passed away Monday, July 20, 2020, after an eight-month battle with pancreatic cancer, at her home surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on September 12, 1958 in Newport, R.I. to Evelyn J. Fenner of Lexington Park, MD and the late Joseph P. Brown.

Pat was employed for many years at Calvert Cliffs Power Plant before joining J.F. Taylor, Inc. and the Pax River DOD contractor community as a Program Analyst supporting F/A-18 Communication Systems programs. She retired in 2014.

On November 24, 2012, Pat married her beloved husband, John F. Taylor, Jr. Together they celebrated over 7 wonderful years of marriage. Pat loved to be outdoors. She enjoyed gardening, fishing, mowing grass, and working in the yard along with

planning and cooking for family events. She harvested bountiful gardens and made delicious meals, especially her pierogis. She loved having her kids and grandkids at the house.

In addition to her mother and husband, Pat is also survived by her children: Jesse L. Crews, Tiffany M. Harris (George), John F. Taylor, III (Jessica), Alan C. Taylor (Tori), Sarah M. Taylor (Ariel), and Jan E. Steinberger (David); her brother, Joseph P. Brown, Jr. of Charlotte Hall, MD; her grandchildren: Jacob, Cody, and Logan Harris; Abbie and Jesse Crews; Andres and Bolivar Quinones; J.T., Julia and Jade Taylor; and Leah Steinberger; and many extended family and friends. In addition to her father, she is also preceded in death by her sister, Jackie Brown.

Serving as pallbearers will be Joseph Brown, Jesse Crews, George Harris, John Taylor III, Alan Taylor, Ariel Quinones, David Steinberger, and Jesse Harris. Honorary pallbearers will be Jacob Harris and Jesse Crews, Jr.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pancreatic Cancer Research, 111 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714; American Cancer Association, 405 Williams Court, Suite 120, Baltimore, MD 21220 and Hospice of St. Mary's County, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Duncan James MacPherson



Duncan James MacPherson, 62, of Lexington Park, MD passed away on July 18, 2020 at his home in Lexington Park, MD surrounded

by his loving family.

He was born on September 10, 1957 in Washington, D.C. to the late James Gilpen MacPherson and Ellen Elizabeth Derr.

Duncan is a graduate of Church Farm School for Boys in Exton, PA. On October 16, 1976, he married his beloved wife, Susan MacPherson at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Oxon Hill, MD. Together they celebrated over 34 wonderful years until her passing in February 2011. He considered himself a gear head and was a skilled mechanic for his entire career until his retirement in 1995. He also spent 25 years working part-time with his brother repossessing vehicles. He enjoyed watching John Wayne movies. He was an avid race fan, including John Force, NHRA, and IHRA. He enjoyed trail riding, racing dirt bikes and motorcycles. He grew bountiful vegetable gardens. He was a lifelong fan of the Los Angeles Raiders. His greatest love was for his family, spending time together with them was his first priority.

He is survived by his children Wendi Kilroy of Mechanicsville, MD and David MacPherson (Katherine) of Lexington Park, MD; his sister, Julie Williams of St. Leonard, MD, his brother, Steve Latham (Sandy) of Solomons, MD; his grandchildren: Danielle Sue Wenk (Isabella), Daisy Elizabeth Kilroy, David Neil MacPherson, Jr., John James Kilroy IV, and Nathaniel Tre MacPherson; and many extended family and friends. In addition to his parents and wife, he is also preceded in death by his son-in-law, John Kilroy III, his sister, Laurie Marshall, and his brother-in-law, Wayne Williams.

All services will be private.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Myrtle Edith Estelle Faunce



Myrtle Edith Estelle Faunce "Aunt Myrtle", 96, of Lexington Park, MD formerly from Avenue, MD passed away on July 18, 2020 in Leonardtown,

MD. She was born on October 16, 1923 in Park Hall, MD and was the loving daughter of the late Jami Fish Sonner Saunders and Westley Wilburn Saunders. Myrtle is preceded in death by her husband Henry Faunce whom she married on December 2, 1966 in Leonardtown, MD and who preceded her in death on May 17, 1993. Myrtle is survived by her chil-

dren Betty Goodchild of Nipomo, CA, James Tennyson of La Vern, CA, Joe Tennyson of Roseville, CA, Charlie Tennyson of Lexington Park, MD, Mel Tennyson of Coleville, TX, and Wilma Kenyson of Ventura, CA, sister Millie Ruth Cullison of Ridge, MD, 13 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death her siblings Alfred Saunders, Frank Saunders, Vernon Saunders, Walter Saunders, Edna Marie, Wilbur Saunders, Robert Saunders, Clara Saunders, Jamey Saunders, and Jane Arrah Elizabeth.

She was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduated from Great Mills High School, Great Mills, MD. Myrtle owned Faunce Seafood until her retirement in 1993.

On June 23, 1942, Myrtle was married to the late Joe Tennyson of Scotland, MD. She married the boy next door, adjacent farm from her families. They lived in the house with the in-laws. They had no in-door plumbing and no electricity. One hand pump at the kitchen sink. One wood stove and a couple of fireplaces for heat. Growing up she worked out in the field with the men. In 1952 the family moved to Montalvo, California into a newly constructed house with running water and electricity. She made her children clothing with a Singer Sewing Machine using simplicity patterns. Made her own biscuits from scratch, often shaping some dough into a groove shape. She made brownies with walnuts in them, there was a walnut orchid just beyond the backyard. She was a Den Mother for Boy Scouts Troop that her son's Jimmy and Joe were in.

In 1955 she was divorced from Joe. She moved back to Maryland and later married Henry Faunce. Henry was a water-man. Sometimes she would get up at 4 AM and go out in the river with Henry. On returning to shore she would help Henry load the catch into his pickup. She would then make breakfast, go down to their shop, and Henry would eat the breakfast she had prepared. She worked at the shop all day. Then had to go home to make dinner and do household chores. 17-hour days were not that uncommon. Her son Mel, said that she was the hardest working woman he had ever seen in his life. Myrtle loved family and friends. She was a great cook and kept a spotless house. People marveled she kept 6 kids in a house so clean. The Saunders family reunion were always the best. People loved her crab cakes. One time, one of her relatives asked for her recipe. When she started telling her, the other lady interrupted and said "I don't use that." Mom stopped and said I never gave anyone the recipe. She loved people, if she liked you, you knew it. And if she didn't like you, you also knew it. After Henry's death



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in 1993, she sold Faunce Seafood and their house on the Potomac River. She moved to Ridge and stayed with her niece Diane until she got a place at the Southridge Apartments. There was a bar there and, on the weekends, different bands would come and play. Mom loved to dance and socialized.

Buzzy's in Scotland was a favorite hangout of hers too. Buzzy could take off sometimes and mom would run the store until he got back. She made the front page of the Washington Post. A reporter came down, he was doing an article on the old country stores that were still in business, so on the front page there was Myrtle bending one back (Miller Lite). The reported laid down on the floor, Myrtle asked him what he was doing. He said he was waiting for her to exhale some cigarette smoke. She also made the Enterprise; a reporter came out because she had saw a walrus in the Potomac River. In her 80's we used to bar hop. We could go into a bar not knowing anyone but when we left we knew everyone. She lived a full life and was ready to go. Not too many people can say that.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to the Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 456 Ridge, MD 20680.

Mike Lopez



Mike Lopez — or Big Mike as he was known to friends — was a gentle giant whose presence and smile would light up a room. Although his stature could be intimidating,

his quick willingness to take someone under his wing perfectly showcased his heartfelt compassion and his innate ability to support, guide, listen and just be a friend when a friend was needed.

Making a difference in the lives of others came naturally to Big Mike. For this reason and countless others, the world and the people he met are better because of him.

Whether goalkeeping for the Barataria Junior Secondary Evening Shift Team, his hometown team for youth under 16, or representing his native Trinidad and Tobago on the world stage as a top athlete and goalkeeper on the national football (soccer) team, his sportsmanship and regard for teammates and opponents alike was exemplary on and off the pitch. Upon moving to Brooklyn in the 1980s, he joined the daring world of bike messengers as they raced each other across Manhattan, delighting in the thrill and hustle and bustle of interacting with people from all walks

of life. Anyone who met Big Mike quickly found that he had a presence and spirit about him that could make the darkest day a little brighter.

After joining the Marine Corps in 1991, Mike proudly served as a plane captain and collateral duty inspector with the Warriors of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 167 aboard MCAS New River in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and on detachment in support of the withdrawal of forces in Somalia. He cherished his time as a Marine, speaking often of his experiences, his time playing basketball on the All-Marine Team and the lifelong friendships forged through the bonds of camaraderie, trust and service.

When Mike was granted U.S. citizenship in the early 1990s, his joy could not be contained. Indeed, no one was ever prouder of being a U.S. citizen than Big Mike. His love of the United States knew no bounds.

Ever a team player, Mike was an avid sports fan — some might even say he was a fanatic, especially when it came to his New York Football Giants. He was also a well-respected teammate at the Solomons Fleet Readiness Center Aviation Support Equipment (FRCASE), a long-standing member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Union - Lodge No. 4 and a faithful member of Hollywood United Methodist Church.

Mike's stature easily made him the center of attention, but he preferred to sit quietly, listen and take in the world around him. His dearest joy was his wife, Desirée. He loved her with a purity and passion that is limited to a precious few. He was — and is — her soulmate, her strength and her forever protector. Theirs is truly a love that transcends time and space.

Mike was a true "girl dad." He loved being a father to his daughters, Dominique, Krysaundra and Mya and cherished weekly family dinner dates with them and grandsons, Julian and Makia.

It is said that a heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others. Mike's family, friends, squadron mates and colleagues love him with a depth that has no bounds. He didn't have many years on this earth, but he made the most of the years he had with those around him.

Mike was born in Trinidad and Tobago to Leonard and Mrytle (Nurse) Lopez. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Marvelyn Nurse. He is survived by his wife, Desirée; daughters, Dominique (Lopez) Labore, Krysaundra Lopez and Mya Lopez; siblings Erica (Lopez) Callender, Wayne Lopez, Lystra Lopez, Kirt Lopez, Michelle Lopez, Jennifer Lopez and Allison Nurse; and grand-

sons, Julian and Makia.

In lieu of flowers the family asks as an expression of sympathy, donations may be made to the Marine Corps Scholarship Fund in memory of Mike Lopez.

Benjamin Benson



After battling cancer for more than a decade, Benjamin "Ben" Zacharias Benson, age 78, passed away peacefully while in hospice care at Georgia War

Veteran's Home in Milledgeville, Georgia. He was born on February 22, 1942, in Pensacola, Florida, to Willie Isaac Benson and Hazel Turberville Benson. During childhood, he developed his love for gardening, fishing, hunting, cooking, family time and southern traditions. He loved to play the French horn, piano, and, most especially, the trumpet. After he graduated from Pensacola Technical High School in 1960, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy in August of the same year. On February 8, 1964, he married the love of his life, Rose Marie McWilliams, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, Maryland. He was a flight crew member on various types of aircraft, including patrol and cargo planes. Tours included stations all over the world, including missions in Vietnam for three years. The family moved to several duty stations on the East Coast and Hawaii over his twenty-year career, providing special memories of each location. Following his retirement from the Navy in 1980 at Patuxent River, Maryland, he worked as a civil servant. One of his favorite positions was quality assurance specialist for the Hubble Telescope project at Applied Physics Lab Johns Hopkins, Columbia, Maryland. He earned numerous awards for his exemplary service throughout his military and civil service careers. When he finally retired, Ben and his wife moved to Pennsylvania to be near his sister and her family. There, he achieved the level of 4th Degree in the Knights of Columbus. He returned to Pensacola to care for his mother in her later years, finally settling in Georgia, where most of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren reside.

Throughout Ben's life, he continued to love gardening, and he planted trees, flowers and vegetables wherever he lived. He shared his knowledge of hunting and fishing with his children and grandchildren, teaching each one how to bait a hook and fish with cane poles. He loved music and playing cards, especially "pitch".

Along with his parents, Ben Ben-

son is preceded in death by his two sisters, Hazel Kathleen Benson (FL) and Elizabeth Caledonia "Cal" Benson Cowell (Sheffield, PA) as well Cal's husband, Maj. Crispin J. Cowell, USMC. Along with his wife, he is survived by his children: Ann Marie Benson Ameye (Michael Richard Ameye, Woodstock, GA), William "Bill" Patrick Benson (Armida Dano, Revere, MA), David Austin Benson (Cartersville, GA) and Marian Rose Benson Wright (Acworth, GA); seven grandchildren: Samantha Shelby Benson (VA) & Andrew Christopher Benson (VA), Jackson George Ameye (GA) & Sarah Ann Ameye Mazzarella (Joshua Vincent Mazzarella, GA), and Caitlyn Rose Wright (GA), Zachary Aaron Wright (GA) & Dominic Duncan Wright (GA); two great-grandchildren: Grason Thomas Mazzarella (GA) and James Michael Ameye (GA), and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

The family of Ben Benson welcome relatives and friends for visitation on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at 10AM to 11:00 AM at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, Maryland, followed by a memorial service at 11AM. Internment will immediately follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Flowers are accepted or memorial contributions may be made to the Knights of Columbus Council #9458, 110 N. Jefferson St. NE, Milledgeville, GA 31061.

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. Leonardtown, MD.

David Howard Mattingly



David Howard Mattingly, 76, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on

July 26, 2020 at St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD. He was born on August

20, 1943 in Leonardtown, MD and the was loving son of the late Margaret Mary Mattingly and Joseph Louis Mattingly, Sr. David is survived by his daughter, Deena Clift, son-in-law, Scott, and 2 grandchildren, Joseph Scott and Mattison Rae, of Spotsylvania, VA, 3 step-daughters, Debbie Dyer, of Faulkner, MD, Donna Guy of Sarasota, FL, and Diane Ching of Waldorf MD and 3 step-grandchildren Doug Guy, Jr., Dustin Guy, and Darrin Ching, Siblings Lily Mae Beck, J. Louis Mattingly, Jr., Mary Linda Gass, and Jamie Mattingly, 12 Nieces & 6 Nephews. He is preceded in death by his brother, Bobby Mattingly, sister, Patricia Mattingly, sister, Marian Bellere, and nephew, Jerry Mattingly.

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David was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, MD. When David was young he was a great jitterbug dancer, loved nice cars and was always a sharp dresser. At the age of 13 he was on the Milt Grant Show through WMAL Studio in Washington, DC. He and his cousin, Alice Vallandingham Bailey, won the jitterbug contest 2 times and their prize was records. It was such an honor for them to be on the show and win the contest as they were both from the country.

David later graduated from Ryken High School in 1961 and entered the United States Air Force where he served for 4 years. During his time in the Air Force he was stationed in Turkey and Japan. Upon getting out of the military he became employed with the United States Postal Service and retired as a Supervisor.

For many years David was actively involved with the American Legion and Knights of Columbus. He also coached and umpired for the Hughesville Baseball Association. David enjoyed watching football and baseball. He also liked talking about politics.

At the time of his death David was a resident of the St. Mary's Nursing Center. He always looked forward to visits from his family and friends. He liked to ride out with them and get a bite to eat followed by a good milkshake. He had a great sense of humor and kept that until his death on July 26th.

Services will be held on Monday, August 3, 2020, at 10:00 am at Charles Memorial Gardens where David will be laid to rest. In lieu of flowers please make contributions to Hope for the Warriors 8003 Forbes Place Suite 201, Springfield, VA 22151.

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, P.A. Leonardtown, MD.

Gene Byrd



Mr. Gene Byrd of Leonardtown, Maryland passed away Thursday July 22, 2020 after complications from lung surgery to remove what was

thought to be the last remnants of cancer he battled for the past year. Gene moved to Maryland in April of 2018 after his wife and love of his life, Carol Byrd passed away in Columbia SC. He was immensely proud of his children Daphne Martin (John) of Leonardtown, MD, Mark Byrd (Rachel) of Elgin, SC, Jody Dean (Rick) of Lexington Park, MD, and Rick Byrd (Laura) of Blythewood, SC, and his 15 grandchildren, and

14 great-grandchildren. He has two more great-grandchildren on the way. His death was preceded by his mother, father, and two brothers. He considered himself the "Last Mohican" of the Byrd Family.

Gene was born in Wilmington, NC and was raised in Florence, SC. A tool and die maker by trade, Gene became a successful manufacturing engineer in Columbia SC and was known to "get the job done" using his outstanding work ethic and passion for doing whatever it takes. He "retired" at the age of 71 from Ambac International but worked with many organizations in the Midlands of South Carolina over his career. He also enjoyed 5 years teaching Machine Tool Technology at Spring Valley Vocational Center in the 1980's. He believed that teaching students a technical trade could give many the start needed to succeed. Many of his students stayed connected with him throughout their careers.

Gene loved gardening and had beautiful flowers and plants displayed at his home in South Carolina that he tended with great care. His other passion was traveling to his beach "cottage" in Shallotte NC where you could find him on any beautiful weekend. He loved old movies, 50's and 60's music and often called John Wayne his hero. He was a Southern gentleman that believed in opening doors for others, saying please, thank you, and always treating others with kindness and respect. He was a giver and would do anything to help others. He loved steak, baked potatoes, and always had a display of sweets and treats available for his grandchildren, visitors and of course himself. You would always see him walking around with a huge smile and carrying his glass of sweet tea!

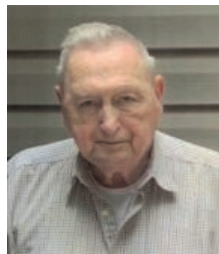
After moving to Maryland, he opened a small business called The Byrd's Nest of Southern Maryland located in the Shepherd's Old Field Market (SOF) of Leonardtown and the Leonardtown Maryland Antique Center. He enjoyed greeting and getting to know all of the customers and was often called the heartbeat of the SOF market. He was quite a charmer and was known to tell everyone he was "marvelous" when asked how he was doing. He was the sunshine for so many and a friend to everyone he met.

A Celebration of Life service will be held Monday August 3rd from 5:00-7:00 in the outdoor Brudergarten area of Shepherd's Old Field Market located at 22725 Duke St. Leonardtown. COVID restrictions will be in place and masks are mandatory.

A memorial service is also being planned for South Carolina and will be announced soon.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to the Byrd Memorial Fund @ https://www.gofundme.com/f/gene-byrd-memorial?utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_lico+share-sheet+expWdV or search for the Gene Byrd Memorial on gofundme.com.

Lewis Michael Herrington



Lewis Michael Herrington, 89, of Prince Frederick passed away July 26, 2020 at his home. He was born June 30, 1931 in Vestaburg, Pa.

to Lewis L. Herrington and Anna Makauskay. He was raised in Pennsylvania. He served in the US Army from 1952 – 1954 in the Korean War. One of the most treasured items he carried with him, was a picture of his niece, Mary Anne. He often told other soldiers' that was his daughter. Upon returning home, he continued to cherish his relationship with Mary Anne. They would spend Saturday afternoon's together having lunch and laughing. As time moved on, Mary Anne got married and move to Arizona. This did not stop her calls on Sunday evening to talk to her "Uncle Lewie". This special relationship continued until his death.

At a dance in a Hotel in Washington DC, he saw the love of his life, Jeanne. He looked across the room, saw her ankles, and said "I'm going to ask her to dance. She is made of good stock." She said "Yes" and they were married on April 7, 1956 in Washington DC. They bought their first home in a new community called "New Carrollton." There, they lived together for 45 years before relocating to Calvert County to be closer to family.

In Calvert County, he loved going to "The Pines." Especially for lunch! Through this connection, he met his close friend, Charlie. Charlie could always make him laugh. Charlie would come over daily and have lunch with him since the Pines has been closed. Then they would go for a walk together to keep active. Charlie had a way of always making Lew look at the bright side of things. Elver was another special part of Lewis' days. He enjoyed their talks and loved her cooking.

Lewis was a proud member of American Legion. Most recently Post #238 in Hughesville. He enjoyed the steak dinner nights and the picnics on Special Days.

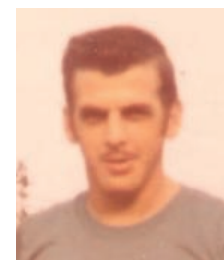
Lewis was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Jeanne; brothers and their wives, Earl and Mary Her-

rington, Paul and Julia Herrington and sister, Genevieve and husband, Joe Milewski and nephew, Paul D. Herrington.

He is survived by his nephew, Steven Milewski of Chicago, Ill.; nieces, Mary Anne Hawthorne (Tim) of Tucson, AZ., Julie Ann Gadway (Chris) of Huntingtown, MD., Gloria Ramanni (Taieser) of Garden City, SC, And Susan and Terese Milewski of Chicago Ill.; great nieces, Julia Anne Smith, (Tommy) of Prince Frederick, MD., Shannon Lee Herrington-Sutton, (Josh) of Durham, NC.; great nephew, Blake Ward Gadway and the one who brought him the greatest joy his great, great nephew Braden Nicklas Smith. The happiest moments were the times he spent with "Little Buster."

Repass will be at Adam's Rib in Prince Frederick, August 8, 2020 from noon – 3:00 PM. The service and interment will be private.

Joseph Robert "Joe" Cosey



Joseph Robert "Joe" Cosey, 75, of White Plains, MD and formerly of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on July 15, 2020 at Restore Health Rehabilitation Center, White Plains, MD.

Born July 22, 1944 in Leonardtown, MD, he was the son of the late Lloyd William Cosey, Sr. and Ruth Mae (Wible) Cosey.

Joe is survived by his siblings, John Cosey of Southern Pines, NC, Mary L. Hill of Lusby, MD, Clara Wallace of Hollywood, MD and Margaret A. Faunce of Brandywine, MD; and his special niece, Renee Hill Crampton of Lusby, MD. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Lloyd Cosey, Jr., Margaret Mister, Francis Cosey, Dorothy Cosey, Virginia Cosey, Mary A. Pilkerton and Mary Elizabeth Thompson.

A Graveside Service will be held on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. at St. John Francis Regis Catholic Cemetery, 43950 St. John's Road, Hollywood, MD 20636.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 7, Hollywood, MD 20636 or the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department, 13150 H.G. Trueman Road, Solomons, MD 20688.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.rauschfuneralhomes.com.

Community Calendar

To submit your event listing to go in our Community Calendar, please email timescalendar@countytimes.net with the listing details by 12 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication.

Friday, July 31

Beth Israel Synagogue Shabbat Services Online

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Shabbat evening services are being held online due to COVID19. Beginning July 17, 2020 Beth Israel Synagogue will hold online services EVERY FRIDAY at 7PM. Check our website calendar (bethisraelmd.weebly.com/calendar.html) for event details.

Saturday, August 1

Identity Protection Day

Department of Aging and Human Resources Building; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Do you have paper documents with personal information that you'd like to purge? The St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services is pleased to welcome the community to Identity Protection Day. Shredding services and medication collection will be offered. Due to continued concerns surrounding COVID-19, this event will not feature speakers or indoor presentations. The Department of Aging & Human Services is pleased to work with the St. Mary's County Department of Transportation & Public Works and the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office to provide this event free of charge to the community. For more information, contact Community Programs & Outreach Manager Sarah Miller at sarah.miller@stmarysmd.com or 301-475-4200, ext. 71073.

Gallery-V Launch

St. Mary's County Community Development Corporation's first exhibit - "Quarantine Dreams", a virtual art gallery as part of the Gallery-V project, will go live on August 1st! Access the selected works at

StMarysCDC.org and the Lex Park ArtsPark Facebook Page. The exhibit drew submissions from six states as well as one from British Columbia!

Virtual Paint Party Fundraiser

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Have fun, be creative, and support a great cause! Valuable Blessings is a non-profit organization in Capitol Heights, MD, that offers mentoring programs, anti-bullying programs, food assistance, a girl's book club, and senior services, among many other programs. Participants receive supplies and instruction from Party-By-Design. Register by July 24 here: www.eventbrite.com/e/valuable-blessings-inc-virtual-paint-party-fundraiser-tickets-112158707714?aff=erelexpmlt

Sunday, August 2

Family Skate

Leonard Hall Recreation Center; 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Come inside to cool off, bring your own skates or pay to rent. Admission is \$5 per person and \$2.50 for skate rental. All entering the facility, must participate and pay the fee. If you are accompanying your child, but not skating, you must still pay and only one adult per child is allowed - no spectators at this time. Social distancing and max capacity limits are being enforced. Reservations are required to attend. You can reserve multiple Sundays through August using our online registration system. Simply choose the date you would like to register and do so for each person in your family who will be attending. If you choose not to show up for your reservation, you forfeit your payment. Refunds will not be issued. All guests will be required to wear a mask while entering

and moving through the facility. Masks will not be required while you are roller skating. Additional cleaning and sanitation practices are being implemented to ensure a clean space for your family to enjoy roller skating this summer. Please be sure to bring your own water bottle as water fountains will not be available. Food and vending machines will not be available for use. Consuming food is prohibited in the facility.

Wednesday, August 5

Wayback Wednesdays

We hope you're loving our weekly video series showing some of the stories that make St. Mary's County's history so unique and interesting. We thought this would be a fun way to bring our closed museums to you while we all keep our social distance. Join us every week for short videos featuring everything from the quirky to the fascinating - tune in! We have several episodes in the playlist! [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum)

Ongoing

Enchanted Summer

Annmarie Garden and Arts Center; August 1 - September 7
"Frolicking Fairy Fun" - a new event w/ all the best parts of the Fairy & Gnome Home Festival transformed into an amped-up, low-touch/no-touch, multimedia, daily, outdoor experience! Details located on the website at annmariegarden.org/

COVID-19 Appointment-Free Testing

Monday - Friday; 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
The St. Mary's County Health Department is now offering COVID-19 testing at the SMCHD Harm Reduction Program Office, located at 46035 Signature Lane in Lexington

Park, MD 20653 (co-located with the U-Haul Moving & Storage of Lexington Park). Community members may walk up for testing, parking is available. If you need assistance or any accommodations, please contact the Harm Reduction Program Office at (301) 862-1680. No prior test order is required.

CSM Chautauqua Series: Fannie Lou Hamer

July 27 - August 1
Chautauqua stage goes virtual as Maryland Humanities raises the voices of four notable women who took action to secure their right to vote. The series will highlight the unique story of each of these historic figures as they fought for their rights. The co-founder of the Mississippi Freedom Party, Fannie Lou Hamer, will be portrayed in the fourth presentation of the series. Maryland Humanities website, Facebook page and YouTube channel will host a video of each performance that will be posted for one week. This series will also feature a performance and a live Q&A which will give attendees the chance to engage with the performers and ask questions about each of these remarkable women. Free. <https://www.mdhumanities.org/programs/chautauqua/>

St. Mary's Library Summer Reading 2020

Summer Reading for ages 0-99 is virtual this year! Download the Beanstack app or visit stmalib.beanstack.org to participate. Complete activities to earn badges and entries into our end-of-summer grand prize drawings! If you're unable to use Beanstack, you can download a list of activities on our website and, starting June 22, call us at 301-475-2846 to report your progress.

★ ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



Barynya: Russian Dance & Music Virtual Performance

Barynya introduces the rich traditions & culture of Russia. Join St. Mary's County Library for vivid costumes, athletic dances, and lighthearted humor set to lively songs on traditional instruments on Monday, August 3 from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Please register on www.stmalib.org in order to receive the Zoom link prior to the program.

Virtual Magic Show with Anthony Salazar

Anthony Salazar performs fantastic illusions with a dash of comedy, juggling, & music in this high-energy show on Friday, August 7 from 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Plus, learn magic tricks you can try at home! Please register with an email address to receive the link and instructions to join this online event via Zoom on www.stmalib.org.

Financial Goal Setting and Planning for Retirement

Learn how to set your SMART

goals and savings plans in preparing financially for retirement and to answer some big questions regarding basic level retirement planning on Thursday, August 13 from 6 - 7:45 p.m. Ages 16 and up. Register to receive the link to this online event on www.stmalib.org. Brian E. Koenig will present a class from Consumer Education Services, Inc. (CESI) which is a non-profit service provider of comprehensive personal financial education and solutions for all life stages and for all of life's milestones.

Common Thread Online

Join fellow crafters who love all things fiber - virtually on Tuesday, August 11 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.! Registration is required (with an email address) on www.stmalib.org. You'll receive an email with a link to join the Zoom meeting before the program. Open to knitters, crocheters, quilters, embroiderers, cross-stitchers, and any other kind of needleworkers. Work on your current project and chat with like-minded makers. All skill levels welcome.

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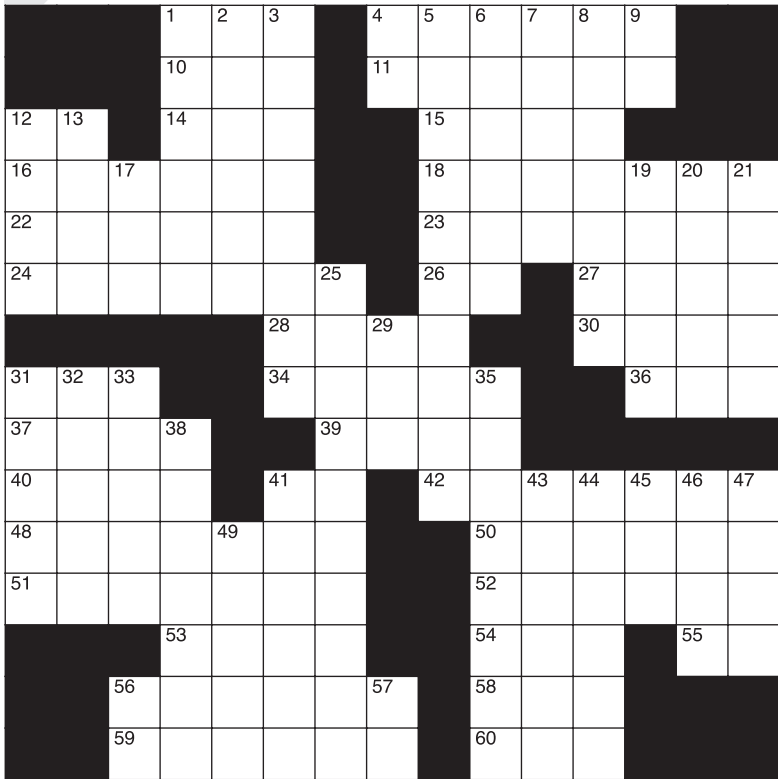
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GAMES & PUZZLES



CLUES ACROSS

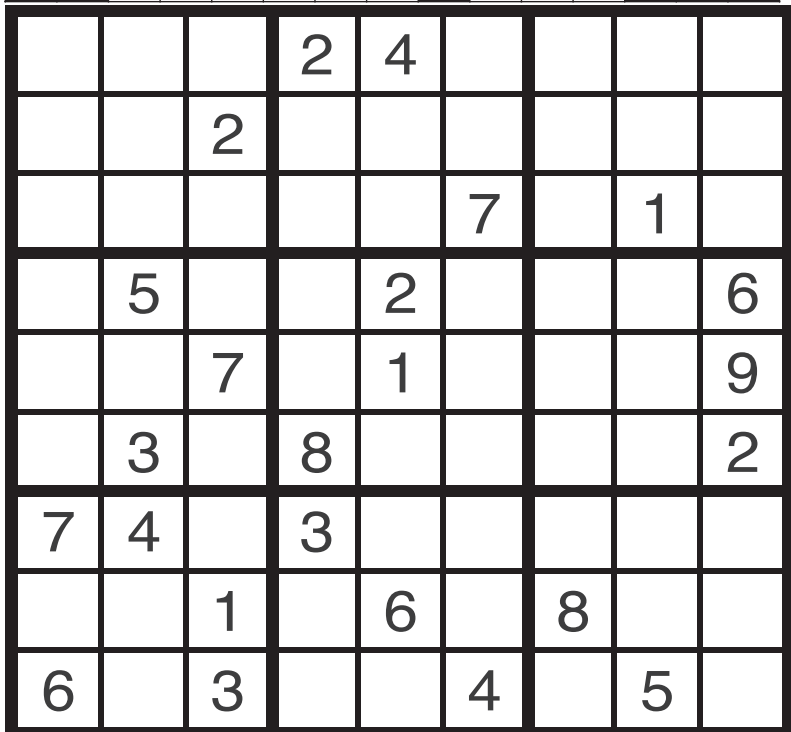
- 1. Central processing unit
- 4. Military action
- 10. How electricity gets to train carriages (abbr.)
- 11. Unsafe
- 12. Of (French)
- 14. Autonomic nervous system
- 15. Type of bean
- 16. Accuse formally of a crime
- 18. Promote
- 22. Type of lava
- 23. Meat from a deer
- 24. Herbaceous plants
- 26. Potato state
- 27. Helsinki neighborhood
- 28. Sports officials
- 30. Shout wildly
- 31. Reptile genus
- 34. Frocks
- 36. Born of
- 37. N. Scandinavian indigenous people
- 39. Poultry cage
- 40. Aquatic insect genus

- 41. Of I
- 42. Ad __: tirelessly repetitive
- 48. Item
- 50. Produce
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Bond in a third party's control
- 53. Legendary character ___ Finn
- 54. Space station
- 55. Note at the end of a letter
- 56. In a way, contradicted
- 58. Midway between northeast and east
- 59. Bears important traffic
- 60. Brooklyn hoopster

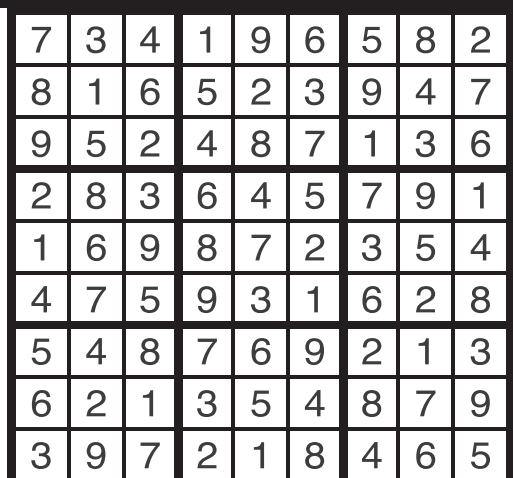
- 9. Blue grass state
- 12. Phonograph recording
- 13. Unusual
- 17. Popular average
- 19. A native or inhabitant of Asia
- 20. N. Sweden river
- 21. Related on the mother's side
- 25. Mediator
- 29. Partner of to
- 31. Arm bones
- 32. Korean seafood dish
- 33. Tap of the foot
- 35. Astronauts
- 38. Carolina footballer
- 41. Indiana city
- 43. Of or relating to bears
- 44. Not widely known
- 45. Body part
- 46. At the peak
- 47. High-pitched cries of a cat
- 49. A way to intimidate
- 56. Prosecutor
- 57. Atomic #66

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Presides
- 2. Artist's tool
- 3. On a higher floor
- 4. Commercial
- 5. Something to watch
- 6. Chased
- 7. Commercial producers
- 8. Keyboard instrument



LAST WEEKS ANSWERS



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The St. Mary's County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's County. The St. Mary's County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies of the newspaper. The St. Mary's County Times does not espouse any political belief or endorse any product or service in its news coverage.

To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the St. Mary's County Times will make every attempt possible to publish late content, but cannot guarantee so. Letters may be condensed/edited for clarity, although care is taken to preserve the core of the writer's argument. Copyright in material submitted to the newspaper and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the St. Mary's County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The St. Mary's County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

“NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD”

-Luke 1:37

GOOD DAY, SOUTHERN MARYLANDERS!

When thinking of having our own building now, I could not stop reminiscing back to the beginning and having this vision too help as many people as we could practically, while at the same time sharing the good news of the Gospel. We had no resources; just our hearts open to whatever the Lord desired for us to do. This vision is clearer today than it was 15 years ago when the Mission was birthed. Therefore, with a new Mission building comes more responsibility. Now, we strive to rehab it, for it will help us serve more people than ever before, and in a time of great need within this county. Truly, we are in the right place at the right time. The Mission reminds me of the Parable of the Mustard seed...

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field; which indeed is smaller than all seeds. But when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches.” (Matt 13:31-32)

We will continue to support Southern Maryland to the best of our ability, and to express the uncompromising message of hope, Faith, and Love to as many that would listen.

PLEASE HELP US COMPLETE THE REHAB OF THE NEW BUILDING

Thank you to all the folks who have donated toward the rehab of The Mission's new building. We estimate that we will need \$80,000 for this purpose. We have raised over \$36,975.00 towards our goal. Please consider donating to The Mission so that we can complete the required rehab as soon as possible.

PLEASE SEND CHECKS TO:

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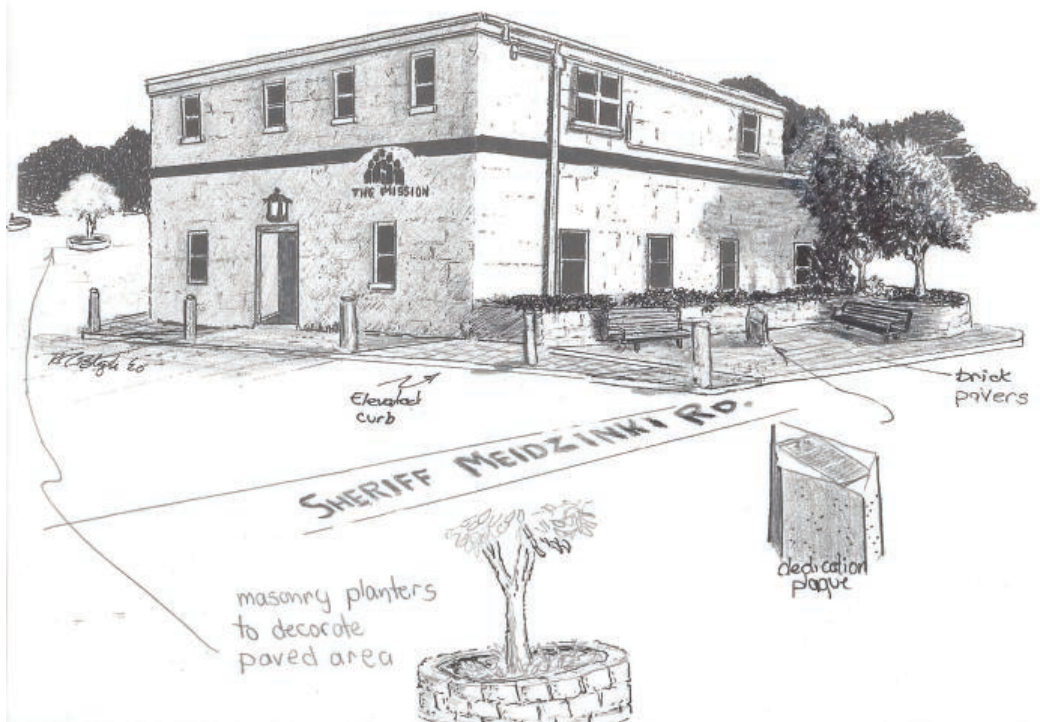
CREDIT CARD:

Go to Seekingshelter.com and donate online. You can also use the Go-Fund-Me link which can also be found on The Mission website.

Finally, you can drop off checks at our current location located at 21015 Great Mills Rd, Lexington Park MD 20653.

THANK YOU to everyone who supports this good work.

– **Rick, Executive Director**



THE MISSION

To learn more about The Mission visit:

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