

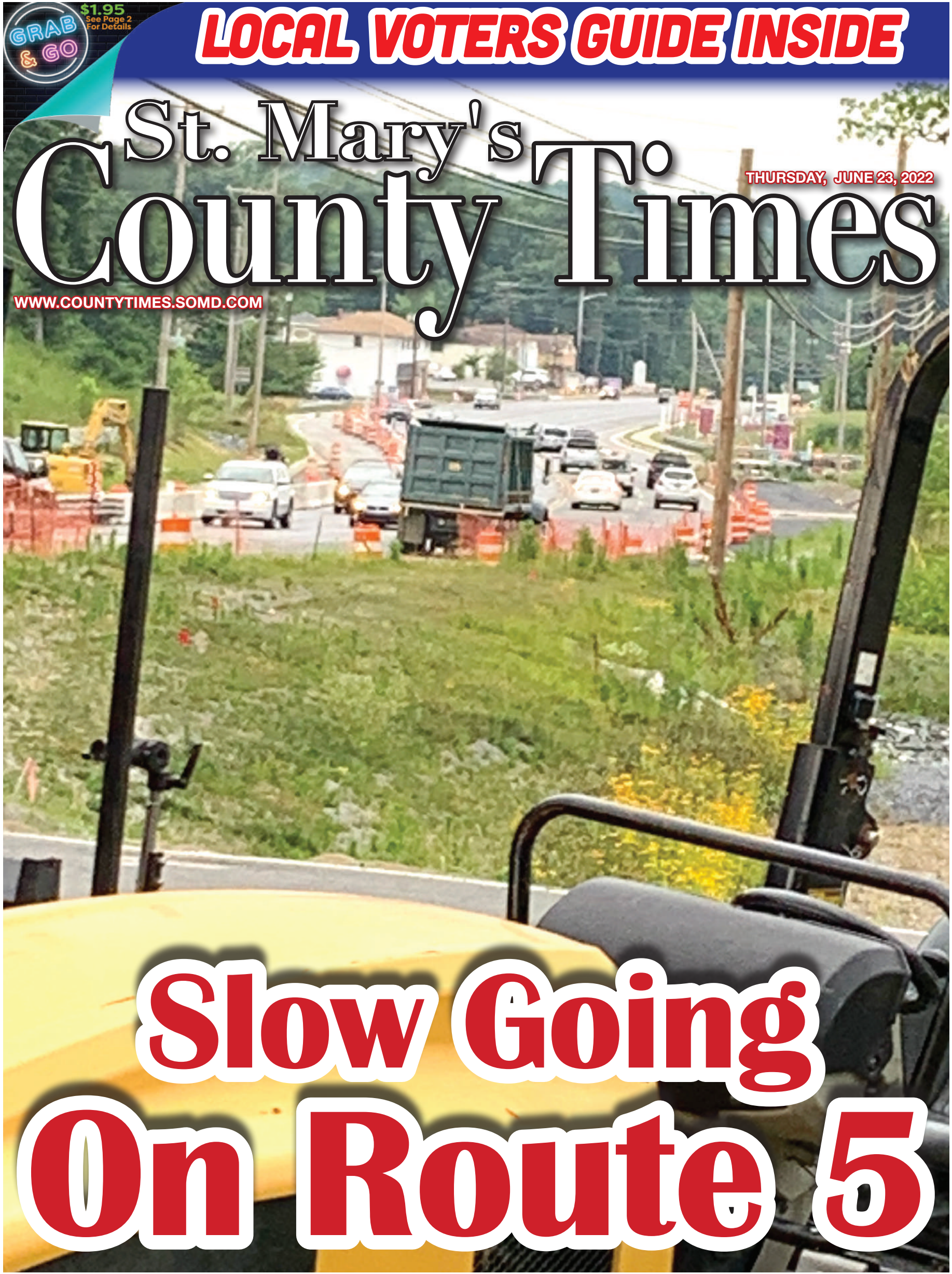
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**LOCAL VOTERS GUIDE INSIDE**

# St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022

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GOV. LARRY HOGAN ON THE GAS TAX



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THU 6/23		74° /62°	Cooler with a few showers	MON 6/27		80° /65°	A shower and thunderstorm
FRI 6/24		85° /66°	Mostly sunny and warmer	TUE 6/28		81° /68°	Partly sunny and nice
SAT 6/25		88° /67°	Mostly sunny	WED 6/29		83° /69°	More sun than clouds
SUN 6/26		91° /72°	Partly sunny	THU 6/30		88° /70°	Mostly sunny and humid



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# Sheriff's Race Heats Up In Candidate Forum

The three candidates for sheriff, Capt. Steve Hall, retired deputy Todd Fleenor and incumbent County Commissioner John O'Connor faced questions from potential voters the evening of June 15 as to how they would replenish the ranks of the sheriff's office and fight back surging drug and gun crime in urban communities.

Each gave their own ideas on how to deal with those problems and more.

Fleenor, who was the agency's senior K-9 handler and trainer for years, almost immediately sought to impeach O'Connor on his employment record.

Fleenor said O'Connor, who has touted his varied law enforcement experience as a positive in the race, was terminated twice from two different police agencies in a little over a decade.

"He's not going to be able to be in the police soon," Fleenor said. "He's been terminated twice, he's worked for six or seven agencies."

"Everyone needs to know this."

O'Connor said that statement was inaccurate, claiming he had resigned from those agencies.

"That's not true and it has no implication on July 1 whatsoever," O'Connor said.

Since the forum, the local police union Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 7 have given their endorsement to Hall, who has spent his entire career with the local agency.

At the forum, O'Connor said he was running for sheriff to have greater responsibility in law enforcement and explained that was why he initially filed to run for county commissioner president but later withdrew that filing because of his respect for current Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy who was seeking reelection.

"It's about leadership," O'Connor told the audience at the library. "I saw the opportunity to combine my two passions for public service, law enforcement... and serving the citizens of the county for the last two years."

"It's also about change... it's about ensuring we're covering what needs to be covered."

O'Connor was critical of the sheriff's budget reaching over \$50 million and only six to seven deputies assigned to patrol at a time throughout the county.

"Crime is up across the board, we have shootings, homicides, rapes," O'Connor said. "We need to do something about that."

"We're not recruiting, we're not retaining the backbone of the agency we need to make that happen."

Fleenor is running on a platform of reducing fear among the rank and file of what he has called unnecessary internal investigations and increasing aggressive foot patrols to quash crime.

"I'm running for the community that's tired of hearing gun shots," Fleenor said. "For the community that is tired of violent crime, for the community that has lost loved ones to overdoses."

Hall has said the agency can continue its successes by focusing on building positive relations with community to deter and solve crimes.

He has worked in the agency since 1994 and has served at all levels there.

"I know every nook and cranny of the agency and served in every capacity," Hall told attendees at the forum. "We're facing challenging times... you need an experienced executive

level leader to face those challenges.

"I have that experience."

"If communities care for themselves and their neighbors and continue to have a relationship with law enforcement it creates an environment where crime cannot flourish."

Each of the candidates talked about their positions on "red flag laws" that could result in firearms being taken from citizens if courts deem them to a danger to themselves or others.

"There may be some problem with that," Hall said, though he noted they could have been helpful in the past when deputies attempted to serve a warrant on a suspect who had been making specific threats.

O'Connor said he did not support red flag laws "as it is being applied."

"The government needs to be kept in check as to how they apply that law," O'Connor said, noting the statute could be effective in extreme circumstances.

Fleenor said he did not support red flag laws.

O'Connor said the greatest lesson he learned in law enforcement was seeing new officers be unfamiliar in protecting civil rights.

"That's why I love being an instructor," O'Connor said. "I love being a field training officer."

Not protecting civilian civil rights could compromise criminal cases, O'Connor said, but also the career of the officer.

"That creates a poor relationship with the police," he said.

Fleenor said the greatest lesson he learned was "having empathy."

"Having empathy for your employees," Fleenor said. "They do an extreme amount of work on patrol and they are put in situations that administration hasn't been in in years."

Hall said his "biggest life lesson" while serving is "that one person can make a huge difference in the community."

"You are responsible for your actions, but it doesn't have that much to do with you," Hall said. "It's what you can do for others."

When asked about teachers being able to have guns in schools, O'Connor said teachers should be able to "protect and defend themselves" from threats in school, including active shooters.

"We do have school resource officers there but they're not everywhere," O'Connor said. "I truly believe in training when it comes to gun safety."

When it came to what they would change or continue in the agency, Hall said he "is looking forward to hiring, good, quality people to serve you."

This meant putting them in the district stations such as Charlotte Hall and Lexington Park, Hall said.

"If you need anything, we will be in communities where you live," Hall said.

Fleenor said the county was in a "crisis" with the high violent crime rate and would "add as many people as I can to the high crime areas."

Training new hires takes about a year, Fleenor said.

O'Connor said he would work to ensure the district base-policing program would be properly staffed as well as an active traffic unit to counter the trend of 62 traffic fatalities from 2014 to 2018.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Thomas F. McKay

## Leadership the RIGHT Way Restoring the America that Works



Change is always difficult. Yet it is through change that we create new prosperities, new experience, and new friends. "Change should be a collaboration of good and better," said Thomas F. McKay who has spent his life promoting change but change the "right way."

McKay has always strived to be an agent of change, while understanding the value of history, heritage, and the American culture.

At the age of 32, McKay found himself on stage at Martins West in Baltimore in front of the Governor of Maryland and nearly a thousand industry leaders as he laid out his vision for the future of the Mid-Atlantic Food Dealers Association. McKay was the youngest person ever selected to lead this organization. The association included over 3,000 businesses in the food and pharmacy industry in Maryland, Delaware, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Member companies included Giant, Safeway, Wawa, CVS and thousands of others, both large and small. "The opportunity to lead this organization as its Chairman was a great opportunity to learn about different communities, demographics, and public policy, not only across the Mid-Atlantic region, but in fact across our nation".

At the age of 44, McKay became the youngest person to be elected President of the St. Mary's County Commissioners. While serving as Commissioner President, McKay was invited by the President of the United States, President George W. Bush, to participate in the President's 3-day Economic Summit in our nation's capital. "As one of only two people from the state of Maryland to be

invited to join the President and his Cabinet to share our thoughts to improve the economy of the United States was, to say the least, an honor and a great experience."

The invitation to participate in this extraordinary summit was the result of the success McKay's Board of Commissioners were having right here in St. Mary's County. "The strong economy we were experiencing, the lowering of taxes, the ability to improve our county's bond rating and lower our debt, all at a time when the national economy was weakening, did not go unnoticed," McKay said.

As the next President of the St. Mary's County Commissioners, "I want to create the Council of Future Leaders for St. Mary's County. It will be a council of young leaders selected by their peers who are interested in local government, who want to engage in the debates and processes of the current day, so they are prepared as the future leaders to run for county commissioner and other elected offices in our county and state"

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Re-Elect  
Commissioner President  
Thomas F.

# McKay

Leadership the **RIGHT** way

By Authority Elizabeth D. Johnson, Treasurer

# Two Treated for Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Volunteers with the Bay District fire company responded to the Pembroke neighborhood in Lexington Park June 18 after they learned of a carbon monoxide poisoning of four people.

Rick Redmond, spokesman for the volunteer company, said the incident occurred around 1:19 a.m. in the 46000 block of Pembroke Street; initially just four firefighters in one engine responded.

But when firefighters realized the levels of the toxic gas they were dealing with they called in for additional units to include a ladder truck from the fire company stationed at Patuxent River Naval Air Station to provide more ventilation equipment, Redmond said.

The four victims of poisoning

showed symptoms such as dizziness and fainting, Redmond said, though two of them refused hospitalization.

When firefighters began to investigate the home they found concentrations of carbon monoxide at 37 parts per million.

Maximum safe exposure levels for carbon monoxide, Redmond said, was 35 parts per million over an eight-hour period.

As they went through the house the firefighters found levels as high as 80 parts per million, Redmond said.

Firefighters do not know how long the residents were exposed to the gas, Redmond said, and they turned the investigation over to the gas provider to find the source of the gas leak.

[guyleonard@countytimes.net](mailto:guyleonard@countytimes.net)

# Donation Effort Started for Local Student Killed in Crash

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The family of Robert Proctor Jr. — the 15-year-old high school student killed in a two-car crash on June 14 — is seeking assistance with his funeral expenses.

A Go Fund Me site has been established to accept donations; so far \$6,340 has been donated towards a goal of \$15,000.

The crash occurred at the intersection of Three Notch Road and Hermanville Road in Lexington Park; an on-duty deputy witnessed a motor vehicle collision.

Preliminary investigation determined that a 2012 Ford Fusion, operated by Nathan Allen, 20 of Lexington Park, was traveling southbound on Three Notch Road when the Ford Fusion collided with a 2016 Jeep Cherokee, operated by Ernest Hall, 89 of St. Mary's City.

Allen, the operator of the Ford Fusion, was flown to an area hospital for treatment and is expected to survive. Proctor, of Great Mills, was later declared deceased at Washington Hospital Center.

A 20-year-old passenger in the Ford Fusion and Hall, the driver of the Jeep Cherokee, were both transported by ambulance for treatment.

At this time, excessive speed was



Robert Proctor Jr.

identified as a contributing factor in the collision.

"Sadly we suffer a loss of a very special person, due to a motor vehicle collision," the founder of the GoFundMe page wrote. "To many of us in this community he is known as 'RJ'".

"RJ wasn't just an ordinary 15-year-old kid, when he walked into a room his smile and laugh lit up the place, he had plans on entering his sophomore year of high school next year with big dreams and a future ahead of him. RJ leaves behind a mother & four other siblings."

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# Fritz, Sterling Face Off in State's Attorney's Candidate Forum



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Both candidates for the State's Attorney's Office tried to establish their bona fides to hold the job at last week's candidate forum at the Lexington Park Public Library with incumbent Richard Fritz and challenger Jaymi Sterling, former deputy state's attorney under Fritz until late 2020 when she resigned, claiming they both had the experience and integrity necessary.

Since resigning from the local office due to what Sterling called questionable financial and management practices, she has worked as a prosecutor in the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office.

"We take an oath and we have an obligation to serve you, the community over ourselves, over what is beneficial to us," Sterling said in her opening statement at the June 15 forum hosted by the St. Mary's County League of Women Voters. "You have to run an office with that integrity... every single day."

Fritz touted his long experience in local courts as both a public defender, prosecutor and finally state's attorney.

Fritz has held the state's attorney's post since 1998.

"For 24 years I've represented the people of St. Mary's County against some of the most violent criminals known to our county," Fritz said. "I've worked with four different sheriffs... in order to keep our streets safe."

Fritz said he has prosecuted at least 60 homicide cases, 350 jury trials and "thou-

sands of court trials."

"I think experience is one of the hallmarks of a prosecutor," Fritz said, who noted seven judges have come from his office.

Sterling said she was thankful to Fritz for bringing her into her former position in St. Mary's but she said he should step aside.

"He's done a good job for 30 years," Sterling, who is the step-daughter of Gov. Larry Hogan, said. "But it's time to pass the baton."

The candidates also sparred over the trip Fritz and several members of his staff took to Ocean City for a training conference in 2020, even though a long-held statewide state's attorney's convention had been cancelled due to COVID.

Fritz said the rooms had already been paid for and the members of his office had an effective training session.

Sterling was critical of the decision, saying she chose to take professional training virtually during the pandemic.

Since the forum, the St. Mary's County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 7 has officially endorsed Sterling as its candidate of choice after years of choosing Fritz.

"We have worked with both candidates for State's Attorney in St. Mary's County. We believe it's time for a change," the FOP 7 statement reads. "We know Jaymi Sterling is the candidate with the integrity and experience to protect local families and the communities we serve."

We are proud to endorse Jaymi Sterling for State's Attorney."

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# Body of Missing Mechanicsville Boater Found

*Sigmon discovered in the Choptank River*



Ernie Sigmon III

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Sixth months after Ernie Sigmon III went missing from his boat in the Patuxent River his body was found in Dorchester County Monday.

Sigmon was a Mechanicsville resident and his disappearance triggered a massive effort to search for him from both law enforcement and volunteers.

Maryland National Resources Police say they are still investigating Sigmon's death.

"After conducting a six-month investigation that involved underwater imaging sonar technology, authorities recovered... [Sigmon] on June 20 at approximately 11a.m.," the statement reads. "Officers were alerted after receiving a phone call from a concerned citizen who stated they found the victim deceased in the Choptank River in Dorchester County."

Sigmon's father, Ernest Sigmon Jr. offered a prepared statement from the family regarding the discovery of his son.

Back in December, searchers investigated Sigmon's last known position, which appeared to be off the shore of Calvert County.

His 25-foot center console boat was found trolling in the waters off of Dares Beach, the family's Facebook page stat-

ed, but he was not there and no blood was found on the boat, they said.

"After 173 days of this unimaginable tragedy, God has brought Ernie home to us," the father wrote. "Our hope, faith, and strength has never been so extensively tested.

"Each and every day, we feel such a tremendous loss deep in our hearts. Ernie is so much more than a father, son, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin, friend, boss, mentor; he was the one who supported so many of us to be the best version of ourselves."

The family was giving up hope they would ever find answers about Sigmon's disappearance

"Just when our hope and patience were waning, God answered our prayers to bring Ernie home," Sigmon's father wrote. "Our entire family is so thankful for your ideas and knowledge which helped us make great strides.

"We are thankful for your posts, in general, which helped us find the positives to push forward. Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, and supporting efforts in bringing Ernie home. We will never be able to fully show our gratitude to each and every one of you that helped bring Ernie home. Thank you for the support."

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## Health Department Preparing for Monkeypox

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) is enhancing surveillance and public health preparedness activities to monitor the emerging public health issue of monkeypox and to prepare for a local response if needed. Yesterday, the Maryland Department of Health announced the first presumed case of human monkeypox virus infection in a Maryland resident; there are no presumed or confirmed cases in St. Mary's County at this time. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is investigating multiple cases of monkeypox in several states.

Monkeypox is a viral illness with symptoms similar to but typically milder than smallpox. Symptoms typically begin with enlarged lymph nodes, fever, or headache and progress to a rash that involves firm skin lesions over face and/or body that may blister and fill with pus. The illness generally lasts 2 - 4 weeks and people are contagious from the onset of early symptoms (such as fever) through the complete healing of the body rash (all lesions scab over and fall off). Classic symptoms of monkeypox include:

- Fever, chills
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Exhaustion
- Rash (usually occurring within 1 - 3 days after the appearance of fever) - skin lesions over face and body that are firm and progress through stages of being filled with clear fluid, filled with pus, and then crusting/scabbing over

Monkeypox can be transmitted when a person comes into contact with an infected animal, human, or materials contaminated with the virus. Person-to-person spread can happen through direct contact with the skin lesions or respiratory droplets/secretions during close contact. Monkeypox does not spread easily between people without close contact. The threat of monkeypox to the general population remains low at this time.

Historically, the majority of monkeypox cases have been reported in western and central Africa where associated fatalities have been as high as 10% of cases. More recently, the World Health Organization has been monitoring a multinational outbreak of monkeypox cases not associated with travel to western/central Africa, raising the concern for community spread of the illness outside of Africa. Some of these cases have atypical symptoms. Early symptoms of fever,

muscle aches, and swollen lymph nodes might not occur prior to the rash. The rash could be specific to a part of the body, such as the mouth or genitals, rather than spread all over.

Anyone with a rash that may seem similar to the monkeypox rash should avoid contact with others and talk to their healthcare provider, even if they do not recall contact with someone who has monkeypox. People who may be at higher risk include those who:

Had contact with someone who had a rash that looks like monkeypox or someone who was diagnosed with confirmed or probable monkeypox

Had skin-to-skin contact with someone in a social network experiencing monkeypox activity, this includes men who have sex with men who meet partners through an online website, digital application, or social event (e.g., a bar or party)

Traveled outside the U.S. to a country with confirmed cases of monkeypox or where monkeypox activity has been ongoing

Had contact with a dead or live wild animal or exotic pet that exists only in Africa or used a product derived from such animals (e.g., game meat, creams, lotions, powders, etc.)

"At this time we do not have any confirmed cases of monkeypox in St. Mary's County," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "Fortunately, this is a previously known illness with some tools available for public health outbreak control and treatment. SMCHD is closely monitoring development of the worldwide and state situation, including scientific understanding of the current virus involved, and preparing to deploy a local public health response if needed. Community members can stay informed and notify their primary healthcare provider if they have a personal health concern about monkeypox."

Local health care providers who encounter a patient with illness or rash suspicious for monkeypox, or who identify exposure to a confirmed/probable monkeypox case should immediately contact the St. Mary's County Health Department at (301) 475-4330 and ask for the Infectious Disease Program. Testing and reporting guidance has been issued to local health care providers via the St. Mary's County Local Health Alert Network and are available online at: [smchd.org/monkeypox/providers](http://smchd.org/monkeypox/providers).

For more information on monkeypox, please visit: [smchd.org/monkeypox](http://smchd.org/monkeypox).

## Re-Elect **Richard** **FRITZ** State's Attorney

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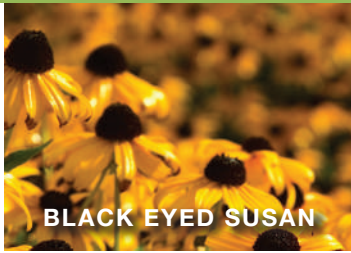
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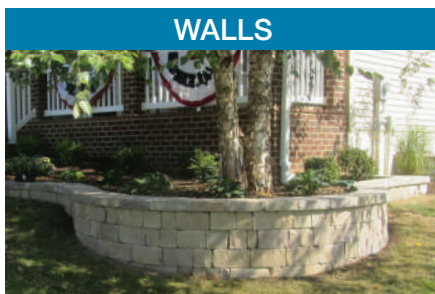
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# Bay Health Score Steady

*Grade Reported as C Plus*

The 2021 Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card issued June 6 by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) gives the overall Chesapeake watershed a grade of C+ for 2021. The Chesapeake Bay health score improved slightly from 45 to 50, a grade of C. Building on social indicators that were added in 2021, new economic indicators were used to evaluate the health of local economies in the region. These include Median Household Income, Jobs Growth, Income Inequality, and Housing Affordability.

“The health of the Chesapeake Bay is a reflection of what is happening across its watershed, which includes six states and the District of Columbia and more than 18 million people,” said Dr. Peter Goodwin, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. “This year’s report card is the first to include a range of economic, ecological, and societal factors to help assess progress in improving this vast human and natural system that is a major component of the quality of life for people in the region.”

Individual indicators of Bay health had mixed results in 2021, but the overall Bay-wide trend is improving over time, as are many regional trends. Seven reporting regions had improved grades due to better water quality—both nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations continue to improve—and the aquatic grass coverage is improving, but water clarity and chlorophyll continue to degrade. The highest-scoring region was once again the Lower Bay (65 percent). The lowest-scoring regions were the Patapsco and Back Rivers and the Patuxent River (both 23 percent).

Long-term trends still show significant improvements in the James River, Elizabeth River, Patapsco and Back Rivers, and Upper Western Shore. The Upper Eastern Shore score has begun a slightly declining trend, the first time a declining trend has been observed in any reporting region since 2014.

Dr. William C. Dennison, vice president of science applications at UMCES, stated in revealing this year’s report: “One of the most important messages today is that including economic indicators into our Bay report card metrics is that we must stop pitting the economy versus the environment. Rather, we need to recognize that a healthy economy and a healthy society make for a healthy environment.”

The Median Household Income

indicator, which is a traditional measure of economic health had a good score: 66 percent.

The Jobs Growth indicator that measures the net percentage of jobs gained or lost over the past 4 years had a moderate score: 48 percent.

The Income Inequality indicator that measures the inequality in income distribution had a moderate score: 50 percent.

The Housing Affordability indicator that measures the percent of families that spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing had a moderate score, 40 percent.

These new categories and new indicators will allow UMCES to evaluate relationships between socioeconomic factors and environmental conditions, and linkages between different indicators. This is critical to supporting and informing policy and other decisions related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice issues, especially around environmental justice. UMCES will begin to evaluate these relationships over the next several years, beginning with the 2022 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Report Card. This work will build on previous additions to the report card indicators, Heat Vulnerability and Walkability, that were added in 2020.

“I want to thank the scientists at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science for their hard work in producing a report that is more comprehensive than ever, accounting for the Chesapeake’s economic, ecological and societal factors for the first time,” said Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger. “The Bay’s overall health has been moving in the right direction since UMCES issued its first report card in 2006 and a little progress each day adds up to big results.”

The 2021 Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card has also been setting the standard for guidance globally on collecting and assessing watershed indicators. UMCES plays a key role in international efforts to advance our understanding of how economic, ecological, and societal health impact our environment. In addition to previous report cards implemented in other locations, four international sustainability and research efforts are currently engaged with UMCES, collaborations that will provide additional insights and better inform the way we think about and measure the sustainability of our communities and environment.

*Press Release from UMCES.*

Re-Elect **Richard**  
**FRITZ**  
**State's Attorney**



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**Don't let the Office of the State's Attorney be sold to Baltimore, Annapolis and Northern Virginia's Liberal Influence.**

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**On July 19th**  
**Re-Elect Richard D. Fritz**  
**State's Attorney**

**Your Vote Counts In The**  
**Republican Primary On**  
**July 19th**

By Authority: Dena Womack, Treasurer, Bi-Partisan Committee for the Re-Election of Richard Fritz for State's Attorney



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# Hogan Calls For Gas Tax Relief



Governor Larry Hogan today issued the following statement regarding gas tax relief:

“Nearly 100 days ago, Maryland became the first state in the nation to suspend the gas tax, and we proved that it can be done successfully to lower prices for working Americans. We have also been calling on President Biden to take action to suspend the federal gas tax, and we are pleased that he has now finally agreed to do so. With the pain at the pump only getting worse, Congress should act immediately to suspend the federal gas tax.

“Today, we are also again calling on Democratic leaders in Maryland to take action to address ris-

ing gas prices. We are once again calling on the Comptroller to use the same authority he has in the past in order to minimize the impact of the gas tax increase scheduled for July 1. We are again calling on the presiding officers of the General Assembly to convene a special session for the express and sole purpose of passing emergency legislation to suspend the gas tax. I am prepared to swiftly sign a gas tax suspension into law.

“There is no reason why we cannot come together and get this done before the July 4th holiday to provide much-needed relief for the crushing costs burdening families and businesses.”



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# Juneteenth Day Dedication

Somerville, Lancaster Honored



Daughter Terry Cutchember, Sons: Wayne Somerville, Sr., Rodney Somerville & Kevin Somerville and wife Delores Somerville honor Joseph Somerville Sr. on Juneteenth.  
Photo courtesy of Cathy Blackwell



Alma Jordan, Bruce Lancaster, Elaine Lancaster Gholston, Dr. Janice Walthour honor John Lancaster on Juneteenth.  
Photo courtesy of Cathy Blackwell



# Re-Elect Commissioner Eric Colvin



- Proven experience
- Fiscal conservative
- Fighting for Transparency
- Continued Broadband Internet improvement
- Ensure EMS 911 Support



[www.VoteColvin.com](http://www.VoteColvin.com)

Authority: Voters for Eric Colvin, Nick Colvin Treasurer

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## Women's Softball Tribute to Bubby Knott



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Cooter Rothwell 301-904-2304

## Nine Quilts of Valor Presented



(left to right): Purple Heart recipient Allen Bailey (Marines - four years), Paul Crosetierre (Marines - 30 years), Quy Nguyen (Navy - 30 years), Dale Coots (Navy - 20 years), Glenn Rioux (Navy - 31 years), Robert Mack (Navy - 24 years), Bill Hammett (Air Force - 26 years), Jazman Sampson (Navy - five years), and Andrew Sedlock (Air Force - 26 years).

PAX Sound of Freedom presented two Quilts of Valor to active duty personnel and seven quilts to local veterans at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park on June 18.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a non-profit organization established and operated in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. To date the national organization has presented 300,000 quilts to active duty personnel and veterans.

If you, a family member or friend served in the U.S. armed forces, you are entitled to receive a Quilt of Valor. If you have any questions about Quilts of Valor or are interested in helping the local group produce quilts, please contact PAX Sound of Freedom group leader, Sylvia Lague, at (941) 705-0094 for additional information.

*Press Release from PAX Sound of Freedom.*

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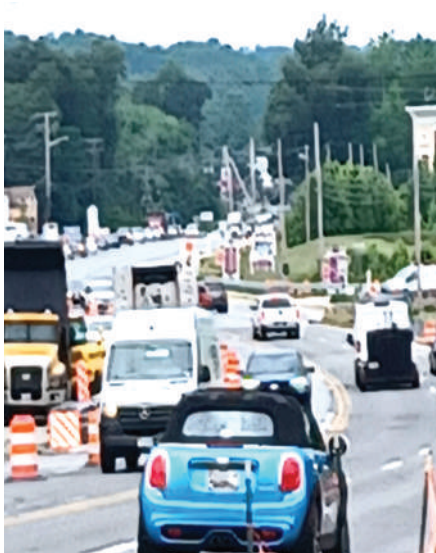


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# Hopes for Route 5 Project Completion By Year's End



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Leonardtown town officials say the traffic safety project that has continually stalled traffic on Route 5 going north out of town for months should be finished by the end of the year but that will not solve all of the problem of the heavily trafficked thoroughfare.

The project now is solely focused on widening the road between the intersection of Route 5 with Moakley and Abell Streets and the intersection with MedStar St. Mary's Hospital.

Town Administrator Laschelle McKay said the original project sought to widen the road from the intersection of Newtowne Neck Road to the intersection with Hollywood Road.

The project has been on the state's planning books — the town is just a bystander in the project as Route 5 is a state road — since 2007 but Gov. Larry Hogan put forward funding in 2015 for what has come to be known as the breakout portion of the project.

McKay said the traffic backups which have plagued an already dangerous section of road should be alleviated once the breakout project is completed but bottle neck problems with the road as a whole will still continue.

So far there is no funding in the

state road construction budget, she said, for the remaining portion of the project beyond the breakout portion.

"We still have to wait for the funding to engineer and construct the rest of the project between Hollywood Road and Newtowne Neck Road," McKay said.

The breakout portion of the project costs \$14 million.

Marrick Homes, the developer of the Clark's Rest community, has already completed their portion of the road improvement which includes an extra turn lane at the community's entrance on Route 5.

"This breakout project is going to help [traffic problems] and we hope they [the state] will put in a traffic signal once the Tudor Hall Farm intersection gets underway," McKay said.

The Tudor Hall Farm development would be located across from Clark's Rest and is one of the town's most anticipated projects for the near future because it will feature amenities that will make the town an even stronger tourist destination.

Getting road improvements like the ones scheduled for Route 5 are critical for that developmental success, town officials have said.

"All of the town's planning in the

past decade-and-a-half has been planning around a traffic signal at Clark's Rest Road," McKay said. "What is needed is for the entire [Route 5] project to be completed.

"There's still no center lane from the hospital to the intersection with Hollywood Road or from Newtowne Neck Road to Clark's Rest."

Leonardtown is the county's second development district, and though it is much smaller than the Lexington Park Development District, it is still seen by county economic development specialists as vital to the county's ability to attract business investment and a highly-educated workforce.

Moreover, citizens still continue to complain of the daily traffic backups that occur due to lane closures.

"Everyone is inconvenienced, especially when schools let out," McKay said.

And while schools have dismissed for the summer, they are expected to be back open while the breakout project is continuing through the fall months.

Route 5 through Leonardtown sees 30,000 vehicles per day, according to state highway figures, and that is expected to increase to more than 38,000 per day by 2041.

But the Route 5 breakout proj-

ect is about more than providing space for more motor cars; it is also designed to provide for horses and buggies, bicycles and pedestrians, according to state planning documents.

"We should be able to have adequate roads to keep the town moving," McKay told The County Times. "But right now we're at the mercy [of the state]."

Del. Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29A) said the greater project around the breakout would likely have to wait.

"That's a completely different project right now," Morgan said. "The real thing we want to get right now is that traffic signal."

"Unfortunately, I just don't think we meet the criteria for a traffic signal."

Morgan said the state's view of the town's request for the signal at Clark's Rest Road was that there was not significant enough traffic flow to warrant it.

This, despite the many traffic backups there and collisions, could be due to reduced vehicle traffic resulting from increased gas prices, Morgan said.

The state was still contemplating the signal's future, he said.

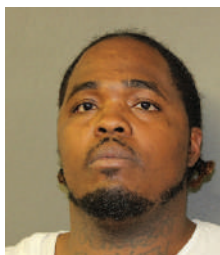
"It's still in the study phase," Morgan said.

[guyleonard@countytimes.net](mailto:guyleonard@countytimes.net)

# ST. MARY'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

## Lexington Park Man Arrested for Drug Distribution

On June 15, 2022, detectives from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Vice Narcotics Division along with detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division and members of the Emergency Services Team, executed a search and seizure warrant in the 47000 block of Festival Way in Lexington Park. **Antonio George Queen**, age 28 of Lexington Park, was located on scene and apprehended on outstanding arrest warrants. Recovered during the search warrant was approximately 58 grams of suspected cocaine, suspected marijuana, and suspected Alprazolam pills. A loaded handgun with an extended magazine was also recovered. Queen is prohib-



Antonio Queen

ited by law from possessing a regulated firearm and ammunition. Queen was arrested and charged with the following:

- CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute
- Firearm: Drug Trafficking Crime
- Regulated Firearm-Illegal Possession
- Illegal Possession of Ammunition

Queen was also served his outstanding arrest warrants for failure to appear/armed robbery and animal cruelty. Queen remains incarcerated at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, on a no-bond status.

Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at (301) 475-3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

## Identity Needed for Burglary Suspect

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the white male pictured in a burglary investigation. On Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 2:45 am, the pictured suspect and another suspect broke the front door glass of Vape Planet in Lexington Park, entered the store and stole merchandise including cigarettes. The pictured suspect is described as a white male with long hair, who rides a neon green BMX bicycle.



WM Suspect

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to call Cpl. Trevor Teague at 301-475-4200, ext. 78128 or email [trevor.teague@stmarysmd.com](mailto:trevor.teague@stmarysmd.com). Case # 21158-22

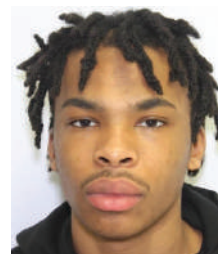
stmarysmd.com. Case # 21158-22

Citizens may remain anonymous and contact the St. Mary's County Crime Solvers at 301-475-3333, or text a

tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

### Assault

On June 7, 2022, Dep. Fleenor responded to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, for the reported fight between inmates. Investigation determined **Joseph Daren Brooks**, age 19 of Lexington Park, and **Francis Xavier Hill**, age 26 of California, engaged in a mutual



Joseph Brooks

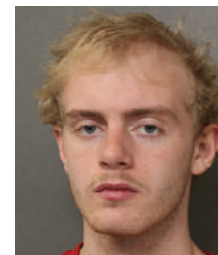


Francis Hill


assault over the phone in the day-room. Brooks and Hill were both charged with Assault 2nd Degree.

### Assault

On June 11, 2022, Dep. C. Hill responded to the 21500 block of Indian Bridge Road in Great Mills, for the reported assault. Investigation determined **Nicholas Anthony Morris**, age 18 of Great Mills, assaulted the victim by striking the victim in the face, causing visible injury. Morris was arrested and charged with Assault 2nd Degree.



Nicholas Morris



**Philip H. Dorsey III**  
*Attorney at Law*

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### COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN

The 2021 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) will be available July 1, 2022 to Town residents and the public at the Town Hall office, 22670 Washington St. Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and at the Leonardtown Post Office, 22735 Washington Street and is also available online at <http://leonardtown.somd.com> under Town Government, Water Quality Reports.



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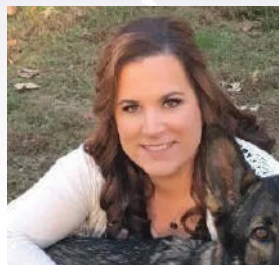
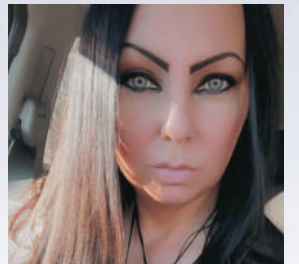
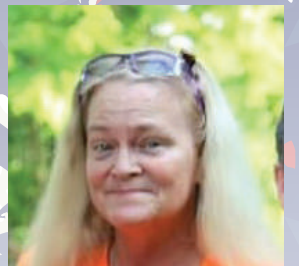
County Commissioner Edition

A  
Pull Out  
Section

ST. MARY'S COUNTY PRIMARY

VOTERS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ GUIDE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★





# COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RESPOND TO K



Eric Colvin



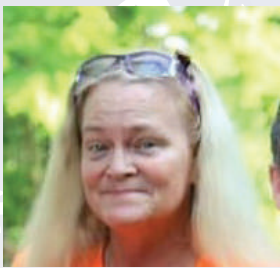
Mike Alderson



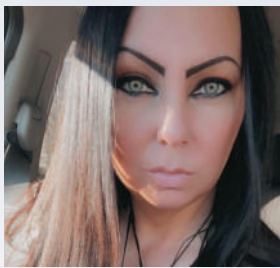
Elizabeth O'Connor



Scott Ostrow



Dawn Murphy



Dawn Zimmerman



Thomas McKay

## IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR COUNTY BUDGET PRIORITIES?

### COLVIN

My number one main priority is ensuring that all tax dollars that are collected are used as efficiently as possible in the budget. Every year I go through the county budget line-by-line to ensure the requests match the needs. I was able to identify thousands of dollars that was being budgeted but not utilized year after year, realigning those funds to ensure efficient use of our tax money.

Guaranteeing that adequate resources exist for Public Safety, Schools, and EMS is vital for county government. I will also continue to advocate for broadband internet improvement.

### ALDERSON

As the husband of a SMCPs teacher, education funding will always rank high with me. I also would like to be able to fill as many vacancies in the sheriff's office as well.

### O'CONNOR

My county budget priorities are a balanced budget that meets the needs of all the county's citizens. I am also a massive opponent of tax increases. I would like to see taxes be decreased, especially in today's economic nightmare. A big part is correctly estimating the county's growth rate, eliminating the need for tax hikes.

### OSTROW

Recognizing that the role of the county government is to provide essential public services and facilities, to protect the public's health, safety and welfare, my budget priority will be to differentiate between "essential" and "non-essential" funding, as the rational means of controlling taxes and spending.

### ZIMMERMAN

My county budget priorities would be to disperse money in a responsible man-

ner with priorities to the most important things.

### MCKAY

Over the past two years, my opponent increased spending by 22%. Has your income gone up by 22%? Gas prices at \$5.00 a gallon, highest inflation since 1981, electricity up 27%, we can't take anymore. We must control government spending such that peoples income grows, not their tax bills.

We must Restore American conservative values, set priorities based upon the priorities of our community: education, public safety, and quality of life. Lowering county taxes and working toward elimination of county debt will be top priorities. Elimination of the unfair annual equipment tax on small business.

### HALL

When discussing our county budget, we must start with our current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Our CIP accounts for about 20% of our current budget. The contracts used to manage those projects were not structured in a way that effectively motivates contractors to finish on time or prevent exponential cost growth. FDR Blvd, 3.7 miles of road, was initially estimated to cost approximately \$16M (2012 Approved Budget) and is now estimated to cost \$50.2M (2023 Approved Budget). All our contracts should have cost caps that limit the financial obligation of the county. We must also include penalties for completing projects late. Our Capital Projects are connected to essential services; timely completion should be a requirement.

### HEWITT

The County has been blessed with robust growth in revenues, tax base and population. The priority going forward would be to insure these types of growth have the environment to continue. Eliminating the Energy Tax and lowering the Homestead Tax would be priorities as these taxes have higher impacts on the working poor, elder-

ly and citizens on fixed incomes.

### ALVEY

School Safety, Education, Public Safety, Traffic Control, Infrastructure, Make Government more efficient

## IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES?

### COLVIN

Economic development must be carefully balanced with preserving the rural character and heritage of our community. Revitalizing unoccupied buildings is one of the best scenarios that helps to remove/prevent blight, provides great locations for new businesses, and provides amenities that the community desires. During my first term, I supported regulation updates that helped to make it easier for rehabilitating buildings like this. Additional economic development priorities are to continue to support the incredible growth and partnerships at the airport "AeroPark" innovation district and explore ways to ensure county regulations are not stumbling blocks to entrepreneurs.

### ALDERSON

I would work with the various county agencies to streamline the permitting process for new businesses. The residents of the northern end of the county need more options for shopping and we need to address that.

### O'CONNOR

My economic development priorities are focusing on small business owners and creating jobs. After my father stopped teaching high school, my father began his own small business. I have seen first-hand the devastation Covid has played on small business owners. More incentives to bring companies to St. Mary's County, including grants, low-interest loans, and expanded support for navigating the government

systems.

### OSTROW

My economic development priority will be to seek the economic rejuvenation of the Lexington Park / Great Mills area. I will work to do so by encouraging new development while also incentivizing the redevelopment of existing structures in the 4th District, and throughout the entire county, thus controlling the spread of sprawl. I support expanding opportunities to attract tourism to our beautiful county. I also support continued use and expansion of the St. Mary's County Regional Airport.

### ZIMMERMAN

My economic development priorities would be to improve the quality of life in the county...housing, mental health facilities/resources, jobs and community clean-up etc.

### MCKAY

Stand up a new coalition, "BRAC Forward Coalition, Joint Readiness (BFC, JR)," assuring our county is always defense focused and certain that St. Mary's County is always the best place for the Navy to do business.

Stand up "Restore Lexington Park," a new vision for hyper local government to address the opportunity to make certain Lexington Park and surrounding areas are a good place to live and work.

We will continue to expand educational opportunities for our community and reimagine land use planning to meet the needs of the millennial workforce. Office Business Parks combined with living and entertainment within walking distance. Restore family values.

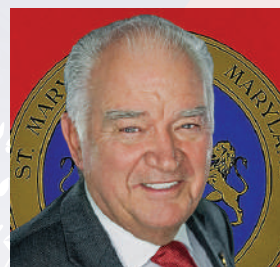
### HALL

PAX Naval Air Base is an essential component of our county. On one hand, the base is the largest employer in the county and is responsible of the economic growth seen in the county over the last 20 years. On the other, our economy is dependent



# IONER CANDIDATES

## KEY QUESTIONS



BJ Hall

Mike Hewitt

Ron Alvey

Randy Guy

Marcus Drake

Rita Weaver

on the base which is supported by resources reliant on political backing. Given that we currently have this economic engine in our backyard, we should prioritize the following immediately:

- leveraging technology from the base that can be monetized in commercial markets
- building the workforce that supports the base using local resources instead of focusing our recruiting efforts outside of the county.

### HEWITT

Continue the growth and expansion of St. Mary's County Airport would be a top priority. The expansion of the California Farmer's Market and another similar facility in downtown Lexington Park. Support the mission of NAS Patuxent River and affordable housing opportunities across the County.

### ALVEY

Revitalize Lexington Park Finish Broadband Expansion County Pool for Northern Part of County

### IF ELECTED, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS?

### COLVIN

The sometimes-unglamorous side of local government is the infrastructure projects that are not big and flashy but absolutely critical, such as drainage ditches, culverts and stormwater management. With more people on our roads, I also advocate for continual upkeep and maintenance and improved intersection safety. Completing some of the great projects currently in our plan is a priority, including additional beach and waterway access for our residents. Broadband Internet improvement is important for everyone in our county. Lastly, we need to get FDR Blvd finished and complete—let's close out this project that has dragged on for far too long!

### ALDERSON

Immediately I would be working with our Southern Maryland delegation and MDOT to finally get the Rt. Corridor/Moakley St work finished. There are also several intersections in the county that need to be addressed.

### O'CONNOR

Infrastructure priorities in the county for me are obvious. The recent storms have shown how we need better stormwater management and how much it significantly affects roadways such as Pt Lookout Road, Three Notch Road, and New Market Turner Road. Development takes away land where the water would be absorbed and then create water superhighways which have washed out road and caused flooding. We need more readily available public transportation. I would love to see high-speed internet become a reality for every household; it could be obtained through incentives offered to the companies to try and expand services.

### OSTROW

The completion of FDR Boulevard is a priority. The "space needs" of county departments and agencies must be validated by a professional and public assessment process. I will support having Public Forums for any large projects to make sure public inputs are taken into consideration prior to decisions being made.

### MURPHY

The only major project that seems to have a great response from residents, is building another YMCA in Charlotte Hall. I understand progress is inevitable but let's not become a mini Waldorf. Let's put more thought into what we bring to the county. Let's repurpose the vacant buildings in Lexington Park.

### ZIMMERMAN

Key infrastructure projects are road betterment, empty building usage, Solomons Bridge, suitable after school academic en-

richment and recreation programs, A rehab center local to Lexington Park and Police budgeting for more safety and security in high crime areas.

### MCKAY

My opponent has borrowed more money on the citizens credit card over the past four years than any other board. Your debt service is now \$160,000,000.00. And he is planning to borrow \$100,000,000.00 more over the next 5 years. Stop the debt.

Right now, roads and schools are our top funding priorities. We can leverage a Maryland top ten asset, PAX & Webster, to assure road projects such as Rt. 5 in Leonardtown and Great Mills are fully funded and built quickly. With a county budget over three hundred million, we can meet infrastructure needs without putting our citizens into debt. Restore Conservative Fiscal Values.

### HALL

My focus will be on two areas: our roads and our airport.

Our failing intersections will be identified in our updated Transportation Plan. We need to develop a prioritized list of intersections using level of service as a basis. Add a line item in the CIP that allows for continuous improvement to our failing intersections; similar to the way we have included our retrofit sidewalk program, roadway & safety improvements, and culvert replacement & repair programs.

We've designated our airport and the surrounding area as an Innovation District. We need to invest in our airport's infrastructure in a manner that supports the desired growth needed to fully realize the potential outlined in the Innovation District Master Plan.

Hewitt: Finish FDR Boulevard from Chancellor's Run Road to Pegg's Road. Build a Recreational Facility next to Great Mills High School and develop a Public-Private Partnership with YMCA of the Chesapeake to operate it. Propose a Recreational Facility to include a pool in the Charlotte Hall

area of the County.

### ALVEY

Fix our County Roads that are in need of repair.

Finish FDR Boulevard. Push the State to Finish Point Lookout Road and Route 5 in Leonardtown.

Sandgates Road needs widening before the boat ramp at Snow Hill Park is installed. More development at airport. Find a company that will provide flights to distant destinations.

County government needs to expand sanitation districts for public sewer and water.

Affordable housing.

**DO YOU BELIEVE COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS SUFFICIENTLY OPEN AND TRANSPARENT? WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?**

### COLVIN

Open and transparent county government is extremely important so that residents know what actions their elected officials are taking. A few weeks ago I fought against a motion that would have made small property acquisitions for FDR Boulevard happen behind closed doors—my argument was that the public deserves to be able to see this action and the elected representatives should be voting on this action. Every week I post on my website ([www.VoteColvin.com](http://www.VoteColvin.com)) and on my Commissioner Facebook page ([facebook.com/CommissionerColvin](https://facebook.com/CommissionerColvin)) a summary of our Commissioner Meetings with every single action that we take. Transparency is key for trust.

### ALDERSON

I do feel that the transparency in our local government can be improved upon. Personally, if there was a large project or budget item that had the possibility of being a disruption to my constituents, I'd make every possible effort to reach out to them so they can add their input. I would

definitely encourage our citizens to make the effort to witness and participate in our government.

#### **O'CONNOR**

I do not believe county government (or government at any level) is sufficiently transparent. This is impossible when people are introducing legislation that affects thousands of people because they want to help a friend out or create cumbersome processes to receive information from the county government. I am entirely transparent; that's who I am. I also am not afraid to call someone else out and hold them accountable if they are not forthcoming and transparent.

#### **OSTROW**

Opinions differ as to the present sufficiency of an open and transparent county government. The basic standard must be a good faith adherence to the Open Meetings Act and its policy that "the people of the county, in delegating authority, do not yield their sovereignty or give public agencies the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know." As the day-to-day operations of the county government are directed by the county administrator and the department heads, I will hold them accountable.

#### **MURPHY**

I do believe as long as our government and our Commissioners remain transparent we will continue to earn our constituents trust. If you take that away and do things behind closed doors then how will they know what to expect. Doing things here in our County and including the citizens is the ONLY right thing to do. What happens here in our County matters to them. Never take that away!

#### **ZIMMERMAN**

No I do not believe that county government is completely and sufficiently open and transparent.

I would involve the public more. Transparency is a fundamental element to abolishing corruption.

#### **MCKAY**

Would anyone consider their government allowing a commercial building the size of Wal Mart being built in your residential backyard without any notification or public hearing to be open and transparent? NO. Well my opponent did that!

County government has a closed-door culture, this has negatively impacted the public, and the morale of county staff.

The government house is the people's house. The County Commissioners offices are the people's offices. Access to elected officials, and county government information must not be limited except for personnel and legal matters.

Restore Open and Honest Government for the wellbeing of all.

#### **HALL**

No. Our government posts information online. Almost any plan/report/press release is available somewhere on the world wide web. The problem is that very few people know how to find Board Docs, and fewer are proficient at navigating to find what they need. We need to provide a simpler method of delivery.

Currently, we have quarterly public forums to address the BOCC. Our current format is intimidating for many people and does not promote 2-way communication. We need to adjust the format to truly engage more citizens before decisions are made.

#### **HEWITT**

Prior to the decision by the County Land Use and Growth Management Director to allow an Industrial Cannabis Grow Facility in the Rural Preservation District (RPD) which includes the Critical Areas my answer would have been "Yes". That decision has shaken trust in government and needs to be addressed. A top down review of how decisions are made without Public input and proper notice must be taken as soon as possible.

**ALVEY:** No. Guarantee more public hearings on any sensitive topics. Land Use and Growth Management would have to have County Commissioner approval on all projects. I will be a full-time Commissioner available for any questions or concerns.

### **WHAT OTHER POLICY ISSUES DO YOU BELIEVE NEED TO BE ADDRESSED?**

#### **COLVIN**

County Commissioners are the most local form of government. You see your commissioner in the Post Office and Grocery Store. It is important that you know that your commissioner is working for you. During my first term I have continuously worked to educate myself, educate others, and be responsive to citizens. We have economic and budget challenges in the years ahead and I believe that I am prepared to help the county navigate

through the tight fiscal times that are coming. I have a record of service to St. Mary's County and I respectfully ask for your vote for re-election.

#### **ALDERSON**

I want to work with SMCPSS and give them the tools to help our students succeed whether they choose the college path or take advantage of the technical training at the Forrest Center. We need to be open to expanding mental health services for all ages in our county.

#### **O'CONNOR**

Policy changes need to happen in Land Use and Growth Management and the Department of Emergency services to reflect modern ways of operation and continuity of services. I believe that many of our elected officials need to be reminded that the people selected them for the people; in other words, they represent all of the people of St. Mary's County. Overall, the county government's policies need to reflect the people they serve and modern times. This may mean some people have beliefs they disagree with. It also means that they cannot take care of a few friends while negatively affecting the population as a whole, you know, the good ole boys.

#### **OSTROW**

The actions of the county Health Department during the COVID health emergency need to be comprehensively reviewed to determine the lessons learned for future events. I support funding that concentrates proactive community-based law enforcement on organized crime, e.g., gangs, drug trafficking, and crime prevention on offenders' pre-release and community-based corrections programs.

#### **ZIMMERMAN**

Policy issues that need to be addressed are the ease of use for land use and growth management.

#### **MCKAY**

Our county has gone down the path of paid first responders to supplement our volunteer system. St. Mary's is blessed, having the best volunteer community standing at the ready to provide outstanding fire, rescue, and medical services. They are still there, serving our community.

With the addition of paid services to compliment the volunteers, we need long term strategies that anticipates the future cooperative relationship. We must put in place provisions to address

an area of county services that is both costly and certain to evolve.

Plan now, so that in years ahead, you or a family member calls 911, we are certain your emergency is responded to. Restore the America that works.

#### **HALL**

When communities are faced with a rash of crime, the natural response is to focus on law enforcement. Although I understand this logic, crime waves should force us to put more energy behind programs designed to address the conditions that make violent crime more likely. The Sheriff, the Board of Education, and the Health Department have formed the Equity Task Force to do just that. The Health Department has taken the lead on creating a program intended to support local programs that are currently mentoring and performing outreach. Programs like this need proper support from the BOCC.

#### **HEWITT**

Budget adjustments are needed for allocating County fund to other County Elected Officials. The Board of Education, the Office of the Sheriff, Office of the State's Attorney, Judge's of the Orphan's Court, Office of the Treasurer, Register of Wills and Clerk of the Circuit Court should be funded by a percentage of County revenue growth and not subject to the discretion of the Commissioners.

#### **ALVEY**

School Resource Officers in all elementary schools.

Dedicated traffic group between St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and the State Police.

Reduce crime and drug problems in County.

Complete review of Land Use and Growth Management policies that pertain to St. Mary's County.

Department heads will meet with County Commissioners quarterly or as needed to keep County Commissioners informed.

Candidates Randy Guy, Marcus Drake, and Rita Weaver did not respond to the request for answers to the five questions.

Dawn Murphy answered to three questions.

*Editor's Note: Candidates were asked to confine their answers to each question to 100 words. Answers that did not were edited.*

## **PRIMARY EARLY VOTING DAYS: THURSDAY JULY 7, 2022, TO THURSDAY JULY 14, 2022**

### **EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS**

#### **HOLLYWOOD FIREHOUSE**

24801 Three Notch Road Hollywood, MD 20636

#### **BAY DISTRICT FIREHOUSE**

46900 S. Shangri-La Drive Lexington Park, MD 20653

#### **MECHANICSVILLE FIREHOUSE**

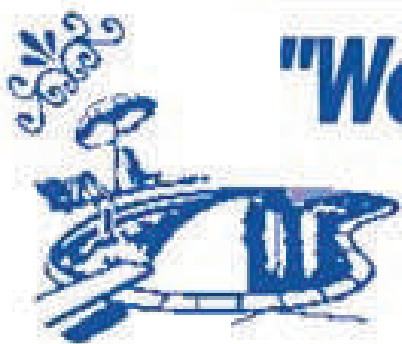
28165 Hills Club Road Mechanicsville, MD 20659

### **ELECTION DAY TUESDAY, JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

Voter Registration deadline Tuesday, June 28, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. In office or 11:59 online  
Mail In Ballot/ABS deadline Tuesday, July 12, 2022, by 8:00 p.m. by mail or 11:59 by fax  
Electronic Mail in/ABS deadline Friday, July 15, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. In office or 11:59 online

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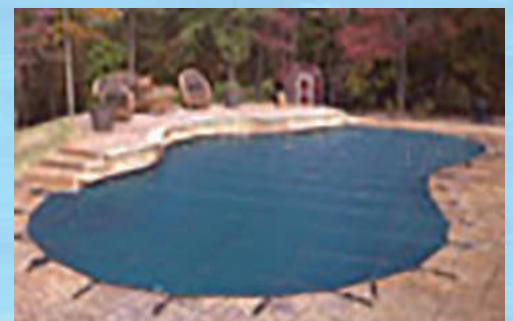


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# Age with Dignity

**Do you or a loved one live in a  
long-term care facility?**

**Make sure you know your rights!**

**The Long-Term Care Ombudsman helps  
residents in long-term care facilities**

**maintain their:**

- Legal rights**
- Control over their own lives**
- Personal dignity**

**Long-term care includes  
nursing homes and assisted living facilities.**

**Contact the St. Mary's County Ombudsman  
for more information at:**

**301-475-4200, ext. 1055**

**[www.stmarysmd.com/aging/senior-advocacy/](http://www.stmarysmd.com/aging/senior-advocacy/)**



**Brought to you by the:  
Commissioners of St. Mary's County  
St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services  
St. Mary's County Ombudsman Program**



# ★ ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



### Fly Fishing Workshop

Learn the basics of fly fishing at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, June 25 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. This presentation will be hosted by Mike Gargano and the team at Southern Maryland Fly Fishing.

We will cover what types of rods to use, what kinds of flies to use for certain fish, and even how to properly cast! This is an introductory course, so no experience is required! Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Gotcha! Scam Alert!

This program highlights some of the current scams circulating in our area; including phone, on-line, the mail and in-person swindles. Join us online Wednesday, June 29 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org). While scams have

been around since humans have existed, scammer tales are the true-crime flavor of the moment. Do you know the key indicators that you are dealing with a person intent on defrauding you? This program will highlight some of the current frauds being used every day to help separate you and your money. Find out the types of scams that send your adrenaline soaring while your brain shuts down and ways to protect yourself, your finances, your personal information and even your signature! Terry Antoniewicz is a handwriting specialist who presents programs related to handwriting and history.

### Mr Jon Concerts

Join musician Mr. Jon and his puppet friend George the Monkey for a high-energy family concert,

and come ready to DANCE! Please register each member of your group (adults and children).

Leonardtown Library on Friday, June 24 from 2 – 3 p.m.

Mt. Zion United Methodist on Saturday, June 25 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Lexington Park Library on Saturday, June 25 from 2 – 3 p.m.

### Using the 1950 Census: Finding Our Ancestors and Telling Their Stories

Access to the 1950 census was released on April 1, 2022. Join librarian, Elizabeth, as she breaks down the 1950 census, as well

as previous census records, as a source for your genealogy research at Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, June 28 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. What were your parents or grandparents up to 72 years ago? Learn how to find them on the newly released 1950 census. As Elizabeth explored the census, she began to piece together a fascinating story of her great grand aunt. Maybe you can find stories for your ancestors hidden in the 1950 census. This is an in-person program at the Leonardtown Library. All skill levels welcome. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org)

## St. Clement's Island Heritage Day

Saturday • June 25 • 10 AM – 3 PM

Celebrate the history and heritage of St. Clement's Island

**FREE FAMILY FUN**

**LIGHTHOUSE  
TOURS • KID'S FUN •  
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES  
• FREE WATER TAXI  
RIDES • FREE MUSEUM  
ADMISSION • MUCH MORE**



For More Info:  
301-769-2222

[Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum)

St. Clement's Island Museum  
38370 Point Breeze Road  
Coltons Point, MD



# Enjoy the 4th of July at Beautiful Solomons Island, Maryland!

**Fabulous Fireworks Display**

**Visit the Calvert Marine Museum**

**Live Patriotic Concert!**

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**Great Restaurants!**

Join us on for a very special 4th of July Celebration  
beginning with a flag raising ceremony at 10am  
and finishing with a spectacular  
fireworks display on the Patuxent River.

For more information, follow us on Facebook:  
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# Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb  
Contributing Writer

Spot in medium-to-large size are in the mouth of the Patuxent from the O'club to the Three Legged to Drum Point. Medium and small spot are up the river all the way to Benedict; the jumbos will be there soon.

There are plenty of perch in the deep holes of the rivers and up the creeks. A mix of perch and spot are in the mouth of Cuckold's Creek, Hawk's Nest and off the pier at the Naval recreation pier north of Point Patience.

Rockfish slacked off a little everywhere with the weather front that passed early in the week, cooling the temps from 90 to the 70's and dropping the humidity and bringing fierce winds.

The water also fled leaving extreme low tides. All these conditions make the fish hide and stop eating. By Monday, normalcy returned, and the fishing improved.

Cobia are in the farther southern reaches of our area. Boats chumming, chunking, and drifting live eels are catching some cobia at Smith Point, but the faster action is near the mouth of the Rappahannock. The fish are coming further north every day.



Tackle Box photo

Speckled trout are all over with the best numbers on the eastern shore side in the Honga river and in Tangier Sound. There are some now in the Patuxent and the Potomac and the size is excellent, from 18-to-24 inches.

## A View From The BLEACHERS



### IF CAL RIPKEN JR HAD A PODCAST

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.  
Contributing Writer

Tim is an eccentric. He is bombastic, enjoys music and likes to dance. Many good times have been shared with Tim. There were little league games, high school parties and several seasons of rec league softball. He's been your wing man at sporting events and a member of your foursome during rare trips around the links. With a shared circle of friends, he's turned up at bachelor parties, baby showers and barbecues over the years. Tim is, by all accounts, your friend. He has enriched in your life at several stages and in various capacities. And if you needed something – a couple eggs, a cup of flour or a beer - Tim would deliver with a smile, no questions asked.

But your relationship with Tim is challenged. He can be arrogant and self-centered, and isn't above a shameful remark about various demographics other than his own. With an unspoken understanding of irreconcilable differences, politics are an uncommon topic. Tim's smartphone is dangerous territory for wholesome souls and immaturity is a personality trait he pridefully maintains.

The specific details vary, but everyone has a "Tim": that imperfect soul who is best seen in small doses (so as to create needed breathers from his unbecoming traits).

As a child of the 80s and a long-time Maryland resident, Cal Ripken Jr. is the most significant baseball player in my life. Between my ninth and twenty-ninth birthdays, Ripken won the Rookie of the Year, the World Series, two MVPs, eight Silver Slugger awards and two Gold Gloves. He amassed over 3,000 hits and 400 home runs, and in 1995 broke Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games played. His life-size "Drink Milk" poster hung on my wall. He hit a game-winning home run during my eighth-grade class trip to Memorial Stadium. Years later, I was at Camden Yards when he tied Gehrig's record. I watched thousands of his at bats on Home Team Sports and only my death will separate me from his rookie cards.

Then there's the grander-than-fiction/beyond imagination stuff: Ripken grew up in Aberdeen, Maryland, suited up for his hometown Baltimore Orioles, and

played part of his career for his dad and with his little brother. It was a little league story taking place at the major league level. But the most impressive chapter in Ripken's fairy tale? He built and maintained one of the most impeccable reputations in professional sports history – a true icon on and off the diamond.

The world's "Tim's," human flaws, and today's unfiltered communication and social media scoundrels, beg the question: would Cal Ripken Jr. be possible today? Launch Ripken's career 40 years into the future. Now he's a 22-year-old charismatic phenom winning Rookie of the Year in 2022, not 1982. The Orioles would expect him to maintain an active social media presence. His every public move would be captured on fan video. And he would have one of MLB's most popular podcasts.

Try as he might, there would be missteps – a regretful video here, an impulsive response to a social media troll there. The social interaction filter applied to make "Tim" tolerable wouldn't be available to Ripken; fame leaves few hiding places. Not that Ripken ever had such regrettable traits as our hypothetical "Tim," but it would be naive to think Ripken's impeccable image was absolute reality. Imperfection is an innate human trait, and character destruction and chaos are preferred today to character building and order. Moreover, with everyone wielding a smartphone, and masquerading journalists/click-bait chefs whipping up salacious nonsense, today's social environment leaves no reputation unscathed – fair or not.

The result: a modern-day Cal Ripken Jr. experience, even assuming the identical baseball accomplishments, would be decidedly different. Ripken's character would likely not be as irreproachable (how could it be?). But the greater consequence would be his predictable self-preserving retreat to only the bare minimum of carefully choreographed public interaction, an act that would deprive Baltimore and its fans of the unique, intimate relationship they had, and still have, with him.

What if Cal Ripken Jr. had a podcast during his playing days? I'm glad he didn't.

Send comments to Ronald-GuyJr@gmail.com

## Sell it - Buy it at Auction

### Tri County Livestock Auction

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the Month – Auction begins at 4 PM

Located Off MD Rt. 6 West – Charlotte Hall, MD

**NOTE: NO Poultry will be received or sold until further notice.**

**The auction will be held and open for the sale of other animals.**

### On Line Auction

Tools – Snap On Tool Box – Collectibles – Life Size Painted Wooden Indian – Oak Roll Top Desk – Musical Instruments – Variety of Other Items

Auction will be online for viewing/bidding by June 29, 2022.

**Auction Preview:** Friday, July 1, 2022 from 3 pm to 7 pm at Westfield Farm, 26689 Laurel Grove Rd. Mechanicsville, MD

**Auction Closes beginning at 6 pm on Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>.**

### Grocery Auction

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 @ 6 pm

St. Michaels' School – Ridge, MD

. Doors open at 5 pm. Join us for this fun and exciting auction

www.FarrellAuctionService.com

301.904.3402



# Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



## LITTLE BITS OF WISDOM...

Little Bits of Wisdom, edited by Dean Walley with beautiful illustrations by Thelma Christenson, is a little book that I thought was gone forever from the moves and changes throughout life, but I happily found it again in the three Rubbermaid boxes of items saved from my childhood, and the one Rubbermaid of photos in drugstore envelopes. These were boxes I thought had been mistakenly thrown out when I first moved into my husband's house over 21 years ago. My younger son found them out in the back of our big shed and brought them in for me to go through last year or the year before. A few old board games were pulled out immediately for the grandkids, and then the totes were moved into the dark recesses of the laundry room.

In the last few weeks, I have re-started taking an item out at a time, putting it in a Ziploc bag along with liberal amounts of baking soda from an industrial sized baking soda box and putting it in the freezer to neutralize the moldy smells and old cigarette smoke from my late parents' old home. Sometimes it is beyond belief that I can open these boxes and still smell the smoke; it's extremely scary that it lasts that long. The only Rubbermaid that doesn't smell is the one with the photos from my sons' childhood.

So yesterday I took out the Little Bits of Wisdom book out of the freezer bag and carefully dusted off the baking soda in between all the pages and on the cover and back and was finally able to really look at it again without sneezing. There is just a faint smell to it now, but more of the nice old book smell I love than smoke and mold. I remembered that Mrs. Walker, my neighbor and also a teacher in Clinton, had given it to me on my 6th birthday in 1967. I printed my name in it the day I received it. I have it in front of me as I type on what is my 61st birthday today. I was surprised to see that it was a Hallmark book and was printed in 1967. I also remembered this little book being one of the many books I carried out to the Hickory tree, which was on our property, but whose roots reached under Mrs. Walker's fence, and whose branches shaded well over part of her side yard. She didn't seem to mind, though she may have had second thoughts as all those leaves and nuts started to fall each year.

Such a lovely little gift to a little girl who loved, and still does love, to read. There are no fancy bits of wis-



dom in it, only the gathering of famous short quotes that we all know, and probably wish we followed all the time. Several pages are just one or two sentences with the painting or drawing on the opposite page, such as, "What you would seem to be, be really" and "Hide not your talents; for use they were made! What's a sundial in the shade?" A few have stuck with me through the years, "Willful waste makes woeful want, and I may live to say, Oh! How I wish I had the bread that once I threw away!" So apt for today. And I always love, "Patience is a virtue, virtue is a grace; both put together make a very pretty face".

I was thinking that I wished I had kept this little book out on display and available to read my whole life, but I think the essence of it has stayed with me and in my heart. These quotes, and others from another book Mrs. Walker gave to me which I cannot seem to find yet, have always been a part of my life. The quotes were created by great thinkers and writers over the ages and have lasted because they are easy to remember and are so very true. I give a thank you in Heaven for all the bits of wisdom, advice, and gifts of Mrs. Walker, and later sweet Anna Mae who moved after Mrs. Walker moved away and was the person who got to listen to all my pre-teen and teen-aged troubles. Anna Mae still lives in the house next to my childhood home, and still listens when I call after all these years, as I now listen to her.

Before I put my treasured little book up in the old bookcase, I want to set in my memory the quote on the first page so I can continue the task of sorting through the rest of the totes, "One two, whatever you do, start it well and carry it through".

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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



# Letters to the Editor

## Who Committed This Affrontery?

### To the Editor

For some members of LGBTQ community to accuse a mother of being "hateful" just because she protested against an unwarranted invasion of sexual propaganda into her children's classrooms ... reminds me of a mass murderer who afterward turns the argument around by blaming the wounded, the survivors, and the families of the slaughtered dead as purveyors of hate-filled rhetoric by crying out against his murderous actions. Let us remember who committed this affrontery in the first place --- who are the violators of customary norms and who are the victims of this social anathema.

Lesbians, gays, trans-, and other queer-thinking personages do not have an inalienable right to invade classrooms in order to commit malicious acts of sexual self-satisfaction and group gratification with the ultimate intention of "killing" the innocence of righteous children or "destroying" their faith in biological sex and natural mother/fatherhood.

Children, because they have no voting rights, have become a group easily abused by heartless opportunists, yet whose suffering is constantly overlooked by corrupt politicians who only do the bidding of the insidious contributors filling their campaign coffers. Just once I would like to see the media in this country stand up for the rights of parents and children rather than always giving greater weight to the anti-family side (which has far less vulnerability and legitimacy) and whose long-term desire is to condemn an entire generation of children to a lifetime of sexual enslavement.

Professor Walter Boswell  
Leonardtown, MD

## Lies, Under the Guise of Compassion

### To the Editor:

Kindly permit me to respond to the printed letter to the Editor titled "Representation is not Propaganda", by Ms. Sarah Gravelle, Parent.

It seems epidemic, in both political and social circles, to find no common ground regarding the changing ethical and subsequent moral positions regarding persons of LGBTQ+ identities. It seems to play out fully that to regard any opinions, in contradiction to respecting the ontologically objective person's identity, different and distinct from their Identity preferences, is categorized as one must be of an evil will, and not one of love and compassion. Thus, as these words are used specifically, we must conform our self within that parameter of those virtues. Which, while being called out as presumed absent in the proactive discussion, they must equally be present in the defending parties, to make the discussion of any and all of human value. It would seem, in the light of the expressed spirit, any assumed calling out of one person for being "Good and righteous" and the other, as being "Good and righteous" for becoming the victim of having to be called out at all, is evidence, objectively, of some wrongdoing by both parties.

As I have just done the exact same thing herein, allow me to represent my reasoning. We must admit these "Good and Righteous" themes are indeed positive human virtues. They are something always found, though, within a religious context, which implies to a proof that Humanity is religious by Nature. The human acts are proofs as self-evident enough, because we all cry out to a Higher Power to defend our personal dispositions and beliefs, from which we each use to justify ourselves.

This being said, religion, let's say properly identified, True religion, is called of that process though which humanity is restored to its best condition of loving each, with a true and just compassion. This is opposed to a mere permissive human indulgence, which does not permit a soul to desire the best for itself. I say "Love" itself fully, in keeping with the parameters of psycho-sciences, in light of a ought-to-be sense of well-being. Not because we are good, but because the God, who created us in a Divine Image, is alone, 'Good' in God's absolute Being. We, as humans, participate in that goodness by willing "good" to ourselves, and to the other, for their sake's, having the forbearance for faults of all, not yet perfected in, what can only be rightfully called, "Love of Neighbor as oneself." When both persons "will" the best for the other, and self, indeed sadly naturally nearly impossible, as historically and scientifically admitted, both can make no claim as being justified when calling out the sin of the other, indeed!

John C. Fox  
Hollywood, MD



# The Fine Sheriff Deputies Deserve A Great Leader

## To the Editor:

After attending the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce Sheriff Forum, it's clearer than ever who would be the best choice for the next Sheriff.

Mr. Fleenor is definitely not the guy for the job. No disrespect, but I'm only validating his own words. I'm not sure how to feel about a Sheriff's office being lead by a man who says, "I wear my emotions on my sleeve."

Words can't describe how uncomfortable I would be if this big guy showed up to my house wearing his emotions on his sleeve trying to help me in an emergency situation. Retired Sergeant Deputy Fleenor does get one point during his 'first political escaped', when he agreed that crime in the county is out of control and higher than it's ever been in history; the statistics are clear and numbers don't lie.

Crime is so high, because Sheriff Cameron is too focused on Steve Hall's campaign. Every week it's something else: Sheriff Cameron endorses Steve Hall, Sheriff Cameron holding a meet and greet for Steve Hall, Sheriff Cameron is blah, blah, blah for Steve Hall. Geesh! This should be illegal at this point. It's no wonder that the respectable deputies, under the "leadership" of Sheriff Cameron, have to suffer through discomfort while the agency is sued and investigated by internal affairs; it's because Sheriff Cameron is too consumed with Mr. Hall's campaign.

Speaking of Mr. Hall, has Sheriff Cameron hired him a professional speech writer? During the forum when Mr. Hall would answer questions, he would read directly from his four-page answer sheet that his "ghost writer" prepared for him. It was like being read a bedtime story when he would speak. It's hard to even remember anything he said during the entire form. He was very boring and robotic. Could you imagine the deputies even wanting to sit there and listen to him speak, or respect him? It was pretty tough to stay focused on him "reading" to us during the forum.

It seems as though the two candidates (Mr. Fleenor and Mr. Hall) have teamed up with Sheriff Cameron to bully Mr. O'Connor. That's astonishing, because the Sheriff's office would be pretty lucky to have a man with such dynamic characteristics as the head Sheriff. Mr. O'Connor is a Purple Heart recipient, combat veteran and public servant for over two decades.

He has years of experience in making decisions for entire communities in this county as current Commissioner. He always votes to increase the budget to the Sheriff's office (\$34 million to \$57 million), because he understands the importance of safety. He has firsthand knowledge of running a budget, and etc.

Commissioner O'Connor is truly the only candidate conducting himself in a professional manner. During the forum, when he was asked a question, he had very sensible answers with clear plans. When he was being vilified by the other two candidates, he still had very sensible rebuttals and didn't seem to take the berating personally.

Mr. O'Connor spoke about using facilities the tax-payers have already paid for (like the empty building on Great Mills Road); making sure Deputies are homeowners; increasing traffic administrators and empowering the deputies by surveying them on how they believe the agency's culture could be shifted for the betterment of the county; very sensible plans.

The only thing I can remember that Mr. Hall said during the forum was something about working in closets to help with recruitment; not sensible plans.

We must treat this Sheriff's election like our life and safety depends on it, because it actually does. This is not some high school superlative election. Do not vote with emotions, or thinking that you owe someone a favor; vote logically and with sensibility. Voting is about integrity! Mr. John E. O'Connor is the only logical choice for St. Mary's County Sheriff.

Janet C. Bello  
St. Mary's County, Maryland

# Vote for Tom McKay for St. Mary's Commissioner President

ST. MARY'S COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT: There are four candidates in the race for the GOP nomination for this office. Three have been interviewed and explained their reasons for filing for the position. Two, Randy Guy and Tommy McKay, have previously held the office and built a record.

**Hide & Seek:** William BJ Hall made a record over the past two years in public arenas as a radical intent on tossing popular slogans around as freely as a child playing hide and seek. BJ Hall has tried to hide his radical past as he seeks the GOP nomination. Hall fails to make a case for voters to select him as the best person for the job.

**Just Hiding:** School Board Member Rita Weaver didn't answer several requests for an interview. Thus, the only criteria to base her credentials on is her record as a school board member. Those who serve on the school board fail to transition to the board of commissioners as their experience deals solely with advocating unlimited spending with increasingly less than stellar results.

Guy's experience as commissioner president is more recent than that of McKay. Guy's credentials include a grade of A for reading prepared statements provided by staffers that appears he has little understanding of issues or complexities in the operation of county government. In the critical issue of where and how the Pot Factory got approved and how about an investigation, Randy Guy receives an F and should be sent to sit in the corner while wearing a dunce cap.

Tommy McKay is our choice for the post of St. Mary's County Commissioner President. Former Commissioner Larry Jarboe has cited his four years in the post from 2002 to 2006 as being a record of achievement, efficiency, lower taxes, respect for the treasure extracted from taxpayers by county government, and meeting the needs of education each and every budget cycle.

Larry Jarboe should know; he served four terms for a total of sixteen years and proclaimed McKay, the best commissioner president with whom he served.

McKay recently said he first started getting tips from customers of his family grocery store when he was a kid carrying groceries out to their cars. Some tips were as much as a quarter, other times more, but he always appreciated the tips. McKay says that as he grew older and took on additional responsibilities in addition to bagging and carrying groceries, the tips came in the form of requesting

other items to be stocked, other services to be provided, and even offering completed meals to take home.

McKay points out that his business experience over the past few years with one crisis after another, which has crippled small businesses, makes him understand the challenges to small and independent businesses in a way that is impossible for others. The McKay stores will soon be reconfigured into smaller stores, and efficiencies sought to make them a viable business in the future.

Taking the same approach to government is nothing new to McKay, as he and Larry Jarboe worked to consolidate departments, eliminate department head positions and expand services to the community.

Tom McKay says in several recent interviews with THE CHESAPEAKE TODAY that he listens to citizens with suggestions on how to make government better and serve the needs of the public. He will open up and expand public forums regularly.

The current public forum process operated and overseen by Randy Guy only allows a citizen a total of three minutes to address the commissioners on a topic, and the forum is only held four times a year, thereby restricting a citizen to twelve minutes in a calendar year to address their grievances with their commissioners or to make a suggestion. In that spirit, Randy Guy presided over the establishment of a Pot Factory in a residential neighborhood in a Critical Area owned by unknown investors.

McKay points out that he will resume the practice of the Board of moving around the county to firehouse social halls for the regular public forum. Anyone can have more time to speak once each person has had their turn and will stay open for comment until midnight if need be.

Randy Guy's campaign finance record shows only too well who has his ear as the county's most prominent developers, and some of the investors of the Pot Factory in Abell are funding his campaign. It is clear why Randy Guy never provided the public with a way to learn about the Pot Factory or to provide their concerns before the industrial operation was placed in their residential neighborhood.

The choice is clear electing Thomas McKay as St. Mary's County Commissioner President will provide the best leadership for St. Mary's County.

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CountyTimes

**THE CHESAPEAKE TODAY**



# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Thursday, Jun 23

### Summer Bird Feeding

Loffler Senior Activity Center  
21905 Chancellors Run Rd  
Great Mills  
9a.m. to 10a.m.

Barb Whipkey, avid birdwatcher, and owner of Wild Birds Unlimited of Lexington Park will be at the Loffler Senior Activity Center for a presentation on summer bird feeding needs. She will include tips for dealing with mess free feeding options, dealing with pesky squirrels and what to do when you are going on vacation. As we all know, birds don't take summer vacations and they'll be at your feeders whether you are home or not! Advance registration is required for this program. Seating is limited.

## Friday, Jun 24

### Open Mic

Christ Church Parish Hall  
37497 Zach Fowler Road  
Chaptico  
7p.m. to 10p.m.

Southern Maryland Traditional Music and Dance will host an Open Mic on Friday, June 23rd at Christ Church Parish Hall,

37497 Zach Fowler Rd, Chaptico, MD. Acoustic musicians of all skill levels are warmly welcomed to perform their favorite tunes, beginning promptly at 7:30pm. Sign up to perform by contacting Michael Smith [smtmdmike@gmail.com](mailto:smtmdmike@gmail.com). The admission is \$7; performers are admitted free of charge. Visit [www.smtmd.org](http://www.smtmd.org) for directions and more information.

### River Concert: Music from the Old World

St. Mary's College Townhouse Green  
St. Mary's City  
7p.m. to 10p.m.

The River Concert Series opens its 24th season with works of Dvorak, Brahms, Weiner, Suk, Bartok and Strauss Jr. The program includes Brahms' Hungarian Dances and Strauss Waltzes.

St. Mary's College of Maryland, along with the Chesapeake Orchestra and its Music Director Jeffrey Silberschlag, are proud to announce the program for the 2022 River Concert Series. A Southern Maryland tradition now in its 24th season, this family-friendly music festival, and winner of two Governor's Awards for Arts, Tourism, and Community Economic Development, will be held on the St. Mary's College

Townhouse Green. Mainstage programs will be on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. starting on June 24, and continuing on July 1, 8, 15, and 22.

The River Concert Series program is subject to change. Food and beverages, provided by local vendors, will be available for purchase on location. Attendees are also welcome to bring their own refreshments. Concerts are free and open to the public.

For more information, visit the River Concert Series at [www.smcm.edu/events/riverconcert/](http://www.smcm.edu/events/riverconcert/).

## Saturday, Jun 25

### St. Clement's Island Heritage Day

St. Clement's Island Museum  
38370 Point Breeze Road  
Colton's Point  
10a.m. to 3p.m.

Celebrate the history and heritage of St. Clement's Island with tons of fun and FREE activities and programs for the whole family out on beautiful St. Clement's Island. Experience a day of history, wildlife and art, and take part in activities that include, games, lighthouse tours, traditional music and much more. Lots of related vendors will be on hand. Visitors will be able

to take free water taxi rides out to the island for all the festivities.

Discover St. Clement's Island State Park and its history as the site of Maryland's first colonial landing in 1634. Enjoy the scenic and natural beauty of the island, Potomac River and waterfowl with a walk along the beach. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the pavilion or any of the tables dotting the island shore. The reconstructed Blackstone Lighthouse will be open and available for tours.

Event is FREE; water taxi rides are FREE. Call 301-769-2222 for more information.

INFO: [www.facebook.com/events/622409152282598/](https://www.facebook.com/events/622409152282598/)

### Guinea Pig Adoption Days

40845 Merchants Lane  
Unit 100  
Leonardtown  
10a.m to 2p.m.

Earthwise Pet in Leonardtown is having a Meet and greet with adoptable Guinea Pigs from Fierce Love Rescue! Talk with fosters about proper care and what they recommend when it comes to our piggie friends!



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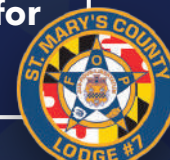
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We have worked with both candidates for State's Attorney in St. Mary's County. **We believe it's time for change.**

We know Jaymi Sterling is the candidate with the **integrity** and **experience** to protect local families and the communities we serve.

**We are proud to endorse Jaymi Sterling for State's Attorney.**



**REPUBLICAN PRIMARY: VOTE JULY 19**

Authority: Friends of Jaymi Sterling; Treasurer Alison Weaver

Learn More: [JaymiSterling.com](http://JaymiSterling.com) @FriendsofJaymiSterling

The County Times runs complimentary obituaries as submitted by funeral homes and readers. We run them in the order we receive them. Any submissions that come to guyleonard@countytimes.net after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

# In Remembrance

## Mary Evelyn Wathen



Mary Evelyn Wathen, 90, of Bushwood, Maryland, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 13, 2022 at home with her loving family at her side. She was born on September 25, 1931, in Park Hall, Maryland to the late Ignatius Abell Hammett and Ethel Marie Ridgell Hammett.

On March 25, 1950, she married her beloved husband, Joseph Woodrow Wathen, Sr., at Sacred Heart Church in Bushwood, MD. Together they celebrated over 55 wonderful years of marriage before his passing in 2005.

Evelyn was a true believer in God, and she loved her Sacred Heart Church family. She dedicated her time decorating the altar and helping with church dinners. Sacred Heart Church was an important part of her life and she attended mass until she was not able.

Evelyn loved being a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She was a great cook and baker, but you could also find her working in the tobacco field. She had many hobbies including crocheting, canning vegetables, crabbing for soft crabs, and making wedding cakes for family and friends. Evelyn loved listening to her collection of country music CDs from the fifties, sixties, and seventies, and dancing at club dances where her brother-in-law's band, Bob Norris and the Country Cousins, played.

She is survived by her children, Patricia Wathen of Bushwood, MD, Denise Nolet (Duane) of Charlotte Hall, MD, Joseph Wathen, Jr. of Bushwood, MD, Pam Payne of St. Leonard, MD, and Edward Wathen (Karen) of Hollywood, MD; grandchildren Danielle Wathen, Juliana Payne, Demi Nolet, Deanna Nolet, Sophi Wathen and Cole Wathen; and great grandchildren Parker Crews and Evelyn (Evy K) Crews. She is also survived by her siblings Jerome Hammett of Compton, MD, Joseph Hammett (Barbara) of Char-

lotte Hall, MD, Cecelia Atkins of California, MD, John Hammett (Kitty) of Avenue, MD, Lou Guy of Avenue, MD, David Hammett (Patty) of TN, and her niece, Janet Nagle, who was like a daughter to her.

Evelyn is preceded in death by her parents, husband Woodrow, sisters Agnes Wathen and Doris Norris, brother Daniel Hammett, sisters-in-law Joyce Hammett and Gertrude Hammett, and brothers-in-law Hayden Wathen, Bob Norris, Ken Atkins, and Joe Matt Guy.

The family will receive friends on June 23, 2022, from 9:00AM to 10:00AM in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, MD, where a Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:00AM with Reverend Stephen Wyble officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Wayne Guy, Bill Bailey, Bobby Hammett, Timmy Hammett, Mike Hammett, and Mike Norris.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

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

## Lewis Arno Schmidt, Sr.



Lewis Arno Schmidt, Sr., 83, of Mechanicsville, MD, peacefully passed away on May 31, 2022.

Lewis was born on November 7, 1938, to William and Hilda Schmidt in the bustling city of Oxon Hill, MD. Lewis graduated from Oxon Hill High school in 1957. He went on to become a member of the Army Reserve, Master Mason at the Grand Lodge F.A.A.M., and a member of the Moose Club.

After graduation, he worked in Construction/remodels. Lewis was passionate about the industry as his father taught him the trade and later, he was able to teach his daughter and son the trade. He truly loved what he did for a living. Lewis went on to open three more companies, one of which he had an exclusive contract with

Marriott hotels, of which he was very proud. This allowed him to travel around the world to work, with his wife and granddaughter in tow.

Lewis continued to run his multiple companies until his retirement. Retirement allowed him and his beloved wife to travel to his favorite destination, Hawaii an incredible 14 times. He enjoyed spending his days relaxing and cruising or testing his luck playing the slots. Lewis's favorite way to spend his time was surrounded by his friends and family, whom he loved.

Lewis married his beloved wife, Gloria (Jean) Schmidt on June 16, 1958, and together they spent 62 blissful years of marriage. They welcomed 4 beautiful children into their family, Lewis Schmidt, Jr., of Mechanicsville, MD, Debroah Miller of Indian Head, MD, Michelle Mattingly of Abell, MD, and Lorrie Eveson who predeceased Lewis. Eventually, they were blessed with 7 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

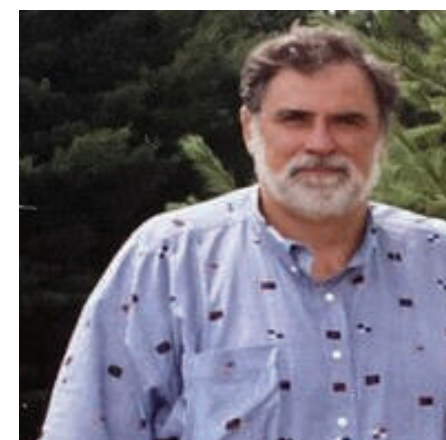
Lewis was predeceased by his parents, William and Hilda Schmidt, his daughter Lorrie Eveson, his sister Paula Copeland

and his wife Gloria Schmidt. He is survived by his children Lewis Schmidt, Jr., of Mechanicsville, MD, Debroah Miller of Indian Head, MD, Michelle Mattingly of Abell, MD, and his two brothers, Richard Schmidt, and Ronnie Schmidt. He is also survived by his seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com)

All arrangements were made by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A. in Charlotte Hall, MD.

## Raymond Carl Wilhelm



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## In Remembrance

Raymond Carl Wilhelm, 75, of Leonardtown, Maryland passed away on June 2, 2022 after battling cancer. He was born to Alfred and Freda Wilhelm in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

After graduating Princeton High School in 1964, he went on to college at St. Cloud State University, University of Minnesota and then graduated from the University of Pittsburg. He received a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Florida Institute of Technology in 1994.

For several years, he lived in Pittsburgh and worked for Robertshaw Controls and Compunetics. In 1980, with two partners, they formed Inventive Systems Inc in Lexington Park, Maryland providing engineering and computer programming to the US Navy and the design and manufacturing of bilge pumps. In 1989 Ray went to work for PRB/Northrup Grumman in Hollywood Maryland retiring on 1 October 2021 after 32 years.

Ray enjoyed woodworking, playing poker, watching basketball, motorcycle racing, and sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. For many years, he raced sailboats out of Solomon's Island, Maryland.

Ray is survived by his sister Helen Schendel of Milaca, Minnesota, nieces Karen Schendel Anderson (Brad) and Kim Wilhelm Rampmeyer (Robin), and nephew Paul Schendel (Lori).

He was preceded in death by both his parents Alfred and Freda and his brother Robert (Bob) Wilhelm, nephews Alan Wilhelm (Heather) and Lance Wilhelm.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice at St. Mary's, 44724 Hospice Lane, Callaway, MD 20620

Condolences may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

Arrangements made by Brinsfield Funeral Home.

### Lois Anne Trent



Beloved mother, grandmother, and great grandmother Lois Anne Trent, 92, was peacefully called

by God on June 10, 2022 while surrounded by her loving family at her home in Lexington Park, MD.

Lois was preceded in death by her loving husband of 59 years, James "Jim" Daniel Trent, Jr. (1926-2016). She is survived by all 10 of her children: Anne Russell, Laura Stein, Marian Wheeler, James D. Trent, III, Jonathan Trent, Christopher Trent, Elizabeth Trent, Joseph Trent, Constance Trent, and Paul Trent; 17 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

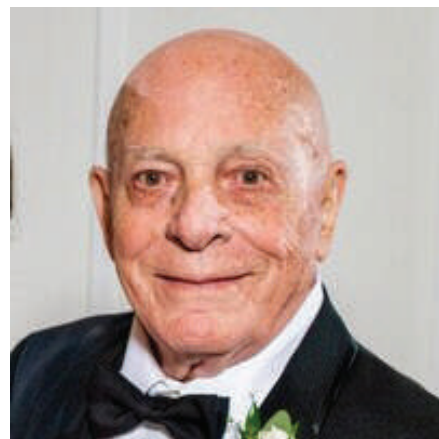
Lois will be interred next to her loving husband, Jim immediately following the Mass. She will be lovingly carried to her final resting place by James Trent, III, Jonathan Trent, Christopher Trent, Joseph Trent, Paul Trent, and Ben Russell.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Three Oaks Center, P.O. Box 776, Lexington Park, MD 20653 or [www.threeoakscenter.org/donations](http://www.threeoakscenter.org/donations).

Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

### Salvatore (Sal) G. Sanfilippo



Salvatore (Sal) G. Sanfilippo, 98, of Leonardtown, MD died peacefully on June 9, 2022 at the Hermitage Assisted Living facility in Solomons, MD. Sal previously resided in Tuscaloosa, AL (25 years) and Leominster, MA (20 years).

Sal was born on January 1, 1924, in Corona, NY. He was the son of the late Gaspere and Girolama Sanfilippo, first generation Americans, who emigrated to the United States from Sciacca, Sicily. He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Emma C. Sanfilippo, his children Carole Ann Sanfilippo and Emma Rose Sanfilippo, and his siblings Geraldine Sanfilippo, Barbara Pascale, and Paul (Pete) Sanfilippo. He is survived by his daughters Ro-

berta C. Sanfilippo of Lusby, MD, and Linda Miedzinski (Robert) of Leonardtown, MD. He is also survived by his grandchildren Jessica M. Kearney (Richie) of Stafford, VA, Christina L. Bergeron (Kenneth) of Bel Air, MD, Daniel F. Miedzinski (Jamie) of Philadelphia, PA, Robert M. Miedzinski of Leonardtown MD, and 4 great-grandchildren Emmalyn M. Kearney, Nathan A. Bergeron, Sophia C. Bergeron, and Samuel R. Miedzinski.

Sal served in the United States Navy during World War II where he achieved the rank of Pharmacist Mate 2nd Class. He was stationed at St. Albans Naval Hospital, St. Albans, NY and was in independent duty corpsman serving in USS BIG HORN, USS LST 1074, USS LST 218, AND USS LST 680.

He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1949 from the University of Alabama and held many positions within the coatings and resins technology industry. He retired from Reichhold Chemical Company as the Southern Regional Sales Manager of Coating Resins. He was a guest lecturer at Wayne State University, Metropolitan State College, Mississippi State College, and the University of Alabama. Sal was a holder of three US Patents and served as an oversight monitor for grants given to the University of Alabama and the University of Southern Mississippi.

In 1976 he represented the United States in Technical Exchange at the USSR Ministry of Chemical Industry (Soyuzkraska) in Moscow. After retirement, he became a member of the International Executive Service Corps and Citizens Democracy Corps, both US non-profit organizations that supported U. S. aid to private and public entities of third-world and developing countries. He supported private enterprise efforts for paint and coatings companies in Sri Lanka, Egypt, Bolivia, Hungary, Mexico, Russia, Zimbabwe, and Kazakhstan.

He was a member and Past President (1985) of The Southern Society of Coatings Technology. He served as committee chair in 1993, 1994, and 1997 for the International Coating Exposition. As a professional in the coatings industry, he was called upon on several occasions as an expert witness in Coating Court Disputes and conducted on-site inspections of reported paint failures to determine the causes.

He was a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus having served as Grand Knight in Tusca-

loosa, AL and as a knight in the St. John Francis Regis SJ Knights of Columbus Council #7914 in Hollywood, MD.

He was particularly proud of the accomplishments of his daughter Roberta, who dealt with multiple medical challenges throughout her lifetime. He was extremely proud of the accomplishments of his daughter, Linda, as she progressed in the educational field including special education teacher, elementary and secondary education (K-12), band director, and her final appointment as Principal of Mother Catherine Spalding School in Helen, MD.

He enjoyed traveling the world for both leisure and business and often spoke about his visits to over forty different countries. When not traveling, he enjoyed making furniture, practicing his photography skills, gardening, making wine, playing golf, and spending time with his grandchildren particularly as they played a variety of musical instruments at various events. He was an avid University of Alabama fan and enjoyed supporting the football and basketball teams (Roll Tide) whether in person or on television.

Interment will follow at Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Cheltenham, MD at a later date.

Serving as pallbearers will be Daniel F. Miedzinski, Robert M. Miedzinski, Jr., Kenneth Bergeron, Rich Kearney, Larry Miedzinski, and Robert F. Miedzinski.

In lieu of flowers, request donations be made to ARC of Southern Maryland, 355 W Dares Beach Rd, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 or Hospice of Calvert County P.O. Box 838, 238 Merrimac Court, Prince Frederick, MD 20676.

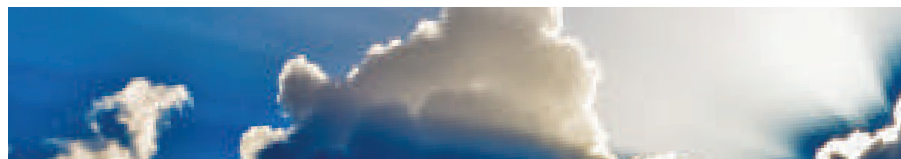
Condolences may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com)

Arrangements made by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

### Alan Graves Dean



Alan Graves Dean, 86, of Lexington Park, MD, died on Thursday, June 9th, 2022, at St. Mary's



Hospital in Leonardtown, MD.

Born on January 23, 1936 in Helen, MD, he was the son of the late Sterling Wilson Dean and Grace Taylor Dean and the husband of Louise Loffler Dean, whom he married on June 23, 1962 at Hollywood United Methodist Church, Hollywood, MD, where he was a lifelong member. This month would have been their 60th wedding anniversary.

Alan was a charter member of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department. He later served as a Private First Class in the United States Army from 1958-1960. After graduating from Great Mills High School in 1953, he worked for the United States Postal Service as a letter carrier advancing to Postmaster of Lexington Park, MD on February 5th, 1972, before retiring in 1991 after more than 30 years. Alan then worked at Walmart as a greeter and assembler for more than 20 years. He enjoyed auctions and fishing and crabbing in the local waters, putt-putt golf, visiting his friends at Walmart, and touring around the county in his white pickup truck. Alan and Louise took more than

50 yearly trips to their favorite vacation spot, Cape May, NJ. He also loved hanging with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who affectionally called him "Pop-O".

He is survived by son, Richard Dean (Jody) of Lexington Park and daughter, Debra Raley (Randy) of Mechanicsville, 4 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He is also survived by brother James Dean (Pat) of Lexington Park, MD, brother Rodney Dean (Laura) of Southport, NC and sister Barbara Tribble (Robert) of Hollywood, MD.

He was preceded in death by brother Donald Dean of Fairfax Station, VA.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 79, Hollywood, MD 20636 and the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 7, Hollywood, MD 20636.

Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com)

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD.

# PAYING OFF CREDIT CARD DEBT

*Contributing Writer:  
Lynda J. Striegel*

According to a survey by CreditCards.com, 13% of Americans say they'll never pay off their loans and another 8% say they won't pay off what they owe until they're at least 71 years old. You don't have to be one of these people. If you are stuck in debt, take action to help yourself. Credit card debt is the enemy of financial security. Here are 5 tips to help you pay off those high interest credit card balances:

## 1. STOP PAYING ONLY THE MINIMUM ON YOUR CREDIT CARD DEBT

The minimum payment on credit card debt is 2% of the balance. Suppose you have a balance of \$5,000 on your credit card with a 15% interest rate. If you pay the minimum, it will take you more than 27 years to pay off the balance. It gets worse. Your total payments will amount to \$12,518 or about 2.5 times your original \$5,000 balance. Paying the minimum is keeping you in servitude to the bank or credit card company. What can you do? By boosting your payment to 3% of the balance you can pay off the credit card balance in about half the time. Boost the payment to 5% of the balance and you can pay it all off in about 8 years. If you do not have the cash flow to make one larger credit card payment every month, try making two minimum payments every month.

## 2. FOCUS ON PAYING OFF ONE CARD FIRST

If you have multiple credit cards and want to show progress, pick the one with the lowest balance and pay that one off as soon as you can. Then, tackle the next in line. In any event, your credit score will decline based on whether you have used more than 20% of your available credit. Paying down your credit cards to show loans of less than 20% of the available balance on the card will immediately boost your credit score. So, even if you cannot pay off the entire card, paying down the balance will give you progress and a better credit score.

## 3. SPEAK UP

If you have a good credit score (usually 730 and above) and are current in making your pay-

ments, call the credit card company and ask them to lower your rate. Most companies will accommodate their long-term customers who pay on time. If you have been offered a lower rate by a competitor, tell the bank. Most likely they will meet that lower rate to avoid losing you as a customer. Remember, you are valuable to the banks.

## 4. TAKE ACTION, BUT BE CAREFUL

Transferring your credit card balance to another card with a 0% introductory interest rate is a good idea IF you can pay off the entire credit card during the time the introductory interest rate is 0%. Most of the cards will give you up to 18 months of 0% interest before the card reverts to the 15-25% interest rate category. If you can't pay the card balance off in 18 months, you may wind up paying more in interest on the balance than you had with your first card. Check the interest rates on the cards. If you find a card with an interest rate after 18 months of 0% that is significantly lower than your current rate, even if you cannot pay off all of the debt in 18 months, you will be better off. Try your online resources for education. Nextadvisor.com is helpful. Enter the balance you want to transfer, the amount you want to spend each month and the website will give you a list of credit cards that may help you. There are plenty of other online resources for you to choose from.

## 5. NEVER BORROW FROM YOUR HOME OR YOUR 401(K) TO PAY OFF CREDIT CARD DEBT

Your home and your retirement funds are critical to your financial well-being. Why jeopardize either of them by borrowing against them?

No matter how you tackle the problem of credit card debt, the important point is to take action to pay down that debt. Get a plan and stick to it.

A reminder: Join me for a free estate planning seminar on the third Wednesday of every month at 11 am at our office at 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your spot.

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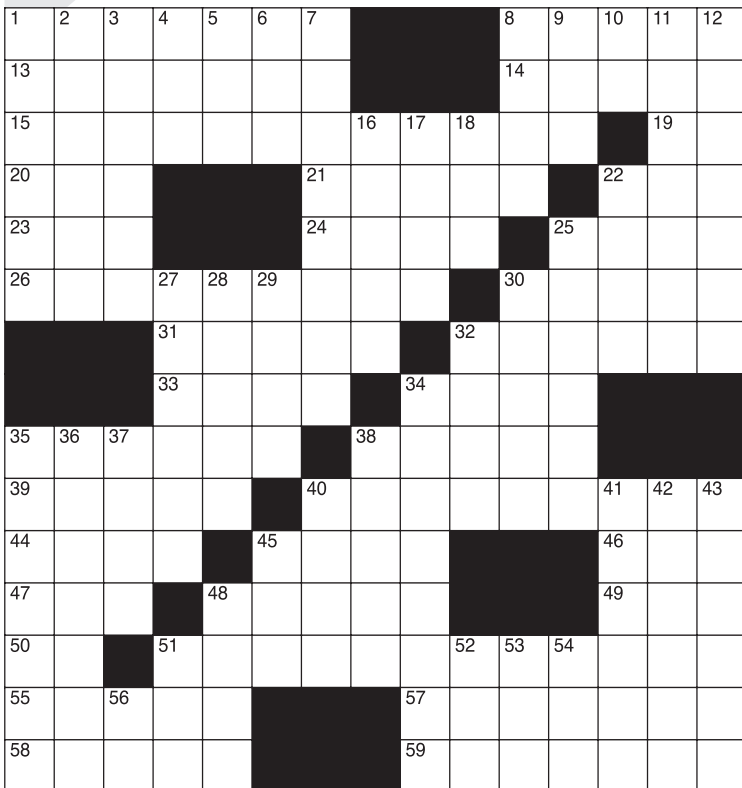
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# GAMES & PUZZLES



**CLUES ACROSS**

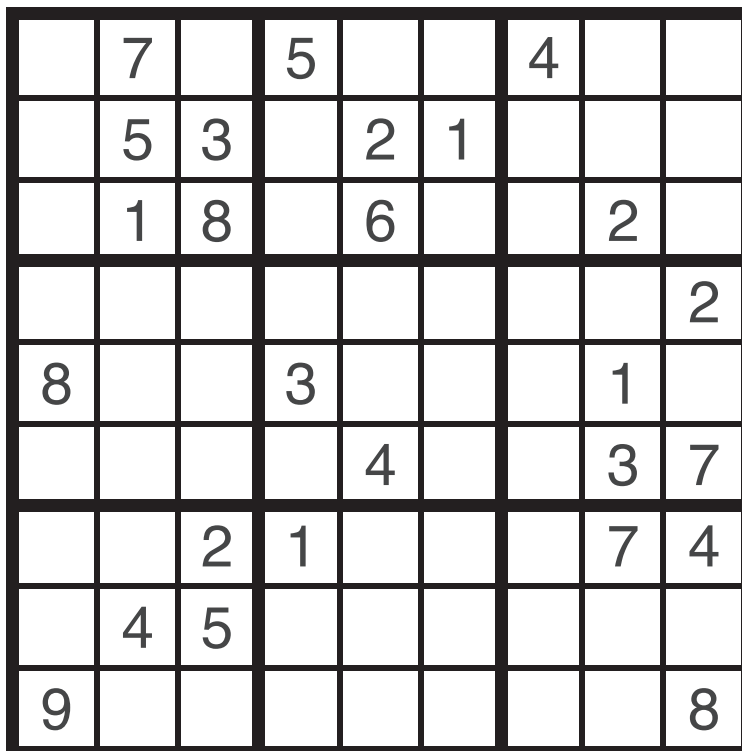
- 1. Half-conscious states
- 8. Unnatural
- 13. Deep regret
- 14. Rogue
- 15. Took without permission
- 19. An alternative
- 20. After B
- 21. Partner to "flowed"
- 22. The best day of the week (abbr.)
- 23. Helps you hear
- 24. Egyptian river
- 25. Lake \_\_\_, one of the Great
- 26. Make free from bacteria
- 30. Indigenous peoples of central Canada
- 31. Sanctuaries in Greek temples
- 32. Most unclothed
- 33. NJ senator Booker
- 34. Tibetan lake
- 35. Desecrate something sacred
- 38. John \_\_\_, English educator 1467-1519

- 39. Obtains in return for labor
- 40. Views
- 44. Rugged cliff
- 45. Not quiet
- 46. Body part
- 47. Newt
- 48. German city
- 49. A way to save money
- 50. NBC's Roker
- 51. Dire Straits frontman
- 55. Actress Lathan
- 57. Most meager
- 58. Poems
- 59. Companions

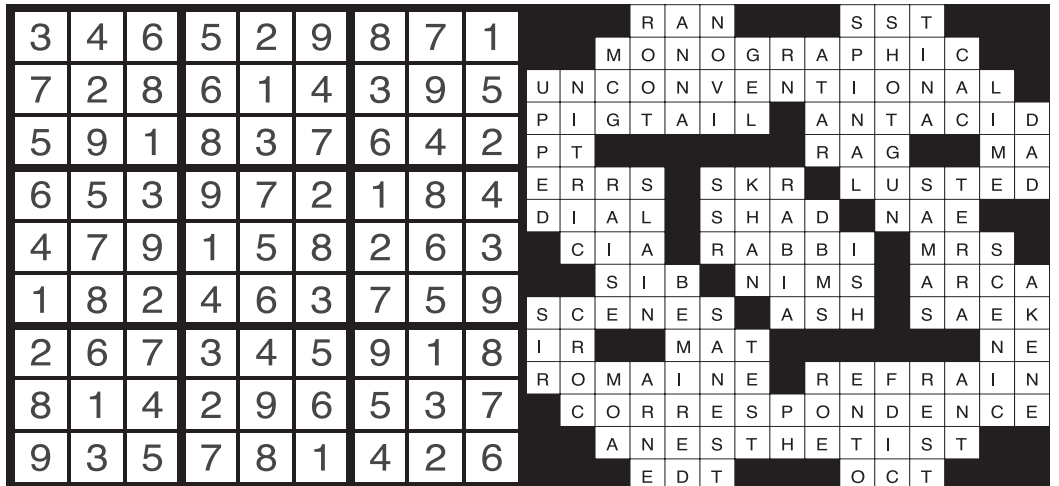
- 17. The skill to do something
- 18. Where golf games begin
- 22. Untethered
- 25. Print errors
- 27. The sport of engaging in contests of speed
- 28. Ones to look up to
- 29. Stringed instrument
- 30. Gives whippings
- 32. Type of tie
- 34. Make more concentrated
- 35. Die
- 36. Part of a winter hat
- 37. Young men's club
- 38. Bathrooms need it
- 40. U.S. president
- 41. American novelist
- 42. Take into custody
- 43. Hurts
- 45. Type of gibbon
- 48. American actor Lukas
- 51. Partner to cheese
- 52. Some are covert
- 53. Political action committee
- 54. To and \_\_\_
- 56. Atomic #28

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Draws over
- 2. Recur
- 3. Current unit
- 4. Neither
- 5. Certified Radio Operator (abbr.)
- 6. Power of perception
- 7. Peace
- 8. Supplemented with difficulty
- 9. The last section or part of anything
- 10. Dorm worker
- 11. Bones
- 12. Most unnatural
- 16. Spanish island



**LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**



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