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# St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023

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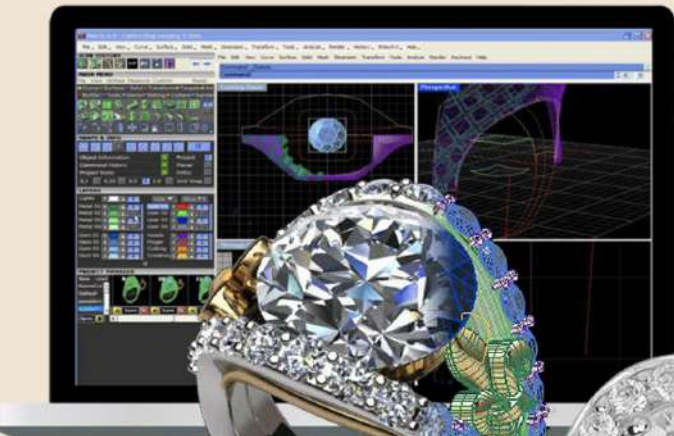
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**LOCAL 7**  
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 The Rex is reopening its theater space

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JAN 12	FRI, JAN 13	SAT, JAN 14	SUN, JAN 15
 Cloudy Hi: 57° Lo: 47°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 52° Lo: 32°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 42° Lo: 28°	 Sunny Hi: 48° Lo: 29°
MON, JAN 16	TUE, JAN 17	WED, JAN 18	THU, JAN 19
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**ARTICULATED END DUMP:** 2012 Terex TA400 T/A Articulated End Dump, 4,166.2 Hrs. – Super Sharp

**(5)HYDRAULIC EXCAVATORS:** John Deere 350G LC Hydraulic Excavator, S/N – 1FF350GX-CFF811068, Aux. Hyd., Lemac Hyd. Thumb, 32" Tracks, 54" Bucket, Grapple, 3,788 Hrs. – Super Sharp; Caterpillar 320 CL Hydraulic Excavator, CAT Hyd. Thumb; Hitachi EX160LC Hydraulic Excavator, TAG 42" Exc. Bucket, Geith Manual Thumb, 7,317 Hrs.; John Deere 85D Rubber Track Hydraulic Excavator, S/N – 13KP002176, ECAB, Aux. Hyd., Backfill Blade, Accurate Hyd. Thumb; Caterpillar 304C-CR Rubber Track Hydraulic Excavator, ROPS w/Roof, Aux. Hyd., Backfill Blade, 24" Digging Bucket, CAT Hyd. Thumb; (10)Various Excavator Buckets; Quick Tach for Excavator

**(4)TRACK DOZERS:** Komatsu D65PX Track Dozer, Factory Cab, P.A.T. Blade, 3-Rear Ripper – Super Sharp; Caterpillar D5G LGP Track Dozer, ECAB w/Air, P.A.T. Blade, 26" Tracks; Caterpillar D8H Track Dozer, Straight Blade w/Tilt, Not Running – Selling Off Site in Leonardtown, MD, Approximately 20 Miles from Auction Site- Call Week of Auction for Inspection; Caterpillar D8H Track Dozer- Many Parts Missing – Selling Off Site in Leonardtown, MD, Approximately 20 Miles from Auction Site- Call Week of Auction for Inspection

**(2)RUBBER TIRE LOADERS:** Caterpillar 980C Rubber Tire Loader, S/N – 63X05443, ECAB; Caterpillar 950B Rubber Tire Loader, S/N – 63R02536, ECAB, 3,167 Hrs.

**(18)TRACK SKID LOADERS & ATTACHMENTS:** Caterpillar 289C Two Speed Rubber Track Skid Loader, S/N – CAT0289CJMP00718, ECAB, Aux. Hyd., Power Quick Tach, Weight Package, 3,810 Hrs.; Caterpillar 259B3 High Flow Two Speed Rubber Track Skid Loader, S/N – CAT0057ACMM00693, ECAB, Aux. Hyd., G.P. Bucket w/Bolt On Cutting Edge, 3,734 Hrs.; Caterpillar 257 Rubber Track Skid Loader, Aux. Hyd., G.P. Bucket; Caterpillar 16B Trencher; Caterpillar PR184 Landscape Rake, S/N – PRW00358; FFC 8' Skid Steer Blade; (2)Tomahawk 96" Material Buckets & Others; Tomahawk 84" Bucket; 73" Bucket & Other Buckets; Universal Grapple Bucket; Bradco Universal Rotary Mower; Concrete Universal Placement Bucket & Other Attachments.

**TELESCOPIC FORKLIFT:** Lull 1044C-54 Telescopic Forklift, S/N – 0160008539, Aux. Hydraulics w/Tilt, 6' Forks, Outriggers, 6,287 Hrs.

**VIBRATORY ROLLER:** REX SP-600 Vibratory Roller, OROPS w/Roof, 48" Smooth Drum, 1,541 Hrs.

**AIRPORT SNOW BLOWER:** Idaho Norland Airport Snow Blower- Drove Approximately 20 Miles to Auction Site

**TRACTORS & MOWER & 3 PT. ATTACHMENTS:** John Deere 4720 4WD Tractor w/400X Loader, ECAB, Hyd. Outlets, John Deere Quick Tach 72" Bucket, 3 Pt. w/Top Link; McCormick Farmall 400 Tractor; John Deere M665 Zero Turn Mower, 2,027 Hrs.; Dixie Chopper Industrial Extreme Zero Turn Mower, 72" Cut; Turf Tiger Zero Turn Mower; Scag Turf Tiger Mower for Parts; Frontier RB2196H Blade, 3 Pt.; John Deere MX6 Rotary Mower, 3 Pt., Chain Package; John Deere OS 1058 Seeder, 3 Pt.- Like New; Post Hole Digger; John Deere Tiller; Quick Hitch; Jacobsen 3 Pt. Leaf Blower & Others Not Mentioned.

**(2)LOWBOY ROAD TRACTORS:** 2007 Mack CHN613 T/A Road Tractor, Mack Maxitorque 13 Sp. Trans., Wetline, Bulk Head- Super Sharp Well Maintained; 1994 Peterbilt 379 T/A Road Tractor, Eaton Fuller Manual Trans., Wetline, 1,238,980 – Odometer – Super Sharp- Well Maintained

**50 TON DETACHABLE EQUIPMENT TRAILER:** 2000 Fontaine 50 Ton T/A Series Tri Axle Detachable Low Boy Trailer, 25' Well, Outriggers – Super Sharp

**(5)TRI, TANDEM & SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCKS:** 2005 Peterbilt 379 Tri Axle Dump Truck, CAT Engine, Manual Trans., 17' Steel Dump Body w/Cab Protector, Tarp & Hydraulic Tailgate, 411,595.7 Odometer, Needs Injector Work- Complete Restoration- Super Sharp (DT-2); 1999 Mack RD688S Tri Axle Dump Truck, Mack Diesel, 8 Sp. Trans., 16' Steel Dump Body, Cab Protector & Tarp, 516,215 Odometer (DT-6); 1997 Mack RD688S Tri Axle Dump Truck, Mack Diesel, Manual Trans., 16' Aluminum Dump Body, Cab Protector & Tarp, 578,523 Odometer (DT-5); 1986 Freightliner T/A Dump Truck, Diesel, 9 Sp. Trans. w/11' Steel Dump Body, Cab Protector & Tarp (DT-4); 2005 GMC C7500 S/A Dump Truck, Diesel w/12' Steel Dump Body, Cab Protector & Tarp (DT-3)

**Dump Bodies:** J&J Aluminum 17 1/2' Dump Body w/Cab Protector & Tarp

**(5)SERVICE TRUCKS:** 2020 Ford F550 XL Super Duty 4-Door Service Truck, Auto. Trans., Power Stroke Diesel, Reading 11' Service Body w/Fuel Tank, 17,524 Odometer - Same As New; 2006 International 4400 4X2 S/A Service Truck, Eaton Fuller 10 Sp. Trans., Adkins 16' Enclosed Utility Body, w/Miller Trailblazer 302 Air Pak Welder/Generator, Aluminum Fuel Tank, Hose Reels, Grease Tank, Acetylene Reels, Hose Reels, Vise, Pintle Hitch, 189,105 Odometer- Set-up Just Right- Like New (ST-2); 2005 GMC C5500 S/A Service Truck, Duramax Diesel, Knaphaide 14' Utility Body w/Hobart Welder, Cutting Torch, Air Compressor, Fuel Tank – Well Maintained (ST-1); 2002 Ford F250XL 4X4 Super Duty Extended Cab Pickup, Auto. Trans., Power Stroke Diesel V-8 w/Rawson-Koenig 8' Utility Body, Pintle Hitch, Fuel Tank & Pump, Air Compressor; 1980 International S1854 S/A Utility Truck, Manual Trans. w/18' Utility Body & IMT 315A Crane- Parts Truck

**(6)SUPPORT TRUCKS:** 2000 Ford F450XL Super Duty S/A Flatbed Truck, w/Dejana 14' Stake Body, Under Body Diamond Plate Tool Box, 149,210 Odometer Showing; 1995 International 4900 S/A Truck, DT466, Stainless Steel Hydraulic Fertilizer/Salt Spreader, w/Valk 10' Snow Plow, 95,058 – Odometer Showing (DT-7); 1987 International 1900 S/A Vac Truck w/Dominator Tank; 1994 International 4900 S/A Rescue Truck, DT 466; 2005 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD 4X4 Pickup, Auto. Trans., Diamond Plate Tool Boxes, Weather Guard Fuel Tank; 1995 Dodge Ram 2500 Laramie SLT Pickup, Auto. Trans., Cummins Turbo Diesel, PW, PL, 224,329 – Odometer Showing

**(19)TRAILERS & CONTAINERS:** 2012 Loadmax 42ECL342 T/A Gooseneck Trailer, 34' Hydraulic Tail, Underbody Tool Boxes; 2005 Bri Mar T/A Equipment Trailer, 16' Flat, 4' Dovetail w/Ramps; 2004 Trail King T/A Equipment Trailer, Air Brakes, 21' Flat, 6' Beaver Tail w/Ramp; 2004 Kauffman T/A Equipment Trailer, 14,000 GVWR, Electric Brakes, 19' Flat, 4' Beaver Tail w/Ramps; Interstate T/A 18' Enclosed Trailer, Side Door, Diesel Compressor, Air Tank w/Hose, Hose Reels; 23' Flat T/A Equipment Trailer, 5' Beaver Tail w/Ramps; 1989 Tag-a-long Equipment Trailer; Steel Demolition T/A 32' Dump Trailer w/Tarp; T/A Tank Trailer; (6)Dry Storage T/A Trailers- No Titles; 48', (2) 40' & 20' Sea Containers.

**(4)ATVS:** Polaris RZR XP 4 Off Road Utility Vehicle, 869 Miles- Like New; Polaris Ranger 6X6 Utility Vehicle, ECAB; Toro Workman, 939 Hrs.; John Deere 5-Wheel ATV- Parts

**FARM EQUIPMENT:** New Holland 1033 Stackliner; John Deere F10 10' Transport Box Blade, Pull Type; John Deere Square Baler w/1/4 Turn Chute, Narrow Sweep; Hay Elevator; Wagon Running Gear & Other.

**HEAVY SUPPORT EQUIPMENT:** Thompson 9" Water Pump w/John Deere Diesel - Portable & Other Water Pump; Reince TM7 30X Straw Blower, S/N – 3193, Wisconsin Gas Engine – Portable; Ingersoll Rand 250 Air Compressor – Portable; Ingersoll Rand 185 Air Compressor, John Deere Diesel – Portable; Tailgate Spreader; Several Snow Plows including John Deere, Smart Shield, Western; Plow Harness; (2)John Deere Walk Behind Snow Blowers; Aluminum Ramps- Portable; Trench Boxes; (4) 14' X 8' X 1" Steel Road Plates & Others; Assortment of Steel, I-Beams, Etc. & Others.

**SMALL CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT EQUIPMENT:** Stihl Drill; Stihl Concrete Saw; Stihl Chain Saws & Others; Stihl Cutoff Saw; Honda GX160 Pump w/Hoses; Portable Lifts; Lift/Stand; Kinshofer Lift/Fork Attachment; Steel Platforms & Ramps; Transits & Other Survey Equipment; SFP4000 Tamper & Other Tampers; Assortment of Ladders; Storage Racks; Various Size & Type Road Pipe; Plastic/PVC Pipe Fittings & Pipe of All Kind, Etc.; Galvanized Culvert Pipe of Various Size; Aluminum Pipe; Black Hose; Spools of Rope; Rolls of Hose; Assortment of Road Signs; CAT Sign; Various Chains; Hooks; Assortment of Fuel Tanks, Barrels; Fuel Tank w/Pump; Century Poly Tank; (3)Concrete Transport Chutes; Aluminum Mats; (2)Lyon Cabinets & Other Nice Cabinets; Large & Small Cabinets of Bolts; Various Cutting Edges & Other Items Too Numerous To Mention.

**TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT SELLING FOR PARTS OR SALVAGE:** 1980 International Service Truck w/Crane; Mack B Road Tractor (DT-1); Kenworth T/A Road Tractor w/Studio Sleeper- No Engine; Mack RD688S- Parts; Several Tri Axle Frames w/Motors- 1 w/Mack Engine, 1 w/CAT Engine; Several Truck Cabs; 1982 Jeep; Dresser A450E Grader, ECAB, Front Scarfire; Vermeer V-4430 Trencher & Others.

**SHOP EQUIPMENT:** Large Macsimizer Class III Super Station Tool Box on Wheels & Other Tool Boxes; Edwards 55 Ton Jaws IV Hydraulic Ironworker, S/N – 20595599; Generators; Miller 252 Welder; Millermatic 211 Welder; Miller Bobcat 250 Welder; ESAB Multimaster 260 Welder; ESAB Powercut 1500 Plasma Cutter; Manley Shop Press; Hormak Parts Washer; Northstar & Wauma 4-200T Pressure Washers & Others; Dayco Hydraulic Hose Maker; Snap On Transmission Jack & Other Transmission Jacks; Assortment of Floor Jacks; Assorted Bolt Bins w/Hardware & Parts; Do All Countermatic 36 Band Saw; Clausung & Clarke Drill Presses; Jet Cut Saw; Jet Power Hack Saw; Jet Band/Cut Saw; Air Vantage 500 Air Compressor; Large Sand Blaster & Others; Torch Carts w/Hoses & Gauges; Large Selection of Power Tools including: Milwaukee, DeWalt, SPK, Snap On, Power Bull, SK, Skil, Cornwell, Bosch & Others; Large Variety of Tools- Mechanic, Testers, Large Open-End Mechanic Wrenches, C-Clamps, Hoses, Fittings, Connectors, Etc.; Snap-On Puller Set; Snap-On & Cornwell Tool Chest on Wheels; Battery Charger; Floor & Wall Mount Fans; Large Selection of Oil & Air Filters; Various Hose Reels- Air & Lubricant; Antifreeze/Coolant; Assortment of Misc. Equipment, Vehicle Parts, Truck Cab, Accessories, Various Truck Mufflers, Engine Blocks, Transmissions, Steel & Aluminum Fuel Tanks; Bullet Heater; New Tires; U-Bolts; Teeth; Straps; Hopper & Other Items- Virtually Impossible To List!

**WOOD SHOP EQUIPMENT:** Grizzly DF-1237G Lathe, 12" Swing, 37" Center; Delta Planer; Band Saw; Hitachi Table Saw; Hitachi C12LSH Compound Miter Saw, Digital & Laser & Other Wood Shop Equipment.

**OFFICE, HOUSEHOLD & MISCELLANEOUS:** Misc. Office Furniture & Equipment; 3-Compartment Stainless Steel Sink; Dinette Set w/(4)Chairs; Misc. Furniture; Misc. Model Trains/Items; Bikes; Household Pots & Pans, Flatware, Pictures, Etc.; Senate Beer Thermometer; Budweiser Lighted; John Daniels Car Hood & Other Items.

**(27) RIFLES, SHOTGUNS & HAND GUNS including:** (3)Remington 870, Savage 209, Mossberg 395KB, Ruger 247, Ruger 223, (2)Ruger 10/22, Ruger 22 Lever Action, Ruger 22 Hornet, Browning 28, Browning Citori, (2)Marlin 35 Rem., CZ 177 Hornet, Kimber 84L 270 Win, Marlin 883, Rossi M88 38 Special, Beretta 21A 22, Ruger 22 Mark II Target, Ruger P89 9mm, S&W 500 Magnum w/Scope, FX FNX-45 w/Light, FN 45 w/Light, Romm 38 Special, Mag. Research Mountain Eagle, Carla Mattingly, Personal Representative

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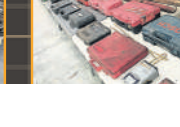
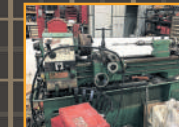
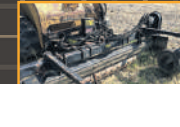
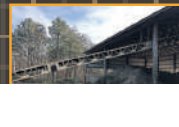
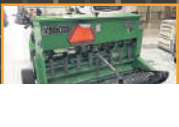
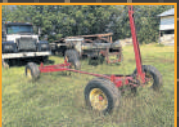
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# The Rex Brings Showtime Back to Town



Joe Kurley, Damian and Desmond Tucker, and Kiera Johnson

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

For many years now, no one could really say that they were going to catch dinner and a show in Leonardtown for a fun night out; but Joe Kurley, owner of The Rex on the town square, and his team are changing that.

His restaurant and bar was once known as the New Theater but for decades that part of the building had long been closed off as the property was repurposed for other uses — the building was once a Cerro Grande Mexican restaurant and before that an establishment known as Nook and Monk's.

But about 14 months ago Kurley decided to remove the wall between the front of the house and begin renovating the space that was once a theatre for movies and live shows decades ago in Leonardtown.

"It was like a time capsule," Kurley

said of the long-walled off space that had seen much local entertainment history pass within its confines. "Eight years ago [when Kurley took over the business] we knew there was potential back here.

"It was just going to be a lot of work."

The interior of the old theater space has been transformed to a modern facility with new lighting, renovated interior and restored balcony among other new features.

"We kind of met in the middle," Kurley said of the aesthetic he and his team at The Rex were trying to achieve with the reimagining of the space. "We gave it character and personality but we also kept it a blank slate for events or weddings."

The space just got a working opening last week when newly sworn-in State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling's installation was celebrated there.

"We had hoped to make the opening by New Year's Day," Sterling said. "But Jaymi said she wanted a party and that brought [her father] Gov. [Larry] Hogan and Cal Ripken, Jr. was there, too.

"It was not a bad opening night."

The space remains largely the same as when it was built decades ago but Kurley had some key changes made to make it amenable to provide entertainment space but also allow it to be a venue for special events.

"We took out the slope in the floor," Kurley said. "Now it's just two separate levels, staggering it towards the stage.

"It's a venue... we're excited to have bands, but we're excited about the shows we'll host."

Local comedian and magician Reggie Rice is scheduled for later this month with a mentalist scheduled for Feb. 24, Kurley said.

Funkzilla is set to make an appearance Feb. 11 and Kurley has made the space available to St. Mary's Ryken High School for a student-run play about the legendary accused local witch Moll Dyer.

Restoring and renovating the space was no mean feat, the restaurant owner said.

"It was pretty scary," said Kurley of what awaited him and his team when they reopened the old space. "The roof was leaking, there was a subfloor that was falling apart, there was no functioning lighting and there were a bunch of theater seats stacked up that had to be moved."

The film room, which now acts as Kurley's office, even had an old toilet in it, he said.

"In those days they had to stay in there and change the reels," Kurley said.

While he was renovating the space during the past year many a resident in Leonardtown would come and regale Kurley with a story about their experiences in the old theatre either watching movies or some other performance.

There were stories of first dates and first kisses, Kurley said, and even stories of raucous behavior, such as local college students responding to showings of the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

The theatre's construction also harkens back to the era of segregation; black residents could attend the theater but had to view movies and performances from the balcony.

When desegregation came, the balcony became known as a favorite spot for teenagers, Kurley said.

There is much lore and legend surrounding the events in and around the old theatre, Kurley said, but little documented facts of such that he could find.

"Everybody from town has a memory of a movie they saw here," Kurley told The County Times.

Kurley said the town government was instrumental in helping the project move forward.

"The accessibility of the Leonardtown town government has been wonderful," Kurley said.

Kurley's business sits almost immediately across from the town hall on the square, making it much easier to seek counsel on permitting and zoning issues pertaining to business, he said.

"Leonardtown is a cool little municipality," said Kurley.

Leonardtown is one of only a few towns in the state who have earned the state's coveted arts and entertainment district designation and the new venue adds another dimension to that award.

"It's another feather in that cap for the town," Kurley said. "We pumped some new life back into the place [the theater].

"It's a good feeling.

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



The Rex owner Joe Kurley

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## County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

# Judge Dismisses Lawsuit Against Trooper In Fatal Shooting



Peyton Ham

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

A U.S. District Court judge has sided with a Maryland State Trooper who shot and killed a 16-year-old boy in Leonardtown who was pointing what was later found to be a toy gun at the law officer in dismissing the deceased boy's family's civil suit against the trooper.

In an order issued Jan. 10 Judge George J. Hazel said that despite the dispute over the actions of Tpr. Joseph Azzari on Apr. 13, 2021 when he shot and killed Peyton Ham, Azzari acted properly because Ham was seen to possess a knife even after he was wounded in a first salvo of rounds fired by Azzari.

After that first round of shots that struck and wounded Ham, who called in the reports of a suspicious person with a gun on himself to the county emergency communication center, Ham reportedly went to his knees, dropped the gun and produced a folding knife.

Azzari testified to authorities that Ham got back up and approached him with the knife even though he was ordered to drop the weapon but three eye witnesses who were either neighbors or family members disputed that claim.

Those eyewitnesses said they saw the trooper fire on Ham while he was still on his knees and made no forward motion towards Azzari before the trooper fired a second salvo that killed Ham, a student at Leonardtown High School.

Both criminal and administrative investigations found Azzari had acted properly during the altercation, which

occurred at Ham's home close to the state police barracks.

"Plaintiff's argument centers around the dispute over whether decedent made it to his feet with the knife and was approaching defendant Azzari as Azzari contends or remained on his knees," Hazel's opinion states. "This dispute is not material.

"Even taking plaintiff's version of the facts as true, that decedent was on his knees, never stood up, and never took a step towards defendant, it is undisputed that approximately a minute after believing decedent was pointing a handgun at him and immediately before defendant Azzari fired the second round of shots at decedent, [Ham] was armed with a knife."

Even though Ham was 15 to 25 feet away from Azzari before the second round of shots fired, Azzari was justified in viewing Ham as a potentially lethal threat, the judge stated.

These circumstances were "enough to justify his use of deadly force," Hazel wrote of Azzari's decision to fire.

Ham's mother, Kristee Boyle, filed the suit Apr. 13 of last year, one year to the day of her son's death, alleging Azzari had violated her son's Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights under the Constitution as well as committing assault battery, and inflicting intentional emotional distress.

Hazel's order was in response to Azzari's attorney's motion to dismiss the case.

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

# Todd Morgan Sworn in As New Delegate



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Del. Todd Morgan, newly sworn in to represent Dist. 29C on Jan. 11 during a ceremony in Maryland State House, said he is ready to represent both St. Mary's and Calvert counties during this year's legislative session.

"I'm working on some bond initiatives for both Calvert and St. Mary's," Morgan told The County Times just hours after he was sworn in in Annapolis.

Those bond initiatives will include financial support for the new cancer research and treatment center at Calvert Memorial Hospital in operating in conjunction with Duke University as well as for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad in Valley Lee, Morgan said.

"My big task right now is to get my feet wet and see how things are done in Annapolis rather than in Leonardtown," Morgan said.

Morgan served 12 years as a county commissioner in St. Mary's before win-

ning his election bid to the District 29C seat late last year.

Education funding will be a major issue this legislative session, Morgan said, as will another push for climate and environmental regulations.

But perhaps the biggest issue will be the administration and granting of licenses for the newly-legalized distribution of recreational marijuana.

"That's going to be a huge issue," Morgan said. "There's going to be a lot of debate how to make the number of distributing centers more equitable throughout the state."

In the coming days Morgan said he plans to meet with the commissioner board of Calvert County to discuss their priorities and hopes to forge a path forward with St. Mary's officials in mutual cooperation, though there are different needs in both counties.

"I'm really excited about this," Morgan said of the legislative session. "This is going to be fun."

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

# Spicuzza Found Guilty of Rape, Sex Abuse of a Minor



St. Mary's County State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that a St. Mary's County Jury found Defendant Brian S. Spicuzza, 48, of Leonardtown, MD, guilty of all six charged counts.

Spicuzza was convicted of sexual abuse of a minor, four counts of rape second degree, and sexual offense in the third degree, following a five day jury trial in the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County.

"I want to thank the jurors for their diligence and perseverance during this difficult case. It is never easy to bear witness to the egregious acts of a predator; but because of their careful work, our community is safer tonight. I also want to thank the Child Protective Services Division of the Department of Social

Services and the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office for their countless hours of professional work to bring this case to a successful verdict," said State's Attorney Sterling.

Sterling also thanked Senior Assistant State's Attorney Sarah Proctor who prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County. Proctor stated, "the victim spoke the truth regarding vile and disgusting facts, and the jury heard."

"Unfortunately, this young victim will never get back her innocence, but today, she is one step closer towards receiving justice," said State's Attorney Sterling.

The Defendant will continue to be held without bond pending sentencing, which has been postponed to a later date.

The Honorable Joseph Stalanonis presided over the case.

Spicuzza was previously found guilty by a separate jury for three counts of possession of child pornography following a three-day jury trial in December of last year.

# Directors Out at Emergency Services Department Commissioners Vote For County Employee COLA



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Steve Walker, who has been Director of the Department of Emergency Services for the past several years in county government, and George Edelen, director of Emergency Medical Services in the same department, have both been removed from those positions by vote of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, The County Times has learned.

Commissioner Eric Colvin said he could discuss little regarding the dismissal of the two men as it was a "personnel issue."

Colvin confirmed that Walker was "allowed to retire" from his position and that the commissioners had been considering new leadership at the Department of Emergency Services for months.

But Colvin praised Walker for his work as the head of the county department.

"He did some amazing work for us on the standing up of EMS billing, EMS staffing and the animal shelter," Colvin said.

Colvin acknowledged that these were some of the "big lifts" that Walker was involved in that were central in solving emergency medical service problems throughout the county.

The decision was made Jan. 10 by the commissioner board.

In the interim, two deputy directors at the emergency services department — Kiersten Shea and Gerald Gardiner — would serve jointly in the director position until a new director could be found.

As the standing up of the paid EMS system has progressed the county has had to deal with problems integrating the volunteer services with the newly-hired paid staff, which is bifurcated with hourly and permanent paid personnel.

The work split between the volunteers and paid EMS personnel is roughly 20 percent to 80 percent of emergency calls but staffing problems persist, Walker has reported recently, since paid hourly EMTs call off work often with little to no warning, leaving volunteers who take over in the late night and early morning hours at rescue squads in the lurch with providing their own staffing.

Both Walker and Edelen were contract employees and served at the pleasure of the county commissioner board.

Walker did not return phone calls for comment.

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

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

At their first work session of the operating budget season the Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted — with one opposing vote — to approve a 4.5 percent cost of living increase for county employees.

The current estimate of revenue in county coffers for coming fiscal 2024 is \$298.5 million between property and income tax receipts.

Under current projections the county is set to collect 3.35 percent more in revenues over last fiscal year.

The sole vote against the increase in county employee pay was Commissioner Eric Colvin.

In a later interview with The County Times, Colvin said the 4.5 percent increase would cost the county \$3.5 million of the \$10.5 million that is the increase in combined property and income tax revenue over last year.

"We did this before hearing from any county departments or the Board of Education, State's Attorney's Office or the Sheriff's Office," Colvin said. "It was a step taken too early."

"It's bad budgeting."

During the regular business meeting of the commissioners which preceded the budget work session, Commissioner

Mike Hewitt warned that the county still had nearly 100 vacancies to fill and that he would prioritize steps to ensure the county could hire enough people to fill the gap.

"We have vacancies we have to fill," Hewitt said during the budget work session. "We've got to do something... we've got to do more on compensation."

Hewitt made the motion to approve the 4.5 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA).

"We need to get a handle on the overall picture before we begin to narrow down too much," Colvin said after the motion received a second vote, noting there was still time later in the budget process to make this decision.

Commissioner Scott Ostrow was concerned about the potential consequences of a delay.

"We see already, in a lot of departments... people are looking," Ostrow said. "Are we going to lose more people while we wait to make a decision?" Colvin countered that the commissioners had also just approved a \$1,200 retention bonus.

Ostrow said that bonus, plus a COLA, would be even more incentive for county employees to stay where they are.

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

# Hearing on Massive Housing Project Postponed Again

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

County planning commission chairman Howard Thompson apologized to attendees of his board's Jan. 9 meeting who were hoping to have their say regarding perhaps the biggest housing and commercial combined development in St. Mary's recent memory.

A representative of the applicant pursuing the Stewart's Grant planned unit development (PUD), which has been in the planning stages for about 30 years, asked for a postponement of the hearing.

They said that the developer wanted more time to answer questions and comments about their plan for the nearly-400-acre site on Quatman Road in Lexington Park from the State Highway Administration (SHA).

"Recognizing how important traffic [concerns] is to an application like this we reached out to staff and prudence being the better part of valor that we should have all the answers on this issue," the applicant's representative attorney Page Wyrough said.

Wyrough said the applicant, Stewart's Grant LLC, had responded to comments from the state agency by the end of the year, but SHA had 45 days to respond and perhaps seek even more data.

The applicant sought a new hearing to be held on March 27, noting that the

original approval years ago authorized more than 1,600 units.

The developer was seeking a project of a reduced scope now, he said.

But only about 20 percent of the entire project, or about 80 acres, would be dedicated to the residential piece, planning documents reveal, with about 256 acres set aside for open space.

The total number of dwelling units sought is 1,154, according to county planning documents, between apartments, town homes and single family detached homes.

The project would also include a 20-acre commercial parcel.

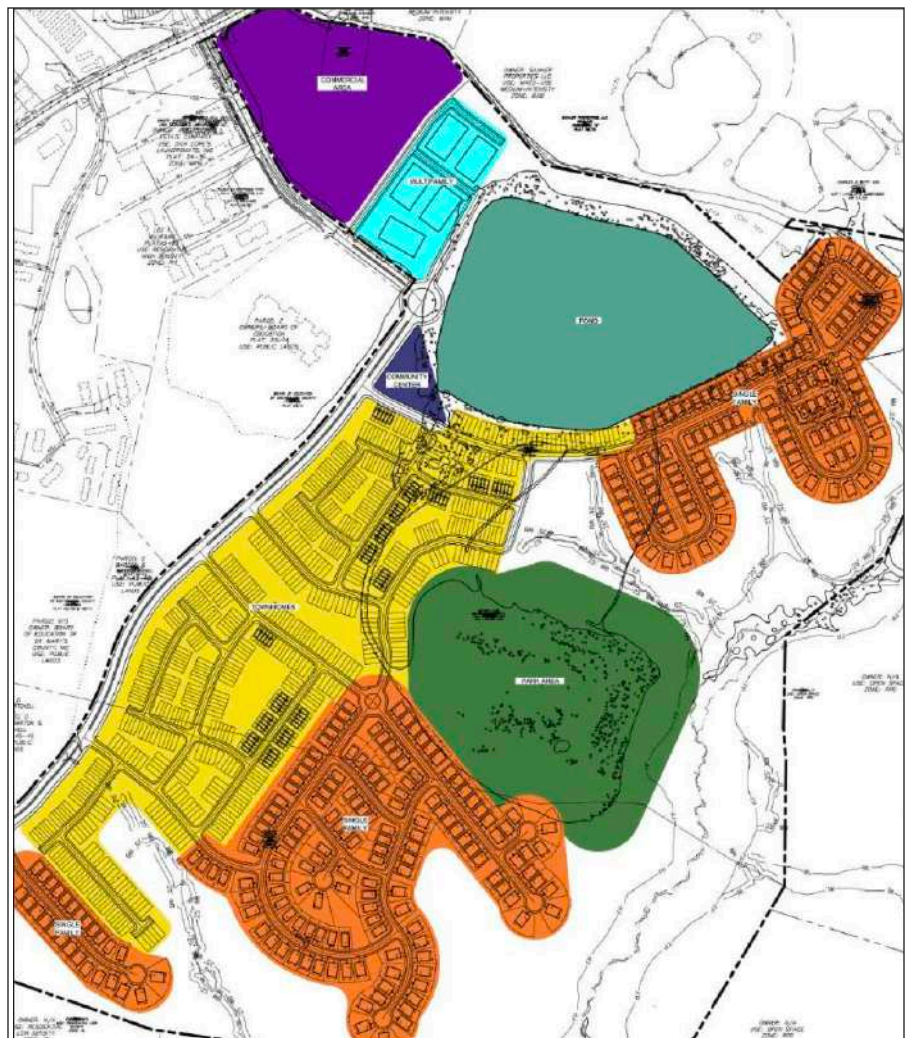
The concept site plan calls for 639 town homes, 291 single family homes and an apartment building with 224 units, planning documents show.

The project has a prominent place in the Lexington Park Development District Master Plan as part of the overall plan to improve the Great Mills Road Corridor.

"Approximately 50 percent of the site will remain as recreation or preserved open space to protect Hilton Run," the notation in the master plan stated. "The village center will face onto the main street with parallel parking on the street side and access parking behind the units."

"Each housing area will be built around public open spaces, in both the multifamily and single-family areas."

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# Sheriff Hall Expands School Resource Officer Program into Elementary Schools



Cpl. Julie Yingling

Sheriff Steven A. Hall is proud to announce the expansion of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer program into the county's public elementary schools.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office provides School Resource Officers at the three public high schools and four public middle schools in St. Mary's County. This week, Cpl. Julie Yingling,

a 25-year veteran of the agency, was added as a School Resource Officer to serve at the 19 public elementary schools in St. Mary's County on a rotating basis.

"It's the one thing in the School Resource Officer program that needed to be addressed and this is the first step," Sheriff Hall said.

"Cpl. Yingling brings the skill set and expertise to provide the resources back into our School Resource Officer program, to the families, and the students and the school staff. It's incredibly satisfying. This is my 30th day as Sheriff and the program started today," Sheriff Hall said on Thursday.

While visiting students at Lettie Marshall Dent Elementary School in Mechanicsville, Sheriff Hall told a first-grade class that the new School Resource Officer will be "checking up on you guys to make sure you're happy and safe."

Many of the students during the visit told the Sheriff that they already love police officers.

"We love you. That's why we're here," Sheriff Hall told a kindergarten class there.

St. Mary's County Public Schools Superintendent J. Scott Smith said, "St. Mary's County Public Schools is tremendously thankful for the continued commitment to our partnership and the

support of Sheriff Hall and the men and women of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office. The addition of a dedicated school resource officer for our elementary schools is a significant enhancement for school safety and security. Together, we are committed to the continued expansion of all school security initiatives including School Resource Officers, adopt-a-school officers, and uniformed security for all of our schools."

In the 1998-1999 school year, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and the St. Mary's County Board of Education entered into a collaborative agreement that assigned a deputy to each of the three public high schools. The program was expanded in the 2005-2006 school year to add two more deputies, who split their time among the four public middle schools.

In the 2019-2020 school year, two more deputies were added, providing a School Resource Officer at each of the four public middle schools.

The new School Resource Officer for the public elementary schools will visit the campuses on a rotating basis, including the Chesapeake Charter School. The Sheriff's Office also continues its Adopt-A-School program, where deputies volunteer to check on a specific elementary school during their regular duties.

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## Ashley Sowls Appointed as the First African American Prosecutor for St. Mary's



Ashley Sowls was appointed and sworn in as the first African American prosecutor for St. Mary's County, Maryland, Tuesday, January 3, 2023. Sowls, a graduate of the Charlotte School of Law in Charlotte, N.C. is an experienced prosecutor specializing in special victims' cases, previously prosecuting in Charles, Calvert and Prince George's counties.

When announcing the appointment, State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling said, "I am confident Ashley will make an immediate positive impact to our County and this office. Ashley's breadth and

depth of knowledge and her compassion for crime victims will serve the people of St. Mary's County very well."

"I am honored to be a part of this historic moment. I never would have imagined that I would be making history by just doing the thing that I love, and I pray my appointment as the first African American prosecutor encourages others to step into new spaces. I also hope it encourages those already occupying those spaces to make room for change and growth as State's Attorney Sterling has made for me; she's such a trailblazer. I admire her as a person and I am honored to be serving the residents of St. Mary's County under her leadership," said Sowls.

The Honorable E. Gregory Wells, Chief Judge for the Appellate Court of Maryland said, "Ashley Sowls is an outstanding addition to State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling's team. As one of my former law clerks, Ashley brings diversity and years of prosecutorial experience to the office. I am confident she will ably serve the citizens of St. Mary's County."

Sowls will continue to prosecute cases with the office's Special Victims' Unit in addition to tackling violent crime cases for the Office of the State's Attorney for St. Mary's County.

## Hollywood Woman Credits Late Brother with \$50,000 Scratch-Off Win



A St. Mary's County resident is such a happy winner she gave herself that nickname after claiming a \$50,000 scratch-off prize at Lottery headquarters in Baltimore. "Happy Winner" credits her Lottery luck to her late brother and a newfound penny used to scratch-off the Money Rush game.

The Hollywood woman explained that she often traveled out of state to visit her sick brother, who passed away in October. She would bring scratch-offs and they would play their games together. "He said to me, 'One day, we are going to win,'" recalled "Happy Winner."

She purchased the \$10 Money Rush game at the California Giant #359 on 45101 First Colony Way in Southern Maryland. A few weeks earlier, she had found a penny in the parking lot of

that store. The penny was dated 1956, which was her brother's birth year. After buying the Money Rush game, "Happy Winner" used the penny to scratch off the winning instant ticket. She said she knew it was a sign.

"I looked to the sky and told my brother, 'Thank you,'" she told Lottery officials.

At first, "Happy Winner" thought she won \$1,000. She looked at the game carefully and realized the "multiplier" was 50 and her prize was actually \$50,000.

"I was shocked. I was happy with \$1,000," she said. "I couldn't believe it went to \$50,000."

The retiree said she is undecided on how she will spend her newfound fortune. She plans to put it into her savings account for now.

Money Rush went on sale on July 18, 2022 and "Happy Winner" was the seventh \$50,000 prize winner. Two \$50,000 second-tier prizes remain along with two \$100,000 top prizes, two \$10,000 prizes and others ranging from \$10 to \$1,000.

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## Pet OF THE WEEK

### MEET AUSTIN & AUGUSTA



"Popcorning" is an adorable sign that a Guinea Pig is as happy as it can be. It will give a short, excited hop, much like a popcorn kernel popping up!

Hello, our names are Austin and Augusta! The hard working gang here at the shelter agree that we TWO-YEAR-OLD Guinea Pigs deserve an amazing home! (Austin is one of the MOST OUTGOING Guinea Pigs that you have ever met! Often, he will come right up to the opening of his cage and soak up any attention he can get. He loves being petted! His best friend, Augusta is MORE RESERVED when it comes to people, but they are the BEST OF FRIENDS and keep each other WONDERFUL COMPANY.) As you can see, we are TWO AMAZINGLY HANDSOME BOYS that have been at the shelter since mid-October, so we are truly hoping to find a LOVING HOME in the NEW YEAR! Pop over and email [animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov](mailto:animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov) to schedule an appointment to meet us ASAP! BE OUR MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE US! When you choose to adopt, you are literally saving a life. PLEASE ADOPT, DON'T SHOP.

To see more of our amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



# In Remembrance

To schedule an obituary in the County Times, submit text and picture to [aldailey@countytimes.net](mailto:aldailey@countytimes.net) by noon on Tuesdays for publication on Thursdays. Any submissions received after this deadline may run in the following week's edition.

## Janice Lynch, 82



Janice May "Jan" Lynch, 82, of Valley Lee, MD passed away at home on December 29, 2022 in Valley Lee, MD. Born on July 4, 1940 in Linn Creek, Missouri, she was the daughter of the late Abbie May Wallis and Ray Charles Anderson. Jan was the loving wife of Robert Aloysius Lynch, Sr. Jan is survived by her children Stephen Ray Lynch, Sr. (Linda) of Denver, CO; D'Ann Rena Fahnestock (John) of Lusby, MD; Robert Aloysius Lynch, Jr of Leonardtown, MD; ten grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and her brother, Leon Ray Anderson, Sr. of Odessa, MO. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her sister, Alma Irene Caviness.

Jan grew up on the family farm in Linn Creek, MO where they raised crops and livestock. She graduated from Camden-ton High School in 1958 after which she worked for Jeffries Abstract as a secretary. She met her future husband, Robert, who was stationed at Whiteman AFB, Knob Noster, MO, at a high school foot-

ball game. They were married on March 4, 1960 and together celebrated 62 years of marriage. Jan, Robert, and their son, Steve, moved from Whiteman AFB to St. Mary's County, MD in June 1962. They would eventually settle in Valley Lee, where they welcomed another daughter and son. Jan was a stay-at-home mom in her children's younger years before pursuing work outside. She worked as a temporary clerk-typist at Rotary Wing (Sea Control Branch PAX NAS), in addition to substitute teaching for St. Mary's County Public Schools, before finally working administrative positions with Tracor/Marconi/BAE Systems for over 20 years retiring on May 1, 2006. In her spare time, she enjoyed gardening, crocheting, and spending as much time as possible with her family especially as beloved Grammy to her grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on Monday, January 9, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at St. George Catholic Church, Valley Lee, MD where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM with Father Paul Nguyen officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Thomas Lynch, John Fahnestock, Derrick Fahnestock, Raymond Kane, Alfred "Rocky" Hammett, and David Hammett.

Please make memorial contributions

to the Second Dist. Vol. Fire Dept. and Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 1 Valley Lee, MD 20692.

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

## Maria Norris, 84



Maria Barbara Norris, 84, of Leonardtown, MD died December 27, 2022 at St. Mary's Nursing Center in Leonardtown, MD.

Born September 8, 1938, in Fuzer, Hungary, she was

the daughter of the late Joseph Urbanovics and Maria (Kalnasy) Urbanovics.

Maria had an amazing story. In December of 1948, at the young age of 10, she immigrated to America to live with members of her mother's family in St. Mary's County to escape the unrest in Hungary. Unfortunately, her parents and younger sister were unable to immigrate until 1961. Her older sister chose to stay in Hungary. When Maria arrived in St. Mary's County, she did not speak or understand any English. She worked very hard to learn proper English, and she was very proud of her accomplishment, often telling us how difficult the English language is to learn. She attended St. Mary's Academy. She also worked as a switchboard operator at St. Mary's Hospital until the birth of her first child.

She met "Brother" Norris at Leonardtown carnival, and they were later married on January 3, 1958, at Sacred Heart Church in LaPlata, MD. They were married for 45 years until his death on September 23, 2003.

Maria was a devoted mother to Mary Burnett of Chandler, AZ, Bernard Norris (China) of Yuma, AZ, Veronica Goddard (Donald) of Valley Lee, MD, and the late Walter Norris. She was the sister of Barbara Lynn of Calleo, VA and the late Helen Kasaly. She is also survived by grandchildren Jarred Burnett, Bobbi Norris, Ramon Fraga, Jessica Goddard and Erica Goddard and one great-grandchild, Bernard "Bam Bam" Turner.

Maria had many hobbies. She enjoyed photography (especially sunsets and flowers). She loved knitting hats and sweaters and had multiple projects with her at all times. She was a talented seamstress. She made dresses and skirts for her daughters. Maria also sewed beautiful custom slipcovers, and she was very proud of the fact that the money she made paid for braces for 2 of her children. She had a green thumb and could grow and identify just about any flower, plant or tree. While at Hospice, she developed a deeper love for nature. She spent hours watching the squirrels and birds on her patio.

The family will receive friends for Maria's Life Celebration Visitation on Monday, January 9, 2023 from 9:00 am – 10:00 am at Our Lady's Church, 41410 Medley's Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:00 am also at Our Lady's Church, officiated by Rev. John T. Nguyen. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Billy Lindsley, Bobby Lindsley, "Chick" Baroniak, Donald Goddard, Jr., Gerald Gardiner, and Francis Russell.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's.

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.

## William Price, 66

William Joseph Price, 66, of Oakville, MD was called home on January 04, 2023 after losing his battle to pancreatic cancer. He was



born June 20, 1956 to the late Dorothy Lucille "Ceil" Price and John Ignatius "Tim" Price.

William Joe, as he was affectionately called, was educated in the St. Mary's County

Public School system and made his living doing construction and manual labor. He lived a simple life that was full of joy and laughter. He was a people person who was always ready with a quick-witted comment. And, he was always ready to jump in his Ford truck and lend a helping hand. When he wasn't working, William Joe enjoyed watching Dallas Cowboys football games, drinking a cold Coors Light, playing the lottery, and spending time with his family and friends.

Left to cherish his memory are his siblings John "Iggie" Price (Doris), Charles "Blue" Price (Carolyn), Janet Price, Joyce Price, and Florence Price; children Cecelia Thomas, Priscilla Thomas, William Kuykendall, and Stephanie Clark; goddaughter Nia Price; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers David Lee Price and James Aloysius Price.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 12, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with a memorial service at 12:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD. Interment will be at St. Mary's Queen of Peace Cemetery in Mechanicsville, MD, followed by a repast at Bowles Farms in Clements, MD.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to his favorite charity, St. Jude

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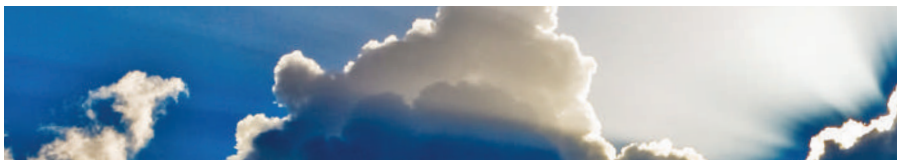


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Children's Research Hospital, online or at: 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com). Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

**Brenda Cusic, 62**



Brenda Lee Cusic, 62, of Avenue, MD passed away January 6, 2023 surrounded by her family. Born July 12, 1960, in Leonardtown, MD, she was the daughter of Lois Ann (Wood) Leicht

and the late James Leon Pilkerton. She was the loving wife of Thomas Bernard Cusic. Brenda is survived by her children, Tammy Lewis, Sheila Granger and Thomas Pilkerton (Julie); grandchildren, Kristin Greenwell, Jacquelyn Wolfe (Tyler), David Granger, Jazmine Lewis, Anthony Granger, Alison Lewis, Matthew Pilkerton, Cassidy Pilkerton, Adam Granger, Hannah Granger, Kelsey Pilkerton; siblings, Deborah Sheperd, Richard Pilkerton (Rebecca) and Shari Raymond Leicht Wagner (Chad). In addition to her father, she is preceded in death by her brother Junior Pilkerton.

Brenda attended Chopticon High School and went on to work for her family's businesses.

She married her husband, Tommy Cusic in August 1983. They enjoyed crabbing, traveling to Pennsylvania, dinner dates on Cobb Island and shared a great love for their precious pets. Time with family and friends meant the most to her, many a night you could find them enjoying a game of cards. Brenda was reliable and always thinking of others before herself. She loved working the county fair and seeing everyone enjoy themselves. Some of the happiest years of her life were spent working at the ADF South Bingo Hall surrounded by her family and all the friends that she made over the years.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 12, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM and prayers from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Mattingly Gardner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. Interment will be private.

**Boyd Shoemaker, 82**



Boyd Allen Shoemaker, "Shoe" 82, of Bushwood, MD, passed away on January 9, 2023 at his home. Born on April 16, 1940 in Olive Hill, KY, he was the son of the late Lillie

Florence Horsley and the late Lonnie Otis Shoemaker. Boyd was the loving husband of Janet Shoemaker, whom he married on February 7, 1961 in Lexington Park Baptist Church, Lexington Park, MD. He is survived by his children Donna Morris (Jeb) of Bushwood, MD, John Shoemaker (Catherine) of Leonardtown, MD, Kurt Radojesics of Pontotoc, MS, and Barbara Hess Roberge of Chesapeake Beach, MD, his sister Sonja Bender of Mt. Vernon, OH, his sister-in-law Mary of Mansfield, OH, his grandchildren Marci Morris, Mindy Hill, Jeb Tyler Morris, Anthony Carlos, Brittney Herbert, Myles Shoemaker, Jackie Knott, Ricky Clarke, Nicholas Davis, Erika Lange, Alicia Roberge, and Aimee Haines, as well as 15 great grandchildren. In addition to his parents, Boyd was preceded in death by his brother Gary Shoemaker, his brother-in-law Donald, as well as his brother who passed away as an infant, Donald Lee Shoemaker.

Boyd graduated from Mansfield Senior High School in 1957. He moved to St. Mary's County from Mansfield, OH in 1973. Boyd served in the United States Navy for four years, from July 1957 to March 1961; a machinist by trade, he worked his way up the ranks, retiring as Division Head of the Test and Evaluation Group Test Article Preparation Department, retiring after 28 years, in March 2001. He enjoyed coaching Pigskin Football in the 1970s, as well as coaching the Take It Easy Ranch Women's Softball Team to a State Championship. His granddaughters fondly remember him coaching their youth softball team. Boyd also enjoyed following his grandchildren's sporting events all through their school years. He was instrumental in teaching his grandson the game of golf and accompanied him to matches all over the state. Boyd enjoyed family genealogy, keeping up with government and politics, and had a love of history. He played softball as a young man and golfed in his later years. He also enjoyed hunting with his grandson-in-law, Bubba Hill. His greatest joy was designing and building carpentry projects for his children and grandchildren who are grateful to have his work in their homes.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 19, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM in the Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 2:00 PM in the funeral home chapel. Interment will be private.

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

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

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



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

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# 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.

## Thu. Jan 12

### Registration for Indoor Yard Sale Begins

Mt. Zion UMC  
27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd.  
Mechanicsville

Registration begins today for the Indoor Yard Sale to be held Saturday, Feb. 4th, 7 am to 1 pm. Visit us at [www.mtzionmech.org](http://www.mtzionmech.org) to obtain the form.

Cost per table: 8 ft \$25 6 ft \$20  
Form and payment must be returned no later than Jan. 30 to ensure your spot.

For more information contact Vickie at [vickiefrederick1154@gmail.com](mailto:vickiefrederick1154@gmail.com) or 301-904-0097.

## Sat, Jan 14, 2023

### Contra Dance

37497 Zach Fowler Road, Chaptico  
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Come out to swing, promenade, and do-si-do to lively jigs, reels and waltzes played by the So. MD Open Band. A caller will teach and call the dances. Dance workshop at 7:00 PM. Dance begins at 7:30 PM. No partner required. Beginners welcome.

## Sun, Jan 15, 2023

### "Getting in Shape: "A Gospel-Shaped Mind"

Patuxent Presbyterian Church  
23421 Kingston Creek Rd, California  
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

This is the year to get in spiritual shape! We invite you to join us for 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship as Rev. Matt Pooley continues the "Getting in Shape" sermon series and shares his messages:

1/8: "Gospel-Shaped Hands & Feet"  
1/15: "A Gospel-Shaped Mind"  
1/22: "Gospel-Shaped Eyes"  
1/29: "Gospel-Shaped Ears"

2/5: "Gospel-Shaped Stomach"  
2/12: "Gospel-Shaped Mouth (and Fingers)"

To view worship on-line, please subscribe to our YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/patuxentpresbyterianchurch](http://www.youtube.com/patuxentpresbyterianchurch)

For more info about our church, please visit: [www.paxpres.com](http://www.paxpres.com).

## Mon, Jan 16, 2023

### ELKs Texas Holdem Tournament

St Mary's County Elks Lodge  
45779 Fire Department Lane  
California  
7p.m.

Buy-in: \$35.00  
Blinds will start at 25-50 and progress every 20 minutes

For any question or additional details contact:

James Dean  
240-577-0828

[jdeanjunior@gmail.com](mailto:jdeanjunior@gmail.com)

Please enter from the side of the building.

## Wed, Jan 18, 2023

### Club Pilates Workshop

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# Farming, Community Keeps Raley Going



Raley at his farm in Avenue

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

He's been a sheriff's deputy, assistant sheriff and member of numerous community organizations but what Jamie Raley has always been throughout it all is a farmer.

At 69 years old, he continues to show that getting on in years doesn't mean you have to retire.

It helps if you love what you do.

He lives in Avenue on an 88-acre tract of land that has been owned by his family for generations.

"It's been in our family since 1886," Raley, who was born and raised in St. Mary's said.

He grew up with farming right outside his front door.

"That was in the heyday of tobacco," Raley said. "Every year when I went back to school and I wrote my essay about what I did over the summer it was always 'I. Cut. Tobacco.'"

"It was a good year-round crop." These days he grows commodities such as corn and soybeans on his Avenue property and focuses on raising cattle at a property in Oakville.

He's a businessman as well as being a farmer and his job never stops; on top of farming, he is often busy representing the interests of agriculture in the halls of power.

He's a past president of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau and now is the 1st Vice President of the Maryland Farm Bureau.

He credits his continuation in farming and giving back to his community to his family and his upbringing.

"I have a very wonderful wife," Raley said. "I was raised by people who grew up during the Great Depression and survived World War II."

"There's a work ethic and a

spirit of giving back to the community."

He joined the sheriff's office in 1978 and eventually rose to be the assistant sheriff under Sheriff Richard Voorhaar.

He won his class's top honor for firearms marksmanship, he said, and took second place overall in his class.

His swearing in ceremony was less auspicious, though.

"I was deathly ill with a flu virus," Raley said. "We went to the courthouse and my dad was holding me up at the counter by my belt so I could get sworn in."

Even while he was serving in the sheriff's office he continued to help

out on the family farm.

He's always enjoyed it despite its arduous nature.

"Agriculture touches everyone and everyone's life," Raley said. "The farm bureau... is heavily involved in agricultural education as well."

"We want kids to know where food comes from."

But he also wants to ensure agriculture continues to be a major part of life in St. Mary's, which has seen rapid modernization and growth since he was born.

"We want to preserve family farms and to make the business sustainable," Raley said.

He's done some travelling, he said, but working and serving in St. Mary's County is his first love.

"There's nothing that beats my front porch," Raley said.

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# Are you looking for a Volunteer Opportunity?

It's a new year full of new opportunities to make positive and noticeable differences within our community and county. Would you like to participate in rewarding community changing volunteer opportunities? Consider joining the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services' Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)! RSVP volunteers have been making a difference year after year by donating their time and skills serving our community. RSVP has partnered with charitable agencies, organizations, and businesses that provide human services to community residents in need.



## Current volunteer opportunities include:

### Historic St. Mary's City St. Clement's Island Museum Historic Sotterley

- ∴ Special event set-up
- ∴ Front desk Attendant
  - ∴ Tour Guide
- ∴ Gift Shop Attendant
- ∴ Flower Garden Attendant

### Teen Court

- ∴ Teen Court Judge
- ∴ Hearing Support Assistants
- ∴ Administrative Assistant

### Northern Senior Activity Center

- ∴ Chess Volunteer
- ∴ Outdoor Landscaping
- ∴ Book Club Leader
- ∴ Billiard Volunteer
- ∴ Lending Library Assistant

### Community Mediation of St. Mary's County

- ∴ Mediating
- ∴ Promoting fundraisers
- ∴ Disseminating brochures
- ∴ Office assistance

### A Community That Shares (ACTS)

- ∴ Receiving and dispersing medical equipment
- ∴ Repairing Equipment

### Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

- ∴ Activity Assistant
- ∴ Gift Shop Attendant
- ∴ Technical Support

### Loffler Senior Activity Center

- ∴ Zoom Activity Monitor

### Home-Delivered Meals

- ∴ Volunteer Drivers needed to deliver meals to homebound older adults living in the Mechanicsville, Leonardtown, and Lexington Park areas

### Hospice of St. Mary's

- ∴ Patient Care
- ∴ House Patient Cook
- ∴ Office Help

### Senior Rides

- ∴ Drivers to transport seniors to doctor appointments and grocery shopping

### Patuxent River Naval Air Museum

- ∴ Tour Guide
- ∴ Flight Simulator Team
- ∴ Exhibit Team
- ∴ Organizing & Data Entry

### Garvey Senior Activity Center

- ∴ Evening activity leaders for:
  - Art Classes
  - Dance Classes
  - Card Groups
  - Book Discussions

### St. Mary's County Crime Solvers Board

- ∴ Volunteers assist in educating the community about the role of Crime Solvers, solicit donations, and arrange fundraisers to obtain funding to be used for rewards



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Contact the RSVP office at 301-475-4200, ext. 1653, or [monika.williams@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:monika.williams@stmaryscountymd.gov) for more information!

Brought to you by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services



# What Seniors Can Do to Safeguard Their Mental Health



undiagnosed among older men and women and untreated because it co-occurs with other issues affecting seniors.

In the past, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has acknowledged that late-life anxiety was not readily understood. However, much progress has been made in recent years thanks to a heightened awareness of the problem of seniors and

mental health. That means seniors now have ample resources they can look to as they seek to learn what they can do to safeguard their mental health.

### Recognizing warning signs

The National Institute of Mental Health notes that recognizing the signs of mental health issues is the first step to getting treatment. Mental health issues vary, and individuals with anxiety will likely experience different symptoms than those with depression. But the NIMH notes that the following are some of the warning signs of mental health issues.

- Noticeable changes in mood, en-

ergy level, or appetite

- Feeling flat or having trouble feeling positive emotions
- Difficulty sleeping or sleeping too much
- Difficulty concentrating, feeling restless, or on edge
- Increased worry or feeling stressed
- Anger, irritability, or aggressiveness
- Ongoing headaches, digestive issues, or pain
- Misuse of alcohol or drugs
- Sadness or hopelessness
- Suicidal thoughts
- Engaging in high-risk activities
- Obsessive thinking or compulsive behavior
- Thoughts or behaviors that interfere with work, family, or social life
- Engaging in thinking or behavior that is concerning to others
- Seeing, hearing, and feeling things that other people do not see, hear, or feel

### Seeking help

As noted, a growing awareness of mental health issues and how they affect seniors has translated to more available resources for aging men and women who need help. Within the United States, seniors can visit the NIMH Help for Mental Illnesses webpage (<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/find-help>) to access contact information for various groups

that help people in times of mental health crises. As of July 2022, Marylanders can call or text 988 to connect with the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, which encompasses all mental health crisis services, as well as help with drug and alcohol use.

### Behaviors that can be beneficial

The National Institute on Aging notes that most cases of depression cannot be prevented. However, the NIA also notes that healthy lifestyle changes can have long-term benefits of seniors' mental health. Such changes include:

- Being physically active
- Eating a healthy diet that can reduce risk for diseases that can bring on disability and depression
- Getting adequate sleep, which for seniors is between seven to nine hours per night
- Remaining socially active, including regular contact with friends and family
- Participating in activities you enjoy
- Sharing mental issues or concerns with friends, family members and your physician

Research indicates that seniors are vulnerable to mental health issues. More information about how to combat and overcome such issues is available at [nimh.nih.gov](http://nimh.nih.gov)

## Need help with your Medicare costs?



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- Medicare Savings Program**  
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- Social Security Extra Help**  
 This program assists individuals enrolled in the Medicare Part D program with their Part D premium, co-insurance and deductible.
- Maryland Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program**  
 This program provides a \$60 monthly subsidy towards the Medicare Part D premium.

**Eligibility for each program is based on gross income and in some cases savings and assets.**

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# Seniors Find a Family at Church



Eddie Hintz and Chuck Fick celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays respectively the week after New Year's. Photo by Joan Hoerning for Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church.

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Eddie Hintz has been a life-long church goer. "I was baptized as an infant, confirmed at the church, was married at the same church." That was in her home

state of Wisconsin. The involvement with her church, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), led her to health care missionary work in Africa for four years. When her husband was transferred to Southern Maryland there was no WELS church, so they stated going to a church in Upper Marlboro where she met several others from the area, mostly connected with Patuxent River Naval Air Station, who realized the need for a church closer to their home.

She was a founder of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church in Lusby. "We had our children in the back of the car, and it was Martin Luther King's holiday. And we drove and hit all the firehouses and senior centers in the area. And then we went back and asked them how much it would cost to rent the facility. And we started out at the senior center in Leonardtown." Attendance was slow until they moved to Calvert, first meeting at Dowell Elementary School. Their new church at the HG Trueman Road and Routes 2/4 intersection opened in 2010.

Hintz turned 80 on Jan. 3. But she has far from slowed down. Church members consider her their Energizer bunny. And

one of her passions is to get more senior citizens, like herself, active in the church. She realizes the potential physical, social and emotional benefits to them as well as the spiritual.

Things have changed since she was growing up in Wisconsin. "The parents didn't look to see what senior establishment they were going to move into, where their next move was going to be. It was assumed that they would stay in the farmhouse and one of the sons or the daughters would live in the farmhouse with them and take care of mom and dad. Or if that wasn't the case, they would try to live in the same community so that they'd be available to take care of their parents."

She added, "We're talking generalities here, but that aspect has totally changed. People in their forties, fifties are thinking about which senior complex they might eventually move into. And the church is not as involved. The families are sort of doing this on their own. Sometimes they're looking for a church if they move. Sometimes not."

Lenore Blevins, 68, who is helping Hintz in her efforts to get seniors involved, said, "The church is a family. There are some churches that have a lot of younger members, and they'll seek out a person who they can take food to, or like an adopted older person that the church can do."

As some people get older they may seek out a church after being away for so long and others may need more of a nudge. "There's no age limit. You can become a member at anywhere from one to 80 or 90, to become that member. There's no set timeframe for that. And I think it's good for people to get involved in the church because it's like a family, especially if they don't have family. That becomes their family," Blevins said.

Hintz said, "I think if you ask people if they belong to a church, the first thing that goes through their mind is the building. I belong to that church. It's really not about the building, it's about the congregation or members in the building. That is the church, the people that attend and are affiliated with that church. And, as seniors, I think we have to have people who care and are concerned about them as individuals, not as seniors. We need to have people that have care and concern on their minds about especially the senior members, some of whom do not have families."

Blevins added, "The church needs the older members too, because of learning from the past. We learn from things in the past, different traditions that have been passed down through the years. The younger people need to hear those things from the past." That is a particularly important point for Blevins who has been active in collecting local history.

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Tuesday, May 2

Men's Health Day - Saturday, June 3

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Hintz observed, "Otherwise we're going to lose the knowledge they have."

Hintz for Christmas every year prepares baskets to give to the church's senior citizens. This year she outdid herself, shopping in the Mennonite community for baked good and fruit and in the grocery stores for candy and other treats, and also baking herself. She enjoys doing the Christmas shopping as if their members were her family (recently her husband Duane passed away).

"I think I am concerned about people's hereafter. And I don't only want to spend time with people here right now, but I also want to spend time with them in heaven. That's what it's all about for me. It's not just the present. It's about their future. I'm concerned about their future. That's why I think I keep on keeping on because I want to make sure that people realize that Jesus died for all of us. That's really important to me, that they hear that message."

The church wants to do more outreach to the senior communities in the area. Hintz asks, "What kind of needs do people have that we could be helpful with? Rides, for instance, if they need a ride, certainly not only to church, but a ride to appointments. We should try to make ourselves available and we should periodically, if we have names of people that would like somebody to stop by and just visit, maybe drop off a food item. But just start visiting people. So hopefully we can acquire some names of people that have no church or are not attending a church, people that need physical and

emotional support kind of thing."

That's why she does the Christmas food baskets. "I think we recognize we have a lot of children in church, and we try to do things for kids. And we recognize we don't recognize our seniors, that's the bottom line," she said.

Hintz said, "I think we want to impress on people that they're not joining a social club by joining the church. That's not our mission. But it is certainly an offshoot. It's an arm, it's a leg of the church. And I like to call them gatherings. One of those gatherings was held last week at a local restaurant where church members celebrated with longtime member Chuck Fick his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday along with joining with Hintz for her 80<sup>th</sup> milestone.

Sharon Bonner, 77, a resident of Asbury-Solomons, said, "I might be different from other folks because I left my church, which was Methodist and came back to my roots, which is Lutheran. And I'm very happy to be here because this church has many young people and I think that they keep the church very active, and I enjoy being able to take part in some of the things that they do. Saturday, they had a painting class for the ladies. They had flower classes recently."

She likes being around young people. "I think it helps you to keep aware of what more's going on, more in their lives. In today's world, it's a little different than when I was young. I think they struggle a lot and I think it's helpful to always be friendly to them and to try and approach them, and to get to know what they know that I don't know any more as

an older person."

"There's so much here. That's my main thing," Bonner added.

Bonner drives her friend from Asbury Solomons to church. He said, "I have a hard time walking. So, she's nice. She brings me over. I like it here. I like Asbury too."

The church provides him with hearing assisted devices so he can follow along with the service.

Starr Eastwood, who lives in Solomons, recently started attending church again. She stopped coming when her husband got sick, but she said, "I'm back for good."

Eastwood, who will be 80 in June, refuses to vegetate. "I've never been so busy." Eastwood volunteers at the S.M.I.L.E. thrift store down the road from the church.

For a while Eastwood had a crisis of faith. "My sister and brother died in the same week, and I was very upset with God. I knew my sister was dying. She was in hospice and very bad off when I got there."

She said of her sister's refusal to accept God in the end, "I couldn't have done it without God and Jesus Christ. I couldn't," adding, "I found it hard to believe that she didn't believe, or she did believe it wasn't, but she's resting in peace."

As to her return to church,

Eastwood said, "I look back and I wish I came back sooner, but I'm glad to have."

During an interview with The County Times, Hintz concluded the conversation by reciting a poem she found on a Lutheran notecard that said:

*"There are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit,  
And there are varieties of service, but the same Lord,  
And there are varieties of working,  
But it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone."*

dickmyers@countytimes.net



A 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for Chuck Fick by Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church on Jan. 4, as Edie Hintz, who was celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, watches. Photo by Joan Hoerning for Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church.

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# Wanderings of an Aimless Mind



## Vanishing

It has been a few months of landscape and other changes here in northern St. Mary's. Sometimes it makes me sad to see land and large areas of trees change and other times it is understandable. My heart always hurts when I see entire swaths of old growth forests vanish to make way for new developments, while counting myself fortunate that the developers of Country Lakes here in Mechanicsville thought wisely to leave so many trees between and behind our homes. I always think about how beautiful the trees on the clearcut lands were and how those roots, all the underbrush, and grasses are gone: Everything that soaked in the rains and kept the ground stable is gone.

I know a sudden gasp escaped me when I saw that some land was being clearcut near the old Bert's restaurant – another huge change for Mechanicsville. I was always fascinated by seeing just a glimpse of the old two story square home that sat way



back up on a hill. Seeing old homes like that always creates all sorts of stories in my head of those who lived in the old homes; those who raised families with love, sadness, and hopefully lots of laughter as well.

Not that many days ago, I was driving by the old house site on my way to do a drive thru prescription pick up due to our fun Covid time, and I thought, when I head back home I'll go down Old Village Road, which I always take because of the beautiful old homes, and drive back out on to the highway going north to take some photos of the old home. I didn't end up doing that because I was tired and just wanted to go back home. The rest of the day I was upset at myself for not taking that turn to go back and take those pictures figuring that the house would be torn down that day.

But luckily, Patricia Link from our neighborhood took some great photos of the old home and posted them on our neighborhood Facebook page and granted me permission to use them. Patricia's post also brought lots of reminiscences about those who knew people who lived in the house and from relatives that could give a little history of the house now finally in full view of all. For some reason I felt strange seeing the house bared to all who passed by. Some may have given it a fleeting glance, and others like me, may have felt the pang in the heart that it was now exposed in its dilapidated state. I could almost hear the house saying please leave me be, let me stay hidden with my memories, not vanished forever.

I suppose I am strange in that regard; always thinking the reason I have wanted to stay here in St. Mary's and never leave since the time I was starting college in '79 was because of the trees, land, and old homes. I saw how more shopping centers and developments were taking over my hometown of Clinton and of nearby Waldorf which was also starting to quickly see uncontrolled growth in a few short years. A new shopping center gets built and everyone moves their businesses there, and in a year or two, the next big shopping center comes in leaving older ones with empty stores and no anchors. Just my own pet peeve.

I did have another gasp on Tuesday as I was coming home from Leonardtown via Rt. 234 to turn onto Mechanicsville Road. As I was making the turn onto Yowaiski Mill Road I gasped very loudly in fact when I saw the large old burnt down house with tractors crushing what was left of that once beautiful house in the middle of farmland. I did know a past owner of that house, as did many of my friends. My friend Barbara Drumgoole caught some photos yesterday of the scrap wood fires and the tractors, and I am also using one of her photos with her permission. This home I can understand being torn down since a partially burned house is a safety hazard for those still working the farm around it. I have met the owners of all that land and know that whatever they put their hand to, comes out more beautiful than I could ever imagine. Though it still was a shock to the system and I am so glad I have taken numerous photos of this particular house over the years and written a poem about it in the past that will all be a part of a future painting. What vanishes can also live on in many other ways, just as the old quote by Heraclitus states: "The only constant in life is change."

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

Please send your comments or ideas to: [shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com](mailto:shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com) or find me on Facebook

# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## Are You Ready to 'Unretire?'

Have you recently retired but are now thinking of going back to work? If so, you aren't alone, as many people are choosing to "unretire." But if you do reenter the workforce in some capacity, what opportunities might be available to you? And how will your renewed employment affect your financial outlook?

For starters, though, what reasons might motivate you to go back to work? For many people, the primary cause has been inflation, which has presented a huge challenge to retirees living on a fixed income. In addition, the volatile financial market of 2022 caused many people's investment portfolios to decline in value — a real problem for retirees who needed to start selling investments to supplement their income.

But non-financial factors could also be driving you to unretire. Like other retirees, you may miss the chance to use your work experience to engage with the world, and you may miss the social interactions as well.

In any case, if you do decide to rejoin the working world in some fashion, you may have several options. For example, if you enjoyed the work you did for your former employer, you might want to see if you could go back on a part-time basis. Or you could use your skills to join the "gig" economy by doing some consulting or freelance work in your former industry. You might also consider going to work for a nonprofit organization, as many of these groups lost employees during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and are now facing labor shortages.

Going back to work, even part time, can improve your cash flow, which helps cover the cost of regular expenses. Furthermore, the added income can possibly help you delay or reduce withdrawals from your investment accounts. And it's important to increase the longevity of these accounts considering you may spend two, or even three, decades in retirement. (Once you turn 72, however, you will have to start withdrawing certain amounts from your 401(k) and traditional IRA.) But your earnings can affect another source of your retirement income — your Social Security benefits.

If you return to work before your "full" retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67, the Social Security earnings limit in 2023 is \$21,240. For each \$2 earned over that amount, Social Security will deduct \$1 from benefits. If you reach your full retirement age in 2023, the earnings limit is \$56,520; Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefits for each \$3 earned over this amount until the month you turn your full retirement age. But in all future years after you've reached your full retirement age, you can earn as much as you want without losing any benefits. Social Security will then recalculate your payments to give you credit for the months your benefits were reduced or withheld due to your excess earnings. Be aware, though, that your earned income can potentially result in higher taxes on your Social Security benefits at any age.

Returning to work can be rewarding, both financially and emotionally. And you may get more out of the experience when you're aware of the issues involved.

*Article was contributed by David McDonough  
Financial Advisor at Edward Jones  
Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
301 997 1707*

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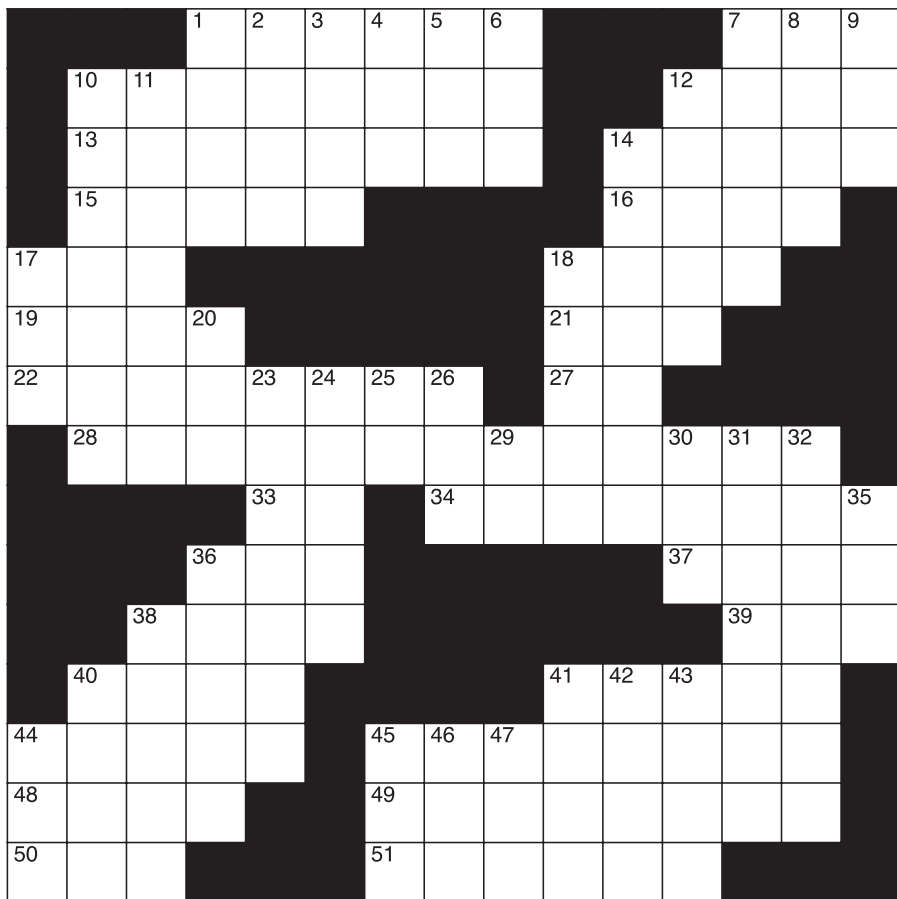
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*County Times*



# GAMES & PUZZLES

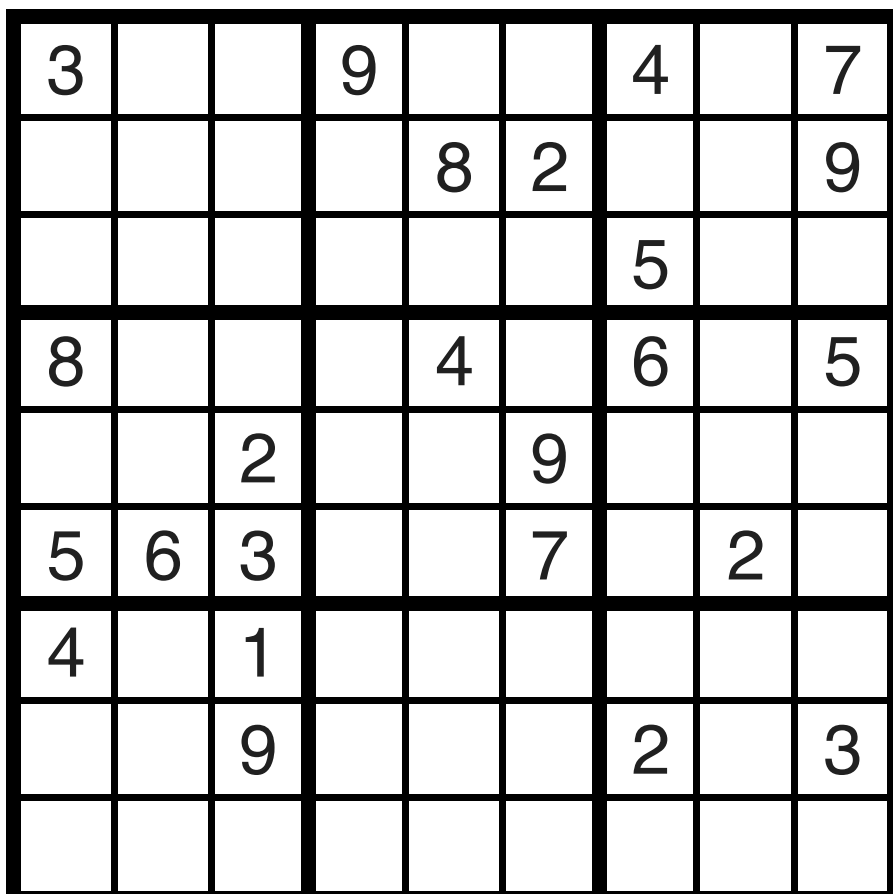


### CLUES ACROSS

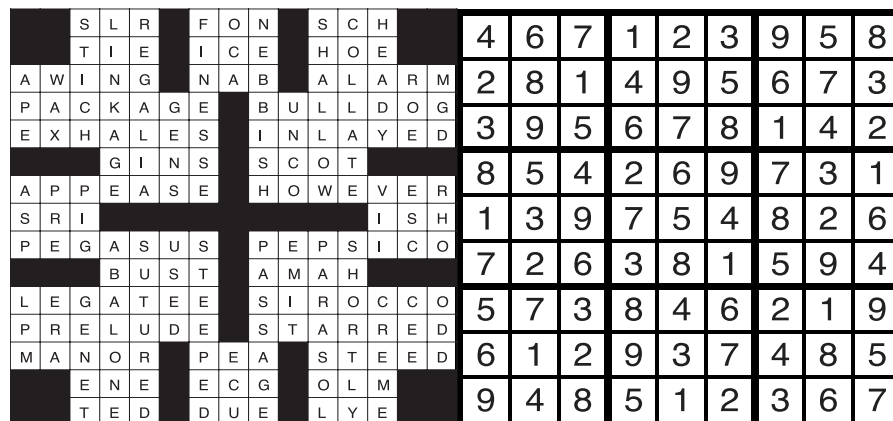
1. Respiratory disorder
7. Bulgarian mountain peak
10. Group of important people
12. South American nation
13. Amazes
14. \_\_\_-Castell, makers of pens
15. Perlman and Seehorn are two
16. Early medieval alphabet
17. Legislator (slang)
18. Tasty crustacean
19. Course of action
21. Airborne (abbr.)
22. Permanent church appointment
27. Larry and Curly's pal
28. Famed American journalist
33. 12th letter of Greek alphabet
34. In a way, vanished
36. Afflict in mind or body
37. Egyptian Sun god
38. Source of the Blue Nile
39. Egyptian unit of weight
40. Be the source of pain
41. Esteemed award \_\_\_ d'Or
44. Partner to pains
45. Deep blue
48. No longer living
49. Country in the UK
50. Not even
51. Arizona city

### CLUES DOWN

1. Wager
2. Classical portico
3. As a result
4. Bird
5. A type of "Squad"
6. Autonomic nervous system
7. Dish with food on a stick
8. City northwest of Provo
9. C. European river
10. One out of jail
11. Henry Clay estate
12. Heathen
14. Refrained
17. Parts per billion (abbr.)
18. "The Stranger" author
20. Not old
23. Periods of starvation
24. Language of tribe in India
25. Savings account
26. Pitching stat
29. Megabyte
30. Ribonucleic acid
31. A place to put your feet
32. The fun part of a week
35. We all have our own
36. Partner to "oohed"
38. African nation
40. Breezed through
41. Sets out
42. Other
43. Not fattening
44. "Much \_\_\_ about nothing"
45. Central Time
46. Former EU monetary unit
47. Charles S. Dutton sitcom



### LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



# Calvert 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.

## Thu, Jan 12

### FREE Quit Tobacco Classes

Calvert County Health Department  
975 Solomons Island Road Prince  
Frederick, 6-7 p.m.

Free classes to assist with quitting tobacco or vaping. January 12 through March 2. One hour a week for eight weeks. Medication aids are free if insurance doesn't pay. Group support is especially valuable. Registration required: email: [jane.dodds@maryland.gov](mailto:jane.dodds@maryland.gov), call: 410-535-5400, ext. 359, or visit [calvert.health.org](http://calvert.health.org)

### Teen Drop in Anime Night

Calvert Library Southern Branch  
13920 H. G. Trueman Rd, Solomons  
6-7:30 p.m.

A fun night of anime and manga. Teens in grades 8-12 invited. Come hang out with friends and other fans of anime. Watch your favorite anime series on Crunchyroll, make sushi, talk about manga and sample some books, play with art supplies and manga coloring pages, and eat mochi ice cream and other Japanese snacks! 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade teens welcome. Registration not required, 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
6:30-8 p.m.

Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Jeannette Findley and JC Hooker. Please register to receive the Zoom link, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### World of Wonder

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch  
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake  
Beach, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Elementary students K-2 will have fun exploring a new topic each session through books, activities, and a snack connected to the topic. Come learn new ideas at a program that will make kids say wow! Registration required, 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Fri, Jan 13

### On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way, 1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Deadly Gamble: Sinking of the Levin J. Marvel

Bayside History Museum  
4025 4th Street, North Beach.

Join us at the Bayside History Museum to talk to the author and hear first-hand stories from some of the survivors. Refreshments served - books available for sale and signing. Co-sponsored by Calvert Library, Bayside History Museum and New Bay Books. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Sat, Jan 14

### Texas Hold Em

St. Leonard Volunteer Fire Department, 6 p.m.

\$85 buy-in for \$20k in chips. Rounds are 20 minutes each. Doors open at 5 pm, tournament starts at 6pm. BYOB, food and sodas will be available for purchase. See [www.slvfd.org](http://www.slvfd.org) or Facebook group [www.facebook.com/groups/500115481937635/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/500115481937635/) for more info.

## Mon, Jan 16

### NAACP Calvert Presents: Martin Luther King, Jr Celebration

Bethel Way of the Cross, Huntingtown. Co-sponsored by Calvert Library, 10-11:30 a.m.

Join us to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Representatives from local churches will speak and we'll enjoy songs from their choirs. Outgoing politicians, Rachel Jones and Pam Cousins will be recognized. There will be coffee and snacks in the banquet hall, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Holiday Event: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Calvert Marine Museum  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Join us as we shine the light on peace and harmony in our local community. Make a public commitment to your community by posting it on a promise wall sign. Find inspiration from the many quotes by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

scattered throughout the museum. Listen to a few stories and learn a little background about Martin Luther King Jr. and how his dream of peace is expressed by others at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Harms Gallery. Included with museum admission.

## Wed, Jan 18

### Scrabble with Friends

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Do you love to play Words with Friends on your device but want to meet people IRL (in real life)? Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Come play Scrabble with us! Please register so we know how many boards to put out. Register to receive a reminder., 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Working Wednesdays: Resumes and Cover Letters

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center, this is an interactive workshop for resume and cover letter writing help. Looking for a job, or a better job? Don't miss this free class. Registration closes the Monday before the event. More job-seeker help is available on [mwejobs.maryland.gov](http://mwejobs.maryland.gov) By registering for this class, you are agreeing that your contact information will be shared with Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center (AJC). AJC staff, Jasmine McCain, will contact you with initial materials and explain the MWE registration process. If you have questions or do not wish to register on MWE, you can contact Ms. McCain directly at [jasminet.mccain@maryland.gov](mailto:jasminet.mccain@maryland.gov) to get help on this topic, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Working Wednesdays: Boomers and Beyond!

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
1 p.m.-3 p.m.

This workshop offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center is for the experienced, seasoned jobseeker who wants to step into a new role! We will cover going after the dream, making your skillset fit into a new career path and most importantly working around those subtle and not-so-subtle

age and over-experience barriers. Registration closes the Monday before the event. More job-seeker help is available on [mwejobs.maryland.gov](http://mwejobs.maryland.gov). By registering for this class, you are agreeing that your contact information will be shared with Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center (AJC). AJC staff, Jasmine McCain, will contact you with initial materials and explain the MWE registration process. If you have questions or do not wish to register on MWE, you can contact Ms. McCain directly at [jasminet.mccain@maryland.gov](mailto:jasminet.mccain@maryland.gov) to get help on this topic, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Tween Book Club: El Deafo by Cece Bell

Calvert Library Southern Branch,  
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons,  
2-3 p.m.

Join other book lovers during this fun winter book club! We will be reading and discussing fabulous books. Did we mention there will be snacks?! Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful—and very awkward—hearing aid. We will have copies; ask at the desk to check out a copy, 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Book Discussion: Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Fairview Library  
2-3:30 p.m.

Washington Post called it “feel-good but deceptively sensitive debut,” the reader receives a gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Thursday, January 19

### Little Minnows

Calvert Marine Museum  
10:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

This month's theme is Five Senses. For preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Join us for story time and craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Cost is free with admission.



# CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of December 26 – January 1, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,424 calls for service throughout the community.

**Attempted Burglary: 22-76170**

On December 31, 2022, Deputy Daily responded to the 2500 block of Halloween Point Road in Prince Frederick, for an attempted burglary. The complainant advised an unknown suspect (s) attempted to force entry into the home causing damage to an exterior door and crawlspace. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$510.00.

**Damaged Property: 22-75152**

On December 26, 2022, DFC Anderson responded to the 12900 block of Huron Drive in Lusby, for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised his vehicle had been tampered with and an unknown suspect (s) had cut the skid plate covering his gas tank. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$58.00.

**Theft: 22-75540**

On December 28, 2022, Deputy Lee responded to the 11500 block of Cedar Run Lane in Owings, for the report of a theft from a vehicle. Investigation revealed an unknown suspect (s) cut a catalytic converter from the victim's vehicle. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$1300.00.

**Theft: 22-75778**

On December 29, 2022, Deputy Strong responded to the 2200 block of Smoky Road in Huntingtown, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between Dec. 26 and Dec. 29, an unknown suspect (s) stole the Maryland registration plates off of a trailer parked outside the residence. The estimated value of stolen property is \$50.00.

**Theft: 22-75773**

On December 29, 2022, Deputy Syl-

ver received a report of a theft. The complainant advised an Amazon package containing a lamp was stolen from the victim's front porch in the 1500 block of Overlook Drive in St. Leonard. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$210.00.

**Theft: 22-75762**

On December 29, 2022, DFC Crum responded to Ulta Beauty located at 845 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. Investigation revealed, three suspects were seen entering the business and removed an unknown amount of merchandise from the store to include numerous fragrances. The suspects fled northbound on Rt. 4 in a silver Hyundai sedan with no front registration and a covered rear registration plate. Anyone with information pertaining to this incident or these suspects is asked to contact DFC. Crum at Andrew.Crum@calvertcountymd.gov.

**Theft: 22-75781**

On December 30, 2022, DFC Anderson responded to the 900 block of Algonquin Court in Lusby, for the report of a theft from a vehicle. The complainant advised sometime between 11 p.m. on Dec. 29 and 8 a.m. on Dec. 30, an unknown suspect (s) rummaged through the victim's vehicle parked outside the residence and stole a set of keys and a white gold wedding band containing diamonds. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$2,510.00.

**Theft: 22-75967**

On December 30, 2022, Deputy Wilder responded to the 12300 block of Algonquin Trail for the report of a theft.

The complainant advised sometime between 6 p.m. on Dec. 29 and 3 p.m. on Dec.30, an unknown suspect (s) entered the victim's unlocked vehicle and rummaged through the center console and stole US currency. The total value of the stolen property is \$20.00.

**ARRESTS**



On December 31, 2022, Deputy Mister responded to The Rod N' Reel Resort located at 4160 Mears Avenue in Chesapeake Beach, for a reported trespassing. Management

requested deputies escort **William Thomas Bourne**, 65 of Prince Frederick, from the property. Mr. Bourne was asked several times to leave the premises and advised if he did not vacate, he would be arrested for trespassing. Bourne continued to yell profanities and argue with deputies, refusing to leave. Bourne was escorted to the parking garage, making several attempts to return to the casino. Bourne was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

*Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to call the Sheriff's Office at (410) 535-2800 and reference the case number provided. Citizens may remain anonymous thru the 'Submit a Tip' feature on the Calvert County Sheriff's Office mobile app. To download, visit <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a39520678>*

## Editor's Note

The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated.

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## Calvert Sheriff's Deputy Charged with Misconduct

Maryland State Prosecutor Charlton T. Howard III announced today a Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputy, Corporal James L. Wahlgren, has been charged by criminal information with both Misconduct in Office and engaging in sexual intercourse with a person requesting police assistance.

According to the charging document, in March 2022, Corporal Wahlgren responded to the residence of a woman, referred to in the charging document as "J.B.", in response to J.B.'s request for police assistance. Corporal Wahlgren subsequently transported J.B. to a hospital for treatment. Before leaving the hospital, Corporal Wahlgren gave J.B. his cell phone number in case she needed further assistance. Less than a week later, J.B. called Corporal Wahlgren while he was on duty with the Calvert County Sheriff's Department and requested police assistance at her residence related to

a domestic dispute. Corporal Wahlgren responded to J.B.'s residence and subsequently transported her to a nearby hotel in his police vehicle.

It is alleged that while at the hotel, Corporal Wahlgren entered J.B.'s hotel room and engaged in sexual intercourse with her. Corporal Wahlgren did not know J.B. outside of his role as a law enforcement officer and was working at the time he took her to the hotel and engaged in sexual activity.

"The Office of the State Prosecutor is committed to ensuring the integrity of our state's law enforcement agencies," said Howard. "We will continue to investigate and hold accountable state and local law enforcement officers who abuse their position of public trust."

All individuals who are charged with a criminal offense are presumed to be innocent.

## Redmon Sentenced for Sexual Abuse of a Minor



On January 9, 2023, Alvin Lee Redmon of Lusby was sentenced to 50 years incarceration for 2 counts of sexual abuse of a minor. Calvert County Circuit Court Judge

Mark S. Chandlee suspended 20 years of the sentence, leaving Redmon with 30 years of active

incarceration followed by 5 years of supervised probation.

The victim first disclosed the abuse when she was 17 years old and told police that it had been going on for many years. She said the Defendant told her he would kill her if she told anyone.

In asking the Court to impose the maximum sentence, Assistant State's Attorney Rebecca N. Cordero noted that the Defendant had shown no remorse and had used the victim "as his own personal gratification tool." The Defendant is facing similar charges in other jurisdictions.

## License Plate Reader Grant Approved

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer



Sheriff Ricky Cox

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has adopted a budget amendment accepting an almost \$200,000 grant for expansion of the license plate reader program.

According to a memo from former Sheriff Mike Evans, "The Maryland Department of State Police announced the creation of a new grant program created by Governor Larry Hogan and supported by the Maryland General Assembly. This grant program consisted of \$5 million to be awarded only to local and municipal law enforcement agencies for the purchase of License Plate Reader Systems (LPRs).

Evans said, "The sheriff's office currently utilizes License Plate Reader (LPR) technology. This technology provides resources for the sharing of information, therefore assisting law enforcement in the fulfillment of their duties. LPR data information may be used for, but not limited to, crime analysis, criminal investigations and target vehicles listed on a Hot List which in-

clude wanted person(s), stolen vehicles and Amber/Silver alerts. The one-time funding from the grant would support the implementation of a fixed site and replacement systems for the aging mobile patrol vehicle systems."

Sheriff Ricky Cox and Assistant Sheriff Lt. Col. David Payne spoke at the Jan. 10 public hearing. The only citizen to speak was Joseph Cormier of Owings, who supported it.

Cormier noted the concerns about Big Brother, but said, "Anything we can do to give our sheriff's office the tools they need to do the job to keep our kids safe is something we need to do."

Cormier also supported the inclusion of cameras on school buses. He said, "Students are let off the bus and have to cross the street, and people are looking at their phones and driving by those buses, and there's no way to catch them unless you're sitting right there behind them. So, anything we can do to improve the technology for these deputies to do their job is well worth it."

Cox said he supported the school bus cameras. He said, "We are exploring to expand that program that he's talking about with the school buses. It'll be helpful. It looks pretty easy. It's going to put the stop light cameras on the buses itself. I think it'll be a good tool for us too as well for keeping them (the kids) safe. I look forward to it."

Commissioner Mike Hart said, "There will be a little bit of public pushback, but I can tell you when you guys first introduced me to this program years ago, I thought it was a great program then. I think it's a great program now. It will save lives. It's documented it will save lives. It has already, the little bit that we've had assisted in making arrests that we could have never maybe done in a timely fashion."

The decision to approve the budget amendment was unanimous from the five commissioners.

*dickmyers@countytimes.net*

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## Public Works Equipment Damaged in North Beach Fire



Photo courtesy of North Beach VFD

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

A December 28 fire at the North Beach Public Works building was confined to the rear equipment area and did not impact the front office area. That was the word to town residents at a Jan. 5 North Beach Town Council work session.

Mayor Mike Benton said, “We do not know the conditions of some of our equipment.”

Town Public Works Director Donald Bowen told the council, “The good news is it did not affect our water or any of the work the Department of Public Works is doing around town. It did not hold up anything. We’re still running and gunning.”

Bowen and the mayor thanked the first responders, including members of the North Beach, Dunkirk and Huntingtown volunteer fire departments. “I’d like to thank the fire department and also thank everybody who reached out. The fire department was a very quick response,” Bowen said.

The building is located at 4030 11th Street. The fire was reported at 7 p.m. Bowen said a neighbor of the building called him to report an explosion there. He said almost immediately the fire chief called in to get the access code to gain entrance to the property.

A report on the fire from the North Beach VFD stated, “An investigation identified the fire originated in an electric vehicle stored in the garage. Crews checked for extension above the area where the vehicle was parked, but found none, and there was no extension into an attached office. Smoke damage in the garage was substantial.”

The NBVFD urges all owners of electric vehicles to ensure they are not left unattended while charging and are

inspected regularly to ensure they are in good working order.

Benton said the fire has been reported to the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT), which carries the town’s insurance. He said, “They have been great to work with so far, but we’re really at a point now where the boarding up has taken place. The area that was under fire has been cleaned up except for that vehicle...a small-like golf cart, but it’s electric and we’ve had it for four years roughly. Never had a problem with it until that night.”

Bowen said, “Probably within 10 minutes

the fire department was there and started putting out the fire, which I think saved a lot of our equipment and a lot of our building. The section that was burnt was the rear section where we keep our equipment stored, in three bay doors facing the water tower.”

Bowen noted, “The construction of the building, we have a firewall that protects the office space from the rest of the shop, and that firewall did its job. We didn’t have any damage in the office area from the fire itself.”

Bowen noted, “We did lose the control panel for the water station, one right at the shop, and that water station also turns on and off the one at our second well at Greenwood Avenue. But I’d also like to reach out to thank the county water and sewer department. They called and asked if they could do anything to help, if we need anything. And I said, well, actually, if you have a spare control panel laying around, jokingly, we could use that to put the well back online. And their electrician that works for water and sewer came up with enough parts where we came up on Friday. Were able to dig up the existing power going in the building, intercept that power, run it over to the water well station, and we made up a control panel and got that online.” There was enough stored water until that came online.

Bowen summed up the situation: “We had a couple other major items in there. We’re working on trying to see what condition they’re in. I’m also sending them to factory reps and then we’ll be updated in the next week or so.”

The town is expected to get an update on the situation at the Jan. 12 town council meeting at 7 p.m., both live and via Zoom.

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

## Calvert Library Participates in Career Success Month

The new year often brings new activity on the career front. Calvert Library wants to help and has launched a new Career & Job Center website. Calvert Library Prince Frederick has also established a weekly Working Wednesdays series to offer support with resumes, online job applications, career coaching and more.

Libraries across the state are participating in the first-ever Career Success Month, a collaborative effort to enhance Maryland’s workforce. Career Success Month, which will run from January 17 through February 17, 2022, will provide customers with a broad spectrum of guidance on business, job advancement, career goals, and legal considerations. This program is part of Maryland Libraries Together, a statewide initiative sponsored, in part, by the Maryland State Library Agency.

The keynote speaker for this inaugural event will be Kathryn Finney.

Kathryn Finney is a serial entrepreneur and investor. She is the Founder and Managing General Partner of Genius Guild, a Chicago-based venture fund that invests in scalable businesses led by Black founders using innovation to build and promote healthy communities. A Yale-trained epidemiologist, Kathryn founded digitalundivided after selling her media company, The Budget Fash-

ionista, making her one of the first Black women to successfully exit a startup. Her new book, *Build The Damn Thing: How to Start a Successful Business if You’re Not a Rich White Guy*, launched in June 2022 and appeared on the Wall Street Journal’s list of bestselling books in its first week of release. You can register to receive the link on the Howard County site.

“Ensuring career success and workforce development is integral to the curriculum of public libraries in Maryland,” stated Rohini Gupta, Adult Learning and Innovation Specialist for Howard County Library System. Gupta is spearheading the Career Success Month project. “We realize the importance of navigating legal issues for entrepreneurs, the employed, as well as job seekers. Thus, our goal is to present actionable and high-value information for our community during Career Success Month.”

Career Success Month will be followed by a series of events across the state, including Lawyer in the Library, Trademark Law, Goal Setting for Success, and more. A complete list of events can be found on the Maryland Libraries Together webpage through the Maryland State Library Agency website.

For more information, call Robyn Truslow at 410-535-0291.



### Roderic Damon, 83



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Roderic Cecil Damon of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland on December 31, 2022 at the age of 83.

Roderic was born January 10, 1939 to the late Cecil Thomas Damon and Maxine Barbour Damon of Deer Isle, Maine. After high school, he served honorably in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Tills and the USS Accokeek. In 1971, he married Brenda-Lee Wright of Barre, Vermont and moved to Maryland where they built a life together. Roderic was dedicated and hard-working, providing for his family as a tractor trailer driver for nearly thirty years. He enjoyed being in nature, which he shared with his wife and daughters, camping and fishing at Breezy Point, in Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, and regularly vacationing in Maine and

Vermont. He also enjoyed working on small engines and was a highly-skilled woodworker and woodturner. He will be fondly remembered for his kindness, honesty, generosity and humor, values he instilled in his children.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brothers Byron Damon and Sherwood Damon, all of Deer Isle, Maine.

He is survived by his best friend and loving wife of 51 years, Brenda-Lee Wright Damon of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland; three daughters, Bobbi-Jo and husband John Prue of Boyds, MD, Dale-Marie and husband Earl Pack of Womelsdorf, PA, and Laurie-Ann and husband Brady Wilks of Boyds, MD; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and his sister, Marilyn Davis of Stonington, Maine.

We will be honoring Roderic’s request for a cremation and the interment of his ashes in his hometown of Deer Isle, Maine. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association at [alz.org](http://alz.org).

# Senior Deputy Flynt Released from Hospital

## Motorcade Follows Him Home to Calvert



By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Calvert County Sheriff's Office Senior Deputy James Flynt is home and

the entire community has breathed a sigh of relief.

The Calvert County Commissioners announced Flynt's release from the hospital during their Jan. 10 meeting. They said he was the first Calvert deputy ever shot in the line of duty. It happened during a police incident Dec. 17 on Walnut Creek Road in Huntingtown.

According to police reports, Brandon Alexander Turner, 21, of Greenbelt, 'driving the fleeing vehicle (from Dunkirk) opened fire at pursuing deputies, striking one patrol vehicle. The pursuit continued to the Walnut Creek subdivision in Huntingtown, where deputies utilized a Pit Maneuver to terminate the pursuit. The occupants of the vehicle fled on foot.

The suspect that was driving fired additional rounds, ultimately striking Flynt. Deputies returned fire and the suspect fled into the nearby development before being apprehended.

Flynt was hospitalized, initially in critical condition, until he was released earlier this week. Sheriff Ricky Cox said on Jan. 9, "It's the news we've all been waiting for! The Calvert County Sheriff's Office is elated to report that tomorrow Senior Deputy James Flynt is expected to be released from the hospital after being shot in the line of duty on Dec. 17, 2022."

After being released, a procession of emergency vehicles followed Flynt home. It took place from the county line southbound along Rt 4 to Plum Point Road. Citizens lined the roadway.

A video of Flynt's release from the hospital and the procession has been posted on the Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

Turner has been charged with Attempted 1st-Degree Murder, Assault 1st Degree, Attempted 2nd-Degree Murder, and Assault 2nd Degree of a Law Enforcement Officer.

Before Senior Deputy

Flynt's release, Sheriff Cox posted on Facebook: "We thank you for all the prayers and support thus far; we look forward to bringing our brother home."

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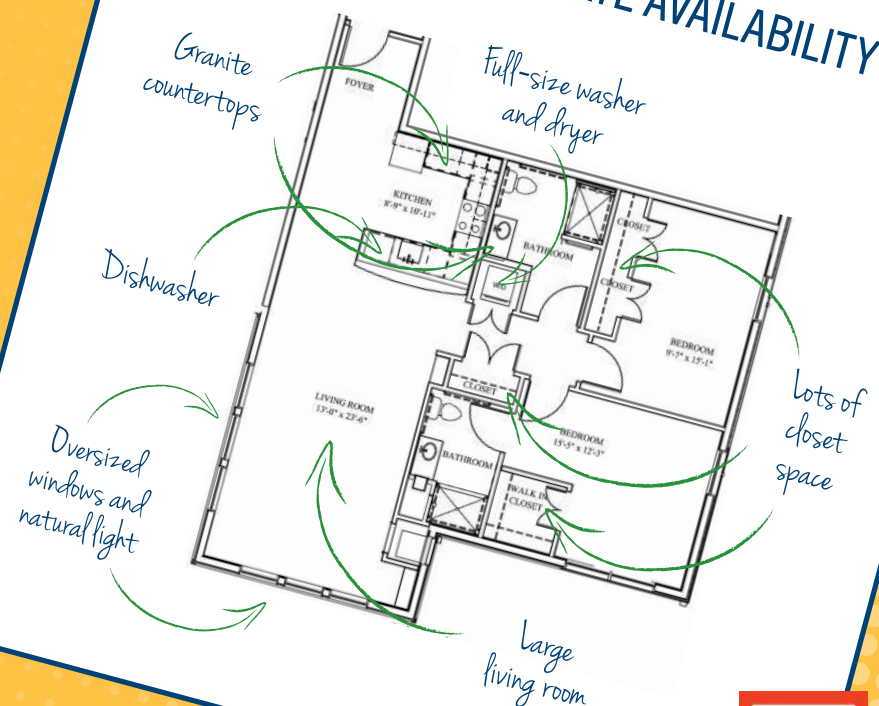
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# Huge Water Bills Cause Big Controversy

## New Commissioners Promise a Fix

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

At their first meeting, on Jan. 10, the new Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) ran into a public relations nightmare. Over the holidays, county staff without any advance notice sent letters to more than 300 residents that they owed thousands of dollars in payment for previous water usage. Part of the time for the billing was during the pandemic, when many people were at home.

Each of the commissioners apologized and they agree to halt collecting the payments while they figure out what to do.

County Administrator Mark Willis took responsibility. "I offer my sincere apologies to our water and sewer customers, for improperly executed customer service leading up to the delivery of the audit findings. I offer my apologies also to the Board of County Commissioners. My lack of insight is what helped us get to where we are today, and that's not a place that I want to be. I also offer my apologies to (Public Works) Director (Kerry) Dull for a lack of additional guidance that might have helped prevent this. So, I take responsibility for that."

Willis added, "I have and will continue to make adjustments as necessary to never embarrass this board again or let down our citizens."

Later in the meeting resident after resident walked to the microphone or speak

on Zoon to complain about the process. One retiree, who lives alone, said she had received a bill for more than \$8,000 and blamed it on watering her lawn. Others noted it happened while they and their kids were home.

The three new commissioners all apologized. Todd Ireland said, "I believe there needs to be an intense educational campaign as to water consumption conservation before we move forward with anything."

Commissioner Mark Cox said, "I would like just to say to the citizens out there who have received letters on this audit, I'm sorry. Let me reassure you that this board is committed to make this right. We will do the right thing."

Commissioner Catherine Grasso said, "I echo what Mark said. We will make sure this is fixed and we will educate you and make sure it is fixed," adding, "We are working for you and we will get it fixed and we will make it happen."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "I just want to say that in this job, you're asked to be an accountant, you're asked to be an engineer, you're asked to be a multitude of things, and we do rely on staff. And when staff came to us and said that they were going through what was laid out in their process to audit the customers based on water usage, and that 300 out of 5,000 customers were overusing their allotment, what we discovered through this was that you all probably had

no idea that your homes or businesses were on an allocation and that you were overusing that allocation. And we're going to fix that."

Commissioner Mike Hart, observing the apologies, said the board will be graded "on how they respond," and asked the citizens' patience for that.

Sherry Burton, speaking for the Marly Run Homeowners Association in Huntingtown, said when the commissioners in 2016 adopted the water usage audits, they were supposed to be just for commercial and new residential developments. She quoted former Public Works Director Rai Sharma as saying it would never affect existing homeowners.

In halting the collection of the additional monies from the homeowners, Willis said the process would be reviewed "for as long as it takes to get it right."

The letter to the homeowners assigned additional Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) for usage. Willis said, "Really we're talking about that EDU allocation is assigned capacity permitted by the state for each water system in each waste treatment plant. One EDU equals roughly 1800 gallons of water per calendar quarter, approximately 200 gallons per day. Capital connection fees are charged for capacity allotment, or allocation to public water and sewer. The fees are needed to perform maintenance and upgrades to support the infrastructure that delivers safe water and for collecting, treating, and



County Administrator Mark Willis

releasing effluent for the life of the system. Capital connection fees are \$3,000 per EDU for water and \$5,400 per EDU for sewer."

So the residents were charged an extra EDU if their usage went above that amount.

Several speakers said they would be willing to pay their fair share over time for additional usage but were billed with a large increase they are unable to pay. Others said they shouldn't pay any increase at all, that it should be absorbed by commercial accounts.

So, without even an hour under their belt, the new commissioner board was faced with a big decision as they move into the new year and for three of them, their new job.

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# New Tennis Courts Coming to Cove Point Park



Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Nazzal

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has agreed to use state grant funding for the replacement of the tennis courts at Cove Point Park.

In a memo to the BOCC, Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Nazzal said, "In the 2022 Legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly and the governor adopted a state budget that includes an allocation of \$1 million in grant funds to Calvert County for 'shovel-ready' park infrastructure projects managed by the Maryland De-

partment of Natural Resources (DNR). The Department of Parks & Recreation currently has prioritized funding for this cycle to the replacement of the tennis courts at Cove Point Park."

Nazzal said, "On September 13, 2022, the BOCC approved the submittal of the grant application for this project. On November 16, 2022, the Maryland Board of Public Works approved the grant application for the Cove Point Park Tennis and Pickleball Courts project in the amount of \$700,000 with no required match."

Of the \$1 million, the \$700,000 is allocated for the new tennis courts. Nazzal said design of pickleball courts and a restroom could round out the \$1 million project if enough monies are left after the bid for the tennis courts."

The commissioners agreed to go along with allocating the grant monies to the project but the decision did not come without opposition. During the public hearing on the budget adjustment to accommodate the grant, Mike Barnes, representing the Calvert County Little League, opposed the use of the grant monies for the tennis court project, saying it would take away a needed ballfield for them. "This is not a proper use for public funds," he said.

Barnes said his organization had made a Freedom of Information Request for

documentation to support the grant prioritization decision but was told they would have to pay more than \$1,000 for the copies. He requested a delay until the copies were provided and a reimbursement of the monies.

Nazzal said no athletic field will be taken out of service as the result of the tennis court replacement. As to the need, she said of the current courts "they are almost at the point of unplayable."

The tennis court project has already been approved by the state for the grant

funding, so Nazzal said to switch projects for the little league folks would require a new grant submittal and the possibility of losing the funding.

The budget adjustment required a public hearing because it was more than \$150,000. The project will come back in two weeks for the BOCC to officially sign the budget amendment so the project can proceed with the grant funding.

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## “WE LOOK FORWARD TO BRINGING OUR BROTHER HOME.”

SHERIFF RICKY COX, JUST BEFORE SENIOR DEPUTY JAMES FLYNT'S RELEASE FROM THE HOSPITAL



**LOCAL 4**  
Row over water bills



**LOCAL 7**  
License plate reader program gets more funding



**ON THE COVER**  
Sen. Dep. James Flynt is released from hospital

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JAN 12	FRI, JAN 13	SAT, JAN 14	SUN, JAN 15
 Cloudy Hi: 55° Lo: 47°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 51° Lo: 32°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 42° Lo: 28°	 Sunny Hi: 47° Lo: 30°
MON, JAN 16	TUE, JAN 17	WED, JAN 18	THU, JAN 19
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## DEPUTY FLYNT COMES HOME

Commissioners address water bill spikes

Fire in North Beach

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