

St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

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Federal YMCA
Funding Sought

BOE Renews
Superintendent's Contract

FOP Gets Election
Law Citation

**Community Rallies
Behind Injured Firefighter**



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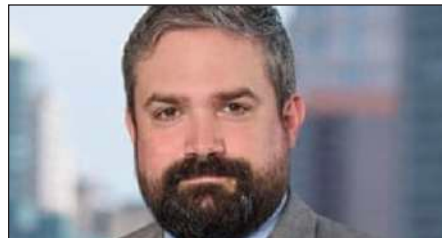


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CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS	5	OBITUARIES	17
COPS & COURTS	9	CALENDAR	18
COMMUNITY	11		

“IT’S THE FAMILY BUSINESS FOR HIM.”
 LVFD DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF JOHN TROSSBACH ON HIS NEPHEW’S
 DESIRE TO GET BACK TO FIREFIGHTING FOLLOWING BRAIN INJURY.



LOCAL 6
 FOP 7 Hit With Elections Law Violation Charge



7 ON THE COVER
 Firefighter recovering from injury on the job



LOCAL 8
 FDR Blvd. Moves Slowly Moves Ahead

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAR 2 AM Showers Hi: 67° Lo: 42°	FRI, MAR 3 Rain Hi: 46° Lo: 45°	SAT, MAR 4 Partly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 38°	SUN, MAR 5 Mostly Sunny Hi: 57° Lo: 38°
MON, MAR 6 Mostly Sunny Hi: 57° Lo: 43°	TUE, MAR 7 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 35°	WED, MAR 8 Partly Cloudy Hi: 50° Lo: 31°	THU, MAR 9 Partly Cloudy Hi: 49° Lo: 32°

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County Asks For Millions in Federal Project Funds



Artist's rendering of the YMCA

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved a request from county

staff to pursue almost \$8 million in federal funding for several public works projects; included in that request is \$3 million that would go to the construction of the planned YMCA to be built on Great Mills Road in

Lexington Park.

The request also includes \$3 million for the renovation of the St. Mary's County Health Department building located in Leonardtown on Peabody Street and \$1.8 million for an extension of Tulagi Place as well as a roundabout there.

The application for the funds will be submitted to the offices of Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin, county planning documents stated.

Public Works chief Jim Gotsch told commissioners this week that the YMCA funding was the top priority among the three projects.

Second on the list, Gotsch said, was the Tulagi Place project.

The YMCA project has become one of the most controversial, with a bifurcated effort at the state level to acquire bonding authority for \$15 million for the county to put toward the project.

Most of the county delegation, Sen. Jack Bailey, Del. Matt Morgan and Del.

Todd Morgan, all Republicans, support a bond bill for \$56 million that includes a provision that the \$15 million would not be released unless the YMCA had done its part in raising \$4 million for the project.

But Del. Brian Crosby, a Democrat, offered a bill that provided the \$56 million to the county without any conditions on the YMCA portion of the funding.

The Republican faction argues that the requirement on the bond funding was designed to ensure the county would not be held to an agreement if the YMCA did not fulfill its commitment.

Opponents have said that the requirement is an unnecessary impediment and endangered the deal for the YMCA, which would be operated by the YMCA of the Chesapeake non profit group.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Schools Continue To Struggle With Vacancies

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Dr. Dale Farrell, chief of staff for Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith, briefed the school board last week on some internal employment trends that were "not that great."

The latest data from the school system shows that while there have been 464 new hires — from teachers to various support staff — there have already been 227 resignations so far this school year.

The prior year there were 424 new hires and 379 departures by the end of that school term but both Farrell and Smith said this year's data has a different meaning.

"We've already lost 227 staff members and we're not at the end of the year yet," Farrell said during the Feb. 22 board of education meeting in Leonardtown.

"We're bringing people on, but not as much as before, but we're still losing people."

The losses include not only teachers but from many other levels of the public schools.

"Usually in April, May and June that's when people tell us they're not coming

back," Smith said, explaining the rapid drain of employees already this fiscal year. "People, historically, haven't left St. Mary's County public schools in the middle of the story."

The teachers who have left have done so while still under contract, Smith explained.

"Leaving under contract has consequences," Scott said, noting employees continued to leave thus.

Despite continued strong hiring trends, Farrell said, the school system continues to struggle in filling all of its vacancies.

"The outside agencies, they just pay more," Farrell said. "At the end of the day, you have to feed your family."

More of the staff who hold teaching certificates are going to work at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Farrell said, where their work schedules are more flexible.

The base allows much more virtual and telework opportunities, while the school system has fully returned to in-person instruction.

In the sub-category of teachers, the school system is actually hiring fewer

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New Hires and Exits - Certificated Staff



employees than are exiting.

The latest data shows that the system has hired 121 teachers so far this year but 134 have departed.

"As you can see this year, we have a problem," Farrell told board members.

Smith warned of further vacancies.

"That number is going to increase significantly in April, May and June when people tell us they're leaving," Smith said.

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FOP Lodge Charged With Election Law Violation

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 7 has been charged with a civil citation in Anne Arundel County District Court for allegedly mishandling deductions from deputies that were to be used for lobbying purposes.

In a complaint lodged by Special Investigator Cynthia Thomas with the Office of the State Prosecutor, the money that was deducted from employee salaries for the political action committee of FOP 7 was not deposited into that account within 30 days of receipt as mandated under election law.

The law mandates that political action committees create checking accounts that must be registered with banks and officially designated as being for political action purposes.

The court filings state that the agency's investigation showed that the deductions for 2019 were \$3,936, \$3,952 for 2020 and \$3,947 for 2021.

The court filings state that for those three years those funds were transferred to the FOP 7 account but not into the political action committee account within 30 days of receipt for all three years as required by law.

The money for contributions to the political action committee were taken out of each payroll in the amount of at least \$1 up



FOP 7 Counsel Shaun Owens

to \$26 from each paycheck as designated by the payee.

The investigation included bank records from both PNC Bank and Bank of America for FOP 7 accounts, court papers stated.

The civil citations were also issued to Shaun Owens an attorney who represents several FOP organizations in Maryland and who acts as the general counsel for FOP 7.

Owens did not return phone calls for comment as of press time.

Dep. Austin Schultz, president of FOP 7, likewise did not return phone calls seeking comment as of press time.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Smith Gets Four More Years



Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith will continue leading St. Mary's County Public Schools for the next four years.

The county board of education voted unanimously last week to renew Smith's contract through 2027.

School Board Chair Karin Bailey said Smith notified the board Feb. 1 that he wanted to extend his contract for another term; the board, by state law, had to make their decision by March 1.

His new contract begins July 1 of this year. "Dr. Smith has been the only superintendent I have known since I've been on this

board," Bailey said. "His dedication to this system and the students... is always there at the forefront of every decision."

Bailey thanked Smith for deciding to pursue another contract term "on this crazy ride."

Smith guided the school system through the rigor of COVID lockdowns as well as continued challenges in increasing student achievement while dealing with growing numbers of teacher vacancies.

"This is my ninth year serving in this role, my first year was as acting [superintendent]," Smith said. "It's been the great pleasure of my life to serve St. Mary's County public schools."

"There is no other place I would rather work, raise kids and be with a fantastic group of professionals."

Smith has made a career out of working in St. Mary's, first starting as a teacher, then working as an administrator and then moving into the central administrative office before ascending to the top position as chief executive of the school system.

The St. Mary's County public school system teaches approximately 17,000 students in all grade levels with roughly 3,000 educational staff.

The last time Smith's contract was renewed was in July of 2019; his annual salary is \$225,000.

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Community Rallies Behind Injured Firefighter



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Justin Taylor, a 17-year-old volunteer firefighter with the Leonardtown fire company, is in a slow recovery process after suffering a traumatic brain injury while working at the firehouse last week.

Taylor is currently recuperating at home, his family members have said.

Taylor suffered his injury when he was working at the fire house in Leonardtown, The County Times has learned.

Gary Bell, president of the fire company, said Justin was working with other volunteers moving equipment from one building to another using a pickup truck.

When Justin got on the back of the truck and it began to move in one instance, he fell off and was injured, Bell said.

"There was a crew there to support him," Bell said. "One of our members there is an EMT (emergency medical technician) and they were able to care for him until the rescue squad arrived."

Bell said rescue squad personnel responded quickly to the scene.

John Trossbach, deputy chief at the Leonardtown fire company, and Justin's uncle, said his nephew eagerly serves as a volunteer as many in his family have done.

"It's a family business for him," Trossbach said. "It's definitely what he wants to get back to."

"He's got the full support of all the volunteers, not just the ones at Leonardtown."

Volunteers throughout the county, Trossbach said, whether fire, EMS or law enforcement all felt obligated to watch out for each other.

The community has come together quickly to wish Taylor a speedy recovery, including starting fundraisers to help pay for his family's expenses during his recovery.

Taylor's mother, Christine Taylor, who is also an experienced health care professional, established a social media timeline to document some of her son's ordeal.

He has experienced great pain since sustaining the injury, she said in her posts, but his recovery has been steady.

"In Justin's opinion today was a hard

day, but in my opinion it was the best day yet!" his mother wrote Feb 27. "Justin was able to tolerate some music being played in his room and even turned the TV on for a few minutes."

"After not finding anything interesting to watch, he decided to turn it off, but we were happy that he is starting to slowly tolerate some stimuli for the first time since he woke up in the ICU."

Justin's mother shared the type of head injury her son sustained.

"Justin sustained a closed head injury known as a coup-contrecoup traumatic brain injury," Christine Taylor said. "The part of Justin's brain that is most affected is the frontal lobe."

"His short-or-long term memory are intact, with the exception of the incident itself. His vision is completely normal and he has the strength to walk, however, his head/neck pain, dizziness and nausea are making it extremely difficult for him to have his head up more than 30 degrees."

Justin came home the evening of Feb. 27, according to social media posts from his family, and can be seen with family members relaxing and sitting upright.

Right now, according to his mother, Justin is working to hone finer motor skills in the wake of his injury.

"One of the biggest concerns they have is Justin will most likely be unable to walk and perform another task simultaneously," she said. "For example, he will not be able to walk and carry a drink."

"This is due to his brain having to work ten times harder than ours because it is compensating for his injury. As his brain heals, his ability to perform these kinds of tasks will get easier."

Justin's injuries were described as severe with him being treated "for a fractured skull, frontal lobe contusions of the brain and a small sub-arachnoid brain bleed."

The incident that injured him occurred Feb. 16.

Just a few days ago, Justin's pain was focused in migraine headaches that were difficult to treat due to his injury.

"Due to his traumatic brain injury, he will be suffering from migraine headaches

for quite some time," his mother wrote. "The biggest issue for Justin is that due to the swelling, bruising and bleeding in his brain, he is unable to take many of the medications that are used to treat traditional migraines."

"We believe they have found the right combination of meds that provide him some relief."

He may also suffer some permanent memory loss.

"He doesn't remember the accident or

any of the tense moments we had in the first few days," she writes. "We have been told that he probably never will."

For now, Trossbach said, the family wants the community to know that they are grateful for all the support they have received on Justin's behalf and that they are seeking privacy and tranquility to aid in his recovery.

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FDR Boulevard Project Inches Ahead

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

County public works officials said this week that they have just seven more parcels of land to secure before the final section of FDR Boulevard can be completed.

They got approval from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County Feb. 28 to purchase one of those parcels so they can continue construction of Phase 3B of the project, which is the final leg.

The entire new road way would eventually connect St. Andrews Church Road in California all the way down south to Pegg Road in Lexington Park and run parallel to Route 235.

Its purpose is to provide a measure of traffic relief for Route 235, which bears the brunt of heavy morning and afternoon rush hour traffic coming on and off Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

Phase 3B of the project would connect Buck Hewitt Road with Pegg Road; Phase 3A of the project is nearly complete and connects Chancellor's Run Road with Buck Hewitt Road.

The entire road once complete will be not quite four miles in length; the project had languished for years in county plans before work began in earnest about 10 years ago.

The parcel is being purchased from a family living on Erickson Court in the Discovery subdivision in Lexington Park, county planning documents show for just \$1,450.

The easement to be purchased is just 1,355 square feet or .0311 acres in size.

Property acquisition for this section of road is currently underway, county planning documents state, and is scheduled to be completed this summer.

Advertisement of construction for FDR Boulevard Phase 3B is scheduled for the late fall and the construction award in winter of 2024.

Allen Settles, senior project engineer for the FDR Boulevard project, said the county is actively engaging with all property owners in the path of the new road.

"It's a slow process, but we're getting there," Settles said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



PATUXENT RIVER
NAVAL AIR STATION *News*

Super Hornet Continues to Ensure Readiness for High-End Fight



The F/A-18E/F Super Hornet continues to serve effectively as the backbone of U.S. Navy's carrier air wing is a priority for Naval Aviation. New Super Hornets continue to enter the fleet, with the Navy now expecting the final delivery to occur in 2025—ensuring the capabilities of the strike fighter remain at the service of the nation now and well into the future.

"Our mission remains the same—to support, sustain and advance the fleet through acquisition and readiness of combat aircraft and systems," said Rear Adm. John Lemmon, Program Executive Officer, Tactical Aircraft Programs (PEO(T)). "The fleet will continue to fly these aircraft for decades to come through effective sustainment and modernization programs and practices directed by the F/A-18 and EA-18G Program Office (PMA-265)."

The Super Hornet will be the numerically predominant aircraft in the carrier fighter air wing into the 2030s. Service Life Modification (SLM) initiatives and capability upgrades help the aircraft already in the fleet maintain their tactical relevance. Future SLM efforts will provide Block II aircraft with Block III capability, increasing service life to 10,000 hours, significantly enhancing lethality and sur-

vivability via on-board and shared high-fidelity sensor data, and improving aircrew tactical decision aids.

"This organization is no stranger to hard work and dedication, and that continues as we remain focused on our capability and readiness goals," said Capt. Jason Denney, PMA-265 program manager. "As a team, we are committed to supporting naval aviation, its warfighters and our foreign partners." PMA-265 falls under PEO(T).

The Super Hornet entered fleet service in 1999 as a replacement for the F-14 Tomcat. Its first operational cruise was aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in 2002. That same year, it flew its first combat mission over Iraq. Super Hornets are designed to meet current Navy fighter mission requirements, maintain fleet air defense and close air support, and increase mission range.

PMA-265 is responsible for acquiring, delivering and sustaining the F/A-18 and EA-18G aircraft, ensuring mission success for U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviators, as well as international partners. As part of PEO(T), PMA-265 provides critical current and future capabilities in the form of total life cycle support management for the F/A-18A-D Hornet, F/A-18E/F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler weapons systems.

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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

Theft Suspects Sought

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identities of several individuals in a theft investigation. Over the course of last several months, the pictured suspects were involved in multiple thefts from the Target store in California. The subjects were seen leaving in a black Mitsubishi on several occasions as well as a white Nissan Altima. The suspects use various methods to steal merchandise, including skip-scanning, concealing items on their person and walking out with unpaid items.

Anyone with information about the identities of the suspects or these incidents is asked to call Deputy Raymond Allebach

at 301-475-4200, ext. 78110 or email raymond.allebach@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case # 8504-23

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



Wanted: Wayne Joseph Brooks

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the whereabouts of Wayne Joseph Brooks, age 30 of Leonardtown, on a warrant for Violation of Probation for Stalking, Harassment and Violation of a Protective Order.

Anyone with information about Brooks' whereabouts is asked to call the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office at 301-475-8008.

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



Lexington Park Man Arrested on Handgun Charges



Detectives with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division located and arrested a Lexington Park man on Wednesday result-

ing in several handgun charges. front waistband as he was walking in the Patuxent Homes neighborhood in Lexington Park.


Members of the Criminal Investigations Division responded to the area and located Gant walking on Midway Drive where he was detained without incident. A loaded "P80" 9mm semiautomatic handgun with an extended magazine was found concealed in Gant's waistband. A "P80" or "ghost gun" does not have a serial number or any identifying information. The extended magazine had a 30-round capacity and contained a total of 30 rounds with one round in the chamber of the firearm.

Gant was arrested and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown where he was held without bond, pending a hearing Feb. 23.

ing in several handgun charges. Keyshon Marquez Gant, age 22 of Lexington Park, was arrested without incident and subsequently charged with Handgun on Person; Loaded Handgun on Person; Concealed Dangerous Weapon and Prohibited Detachable Magazine.

On Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023, detectives received information that Gant was in possession of a black colored semiautomatic handgun that was concealed in his

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Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

CASE NO: C-18-CV-23-000102

Glen E. Vacek,
Plaintiff

v.

Chesapeake Land & Development
20720 Golden Thompson Rd 27, Site #27
Avenue, MD 20609

and

St. Mary's County, Maryland,

and

all unknown owners of the property described below, their heirs, devisees and personal representatives and their or any of their heirs, devisees, executors, administrators, grantees, assigns, or successors in right, title and interest and any and all persons having or claiming to have an interest in the property described as:

20720 Golden Thompson Rd 27, Site #27, Plat 38/74, St. Patrick's Campground

and also known as Account Number 07-039182

Defendants

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property, sold by the Collector of Taxes for St. Mary's County to the Plaintiff:

20720 Golden Thompson Rd 27, Site #27, Plat 38/74, St. Patrick's Campground and also known as Account Number 07-039182

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid. It is therefore on this 21st day of February, 2023, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland:

ORDERED, that notice be given by insertion of a copy of this ORDER in some newspaper having a general circulation in St. Mary's County once a week for 3 successive weeks, warning all persons interested in the property to appear in this Court by the 21st day of April, 2023 and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a Final Judgment will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

Debra J. Burch
Clerk of Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

CASE NO: C-18-CV-23-000103

Glen E. Vacek,
Plaintiff

v.

Chesapeake Land & Development
20720 Golden Thompson Rd 28, Site #28
Avenue, MD 20609

and

St. Mary's County, Maryland,

and

all unknown owners of the property described below, their heirs, devisees and personal representatives and their or any of their heirs, devisees, executors, administrators, grantees, assigns, or successors in right, title and interest and any and all persons having or claiming to have an interest in the property described as:

20720 Golden Thompson Rd 28, Site #28, Plat 38/74, St. Patrick's Campground

and also known as Account Number 07-039190

Defendants

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property, sold by the Collector of Taxes for St. Mary's County to the Plaintiff:

20720 Golden Thompson Rd 28, Site #28, Plat 38/74, St. Patrick's Campground and also known as Account Number 07-039190

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid. It is therefore on this 21st day of February, 2023, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland:

ORDERED, that notice be given by insertion of a copy of this ORDER in some newspaper having a general circulation in St. Mary's County once a week for 3 successive weeks, warning all persons interested in the property to appear in this Court by the 21st day of April, 2023 and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a Final Judgment will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

Debra J. Burch
Clerk of Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland

Notice is hereby given that the following vessel(s) has apparently been abandoned for more than 60 days on the private marina/property of: Point Lookout Marina, LLC., 16244 Millers Wharf Road, Ridge, MD 20680, 301-872-5000.

The vessels are described as:

- MD 8253 AU
HULL # RCMR1315J788
1988 Regal Red/White Hull
Name "Bay Break"
- MD 9588 CD
HULL # TRJ040051273
1973 Trojan White Hull
Name "Island Twist"
- MD 4886 CF
HULL # ALC7D2550582
1982 Marinette White Hull
Name "Endless Summer"

Application for title will be made in accordance with Section 8-722 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article if vessels are not claimed within 30 days of this publication date.

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Health Department Changes COVID Testing & Vaccine Services

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) will be changing COVID-19 testing and vaccine services beginning Monday, March 6, 2023.

Drive-thru COVID-19 testing (rapid PCR testing and routine PCR testing) will be available on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the St. Mary's County Health Hub located at 21625 Great Mills Road in Lexington Park. Appointments are recommended. To schedule an appointment for PCR testing (routine or rapid), community members should call 301-997-8232. Online registra-

tion is also available for routine PCR testing at smchd.org/covid-19-testing.

COVID-19 vaccines will be available at the SMCHD Health Clinic in Leonardtown on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. by appointment only. To make a vaccine appointment, please call SMCHD at 301-475-4330. COVID-19 vaccines are also available through primary care offices and local pharmacies.

For more information about COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, please visit smchd.org/coronavirus/.

Health Department to Begin Limited 2023 Seasonal Perc Testing

Due to rising seasonal groundwater levels, the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) will begin wet season perc testing for lower terrace soil types on or about February 27, 2023. Perc testing for all other soil types (upland areas) will begin when water tables reach normal wet season range.

Perc testing was suspended in April 2022 due to declining groundwater levels. While the water levels are currently high enough for limited testing, perc testing may not run continuously through spring should the water table recede, causing test-

ing to be suspended. Testing will resume if water tables rebound to necessary ranges.

SMCHD's Environmental Health Division staff conduct soil evaluations for the construction of residential and commercial septic systems. The application for a new construction perc test is available through the St. Mary's County Department of Land Use and Growth Management (LUGM) and requires a fee. To download a perc test application, click here or call 301-475-4200, ext. 1500.

Community members can learn more about perc testing at smchd.org/perc-testing

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
CASE NO: C-18-CV-21-000102

Alan C. Wetter et al.,
c/o Lucas I. Dansie, Esq.
406 5th St. NW
Washington DC 20001
Plaintiffs

v.
The Estate of Bessie Wigglesworth
c/o Raymia Henderson, PR
14302 Hampshire Hall Ct.
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

and

St. Mary's County, Maryland,

and

all unknown owners of the property described below, their heirs, devisees and personal representatives and their or any of their heirs, devisees, executors, administrators, grantees, assigns, or successors in right, title and interest and any and all persons having or claiming to have an interest in the property described as:

*Unassigned, Lot 3 Block 5, Longview Beach and also known as A/C 07-014619
Defendants

RE-ISSUED ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property, sold by the Collector of Taxes for St. Mary's County to the Plaintiff:

*Unassigned, Lot 3 Block 5, Longview Beach and also known as A/C 07-014619.

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid. It is therefore on this 31st day of January, 2023, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland:

ORDERED, that notice be given by insertion of a copy of this ORDER in some newspaper having a general circulation in St. Mary's County once a week for 3 successive weeks, warning all persons interested in the property to appear in this Court by the 3rd day of March, 2023 and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a Final Judgment will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

Debra J. Burch
Clerk of Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland

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Employment Services Offered at Health Hub



The St. Mary's County Health Department is partnering with the Maryland Department of Labor to offer employment services at the St. Mary's County Health Hub beginning March 8, 2023. These services will include career counseling, resume assistance, and professional skills workshops.

A Navigator from the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning at the Maryland Department of Labor will be onsite at the Health Hub, located at 21625 Great Mills Road in Lexington Park, every other Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

"A Re-Entry Navigator will guide you to employment opportunities, skills, and credentials and other local resources you might need in order to become independent and successful," said Mr. Henry Franklin, Re-Entry Navigator Southern Maryland, Maryland Department of Labor. "This will be done through the services of local Southern Maryland Jobsources throughout

all three counties - St. Mary's, Calvert, and Charles Counties."

"Employment can offer stable income, access to health insurance, and a sense of social connectivity," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "These are all important in addressing long-term health and mental well-being for adults and the children who depend upon them. We appreciate this partnership with the Maryland Department of Labor to support our community members in finding stable employment."

To make an appointment for employment services at the Health Hub, please call 301-904-8949 or via email at smchd.healthhub@maryland.gov. Walk-ins will be welcomed.

To learn more about services and programs offered at the St. Mary's County Health Hub, visit smchd.org/hub.

Community Mediation of St. Mary's Looking for Trouble on Three Notch Trail

Community Mediation of St. Mary's County announces the 16th annual Looking for Trouble 5K and Dance-a-Thon, to be held Saturday, March 25, on the Three Notch Trail, starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Northern Senior Center located at 29655 Charlotte Hall Road in Charlotte Hall.

Gather your friends and dress as your favorite super hero for this year's event. This year, you can stay behind at the race's starting line and dance your troubles away in the dance-a-thon. We invite you to gather the everyday heroes in your life and be a big part of what makes this annual spring kickoff event a grand success!

Support of Looking for Trouble helps to provide conflict management education, coaching and mediation services at no cost, to people who are experiencing conflict in their lives. Mediation gives people support

in finding their own solutions to a wide range of disputes, empowering them to transform conflict into conversation.

"Who are everyday heroes?" asks Mia Bowers, executive director of Community Mediation of St. Mary's County. "The everyday hero is within every single human being on this planet, and is expressed by simple, ordinary actions. Heroes do simple acts of kindness, courage and love. Assemble your Hero Squad and help tackle conflict in St. Mary's County."

Mia adds "We strongly encourage community organizations to become a sponsor and join in this year's festivities. Gather your team and meet us at the starting line!"

To register for the Looking for Trouble 5K & Dance-a-Thon, or learn more about community mediation services, please go online to CommunityMediationSMC.org.

Sell it - Buy it at Auction

Tri County Livestock Auction
1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the Month - Auction begins at 4 PM
Located Off MD Rt. 6 West - Charlotte Hall, MD

Yoder Auction
Public Auction for Ben & Susan Yoder
Farm/Shop Equipment/Items - Horse-Related Items - Furniture - Household Items - Over 140 Lots of Books & Magazines - Tobacco Related Memorabilia - More
Saturday, March 4, 2023 - 9 am
10200 Brookline Road - Mechanicsville, MD
Auction Registration & Preview begins at 7:30 am on Auction Day.
Lunch Stand by Amish Community School Committee.
Most Items to be sold in large building.
Terms by Ben Yoder. Cash, Checks Accepted, NO credit cards.

Storage Unit Auction - SMARTBOX of Maryland
Saturday, March 11, 2023 - 9:30 am
9900 Fallard Court, Upper Marlboro, MD
For more info: 301-720-0039

Grocery Auction - Hughesville VFD
Saturday, March 11, 2023 - 5 pm
15245 Prince Frederick Road - Hughesville, MD
Doors Open and Registration begins at 4 pm.

20th Annual "Millwood" Auction
Friday, March 17th - 2 pm
Saturday, March 18th - 8:30 am
27429 Thompson Corner Rd. - Mechanicsville, MD

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2023
Community Mediation of St. Mary's County

ASSEMBLE your Hero Squad and help tackle conflict in St. Mary's County

March 25th
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Three Notch Trail @ Northern Senior Center
29655 Charlotte Hall Rd
Charlotte Hall, MD 20624

Entry Fee: \$20 per person for teams of 4 or more

Register at CommunityMediationSMC.org/LFT-5K



Dress as your favorite superhero & Race to the finish line in our Super Hero themed 5k! Or stay at HQ & turn up the heat in the Dance-A-Thon!
Visit our website for more details.

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Leadership Southern Maryland Board of Directors Welcomes Williams and Kowieski



Marsha Williams, Esq.

In its February meeting, the Leadership Southern Maryland Board of Directors appointed Marsha Williams, Esq., LSM '21 and Michelle Kowieski, LSM '11 as new board members.

Marsha Williams, Esq., is a partner at Williams, McClernan & Stack, LLC, a law firm in Leonardtown. Marsha has been a practicing attorney in Southern Maryland for over twenty years. Raised in Camden, NJ, she attended Rutgers University - New Brunswick (Douglass College), where, in 1997, she graduated with her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and a Certificate in Criminology. In 2000, Marsha earned her Juris Doctorate from Howard University School of Law. Upon graduating from law school, Marsha began her legal career with the House of Ruth of Maryland. In 2002, Marsha joined Maryland Legal Aid - Southern Maryland Office as a Staff Attorney and, in 2014, was promoted to Senior Attorney. In January 2018, she partnered with two other women to form Williams, McClernan, & Stack, LLC. Marsha is married and has one son.

Michelle Kowieski is the owner and



Michelle Kowieski

founder of The Kowieski Group, a local woman-owned small business focused on assisting other companies with solving their most pressing strategic growth issues. Michelle graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland with a degree in Economics. She has two grown children, and lives in St. Mary's County with her husband Mark and youngest daughter Kayla. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, photography, and perpetually learning how to golf.

Leadership Southern Maryland's Executive Program is an interactive and life-enriching nine-month, tuition-based "behind-the-scenes" experience designed to enhance the collaborative abilities of our region's top senior professionals. LSM is now accepting applications for the Executive Program Class of 2024. We welcome mid- to senior-level executives representing diverse geographic locations, industries, professions, ethnicities, genders, and other backgrounds who are committed to addressing the community needs of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. For more information, visit www.leadershipsomd.org.

Woman's Club of St. Mary's County Outreach

To find out just how serious the need for food is in our community, the Woman's Club of St. Mary's County is hosting a guest speaker from Feed St. Mary's on Saturday, March 25 at 1 p.m. at the Church of The Ascension in Lexington Park.

This community event is hosted by the Woman's Club and serves as the club's March monthly meeting.

The mission of the Woman's Club is to raise money for college scholarships for high-achieving, low-income students, other educational programs and non-profit groups.

Whether you're new to the county or a long-time resident, your participation is welcome. Membership offers individuals a sense of fellowship with others from diverse backgrounds and interests and the opportunity to contribute your talent and creativity to improve the quality of life in our county.

Attendance is free but you are encouraged to bring food donation.

Questions, email stmaryscountywomensclub@gmail.com or follow the club on Facebook at St. Mary's Woman's Club.

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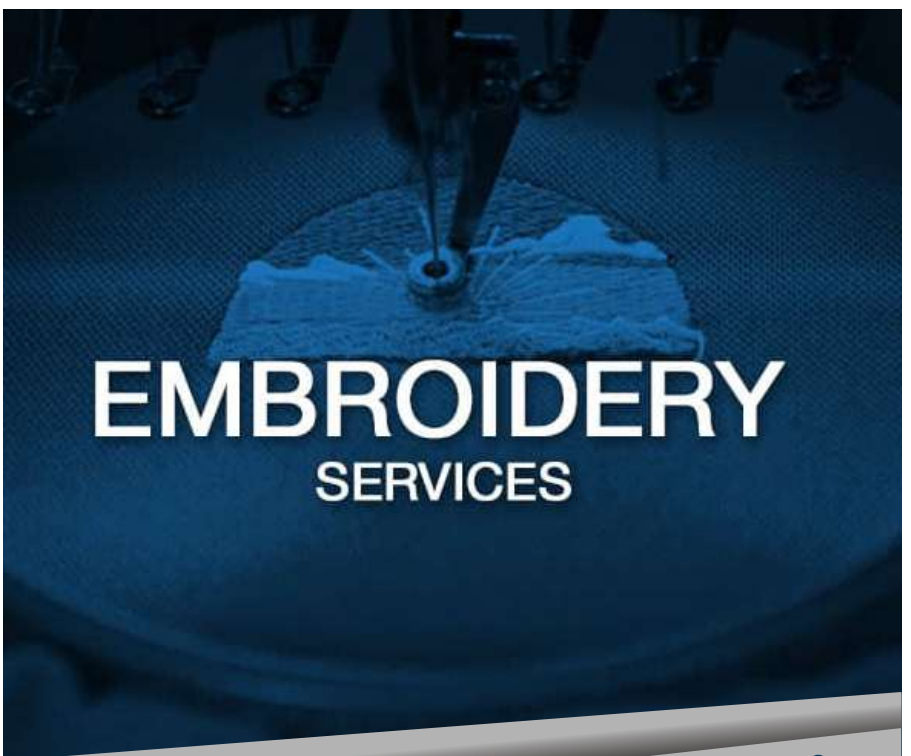
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MARCH 3

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Maryland Day At St. Clements Island Museum

Friday,
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Great For Families

10AM – 5PM



Celebrate the founding of Maryland with
free museum admission, boat rides, kids
activities, food truck, and more

Official Ceremony at 10am (FREE)

More Info: [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum) or 301-769-2222

First Friday Itinerary

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Antoinette's Garden

Brunch – [facebook.com/AntoinettesGarden](https://www.facebook.com/AntoinettesGarden)

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Yellow Line Studio

Stepping Stone Mosaic Workshop – [facebook.com/theyellowline.co](https://www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co)

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. The Old Jail Museum & Visitor's Center

Open with extended hours for First Friday – [facebook.com/theoldjailmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/theoldjailmuseum)

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Shepherd's Old Field Market

Specials throughout the Market - [shepherdsoldfield.com](https://www.shepherdsoldfield.com)

11 a.m. - 8 p.m. St. Mary's County Arts Council

First Friday at the Arts Council Gallery & Gift Shop, [facebook.com/smcartsCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/smcartsCouncil)

12 p.m. - 12 a.m. Viking Axe Throwing

At the Brudergarten in Shepherd's Old Field Market, [facebook.com/vikingaxethrowingandrentals](https://www.facebook.com/vikingaxethrowingandrentals)

12 p.m. - 8 p.m. The Yellow Line Studio

Funny Little Valentine Pop Up Shop, [facebook.com/theyellowline.co](https://www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co)

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. North End Gallery

Member Show Opening, [facebook.com/North.End.Gallery.Leonardtown](https://www.facebook.com/North.End.Gallery.Leonardtown)

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Port of Leonardtown Winery

Live music featuring Joe Parsons and food by Farm.Fork.Soul Food Truck, [facebook.com/portoftownwine](https://www.facebook.com/portoftownwine)

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Board & Brush

Pick Your Project Workshop, [boardandbrush.com/leonardtown](https://www.boardandbrush.com/leonardtown)

6:30 p.m. Spice Studio

2nd Annual Spice Prom, [facebook.com/somdspicestudio](https://www.facebook.com/somdspicestudio)

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. The Yellow Line Studio

First Friday Irish Illustrations and Line Art Workshop, [facebook.com/theyellowline.co](https://www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co)

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Wine & Design

Kids Open Studio - [facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd](https://www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd)

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Wine & Design

Open Studio for teens to adults - [facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd](https://www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd)

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Commission for Women Announces 2023 Honorees

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN 2023 Women's History Month Honorees



DONNA MARIE VOORHAAR
Ruth Bader Ginsberg Lifetime Achievement Award



KRISTINE MILLEN, DIRECTOR
ST. MARY'S CARING SOUP KITCHEN
Hometown Shero Award



The St. Mary's County Commission for Women (CFW) is proud to announce this year's Ruth Bader Ginsberg Lifetime Achievement Award and Hometown Shero Award honorees!

Each year, the members of the St. Mary's County Commission for Women select one woman to receive the Ruth Bader Ginsberg Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is given to a St. Mary's County woman who has, over the course of many years, proven to be an outstanding volunteer who has demonstrated leadership and compassion. This year's honoree, Donna Marie Voorhaar, is one such woman.

Like Justice Ginsberg, Voorhaar is tenacious and dedicated. Her volunteer career began when she was 18 at the St. Mary's Hospital snack bar. After the birth of her sons, Voorhaar served as a Sunday School teacher and youth fellowship counselor with United Methodist Church. She volunteered in special education classroom with St. Mary's County Public Schools, and, in 1978, began volunteering with the Special Olympics of Maryland in St. Mary's County.

Voorhaar joined the Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad in 1985 and moved to the Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad (LPVRS) in 1998. Among other outstanding qualifications, she has her Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Automated External Defibrillator certifications and is an intravenous (IV) technician.

Voorhaar was one of the first females to complete the full firefighter's curriculum in Southern Maryland and was inducted into

the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firefighters Hall of Fame in 2000. She can often be found at LPVRS, where she continues to serve in her role as an EMT/IV technician and responding to emergency situations.

The Hometown Shero Award for 2023 will be presented to the volunteers with St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen and Caring Director Kristine Millen.

Since 1993, the St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen has been a lifesaver for the hungry. They believe that food insecurity not only sickens the body, but it eats away at the soul, so they strive to create a pathway out of hunger by providing nutritional food while viewing each guest as a valued individual. They are the full-time soup kitchen in Southern Maryland.

Millen started her work as a volunteer in the kitchen in 2006. She leads a small staff and group of dedicated volunteers (100+ strong) to feed the hungry and advocate for the people they serve. In 2022, this group of amazing volunteers served 125,054 free meals.

We invite you to help us celebrate the incredible accomplishments of these honorees at the Women's History Month Banquet on Saturday, March 18, at Braddock Hall & Conference Center in the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department (doors open at 10:30 AM).

To purchase tickets or for event information, please visit: stmaryscountymd.gov/cwawards

Questions may be directed to Debra Kane at (301) 475-4200, ext. 1680.

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Pet OF THE WEEK

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With a dog in your life, there's always a reason to smile. And puppies make everything ok!

Hi, my name is Frito. I may have that worried look on my face, but I know that very soon a WONDERFUL LOVING FAMILY is going to walk through the door and give me a FOREVER HOME. I'm so excited! I'm a 5-MONTH OLD PUP that is here at the shelter with a couple of my littermates. My Shelter Pals say FRIENDLY, GENTLE, and LOVING are all words to describe ME. So, if you're looking for MORE LOVE, MORE SMILES, MORE GOOD TIMES then stop by the shelter during adoption hours, Monday-Saturday 12:30-3pm to meet me or email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! Adopt don't shop!

To see more of my 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>



Lt. Harrison Oversees Pre-Trial and Day-Reporting Services



Lt. Sherry Harrison

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office celebrates Women's History Month in March by highlighting some of the careers and achievements of our sisters in uniform.

Sherry Harrison knew she wanted to work in the medical health care field, but she had difficulty finding the right fit for her. She briefly worked in the retail industry before she joined the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division 14 years ago and she looks back with pride on her career move.

Starting out as a Corrections Officer with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, Harrison is now a lieutenant, working in the Community Corrections Center, overseeing inmate day reporting and pre-trial services.

Next door to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center, the Community Corrections Center (CCC) in Leonardtown provides non-violent offenders in the local criminal justice system with access to behavioral health evaluation and treatment, including mental health and substance-use disorders.

Offenders in the pre-trial release and day-reporting programs report to the CCC at least once a week for drug testing. In addition, offenders are remotely tracked each day by a GPS monitoring system on their person. Any deviation in their schedule or location requires staff approval.

For those whose offenses involved alcohol, offenders are also monitored for any levels of intoxication through a portable device that is also remotely tracked.

On a recent day in February, there were 116 inmates being monitored by Corrections staff on pre-trial services or day reporting (formerly called work release).

"Our goal is to rehabilitate," Lt. Harrison said. "We do our best to work with offenders."

In many cases, addiction issues lead to and perpetuate criminal behaviors, she said.

Lt. Harrison joined the Sheriff's Office Corrections Division on March 2, 2009, and said she's enjoyed her career ever since.

"I'm still here. I think it was a good decision," she said. "It's been a good journey. I look back and I say that was a good decision."

In addition to working as a Corrections Officer, she also worked as a booking officer, a transport officer and worked in the Community Supervision Unit at the detention center. "I've been able to learn a lot and move around," within the division, she said.

For those considering a career in Corrections, she advised, "Do it. It's a good opportunity. You'll be able to learn a lot. There's room for growth, a lot of training opportunities. I've definitely learned a lot in my time here."

"If you're interested in law enforcement and a good career, this would be a good choice," she said. "It just takes patience, flexibility with your schedule, but I've seen people leave and come back here. It's a good career."

"Lt. Harrison is a leader and a role model in the Corrections Division," Warden Mary Ann Thompson said. "She is making positive life-changing differences for not only the offenders involved, but their families and ultimately to St. Mary's County."

Learn more about careers with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, at <https://www.firstsheriff.com/employment/default> or call 301-475-4200, ext. 71936.

A View From The BLEACHERS



MEASURING TIME

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

Clocks, watches, phones and computers tell time; humans measure time differently – and often it is personal.

The artist remembers concerts, plays, trips to museums or when a painting or poem perfectly captured their intent. The musician is innately in tune to the time signature of a song and abstract cadence of life – sometimes perfectly in rhythm, more often than not struggling to find a smooth groove. Day to day, the mason keeps an internal clock on setting concrete; longer term, the patina on a mason's well-worn work boots tells an in-depth story – the boots' memorable first day on the job through numerous projects completed in the unforgiving world of brick, block and mortar and while under assault from the full gamut of Mother Nature's wrath. The chef carefully watches the clock while bread bakes or a steak sizzles. The parent watches time between feedings or diaper changes, and is humbled by the years that wiz by in a dizzying blur as a child progresses from infant, to toddler, to adolescent to adult. The vain remember the first wrinkle's or gray hair's arrival, or that moment when it's undeniable that hair was traveling from their head to...other places on their body. Nose. Ears. Back. I'll stop there.

The sports fan measures time through momentous or recurring athletic events. Fall is less September or October and more the arrival of the NFL season and playoff baseball. Spring training and the NCAA Tournament mark the spring; March 20 is just a formality. Summer is playoff basketball and hockey, pints of beer in ballpark bleachers and kids playing in cul-de-sacs and backyards.

Specific events mark history. January 1983, 1988 and 1992: Washington's Super Bowl championships. June 2018: The Caps hoist the Stanley Cup. October 2019: The Nats' World Series. October 1983: Orioles World Series. June 1986: Len Bias's death. September 1995: Cal Ripken Jr breaks Lou Gehrig's consecutive games played record. This stuff is chiseled into my brain as deeply as the most significant events in human history. Every sports fan has theirs too. We offer no apologies.

My memory banks are etched with another melancholy event – the April 1997 death of Jack Kent Cooke, then owner of the Washington football team. I remember where I was and how I felt – like an era had ended, like a part of my childhood was gone and that the future was now uncertain.

Two-plus decades later, uncertainty has been replaced by a complete disaster. RFK Stadium, that once hallowed ground where passionate DMV fans from all personal and political persuasions assembled to celebrate a share love, is now a silent, decomposing carcass. RFK's steady decay is the perfect metaphor for the disintegration of the gleaming, respected franchise Daniel Snyder bought from the Cooke family in 1999 and the embarrassment he hopes to sell today.

Or does he?

Snyder, embattled curmudgeon that he is, announced his intent to sell last November - a welcomed ray of light that teased the end of an unimaginably dark period in franchise history. Despite Snyder's reign of terror, NFL teams are hot, multi-billion-dollar commodities/toys, so bidders figured to line up for Snyder's football jalopy. The assumed favorite was Amazon founder Jeff Bezos – stupid rich, Amazon building its second headquarters in Arlington, owner of The Washington Post.

Wait...owner of what? Uh-oh...

The Post has led several investigations of the Commanders and is credited with revealing much of the disgusting activities oozing out of Snyder, Inc. So needless to say, Bezos and Snyder...probably not sharing bro hugs and trading pictures of billionaire toys. In fact, Snyder is rumored have blocked Bezos's bid outright. Which is so on-brand for Snyder. By doing so he only potentially harms himself (excluding the highest bid, more public vitriol), elevates the legend of Bezos, further stains the franchise he claims to love, and lowers the value of the other 31 NFL teams. Ah, but why should any shred of self-awareness be expected from Snyder now? He is all spite until the bitter end.

But if not Bezos, just let it be someone. For timekeeping D.C. sports fans, "Spring 2023" needs to be synonymous with Snyder's merciful exit.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

To schedule an obituary in the County Times, submit text and picture to 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.

In Remembrance

Gladys Weber, 88



Gladys Weber, 88, of Helen, MD, passed away on February 23, 2023 at her home. She was born on the family farm, where she has resided most of her life, on July 27, 1934 to the late Cora Morgan and the late Johnson Morgan. Gladys is survived by her children JP Weber (Ginny) of Helen, MD, Jack Weber (Tammy) of Leonardtown, MD, Betty Ann Weber (Paul) of Loveville, MD, and Jerry Weber (Stephanie) of Mechanicsville, MD, all of whom she had with Capt. James "Jim" Weber, her siblings Stella Bowles of Helen, MD and Gordon Morgan of Helen, MD, as well as eight grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her siblings Layla McLaughlin, Woodley Morgan, Ethel Hardesty, Hilda Ward, Phyllis Wathen, Christine Morgan, Ellen Armiger, and Edward Morgan.

Gladys grew up a farm girl and worked the farm with her brothers and sisters, planting and harvesting tobacco for many years. Throughout her life Gladys was a member of The American Legion and The Mechanicsville Moose Lodge, as well as volunteering for the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department. She also helped run "Jim and Gladys' Pizza Booth" at the carnival for close to 20 years.

Cooking was a passion of hers she learned alongside her mother Cora and her sisters. Gladys often cooked and catered many meals for wedding, parties, and all occasions for most of her life. She made the best crabcakes and cakes in the county. Gladys loved the heat, sunshine, and the color red. She enjoyed sitting outside on her porch for hours and watching the happenings on the farm. Unfortunately, later in life she suffered from dementia and was looked after by her daughter, with help from Brian, until she passed away.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM in the funeral home chapel. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be John Weber, Chris Goldsborough, Mike Weber, Brian Bruns, Glen Shotwell, and Timmy English.

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

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

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

Mary Anne Clark, 96



Mary Anne "Mom Mom" Clark passed away peacefully at her home in Dameron, MD on January 31, 2023. Anne was born on February 2, 1926, in Kalmia (Bel Air), Maryland to the late Josiah Wilson and Mary Wheeler Wilson. She is preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Windfield "Tom" Clark (2010), sons Tommy Clark (1953) and Ben Clark (2010), her sister Florence Wilson (2005), and brother Len Wilson (2000).

As a military spouse for over 20 years, Anne traveled the world with Tom, living in many overseas and stateside locations, finally settling in St. Mary's County in 1964. She was a civil service worker at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, working her way from a bagger at the Commissary to the first female supervisor of receiving within the supply department. She has been a longtime supporter of St. Mary's Relay for Life, Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad, Hospice House, and many other community service organizations.

Anne loved socializing with friends and family, having never met a stranger! She was a social butterfly and loved by all who knew her. Any outing required an additional 30 minutes so Mom Mom had enough time to say goodbye and hug everyone on her way out the door. If she wasn't playing cards at the Loffler Senior Center, you could find her at the dining room table playing games with the family. She was an excellent Pitch and Pinochle player and enjoyed spending time demonstrating her skills. Anne also enjoyed regular trips to the Casinos and Bingo at the American Legion. With her lucky fingernail polish on, she usually beat the house odds and came home with more than she left with.

Anne is survived by her children Larry Clark, Joe Clark (Brenda), Rose Page, Stephen Clark (Roxanne), and Sarah Cannavo (Paul), all of whom reside in the Dameron/Ridge area. She has 18 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren who she adored, and 1 great great-grandchild.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2023, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at the Ridge Volunteer Firehouse, 13820 Point Lookout Rd, Ridge MD 20680. A "Life Well Lived" program will begin at 2:30 pm to share photos, stories, and fond memories of Anne and a life well lived.

In lieu of flowers, Anne would have wanted donations made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Stuart Baldwin, 62



Stuart William Baldwin, 62, of California, MD, beloved husband, father, son, brother and friend went home to be with Jesus Christ, February 22, 2023 at Washington Hospital Center. Stuart was born to Richard Vance and Mildred Ann Baldwin on February 29, 1960 in Troy, New York. By God's great mercy Stuart was born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1).

Stuart graduated from Frederick High School in 1978 and completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. After moving to St. Mary's County in 1984 to work at Tracor Applied Sciences, he also joined his rich baritone voice to the Southern Mix barber-shop quartet and sailed and raced his 24' sailboat Subject to Change on the Patuxent River. He loved learning and went on to earn master's degrees in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering from Florida Institute of Technology. Enjoying a 40-year career as a software engineer, he was most recently employed at Platform Aerospace.

Stuart married Theresa (Buysse) on

April 17, 2004 in Lexington Park, MD, and was blessed with 19 years of marriage and two children, daughter Karly, now age 16 and Kelvin, age 14. He loved being with his family, especially camping and building fires together, daddy-daughter dates and building and fixing things with his son. He enjoyed collecting antiques, working with computers and electronics and singing. His devotion to his Savior was seen in how he served as a Trustee, AWANA leader, and Sunday School teacher.

He is predeceased by his father, Richard and is survived by his mother Ann, his wife Terri, and their two children, Karly and Kelvin, and his siblings, Keith, Scott and Elaine Baldwin. A Memorial service will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 11:00 am in the Chapel at SAYSF Bible Church 46544 Rue Purchase Rd, Lexington Park, MD 20653, followed by a luncheon in the Fellowship Center. In lieu of flowers Terri requests that donations be made to one of Stu's favorite non-profits, Redeemer Broadcasting Radio. <http://www.redeemberbroadcasting.org/>

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

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



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St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 1658
Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 1080
Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 3101

Unless otherwise specified, all activities are open to Senior Activity Center participants ages 50+. Please call your local Senior Activity Center or visit StMarysMD.com/aging for the most up-to-date information.

Dungeons And Dragons

Are you a fan of storytelling? Have you ever wanted to be a character in Lord of the Rings? Are you looking for something new to try out? Have you been playing D&D since the 70s and want a new group to adventure with? Join Peter Friesen to learn about D&D and play a series of one-shot campaigns! D&D will be meeting at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Mondays, at 5 p.m.

NEW Crochet Club

Would you like to work on your crochet projects and socialize with other people who enjoy crochet? The crochet club will meet at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 5 p.m. Materials are not included.

Write Your Memoirs for Your Grandchildren

In this six-week course, published author Joyce Haderly will show you how to choose special memories from your lifetime and write about them so that your stories can be passed down to current and future generations. What may have been everyday events to you will be fascinating knowledge to great-great grandchildren- what better way for them to gain that knowledge than to read your very own words? This class will meet at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Thursdays, March 16-April 13, at 12:30 p.m. (6 sessions) Registration for this course opens at 8 a.m. on Monday,

February 20. Visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging to register or leave a message on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660, if you require assistance.

Keys to Senior Independence

Are you or a loved one thinking about retirement? Do you know how to access Medicare, Medicaid, or other programs and services? Are you seeking volunteer opportunities within the St. Mary's County community? Find all that and more with the Department of Aging & Human Services during the Keys to Senior Independence series! These presentations will be held on Tuesdays, March 7-28, from 6-9 p.m., at the College of Southern Maryland - Leonardtown Campus, Building B-Room 206.

This year's Keys to Senior Independence presentation topics are:

- **Aging Actively - Tuesday, March 7:** Join the Department of Aging & Human Services and St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks and learn about the various ways you can be physically active and remain involved in the St. Mary's County community!
- **Planning for the Unexpected - Tuesday, March 14:** Learn about emergency plans, Advance Health Care Directives, Medicare planning, and other things to have in place in case of emergency.
- **Protecting Your Identity - Tuesday, March 21:** A representative from the

Sheriff's Office will teach community members about scams that are directed toward the aging population and how to detect, avoid, and report them.

- **Aging in Place - Tuesday, March 28:** Aging in place is important. Learn about programs that provide support for family caregivers, provide mobility equipment, and learn how to make your home more user-friendly overall!

Sign up for one presentation or all four! For more information, or to register, contact Sarah Miller, Community Programs & Outreach Division Manager, at 301-475-4200, ext. 1073, or Sarah.Miller@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Service Dog Etiquette with AM Dillon

Do you know the difference between emotional support animals and service dogs? Do you know what to do or not do when there's an encounter with a service animal? Do you know there is such a thing as Service Dog Etiquette which allows service dog teams to work and travel effectively and safely? This free presentation on Tuesday, March 7, from 1-2 p.m. at Northern Senior Activity Center will give you a better understanding of the rights and responsibilities of service dogs and their handlers. Attendees will receive handouts and resources, including some things to remember and get to meet a working service dog, seeing some of the tasks he does to support his handler! Presenter AM Dil-

lon is a wheelchair user and service dog handler. She is Branch Manager of the Charlotte Hall Library in Charlotte Hall, Maryland, where she is also ADA Coordinator for the St. Mary's County Library system. AM's service dog, Lucky VII will co-present. To register for this free event, click on the "View and Sign Up for Activities and Programs" button at www.stmarysmd.com/aging. Accommodations can be made for those requiring registration assistance by leaving a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

Educational Video at Loffler

Elie Wiesel, First Person, Singular, a video produced by PBS will be showing at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Thursday, March 9, at 10 a.m. Description: Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel reflects upon his life, work, and concerns for mankind's future. The celebrated author of "Night" reconstructed his life after surviving Auschwitz to write, teach, and campaign for human rights. As a journalist, prolific author, and human rights activist, Wiesel focuses on how human beings dehumanize others in order to kill with impunity and reflects on the re-emergence of terrorism after 9/11. Producer: Robert Gardner. Register for this video at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging or leave a message on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660. 16 seats available. 120 min. Free

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



Internet Basics

Get better acquainted with how the Internet works and how you can get it to work better for you! Friday, March 3 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Leonardtown Library. Almost everything is online these days so being able to use the Internet is now an essential skill. Boost your confidence with this introductory class where we'll talk about how to perform web searches, judge if a website has legitimate information, create an online account, and fill out forms or registrations online. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Genealogy Series - Irish Genealogy

Interested in researching your Irish roots or simply curious about your Irish ancestry? Join us for a vir-

tual discussion on Wednesday, March 8 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. to explore the Irish institutions and resources to utilize when researching Irish genealogy. Irish Genealogy will focus on how to research one's Irish roots and ancestry by concentrating on Irish resources. Often times, when we are researching our family history, we run into difficulty once we arrive at the point in which our ancestor arrived in America. For this session, we will look at various Irish resources, such as the National Library of Ireland, the National Archives, and others, that offer genealogical services and house records that may be of interest. We welcome anyone who is enthusiastic in their Irish ancestry, whether they are looking to continue their research or simply curious on where to begin. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Intro to Google Workspace

Did you know that Google is not just a search engine? With Google Workspace, you can access computer programs such as Gmail, Google Drive, Google Calendar, and more! Tuesday, March 7 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Charlotte Hall Library. If you are new to using Google Workspace and would like to learn more about how to make it work for you, then this is the class for you! Please note that this class does not come with a certificate and is intended for those who are familiar with using computers. Registration is recommended. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Cricut Crafts: Water Bottle Designs: Using Adhesive Vinyl

Unlock your crafting potential by learning how to use the Cricut cutting

machine to make your own adhesive vinyl design that can be applied to curved surfaces. Join us for this introductory, in-person class in the Leonardtown Library where you'll learn the basics of how the Cricut cutter works as well the use of Cricut Design Space on Saturday, March 11 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. You'll create your own vinyl design to apply it to an insulated water bottle to take with you! After learning the basics, you'll be able to return to the Makerspace during open hours to use the Cricut on your own to create whatever you can imagine! Visit the Makerspace website to see open hours and learn about all it has to offer! No experience is necessary and all materials are provided. Register on www.stmalib.org

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Mar 2

Diamond Dazzle: Maryland Blue Crab

Northern Senior Activity Center
29655 Charlotte Hall Rd
Charlotte Hall
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Thursdays, March 2-23
Cost: \$15

Martha Baker, local craft guru, invites all skill levels to create a beautiful Maryland Blue Crab diamond art. Martha will guide throughout the process. This 4-week class ends just before Maryland Day (March 25). You'll have a festive piece of art to display in celebration! All supplies are included in the cost. www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

American Legion Post 221
21690 Colton Point Rd.
Avenue
8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00pm. E-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301*481*6625 for more information. Tell them you saw the announcement on the SoMD Internet Calendar.

Fri, Mar 3

Lenten Fish-Shrimp Dinners

St. George Catholic Church
19199 St. George's Church Road
Valley Lee
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

St. George Catholic Church Lenten Dinners—Every Friday evening dinners Menu is Shrimp or Fresh Catfish with Pancit, French Fries, Fritters and Soup. \$20 per dinner, we hope to see you again this year!

Sat, Mar 4

Golf Cart Raffle

2nd Dist. VFDRS Station
19330 Piney Point Road
Valley Lee
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

2nd Dist. VFD & RS Fundraiser Golf Cart Raffle Drawing Wed. 11/8/2023 at 7:00 p.m. Buy your tickets 1 for \$15.00 or 3 for \$ 35.00

Tickets & Info Contact Dee Dee at 240-561-2750 or fundraising@sdvfd.rs.org

Golf Cart Specs.

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- Metallic Silver with Beige Seats and Top
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- 4 Year Suspension Warranty

Mechanicsville Moose Texas Holdem

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
27636 Mechanicsville Rd.
Mechanicsville
2p.m. to 11p.m.

\$120.00 Buy in (includes Bounty)
Starting Stack 20,000 chips
Registration opens at 12pm. Pre-registration is encouraged but not necessary. There will be one re-entry for players who bust out until the second break. Blind levels will change every 20 minutes. Cash Game will start at 12 pm for anyone interested and will run concurrent with the tournament. Food available for additional cost. There will be a 50/50 raffle and cash wheel separate from tournament entry.

For more information please contact:
James Dean
240 577 0828
jdeanjunior@gmail.com

Sun, Mar 5

Quarter Auction to Benefit Peter Reshetar

Mechanicsville Vol Fire Department
(Golden Beach)

29848 Therese Circle
Mechanicsville
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Angels of Hope Quarter Auction to benefit Peter Reshetar to help with medical expenses while waiting for a kidney donor. There will be information on how to become a living donor at this event.

Come dress in something green or St. Patrick's to get a free paddle when you purchase 2 for \$5.

Green also represents Kidney Disease Awareness.

Food will be available. 50/50 Raffle. Basket Raffles

Reservations are not required but encouraged especially if you are in a group

Questions/Reservations call Darlene Sampson 301-751-7475 or Beth Thompson 240-475-5640

Upcoming

Fundraiser for St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen

March 11
Patuxent Presbyterian Church
23421 Kings Creek Road
California
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Numerous performers will hold a gospel concert to benefit for the soup kitchen and Three Oaks homeless shelter.

Includes Bonita Ruff, Keep in Touch Brothers, Ron Cradle, Harmonizers of Faith and St. Peter Claver Church Choir.

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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Mar 2

Sea Squirts: Seahorses

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

Children 18 months to three years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Cost is free with admission.

Fri, Mar 3

First Fossil Friday!

Calvert Marine Museum
1-4:30 p.m.

Fossil hunters, bring your fossil finds from the Calvert Cliffs or other local areas to be identified! This service is provided for free; however, admission fees apply for access to CMM exhibits.

Annamarie After Hours

Annamarie Sculpture Garden
5-7 p.m.

Opening Reception for Vibe Check: A Teen Art Exhibit: Enjoy a special family-friendly opening in celebration of a new teen exhibit in the Kay Daugherty Gallery. Both galleries in the Arts Building will be open until 7 p.m., along with the sculpture garden and walking trails. Enjoy live music, tour the new exhibit, take a walk, and appreciate an evening of art and nature. Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/kids; 2 & under free; members free. Reservations are not required, just come. Details: www.annmariegarden.org

Sat, Mar 4

ACLT's Annual Meeting

In-person at St. John Vianney, Prince Frederick and Virtual
10 a.m.

American Chestnut Land Trust: Review accomplishments from current 5-year plan (2019-2023) and strategize about next five-year plan (to be adopted in 2024).

HHS Quarter Auction Benefit

Huntingtown High School cafeteria
4125 Solomons Island Road
12-2 p.m.

Join the Fun Bunch team as we join with our charity partner the Huntingtown High School Class of 2025 for their next quarter auction. Win prizes from our Fun Bunch small business representatives from:

- Chesapeake Barkuterie
- Cheesecake Mama
- Chum Buckets
- Double Ks Creative Treasures by Kimberly
- Origami Owl
- Couponer's Closet
- Howe Inspired Creations
- Lemongrass Spa
- Mary & Martha
- Signature HomeStyles
- Pampered Chef
- Salt Water Sailor
- Scentsy
- Sew Much Fun
- Tastefully Simple
- The Body Shop
- Thirty One
- Tobacco Stick Creations
- Tupperware
- Your Changing Style

Regular bidding paddles are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Bring quarters and bid on the items you'd like to win.

All in paddles will be available at the door for \$44 each (gets you an entry into every item on the program—\$45.75 value!)

Info/reservations, please call
410-474-2958.

free with admission.

Upcoming

Bluegrass at the Elks

Calvert Elks Lodge #2620
1015 Dares Beach Road
Prince Frederick
Sunday March 12
2 p.m.

The next Southern Maryland Bluegrass concert series features a new group on the Bluegrass scene, *Volume Five* Bluegrass band. *Glen Harrell*, the bands soulful lead singer and fiddler along with *Jacob Burselson* on Guitar & Vocals, *Aaron Ramsey* on Mandolin and Vocals, *Chris Wade* on banjo, and *Jacob Eller* on bass are creating their own identity in the industry with their unique sound that players and listeners will remember for many years to come – a band that sounds like no other band in the business. To date they have released 7 albums on the Mountain Fever Record label.

Maritime Performance Series: The Eastman String Band

Calvert Marine Museum
Friday, March 24
7 p.m.

Soaring harmonies, high energy instrumentals, and heartfelt originals punctuate each performance of The Eastman String Band. Tim and Savannah Finch began playing music together at the Friday night jams once held at Tim's music store, "Good Deale Bluegrass" in Deale, Maryland. Their band consists of a cast of some of the finest players in music, which prominently includes renowned fiddler Jon Glik. Performance is in the museum's Harms Gallery starting at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online at bit.ly/MaritimeConcerts and \$25 at the door.

Thu, Mar 9

Sea Squirts: Seahorses

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

Children 18 months to three years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Cost is

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CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of February 13 – February 19, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,733 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 23-9760

On February 13, 2023, Deputy Tavares responded to the 11600 block of Cowpoke Circle in Lusby for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised sometime between Feb. 11 and Feb. 13, an unknown suspect (s) caused damage to the victim's windshield. Deputy Tavares observed the rear windshield of the truck to be shattered. The estimated value of damaged property is unknown at this time.

Damaged Property: 22-10157

On February 15, 2023, DFC Kwitowski responded to the shoulder of Southern Connector Blvd. and HG Trueman Road in Lusby, for a suspicious vehicle. Deputy Kwitowski arrived on scene and discovered a silver sedan with the passenger side door open and the side window busted out. Shards of glass were observed on the ground and miscellaneous items were scattered throughout the vehicle. The estimated value of damaged property is unknown at this time.

Theft: 22-10301

On February 15, 2023, Deputy Gadwill responded to the Dunkirk Walmart located at 10600 Town Center Blvd. in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a suspect described as a black male approximately 6 feet tall, weighing 300 lbs., between the ages of 40 and 55, stole 2 Ozark Trail 6 person instant cabin tents (valued at \$100 each) and a pair of Herman Survivor Grizzly shoes (valued at \$65). The suspect was seen placing the stolen items in the back of a black Nissan and fleeing the area. The estimated value of stolen property is \$265.00.

Damaged Property: 23-11222

On February 19, 2023, Deputy Shoemaker responded to the 11300 block of Rawhide Road in Lusby, for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised an unknown male hit a golf ball into the victim's back yard. The suspect pulled the victim's wooden fence back in an attempt to retrieve the golf ball causing damage to the fence. The estimated value of damaged property is \$60.00.

Theft: 23-11131

On February 19, 2023, Deputy Huy responded to the BP Store located at 2975 W. Chesapeake Beach Road in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a male and female entered the business, walked around the store looking at the alcohol amongst the isles. The complainant observed the male place a New Amsterdam Passionfruit bottle in his pants and walk past all points of sale. The pair entered a grey Audi and fled the area. The first subject is described as a tall black male with braids in his hair, wearing light blue jeans, a white shirt with a black coat, black New Balance shoes and a black beanie hat. The second suspect is described as a black female with braids in her hair, wearing a white hoodie with black stripes, a long black coat, gray leggings, and gray tennis shoes. The total value of stolen property is \$12.99.

ARRESTS



up camp outside the business, harassing

On February 13, 2023, DFC Rzepkowski responded to the 900 block of Costley Way in Prince Frederick, for the report of loitering. The complainant advised a male was setting

employees. Deputies arrived on scene and observed **Nyeqaan Jacquice Washington**, 25 of no fixed address, sitting underneath the Mattress Firm window next to a 'No Loitering' sign. Investigation revealed Washington had been trespassed indefinitely from the property in January. Washington was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.



Allen Hayes, 29 of Marbury and **Christopher Dean Allen**, 26 of Port Tobacco, who were observed to be under the influence of a narcotic. Upon exiting the vehicle, a partially smoked cannabis cigarette fell from Allen's lap onto the seat. A vehicle search was conducted and yielded 2.3 ounces of powdered suspected molly (MDMA), over 50 syringes, several spoons with burnt residue, and two scales with a white powdery residue (suspected molly). Hayes and Allen were both placed under arrest. Upon a search incident to arrest, a container of 12.8 ounces of suspected molly was found on Allen's person. Allen was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, and CDS: Distribution of Narcotics. Hayes was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



On February 14, 2023, DFC Wilder responded to the 13900 block of HG Trueman Road in Solomons, for the report of a suspicious person. The complainant advised a male subject with a face covering was acting in a suspicious manner. DFC Wilder arrived on scene and made contact with a male matching the suspect description identified as **Spencer Lee Brown**, 28 of Lexington Park. A strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was detected coming from Brown's person. Brown began cursing and speaking loudly causing a public disturbance. Brown continued his loud and disorderly behavior while shouting profanities as patients looked on. Brown failed to obey the deputy's commands and was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Intoxicated Public Disturbance, Disorderly Conduct, and Resisting/Interfering with Arrest.

On February 15, 2023, Deputy Dailley responded to a parking lot in the 900 block of Costley Way in Prince Frederick, for the report of two males in a vehicle using needles to inject drugs. Contact was made with the **Christopher**

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>. Tipsters may also email ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov

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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In Remembrance

To schedule an obituary in the County Times, submit text and picture to 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.

Jean Moore, 94



Jean Somervell Moore, of Towson, died Feb. 16, 2023, at the Pickersgill Retirement Community after a stroke. She was 94. She had lived in the Baltimore suburbs of Riderwood, Ruxton, and Towson for the past 60 years. She was married for 67-and-a-half years to John D. "Jack" Moore, who died in 2021.

Jean Courtney Somervell was born in Durham, N.C., on Nov. 7, 1928, the daughter of William Dorsey Somervell and Geraldine Rolfe Somervell. She grew up in Prince Frederick under the care of her father's sister, Olive Somervell Smither. She graduated from Calvert County High School and attended Wake Forest University. She graduated with a BA from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1949. She was married in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Prince Frederick on Dec. 12, 1953.

She had studied to become a school teacher and taught in Mt. Airy for two years. After that she worked as an employee trainer at Hutzler Brothers Department Store, and in admissions at Johns Hopkins

Hospital. Later in life she taught correspondence school at the Calvert School in Baltimore. For roughly the last 15 years of her working life, she was the office manager for a Ruxton pediatrician, Dr. Annie Bestebreurtje.

She is survived by her four children and their spouses: J. Duncan Moore, Jr. (Carolyn), of Chicago; Elizabeth Somervell Holcomb (Stan), of Austin, TX; W. David Moore, of Miami Beach, FL; and A. Dorsey Moore (Jane), of San Jose, CA. She is also survived by five grandchildren. She was predeceased by a brother, William Dorsey Somervell, Jr., who was killed in World War II.

She built her life around her husband, her children, her church, and her community. She was naturally competitive and athletic. She loved to play tennis and was devoted to her various foursomes at bridge.

After they stopped working, the Moores spent winters in Florida, where they enjoyed an active social life built around friends, family, and golf. Their retirement stretched to almost 30 years. They traveled — to China, Japan, the Baltic, and several times to Scotland.

She was a faithful member of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Ruxton since 1962. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Dog's Death Under Investigation

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) deputies responded to the 300 block of Troop Court in Sunderland on Feb. 13 for the report of a motor vehicle accident involving a dog. The homeowner advised the deputies that an Amazon delivery driver intentionally ran over their dog, a female Weimaraner named Starr.

The case is currently under investigation. The dog's owners told Fox 5 News that their security camera captured the incident in which the driver was allegedly seen backing down their driveway, hitting the family's dog, and then driving away.

The video allegedly captured the Amazon delivery driver pulling up in the drive-

way. It showed the dog walking from their front yard to behind the van.

According to the TV station, the dog's owners say the security footage shows the driver stopping, pulling forward again and then leaving without notifying the dog's owners that she had been run over. Starr died a short time later.

The family reports that they contacted Amazon and at first were offered a \$5 account credit and a free wind chime. Later the family alleges the company upped their offer to paying the vet bills and a free postal drop box for the end of their driveway.

The television station reported the family was told that all Amazon delivery vehicles are not equipped with backup sensors.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Mayor Represents Citizens During Legislative Session

During the 2023 Maryland Legislative Session Chesapeake Beach Mayor Patrick J. "Irish" Mahoney participated in several House and Senate bills. The Mayor closely followed eight (8) specific bills and testified in support or opposition.

"A good Mayor must be actively engaged in the Maryland State Legislative process and lobby for the Town citizens he is serving. The role of Mayor requires one to look past the immediate happenings of the Town and to seek to understand what legislation is taking place that could impact our citizens. I consider it an honor to continue to speak on behalf of the town citizens", stated Mayor Patrick J. "Irish" Mahoney of his recent participation and following of bills that directly effect Town citizens.

The Mayor testified in support of:

- Renaming the Fishing Creek Bridge the "Fallen Heroes Bridge". This bill was sponsored by Senator Jackson & Delegate Long.
 - Declaring Aug 31 to be recognized Statewide as "Overdose Awareness Day". This bill was sponsored by Senator Jackson & Delegate Long.
 - Giving municipalities the choice of prohibiting recreational cannabis dispensaries within its town limits.
- The Mayor testified in opposition of:
- Increasing the number of Bingo slots permitted in the Town of Chesapeake Beach.

The Mayor and Town Council will continue to make information available to Town citizens.

Online Portal Adds Convenience for Permit Applications

Calvert County residents and businesses can now apply for building permits from the comfort of their own home or office through the county's Encompass online portal. This new feature expands the array of digital services already available to customers through the portal, which include the ability to pay for, manage and print permits.

Customers can visit Encompass. CalvertCountyMd.gov to register for an account. The portal enables customers to view all types of permits, including residential and commercial building, electrical, plumbing, gas and grading permits, as well as utility permits.

Credit card and eCheck payments are accepted through the portal for permits issued by Calvert County. A convenience fee of 2.7% for credit card payments and \$2.25 for eCheck payments will be added to the permit transaction total.

Permits are required for certain residen-

tial and commercial projects to ensure that repairs, additions or alterations are done safely and meet building, construction and zoning codes. Anyone planning a project can visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Permit to be guided through what permits, forms, fees or approvals are required for a specific property or work type before getting started.

For additional information, contact the Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning, Office of Inspections & Permits at 410-535-2155 or by email at inspections.permits@calvertcountymd.gov. For help setting up an Encompass account, contact encompass@calvertcountymd.gov.

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov. Stay up to date with Calvert County Government on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd and YouTube at www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

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What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their Feb. 15 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick.

CSPR-142795, Calvert Gateway, Lot 12R, Retail Building 'Am' located at 10380 Town Center Boulevard, Dunkirk, on a 4.04-acre lot, zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed 15,493-square-foot building for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. This project is on private water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted February 23, 2022. Agent: Bay Engineering.

CSPR-142828, Magnolia Ridge West, located at Armory Road and Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, on multiple parcels totaling 24.497 acres, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District. Proposed approximately 91,000-square-foot creating 79 townhomes. This project is on public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted April 27, 2022. Agent: Barrett & Associates.

CSPR-142842, Sunset Terrace Condominiums, Mixed Use, located at 14474 & 14478 South Solomons Island Road, Solomons, on two lots totaling .42 acres, zoned

Solomons Town Center. Proposed 19,191 square foot, three-story building for mixed use: 1,000 square foot commercial retail space and 18,191 square feet for eight condominiums with parking and site improvements. This project is on public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted July 27, 2022. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates

CSPR-142856, Solomons Condominiums, located at 14516 & 14518 South Solomons Island Road, Solomons, on two lots totaling .67 acres, zoned Solomons Town Center. Proposed 34,483-square-foot, four-story building for mixed use: 2,450-square-foot commercial retail space and 32,033 square feet for 13 multi-family condominiums with parking and site improvements. This project is in the Critical Area and on public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted July 27, 2022. Agent: Barrett & Associates.

CSPR-142881, Prince Frederick Town Center South, Shopping Plaza, located on South Solomons Island Road, Prince Frederick, on 115-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Forest District. This project will have private water but will utilize public sewer. Proposed 75,099 square feet of disturbance for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. The concept submittal was accepted September 28, 2022. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates.

CSPR-142871, Calvert Hills - Phase II, located on Calvert Hills Road, Prince Frederick on a 2.33-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Village. This project is proposed for 35 apartment units, served by public water & sewer, to complete the development that started with Calvert Hills - Phase I. The concept submittal was accepted October 26, 2022. Agent: Bay Engineering.

CSPR-142896, Dunkirk Business Center - Lot 3, Flex Space, located on Keith Lane, Owings on a 1.15-acre parcel, zoned I-1 Light Industrial. Proposed 9,750-foot, one-story building for flex space. The project will have private water and septic. The concept submittal was accepted October 26, 2022. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associate

The following Major Subdivision Proposed Project List for Upcoming Review was also submitted at the same meeting.

1) **SD-142770, Lusby Villas**, Lot 1, located on Lusby Parkway in Lusby. One commercial lot proposed on one parcel consisting of 24.87 acres, Zoned Lusby Town Center, Village Residential Office District, Tier I. The Preliminary Plan sub-

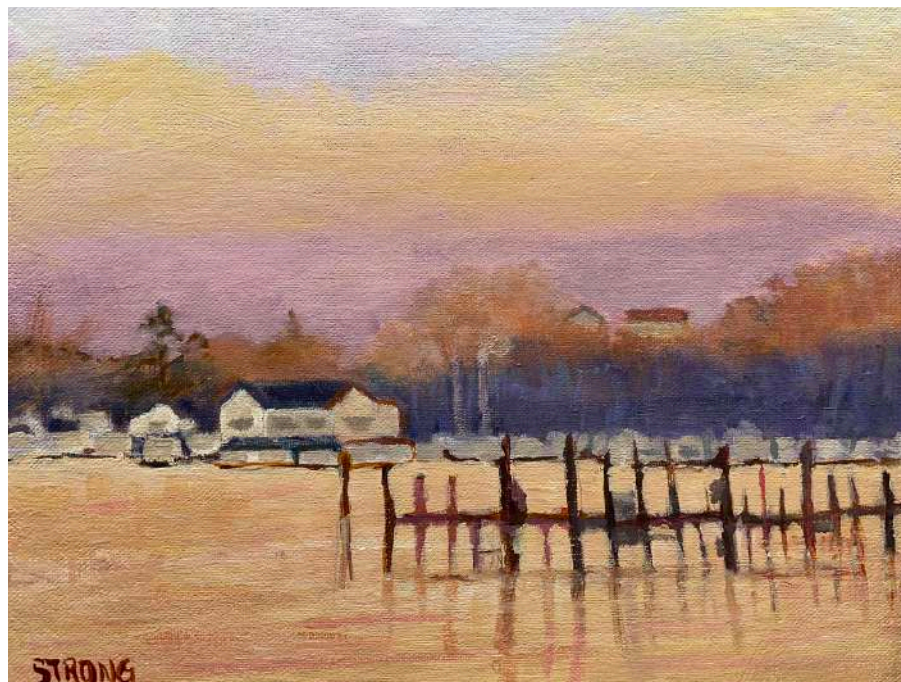
mittal was accepted January 26, 2022. Agent: Barrett & Associates.

Concept submittals have been removed from this list. There is no assurance that those projects will reach Preliminary Plan status. If/when they do, they will be placed on this list under their Preliminary Plan project number.

Information provided by Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning.



Under the Chesapeake Skies



March 2 – March 26, 2023
Open House March 4, 1 – 4 PM

Back by popular demand, March brings the theme of "Under the Chesapeake Skies" to the Artworks@7th Gallery. Our communities along the Chesapeake Bay enjoy an abundant source of nature activities enjoyed by all ages up and down the long Calvert coast.

The Chesapeake skies are a chromatic wonder, and the bay is its mirror. All of this inspires artists to capture the beauty and

awe of the Chesapeake Bay, whether it be the sky, the water, or the landscape. Such as Davy Strong's "Evening Sky" and Tracy Vernon's "Shadow sails."

Our featured Artists this month are Randy and Marie Estabrook. Randy Estabrook, artist, cabinetmaker, entrepreneur, writer, poet, and public speaker decided after 20 years to leave the firm he started, and found that he retained a burning need to create with his hands.

Marie is a marine ecologist. Her job with

the federal government moved her out of the laboratory and away from the field, so she gravitated to the ceramic studio to keep her hands in the earth and in the water.

Randy and his wife Marie set up their ceramic studio in Port Republic, Maryland. Most of Randy's work is wheel thrown, using different firing techniques such as wood, pit, gas, raku and electric. Marie works in clay to create shapes that fit together in an organic fashion, which allows her to continue to communicate how landscapes can reflect ecosystem resilience and the vastness of the natural world.

Please join us for our opening reception on March 4 from 1 until 4 where you can meet the artists; light refreshments will be served. If you can't make the reception, visit the gallery any time during the month to see art from local artists.

Money spent locally stays in the local economy and continues to strengthen the economic base of the entire community. Small local businesses make indispensable contributions to communities and neighborhoods. Supporting local artists allows them the opportunity to continue to serve their communities. You will often see members of Artworks@7th supporting local charities and organizations by participating in art shows, teaching workshops, and donating items for fundraisers.

ArtWorks@7th is located at 8905 Chesapeake Avenue (near 2nd street) in North Beach, Maryland. Our hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

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Alzheimer's: After the Diagnosis, Then What?

from the Law Office of Lynda J. Striegel

Once a loved one has a diagnosis of Alzheimer's, what can be done to provide protection to that person and the rest of the family?

Fortunately, Alzheimer's disease is being diagnosed at earlier stages. With an early diagnosis, the person with the disease most often has time and capacity to make some decisions about their own care before the loss of cognitive abilities prevents them from doing so. It is critical that those diagnosed early take advantage of that time by doing some financial and legal planning.

First, discuss your diagnosis with your loved ones. Let them know you are assembling all your financial information and pursuing legal solutions so that your wishes can be made known.

The pace of Alzheimer's disease is unknown. It can progress slowly or quickly in different people. Do not put off your discussion of what you want. Review all of your financial and insurance resources, including investment portfolios, retirement accounts, bonds, social security, pensions, life, health, disability and long-term care insurance. Generally, what you want to do is assemble your financial life into a pile of documents that can be easily accessed by others. Don't forget to add a list of your computer and account passwords. This "roadmap" will make it easier for a family member or loved one to assist you when you need it.

Check your insurance policies for long-term care options, including home care, assisted living facilities and nursing homes. And, while you are going through the process, do not hesitate to contact advisers such as your insurance agent, to ask questions about your coverage.

Check your beneficiary designations on all your insurance and retirement policies and make sure those are as you want them.

Next, see an attorney for estate planning. This involves creating a very important document—the Power of Attorney or POA. Under a POA, you appoint someone to take care of you medically and financially and also to act as your Guardian. You can only execute a POA if you are competent to do so, that is you understand what you are doing. You must anticipate that at some point you will not be competent to create a POA; that's why the POA should be created as soon as there is a diagnosis. Of course, the POA is a critical document whether or not a person has Alzheimer's disease. Put simply, no one can help you medically or financially unless you designate them in a document, the POA.

Choosing someone to appoint as "attorney-in-fact" in the POA can be a difficult decision. As I say, choose people that love you because they certainly will have power. And, most POAs have no trigger events. This means that if you are unable to care for yourself, the POA steps in and takes care of you. The POA doesn't need to have doctors certify that you cannot make decisions for yourself. You can choose one person for medical care and another for financial care, but make sure they can work together to help you. Keep in mind that the person you choose doesn't need to be an expert in these matters. That person just needs to love you.

Although you appoint loved ones to care for you medically, you never want to put someone you love in the position of pulling the plug on you. You make those decisions for yourself in a document called a Living Will. This is the standard "no heroic measures" document. Preparing this document will take the burden of final decision-making off your loved ones.

Finally, you would think that your loved ones would be able to put you into an institution if you required it, but they do not have the power to do so unless you name them as your Guardians in your POA. If you do not have a POA that appoints your loved ones as Guardians, they will have to go through a court procedure to be named as your Guardians. That takes time and can be quite costly.

Of course, other documents such as a Will or Living Trust will also be important in protecting yourself and your loved ones. But, the Power of Attorney is the best place for you and your loved ones to start. Getting that done will give you peace of mind knowing that people who love you will have the power to take care of you.

To learn more about estate planning, join me at a free seminar on the third Wednesday of every month at 11am in our offices at 8906 Bay Avenue, North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to reserve your space. See you then.

Graduation Rates Remain High Despite COVID-19

Calvert Exceeds State Average

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

"The percentage of Maryland students receiving a high school diploma in four years remains consistently high," according to a Feb. 28 press release from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

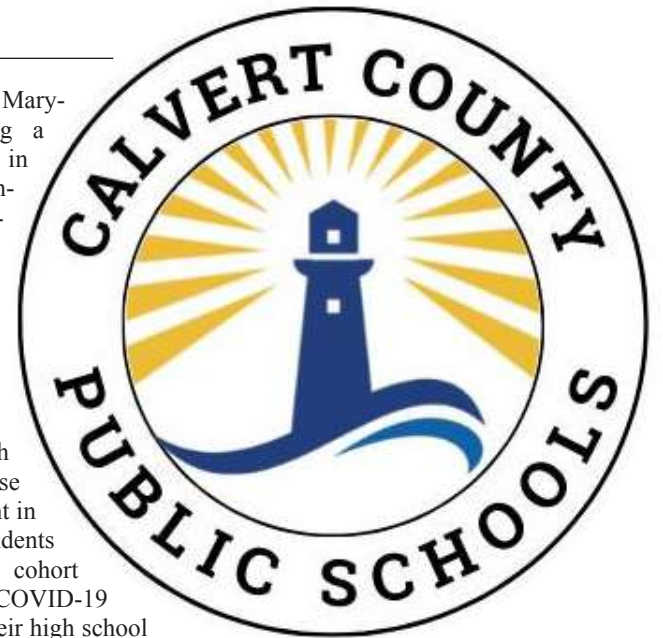
The release reports, "The four-year cohort graduation rate was 86.3 percent in 2022 which is only a small decrease compared to 87.2 percent in the prior school year. Students graduating in the 2022 cohort were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic for most of their high school experience. The pandemic impacted graduation rates in 2022 because schools closed in the spring of the students' 10th grade year, and virtual learning was primarily applied until they returned to the physical classroom in their 12th grade year."

The report says, "The graduation and dropout rates for student groups also remained largely constant from previous years, although gaps between student groups persist. Black/African American students saw improvement in the four-year graduation rate. Additionally, English Language Learners and students with disabilities both saw an improved four-year graduation rate and a decrease in the dropout rate since last year."

The information provided by MSDE says Calvert's graduation rate was not available. However the data on Calvert in the state Report Card did show a 93.94 percent graduation rate, although it noted the county did not make any improvement in its graduation rate from the previous year although it did make the state target.

"Our students are resilient and even in the face of a global pandemic, they remained committed to their education and their futures," said Maryland State Board of Education President Clarence C. Crawford. "We will continue to work to ensure that every Maryland student, regardless of race, income, or background has the support and resources to succeed. I am proud of the work that our districts have put in to ensure our students are career and college ready, especially over the last couple of years; however, it is critical that we continue to improve upon these numbers and give our students every opportunity to thrive."

"We have much more work to do, especially after several years of learning disruption caused by the pandemic," said State Superintendent of Schools Mohammed Choudhury. "These numbers



affirm the unwavering commitment and active engagement of our teachers and school leaders in leveraging excellent and evidenced-based strategies to help our students realize their full potential. They reflect the resiliency of our students to graduate high school in the face of adversity, but we cannot stop here. We all must continue to focus on equity and excellence, so every student has limitless opportunities and potential for success."

The graduation rates are part of the state Report Card which contains metrics for each school system and every school in the state. It shows overall Calvert students are making outcome improvements in math and English Language Arts (ELA).

The Report Card shows at the elementary school level Calvert made no improvement in academic achievement, academic progress, and "School Quality and Student Success."

For Middle Schools the Report Card shows improvement in all areas except "School Quality and Student Success."

For high schools it shows no improvement in the graduation rate and "School Quality and Student Success."

For all grade levels, math scores show improvement in all student categories except students with disabilities and English learners.

For ELA the Report Card shows improvements for all categories of students across all grade levels.

The State Report Card, including information about each school, can be viewed at: <https://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/Graphs/#/AtaGlance/Index/3/17/6/04/XXXX/2022>

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Post: 'It is Not Working' Calls for 'Immediate Corrective Action'



School board member Jana Post

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

With a rally outside before the Feb. 23 Calvert County Board of Education meeting and more speakers complaining at the meeting about school discipline problems and outright violence, new school board member Jana Post insists what the school system is doing “is not working.”

During time set aside for board member comments, Post said, “I am sick to my stomach to hear some of the things that are happening.” She says she also hears it every day when her children come home from school.

She said she also hears a lot in the community. “Someone said something to me a few weeks ago that, ‘When I come to the

board meetings, that’s really my last resort. I’ve done a lot of other things.” So, I got to thinking about that. I wonder how many of you have done so many other things and this is your last resort.”

Post said, “So for weeks now, I’ve been sitting up here listening to the same exact things. For years previously to that, I was sitting back there listening to the same exact things. So, it is very, very clear that whatever we are doing is not working. It is not working. It is not working. So instead of sitting up here and talking about how we empathize with all of the people and how tough it is, we need to get our heads out of the sand, everybody. So that means that if administrators are being told not to write referrals, somebody better pick up the phone and call and tell them to start writing the referrals.”

She added, “Ms. Goldstein spoke and said, you know what, enforce the Code of Conduct. That’s not happening. If it was, we wouldn’t hear some of the things that we are hearing up here. We wouldn’t be seeing week after week what’s happening. We can’t pretend like it’s a gun. Come on. Now, it’s not a matter of when it’s going to happen. And if there are children that are going to the schools with guns (one of the stories told that night) or there’s threats of that happening. Know what? It’s only a matter of time before one of them is injured or there’s a mass shooting and we are not prepared. But you know what? We will be so good at reacting to it. We’re going to kill

it in that category as we have forever. So, we really have to do something. And you know what? I am so sorry Dr. Townsel (school superintendent) because you inherited a whole lot here. You really did. I know you probably were like, these people down here are a lot. And we are, we are a lot.”

She insisted, though, “What we also are not going to do is go away. We’re also very persistent. So, I am encouraging the Board of Education and all of the members that work for the school system and you, Dr. Townsel, to take a look at the practices that are happening right now, to take a look at really what’s going on or what’s not going on, and to take immediate corrective action. When we have situations like this that happen in elementary schools, a kid being held hostage in their classroom, another kid seeing a gun, those are traumatic incidents that occur. And trauma is different in every way and every shape for every person. So, what we may not think is trauma may be hugely traumatic to somebody else. And it is not our responsibility to distinguish between whether somebody felt trauma or not. It’s our responsibility to make sure that children can go to school and be safe and educate them. We are not doing that. We are failing, failing miserably.”

Board member Dawn Balinski insisted it’s not that bad. “When I was president (in 2018) there was just this outpouring that we weren’t handling disruption in the classrooms correctly. And it was very, very

difficult. They put in a lot of new procedures, and new methodologies.”

Balinski added, “Being a schoolteacher, and school administrator is difficult. It is one of the most difficult jobs in the world. And you’re dealing with people, you’re dealing with children, and you’re dealing with lots of different disabilities, lots of different sensibilities, and they’re trying their best. Yes, we can do better. We will always strive to do better.”

“We were making good progress and then the pandemic just rent everyone asunder. And then the divisions in our nation have also made life extraordinarily difficult. So, I would like to give kudos to all the teachers out there and all of the administrators who are trying their very, very best. And I’m glad that the Board of Ed is taking the heat because, we will try to get some stuff done, but I don’t want it to be said that there’s just horrific experiences for kids all day long, every time they walk into school building. I do not believe that is true.”

Melissa Macuci Goshorn, organizer of the rally before the meeting, said in a release, “The goal of the rally organizers is to empower and give a voice to our children who cannot get the change, public schools so desperately need, by themselves. The organizers have seen the disruption, these extreme behaviors in schools have caused, and the harmful effects to their own children.”

dickmyers@countytimes.net

New Organization Takes a Different Look at Reparations

Through a grant made possible from the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland and other donors, the Calvert Concept Charitable Corporation (C4) through its Calvert Concept for Reconciliation and Housing, has national plans to approach reparations through home and business ownership with financial and educational assistance. C4 has plans to develop this program so it could be replicated around the nation by communities, other nonprofits, and organizations to change generations of social and financial injustice into generations of financial security through home and business ownership.

“We are extremely appreciative of the first round of seed money given to us from the Diocese” said Kip At Lee, Chairman of the Board of Directors. “Since that grant...we have been very fortunate to receive support from many individuals, churches, organizations and businesses. Our goal is very lofty, but I feel that it is a goal we will be able to accomplish.”

C4’s programs will include the devel-

opment of a \$10 million campus where eligible descendants of enslaved people and Native Americans of Calvert County can live for up to three years while qualifying to purchase a home or business. This campus will also be available for other persons who have faced social and financial injustices such as teachers, hospital workers, and public servants. The program will also offer Dollar to Dollar Savings (D² Savings), and referrals for assistance with Financial Literacy, How to Start a Business and other skills to ensure a successful path to equity and property ownership.

Calvert Concept, a nonpartisan 501 (c) (3) charity organization, aims to change generations of social and financial injustice into generations of financial security -- helping families, who were kept from home business ownership by government policies & prejudice, achieve equity through home or business ownership.

For more information on C4 visit www.C4housing.org or contact media@potanpe.com for questions or interviews.

Staff Accountant

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Capital Budget Has Big Ticket Water, Sewer Projects

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), as they develop next year's budget, will be faced with some difficult capital project decisions. At their Feb. 28 meeting they reviewed requests from several agencies, including some expensive water and sewer projects. Those projects are in what is known as "Enterprise Funds," which means the users of those services, the rate payers, pay for them. The water and sewer and solid waste projects total more than \$18 million in the next fiscal year.

One of the projects questioned by the BOCC would rollout new water meters to each of the county's 5,600 water customers. "We're looking at replacing all of our residential meters and a fair amount of our larger commercial meters," said Public Works Deputy Director-Enterprise Fund Operations James Ritter.

Estimated costs for the project, which would eliminate the need for personnel to ride around and take readings, would be \$4 million in the next fiscal year, for purchase and a five-year maintenance agreement.

Commissioner President Buddy Hance questioned the need after some new meters have recently been installed. He also asked whether the three meter readers would no longer be needed. He was told they would be assigned to other duties.

Commissioner Mike Hart also questioned the project. "So, we've already put money into a lot of new meters and then we're going to do \$4 million on top of that, but we're not reducing any staffing hours."

Ritter responded, "It'll increase the resolution of the data that we're getting" adding, "It also allows us to enhance our customer outreach so the customer will be able to review their consumption daily as well as see alerts related to their consumption or if they have a potential leak."

In the sewer category, a big-ticket item is \$18 million to improve sludge disposal, of which \$5 million is included in next year's capital budget.

The new processing facility at the Solomons Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) would process sludge from the county's plants as well and would involve removal of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). The end product would be hauled away instead of a costly processing system and could be available for agricultural spraying.

Hance, who is a farmer, wondered whether the county could accept waste from other facilities, process it and make money off the byproduct.

Another costly project for next fiscal year is \$4 million for the Solomons WWTPENR (Enhanced Nitrogen Removal) upgrade.

The commissioners also reviewed the Technology Services capital improvement budget, which is also becoming a more costly department as more work is moving from hardcopy to digitalization.

The budget for the next fiscal year is \$4,116,484I. Information Services Director Stephen Pereira explained enterprise systems implementation has doubled over the current year. He noted the bulk would to for use by the water and sewer departments. He said, "As you are well aware, the current water and sewer system is not up to the standard. We're looking to improve it with the new one that will go live next year."

"The other major component of that is \$551,000, which is a continuation of the county digitalization of the county records. Initially when we started this project, we estimated number of records and now we have a much more accurate account of the number of records, and we have roughly seven million county records that we will be digitalizing. This is the major win for citizens because it makes our government more transparent, more accessible, and more accountable."

The Feb. 28 department capital projects reviews were the last before the BOCC begin the work in finalizing the capital budget and also begin work on the operating budget for next year.

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Public Information Plan Goes to Public Hearing



County Attorney John Norris

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has voted to hold a public hearing on a proposal to amend the County Code to add a section on accessing public information.

County Attorney John Norris, in a

memo presented at the Feb. 28 meeting, said, "The BOCC expressed its wishes to enhance transparency on numerous occasions. It has been recommended that the board consider adoption of local policies and procedures to implement the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) to educate the public on local government operations and available resources without unduly burdening the county taxpayers."

Norris went on to say, "A new Chapter 96 of the County Code outlines the roles and responsibilities of the parties to a request for public records. In October 2022, the BOCC directed that a public survey and solicitation of input from stakeholders be performed before seeking approval to advertise for a public hearing. In coordination with Communications and Media Relations, public input was sought, and direct communications were sent to the Calvert County Chapter of the League of Women Voters, the Public Justice Center, the Center for Public Integrity, the ACLU-Maryland, and the MDDC Press Association. A public survey was published on the county website and closed on Monday, February 13, 2023. No substantive comments or feedback have been received."

Norris said the state law:

- Grants the public a broad right of access to public records; and
- Balances that right with the protection of:
 - Legitimate governmental inter-

ests; and

- The privacy rights of individual citizens.

Norris observed, "To dispel a common misunderstanding, the PIA does not require the creation of a record that does not exist or provide an analysis of one or more records not performed previously. However, to provide residents the level of customer service they have come to expect, departments may answer questions posed, though there may not be a record that responds to the question."

"Transparency is at the core of the PIA, but the act also accounts for privacy of individuals, public safety and security," Norris said. "The importance of transparency is evident through the stated principle that it is presumed that a public record should be disclosed absent a specific exception in the law. The exceptions to disclosure are to be narrowly construed in favor of disclosure."

The proposed code change provides guidance to the person or persons in each department charged with providing the requested information. Norris said of balancing the burden on requestor and the taxpayer:

- 1) "The custodian may not charge a search or preparation fee for the first two hours spent searching for and preparing a public record for inspection.
- 2) "Waivers are available for:
 - a) Indigents;
 - b) Where the waiver or reduction is in the public interest."

In a related but separate discussion, the BOCC approved the expenditure of funds for Public Records Request Software to make public information requests available online.

Cost to the county according to Special Projects Program Manager Ashley Staples-Reid would be, "\$9,087 for services rendered from 3/1/2023 through 6/30/2024 and will be paid from the Office of the County Administrator, Contracted Services account."

She said, "Similar to what John Norris was saying in his previous presentation, the PIA grant citizens the right to review the available records that are disclosable to obtain copies of those records."

She told the BOCC before the unanimous decision to purchase the new software, "The Office of the County Administrator, in coordination with the Office of the County Attorney and the Department of Technology Services, has researched several public records request software in an effort to provide a comprehensive and transparent platform to citizens when submitting PIA requests.

"NextRequest is an all-in-one platform for managing records requests and has been vetted and approved by the Department of Technology Services as meeting the county's security needs."

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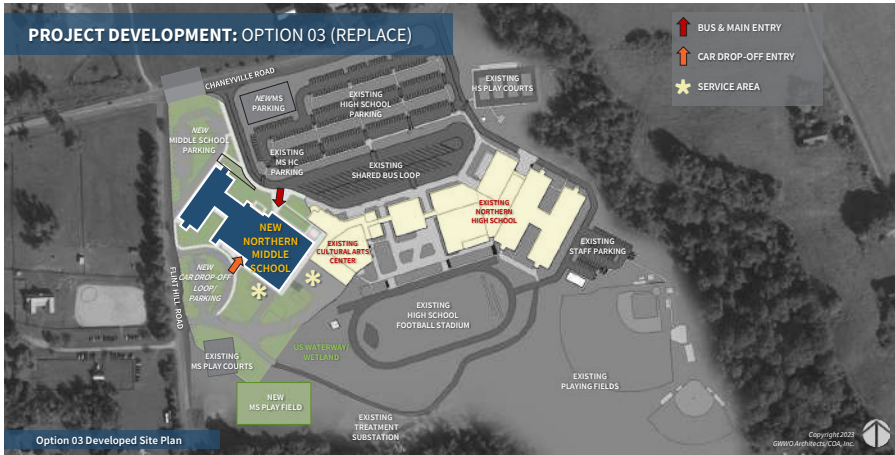
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School Board Goes for New Northern Middle School

Replacement Deemed Least Costly and Disruptive



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Education has opted to build an entirely new Northern Middle School after learning that was cheaper and less disruptive than alternatives involving addition and renovation to the existing school. The new school will be built immediately adjacent to the existing school.

Cost for the new school, which includes a three-story classroom section, is \$66,643,217. Two other options were considered: renovation and addition, and renovation and partial replacement. Those two options cost

\$80,184,082 and \$87,415,400 respectively.

The two options not chosen also would have taken longer to complete and would have involved disturbing wetlands, which requires a state permit, and necessitated moving students into an eight-classroom modular unit.

“You can’t help but like the third option just because it seems more compact. It seems more user friendly for the site and then obviously it stays away from the wetlands, which is important,” said board member Dawn Balinski prior to the unanimous vote to go with the replacement option.

The decision is only the first step. Direc-

tor of School Construction Shuchita Warner said, “Based on your approval of the selected approach, we will then move into the next phase of the process, which is design of the project.”

The projected cost of a new building, even though lower than the other two options, is still higher than what is in the school system’s capital improvement plan. So during design, Warner said changes in size could be one option to lower costs or, she said, monies could be found with savings elsewhere in the budget.

“By approving the recommended approach, we’re not asking the Board of Ed to approve an increased budget for the project. It is simply an avenue for us to move forward with the design process,” Warner said.

According to the consultant hired to do the feasibility study required by the state, the current Northern Middle School (NMS) has a state-rated capacity for 680 students and currently about 610 now attend. The new school is designed for 775 students. The current building is close to 89,000 gross square feet with the portables on site. It’s being designed for 104,000 gross square feet.

New school board member Lisa Grenis asked Warner, “What is the purpose of a new school? Why do we need to add on or

tear it down and build a new one? Is it for student population?”

Warner replied, “It’s a combination of several factors. The Northern Middle School is essentially reaching the end of its life cycle. So, it gets to a point where, with every building, the components, if you take them and aggregate them together in order to replace each and every single one of those components would cost as much as it would to replace the building itself. So, at a certain point in time you cannot keep up with the replacement of the systems. The building has a lot of issues. And then the growth in terms of future enrollment projections is one reason why we would want to at least put an addition on. But because the building has major systemic failures that we’ve been experiencing, that maintenance we have been experiencing, it makes sense to replace the building.”

One of the issues that would be corrected with each of one of the options is having windows in classrooms, which the existing NMS does not have. Warner insists, however, that security measures would be incorporated in the design.

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Gadway Appointed to Planning Commission

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Chris Gadway was not long away from public life. The former county commissioner was appointed by that board to serve on the Calvert Country Planning Commission. The unanimous decision was at the commissioners’ Feb. 28 meeting.

Gadway was appointed by then-governor Larry Hogan to replace Commissioner Tim Hutchins, who resigned for health reasons and he served the rest of that term. But Gadway was defeated in the Republican primary last June by Mark Cox. Gadway served through December when Cox and the other new commissioners were sworn in. Gadway was honored for his service at the Dec. 13 commissioner meeting.

Gadway replaces Steve Jones, who also was an unsuccessful county commissioner candidate in the GOP primary. He was defeated by incumbent Mike Hart. Jones was appointed to the planning commission on March 28, 2017, and served one partial term and one full term, during which time he was the commission’s president.

According to information presented to the commissioners by staff, Jones did not

choose to seek another term. His last meeting was Feb. 15.

According to his campaign website, Gadway was “born in 1970 to a US Navy Vietnam veteran, Chris grew up in Oregon. At 18 years old, he decided to be baptized as a Christian prior to enlisting in the US Coast Guard.

“From 1989 to 1993, Chris served in the U.S. Coast Guard Honor Guard in Alexandria, Virginia. He held Top Secret clearance while performing presidential support duties. Their motto was ‘Pride, Poise, and Perfection.’

“During Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Desert Sabre, Chris’s clearance was upgraded to Sensitive Compartmented Information through the Office of Naval Intelligence. He was honorably discharged from the USCG Reserves in 2001.

“In 1996, Chris took a position with Verizon, working in a variety of technical positions on the outside plant. He retired early in 2010.”

He lives in Huntingtown and operates a property management company with his wife Julie.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS	3	COPS & COURTS	10
COMMUNITY	8	CALENDAR	11
OBITUARIES	9		

“IT IS VERY, VERY CLEAR THAT WHATEVER WE ARE DOING IS NOT WORKING.”
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER JANA POST ON BEHAVIOR ISSUES



LOCAL 3
Former commissioner moves to planning commission



ON THE COVER 6
Calvert picks option for middle school option



LOCAL 6
School Board Member says discipline system not working

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAR 2	FRI, MAR 3	SAT, MAR 4	SUN, MAR 5
 AM Showers Hi: 68° Lo: 42°	 Rain Hi: 45° Lo: 45°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 57° Lo: 38°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 56° Lo: 37°
MON, MAR 6	TUE, MAR 7	WED, MAR 8	THU, MAR 9
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