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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

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**Commissioners
Approve Excise Tax**

**Couple Charged in
Sex Abuse Case**

**U-Boat Exhibit
Gets Addition**

ST. MARY'S HONORS TOP COPS

Southern MD 28th Annual Spring Festival

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds, Leonardtown, MD

May 4th thru May 7th

Family fun for everyone!



www.southernmdspringfestival.org

Spring Festival Gate Hours

Thursday, May 4	5 pm - 10 pm
Friday, May 5	5 pm - 10 pm
Saturday, May 6	10 am - 10 pm
Sunday, May 7	10 am - 6 pm

Admission

Thursday:	FREE ENTRY
Friday - Sunday:	
Adults	\$6
6-12 years	\$3
Under 6	FREE

Bring a non-perishable canned food item per person and receive \$1 off admission

ATTRACTIONS

- Midway Rides and Games
- Joe Wenal Chainsaw Carver
- Indoor Laser Tag
- Axe Throwing
- Tractor Pull (Sat & Sun)
- Car Show (Sat)
- Live Entertainment
- Little Kid's Games Area
- Raffle and Pull Tabs
- Artists & Crafters
- Indoor Yard Sale
- Great Food
- Hay Ride
- Flower Sale



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Saturday 11am-4pm only:

Ride Bracelets cost \$25

Carnival Ride Tickets cost \$1.25 each,
20 tickets for \$20 or 40 tickets for \$38



Southern Maryland Spring Festival is Sponsored by: Holy Face Church, Great Mills, MD

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 COMMISSIONER ERIC COLVIN ON THE EXCISE TAX VOTE



LOCAL 5
 Commissioners raise taxes



ON THE COVER 8
 St. Mary's law officers honored



LOCAL 8
 Schools mull virtual learning days

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAY 4 Partly Cloudy Hi: 61° Lo: 43°	FRI, MAY 5 Partly Cloudy Hi: 66° Lo: 48°	SAT, MAY 6 Partly Cloudy Hi: 69° Lo: 52°	SUN, MAY 7 Partly Cloudy Hi: 72° Lo: 54°
MON, MAY 8 Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 57°	TUE, MAY 9 Scattered Storms Hi: 79° Lo: 61°	WED, MAY 10 Isolated Storms Hi: 75° Lo: 55°	THU, MAY 11 Showers Hi: 70° Lo: 55°

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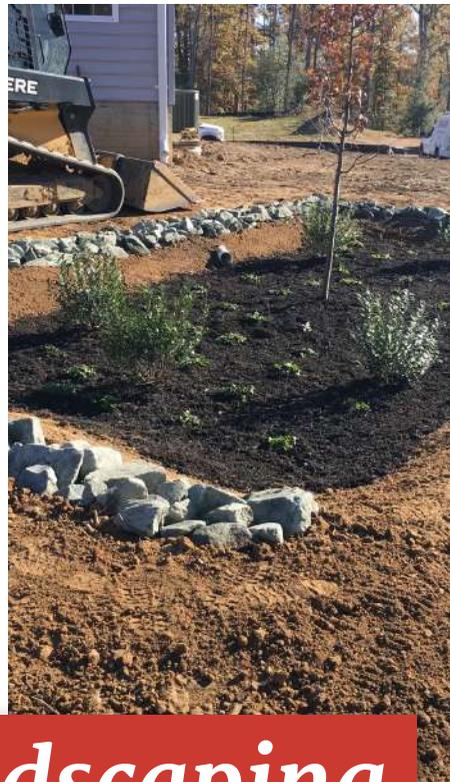
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Commissioners Vote to Raise Taxes

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Despite saying that they ran their political re-election campaigns on not raising taxes three of the five members of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted to enact the new excise tax this week to replace the soon-to-be defunct impact fees for new construction that were once only to be used for school construction.

More than two years ago the commissioners got the authorization to move to an excise tax from state-level legislation in an effort to find a revenue source that could be used on more than just schools as student enrollment numbers cannot justify the building of new classrooms rather the maintenance of facilities the county already has.

Only Commissioners Eric Colvin and Mike Alderson voted against raising the taxes.

Colvin's motion to enact the excise tax but at a level reduced by 70 percent failed. "Right now, we have a balanced working budget that covers our debt service on our CIP [capital improvement program budget] projects," Colvin said. "I 100 percent agree that our costs for renovating schools is escalating a lot.

"But I believe in the citizens of our county that if they see leaking roofs in their kids' schools, they will support fixing the roofs in those schools [with higher taxes.]"

Commissioner Mike Hewitt, who said he did not want to raise taxes but voted to do so, said the county should enact the excise tax at the full rate.

That meant \$6,697 added to the construction of a single-family home, \$11,783 for any residential unit of 3,101 square feet or more and \$1,342 for a non-residential development.

"I can't vote for a 70 percent reduction," Hewitt said. "We can always reduce it.

"It's easier to reduce it than to raise it."

Hewitt's main concern was the debt service the county has to pay on money it has borrowed to complete projects such as school renovations, which have nearly doubled in cost.

"If we don't raise the revenue here, where do we get the debt service money from?" Hewitt asked. "We have \$76 million in the next of couple of years for school renovations.

"We're talking about debt service going as high as \$24 million a year; it's \$13 to \$14 million now."

The excise tax is predicted to bring in approximately \$4 million in its first year, according to county estimates.

The county estimates that it will collect a total of \$25.9 million in excise taxes by 2030 for residential construction and \$2.2 million in non-residential construction in the same time period.

The county was committed to renovating the schools, Hewitt said, despite the ever-increasing costs and the excise tax was the way to ensure the county could pay down the debt on the bonds sold to accomplish that.

Commissioner Scott Ostrow, who also ran on a platform of not raising taxes to get his first term in county government, said the county had to face reality.

"I don't want my taxes to go up, but we all live in a community where... that's an attraction for us, good schools, nice parks,

nice roads.

"I'm really struggling with this issue of raising taxes, but we have to figure out a way to pay for this work."

The issue of inflation, said Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy was one that the county could not ignore.

"Inflation didn't just hit you at home it hit the county," Guy said, addressing county residents. "We have bills we have to pay and projects we have to go through."

Before the vote on Colvin's motion, he continued to press for a reduction in the excise tax.

"We want to encourage businesses," Colvin said. "We want to encourage home growth.

"Right now, we don't need this additional funding; we can make do with what we have."

The commissioners are set to enact a \$314 million operating budget by the end of the month and are collecting an estimated \$15 million more in income and property taxes this year over last.

After Colvin's motion failed, Hewitt made the motion to pass the excise tax as it was introduced.

Ostrow seconded the motion but wanted discussion.

"Discussion?" Colvin asked. "We heard from almost 600 people who told us not to raise this.

"That's a pretty clear mandate from the people."

The opposition was in the form of e-mails and letters to the commissioners leading up to their vote on May 2.

One such letter came from Wayne Davis, of W.M. Davis General Contractors.

"In the last few years we have been faced with the worst possible scenarios to keep our business going with the continued rise and pace of inflation that shows no signs of letting up," Davis wrote. "I looked at the draft tax schedule... this document looks like how to squeeze the last drop of blood out of a turnip."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Residential Development		Excise Tax per Unit by Type of Unit				
Development Type	Demand Unit	Schools	Roads	Parks	Public Safety	Total
Single Family	Dwelling Unit	\$3,066	\$1,687	\$1,056	\$888	\$6,697
Multifamily	Dwelling Unit	\$1,165	\$719	\$725	\$609	\$3,218

OR

Residential Development		Excise Tax per Unit by Size of Unit				
Housing Unit by Size (Sq. Ft. of Unit)	Demand Unit	Schools	Roads	Parks	Public Safety	Total
0 to 1,200	Dwelling Unit	\$546	\$793	\$641	\$539	\$2,519
1,201 to 1,700	Dwelling Unit	\$2,551	\$1,118	\$939	\$789	\$5,397
1,701 to 2,200	Dwelling Unit	\$4,009	\$1,357	\$1,161	\$976	\$7,503
2,201 to 3,100	Dwelling Unit	\$5,953	\$1,676	\$1,454	\$1,223	\$10,306
3,101 or more	Dwelling Unit	\$6,987	\$1,841	\$1,605	\$1,350	\$11,783

Nonresidential Development		Excise Tax per Sq. Ft. or Room				
Development Type	Demand Unit	Schools	Roads	Parks	Public Safety	Total
Retail/Commercial (820)	Gross Sq. Ft.	\$0.00	\$2.70	\$0.00	\$1.39	\$4.09
Office/Institutional (710)	Gross Sq. Ft.	\$0.00	\$1.20	\$0.00	\$0.61	\$1.81
Industrial/Flex (140)	Gross Sq. Ft.	\$0.00	\$0.52	\$0.00	\$0.27	\$0.79
Lodging (310)	Room	\$0.00	\$885.65	\$0.00	\$456.70	\$1,342.35

Fiscal Year	Revenue Projection	Residential				Fiscal Year	Revenue Projection	Non-Residential			
		Schools 46%	Roads 25%	Parks 16%	Public Safety 13%			Schools 0%	Roads 66%	Parks 0%	Public Safety 34%
FY2024	\$3,568,454	1,641,489	892,114	570,953	463,899	FY2024	312,075	0	205,970	0	106,106
FY2025	3,618,551	1,664,533	904,638	578,968	470,412	FY2025	314,577	0	207,621	0	106,956
FY2026	3,655,254	1,681,417	913,814	584,841	475,183	FY2026	317,092	0	209,281	0	107,811
FY2027	3,698,654	1,701,381	924,664	591,785	480,825	FY2027	319,626	0	210,953	0	108,673
FY2028	3,748,751	1,724,425	937,188	599,800	487,338	FY2028	322,188	0	212,644	0	109,544
FY2029	3,785,454	1,741,309	946,364	605,673	492,109	FY2029	324,761	0	214,342	0	110,419
FY2030	3,835,551	1,764,353	958,888	613,688	498,622	FY2030	327,360	0	216,058	0	111,303
Projected Totals	25,910,669						2,237,680				

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St. Mary's Honors Her Protectors



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Three standout, local law enforcement officers were honored for their achievements this week by a grateful county.

Cpl. Daniel Holdsworth of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is that agency's Deputy of the Year, while Corrections Officer 1st Class Monica Moncivais Romero is the sheriff's office Corrections Officer of the Year and Tpr. Timothy Eckrich of the Leonardtown Barrack of the Maryland State Police is their local Trooper of the Year.

All three said their jobs have given them multiple ways to serve their communities and to grow as law enforcement officers.

"It's been my favorite assignment," said Holdsworth, a 13-year veteran, of his service on the COPS Unit in Lexington Park. "It's a great time."

He spends much of his time attending community events and establishing relationships to head off crimes before they occur, or get help from residents in stopping crime trends sooner.

He spends plenty of time making gun and drug arrests, too, he said.

"I'm very honored by it," Holdsworth said of his award. "I think everyone in the COPS Unit should be here."

The White Rose ballroom in Callaway hosted the Law Enforcement Appreciation Day celebrations.

Moncivais-Romero works at the adult detention center in Leonardtown but her duties go far beyond dealing with inmates.

"I'm the only female on the ERT (Emergency Response Team) at the jail," she said. "As a bilingual I'm assigned to help detectives and state's attorneys."

"It's very fun."

She mostly works now in pre-trial duties looking in on inmates assigned to house arrest awaiting adjudication; she ensures they are avoiding drugs or other substances forbidden by the courts and not trying to contact witnesses who might be called to testify either for or against them.

"We get to go out into the community a lot more," Moncivais-Romero said.

Eckrich has been a trooper for just two-and-a-half years after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in an engineer support battalion.

"I lead the barrack in gun seizures," Eckrich told The County Times. "And I had a high number of criminal arrests."

Hailing from the Eastern Shore, the 23-year-old comes from a family of police officers going back to his grandfather; it's something he's always wanted to do.

"I love it," Eckrich said. "It's the best job in the world."

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Survey Results Mixed For Continuing Virtual Learning

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A little more than 2,600 respondents to a St. Mary's County school survey — including parents, students, teachers and staff — seem to show a division in thinking about whether the school should continue virtual learning, even in a limited capacity.

"Of all the 2,604 responses, 47 percent said 'yes', 40 percent said 'no' and 11 percent went all the way through and said 'I have no opinion,'" said Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith at the Apr. 26 meeting of the Board of Education.

The data from the survey said a little more than 51 percent of the respondents were parents or guardians, 21.7 percent were students, 14.2 percent were staff and 10.2 percent were both staff and parents.

In aggregate, 47.3 percent of respondents were against virtual learning for elementary students while 44.7 percent favored it; 8 percent had no opinion.

In the middle school grades 28.2 percent were against virtual learning, but 57.4 percent favored it; 14.3 percent had no opinion.

In the high school grades 27.1 percent were against virtual learning while 64.8 percent favored it; 8.1 percent had no opinion.

When broken down to parental responses only 61.67 percent opposed virtual learning in elementary grades, 44.93 opposed it for middle schoolers and 38.51 opposed it for high school students.

The survey asked the question if the school system should have one day of virtual learning out of the week.

"Learning won't all be virtual," Smith assured. "We know that's not a good model.

"But a blended model where you do some of your learning in person... but you use virtual learning... to explore other opportunities?"

"That's probably something that will stay."

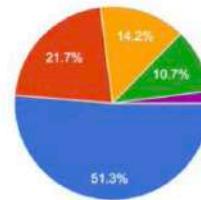
Smith said the system would engage in another survey asking the same question in the interests of gathering more data, particularly from the more than 17,000 students in the system.

"We should have a lot more kids responding," Smith said.

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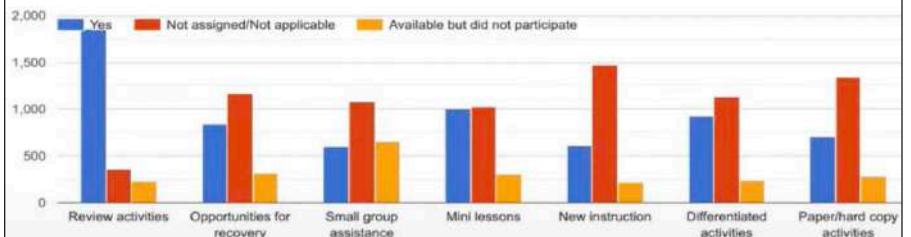
Early Release Friday [Virtual]

What is your role?
2,626 responses

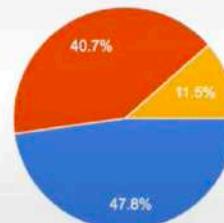


- Parent/guardian
- Student
- Staff
- Both staff and parent
- Community member

Did the student(s) in your home engage in the following on the April 21 virtual learning day:



Should SMCPs include a limited number of virtual learning days in future school year calendars?
2,604 responses



- Yes
- No
- No opinion

Sunken U-Boat Gets Addition to Piney Point Exhibit



Don Linderer with his replica of U-1105's snorkel

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Lying almost completely buried under Potomac River mud 83 feet down is U-1105, a submarine relic of World War II that still draws divers down to the depths of local waters just off Piney Point to try to unlock its secrets.

The U-Boat, or unterseeboot in German, was one of the deadliest weapons of the Third Reich.

During the Battle of the Atlantic, German U-boats operating in what became known as wolf packs hunted and sank millions of tons in war material and supplies being sent to Britain in supply ship convoys.

Britain was nearly brought to its knees were it not for more effective methods to find and sink U-boats, such as airborne radar that could be used to bomb surfaced U-boats and torpedoes that could be dropped from aircraft and use acoustic homing to find submerged U-boats.

Aaron Stephan Hamilton, a historian and diver who has spent the last decade studying the sunken vessel, said U-1105 — also known as “Black Panther” — was designed to solve the problems of the U-boats survivability.

“Basically, these were surface going submarines,” Hamilton said, noting that U-boats could only submerge for relatively short periods as they had to use batteries underwater to operate.

On the surface they ran on diesel engines that needed air to function.

U-1105 was the first U-boat to use a special snorkel that allowed the submarine to take in air to continue using its diesel engines, which offered more power than batteries that needed to be recharged while the boat ran on the surface.

In Hamilton’s book on the boat, he says U-1105: “was the only submarine of Admiral Karl Donitz’ once feared German U-Boat fleet to conduct a wartime patrol equipped with powerful late-war technical innovations.

“These key developments included an air-mast, allowing it to regain air and charge its batteries without ever having to surface, a revolutionary sonar array that gave it a marked in detecting Allied vessels while submerged and a rubberized acoustic camouflage known as ‘Alberich’ that significantly reduced its sonar signature.”

At the Piney Point Museum, placed in a glass case, are relics from the Black Panther, such as its attack periscope, one of its running lights and a piece of the black, rub-

berized coating on its hull that was designed to mask its signature to sonar employed by enemy vessels.

Now there is a new piece to add to the understanding of the weapon of war that sits at the bottom of the Potomac, the head of the snorkel that allowed the submarine to operate submerged akin more to the modern nuclear submarines today.

The apparatus appearing as aged metal with some damage and rust is actually a 3D printed replica made to scale that actually functions the way the World War II-era mechanism did.

Built by professional fabricator Don Linderer, of Fairfax, Va, the mechanism has a cut away in the material to show visitors to the inner workings of the device.

“It’s just what I like to do,” Linderer said. “I like to take things that aren’t supposed to exist and get them to work.

“They were shocked that I made a 1-to-1 working model.”

Linderer said the 3D printing process took 13 pounds-worth of plastic and 748 total hours to make.

The Black Panther went on one wartime patrol, attacking and hitting a British frigate, before escaping a counterattack by two of its companion vessels, in 1945 but was eventually surrendered by its captain, Kaptainleutnant Hans-Joachim Schwartz, to Allied forces.

Subsequently studied intensely by British and American naval intelligence analysts, the boat was taken across the Atlantic Ocean by an American prize crew commanded by U.S. Navy Capt. Hubert Murphy in the winter of 1945 to 1946.

“The weather got so bad that they started to take on water,” Hamilton told The County Times. “The captain was too afraid to submerge the boat because he wasn’t sure he could get it to resurface.”

But a British engineer who had studied the boat told the captain about how to use the snorkel properly and the crew was able to dive the boat safely for an extended time.

A large white buoy in the river, which county museum division director Karen Stone says she can see from her office, denotes the location of U-1105.

Divers are cautioned that searching the wreck is dangerous; in his book Hamilton said currents are unpredictable and the slightest disturbance can disturb the silt on the river’s bottom, making even powerful light beams useless for a time.

And then there are the bull sharks that frequent the river, Hamilton said.

When the boat arrived in the waters near Piney Point it was subjected to all manner of testing, including how well it stood up to depth charges and how to salvage a sunken submarine.

It was depth charged and sunk multiple times during this testing before finally being put to rest in 1949.

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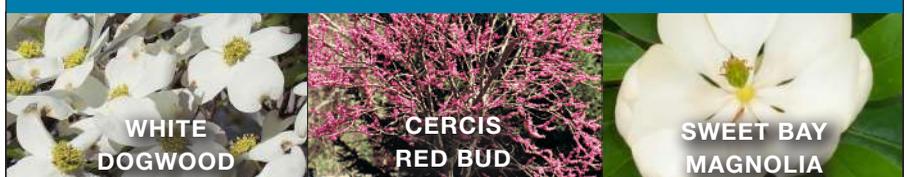


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Local Couple Arrested for Child Sex Abuse



Stormy Shiree Bates



Brian Joseph Wiegman

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

According to police reports drugs, alcohol and even intimidation were used by a couple to commit sex abuse — and even second-degree rape — involving minor children.

Sheriff's office investigators have charged Brian Joseph Wiegman, 45, and Stormy Shiree Bates, 39, both of Leonardtown; Wiegman has been charged with two counts of sex abuse of a minor and one count of neglect of a minor.

Bates has been arrested and charged with three counts of second-degree rape, three counts of sex abuse of a minor and one count of neglect of a minor.

According to an application for a statement of charges filed in county District Court, child protective services workers had concerns about activities at Wiegman's home which involved minor children over whom he had custody.

One female juvenile victim, court papers stated, said she was asleep in the the defendant's bed in late April and "she woke up to discover his hand down her pants."

The victim, according to charging papers, "reported Brian stated it was an accident."

A male juvenile victim "told CPS screener that over the past year [Wiegman] and Stormy Bates have been sexually abusing him," court papers continued.

The male juvenile victim reported that when he was at the defendant's house, Wiegman would give him alcohol to drink, which he consumed and then went to bed.

On one occasion, the victim alleged, "Bates then entered the room and had intercourse with [the victim] while [Wiegman] watched from a bathroom.

"He [Wiegman] periodically exited the bathroom and told Stormy what to do."

One female juvenile victim said she was in bed with Wiegman and woke to find "his hand under clothing and touching her vagina.

"Later that day she confronted him about it; he apologized and said it was an accident," court papers stated.

When the victim's mother confronted Wiegman in a telephone call about the incident, he "admitted to the incident but stated it was accidental and apologized," court papers relayed.

The alleged male juvenile victim in the case told investigators he had sex with Bates approximately 20 times between September and December of last year.

"He advised he had consumed alcohol, cocaine or both for every incident supplied by Wiegman and Bates," police said in charging documents.

In one instance, the male juvenile victim alleged, he had become so intoxicated that when he went to bed he felt as though he might fall onto the floor; at was at that time that Bates followed him into his room wearing only a towel, disrobed and then undressed the victim.

She is then alleged to have performed several sex acts upon the victim, according to court papers.

"The male victim said he told Bates and [Wiegman] he did not want to participate but they told him they did not care," court papers stated. "He described being threatened by [Wiegman] that if he did not participate, they would kill him."

Bates told police she had one consensual sexual encounter in 2022 but denied that she supplied any drugs or alcohol to the victim.

Wiegman told police that any touching of the juvenile female victim was not intentional "because he was asleep [in the bed with her]" at the time.

He also denied knowledge of Bates and the male victim having intercourse and denied supplying him drugs or alcohol, saying the victim stole it and consumed it.

guyleonard@countytimes.

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Farm Vehicle Retail Store Approved



The proposed location of 235 Farm and Outdoor Sports Store

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county planning commission approved the concept site plan this week for a new retailer on Route 235 that sells farm vehicles such as tractors and ATVs, called 235 Farm and Outdoor Sports Store.

The size of the standing building the developer wishes to reuse is 2,156 square feet.

The overall size of the property is 40,414 square feet in size.

County documents regarding the traffic impacts of the project show that it is not expected to have a negative effect on roads which are close by.

The project is expected to generate fewer than 50 vehicle trips per hour during peak hours of driving, according to county estimates.

The entrance to the store, which fronts Route 235, is a right-turn-in and right-turn-out access.

The owner of the property is a Calvert County-based business; 231 Materials and Recycling Products LLC.

The vote to approve the plan came at the May 1 meeting of the planning commission;

it was a continuation of the hearing which began Apr. 24.

Joe Kadjeski of Collinson, Oliff & Associates, Inc., the engineers representing the applicant, said the project was seeking a one-year deferral from the requirement to hook up to public water and sewer as operated by the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission.

"The site is currently served by an adequate well and septic system," Kadjeski said. "We have not submitted the referral because we've been told it's going to be denied."

Were the request denied, Kadjeski said at the Apr. 24 hearing, the applicant would produce a detailed plan to hook up to public water and sewer.

Several members of the planning commission said back in April that they were concerned about moving forward with the case if the applicant knew their deferral would be denied and still had no plan at present to hook up to public water and sewer.

Kadjeski said the applicant wanted to get the business open as soon as possible.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Water, Sewer Upgrade for Auto Parts Store Approved

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A national franchise auto parts dealer seeking to build a new store in Hollywood got a boost from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County this week when they voted unanimously to upgrade the status of the land in the county's comprehensive water and sewer plan.

The commissioner vote of May 2 takes the land upon which an O'Reilly Auto Parts is to be built and upgrades it to be hooked into the county's public water and sewer within three to five years instead of its prior designation of receiving those utilities in six to 10 years.

The store is to be built on Mervell Dean

Road and would be 7,453 square feet in size.

The land upon which the store would be built is vacant, according to county planning documents, and is sparsely wooded.

The store would include 37 parking spaces under the current plan, though the county's zoning ordinance requires just 30.

The property where the store would be built would be immediately behind the parcel that contains the Dollar General store.

When the planning commission approved the concept site plan for the auto parts store the included provisions that any road improvements required by the State Highway Administration and that there be no servicing of vehicles in the parking lot.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Telling the History of Lexington Park's Tulagi Place
Telling Ghost Stories
SMCM Arboretum Tour

Funding provided by 



FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION,
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or scan the QR code



Avenue House Fire Under Investigation



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A fire in the 7th District destroyed a single-family home Apr. 26, Maryland State Fire Marshal investigators report, but no one was injured.

It took 50 firefighters from the 7th District Volunteer Fire Department 45 minutes to knock down the blaze, which occurred on River Spring Road.

While the cause of the fire has yet to be determined, investigators said, it began in the home's interior.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Traffic Notice: Wildewood Parkway Work Scheduled

The St. Mary's County Department of Public Works (DPW&T) will be making improvements to a portion of Wildewood Parkway, from Maryland Route 4 (MD 4) to Rolling Oak Lane. Weather permitting, this roadwork will be performed on Thursday, May 4 and Friday, May 5, 2023, between the hours of 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and will consist of:

- Removal of a large tree that has begun to encroach into the inbound lane of the Parkway
- Milling and overlay of the one inbound and two outbound lanes
- New pavement markings

Due to the complexity of this project and heavy traffic volume in the area, motorists are advised to access and depart the Wildewood community via Wildwood Blvd, if possible.

If you must use the MD 4 intersection, please approach with extreme caution.

At times, inbound traffic will be redirected to use the left turn outbound lane of Wildewood Parkway, so please follow the direction of traffic control personnel. Drivers may experience a brief delay and should remain alert for equipment, work crews, and changing traffic patterns.

Traffic control will be a collaborative effort between the St. Mary's County Highways Division, Maryland State Highway Administration Department of Transportation, and the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

If additional information is needed, please contact DPW&T at (301)-475-4200, ext. 3531.

Free Document Shredding Event Announced

It's time to clean out your filing cabinets and desks to get rid of confidential, private, or important personal documents that you no longer need to keep!

The Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) will host their 15th annual Community Shredding Event on Saturday, May 13, 2023, from 8 a.m. – noon at the St. Andrews Landfill, located at 44837 St. Andrews Church Road.

This community event gives residents the opportunity to have their confidential, private, and important documents destroyed by a professional shredding service at no cost. This type of shredding turns sensitive documents into confetti-sized pieces, ensuring that confidential material cannot be copied. All paper material shredded during the event

will then be recycled.

Please refrain from bringing materials that are not confidential in nature, such as newspapers and magazines (acceptable for recycling at the six Convenience Centers) as they will cause the truck to fill up more quickly. The shredder can handle simple staples, paper clips, spiral notebooks, and thin metal prongs, however it cannot accept 3 ring binders. Please limit the number of boxes you bring to 3 standard bankers' boxes (10"H x 12"W x 15" D) per person so we can serve as many residents as possible. A total of 16,000 pounds (8 tons) of paper was collected from over 172 vehicles at the last event held in September 2022.

For more information, please call DPW&T at (301) 475-4200, ext. 3550.



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News

MQ-25, H-1 Test Next-Gen Satellite Communications



The Marine Corps' UH-1Y helicopter completed an initial flight to test the data transmission of the new Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) Satellite Communications (SATCOM) capability for MQ-25 Stingray April 26 at Pax River.

The team at both the Dedicated Unmanned Carrier Aviation (UCA) Development Environment (DUDE) lab at Webster Outlying Field in St. Inigoes, Maryland, and the Communications Systems Integration Laboratory (CSIL) at Pax River transmitted data utilizing unique test equipment to the UH-1Y during flight, proving MUOS connectivity, resilience, and viability using a maneuvering aircraft.

"This type of testing is a way to show how two very different programs can team up and develop capabilities together," said Capt. Daniel Fucito, Unmanned Carrier Aviation (PMA-268) program manager.

MUOS is a communications satellite sys-

tem that provides global connectivity to military networks. The next generation of this system works much faster and has additional payloads that support new waveform capabilities and compatibility with the legacy UHF satellite communications systems.

"Testing MUOS with H-1 will facilitate the MQ-25 test infrastructure development and ensure MUOS connectivity configuration," said Ray Belcher, MQ-25 Integrated Test Team communications lead. "It also provides an opportunity for the PMA-268 program team to observe MUOS flight characteristics."

The MQ-25 Stingray will be the world's first operational, carrier-based unmanned aircraft that will provide aerial refueling as well as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities that will enhance the carrier air wing and carrier strike group.

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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

Armed Robbery in Hollywood Under Investigation

On Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 10:08 pm, two masked men entered the Birdies convenience store at the 24600 block of Three Notch Road in Hollywood. The two suspects pointed a handgun at store employees, demanding money from the registers. The suspects removed currency from the registers and fled on foot.

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Patrol Deputies and K-9 Unit responded to the scene and the Criminal Investigations Division is continuing the investigation.

Anyone with cellphone video or images who was present at the scene is asked to visit the Sheriff's Office's Citizen Upload Video Upload Portal at <https://www.first-sheriff.com/uploadevidence/>

Videos can be provided anonymously through the portal.

Anyone with additional information about this incident is asked to contact Detective David Lawrence at 301-475-4200, ext. 78130 or email david.lawrence@stmaryscountymd.gov.

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: Caitlin Ann Mossbarger



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the whereabouts of Caitlin Ann Mossbarger, age 33 of Park Hall, for violating the terms of her Pre-Trial release with the St.

Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown for a district court case for Driving on a Suspended License. Mossbarger's whereabouts are currently unknown, but she is believed to be in the

Lexington Park area.

Anyone with information on Mossbarger's whereabouts is asked to contact Detective Joseph Bowling at 301-475-4200, ext. 71959 or email joseph.bowling@stmaryscountymd.gov.

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.

Crash in Helen Under Investigation

On Saturday, April 29, 2023, at 1:40 am, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to Point Lookout Road and Bellevue Lane in Helen for the report of a single-vehicle crash with the vehicle overturned. Offices arrived and located a female passenger unresponsive with suspected serious injuries. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Collision Reconstruction Unit responded to continue the investigation.

Preliminary investigation determined that a 2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer, operated by 17-year-old male of Mechanicsville, was traveling southbound on Point Lookout Road. Due to weather conditions and suspected speeding, the vehicle lost control over a curve, going off the roadway, striking a ditch and turning over. In addition

to the driver, there were three passengers inside of the vehicle. Abigail Thorpe, age 18 of Mechanicsville, was unconscious at the scene and was transported to an area shock trauma hospital for incapacitating injuries.

Speed is believed to be a contributing factor in the crash.

Anyone with additional information about the collision is asked to contact Cpl. Matthew Beyer at 301-475-4200, ext. 78005 or email matthew.beyer@stmaryscountymd.gov.

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.

Philip H. Dorsey III
Attorney at Law

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Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival to Feature Nationally Renowned Jazz Artists

The Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival, one of the Mid-Atlantic's signature jazz events, held along the shores of the beautiful Potomac River and in the charming Town of Leonardtown in St. Mary's County, Maryland, will feature fantastic jazz artists during the three-day jazz weekend from July 7-9, 2023.

This popular, annual festival, which has become known in the past two decades for showcasing local culinary delicacies of Maryland's Mother County in addition to renowned, national jazz talent, will feature three days of jazz fun. In 2019, the 20th anniversary festival was recognized by the Maryland office of Tourism with the "Maximizing Opportunities Award" – the only event in Maryland to receive such distinction.

On Friday, July 7, 2023, the festivities kick-off with a welcome reception at the Inn at Leonardtown, with music and light fare at 2 p.m. Businesses throughout the Town of Leonardtown will be participating and there will be lots of other jazz fun during the day, the highlight being a free concert at 5 p.m. featuring the internationally renowned Eric Byrd Trio.

On Saturday, July 8, 2023, the main event will be held on the grounds of St. Clement's Island Museum along the scenic Potomac River in Colton's Point, 20 short minutes

from Leonardtown. This year will feature four amazing acts. Opening the day at noon will be popular GrooveSpan. Then, the music continues at 2:30 p.m. with local favorite Latrice Carr, followed by the always-fantastic Brian Simpson at 5 p.m. Finally, our day ends with nationally acclaimed jazz artist Kim Waters at 7 p.m. Several food vendors, offering a wide variety of seafood and other Southern Maryland fare will be available throughout the day as well as other jazzy vendors – a new addition. Free water taxi rides around picturesque St. Clement's Island, the first landing of English settlers in Maryland in 1634, will be offered to all eventgoers, as well as free museum admission. Special memorabilia commemorating the festival, including the ever-popular music poster with this year's design, will be on sale. The party continues back in Leonardtown with an after party at Brudergarten at 10 p.m.

Then, on Sunday, July 9, 2023, businesses in the Town of Leonardtown will once again host of various jazz-themed activities, including jazz brunches at several in-town restaurants, jazz events at Port



of Leonardtown Winery, and much more. Exclusive jazz cruises on Breton Bay will also be offered on Friday and Sunday.

Visitors from out of town are encouraged to stay the entire weekend to enjoy all the festivities by purchasing special discount festival hotel packages, which will include such amenities as hotel room stays, festival tickets, and more.

Tickets, both VIP and discount packages, are now available on the festival's website, PotomacJazzandSeafoodFestival.com, and information is also available on the event's Facebook page. The public is encouraged to check these resources reg-

ularly for event updates.

Proceeds from this event go towards funding the non-profit Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums, whose mission is to support the museums and historic sites under the care of the St. Mary's County Museum Division. The event's major partners include the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums, St. Mary's County Museum Division, the St. Mary's County Arts Council, and many Leonardtown businesses. For more information about the festival or to purchase tickets, please visit PotomacJazzandSeafoodFestival.com.



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The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Spring is late this year. The 10-day weather forecast looks like March, not May, so improvement looks slow. However, there are plenty of stripers in the 20-to-30-inch size just about everywhere. Jiggers at the Power Plant Discharge were able to come up with a couple dozen very respectable stripers in short time on opening day. There were two really big fish reported over 40 inches in the mix.

As soon as we get some rising temperatures and calm days, I think there will be a fair amount of trophy fish taken by trollers.

On May 16 the minimum keeper size will drop to 19 inches, one per day, in Maryland portions of the bay and some river mouths (check web site or regulation book). The



Potomac changes to 20 inch minimum and two per day. All waters will be open on June 1.

Blue cats are wide open in the Potomac and upper Patuxent.

White perch are now biting most everywhere.

Bass and crappie, bluegill and pickerel are active in lakes and ponds.

2023 Jr. Livestock Program Accepting Applications

The Southern Maryland Meats Program (SMM) is pleased to announce the application process for the 2023 SMM Junior Livestock Program is now open.

The SMM Junior Program was developed to engage young people in raising high quality meat animals adhering to SMM standards for feed, humane treatment and responsible raising practices, and to incentivize participation in the adult SMM marketing program.

The SMM Junior Livestock Program is open to kids and youth (age 8 to 21 yrs) involved in livestock production resident in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties. More than 100 youth have signed up to participate in the SMM Junior program since its inception in 2017. Eligible SMM Junior livestock projects include beef, sheep, hogs, goats, poultry and rabbits. 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) members are encouraged to apply.

"Southern Maryland Meats has always seen one of its missions as nurturing the next generation of livestock farmers," commented Craig Sewell, SMM Marketing and Livestock Manager. "Through the creation of the Junior Promotion Program and as premier sponsor for the past 16 years of the Southern Maryland Invitational Livestock Expo (SMILE), SMM has a demonstrated commitment of support for the region's

future farmers."

SMM Jr. Program participants receive a free t-shirt and stall card to promote their animals during the fall county fairs and, at the successful completion of the program, a stipend of \$125 to help finance their on-going livestock projects. To be eligible for the final Completion Award, SMM Juniors are required to submit an essay on one of four topics:

- All SMM livestock must have access to pasture; if you are feeding grain where do you buy your feed and what are your estimated feed costs?
- If your animals are grass finished how often do you rotate your pastures and ensure balanced nutrition on limited pastures?
- Define humane handling when raising your livestock.
- What additional resources can SMADC provide to assist you with your livestock project?

Applications for the SMM Junior Program must be submitted by May, 31, 2023. Find the online 2023 Jr. Application Form and full SMM Junior Program details at News & Events on SMADC.com. The Southern Maryland Meats marketing program is a program of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a Division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland.

Pet OF THE WEEK

MEET CHARCOAL



All things are paws-ible when you RESCUE!

Hi everybody, my name is Charcoal. My Rescue Resume states that I'm a CHAMPION on a leash, I'm ALWAYS EAGER to get outside to enjoy the fresh air and at 6 YEARS OLD, I've had lots of VALUABLE life experiences! And, I seem to like everyone I meet. Men, women, kids, teenagers, you name it, I just LOVE getting attention. I'm also a CHILL DOG who likes hanging out with the small dogs. Now, I'm here anxiously waiting to MEET YOU because I want to find my FOREVER FUR FRIEND! True love is a hop, skip, and a dog shelter away so please come meet me during adoption hours, Monday-Friday 11am-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm or email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! And always remember, OPT TO ADOPT, please 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>



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May 5-7



Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open Houses

May 6 • 11AM-2PM

Learn more about one of the nation's best-preserved one-room African American schoolhouses and its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County

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

Friday, May 5

6:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. Cinco de Mayo at Social Coffeehouse featuring specialty drinks and cuisine, [facebook.com/socialcoffeehouse](https://www.facebook.com/socialcoffeehouse)

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Antoinette's Garden Brunch, [facebook.com/AntoinettesGarden](https://www.facebook.com/AntoinettesGarden)

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

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)

4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Cinco de Mayo Celebration at Salsa's Mexican Café featuring specialty drinks and cuisine and live Mariachi music provided by Mariachi Garibaldi, [facebook.com/salsasmexicancafe](https://www.facebook.com/salsasmexicancafe)

4 p.m. - 7 p.m. The Leonardtown Arts & Entertainment District, St. Marty's County Arts Council and St. Mary's County Library host Cinco de Mayo First Friday festivities on the Arts Council lawn including Bilingual Storytime, children's Merengue dance lessons, and Día de los Muertos face painting, [stmarysartscouncil.com](https://www.stmarysartscouncil.com)

4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Fen Holistic Therapies Open House featuring local businesses offering yoga, gourmet coffee, clothing, photography and more, [facebook.com/fenholistictherapies](https://www.facebook.com/fenholistictherapies)

5 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Audience Participation Drum Circle on the Arts Council Lawn, [stmarysartscouncil.com](https://www.stmarysartscouncil.com)

5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Cinco de Mayo Cocktail Tasting at Quality Street Kitchen & Catering, [facebook.com/qualitystreetkitchenandcatering](https://www.facebook.com/qualitystreetkitchenandcatering)

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. North End Gallery Opening Reception for the Clay Extravaganza Art Show featuring the work of the gallery's five ceramic artists, [northendgallery.com](https://www.northendgallery.com)

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. St. Mary's County Arts Council will host an Opening Reception featuring the works of local artists in the theme of Cinco de Mayo! This Community Art Show will be featured for the month of May 2023 w/ an Opening Reception on First Friday, May 5th from 5 to 8 PM., [stmarysartscouncil.com](https://www.stmarysartscouncil.com)

5 p.m. - 10 p.m. FREE Trolley Rides provided by Patuxent Transportation LLC courtesy of the Town of Leonardtown, [visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownrolley](https://www.visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownrolley)

5:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Drumline performance on the Arts Council lawn, [stmarysartscouncil.com](https://www.stmarysartscouncil.com)

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Port of Leonardtown Winery, live music featuring Monkey Business, food by Heidi's Eats, Sage's Treats Food Truck, [facebook.com/portoftownwine](https://www.facebook.com/portoftownwine)

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Make a Friend, Tape a Friend Cinco de Mayo, Family-friendly Art Workshop in LTown Alley, 301-664-0396

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. First Friday live music on the Square featuring Justin Allen, [visitleonardtownmd.com/firstfriday](https://www.visitleonardtownmd.com/firstfriday)

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Board & Brush, Pick Your Project Workshop (for 16 +), [boardandbrush.com/leonardtown](https://www.boardandbrush.com/leonardtown)

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. The Yellow Line Studio, Monoprinting with Gel Plates 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 (12 and under), [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)

7 p.m. Doors Open, 8 p.m. Bell Time Live Lucha Libre event at The Rex Theatre, [facebook.com/therextheatre](https://www.facebook.com/therextheatre)



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CINCO DE MAYO

Saturday, May 6

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary's Spring Vendor Fair, jamieredd@hotmail.com

9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Bridal Fair at Town Market, facebook.com/townmarketllc

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Mother's Day Make & Take Workshop at Board & Brush, boardandbrush.com/leonardtown

10 a.m. Pilates & Pour with SPICE Studio at Xella Winery & Vineyard featuring a 60-minute Pilates mat class and Xella wine starting at 10 a.m., facebook.com/spicestudio

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Kids Open Studio at Wine & Design (kids 12 and under), facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Wine & Design - Open Studio for teens to adults, facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Fen Holistic Therapies and Dreamy Days Beauty presents the 1st Annual Mother's Day Outing featuring spa treatments, beauty and skincare guidance, light snacks, mimosas and take home samples of best-selling products, facebook.com/fenholistictherapies or facebook.com/dreamydaysbeauty

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Antoinette's Garden Brunch, facebook.com/AntoinettesGarden

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Arts Council Gift & Gallery viewing hours featuring the Cinco de Mayo Art Show and the works of local member artists, stmarysartscouncil.com

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. North End Gallery viewing hours featuring the work of the gallery's five ceramic artists in their Clay Extravaganza Art Show, northendgallery.com

12 p.m. - 7 p.m. Port of Leonardtown Winery, live music featuring Unfinished Business, food by Linda's Café on the Go Food Truck, facebook.com/portoftownwine

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. May Mini Sign Workshop at Board & Brush, boardandbrush.com/leonardtown

2 p.m. - 10 p.m. FREE Trolley Rides provided by Patuxent Transportation LLC courtesy of the Town of Leonardtown, visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownrolley

7 p.m. Live music at Social Coffeehouse featuring Becky & Kryss starting at 7 p.m., facebook/socialcoffeehouse

Sunday, May 7

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Spring Fling Car Show (this is the rescheduled date for this event), facebook.com/stmarysrodandclassic

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Mother's Day Make & Take Workshop at Board & Brush, boardandbrush.com/leonardtown

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Antoinette's Garden Brunch, facebook.com/AntoinettesGarden

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. FREE Trolley Rides provided by Patuxent Transportation LLC courtesy of the Town of Leonardtown, visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownrolley

12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Port of Leonardtown Winery, live music featuring Jack McNutt, food by Wildwood BBQ Food Truck, facebook.com/portoftownwine

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Pick Your Project Workshop at Board & Brush, boardandbrush.com/leonardtown

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Kids Open Studio at Wine & Design (kids 12 and under), facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Wine & Design - Open Studio for teens to adults. facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

The information included here is accurate at the time of printing, and is subject to change. Please visit the event page for current information.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Some 'did-you-knows' about estate plans

If you've done any estate planning, or even if you're just familiar with it, you probably know the basics — that is, a comprehensive estate plan can help you pass on assets to your family while also achieving other goals, such as designating someone to take care of your affairs if you become unable to do so. But you may not know about some other estate-planning issues that could prove important in your life:

- *Power of attorney for students* – Children heading off to college may be considered legal adults in many states. Consequently, you, as a parent, may not have any control over medical treatment if your child faces a sudden, serious illness or is involved in an accident. Instead, a doctor who doesn't know your child or your family may decide on a course of action of which you might not approve. To help prevent this, you may want to have your college student sign a medical power of attorney form, which will allow you to make decisions on your child's behalf if doctors don't think your child can make those choices. You might also want to combine the medical power of attorney with an advance health care directive or living will, which lets you specify actions you do or don't want to happen. In any case, consult with your legal advisor before taking any of these steps.
- *Community property versus common law* – Not all states treat married couples' possessions equally. If you live in a community property state, the property you acquire during your marriage is generally considered to be owned in equal halves by each spouse, with some exceptions. But if you live in a common law state, the property you obtain while you're married is not automatically owned by both spouses. In these states, if you buy some property, you own it, unless you decide to put it in the name of yourself and your spouse. This doesn't necessarily mean, however, that your spouse has no rights, because common law states typically have rules that guard surviving spouses from being disinherited. But here's the key point: If you move from a community property state to a common law state, or vice versa, you might not want to assume that your and your spouse's property ownership situations will remain the same. Consequently, if you do move, you may want to consult an estate-planning attorney in your new state to determine where you stand.
- *Pet trusts* – You always strive to take good care of your pets. But what might happen to them if you become incapacitated in some way? Unless you have a close family member or friend who's willing to take over care for your pet, you might want to consider setting up a pet trust, which can take effect either during your lifetime or after you pass away. A trustee typically will make payments to the caregiver you've designated for your pet, with payments continuing for the pet's lifetime or a set number of years. Again, an estate-planning attorney can help you with this arrangement.

Estate planning certainly involves the big-picture issue of leaving a legacy to the next generation. But the issues we've discussed can also be meaningful to you, so you'll want to address them properly.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

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

Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



A Beautiful Day



This morning I was mournfully looking out our bay window at our beautiful dogwood tree thinking how short a time the beautiful blossoms had to bloom. All the high winds and rain have taken their toll on the delicate blooms. But then looking down on the ground, I could see the positive side by how beautifully those lost blooms were carpeting a large area in front of our house; an area under the trees where nothing ever seems to grow, though my husband valiantly plants grass seed there every year. Maybe the dogwood petals will act like a mulch to keep the grass seed safe from the birds. This may be the year that my husband has year round grass in that shady area, though I keep thinking maybe a cool, mossy brick patio, like the one we had growing up, would look really nice in the front of the house. Those pretty, mossy bricks can be quite slippery, however.

I found that what looks like petals of a flower on dogwood trees are not petals but are leaves called bracts. "The actual flowers are the small yellow clusters in the center of the bracts. The bracts form in a cross shape, with two long bracts, and two short bracts. This formation holds religious symbolism, as it forms what look like tiny floral crosses all over the dogwood tree. The bracts are indented on the edge, which gives the appearance that a nail has passed through them." I suppose that is what makes them a perfect Easter time tree as well. The photo I took was just a short time after Easter. You can still see the tops of stuffed animal bunny ears left from my Easter window display.

Another thing that those pretty Bracts (I still think petals or blossoms sounds better) cover are those stringy brown tassels which are called catkins or tassels. I do like the name catkins and have heard it mentioned by friends and tv weather people a lot this year. "The catkins are the male pollen structures produced by oak trees. They hang in the trees waiting to release their pollen into the wind to fertilize the female flowers." Well, these last few weeks with all the wind around here those oaks have released enough of these catkins to start a thousand baby oaks just in our yard alone. Its always fun getting the wet catkin clumps out of your windshield wipers and out of that area right below the wipers. Its hard to see our roof at all with all of them covering it. I'm sure my husband will be up there soon with the leaf blower.

And besides the catkins we always have the small worm-like brown things which are actually the male pinecones that cover a lot of the front and back yard. The wormy things lay primarily on the ground underneath the pine trees, but end up everywhere, most annoyingly my hair. We are also loaded with pine trees. Storms over the last few years have taken down quite a few pine trees in the wooded part of the backyard. Between the neighbors yards behind us and our fallen pine trees it looks like a war zone. Cleaning that area up with our tree guy is on a future bucket list. I like the look of a natural forest myself where there are fallen logs and trees which are partially fallen and leaning against other trees. I like feeling as if we lived in a park.

It's all just nature's seasonal changes. We see nearly the same things every year, but how wonderful to experience the season of spring's rebirth from the grass to the trees to the flowers. I'm still undecided on the birth of mosquitos and ants, though there is little to be done about that; they must have some kind of purpose. Each day brings these amazing changes and growth as well as loss like the beautiful dogwood blossoms gone too soon. We also change and grow like our surroundings which makes each and every day beautiful.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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

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.

Lester Erwin Ryan, 93



January 9, 1930 – April 24, 2023

Lester Erwin Ryan, age 93, passed away peacefully on April 24, 2023, at Fernandina Beach Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in

Fernandina Beach, Florida. He was a long-time resident of St. Mary's City, Maryland.

Les was born January 9, 1930, in Osceola, Arkansas to Lester and Mabel (Rogers) Ryan.

He graduated from Oak Ridge High School, Oak Ridge Tennessee in 1947 and attended the University of Tennessee for one year prior to enlisting in the U.S. Navy, where he served until his retirement as a Lieutenant in 1967. As an instructor at the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Millington, TN, he met his future wife, Mary Jo Crowley where she was his student. After marriage on December 28, 1950, she was to be his faithful wife for 67 years until her passing in 2018.

As he rose through the ranks in the Navy, he moved his growing family no less than 15 times to duty stations all over the United States. This included duty stations in California, Tennessee, Florida, Texas, Virginia and Maryland. While deployed to NAF Sigonella, Sicily as an Aviation Maintenance Officer in his P-3A squadron, VP-44, his wife and five children, ages 1 to 9, joined him in a small apartment in Catania. After retirement from the Navy in 1967, he and his family returned to St. Mary's County, where they had been sta-

tioned at NAS Patuxent River twice before.

Les was a gifted athlete, especially in fast pitch softball, where he was selected to several All-Navy and All-Star teams as a prolific home run hitter, and was the coach/player of the NAS Beeville, Texas team.

After retirement from the Navy and brief employment at Placid Harbor Yacht Club and General Kinetics, he continued his career at NAS Patuxent River in the Civil Service, first at Weapons Systems Test and then as the head of the Targets Section. Following retirement from the Civil Service, he enjoyed employment at Wyle Labs and DynCorp in Lexington Park before joining his wife in retirement to their home in St. Mary's City.

Lester is survived by his five children; Lester, Mikel, Laurie, Jody and Stuart; seven adored grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind innumerable friends in the Patuxent River area. He is predeceased by his parents Lester and Mabel, his wife Mary Jo, and his sisters Louise, Sydney, Mildred, Norma Jean and Bernice.

His love of family, animals and wildlife, and especially his love of his wife, will always be remembered by his family and many friends.

His remains will be cremated and joined with those of his beloved wife. There are no planned services.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Well Pet Clinic, 21800 North Shangri La Drive, Unit 16, Lexington Park, MD 20653; to the Humane Society; or to a local Animal Rescue.

Please share your memories and condolences at www.oxleyheard.com.

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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.

Whole Body Bliss with Self-Myofascial Release – Workshop

Join instructor, Judi Lyons, at Northern Senior Activity Center on Monday, May 8, from 1-2:30 p.m. This workshop explores Self-Myofascial Release (SMR) an easy, targeted, and drug-free

self-treatment method that can provide immediate and long-lasting pain relief. SMR techniques can improve posture, mobility, stability, range of motion, blood flow, nerve function, and the immune system. This workshop addresses multiple issues and conditions from head to toe and can be tailored to participants' specific needs. Conditions that benefit from SMR are Arthritis and Joint Pain, Back Pain, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Congestion, Fibromyalgia, Frozen Shoulder, Headaches/Migraines, Plantar Fasciitis, and Repetitive Motion Injuries, Restless Leg Syndrome, Sciatica/Piriformis Syndrome, Scoliosis, TMJ Syndrome and more. *Balls and full color illustrated instruction e-handbook included. Judi Lyons/Mindful Motions Md. is YACEP®, E-RYT® 200, EMYoga® Certified, RYT® 500 Therapeutic. Register and pay the \$20 event fee by visiting www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs." If assistance is needed, leave a

message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

Mother's Day Breakfast Café

Happy Mother's Day! Join us at Northern Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, May 10, from 9-10 a.m. for a special edition of Breakfast Café to celebrate mothers, and as a tribute to all women. The menu will include ham, scrambled eggs, French toast, and fresh fruit. Local musician, Will Yeckley, will provide a lovely acoustic guitar & vocal performance to accompany the meal. Register and pay the \$2 sponsored event fee by visiting www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs." If assistance is needed, leave a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

Watermelon Wood Coasters

For this fun beginner craft, we will be painting small slices of wood to look like watermelons. Perfect for the summer! No painting experience is required to participate. The cost for the class is \$15 and all materials and instruction will be provided. Class will be held at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, May 10 at 6 p.m. Register online at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs." Please

call the Reservation Request Line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, if you need assistance with registration.

Pouring Paint Class

Would you like to learn how to make those swirled paintings? Join us at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, May 17, at 6 p.m. Class is beginner friendly and does not require any painting ability or experience. Materials and instructions will be provided. The cost for the class is \$10. Dress for mess so be sure to wear clothes you wouldn't mind spilling paint on. You can now use the online registration at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs". Please call the Reservation Request Line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1075 if you need assistance with registration.

Men's Health Day

The St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services is pleased to announce the 2nd Annual Men's Health Day event on Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Garvey Senior Activity Center, located at 23630 Hayden Farm Lane in Leonardtown. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. This year's presentations include:

- **You Are What You Eat -**

Nutrition Forum

Presented by: Rihana Bouhoussein & Kelly Condron
St. Mary's County Health Department & MedStar St. Mary's Hospital
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

- **The Care and Keeping of YOU: The Importance of Self Care**
Presented by: Theron Hudson
St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Along with the guest speakers, Men's Health Day will feature informational displays, health screenings, and lunch provided by Mission BBQ.

Many thanks to our generous event sponsor – Personalized Therapy, LLC!

This event is free to attend; however, pre-registration for this event is strongly encouraged. To register, please visit: stmaryscountymd.gov/menshealth.

For more information, contact the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services Community Programs & Outreach Division Manager, Sarah Miller at (301) 475-4200, ext. 1073, or sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



Book It! Teen Edition

Are you a Teen and enjoy reading young adult novels? Then, join us at Lexington Park Library on Thursday, May 11 from 4 – 5 p.m. for our monthly book club at the library! During each session, we will be reading one young adult novel. Activities, discussions, and snacks will be available for the participants. Each title is available at several library locations, through Libby, and on Hoopla. The chosen titles are listed below. Registration is required on www.stmalib.org Intended for ages 12-18. May's selection is Tokyo Ever After by Emiko Jean

Suddenly in Command: When the Boat Operator Is Incapacitated

This course is to assist boat occu-

pants who are not normally at the helm; including guests, spouses, children, or others aboard. Join us at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, May 13 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. What would you do if the operator of the boat you are on becomes ill, gets injured, falls overboard, or has to attend to another emergency? This course will familiarize you with essential safety information so you can assess and stabilize the situation, operate the vessel, and summon any required assistance. This is a classroom course, not an on-the-water course, and does not provide actual underway experience. Register on www.stmalib.org.

You Belong at the Library

Join us at Charlotte Hall Library on Monday, May 15 from 10 – 11 a.m. to complete a fun arts and crafts project! This

event is intended for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities as well as their friends, family, and caregivers. You Belong at the Library usually meets on the third Monday of the month. Please register each person who will be attending. Register on www.stmalib.org

African American Genealogy

Interested in learning about your family's history and ancestry? Join us with Christine Iko, a librarian at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, who specializes in African American History and Genealogy on Wednesday, May 17 from 6 – 7 p.m. This session explores how to conduct genealogical research focusing on African American heritage, family, history, and more. We will solely focus on African American genealogy and the resources, records, and documents to utilize in one's

research. African American genealogy requires expertise in research and familiarity with history that differs from other concentrations as, throughout much of American history, African Americans were prohibited from reading, writing, attending school, legally marrying, owning land, owning a business, voting, and participating in many other activities that generate records.

All Maryland residents are eligible to use the online resources of Pratt Library that will be highlighted in this session by signing up for a free ecard online at Pratt Library's website. We invite anyone who is interested in genealogy, research, and/or history; this program is open to everyone. 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, May 4

Southern Maryland Spring Festival

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
42455 Fairgrounds Rd, Leonardtown
5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Family Fun For Everyone!

For over 25 years, the Southern Maryland Spring Festival has brought the local community together for a weekend of family fun with carnival rides, entertainment, food, indoor yard sale, crafters and much more! This fun-filled, family-oriented event is a popular local event for the community and the festival showcases many of our local talents and businesses.

Holy Face Church in Great Mills, Maryland is the proud sponsor of the Southern Maryland Spring Festival.

Seventh District VFD Auxiliary Online Auction

Seventh District Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Facebook page
6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Seventh District Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will be having an online auction on their Facebook page starting 6:00 PM Thursday May 4th and will be

open to bid on items May 4th, May 5th and May 6th. Auction ends at 1:00 pm May 6th. Highest bid at 1:00 wins. Place bids in comments under item. Always check most relevant and newest when bidding. Winners will be notified by Facebook in the comments. There will be a live preview on Facebook at 5:00 PM May 4th.

Winners can pick up items May 6th from 2:30 PM—4:00 PM at the firehouse.

Thanks in advance for your support!

Fri, May 5

Newtowne Players Presents *These Shining Lives*

Newtowne Theatre
Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park
8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

These Shining Lives chronicles the strength and determination of women considered expendable in their day, exploring their true story and its continued resonance. Catherine and her friends are dying, it's true; but theirs is a story of survival in its most transcendent sense, as they refuse to allow the company that stole their health to kill their spirits—or endanger the lives of those who come after them. www.newtowneplayers.org/thesesininglives.html

Sat, May 6

Spring Craft & Vendor Show

Leonardtown Fire House
22733 Lawrence Ave, Leonardtown
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Auxiliary of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a Spring Craft and Vendor Show. The event will be held on May 6th from 9am—3pm inside the fire truck bays. We will have a large variety of crafters and vendors offering unique items for purchase! Shop local and buy gifts or treat yourself! Space is still available! Please email jamieredd@hotmail.com if you are interested in renting a table.

Mattress Sale Fundraiser

Great Mills High School
21130 Great Mills Rd, Great Mills
11 a.m. to 5p.m.

Great Mills HS will be hosting our 2nd Annual one-day mattress sale to raise money for their Band Program. We will have 20+ brand name mattress floor models on display as well as premium bedding accessories, including weighted blankets, luxury pillows and sheets, adjustable power bases, and more.

All products are brand new, made to order, with manufacturer's warranties. Not only will you save money compared to retail stores, but we make mattress shopping fun alongside your friends, family, and neighbors.

The best part of all is that EVERY purchase supports the Band Program at Great Mills High School. You don't want to miss this unique event... come get a better night's rest while also helping local students.

<https://fb.me/e/sLF8ruR0>

Upcoming

Great Mills High School Class of '72 and '73 Reunion

Friday, June 16, 7pm
Tall Timbers Tavern

Saturday, June 17, 6pm
Olde Breton Inn

The two-day event is \$75 per person. Other classmates are welcome. Reservations are required!

For more information call Jane at 301-247-6522 or email SRmattingly@gmail.com

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Dull and flat
6. Baking measurement (abbr.)
9. Education-based groups
13. Not behind
14. Runners run them
15. Japanese ankle sock
16. Grave
17. Japanese industrial city
18. People of southern Ghana
19. Particular designs
21. Device fitted to something
22. Infections
23. Pirates' preferred alcohol
24. Expression of sympathy
25. Rock guitarist's tool
28. Neither
29. Ancient city of Egypt
31. You __ what you sow
33. Ruined
36. Narrations
38. Body art (slang)
39. Fencing sword
41. Apartment buildings
44. Type of missile
45. Fathers
46. Extremely high frequency
48. Type of school
49. Incorrect letters
51. Two-year-old sheep
52. Nasty manner
54. One who accepts a bet
56. Indian prince
60. Asian country
61. Rhythmic patterns in Indian music
62. "Uncle Buck" actress Hoffmann
63. Detailed criteria
64. Son of Shem
65. Talked wildly
66. Discount
67. Not good
68. Growing out

CLUES DOWN

1. Actor Damon
2. A call used to greet someone
3. Part-time employee
4. Emaciation
5. "Westworld" actor Harris
6. Gains possession of
7. Relaxing spaces
8. 23rd star in a constellation
9. Northern grouse
10. Monetary unit of Bangladesh
11. Manila hemp
12. Unites muscle to bone
14. Makes deep cuts in
17. 18-year period between eclipses
20. Member of a people inhabiting southern Benin
21. Synthetic rubbers
23. Unwelcome rodent
25. Expression of creative skill
26. Some is red
27. Seems less in impressive
29. Harry Kane's team
30. Gland secretion
32. Action of feeling sorrow
34. Disallow
35. Deceptive movement
37. More dried-up
40. Crimson
42. Actress Ryan
43. Adherents of a main branch of Islam
47. Accomplished American president
49. Side of a landform facing an advancing glacier
50. Sheep breed
52. Appetizer
53. Broadway actress Daisy
55. Influential film critic
56. NY Giants ownership family
57. Type of script
58. Assist
59. London park
61. Bar bill
65. In reply indicator

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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9	1	2	6	5	7	3	4	8
3	6	7	1	8	4	9	5	2
5	8	4	9	2	3	7	6	1

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, May 4

Sea Squirts: Mamas and Babies

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

Children 18 months to 3 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. Cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

Fri, May 5

Annmarie After Hours

Annemarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center, Solomons
5-7 p.m.

Enjoy extended hours in the garden in celebration of the opening of a new exhibit in the Kay Daugherty Gallery. Both galleries in the Arts Building will be open until 7:00pm, 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. You'll find a cash bar and food truck as well. Admission is \$5/person; members free; reservations are not required, just come. Details: www.annmariegarden.org

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

Patuxent Voices

All Saints Parish Church
100 Lower Marlboro Rd, Sunderland
7 p.m.

Southern Maryland's premier women's a cappella group. Performances are free, donations are encouraged and are tax deductible.

Sat, May 6

Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale

Community Resource Building
30 Duke Street, Prince Frederick
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Native plants and shrubs, heirloom tomatoes, vegetables and herbs. LOTS to choose from, looking forward to seeing you there!

Solomons Maritime Festival

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Celebrate Southern Maryland traditions at this FREE festival! Visitors of all ages are invited to join us for exciting activities including, cooking demonstrations, traditional LIVE music, toy boat building, antique boats and motors, plus 30-minute cruises on the Wm. B. Tennison! Food trucks will be on-site. Admission to the festival and the museum is FREE!

Spring Craft Fair & Community Event

Huntingtown HS
125 N Solomons Island Rd.
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Spring Craft & Vendor Fair & Community Event. Touch a truck for kids, kids craft area. crafters and home based/small business. Food Trucks & Treats. free admission/parking. Over 50 vendors. Indoors & Outdoors. Rain or shine. Crafters may apply at cascierol@calvertnet.k12.md.us, please include the type of crafts you sell.

Rock, Rescue and Roll

American Legion, Chesapeake Beach
5-10 p.m.

Join us for fun filled evening to support

the Humane Society of Calvert County. Mexican themed dinner, live music by Nightlife, 50/50, raffles, cash bar and more. Tickets \$65 each humanesocietyofcalvertcounty.org

Sun, May 7

Patuxent Voices

Christ Church
3100 Broomes Island Rd, Port Republic
7 p.m.

Southern Maryland's premier women's a cappella group. Performances are free, donations are encouraged and are tax deductible.

Tue, May 9

Women's Health EXPO

CalvertHealth Medical Center and Farmers Market
130 Hospital Road, Prince Frederick
Open Air in parking lot
2:30-6:30 p.m.

Celebrate Mothers Day Week at the 8th Annual Women's Health EXPO for FREE. Over 40 booths and medical vans with fun gifts and handouts. Women of all ages are Welcome: Teenagers, pregnant and new moms (and babies),adults, and aging women.

Catch up on the newest Covid screenings, diabetes treatments and prevention, and learn about heart versus stroke symptoms. Heart and hearing exams available, with hearing devices on display. Nutrition is key for our health and fresh fruits and healthy food are for sale from popular vendors. Learn about mental wellness and reduce stress through message and low impact exercise like swimming.

This landmark event is sponsored by CalvertHealth Community Wellness, Calvert County Maryland Commission for Women, Calvert County HEALTH Department, The Calvert Library, and Calvert County Parks and Recreation. CONTACT : erin.farley@calverthealthmed.org (410) 414-4573.

Wed, May 10

Calverton School's Spring Open House

300 Calverton School Road
Huntingtown, 9- 11 a.m.

For 3K—11th graders! This special event will be held during school hours so on top of learning about the school community, you will be able to get a sneak peek into the daily activities of our current students. We hope you are able to make it!

Thu, May 11

Sea Squirts: Mamas and Babies

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

Children 18 months to 3 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. Cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

Ongoing

Wm. B. Tennison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
Wednesday thru Sunday, month of May
2 p.m.

Relax and enjoy a leisurely one-hour sightseeing cruise on the river aboard the Wm. B. Tennison, a log-built bugeye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4.00 for children 5-12 years. Children under 5 ride free when accompanied by a paying adult.

Upcoming

Night at the Museum for Friends with Disabilities

Calvert Marine Museum
5 – 7 p.m.

The museum and grounds will be open exclusively for guests with disabilities and their families, friends, or caregivers. This FREE evening of fun is offered through a collaboration with CCPR Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS). Enjoy the skates and rays, fish, fossils, and maritime history in a relaxed and supportive environment. Learn about river otters and meet Bubbles, our otter mascot. Explore the

Discovery Room, boat basin, and Drum Point Lighthouse. The Museum Store will be open and full of items for all ages and interests. Take a 30-minute cruise on the Wm. B. Tennison at 5 p.m., 5:45 p.m., or 6:30 p.m. A calming room is available. For more information contact Kathleen Porecki. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for each person to ride the Wm. B. Tennison - Call 410-535-1600, ext. 8204 or 8205 to register for a cruise. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required for museum access – Register online at Preregister to access the museum and search for Activity #470773.

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Chesapeake Garden Club Annual Plant Sale Scheduled



endangered species. Her exhibit and discussion will encourage others to become “hosts” and help the environment to preserve these precious and beautiful insects. Plants for sale will include both annuals and perennials.

Many plants are from members’ gardens and include irises, daylilies, ground covers, hosta, sunflowers, Black-Eyed Susan, and native plants. Vegetable plants and herbs including basil, oregano, mint, thyme, sage, and dill will be for sale. Maryland native ground covers, bulbs and cuttings of hydrangeas, hellebores, forsythia and more are available, houseplants too!

New this year will be a “Garden Room” featuring unique items. Among the items will be Southern MD tobacco sticks that are transformed into walking sticks, stars and trellis’ for large pots or yards. Wreaths, Mother’s Day Baskets, vintage linens, and jewelry are among the gift items. In addition,

the club’s Master Gardeners will share gardening tips and answer questions from the public and will provide tips and recommendations to improve home gardens.

For more information, please contact Plant Sale Chair Sharon Sherbert – 240-723-1318. For more information on the Chesapeake Garden Club visit their Face Book page to learn more about the Club and its activities. The club is part of the Maryland Federated Garden Clubs of America and is celebrating its 65th birthday this year!

The Chesapeake Garden Club’s annual Plant Sale takes place on Saturday, May 13, on the grounds of Fairview Branch Library from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fairview is located at the intersection of Route 4 and Chaneyville Road in Owings. Parking is available. The Club is grateful to the Fairview Staff for their wonderful cooperation during this event.

Club member Rosanna Noyes, an amateur lepidopterist, will speak on her hobby of raising Monarch butterflies which she began in 2018 when she learned that they were an

Celebrate Southern Maryland Heritage at the Maritime Festival



Celebrate Southern Maryland heritage on Saturday, May 6 at the Calvert Marine Museum’s 17th annual Solomons Maritime Festival. Antique boats and marine engines, cooking demonstrations, traditional music, toy boat building, and boat rides offer something for every member of the family. Free 30 – minute cruises on the Wm. B. Tennison from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., the museum remains open until 5 p.m. Admission to the festival and museum is FREE.

The museum’s waterfront comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of Southern Maryland. Traditional food demonstrations will teach guests how to make crab cakes, fry softshell crabs, learn how to shuck oysters, and stuff a ham like the pros! Enjoy music all day long at the Motto Mortgage Preferred and Re/Max One Waterside Pavilion. See Chesapeake Bay retrievers in action, watch model boats skim the waters of the boat basin, and talk with traditional craftspeople as they demonstrate their skills. Children of all ages will especially enjoy toy boat building!

The Patuxent Small Craft Guild will offer rides to the public on multiple small crafts, including sailboats, power boats, and row and pedal boats. The museum’s skipjack, Dee of St. Mary’s, will be offering dockside tours throughout the festival.

Traditional crafts are also celebrated! Visitors can examine how crab and eel pots are constructed. Inside the museum, demonstrations of quilting and other textile crafts will be on-going throughout the day. Local food vendors will be on-site throughout the festival!

The Antique Boat and Marine Engine Show, now in its 22nd year, is a popular component of the festival. Enthusiasts from across the country will set-up camp to show off their vintage boats and engines. The unofficial engine swap is a great way to expand your collection. The Patuxent Small Craft Guild will also host a Nautical Flea Market, with all proceeds supporting the Guild.

For a detailed event schedule and campus map, visit: <https://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/233/Annual-Events>

The Solomons Maritime Festival is sponsored by Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, Calvert County Watermen’s Association, Calvert Marina, LLC, Patuxent Small Craft Guild, and Washburn’s Boat Yard. For more information, please call Sherry Reid, Volunteer & Events Coordinator, at 410-326-2042 ext. 8085, or visit the Calvert Marine Museum Facebook page or website at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com.

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CalvertHealth

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Nursing: An Affair of the Heart

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

“Nursing is a work of the heart. It’s something that you have to put your heart, your soul, everything into,” said Michelle Smith, lead clinical coordinator at CalvertHealth Medical Center in Prince Frederick. Smith spoke to The County Times ahead of National Nurses Week, May 8-14, always the week of the birthday of Florence Nightingale (May 12).

Smith has been a nurse for 17 years and was recently appointed to her new administrative position. Although she attended school in Prince George’s and then Anne Arundel County, where she graduated from high school, she considers herself a countian as her family is from Huntingtown. “I’m pretty much Calvert County born and raised.”

She has worked her entire career at CalvertHealth. She said, “Nursing is something that I feel like I came to me pretty early on. I started at the Center of Applied Technology-South (in Anne Arundel). I did a nursing assistant class there, and I passed that and got my certification. And I actually was a CNA in high school. And so, I would go to school Monday through Friday and then I worked every weekend at a nursing home in Annapolis. Absolutely loved it. Then my grandmother got sick my senior year of high school and being able to help take care of her just made me know that nursing is what I wanted to do. I really love to help people and I just love the one-to-one interaction that I have with the patients.”

But then she got married, had two kids and her career was on hold for a bit. But she added, “By 24 I was back in nursing school to get my nursing degree and I’ve been doing it ever since.” She got her degree from College of Southern Maryland.

She was asked if she had any regrets about her decision. She said, “I’m a single mom now. I have two children. They’re grown. Sometimes you look at it, you think about the time spent away from family, but I have a great family that was a good support system, so my kids were never alone. And something about just being here with the patients when they’re sick on holidays and spending the holidays with patients and just making them be comfortable, that was satisfying.”

She added, “I absolutely love what I do. During Covid, I thought, I have a lot of family that work for the government, and they were home, and it was a scary time. But the way we all banded together here as a family, these people here (at the hospital) are like my family too. Some patients I’ve been taking care of in the community for years. And my coworkers, they’re all family too. I



spend more time with them sometimes than I do my actual family, so I have no regrets.”

Her career path at CalvertHealth, formerly Calvert Memorial Hospital, started as a tech and then when she graduated from nursing school, she worked on the telemetry floor for two years. And then after that in the Intensive Care Unit for 13 years before assuming her new position.

In her new role she hopes to be able to fill in occasionally on the floor. “I’m starting to really miss bedside. ICU said they would welcome me back anytime, like with some nurses going on maternity leave or people going on vacation. So, I will be floating back and forth in there to help out and to kind of just give me that patient care.” You can tell she really misses that.

The lead clinical coordinator, she explained, takes care of “the overall day-to-day care of the hospital patients, responding to different codes in the hospital. Each floor has what they call a charge nurse. And the charge nurse knows what’s going on each floor. I kind of just have to have an idea of what’s going on in the whole hospital. So, I have different departments calling me for

all different things.”

She adds, “So it’s just having an overall view of what’s going on in the hospital, knowing the census of the hospital. If there’s any type of crisis, I’m one of the frontline people that will respond and start to organize everybody into a plan.”

Mentoring nurses is part of her role. “I think it has a lot to do with this hospital being a small hospital. You get out and you go to all the different floors, and you see the different nurses. And I’ve been here for a long time, so I know most of the people.”

Just asking the nurses “How’s it going?” can lead to questions. “Sometimes people will come ask you questions that they may not feel comfortable asking their director.” They’ll say they just want her opinion.

“We want them to feel that we’re down to earth, we are part of the administration, but we’re also there to help them on the floor and be a resource,” she explained.

Dealing with the loss of a patient is one of the most difficult aspects of being a nurse, she concedes. “When a situation like that happens, you’re pulled because you’re there for the patient, but you’re also having to

provide a service for the family too.”

She said, “Most of the time afterwards, the family members will come back to you and thank you, but it is just getting them through that.”

She explained, “If we have a patient that’s being put in what we call care and comfort, which means that they may be transitioning to hospice or may be projected to die in a very short period of time, they may call the clinical coordinator in to talk with the family and make sure that they’re comfortable and that they understand what’s going on.”

Smith said CalvertHealth is really good in supplying mentors for beginning nurses. She fondly remembers her ICU manager Anne Lockhart. “I was very young. I had two young kids. I actually have a daughter who has a disability. And just being able to talk to her on a personal level. But also, she was the one that kind of pushed me to excel in my career. When I started on Level 2, she said, are you ready to go to ICU. And I didn’t believe in myself, but she believed in me and kind of just kept on pushing me. And then she wanted me to come to this job as the clinical coordinator, and I told her I didn’t think I was ready. And I was happy that I made the decision to come when I did, because she actually just recently passed away in March.”

“She was a great mentor to a lot of people in this hospital.”

What would she say to a young person considering her profession? With the advice that it’s a work of the heart she would add, “I always believe that whatever you want to do in life, you have to make sure that that’s what you want to do and what is in your heart, because if not, you’re not going to put your all into it, your patients and their families deserve that. So, it’s a lot of sacrifice. Even with your personal life, it’s a lot of sacrifice. I’ve spent a lot of holidays away from my family.” She added she’s spent a lot of snow days at work when a lot of her family who are in government jobs were at home.

Of working at CalvertHealth, she said, “I think it’s very community oriented, very family oriented. We and our coworkers look at each other as family. And I think that makes a big difference.”

She added, “I think that everybody that’s here wants to be here. They’re here for the right reasons, and they give 110 percent. During Covid in ICU we would work five days a week. We would be here 14, 15 hours a day. But it just seemed right, like no one complained. That’s what we were supposed to do. That’s what our community needed, and that’s what we were going to give.”

dickmyers@countytimes.net

THANK YOU
NURSES



CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

Four Suspects Apprehended Following Dunkirk Bank Robbery



Cedric Moore



Donise Blacknell



Jamel Brown



Silas Moore

On Monday, May 1, 2023, around 1:30 p.m., deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau responded to an armed bank robbery at the M&T Bank located at 10090 Southern Maryland Blvd. in Dunkirk, MD.

Preliminary investigation revealed a male suspect approached the counter and passed the teller a note, then displayed a handgun demanding money. The suspect fled with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Witnesses observed the suspect enter a brown Kia with no front tag fleeing SB on Rt. 4. Detectives with the Criminal Investigation Bureau located a vehicle matching the description provided by witnesses at Rt. 4 and Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick. Detectives initiated a traffic stop where the suspect vehicle fled through a red light causing several property damage accidents along northbound Rt. 4. A pursuit ensued along Rt. 2 and Rt. 260 in

Owings, where the suspect vehicle struck an uninvolved citizen's vehicle leaving both vehicles disabled ending the pursuit.

Two occupants in the suspect vehicle were transported to area hospitals with minor injuries. Two additional occupants in the suspect vehicle were apprehended and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center.

The uninvolved citizen was flown to an area trauma center with serious injuries and remains in critical condition.

Anyone with additional information about this incident is asked to contact Detective W. Wells at wayne.wells@calvertcountymd.gov or 410-535-2800 ext. 2595.

In accordance with Maryland State Law, The Maryland Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division (IID) was contacted, but based on a lack of qualifying factors, declined to handle the investigation. The Calvert County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate.

Youth Coach Pleads Guilty to Child Sex Abuse Charges



Moshe Michael Imel

Moshe Michael Imel, 53, of Owings, on May 2 entered a guilty plea in Calvert County Circuit Court to three felony charges relating to the sexual abuse of minors. Imel had previously entered a guilty plea to charges in Federal

court involving the production of child pornography.

Between 2009 – 2020, Imel was the

head coach of the Patuxent Rhinos youth football team. During this time frame, he enticed minors into his home with the promise of allowing them to become members of the team. Over time, he bribed his victims with food, money, and other gifts to force them to engage in sexual activity. On numerous occasions, Imel produced videos of his activity.

Imel will be sentenced by Judge Mark S. Chandlee on August 4, 2023. The State is seeking 40 years of active incarceration. It is expected that this sentence, coupled with the sentence in Federal court, will insure that Imel spends the rest of his life behind bars.

First Responders Warn of Lithium-Ion Battery Dangers

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County's fire and rescue community has expressed concerns about the safety of lithium-ion batteries and the impact on volunteers and paid personnel. The concerns were aired during a May 2 briefing to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

Public Safety Division Chief for the Fire/Rescue/EMS Department Jim Richardson wrote in a memo prepared for the presentation, "Lithium-ion batteries pose a significant risk in fire situations due to their potential to release harmful chemicals, such as hydrogen fluoride and carbon monoxide when exposed to heat. The risk associated with lithium-ion batteries is further compounded by the fact that they are often found in consumer products such as laptops, smartphones, and electric vehicles, which are widely used in our daily lives. Firefighters need to be equipped with proper training, tools, and safety gear to handle incidents involving lithium-ion batteries."

Mike Threlfall, assistant chief of the Huntingtown Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad and chairman of the Calvert County Chief's Council, told the commissioners the batteries have been in production since 1991 and offer advantages over sulfuric acid batteries that have made them pervasive: "It does last longer. It will provide an energy source for a longer period of time compared to that sulfur or sulfuric acid battery. It has a higher power density, which means it provides more energy for whatever it's trying to operate, and then certainly has a longer life expectancy and it has a lighter package."

He explained, "A general lithium-ion rechargeable cell has a cathode, and that's how that energy's actually passing those lithium-ion particles through that electrolyte, which is what's causing the problem. In the middle of that electrolyte, you have a separator, and that separator's job is to keep that cathode and ion separated, but it also stabilizes that battery. And if that separator becomes compromised or what we call battery insult...it's causing these problems. When that separator starts to fail, that's when the battery starts to become unstable, and that's when we can actually have an emergency."

He added, "That electrolyte is actually a liquid material, a hydrocarbon base, which means it is flammable. So, when that starts to heat up, that liquid will actually yield a gas, which is a flammable, highly toxic gas, and that's what's igniting, that's what's causing the emergency. And then as that burns, that liquid continues to convert to a gas which



continues to feed the fire."

Many products with the batteries are manufactured with safeguards built in. But, Threlfall said, "There are a lot of companies that are building these maybe not as safe, a lot of aftermarket products and things like that. So, there's an actual electronic module on that battery that prevents it from being overcharged, undercharged, things like that. So, you can get a lot of these aftermarkets that are out there for consumption. They'll actually, to save money, remove that modular off. So now it is unsafe, but it's being sold as a commodity for people to use and, people think they're saving money, because there are a lot of costs associated to this kind of technology."

"It's buyer beware," he said, because it's difficult to know if the safety precautions have been added. Probably a real clue could be in a significantly lower cost.

And government regulation is lagging, he added.

An example of a local fire apparently caused by such a battery in an electric vehicle was the one last year that did extensive damage to the Public Works building in North Beach.

Richardson's memo concluded by saying, "Given the increasing use of lithium-ion batteries in our daily lives and the potential risks they pose in fire situations, it is imperative that appropriate measures are taken to ensure the safety of both firefighters and the public. We recommend training and education on the safe handling of lithium-ion batteries and exploring the possibility of procuring specialized equipment to deal with incidents involving these batteries. We appreciate the Board's attention to this important matter."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance told the presenters, "We would ask is that you continue to work with county staff and whoever you need to bring into that discussion. And as you identify issues, things that we can help you with that we're here to do that, communications, signage, whatever, you all identify. We want to make sure staff's on board to help you and we'll work you through that."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Court Rules Against Former Sheriff Evans on Public Information Fees

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

According to a press release from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Maryland, “In a lawsuit filed by ACLU of Maryland under the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA), the Baltimore City Circuit Court had ruled that (former) Calvert County Sheriff Mike Evans acted unlawfully by refusing to release public records about police search practices unless the ACLU paid what they considered to be a hefty fee.”

The ACLU sought the public information after receiving what they considered to be disturbing accounts from Calvert County residents about allegedly invasive police searches targeting Black people. But Sheriff Evans blocked disclosure of these records, demanding more than \$12,000 in fees.

The press release says, “The court ruled that the sheriff’s actions were wrong as a matter of law because he failed to consider how access to these records would serve the public interest.”

Current Calvert County Sheriff Ricky Cox said, in response to an inquiry from The

County Times, “This is an overhanging case that I was briefed on when I took office. It is currently with the assigned counsel while all legal options are explored.”

“This decision is a win for everyone in Calvert County seeking police accountability, especially those harmed by wrongful invasive searches,” said Dara Johnson, legal advocacy coordinator for the ACLU of Maryland. “The court’s ruling further confirms the public’s clear interest in protecting against police misconduct, and we are hopeful that these records will help us continue to do so.”

The ACLU press release said, “While Calvert County officials acknowledged that the information sought by the ACLU is publicly accessible under the law, they still tried to shield the information from disclosure by demanding what the ACLU considered to be a huge price tag, and then denying the ACLU’s request for a waiver of the fee, asserting without explanation that disclosure would not be in the public interest.”

ACLU said, “Sheriff Evans’s demand for a fee in response to a public records request is part of a troubling new statewide pattern. Fee waivers, once routinely granted to pub-

lic interest organizations like the ACLU, are dwindling. After a 2021 change in Maryland law that made certain police misconduct files part of the public record, police departments faced an influx of requests for information on officers’ disciplinary histories. Reluctant to produce the records but without legal justification not to, government agencies appear to be increasingly using fees as an obstacle to public disclosure of these records.”

During the court hearing on April 14, Circuit Court Judge Martin Schreiber rejected Calvert County’s claim, repeatedly emphasizing that information about police practices is of extreme public interest, and that this was particularly true during the period the records were requested.

“The Sheriff tried to argue that the public has no interest in understanding how — and how often — police officers deploy some of their most invasive tactics,” said Samantha Miller of Zuckerman Spaeder LLP who, along with her colleague Adam Abelson, represented the ACLU. “The judge was not persuaded.”

In July 2021 — prompted by complaints made to the ACLU about allegedly abusive

and unconstitutional conduct by the Calvert County Sheriff’s Office — the organization requested documents related to strip searches and body cavity searches conducted by sheriff’s personnel since 2017. Among the search records sought were any video and/or audio recordings, including dashboard camera footage and/or body camera footage, as well as field observation reports, criminal investigation/case reports, arrest reports and charging documents.

The press release said, “As is the ACLU’s standard practice in its work to advance civil rights, the organization’s request sought a waiver of charges under the MPIA provision governing requests made in the public interest. In response, the Sheriff’s Office conceded that it does have documents responsive to the ACLU request. But the Sheriff’s Office rejected the request for waiver of fees despite what ACLU believed was the clear importance of this information to the public, refusing to produce the public records unless the ACLU pays the full amount of fees it seeks to charge—starting at \$12,000, at minimum.”

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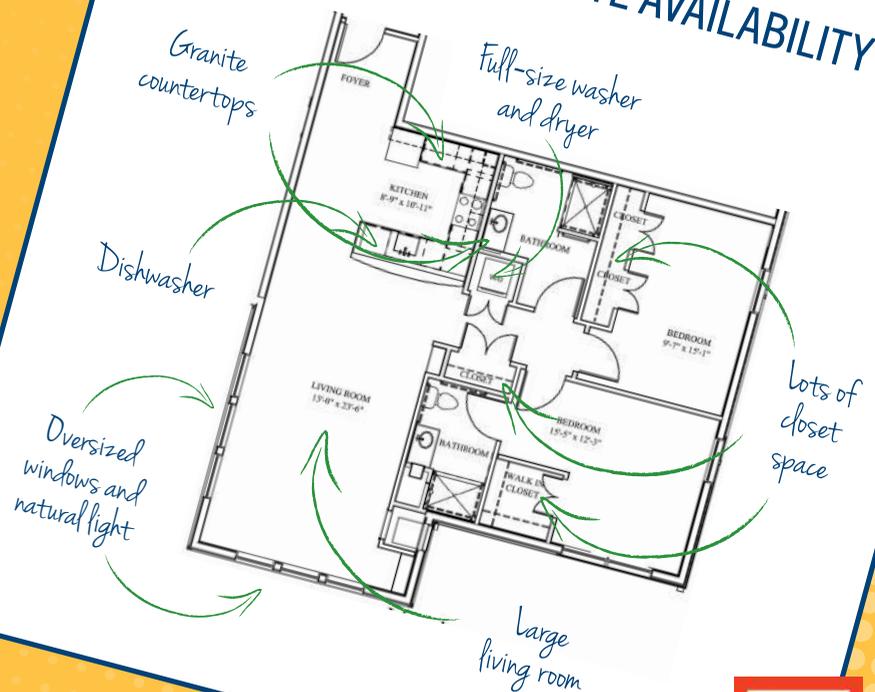
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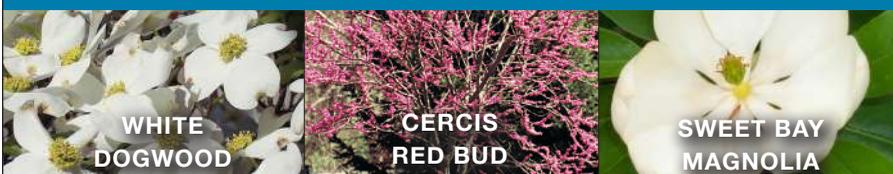


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Broadband Rollout Set for End-of-Year Completion



COMCAST

By Dick Myers
 Staff Writer

The finish line of providing broadband service to everyone in Calvert County who wants it should be crossed by year's end. That's according to an update from staff and Comcast to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their May 2 meeting.

Special Projects Program Manager Ashley Staples-Reid said in a memo to the BOCC for the meeting, "In August 2021, the BOCC temporality removed the customer contribution requirement between the customer and Comcast to any residence in Calvert County beyond the 300-foot requirement, outlined by the 2018 Comcast Franchise Agreement. In November 2021, the BOCC voted to reimburse customer contributions made by Calvert County residents who paid for Comcast service extensions between Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2021. Staff has since worked with Comcast to determine the homes that are in need of connection in an effort to achieve the BOCC's buildout initiative."

Now the final phase of the buildout, Phase 3, is underway for the final more than 400 homes slated for service. All of the costs to date have been paid through federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) or state grants.

Originally money was slated to come from the annual franchise payment Comcast makes to the county, but the grants have made that unnecessary. It is not clear at this point whether any of the franchise money will be needed to complete the rollout. The five-percent franchise fee normally goes into the general fund.

The first two phases of the rollout used \$2,259,694 in state grants funding and \$1,476,919 from ARPA funds.

Phase 3 now underway is using \$942,223 in state monies and \$3.4 million earmarked from ARPA.

The decision for a 100-percent rollout was prompted by Covid and that commitment was made for county funding before the federal and state funding was secured. Commissioner Mike Hart observed, "Having internet available is like saying you didn't have an oven in your house.

We are a rural area. When we made that decision, let's try to do everything we can to get door to door, there was no funding out there or anything like that."

The county did an extensive social media outreach to identify unserved homes wishing to be served and the list of those remaining now stands at 415 homes. They don't have to commit to using the service only to having the line to their homes at no cost to them. Some have so far opted out.

Commissioner President Buddy Hance advised them to reconsider the free offer. "If they ever go to resell their home, can you imagine trying to sell a home in today's world and say you don't have internet."

"It's just silly not to," Hart quipped. The commissioners established a June 30 cutoff date to op in. "If you choose to continue to refuse service, you will be financially responsible at a later date if you do change your mind," Hance said.

Hance also observed for those wanting monthly service but feel they can't afford it, "for load to moderate income residents, there's still an opportunity to take advantage of the Affordable Connectivity program that provides a \$30 broadband subsidy to help support service. And the state of Maryland has a temporary assistance fund as well for an additional \$15."

Calvert believes they will be the first county in the state to have broadband service provided to all residents who want it. Chris Comer, director of Government Affairs for Comcast, said, "To the county's credit, there's a reason that you are at the front of the line and doing as much that has been accomplished and while other counties are still trying to figure it out or are probably lagging a year or two behind easily."

Remaining homes to be served can check on the county website with an interactive map showing their estimated construction schedule.

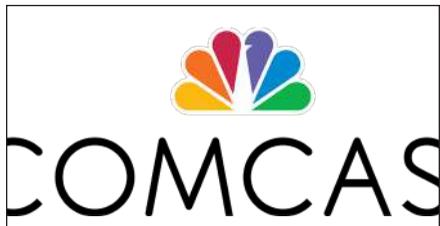
Citizens who refuse connection will receive notice via a letter indicating their financial responsibility if they chose connection at a later date.

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“HAVING INTERNET AVAILABLE IS LIKE SAYING YOU DIDN'T HAVE AN OVEN IN YOUR HOUSE.”
 COMMISSIONER MIKE HART ON THE BROADBAND ROLLOUT



LOCAL 3
Broadband rollout set for end of year completion



LOCAL 6
Suspects arrested in Dunkirk bank robbery



ON THE COVER
Calvert thanks its nurses

WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, MAY 4</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 61° Lo: 44°</p>	<p>FRI, MAY 5</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 65° Lo: 49°</p>	<p>SAT, MAY 6</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 67° Lo: 52°</p>	<p>SUN, MAY 7</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 55°</p>
<p>MON, MAY 8</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 58°</p>	<p>TUE, MAY 9</p> <p>Scattered Storms Hi: 77° Lo: 61°</p>	<p>WED, MAY 10</p> <p>Scattered Storms Hi: 73° Lo: 56°</p>	<p>THU, MAY 11</p> <p>Showers Hi: 69° Lo: 56°</p>



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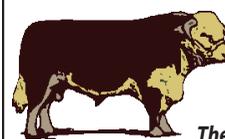
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