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“I DO LIKE TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME TALKING TO MY PATIENTS.”
ERIN BALDERSON, MED STAR ST. MARY’S NURSE OF THE YEAR



LOCAL 5
Commissioner recounts witnessing St. Charles Town mall shooting



LOCAL 8
Congregation locates long lost graves



ON THE COVER
MedStar honors top nurse Erin Balderson

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<p>MON, MAY 15</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 53°</p>	<p>TUE, MAY 16</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 53°</p>	<p>WED, MAY 17</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 56°</p>	<p>THU, MAY 18</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 76° Lo: 59°</p>

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Commissioner Witnessed St. Charles Mall Shooting

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Commissioner Mike Alderson said this week that while he and his family were out-fitting his 14-year-old for a social event at the St. Charles Town mall in Waldorf that they saw the fight that led to shots being fired there.

Alderson said he, his wife and son were on the second level of the mall May 7 when they saw the fight occurring on the ground floor and decided to move away to a safer area.

“Like most people we stopped and watched the fight for a minute or two,” Alderson said at the commissioners’ business meeting May 9. “It looked like it was calming down... we got like, 20 feet from where we had been standing... and we heard the shot ring out.

“It was pandemonium after that one shot.”

His wife and son “took off,” Alderson said, and he went behind them to get to the exit at the food court area.

His son was visibly shaken from the high stress of the situation, Alderson said.

“I do want to thank the Charles County Sheriff’s Office,” he continued. “They were on-site within three minutes of the weapon firing.”

What happened in the mall in Waldorf was just another incident mirroring what was happening around the country, said Alderson.

“It’s not normal,” he said. “And we can’t accept it as being normal.

“These behaviors cannot be normalized, glamorized or politicized.”

Society was breaking down as a result of, in part, excusing bad behavior, said the District 3 Commissioner.

He called on legislators to strengthen laws against criminal behavior and prosecutors to seek guilty verdicts against violent offenders with commensurate punishments.

“We need to get discipline back in the schools,” Alderson said. “A lot of the structure that these students get, are in that school.” Alderson noted the relatively high poverty level of students’ families living in communities such as Lexington Park.



“That respect needs to be built up from that level when those kids are in Kindergarten,” Alderson said.

While Waldorf is miles away from St. Mary’s, many residents have long patronized many of the stores there in the St. Charles Town mall and the general commercial area.

Since the incident, two teens have been charged in the shooting incident.

The Charles County Sheriff’s Office reports: “A preliminary investigation showed the teens were involved in a dispute with two adults inside a business on the lower level of the mall.

“The dispute continued into a common area at which point a 16-year-old male produced a firearm. One of the men he was arguing with tried to intervene but the suspect pointed the gun toward him, discharging it one time. The round missed the victim and struck the window of a storefront. The suspects fled.”

Police reported that no one was injured as a result of the shooting.

A 17-year-old accomplice of the alleged shooter has been charged with weapons violations while the 16-year-old has been charged with attempted murder.

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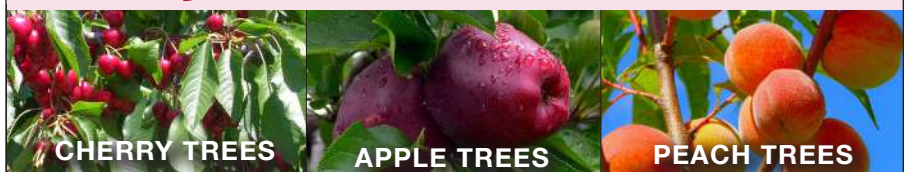
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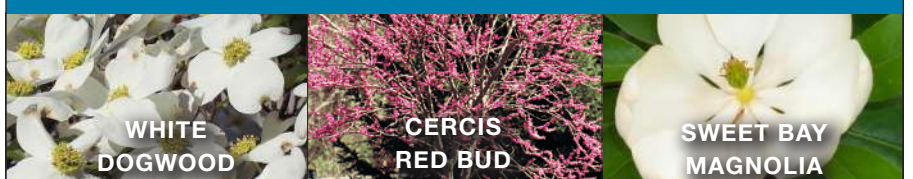


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Sterling's Budget Gets Outside Support

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Robert Harvey, State's Attorney for Calvert County, sent a letter to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County last week beseeching them to provide more money from the proposed fiscal 2024 operating budget towards the request of his counterpart Jaymi Sterling.

The letter was sent May 1 and the commissioners have less than a month to vote to pass an operating budget that is approximately \$314 million as proposed.

Sterling has continued to press commissioners for more money to increase technology upgrades and the number of prosecutors in her office in the last several months, even taking her case to social media with figures of soaring violent crimes such as homicides in recent years.

"A couple of months ago, Mrs. Sterling contacted me," Harvey wrote. "She was gathering data to compare the resources and caseloads of her office with those of other Maryland jurisdictions, including Calvert.

"I have now had the opportunity to review the data and, to say the least, it provides ample justification for her budget."

The commissioners have not met Sterling's request of \$6.9 million, which is an increase from the current fiscal year's allocation \$5.3 million, according to county budget documents but they have come close.

The recommended allocation for Sterling's office is \$6.2 million about \$910,000 short of her request; it is a 17.1 percent increase over the current budget allocation.

One county commissioner said the letter from Harvey's office was unexpected.

"I was surprised by it," said Commissioner Eric Colvin. "I read it and moved on. I don't think it will have much influence."

Colvin, who is in his second term as a county commissioner, said he had never seen such a request from an elected official from a neighboring jurisdiction.

"It's very strange to have an elected official from another jurisdiction reach out about our budget process," Colvin said. "I would not feel appropriate doing that.

"Obviously we give more weight to citizens in our county and what they want."

But Sterling is not without support among residents for her budget bid; several spoke on her behalf at the Apr. 25 budget public hearing at Chopticon High School.

"I am deeply appreciative of State's Attorney Bob Harvey's support, validation, and subsequent letter of backing of my office's acute and extreme needs," Sterling said in a prepared statement. "As he stated in his letter, homicide, and vehicular manslaughter cases represent the most time-consuming and time-sensitive workloads requiring experienced prosecutors.

"As of March 30 Calvert County had only two pending homicide and vehicular homicide cases and 16 prosecutors, while St. Mary's County had 20 pending homicide and vehicular homicide cases with only 15 prosecutors. The citizens of St. Mary's County deserve better."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Commissioners Plan to Reduce Energy Tax



Commissioner Mike Hewitt

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

At their most recent budget work session the Commissioners of St. Mary's County were loath to reduce the property tax rate, and thus lower the property taxes to be paid by residents, but debated the benefits of cutting lesser taxes on the citizenry.

One of them was the energy tax.

The commissioners went back and forth between taking the energy tax rate to zero or reducing it by half or three-quarters by the time they got the midpoint of a more-than-four-hour work session May 9.

Jeannett Cudmore, the county's chief financial officer, told commissioners that managing the energy tax put an extra work load on her staff at the finance office, signaling they would likely appreciate the respite.

Commissioner Hewitt said, as he has in many past budget cycles, that he was in favor of taking the energy tax to a zero percent rate; the tax would still be kept on

the books though, in case it had to be used to get more revenue.

"We talk about inflation catching up with us," Hewitt said. "It's always the poor, the elderly, the working poor and people on fixed incomes that get hit the worst."

Commissioner Eric Colvin agreed that cutting the energy tax was a good way to give tax relief to those groups.

"I'm for reducing it to 50 percent," Colvin offered.

In the aftermath of the Apr. 25 public budget hearing at Chopticon High School where several speakers demanded commissioners either lower or not raise taxes, three out of five of them voted to institute the new excise tax last week on new construction.

Colvin favored reducing the excise tax rate by 70 percent to make it revenue neutral to the now-defunct impact fees, but he lost that bid.

He later acquiesced to reducing the energy tax by 75 percent; the commissioners reached consensus on that reduction.

The energy tax is set to bring in a little over \$1 million in fiscal 2024; the entire proposed operating budget is \$314 million.

Between revenue increases from property taxes and income taxes, the county is collecting an extra \$15 million in revenues over fiscal 2023.

Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy floated the suggestion of reducing the property tax by "half a penny," a reduction of \$800,000, but that suggestion failed to gain enough support.

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Wildlife Preservation Land Sought in St. Mary's, SoMD

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Fearing the extinction of critical species over the next several decades the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking to implement a plan of preserving habitat for fish and wildlife.

The federal agency wants to work with communities, property owners and local governments to identify new refuge boundaries within which the service would have the authority to purchase lands outright or conservation easements throughout Southern Maryland and Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties.

The service's research, according to county government documents, over the last 15 years has found that there are currently unprotected tracts of land in Southern Maryland that support "significant populations" of wildlife that should be protected, namely migratory birds and waterfowl who are threatened or endangered.

Daniel Murphy, director of the service's Division of Habitat, Restoration and Conservation, said the project has been in the works since 2010.

Murphy said there are estimates which show that of the 8 million species extant worldwide, 12.5 percent of them could go extinct in the next 10 to 30 years.

"Southern Maryland and St. Mary's County provides a lot of really good habitat for fish and wildlife so it's a real opportunity to establish a wildlife refuge before development and climate change may alter the landscape," Murphy told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County at their May 9 meeting.

Murphy said the service is proposing a 500,000-acre acquisition boundary in the lower Patuxent, McIntosh Run, upper St. Mary's River, Zekiah Swamp, Nanjemoy Creek and Mattawoman Creek.

Murphy reassured Commissioner Eric Colvin that land owners are already participating in some sort of similar easement program would not be made part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts here.

Murphy said the service would not pursue easements on that land because it would be "unnecessary."

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More Than 130 Unmarked Graves Found at Mt. Zion

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Mechanicsville has two cemetery plots in immediate proximity to its sanctuary, one started in the 1950s that has a definite order in the placement of headstones and another started in the early 1900s that is much less so.

Church members had long wondered why the older plot seemed to be so "haphazard," as long-time member Ford Dean put it.

About a year ago, they decided to find out why.

The congregation raised the money to have a Mississippi-based survey company use ground penetrating radar to investigate the possibility that a great many unmarked graves rested there.

They were right.

The survey revealed approximately 132 such unmarked graves that were likely put there after the old church burned down in 1917.

"There's been a great deal of interest in the project and the findings," Dean told The County Times. "We're glad we did it."

Those 132 or so unmarked graves are almost certainly church members from more than a century ago.

"We didn't know they existed there," Dean said. "We will probably put an appropriate monument to them there."

The older cemetery now has stainless steel discs planted in the ground to act as markers denoting the location of the long, lost graves.

Ford said that economics of the time probably had something to do with why so many graves were lost to time.

"People were poor back then," Dean said. "And headstones were expensive."

"So, they probably used wooden markers which don't stand the test of time."

The consultant, Sentry Mapping, is now preparing a map of the results of the ground penetrating radar search, but during the search last year, Dean said he could see the results from the instruments showing the disturbance of the soil arranged in noticeable rows.

"They were all over," Dean said.

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MedStar St. Mary's Celebrates Nurse of the Year



L to R: Dawn Yeitakis, VP of Nursing; Erin Balderson; and Lea Ann Carranza, Director of Telemetry

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Erin Balderson, a St. Mary's County native and nurse at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital for just two years, could not believe she was named the hospital's Nurse of the Year this week.

Brought into a surprise meeting of the nurses on the third floor of the hospital, she soon found out she was the winner of the honor.

So dedicated to her job she is that she had to be told she could take a break for a breath of fresh air while her team mates covered for her.

Balderson works on the telemetry unit at MedStar St. Mary's constantly monitoring patients who are hooked up to heart monitors and other critical diagnostic equipment.

"Most of my patients have some sort of heart condition," Balderson said. "We see a lot of strokes.

"I do like to spend a lot of time talking to my patients."

Balderson holds a bachelor's degree in nursing science from James Madison

University and is considered a step more advanced than a registered nurse in terms of education and skill but her compassion for her patients — and her tenacity in treating them — is what has led to her being recognized for her efforts.

"It's a calling more than a job," Balderson told The County Times. "It gives me a lot of joy.

"I'd miss it if I weren't doing it every day."

Dawn Yeitakis, vice president of nursing at MedStar St. Mary's, was overflowing with praise for Balderson's work there.

"She saved a patient's leg," Yeitakis said. "They had an arterial clot and [Balderson] just would not let it go."

This was an example of Balderson's fierce dedication to her patients' wellbeing, Yeitakis said.

Yeitakis told Balderson, in front of her colleagues and teammates on the third floor, that she hears everything about nurses' performance "good, bad and ugly" and whenever Balderson's name came up she heard nothing but good things from patients and staff alike.

"I hear it all," Yeitakis said. "I looked at all the nominees this year [for Nurse of the Year] and there was no question."

Balderson's passion for nursing began at home with her family.

"My mom's a nurse," Balderson said, noting her mother worked for the Asbury Solomons community in Calvert in a nursing leadership position.

"We'd go to Asbury after school and volunteer," she said. "I grew up seeing her work so hard, so spoke about what she did with such passion."

She and her brother spent much of their time joining seniors in their activities; she said she really enjoyed it.

"I really believe I was meant to take care of people," Balderson said.

But there was one problem. Balderson had a fear that stood as what she thought would be an insurmountable obstacle to her becoming a nurse.

"I almost didn't want to do it because I couldn't look at blood," Balderson said. "I was so afraid that I would pass out."

Her boyfriend came up with a solution, though.

They sat down together, she said, and watched Youtube videos of IVs being put into patients and blood flowing, sometimes very freely.

"After a few hours, I had gotten over it," Balderson said.

Fast forward to Balderson's budding nursing career and she credits her team mates with making her such a success; also the hospital's training requirements that place a premium on her ability to do research and apply it to her work.

She partnered with Rudi Adriani, a nurse and friend on her team, to do a study on a condition known as hospital delirium that often poses the greatest risk to patients 70 years old and over.

"It's an acute onset of confusion," Balderson explained. "It's a really hard thing to see."

She and Adriani presented the findings of their study at a conference in New Orleans, she said, noting that simple things like lavender aromatherapy, the use of white noise devices and just turning down the lights in a patient's room at about 9 p.m. had a significant effect in helping curb the onset of the condition.

The director of telemetry on the third floor,

who is also the interim director of the intensive care unit, the ICU, Lea Ann Carranza, is also a part of her success she said.

"Ever since I started, she's pushed me to excel," Balderson said. "She nominated me for a spirit award.

"She's always advocated for me as a nurse; all of my coworkers, I admire them so much."

MedStar St. Mary's is spending this week — Hospital Week — honoring its employees and paying special attention to their nursing staff, who are critical to patient care.

"I definitely want to keep doing this," Balderson said. "I love being a nurse."

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Leonardtwn Head-On Crash Under Investigation



On Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 7:39 am, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Patrol Deputies were dispatched to a motor vehicle collision at the intersection of Point Lookout Road (Route 5) and Moakley Street in Leonardtown. Deputies arrived on scene and observed a head-on style motor vehicle collision with one operator unresponsive and trapped. Due to the severity of the crash, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Collision Reconstruction Unit responded to the scene and continued the investigation.

Preliminary investigation determined that a 2022 Nissan Altima was being operated by Wendy Ricardo Laurent, 28-year-old male of New Hampshire. Laurent was traveling southbound on Point Lookout Road in the area of Moakley Street when he crossed the center divider line into northbound traffic and struck a 2007 Jeep Patriot, being operated by Matthew Scott Dement, age 48 of

Great Mills, head on.

As the Nissan Altima and Jeep Patriot collided, the vehicles began to rotate counterclockwise, at which time the rear of the Altima was struck by a 2020 Ford F-450 with an attached equipment trailer, operated by Justin Dominic Morgan, age 23 of Lexington Park.

Dement was flown to a regional medical center for incapacitating injuries. Laurent was transported to a local hospital, listed in stable condition. Morgan signed a refusal for care at the scene.

At this time, alcohol and/or drugs do not appear to be contributing factors in the crash.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or any events leading up to it, and has not already provided a statement, is asked to call Cpl. Brandon Foor at 301-475-4200, ext. 72265 or email brandon.foor@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Juvenile Charged in Great Mills Homicide

Detectives with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office's Criminal Investigations Division have arrested a 15-year-old male juvenile of Lexington Park for the murder of 26-year-old Marcus Anthony Day in Great Mills on April 4, 2023.

Day was found shot dead in the parking lot of the Sheetz convenience store and gas station at the intersection of Route 5 and Great Mills Road.

The 15-year-old juvenile was located and arrested in King George County, VA on Friday, May 5, 2023. The juvenile will be charged via warrant as an adult with First-Degree Murder, Second-Degree Murder,

Use of a Firearm in a Violent Crime, First-Degree Assault, Second-Degree Assault and Possession of a Firearm by a Minor.

Due to a recent change in Maryland law, the juvenile will not be identified by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and no booking photo will be released until a waiver hearing is conducted to determine the jurisdiction of this case.

St. Mary's County Sheriff Steve Hall wishes to thank the King George County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Christopher Giles for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation.

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PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION *News*

Navy Fields New Training System

The Naval Aviation Training Systems and Ranges (PMA-205) and the F/A-18 and EA-18G (PMA-265) program offices are fielding a sophisticated Live Virtual Constructive (LVC) training system that has the potential to revolutionize the way the Navy trains, leading to greater readiness and significant cost savings.

The LVC training, commonly referred to as Link Inject-to-Live (LITL), injects high fidelity simulated air-to-air and surface-to-air targets into the F/A-18E/F and EA-18G weapon systems and is projected to save the Navy millions of dollars annually.

“The Link Inject-to-Live trainer enhances the F/A-18 and EA-18G training capability by enabling them with the ability to train against realistic air and surface threats,” said Capt. Kevin McGee, PMA-205 program manager. “The capabilities LITL brings for both deployed and home station operations are quite impressive.”

The training system is cost-conscious and portable. This results in extremely dynamic and complex training scenarios that can be presented to deployed aviators, while reducing the administrative burden and cost of traveling to detachment sites for red air adversary support, which also reduces fuel

and maintenance costs.

“In naval aviation, we train like we fight, and Link Inject-to-Live makes training more realistic and easier, so it’s a win all around,” said Cmdr. Sarah Abbott, PMA-265 F/A-18E/F deputy program manager. “This capability is a game changer.”

The two program offices fielded LITL aboard aircraft carriers in support of deployed units, granting squadrons the ability to continue weapons and tactics training at sea. LITL is not limited by weather conditions and relieves squadrons from using live aircraft as adversaries while increasing sortie and training event completion.

In 2022, LITL was used for hundreds of events and thousands of sorties, which is an increase in sortie utilization from 2021. This increase is directly related to the fleet adding LITL events due to the significant increase in training fidelity provided by the system.

“The future use cases for LITL are really exciting,” said Chuck Terry, PMA-205 Aviation Training LVC and Strategy Department team lead. “We are currently testing connections to other platform simulators that will facilitate integrated training that will accelerate air-to-air training.”

The LITL program has the potential to

provide significant positive impacts to training, paving the way for considerable changes to training syllabi.

About PMA-205

PMA-205 provides full life-cycle acquisition of naval aviation training platforms, general training systems, training range instrumentation systems, and distributed mission training centers to

provide U.S. Navy and Marine Corps pilots, naval flight officers, aircrew, and maintainers with the training equipment required to provide lethal capability and operational readiness.

About PMA-265

The F/A-18 & EA-18G Program Office (PMA-265) provides critical current and future capabilities in the form of total life



cycle support management (cradle to grave) for the F/A-18A-D Hornet, F/A-18E/F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler weapons systems. PMA-265 is responsible for acquiring, delivering and sustaining the F/A-18 and EA-18G aircraft, ensuring mission success for U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviators, as well as international partners



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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

Lexington Park Man Arrested for Cocaine Distribution



On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, detectives with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office executed a search and seizure warrant on a Lexington Park man resulting in cocaine distribution charges.

Criminal Investigations Division detectives located Deyonta Terrell Gross, age 29 of Lexington Park, driving a 2021 Hyundai Palisade at a restaurant in California. Gross was detained by police and search of the

vehicle produced a digital scale located in the front driver door and a box of sandwich bags located in the center console. A quantity of suspected cocaine was also located on Gross.

Gross was charged with CDS Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics, CDS: Production Equipment and CDS Possession: Cocaine. He was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown and released on recognizance on Wednesday and placed on Pre-Trial supervision.

Identity Needed for Attempted Burglary Suspect



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the man pictured in an attempted burglary investigation. On Monday, May 8, 2023, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to Murphy's

Market in Avenue for an attempted burglary that occurred during the night.

Just prior to the glass being broken on the front door of the business, the pictured

male was seen walking around the rear of the building attempting to open doors.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to contact Deputy Nicholas Hill at 301-475-4200, ext. 78078 or email nicholas.hill@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case # 24331-23

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

Identity Needed for Theft Suspect



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the man pictured in a theft investigation. On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 7:45 pm, the pictured suspect accessed the employee break room at the Dollar General

store in Leonardtown and stole a debit card from an employee's purse.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to contact Deputy Elijsa Munn at 301-475-4200, ext. 78169 or email elijsha.munn@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case # 23290-23

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

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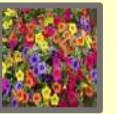


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- Leonardtown Music Festival at POL Winery Feat. the Lucky Few, 5/27
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A View From The BLEACHERS



IF...

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

Former NFL kicker Adam Vinatieri was, by my count, the last. Born on December 28, 1972, we are nearly the exact age. So, as long he kicked in the NFL, which he did until age 47 in 2019, I retained some argument, albeit flickering and desperate, that I was still generally the same age as current elite athletes – and if they could still do it at the highest level, then I still had a little athletic gas left in the tank.

I'm not alone here. Right? Please say I'm right. Don't leave me hanging. Aged athletes of any skill level, past or present - high school bench warmers, church league softball players, marginal college intramural participants – do this. We hate admitting it's over, even if, by all reasonable accounts, we know it's over. Any data points that can be mined or cobbled together to conclude that some athleticism remains in our aging legs and creaky joints is psychological gold and the basis of boastful claims. That our spouses furrow their brows, give us side eye or burst into heckling laughter at our athletic hubris matters not. There's no shame in our game. Plus, it's not like we have to actually prove it – why not talk the talk if there is no reasonable expectation of having to walk the walk? If pride is indeed a deadly sin, proud sinners are we. Once a competitor, always a competitor.

Even with Vinatieri long gone from the NFL, and with him any claim that I have to real athletic ability, I root for aging athletes – i.e., anyone cheating father time and stretching elite performance, or just a roster spot, far beyond perceived date of birth constraints. How do they do it? Luck. Hard work. Determination. Tenacity. Finding a niche. Yeah...all of that. But the most prominent and powerful sustaining force? Wisdom.

In Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms", there's an interesting conversation between Count Greffi, an elderly Italian, and Lieutenant Frederic Henry, the main character. As Greffi reveals struggles with his age, brittle body and flickering spirit, Henry offers, "But you are wise." Greffi replies, "No, that is the great fallacy; the wisdom of old men. They do not grow wise. They grow careful." To which Henry responds, "Perhaps that is wisdom."

Athletes always occupy some point on a double line graph. Think of time along the horizontal axis and a scale of wisdom and athleticism on the vertical axis. The first line, athleticism, starts high-left and trails off over time. Wisdom behaves inversely: starting low in one's youth and increasing over time. For a brief period, the lines remain in close proximity – an athlete's prime. Stated differently, an athlete starts being able to do most things, but struggles with knowing what to do. As a career ends, the veteran athlete knows what to do; the body just isn't always a willing partner. It reminds of that popular quote, attributed to Henri Estienne and Sigmund Freud, among others: "If youth only knew; if age only could."

The cycle of life follows an athlete's chart. Parents feed off the energy of their kids and impart their wisdom over time. Long-tenured employees are energized by the ideas and optimism of new hires while sharing priceless professional knowledge only gained through experience. In time, those kids turn into parents one day and young professionals turn in to bosses – and the cycle repeats. It is a beautiful thing – a symbiotic relationship between young and old, fresh energy and sage wisdom.

As for me and Adam Vinatieri, we've embraced our place on the curve and the huge, growing gap between our increasing wisdom and evaporating athleticism. Retirement is fitting. But you know, there is this one data point in sports history that keeps the door ajar. Back in 1965, a 59-year-old Satchel Paige, 12 years removed from his last MLB game, pitched three scoreless innings for the Kansas City Athletics against the Boston Red Sox. I'm not saying there's a chance of a comeback for me, Vinatieri or any retired athlete, but I'm not saying there isn't.

My wife is laughing. It can't be at me, right?
Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com



SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Summer Camps

St. Mary's Summer Camps Abound

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Kids, and their parents, have plenty of options to keep active this summer.

The choices of summer camps range from offering arts and crafts and outdoor activities to martial arts and swimming lessons with even more variety in between.

Kyu Shim, grandmaster of Tae Kwon Do, has been operating a summer camp at his Black Belt Academy in California for 24 years, almost as long as the academy has been teaching students the Korean martial art.

"Our camp is designed for all day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.," Shim told *The County Times*.

Tuesdays are for field trips, Shim said while Thursdays gives campers the chance to go swimming at the public pool on Great Mills Road.

"Every week we'll go to a different place," said Shim.

Other activities include sports, games, movies and even a little magic, Shim said, but at the heart of the camping curriculum is Tae Kwon Doe.

The camp brings in 80 to 100 kids a year in five different age groups.

Rick Olon, youth minister at St. John's School in Hollywood, is running a huge number of individual camps this summer — 80 in all — offering activities from paintball to cooking classes.

"We also have technology camps and ... gross and fun chemistry classes," Olon said.

There's even puppy training classes available during the eight weeks of the day camps, Olon said.

High school and college-aged young people will be in charge of the camp classes, said Olon and the school expects between 350 to 400 campers each week for two months.

"It really is about providing something for kids to do over the summer that's Christ centered," Olon said about the message behind the camping experience.

At Camp Maria outside Leonardtown, long known for its quiet retreat atmosphere, Camp Creation will be open to kids who want to get closer to and learn more about nature.

"We are so excited about it," said Ann Kovalcik, Camp Maria's director. "The most important thing about it is being out-

side and in falling in love with creation and the Creator."

Campers will spend the day learning about ecology, recycling and reusing items to help preserve the environment as well have the chance to go fishing, crabbing and swimming, Kovalcik said.

This is the second year for Camp Creation, Kovalcik said.

At Kings Christian Academy in Callaway, the school is offering over 50 camps for three different age groups, said Anne Kerley who works at the school.

For the 4-to-5-year old children Dino Camp and Hot Wheels Camp are just some of the offerings, while 6-to-8-year old children can take Junior Cooking Camp or nature and science camp classes, Kerley said.

For the 9-to-15-year-olds there is Sports, Splash and Fun camp as well as offering for learning how to use drones and even go-go-karting, she said, to name just a few.

"You can sign up weekly or for all nine weeks," Kerley said.

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Folklife Workshops at St. Mary's College

The third annual Folklife Summer Workshops hosted by the Southern Maryland Folklife Center will take place on Saturday, May 20, and Sunday, May 21, 2023 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day, and will be held at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

The workshops offer a wide range of topics on everything from writing about the Southern Maryland landscape and making stuffed ham to participating in Umfundalai contemporary African dance and making piñatas. The workshops will conclude with the signature celebration and gallery exhibition highlighting the traditions and cultures shared in the workshops. The closing celebration will also feature a talk from Joan Gaither PhD, a native Baltimorean who uses her art to document the lives and contributions of African Americans in the history and culture of Maryland and the greater American story. A detailed schedule and description of all of the workshop offerings can be found on the Southern Maryland Folklife Center website. Attendance at each individual workshop is \$15.

Workshops will be held in both morning and afternoon sessions, with most workshops lasting 2 1/2 hours each. Morning workshops will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and afternoon workshops will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The "Making Stuffed Ham" workshop will be from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on both days.

A lunch break is built into the schedule each day from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. On

Saturday, a free lunch is hosted by SMCM in honor of the Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland, or participants can pre-order lunch from Enso Bakery via their website. Please note that Enso is not open to the public on this day, and lunches will be delivered to participants at Montgomery Hall on the SMCM campus. On Sunday, the Center will be hosting lunch, free of charge, at the closing celebration. The public is welcome to join the free opening kick-off and coffee event on Saturday at 9 a.m., as well as the free closing celebration and lunch event on Sunday at 12 p.m., both in Montgomery Hall's Upper Commons. Alternatively, participants can visit any open local establishment to purchase lunch, or bring their own either day.

The Southern Maryland Folklife Center celebrates and supports community-based living and cultural traditions of Southern Maryland. The Southern Maryland Folklife Center is part of the Maryland State Arts Council's (MSAC) Folklife Network. The Summer Workshops and The Center have both grown out of a number of past efforts at St. Mary's College of Maryland, but both owe much to The SlackWater Center. Since the mid-1980s, The SlackWater Center has been documenting life in Southern Maryland, especially through the publication, SlackWater: A Journal on Environmental and Cultural Change in Southern Maryland.

Nearly 400-Year-Old Remains Found at St. Mary's Fort Site



The Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) Department of Research and Collections has uncovered the human remains of a young European man, believed to have been buried in the late 1630s. The remains were found approximately 30 feet outside of what once was St. Mary's Fort. This discovery may be one of the oldest colonial burials found in Maryland.

Curator of Biological Anthropology Douglas Owsley and Biological Anthropologist Kari Bruwelheide, both of the Smithsonian Institution, joined HSMC to begin studying the remains to learn more about the young man. It has been estimated that he was 15 – 16 years old at the time of his death.

The individual was directly buried in the ground without a coffin or burial shroud. His lack of formal burial could speak to not having family or people who cared for him

in the colony. The life, death, and burial of this person can provide valuable insights into the early settlers of Maryland. Travis Parno, Acting Executive Director and Director of Research and Collections said, "The remarkable discovery of the remains of one of Maryland's first colonizers is an important opportunity to learn about an individual who

probably never appeared in the historical record. Archaeology and forensic anthropology will help us bring life and voice to a young man from the earliest period of the Maryland colony, a time when written records were sparse."

The remains will undergo cleaning and be transported to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History for further analysis by Owsley and Bruwelheide.

St. Mary's Fort Site is currently closed to tours and public access due to the ongoing removal of remains. There is no word on when the site will reopen at this time.

The palisaded St. Mary's Fort was erected in 1634 by the first wave of European settlers who founded Maryland. The site, which spans an area approximately the size of a football field, is located in Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) in Southern Maryland.

FOLK LIFE 2023

SUMMER WORKSHOPS



MAY 20 & 21, 2023

St. Mary's College of Maryland

Join us to celebrate the 3rd annual Folklife Summer Workshops! The Center supports community-based living and the cultural traditions of Southern Maryland.

Scheduled workshops include:

Making Stuffed Ham
Quilting
Piñata Making
Paleontology
Natural Dyeing
Documenting Oral Histories

Writing Poetry
Life of the Watermen
Youth Workshop
Umfundalai:
African Dance
Making Batik

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

Funding provided by

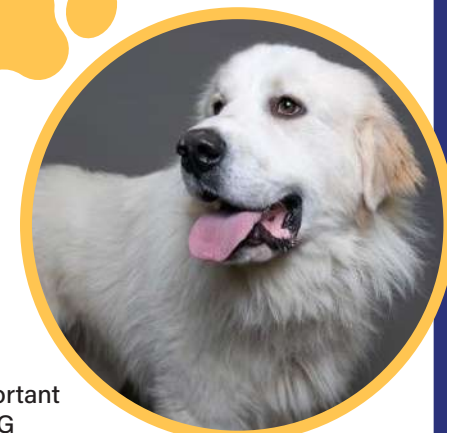


FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION,
go to smdfolklife.org
or scan the QR code



Pet OF THE WEEK

MEET YETI



WANTED:

A family of my very own!

Hello, my name is Yeti. I have an important question to ask you...WHO LOVES BIG FLUFFY DOGS? Everybody! Well, I've been here WAITING PATIENTLY for a while now so I'm REALLY READY to find a NEW HOME. I've got lots of things you'll LOVE. I walk well on a leash, I enjoy riding in the car and I'm VERY AFFECTIONATE! I like older, well-behaved children, a big yard to run in, and definitely some SPECIAL one on one time with YOU. If you're ready for a WONDERFUL 3 YEAR OLD BUNDLE OF FLUFFY LOVE then hurry on down to meet me! You'll definitely be glad you did! Adoption hours are Monday-Friday 11am-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm or email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! And remember, ALWAYS 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>



Local Optimist Club Honors Law Enforcement

The Hollywood-Leonardtown Optimist Club hopes to instill a strong respect for law in local children during the Respect for Law Banquet on May 2nd, 2023.

Through the club's Respect for Law program, they recognized eight law enforcement officers from St. Mary's County.

Those recognized included: Corporal Holdsworth of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office; CFC Moncivais-Romero from the St. Mary's County Correctional Division; Trooper Eckrich from the MD State Police Leonardtown Barrack; Officer 1st Class Neitzel of the MD Department of Natural Resources; Officer Falcon from St. Mary's College Public Safety Division; Sgt. Shawn Bowie of the NAS Pax River Police; MK2 Jones of the US Coast Guard St. Inigoes; and ASA Sarah Proctor from the State's Attorney's Office of St. Mary's County.

Judge Joe Stalanonis was also presented with the St. Mary's Shop with a Cop Toni Long Person of the Year Award, recognizing his contribution to the Shop with a Cop program.

The banquet was held at Old Breton Inn in Leonardtown and brought together approximately 100 individuals representing Optimist Clubs from St. Mary's County, as well as law enforcement officers, supervisors, friends, and family. Each honoree was presented with a plaque and was prominently featured in the program handed out during the banquet.

St. Mary's County Sheriff Steve Hall

was the keynote speaker for the evening. State Senator Jack Bailey was also in attendance and presented each honoree with a Proclamation from his office.

"We believe it is important for children to grow up with a strong belief in abiding by the law, respecting law enforcement, and doing what they can to maintain peace," Club President Michael Tenaglia said. "We hope that our project with the local students will help in this effort."

The Hollywood-Leonardtown Optimist Club has been participating in the Respect for Law Banquet for five years and has been active in the community since 2018. Other programs and service projects that the Club is involved in include Project Graduation; The Oyster Festival; and various other events that benefit the children in St. Mary's County.

Optimist International is one of the world's largest service club organizations with 75,000 adult and youth members in 2,600 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Mexico, and throughout the world. Respect for Law is one of the organization's most popular programs, with more than 1,500 clubs participating annually. Carrying the motto "Bringing out the Best in Kids," Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than six million young people each year. To learn more about Optimist International, please call (314) 3671-6000 or visit the organization's website at www.optimist.org.



Pictured Left to Right: Colleen Combs, President of Lexington Park/St. Maries Optimist Club; Michael Tenaglia, President of Hollywood-Leonardtown Optimist Club; Charles Bowen, President of Mechanicsville Optimist Club; Judge Joseph Stalanonis, Recipient of the St. Mary's County Shop with a Cop Toni Long Person of the Year Award; James Long; and Bill Raddatz. Photo by Kelly Raley



2023 Respect for Law Honorees along with Senator Jack Bailey. Photo by: Kelly Raley

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



Citizen Science: Observing Pollinators

Help our troubled bee population by providing data on local pollinators! Lexington Park Library on Saturday, May 20 from 10 - 11 a.m. Discover the many Citizen Science projects on SciStarter, the ways bees and pollinators help our food supply, and how to participate in The Great Sunflower Project. Susan Polsky, President of The Association of Southern Maryland Beekeepers (ASMB) will instruct us on bee identification and take us outside to practice. Unless it is pouring rain, we will go outside to practice what we learn. Please dress appropriately. Thank you to The Patuxent Partnership for supporting this series of events and the creation of kits for checkout! Register on www.stmalib.org.

Smartphone Photography Contest

It's back! Join us again for our 3rd Smartphone Photography Contest! Do you take the best pictures in St. Mary's County? Do you love showing your photography skills off on Facebook and Instagram? St. Mary's County Library invites submission of photographs taken with a smartphone for entry into our Smartphone Photography Contest. The contest is open to anyone in our community in the following age groups: Teens (ages 13 to 17), and Adults (ages 18 and older). Please read all guidelines before submitting entry materials. Entries accepted May 15 - 21. Enter the Smartphone Photography Contest on www.stmalib.org.

Heroes of the Holocaust

Paul Rose, a Research Historian at

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, will share stories of heroes of the Holocaust at Lexington Park Library on Sunday, May 21 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. The presentation will focus on acts of heroism, both great and small, that helped save lives during this horrific time in our history. After the presentation, there will be a short time for Q&A. Paul Rose is a researcher at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum but is not acting a representative of the institution in this presentation. Registration is appreciated but not required on www.stmalib.org.

Where Have All the Soils Gone? Erosion in Southern Maryland

Dr. James Gibb will discuss soil erosion in Southern Maryland in a virtual discussion on Monday, May 22 from 7 - 8 p.m. Significant erosion of Maryland's soils

began well before the American Revolution, degrading farmland and choking off navigable rivers and such ports as Joppa in Harford, Bladensburg in Prince George's, London in Anne Arundel, and Port Tobacco in Charles counties. By the end of the 19th century, Marylanders abandoned farms in large numbers, migrating westward. Maryland created the Bureau of Immigration to recruit Eastern Europeans to take up these farms that enjoyed all of the advantages of modern commercial farming, except the soils were "exhausted." This illustrated presentation examines the archaeological evidence for the transformation of Maryland. Register with an email address on www.stmalib.org to receive the Zoom link the day before the event.

Rita Holden, 80

Mary "Rita" (Garner) White Holden, 80, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on April 30, 2023 in Winter Garden, FL. She was born on June 17, 1942 in Baltimore, MD. She was the loving daughter of the late Elizabeth Imogene Brick Garner and John Washington Garner. Rita was the loving wife of the late Theodore William White, Jr. whom she married on June 27, 1964, in Leonardtown, MD and who preceded her in death on February 22, 1989, as well as her second husband the late Louis Holden whom she married in November, 2010 in Leonardtown, MD and who preceded her in death on March 17, 2022. In addition to her husbands, Rita is preceded in death by her son Jason Andrew White who passed away on 02/19/2000.

Rita is survived by her children Kathleen Garner (White) Cave (Robert Bruce Cave, II) of Parkton, MD, Mary Carolyn White Burrows (Daniel Reith Burrows) of Gotha, FL, Melissa Ann White Rivera of Orlando, FL, Theodore David White of Spring Hill, FL, and eight grandchildren. Along with her siblings Elizabeth Garner Harty Park of Pittsburg, PA, Agnes Ruth Garner Gilroy of Redwood City, CA, John Rebel Garner of Drayden, MD.

She was lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident. Rita graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1960. Rita attended Mercy Hospital of Nursing in Portsmouth, OH from 1960 to 1962 and later graduated from University of Maryland in 1996 with a B.S. in Management Studies. She was a civil servant at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station for 18 years, retiring in February 2002.

Rita was the Toastmasters International president of Patuxent River Club, DAA Life Program Instructor and advisory board member. Rita earned NESEA's Woman of the year in 1991. As well as a member of Our Lady's Catholic Church Choir and St. Aloysius Catholic Church Choir and Senior Vibes Sing, Rita founded several bridge clubs, including Garvey bridge club, and was the Co-founder of C.A.B.S.-Companions and Buddies for Seniors and was a volunteer for Hospice of St. Mary's.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM

in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 10:00 AM in Our Lady's at Medley's Neck Catholic Church Leonardtown, MD. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Pallbearers will be John Tarleton Garner, Robert Bruce Cave, II, Daniel Reith Burrows, Nicholas Theodore Burrows, William H. Barnes and David Cudd.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Leonardtown Vol. Rescue Squad P.O. Box 299 Leonardtown, MD 20650.

James Price, 82

James Elmon Price, "Sweet Potato", 82 of Lexington Park, Passed away in Callaway, MD on May 4, 2023 surrounded by his loved ones.

James was born on February 16, 1941 in Leonardtown, MD to the late Mary Leola and Joseph Irving Price. James is survived by his loving wife Barbara Ann "Bobbie" (Baden) Price whom he married on March 9, 1985 at the St. Michaels Church in Ridge, MD, his brother John I. Price of Scotland, MD and sister-in-law Donna Price. In addition to his parents he is preceded in death by his brother Carl Lee Price.

James graduated from St. Michael's School Ridge, MD. He served in the United States Army for two years. James was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident. He was a Communications Supervisor at Patuxent Naval Air Station for 36 years, retiring in 1999.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. A Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 10:00AM in the funeral home chapel with Deacon Ammon Ripple officiating. Interment will follow in Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery Helen, MD. Serving as Pallbearers will be Marvin Price, Frank Forbert, Glen Platter, Danny Bishop, Jay Scott Ridgell and Neal Vinck. Honorary pallbearer will be Sean Price.

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

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation

Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Jennings Cross, Jr., 95

Jennings C. Cross, Jr., 95, of Hughesville, MD passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, with his loving family by his side.

Jennings was born October 1, 1927 in Aquasco, MD to the late Jennings Columbus Cross, Sr. and Emma May Canter Cross. Jennings grew up working on his family farm helping to raise tobacco and the family vegetable garden. He was a proud tobacco farmer working hard over many seasons even after he was married and had a family of his own. As a young man he enjoyed boxing with the Minute Men. Jennings met the love of his life, Mary Lorraine Gardiner, and they were married on August 30, 1947. They have spent the last 75 years being "two peas in a pod" and raising a wonderful family of four children, nine grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren along with many spouses.

Jennings had a natural "green thumb." He could grow beautiful trees and bushes out of just a small seedling and raised a plentiful garden. He took great pride in his home and his yard, keeping it immaculate with the help of his John Deere lawn mower. Jennings was a dedicated worker and worked at Mechanicsville Building Supply for over forty years. He was a familiar and kind face to all that visited the store, leaving lasting impressions on many. In his free time, he enjoyed quail hunting alongside his hunting dogs with his sons and grandsons. More important than anything, Jennings loved to spend time with his family and loving wife, Lorraine. Over many, many years, you could find them at the dance in Compton on Saturday nights. There they enjoyed spending time with friends and doing one of their favorite things, dancing. Jennings and Lorraine moved together with such familiarity and grace, impressing anyone lucky enough to catch them on the dance floor. Their love shown through with each in sync step they took. One of his favorite songs to dance to was Chicken Fry. Although he didn't need to be on the dance floor to break out in his famous little jig, it just came natural to him, anywhere and everywhere. He was always kind, fun loving, silly and full of jokes. He was known to

throw up his pointer finger as a "thank you", "hello", "how you doing?" or "nice to see you." Jennings always reminded everyone to "behave yourself" and made sure his family was always safe; insisting everyone call when they got home to let him know they arrived safely. This was just one example of the fierce love he had for his entire family. He will be missed immensely but his love and lessons left will be remembered and honored forever.

Jennings is survived by his loving wife, Mary Lorraine Gardiner Cross and their children, Michael Cross, Sr. (Dorothy) of Hughesville, Cindy Morgan (Steve) of Mechanicsville, Barbara Roberts (Mike) of Bryantown, Steve Cross (Sharlene) of Mechanicsville; his grandchildren, Michael, Darryl, Jason, Nick, Christi, Elizabeth, Jessica, Tiffany and Stephen. He is also survived by his 21 great-grandchildren, Vinny, Justin, Gabby, Jamie, Trey, Makayla, T.J., Emily, Luke, Kendall, Wyatt, Ben, Carter, Kenley, Addy, Lydia, Lane, Tyler, Hudson, Sawyer and Ellie. Jennings is also survived by his sister, M. Virginia Clodfelter of Gaithersburg and brother, B. Ralph Cross of Benedict.

Jennings is predeceased by his parents and his siblings, Stanley Cross, Dorothy Canter, Faye Oliver, M. Lorraine Cross and Raymond Cross.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, May 14, 2023 at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. with prayers being said at 5:00. Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10:00 on Monday, May 15, 2023 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 13715 Notre Dame Place, Bryantown, MD 20617. Interment will follow at St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers will be Michael Cross Jr, Darryl Cross, Nick Cross, Jason Roberts, Stephen Cross and Jessica Griffin. Honorary pallbearers will be the rest of Jennings grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made in "In Memory of Jennings Cross, Jr." to Hughesville Fire Department Engine 21 Refurbish Fund, 15245 Prince Frederick Road, Hughesville, MD 20637 or St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Condolences can be made to the family at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com. Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD.

*Thank you Lord for
Doug Delahay Woodburn
5/12/2000 - 8/3/2019
"love you pumpkin"*

*Words cannot say
We miss you everyday
Through the month of May
We remember your Birthday*

*In Memory of
Mary Catherine Kane
Sept. 18, 1924 - Nov. 22, 2019*

*Mama, when we talk about you we may laugh
or smile, but the tears are still there hidden.
You held our hands all our lives, but now all
we have are the great memories and all the
love you gave us in our hearts.*

*We love you.
Happy Mother's Day in Heaven,
Ellen and Larry*

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.

Fri, May 12

Cedar Lane Golf Tournament

Wicomico Shores Golf Course
35794 Aviation Yacht Club Rd #2962
Mechanicsville
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We are seeking sponsors and golfers for our First Annual Cedar Lane Golf Tournament. The tournament is being facilitated by Above Par Golf & Entertainment, and will be held on Friday, May 12, 2023, at Wicomico Shores Golf Course. Shotgun at 9:00 a.m. The entry fee is \$100.00 per player, which includes starter bags and donuts, lunch and beverages provided on the course, mini games and prizes! You can register as a player, team or sponsor at: www.abovepar.golf/event-details/cedar-lane-senior-living-tournament-2023

Sat, May 13

Mother's Day Bake Sale

7th District Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary
21530 Colton Point Rd, Avenue
9 am until sold out

Summerseat's Annual Plant Sale

Summerseat
26655 Three Notch Rd, Mechanicsville
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Once again, Summerseat will be holding our annual Mother's Day weekend plant sale. There will be a tremendous selection of perennials, annuals, native plants, flowers, trees, vegetable plants, herbs, ornamental grasses, tropicals and more. Also, beautiful hanging baskets just in time for Mother's Day. Cash, checks, and credit cards are welcome!

Breakfast and lunch will be available for purchase in the Courtyard Cafe.

This is a rain or shine event. Summerseat Farm is a nonprofit organization supported by volunteers.

USCG Auxiliary Suddenly in Command!

Leonardtown Library
23630 Hayden Farm Ln, Leonardtown
10 a.m. to Noon

This FREE seminar is to assist boat occupants who are not normally at the helm, including guests, spouses, children, or others aboard who may find themselves "sud-

dently in command" if the operator becomes ill, gets injured, falls overboard, or has to attend to some other emergency and is unable to be at the helm. The purpose of this short seminar is to familiarize the student with essential safety information so they can assess and stabilize the situation, operate the vessel, and summon any required assistance. This is a classroom seminar presented by a certified USCG Auxiliary instructor. It is not an on-the-water course. It covers the things that you should know but does not give you actual underway experience.

Register at: stmalib.libnet.info/event/7681690?registration=true

Contra Dance

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

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

Sun, May 14

Mother's Day Breakfast

Elks Lodge 209
45779 Fire Dept Ln, California
9 a.m. to Noon

Enjoy a delicious breakfast with made to order omelets, waffles, cream chipped beef, eggs, biscuits and gravy, coffee, juice, drink specials, and more! A Mother's Day Ceremony will begin at 10am.

Wed, May 17

Little Explorers at HSMC

Visitor Center
18751 Hogaboom Lane
St. Mary's City
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Spend the morning learning and making discoveries through stories, play, art, music, and nature. For pre-school children; ages 3-5 years old and an accompanying adult.

\$4 per child/ HSMC Members \$3. One accompanying adult free.

Full-day admission included.

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County Times

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

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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast
4. Fathers
9. Wine grape
14. Al Bundy's wife
15. Organic compound
16. Venezuelan state
17. Interest term
18. Experts
20. Central cores of stems
22. Smooth and glossy
23. One-time S. Korean city
24. One from Damascus
28. Short message at the end of an email
29. It cools your home
30. Oh, God!
31. Intestinal pouches
33. Men
37. Popular English soccer team (abbr.)
38. Former CIA
39. Arrange in steps
41. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
42. The Great Lake State
43. Dog-__: to mark a page
44. Stop moving
46. Ancient Dead Sea region
49. Of I
50. Clerical vestment
51. Songs sung to a lover
55. Charges
58. Popular design program manufacturer
59. Where to park a boat
60. One who values reason
64. Slang for cigarette
65. Sailboats
66. Actress Zellweger
67. Screen material
68. Country music legend Haggard
69. Puts together in time
70. When you hope to arrive

CLUES DOWN

1. An involuntary and abnormal muscular contraction
2. Philly's rail service
3. Leaves a place
4. No longer be a part in
5. Guitar players use them
6. Cease to exist
7. General's assistant (abbr.)
8. Shaking of the earth
9. Strong winds
10. For each one
11. A bog
12. The creation of beautiful or significant things
13. Affirmative
19. Pie ___ mode
21. Nonclerical
24. Inspirational football player Hamlin
25. Learning environment
26. Khoikhoi peoples
27. Bring out or develop
31. Shows up
32. Theatrical device
34. Loads
35. Popular Hollywood alien
36. Distinguishes
40. College dorm worker
41. Secondary or explanatory title
45. Resembling wings
47. One who delivers a speech
48. In the middle
52. Loop with a running knot
53. Airborne (abbr.)
54. Beloveds
56. Ordain
57. Breed of small cattle
59. Very small period of time (abbr.)
60. Revolutions per minute
61. They ___
62. Longtime ESPN anchor Bob
63. A place to stay

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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

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 11

Teen Anime Night

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

A fun night of anime and Japanese food. Ages 13 - 18. Watch your favorite anime series on the big screen, eat mochi ice cream, and make your own bento box with onigiri (Japanese animal rice balls). Learn how to make onigiri and build an adorable and good-for-you bento box! All materials provided (no raw fish). 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

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

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

Fri, May 12

On Pins & Needles

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

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

Sat, May 13

Plant Sale

Grounds of Fairview Branch Library
Route 4 and Chaneyville Rd, Owings
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Chesapeake Garden Club's annual plant sale, Club member Rosanna Noyes, an amateur lepidopterist, will speak on her hobby of raising Monarch butterflies. 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, heliobores, 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.

Parkers Creek Challenge Triathlon

American Chestnut Land Trust
South Side Trailhead
8 a.m.

Triathlon including bike, run, and paddle. Fee: \$40/member, \$50/nonmember, \$25 / relay team member.

Calvert Arts Festival

All Saints Episcopal Church
Rts 2 & 4, Sunderland
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sample the best wines and craft beers from Southern Maryland makers at 17th Calvert Arts Festival A \$20 fee to taste wines/beers gives you a souvenir tasting glass and wristband. No fee to shop from outstanding local juried artisans. Enjoy delicious food and beverages, live entertainment, children's crafts, raffles & more. Tour our 1692 church & labyrinth. Event is rain or shine. More information at allsaints1692.org/event/17th-annual-calvert-arts-festival. Age verified for alcohol tasting by picture ID at festival. Proceeds benefit local charities that aid County children. Free parking at church and nearby Sunderland Park & Ride.

Plein Air Painting

Perigeaux Vineyards & Winery
8650 Mackall Road, St. Leonard
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Local artists will be painting outdoors. Come visit the vineyard and tasting room and see art being created by local painters. Artworks will be available for sale. Live Music by Folk Salad, 2-6 p.m.

Mother's Day Market

Annmarie Sculpture Garden
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Just what moms love: a morning of browsing and shopping at Annmarie with a delightful selection of vendors offering all things handmade, homemade, and home-grown! From jewelry to apple butter, moms will enjoy all the booths - and you'll find gifts for all the mothers in your life. Well-behaved pets on a short leash are welcome; rain or shine event; no smoking, no vaping.

Details: www.annmariegarden.org

Texas Hold'Em

St. Leonard VFD
6 p.m.

\$85 buy-in for \$20k in chips. Rounds are 20 minutes each. BYOB, food and sodas will be available for purchase.

Chance for 50/50 included in your buy-in. Tables deal their own cards, dealers are not provided. Dealer provided for final table. Late Entries permitted until end 1st break, approx. 7:10 pm cut off. No rebuys. ATM on site.

Sun, May 14

Mother's Day Evening Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
4:30 - 6 p.m.

Celebrate mom or your "special" someone aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*! Relax together and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Solomons Harbor and Patuxent River. Heavy hors d'oeuvre will be served, as well as a special dessert. Guests are welcome to bring their own beverages; water, tea and lemonade will be provided. Cost is \$40 for adults, \$20 for children ages 5-12, and \$10 for children 4 and under.

Wed, May 17

Book Discussion

Calvert Library
2-4p.m.

Join us for a lively discussion of *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles! <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Reading Buddies

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
6-7 p.m.

At this event, elementary aged children will do fun activities and read out loud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating. Bring your favorite books, or pick one of ours when you get here—we have plenty! Email Mary (mary.miller@calvertlibrary.info). 410-257-2101.

Women Transitioning Back to the Workforce

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
6-7:30 p.m.

Looking for a job after an extended gap in employment? Don't miss this free, interac-

tive series with guidance on how to update your resume, negotiate your salary, and interview on Zoom. The CCCW wants to help the women of Calvert County re-enter the workforce with dignity and grace. This interactive Career Builder Series is offered by the Calvert County Commission for Women in partnership with Calvert Library. If you have questions or comments, please contact the Calvert County Commission for Women at calvertwomen@gmail.com Alisha aliasepsey@gmail.com 303-906-2954 or 410-257-2101.

Thu, May 18

Little Minnows: Whose My Mama?

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

For preschoolers ages 3 - 5, with an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Join us for story time and craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. 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-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

Fairy & Gnome Home Festival

Anne Marie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center, Solomons
Sunday, May 21
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Join us for a magical day of family nature play as you travel through the six realms of Annmarie Garden and discover an enchanting variety of activities. Meet fairy friends, discover hidden gnome homes, enjoy crafts, and explore nature. Food and drink vendors will be available. It's an over-the-top day of magicalicious fun for your family to imagine, create, and explore. Advance timed-entry tickets required; admission: \$8/person (\$10 at the gate, if not sold out), kids 2 & under free; members free. Reduced price admission tickets available for SNAP card holders. Rain or shine event, no pets, no smoking. Details: www.annmariegarden.org

Father Alexander Gala Another Huge Success

By Dave Spigler
Contributing Writer

Each Spring the Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Solomons holds an annual event to recognize an individual whose efforts have had a positive influence in making the local community a better place to live. The Father Alexander Award honors the legacy of the Parish's first Pastor, Father Maurice Alexander who went to great lengths to build a place of worship for Catholics here in Calvert County. This event also serves as a fundraiser to raise funds for various charities that support the needy. Last year these efforts raised \$12,000+ for Catholic Relief services in the Ukraine caring for the suffering citizens severely devastated by the invasion of their country. This year the monies raised were to be dedicated for the expansion of the Parish school facility that has been operating at 120% capacity during the Pandemic period.

The Father Alexander Award was established ten years ago. Father Alexander arrived in the fishing village of Solomons in 1920 and found there was little money to be found. Sunday collections totaled \$9.00 and was not nearly enough to provide food for himself nor his horse. He initiated a nationwide write-in campaign despite many advisors thinking his plan would never work. However, in 1927 the first church, now called the "Historic Church" was completed with a rectory and convent to follow. The church basement served as the first school for the initial 31 students taught by 4 Catholic nuns he was able to bring in from Covington, Kentucky. He later achieved another dream by establishing another church in the County Seat of Prince Frederick, now known as the St. John Vianney Parish.

This year's award recipients are actually two former Pastors for the Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Father Richard Gardiner who served an amazing 28 years upon arriving in 1983 and Monsignor Michael Wilson, aka "Father Mike" who served for 10 years before retiring in 2019. Father Gardiner's selection for this honor was the result of his many initiatives including improving the school curriculum, taking a genuine interest in the youth of the Parish with the establishment of a Catholic Youth Organization [CYO] that won many Archdiocesan of

Washington first place awards for their initiatives and efforts in the community. Additionally, he was the first Pastor to allow young girls to serve as "altar servers." He is also credited, along with Reverend Irwin Beverly, a Methodist minister, with the establishment of "S.M.I.L.E.," a large local charity group providing care for the poor, the hungry, and the homeless of the area. Reverend Beverly was the recipient of the Father Alexander Award in 2022.

Father Mike is well loved and respected throughout Southern Maryland. He previously served as the Pastor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Lexington Park for many years before returning to the area as Pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea and its 1200 families in 2011. He was a compassionate, caring shepherd of great faith for his flock and his reputation quickly increased the numbers in attendance at Mass and filled the school with additional students. He saw to the building of a separate Kindergarten-Pre K building and found resources for families unable to provide the full yearly tuition for the Parish school. Significantly, one of Father's great feats was to pay off the huge mortgage debt for the new church that he inherited with his assignment. Both of these Pastors' actions reflected the example, the love, and intuitiveness of Father Alexander. Their lives and accomplishments were comparable to those of Father Alexander in many ways and they are especially deserving for this recognition.

This year's Gala "Memories and Melodies" was held on Saturday night, April 22 at the St. John Vianney Family Life Center in Prince Frederick. Large affordable venues for events of this size are becoming scarce in the Tri County area. The dinner show featuring the Fabulous Hubcaps attracted more than 230 guests. This popular show band gave one of their best performances ever as this maybe their last local appearance prior to their announced retirement later this year. The band has been playing all over the country for nearly 50 years since its start here where it was first known as "The Southern Maryland Band." They once were invited to the White House to perform for the President and have garnered many awards including Maryland Entertainer of the Year and Musicians Hall of Fame. They did not disappoint as shown by the number of folks who were on their feet dancing the

night away.

The crowd was treated to an exquisite meal provided by "Maryland Country Caters" and beverages served by the Knights of Columbus. Guests were teased by many wonderful Silent Auction items to bid on. The highlight of the evening came when Father Bob, the new young Pastor at "Our Lady" announced the results of his "Shave or No Shave" fundraiser he originated to help raise funds within the Parish. He came up with this idea after several parishioners remarked how young he looked to be the new Pastor so he grew a thick black beard to look "more mature." Over the past five weeks folks were invited to vote by putting a dollar bill in boxes labelled "Shave" or "No Shave." His idea attracted more than 3000 votes with the "Shavers" winning by the smallest of margins. He became one of the major contributors to this event.

A quick review of the Gala guest list read like a "Who's Who" for Calvert County. Among the attendees who enjoyed the evening were former Maryland State Delegate Jerry Clarke, County Commissioners Mike Hart, Catherine Grasso, and Todd Ireland and former Commissioner Steve Weems. Mr. Hart and Mr. Weems are graduates of the Our Lady Star of the Sea School, the recipient for this year's funds. Additionally Calvert Sheriff Ricky Cox, the current Maryland Knights of Columbus State Deputy Chris Powers and wife Annie, the Maryland Knights of Columbus State Lector Jim Cooney and wife Cele, former head of the Naval Air Warfare Center Pax River Admiral Shane Gahagan and wife Kim, the former Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station Pax River Captain Glen Ives and his wife Captain



Awardees Father Mike and Father Gardiner with the 2023 Gala Chairman Dave "Spiggy" Spigler.

Barbara Ives, Solomons Optimist President Candace Milcarzyk, Senior Deputy James Flynt of the Calvert Sheriff's Office who was recently wounded in the line of duty four months ago, and Calvert's own "Rockin' Elvis" Jim Godbold made for an exceptionally long introductory speech.

Finally, this successful evening was the result of six months of planning and preparation by 16 hardworking volunteers of the Our Lady Parish with additional support from the Knights of Columbus Council 9258 and many others. The night was made possible by the three major sponsors whose contributions put the event over the top. Special thanks go out to the fine folks at Kelly Generator of Dunkirk, A.E. Ernst Inc. Electrical Contractors of Stevensville, and Jan Kleponis of O'Brien Realty of Solomons. There were many, many other donors whose support is greatly appreciated. While the accounting is not finalized at this point, the total proceeds from this year's Gala is expected to exceed \$17,000... It was truly a wonderful night for memories and melodies.

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George Clark, Acting Transportation Director
Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
gclark@tccsmd.org
301-274-1922 x 19
www.tccsmd.org

Legal Notice

TOWN OF CHESAPEAKE BEACH PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mayor and Town Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances at the May 18, 2023 Town Council meeting beginning at 6:50 pm.

Ordinance O-23-13, an Ordinance of the Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, amending the adopted General Fund Budget for the Town of Chesapeake Beach for the fiscal year from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, to recognize uncollectable debt expense related to forgiven General Fund loan to the Utility Fund for Capital Projects, in the amount of One Million and Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000.00).

Ordinance O-23-14, an Ordinance of the Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, amending the adopted Utility Fund budget for the Town of Chesapeake Beach for the fiscal year from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, to recognize restricted loan proceeds from forgiven General Fund loan to the Utility Fund for Capital Projects, in the amount of One Million and Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000.00).

Ordinance O-23-15, an Ordinance of the Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, amending the adopted Utility Fund budget for the Town of Chesapeake Beach for the fiscal year from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, to reallocate revenue funds with a net increase of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000.00), offset by an increase in Capital Projects expense line item in the amount of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000.00) for usage of forgiven loan proceeds restricted for Capital Expenses.

The complete Ordinances may be viewed upon request to shumm@chesapeake-beachmd.gov Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sharon L. Humm
Town Clerk

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Zoning Text Moratorium Goes to Public Hearing

Staff Presents 'Aggressive' Update Schedule



Director of Planning and Zoning Mary Beth Cook

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is moving ahead with plans to impose a moratorium on new zoning ordinance text amendments while the update of the ordinance is ongoing. The BOCC at their May 9 meeting agreed to schedule a public hearing on the proposal that was recently advanced by planning and zoning staff.

Planning and Zoning Director Mary Beth Cook and Planner III Will Hager presented an "aggressive" update schedule that has it finished early next year with a final public hearing in the spring.

Several of the commissioners expressed reservations about dragging the process out and thus the moratorium.

Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "My concern is if we make that decision, we've locked the door for longer than six months and there may be items come up that have to be addressed and can't wait. Because while you think you're going to be done in January or February of '24, I'm not as optimistic. I'm sorry. I am concerned about the delay in making changes that may be needed."

The staff update draft is now available on the county website and comments are being sought. The first public work ses-

sion is scheduled for June 23.

Hance questioned seeking public comment online before the public session. He said, "I think that if my memory serves me right, the comment that we have gotten in the past is that they like to have group discussions," adding, "Somebody else may have thoughts on that issue. I may have a different opinion. That's why they like to have open public discussions about the topics and the issues that are raised by citizens so that everybody gets to hear what the issue is. And maybe there are solutions out there that we haven't thought of that somebody else has."

Cook said if the process isn't working it can be modified. Explaining the aggressive schedule, she said, "It's a little bit different than the comprehensive plan and the master plans. Whereas we were getting input on what are your goals, what are your visions, that's already been established. We're writing the regulations to meet those goals and visions now."

Hager explained that the zoning ordinance update has been a work in progress since the beginning of the comprehensive plan update in 2016. "County staff and comprehensive plan consultant conducted a zoning analysis of existing conditions through the confirmation of the county's vision. Through the comprehensive plan adoption, staff began working on developing zoning recommendations and a draft ordinance that would bring the zoning ordinance into compliance with the comprehensive plan."

Hager observed that some recent legislative actions in Annapolis may change their schedule. "For example, there have been changes to the forest conservation law, which were signed by the governor yesterday, I believe. And those are going to require us to rewrite the forest conservation article significantly in order to bring that in line with state law."

Regarding the moratorium, Cook said there are several text amendments pending that will be allowed to proceed but after that, if the commissioners agree, they will be halted until a specified time that has yet to be established.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

THE Wentworth Weekly

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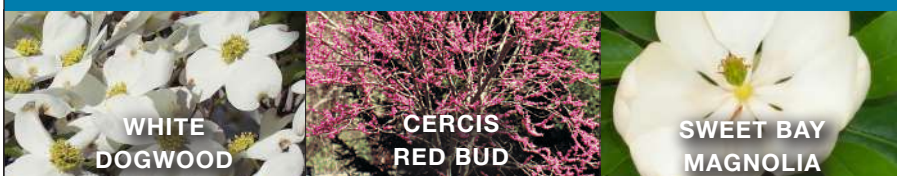


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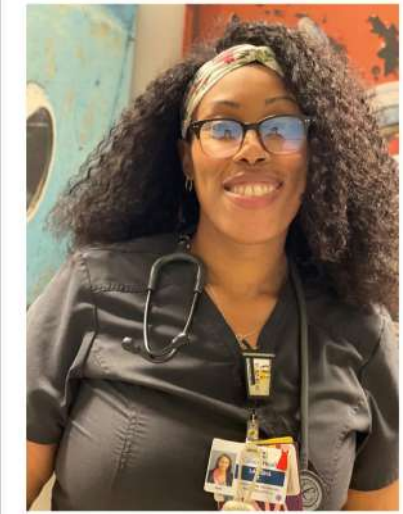
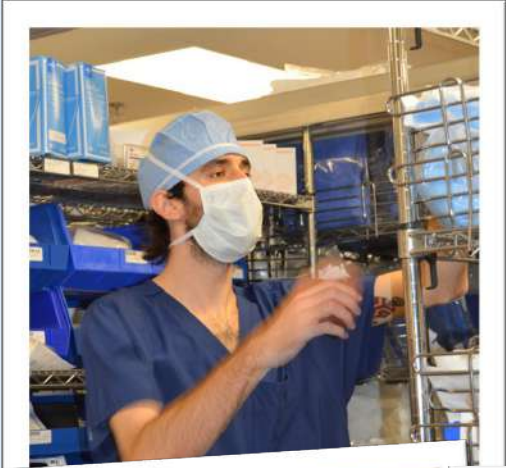
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NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK 2023

Are Farms and Critical Area Compatible?

Appeals Board Rules for Farm Family

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

On the lands surrounding the Chesapeake Bay, from time to time, farmers and environmentalists have been at odds over what's best for the Bay. The state's Critical Areas law is intended to protect the Bay. Is farming incompatible with that intention?

A May 4 hearing before the Calvert County Board of Appeals came down on the side of farmers and agreed with the applicants, Michael and Anna Cox, that the farms and the environment can coexist.

Mrs. Cox, during her testimony, said, "No one has to choose between farming and the environment because a multi-generational, diversified, sustainable family farm is the best protection for the soil, the wildlife, and the water quality."

The family's request was for an after-the-fact Critical Area Variance for impacts to the buffer for the construction of six sheds, one greenhouse and one deck. The 15-acre property, on Sixes Road in Prince Frederick, lies entirely within the Critical Area.

The board unanimously approved the variance and enthusiastically endorsed what the family has done on the farm and the quality of their presentation to the board. The board had received nine letters and 18 emails in support of the Coxes and several people testified.

During their presentation Mrs. Cox said the county had tried to get them to remove or relocate the structures, which she said were essential to their farm operation and there was nowhere else to put them.

"We have very limited space," Mrs. Cox advised, "and even what would've been our front yard is under cultivation. So where else would we build?"

Michael Cox, who said the farm has been in his family since 1831, noted that the county planning and zoning department had been advised by someone of the existence of the farm structures.

His wife admitted that they were constructed without Critical Area and county approvals. "We built sheds without a permit. Why didn't we get permits? We didn't think they were necessary because few, if any, people in the community request permits for sheds or even larger barns or for greenhouses. Many of our buildings evolved gradually and we didn't know permits were required for alterations to undersized agricultural structures. We have rectified that by applying for after-the-fact permits and by paying all fines and fees."

But she added, "The second issue is that we've been accused of infringing on the buffer zone, destroying natural vegetation and thus negatively impacting water quality and wildlife of that charge. We are not guilty."

Mrs. Cox noted that farming is allowed in the Critical Area except for the first 25 feet, instead of the total 100-foot buffer.

"This additional flexibility is permitted for these uses because of the environmental stewardship that necessarily accompanies

these types of resource utilization activities," she quoted from a citizen's guide to the Critical Area.

She said, "Three's a misleading idea that many small buildings can add up to the impact of one very large structure. This is not true if between the smaller buildings positive things are in place. If small structures are surrounded by runoff absorbing plantings, even if they're many structures, they cannot equal the impact of one large shopping mall and associated parking lots, even if the square footages were identical. That is why small structures don't require stormwater management, while large ones do."

She said, "Other than zoning enforcement, only two officials have visited the property to see for themselves the actual conditions. Lawmakers in Annapolis can't and don't know a piece of property like the farmer, who spent his entire life learning the soil, water flow patterns and vegetation. No official has as much at stake or a greater interest in preserving this land than we do."

Mrs. Cox said wildlife has flourished under their stewardship of their farm. "We tag monarchs (butterflies), naturalists band raptors, eagles, osprey and herons nest Here, turtles hatch, cypress seedlings hold the soil and pollinator patches are supported. There is a far healthier diversified habitat for native species than what existed 30 years ago."

"Preserving our rural heritage is very important to the citizens of Calvert County," she said. "Calvert's comprehensive plan acknowledges that preserving our rural character is a primary goal and states the best agricultural protection strategy is a profitable farm. Wetlands must be protected while still supporting working farmlands."

She concluded by saying, "The most important crop we raise is the next generation of farmers." They have 14 children, many of whom sat in the first several rows of the hearing room.

Their oldest son at home, Josiah, also spoke. He said, "If there is increased regulatory pressure on the small farmers in the Critical Area, the most tempting option is to sell to the highest paying developer."

He added, "I want (you) to think yet of the disproportionate view of living by the water. For example, we all know that all heavy runoff in Calvert County flows either to the Bay or to the Patuxent River, not just from the properties that are in critical area."

He added, "The focus of waterfront value has shifted. So, it is something only the wealthy can afford and are willing to pay for. So there becomes a battle of continuing farming near the water, despite the squeeze of county regulations or selling to developers. And what would be left of Calvert County if the Route 4 corridor was commercialized, and the Bay riverfront were urbanized."

During the hearing, board member Christopher Moore suggested the Coxes reach out to state senators Michael Jackson and Jack Bailey with concerns about Critical Areas legislation. "The ideas of what they want to do are good. Unfortunately, it's the

law of unintended consequences, what's happened to y'all."

And board member Thomas Ireland said, "Your presentation today was far superior from those we've heard from attorneys, other professionals who are in the building industry."

"I think Calvert County, as well as the state of Maryland, owes you an apology, what they put you through and the time you've done," he added.

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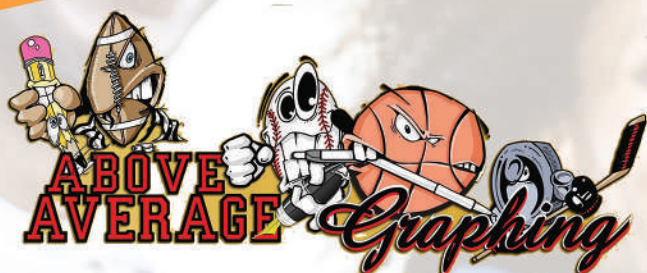




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Study: Calvert Residents Are Generally Healthy

Health Officer: Some Health Issues Persist

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert residents are generally healthier than most of the state. A national ranking places Calvert the 5th healthiest, followed by St. Mary's at number 6. But Calvert County Health Officer Dr. Laurence Polsky says some health issues still persist in the county. Polsky presented the most recent data at a May 9 meeting of the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) sitting as the board of health. Polsky makes semi-annual visits to the board.

"I am happy to say that we have maintained our top tier ranking," he said. "About a decade ago, we were middle of the pack, and (recently) we've been consistently the fourth, fifth, healthiest county in the state. It's Frederick, Carroll and Calvert that are kind of clustered in there. We're hoping to overtake Montgomery and Howard at some point in the future."

He observed, "There are still areas that we certainly have room for improvement. But I will say that smoking rates, although still higher than certainly any healthcare provider would like to see, are appreciably lower than we were looking at a year ago. It's almost half of the smoking rate when you go back a decade ago."

"The obesity rates are probably our big-

gest thing to work on," he said, "but last year it was 36 percent. So, we have nudged down a little bit"

He said the chronic disease team has been working with local clinicians on obesity and, "a lot of outreach with organizations across the county and at health fairs to try to help people to maintain healthier weight."

Excessive drinking is another health issue that "we certainly could do better." He said, "That's defined as two or more drinks a day, or binge drinking, which is five or more drinks a day, at least once a month."

Calvert ranks eighth in the state in injury deaths, But Polsky said there's a nuance in the data. "Injury deaths used to be primarily car crashes, but as I'm sure everyone's aware, over the last decade has become more and more a reflection of overdose deaths. And now we're seeing three times more overdose deaths than we are car crash fatalities."

Overdose death rates in our county continue to decline, the health officer said. So, he said, "My expectation is that over the next two years, as the numbers start to reflect what we're seeing over the last couple years, that our injury death rates will continue to decline."

He said, "Where we're doing great is in teen births. We have the third lowest rate of teen births in the state. We have the lowest child mortality rate in the state. We also have

	Calvert	Maryland Average	Calvert's Rank
Adult Smoking	14%	11%	7th
Adult Obesity	34%	31%	13th
Excessive Drinking	18%	15%	
Injury Deaths#	83/100,000	88/100,000	8th
Primary Care Providers	1/2,070 residents	1/1,130 residents	16th

the lowest rate of uninsured people."

As to suicide rates, he said, "In the ideal world we would be looking at zero. But relative to other jurisdictions in the state, we have one of the lowest suicide rates in the state."

But he said, "We're not satisfied. We want to continue to see that get lower and lower over time."

Life expectancy in Calvert, at 79.4 years, beats the state average of 78.6, and is the sixth best in the state.

He said, "The average Calvert County resident lives about three and a half years longer than the average US resident."

Polsky noted that the country as a whole "has the lowest life expectancy of large, wealthy countries while it far outspends its peers on healthcare."

That life expectancy gap worsened around 2010, he said, "which is when we started seeing a significant number of deaths related to opioid overdoses."

Increased deaths since 2020 can be attributed half to Covid and the other half to mental health issues "The U.S. per capita deaths due to Covid were just much higher than in other high-income countries," he said. In 2020 and 2021 Covid was the third leading cause of death in the country.

Covid deaths have decreased over this past year, and overdose deaths continue to increase nationwide.

He noted, "A bit of good news out of all this, at least relative to our counterparts around the state and other parts of the country, that Calvert has the lowest rate of Covid hospitalizations and Covid deaths out of any of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland. Calvert residents were 50 percent less likely to be hospitalized as a result of Covid during these last three years than the average Marylander and 57 percent less likely to die as a result."

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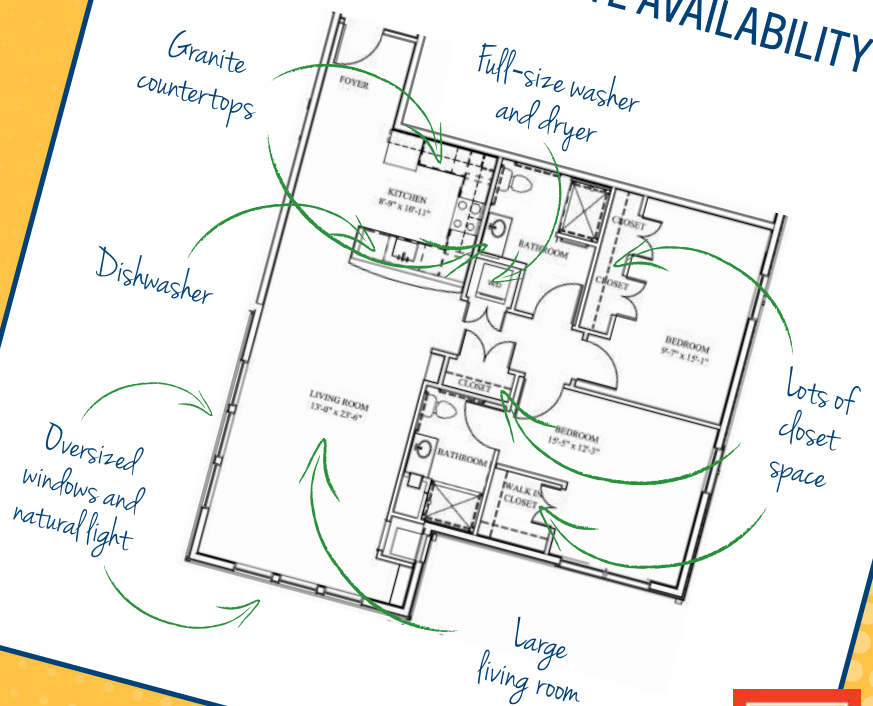
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Vineyard Remains Closed for Public Events

Commissioners React to Criticism

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Running Hare Vineyard off Adelina Road in Prince Frederick remains closed for public events due to a zoning dispute and the issue turned emotional at the May 9 Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting.

Five speakers during public comment criticized the BOCC, blaming them for the closure and alleging they were responsible for the annual fundraiser for hospice there being canceled.

Carol Wilson of North Beach said, "It appears from what I'm hearing and reading, Running Hare has actually complied with most of the county requirements. And we're finally down to some paperwork and approval that appears to relate to these restrooms. Yet, they're closed. They've missed their opening weekend. They've missed Easter, not them, but also the customers, Mother's Day, prime warm weather season, jeopardizing their ability to assemble even their summer workforce at this point, as well as giving the community opportunities for employment. And the hospice thing. I mean, seriously. It baffles me how in the world you could stop the hospice event."

Wilson added, "It just feels vindictive, like you're missing the point of the greater

good for the community, not just for our entertainment."

She added, "Now you're impacting one of the county's largest nonprofits by turning down the hospice event. It's last minute. I feel like it hurts hospice more than it's hurting Running Hare. They're donating the space and from what I understand, they were told or had the impression that they were allowed to hold the event."

Wilson said, "We vote for county officials that we believe can get things done. We elect our county officials for good problem solving and we elect them to serve the community and by closing Running Hare, not letting them stay open while you're working through the issues, denying the hospice fundraiser, none of those appear to me be benefiting the community and as a public official perception is what matters come election day."

Kim Kane said, "It does seem like there may be some conflict of interest with the Board of County Commissioners. Maybe (they) should recuse themselves from voting on some of these things when it comes to Running Hare Vineyard with their personally owned businesses maybe indirectly or directly affecting how they would vote."

The commissioners usually do not respond to what's said during public comment, but Commissioner President Buddy



Hance jumped right in. "First of all, it is not true. This board has not taken any votes to close or change the rules or do anything to Running Hare. I don't know who put that out."

But in response to an angry shout from the audience, Hance responded, "They cannot have the fundraiser Friday night."

After Commissioner Todd Ireland defused the situation with the angry man, Hance continued, "This issue has been going on since 2018. And there are zoning violations at the property that we've been trying to address since 2018. The property that Running Hare is located on is in a land preservation program that has rules and regulations that they have to follow. Part of those rules and regulations is that they can only hold two public events per year. The preservation program is an agricultural program. And those rules and requirements need to be followed because, maybe not the current owner, but at some point in time, property owners were paid to put the property in protection. That's the issue with the fundraiser."

Hance insisted, "The fundraiser for hospice has not been canceled. The fundraiser for hospice has been moved to Huntingtown Fire Department. The hospice fundraiser has been on the books at Running Hare for however long. Running Hare never contacted hospice and told them that they had issues, and they might not be able to host the event until last Thursday."

Hance added, "The only thing we've asked for them is to address their issues. And people have said, well then just let them operate. Let them keep going. And we have, and there's been little to no progress made in those years. And so, we have rules and regulations that have to be met."

Hance insisted, "And all we've asked is that they follow the rules just like 99 percent of the other businesses in Calvert County. That's all we've asked. That's all. And if you want us to look the other way, I don't know where that stops."

Hance noted the vineyard can continue

to host private events, such as weddings.

Commissioner Mark Cox said, "Let me make it clear right now, there's nobody working any harder on Running Hare than myself." He said he's been working with the Maryland Department of the Environment and a representative was coming down this week.

"Trust me. We are all working hard. We all want to resolve it today. It's going to take some time, but we are working on it."

Ireland said, "Hospice is not the issue here guys. And we need to get that off the table, so to speak. We really do. Hospice is not the issue. We're going to do everything we can for hospice, and we have done everything we can for hospice, and you need to know that."

Commissioner Mike Hart agreed, noting that several of his family members had been in hospice care.

"Everybody up here has been touched by hospice," he said.

Hart added, "Nobody on this board wants to see anybody unsuccessful," saying he's been involved in numerous meetings on the issue.

"You're not getting my integrity for \$48,000 a year or a vote or any of those kind of things"

"Nobody wants to see anybody not doing well," Hart said, "but you cannot have a rule for one person and not the other. In no way can you ever say, well, it's okay for you, but it's not okay for that one. Things will get fixed. They will get fixed. But you have to be fair in a small town."

Hart opined, "If I looked the other way for somebody that I knew or went to school with, I'd be looking this way my entire political career. So, I tell everybody this: I don't care what your name is, how much money you have, the only thing I can go by is the rules that are on the books. I will never break the law and I'll never go against the rules."

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“I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT WE HAVE MAINTAINED OUR TOP TIER RANKING.”

HEALTH OFFICER DR. LAURENCE POLSKY ON THE COUNTY BEING FIFTH HEALTHIEST IN THE STATE

	Calvert
Adult Smoking	14%
Adult Obesity	34%
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Injury Deaths#	83/100,000
Primary Care Providers	1/2,070 residents

LOCAL 4
Health officials worried about county obesity rates



LOCAL 8
Public hearing set for zoning moratorium



ON THE COVER
Running Hare vineyard still closed

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAY 11 Mostly Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 59°	FRI, MAY 12 Partly Cloudy Hi: 81° Lo: 63°	SAT, MAY 13 Showers Hi: 73° Lo: 58°	SUN, MAY 14 Partly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 55°
MON, MAY 15 Partly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 53°	TUE, MAY 16 Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 53°	WED, MAY 17 Mostly Sunny Hi: 73° Lo: 57°	THU, MAY 18 Mostly Sunny Hi: 75° Lo: 59°



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Zoning Moratorium

Calvert Obesity
Rate Worrying

Farm Family
Wins Appeal

RUNNING HARE: WHO'S TO BLAME?