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St. Mary's

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023

# County Times

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## ST. MARY'S LOSES A HERO

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ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD

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**JULY 7-9  
2023**

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Friday, July 7 | 1 p.m. to late



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----Opener (Noon)----  
GROOVESPAN

----Second Act 2:30 PM----  
LATRICE CARR

----Third Act 5 PM----  
BRIAN SIMPSON

----Headliner 7 PM----  
KIM WATERS

Sunday, July 9 | All Day

## Jazzin' Sunday IN LEONARDTOWN

Enjoy jazz-themed activities like jazz brunches, live music throughout Leonardtown and much more.

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Friday and Sunday

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## Jazz Fun & Music Around Town

See website for music and schedule.

## AFTER PARTY AT BRÜ

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“BEING A FIREFIGHTER IS NOT JUST A JOB BUT A CALLING; BRICE TROSSBACH ANSWERED THE CALL, AND WE WILL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL”

LEONARDTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF CHRIS BELL



**LOCAL 9**  
Golden Beach fireworks planned



**LOCAL 15**  
Fire, rescue and law enforcement honored



**ON THE COVER**  
A local firefighter was killed in the line of duty

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUN 29	FRI, JUN 30	SAT, JUL 1	SUN, JUL 2
 Sunny Hi: 84° Lo: 66°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 86° Lo: 69°	 Scattered Storms Hi: 85° Lo: 70°	 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 87° Lo: 70°
MON, JUL 3	TUE, JUL 4	WED, JUL 5	THU, JUL 6
 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 88° Lo: 70°	 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 87° Lo: 69°	 Scattered Storms Hi: 86° Lo: 71°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 88° Lo: 71°

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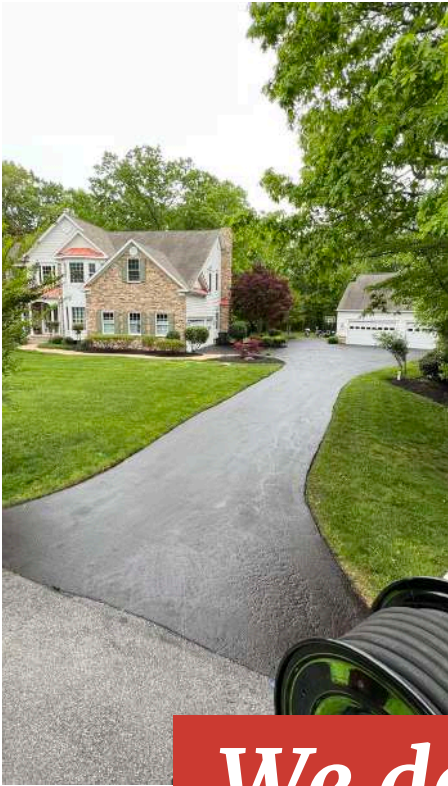
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# Pax River Firefighter Dies Fighting House Fire

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

A firefighter with the Naval District of Washington and assigned to Patuxent River Naval Air Station perished while responding to a house fire in Leonardtown early Tuesday morning.

The firefighter is Brice Trossbach, 27, said base spokesman Patrick Gordon.

“It’s very sad,” Gordon said. “We’re all mourning the loss of one of our own and a member of the community.”

Brice was a member of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department from youth, a statement from the company relayed.

“Being a firefighter is not just a job but a calling; Brice Trossbach answered the call, and we will forever be grateful,” said Co. 1 Chief Chris Bell. “Right now, words cannot convey the loss we are feeling, nor can they convey the pain we feel for his family.

“So, we will stand with them, extend our arms to support them, and lift our prayers for their peace and comfort. Our deepest sympathies to the Trossbach family.”

According to the statement Trossbach “had been a part of the [Leonardtown volunteer fire] family since he was in diapers, crawling around the firehouse when his father, Warren Trossbach, would bring him to the station.”

At 16, Trossbach joined the Leonardtown fire house as a probationary member, working up to be a junior member, and finally became a full member at 18 years old.

“Firefighting was in Brice’s blood, his father is a life member of LVFD, and he served alongside his uncles and brother,” the statement read.

“Brice was the kind of guy who, when you gave him a task, you knew it was going to get done the right way the first time, and it was going to get done fast,” continued Chief Bell, “He was always there to support his fire family, whether that was with help around the station, mentoring younger firefighters, or continuing his education to ensure he was the best he could be.”

Trossbach’s commitment to St. Mary’s County is further evidenced by his Bay District Volunteer Fire Department membership the statement said.

“He has served St. Mary’s County faithfully for 10 years,” the fire company stated.

The fire on Deerwood Park Drive in the

early morning hours Tuesday drew a heavy response from firefighters and emergency medical personnel from all over Southern Maryland and even resulted in the partial activation of St. Mary’s County’s Emergency Operations Center to deal with the blaze.

Initial reports state that Trossbach fell through to the basement of the home after the floor caved in and had to be pulled out of the wreckage.

The county mourned Trossbach’s loss.

“We lost a true hero this morning who went in without hesitation to save others and lost his life in the process,” said station commanding officer Capt. Derrick Kingsley during a press conference June 27.

Local elected officials lamented the loss of a brave member of the community.

“There’s nothing that can take the hurt or devastation away from that loss...,” said Commissioner Mike Hewitt. “We’ve lost a volunteer fire fighter who put his life out there to protect somebody’s property.

“My condolences to the family.”

Commissioner Eric Colvin said the fire also showed the importance of fire sprinkler systems being installed in homes; older homes built without them can still be retrofitted to have them included.

He said he was in awe of the response from regional fire and rescue companies willing to step in and support their sister organizations here in St. Mary’s.

“This may be our first line of duty death for a fire fighter in St. Mary’s County,” Colvin said. “The mutual aid... shows me just how [amazingly] our community can come together during a tragedy.”

Oliver Alkire, spokesman for the Maryland State Fire Marshal’s Office, said the federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms was assisting in the death investigation with a strong presence at the scene.

“That is standard operating procedure anytime a fire fatality happens,” Alkire said. “Right now, we have about 15 of our personnel — that’s about one quarter of the fire marshal’s office — here.

“That shows the intensity of this investigation and that we want to provide answers to our firefighters and the family of the fallen.”

Investigators are now sifting through the debris of the house, which he called a “complete loss” — in an effort to determine how the fire started.



Firefighter Brice Trossbach



Trossbach’s gear at the memorial at Leonardtown Volunteer Fire department



“The family heard a large boom before they recognized the fire,” Alkire said. “We’re investigating what that was.”

Alkire said investigators were looking into whether thunderstorms in the area just before the fire were a possible cause.

“Is there a possibility it was a lightning strike?” Alkire said. “We just don’t know at this point.”

The two-alarm fire brought about 75 fire-

fighters to the scene to knock down the blaze.

The investigation could take days, he said.

Calvert and Charles county fire and EMS companies took over Tuesday as St. Mary’s companies stood down for the day after Trossbach’s death.

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County Times

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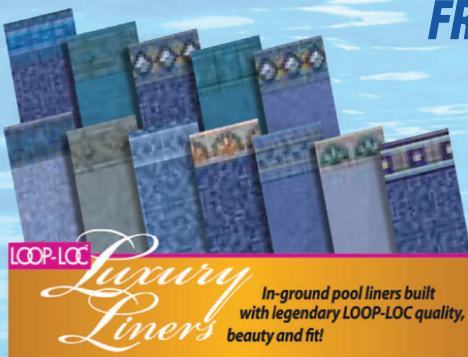


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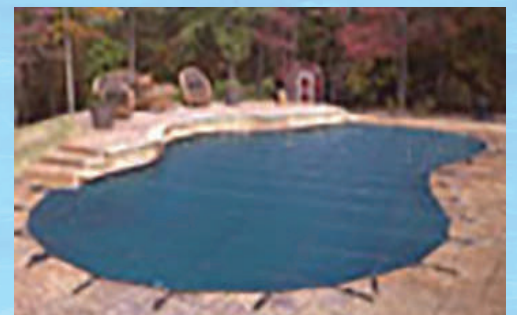
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# Navy Sued For Alleged Pollution of Potomac River

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren, Va. has polluted the Potomac River for decades with its constant testing of munitions and other weapons systems, a lawsuit filed in federal court alleges.

Two environmental activist groups, the Potomac Riverkeeper, Inc. and the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., filed the suit in U.S. District Court in Baltimore, pressing for injunctive relief against the U.S. Navy's operations at the weapons station.

St. Mary's County shares the Potomac River with Virginia and is one of its prime ecological and fisheries resources.

The court action states that the Navy fires munitions and other weapons directly into the river along a 51-mile front known as the Potomac River Test Range.

"In total, the Navy has discharged more than 33 million pounds of munitions into the Potomac River," the lawsuit claims. "These munitions contain toxic metals, solvents, explosives, and other potentially harmful constituents."

The suit continues: "The objective of the Clean Water Act is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters," the lawsuit states. "In support of this objective, the act prohibits the discharge of any pollutant from a point source into a navigable water unless



pursuant to a lawful permit."

The Navy discharges those pollutants, the lawsuit claims but without a lawful permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"The Navy's ongoing, unpermitted discharges of pollutants into the Potomac River violate the Clean Water Act," the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit claims that the operations at Dahlgren are in violation of the Clean Water Act; their claim for injunctive relief centers around the claim the Navy must get a permit to continue their operations so the pollutants could be measured and regulated.

The lawsuit states that the plaintiffs are

bringing the suit, in part, because no other federal or state agent has sought redress from the Navy.

"Neither the EPA Administrator nor any state has commenced and diligently prosecuted an action in court to compel the Navy's compliance with the Clean Water Act," the lawsuit states.

According to the lawsuit, the Clean Water Act allows any citizen to sue the alleged violator of the act, given that they inform the violator of their intent to sue 60 days prior.

The plaintiffs gave that notice in January, the suit states.

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

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# School Employee Arrested on Child Sex Abuse Charge

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office arrested Davon Natrell Stewart, a school system employee, on a Circuit Court arrest warrant this week. Stewart had been indicted through the St. Mary's County Circuit Court with one count of sexual abuse of a minor.

The sheriff's office criminal investigation division in cooperation with the St. Mary's County Public Schools, revealed Stewart, who was employed as a member of the school safety and security team at Chopticon High School, had formed a relationship with a 15-year-old student there while working in the school.

Stewart, who is 22 years old, later met with the victim outside of school where sexual contact between the two allegedly occurred.

Stewart was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown and remains incarcerated on

a no-bond status.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith issued a statement on Stewart's arrest.

"St. Mary's County Public Schools has been notified by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office of the arrest of employee Davon N. Stewart, a safety and security assistant at Chopticon High School, for allegations of inappropriate contact with a CHS student.

"Mr. Stewart has been placed on administrative leave."

St. Mary's County Public Schools is fully cooperating with the authorities during the investigation of this matter, Smith said.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, Sgt. Christopher Beyer, 301-475-4200, ext. 8004.

Smith said the school system would issue no further comment on the matter as it was an ongoing investigation.

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

# Golden Beach to Hold Fireworks Show

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

This 4<sup>th</sup> of July many county residents — along with their counterparts in neighboring Calvert — will have their eyes fixed on Solomons Island for their fireworks display.

But the Golden Beach/Patuxent Knolls Civic Association is ensuring that citizens in North County get the same, fiery, colorful Independence Day celebration.

The fireworks start at 9 p.m. and run for 30 minutes, according to an announcement from the civic association, and will take place July 1; if rain occurs the celebration, which includes a fire and emergency medical services parade, will be held the following day on July 2.

The parade will take place during the day, starting at 11 a.m. and will proceed down from the intersection of Golden Beach Road and Beach Drive with a right turn on Adam Drive and then a left turn down Beach Drive and down to the community pavilion.

Dale Antosh, president of the Golden Beach/Patuxent Knolls Civic Association, said the parade and fireworks show has been going on for years.

"It goes as far back as I can remember," Antosh told The County Times. "Maybe about 30 years."

The civic association is a band of volunteers, Antosh said, not a home owners association, and engage in many different efforts to raise money for activities such as the parade and fireworks show.

Mulch sales, Christmas craft bazaars, quarter auctions are all on the table when it comes to fundraisers, Antosh said.

"We put it all back into the community,"



he said.

Putting on a fireworks show is a complex and expensive task, he said and planning must start in February or March at the latest to ensure it goes off without too many hitches.

Moreover, fireworks aren't getting any less expensive; they have to hire a contractor in Pennsylvania to perform and manage the show.

The state fire marshal also oversees the show for safety and the Coast Guard cordons off a 350-foot perimeter around Long Point Beach to ensure water traffic won't be struck by fireworks, flying, falling or otherwise.

"Anybody can attend," Antosh said. "Even though we're a private community we have lots of extra people who come to see the show."

The parade and show site is blocked off for a three-block distance, said Antosh, so visitors will have to walk in.

Despite the work and the expense, the civic association looks to keep holding the event going forward.

"There's never enough volunteers," Antosh said. "But, we somehow get it done."

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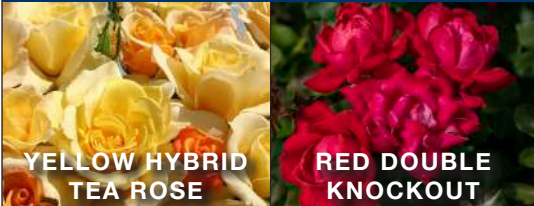
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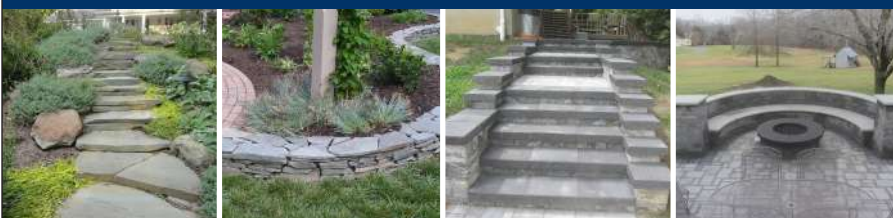
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# Update on Shooting in Lexington Park

On June 23, 2023, at around 11:38 a.m., Deputies with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the area of Gloucester Court for the report of shots fired. Deputies arrived on scene and located a 17-year-old male with multiple gunshot wounds. The victim was transported by ambulance to regional Trauma Center in stable condition.

A lookout was placed, and Deputies set up a perimeter around the area. Ultimately the suspect was located and placed under arrest. The 16-year-old suspect was charged as an adult with Attempted First and Second-

Degree Murder, Assault first and second degree, Use of a Firearm in a Violent Crime 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.

Anyone with additional information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Warren Forinash at 301-475-4200, ext. 8072, or email [Warren.Forinash@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:Warren.Forinash@stmaryscountymd.gov).

# Sheriff's Office Warns Of Increased Car Thefts, Car Burglaries

Numerous vehicle thefts and stealing items from within vehicles have recently been reported throughout St. Mary's County. Sheriff Steve Hall urges drivers to be vigilant by locking your vehicles and never leave your vehicle running while unattended.

Per Maryland Traffic Article § 21-1101 (a), a person driving or otherwise in charge of a motor vehicle may not leave it unattended until the engine is stopped, the ignition locked, the key removed, and the brake effectively set. This does not apply to a motor vehicle that has had the engine started using a remote keyless ignition system and has been operating unattended for up to 5 consecutive minutes or a motor vehicle that is locked and is on private property not open to the public (such as the driveway of your residence), up to 5 consecutive minutes.

Keep your vehicle's doors locked at all times, especially overnight. Thieves have easy access to steal your property or your vehicle if they only have to open the door.

This month, the rash of recent vehicle



burglaries and thefts have been a direct result of unlocked doors and several with spare keys left inside.

In addition, keep valuables out of plain view inside of a vehicle, or better yet, do not store any valuables in a vehicle.

When possible, keep your vehicle parked in a well-lit area with video camera surveillance.

Call the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office at 301-475-8008 to report a vehicle theft or breaking and entering, or make a report online at <https://www.firstsheriff.com/citizenreport/>



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**PATUXENT RIVER  
NAVAL AIR STATION** *News*

# Navy to Field New Hearing Protection for Extreme Noise



The Naval Aircrew Systems program office (PMA-202) is using data collected during recent fleet assessments to refine the HGU-99/P Hearing Protection Helmet (HPH) which is intended for flight deck crew exposed to extreme noise environments.

Depending on where they work on the flight deck, many flight deck crew operate under extreme noise conditions which has the potential to challenge their communication, effectiveness, and flight operations tempo. The new HPH provides three layers of hearing protection, impact head protection, and electronic “hear-through” to restore auditory situational awareness. The refined helmet is designed to improve crew communication, personal protection, and reduce hearing loss from prolonged exposure to extreme noise, one of the Navy’s top safety concerns.

“The HPH provides improved impact protection and increased hearing protection for flight deck crew working on the areas of the deck that are the loudest. Based on the data collected from our fleet assessments, we have been able to further refine the communication capabilities, which will enhance operations tempo on the deck,” said Capt. Carey Castelein, PMA-202 program manager.

The program office utilized fleet assess-

ments to incorporate the data collected from verification and qualification tests such as equipment compatibility, speech intelligibility, and face-to-face communication in proximity to jet noise to select the new HPH solution.

The HPH is compatible with external communication systems and all variants include the face-to-face “hear through” electronic communication system and use the same battery, improving compatibility. The communication system for each variant is based on noise level and communication need in proximity to jet noise, with a sound-powered phone system for the highest noise areas, boom or cup microphone for medium noise attenuation, and face-to-face only for lowest of the extreme noise areas.

“Thorough research, test and fleet assessments allowed our team to determine the best possible solution for improved extreme noise hearing protection, communication capability and head protection, taking into account performance and user feedback,” said Kimberly Gould, PMA-202 HPH team lead.

The program office started fleet assessments of the HPH in 2020 and anticipates production in limited quantities to support operational test and evaluation will begin June 2023.



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

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\*This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG001-05-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.\*

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**42.99** 1.75L Crown Royal



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**49.99** 1.75L Maker's Mark Whiskey



**32.99** 1.75-Liter Jose Cuervo Especial



**21.99** 750-ml Jack Daniel's Whiskey



**30.49** 1.75L Tito's Vodka

# Pet

## OF THE WEEK

### MEET DALLIE



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## St. Mary's County Lottery Player Takes Home \$100,000

A 31-year-old St. Mary's County resident who doesn't normally play crossword-themed scratch-offs tried the sixth edition of the \$100,000 Crossword game, winning the game's last top prize.

The father of three was leaving a cookout in May when nature and Lady Luck came calling. He stopped at Cook Liquors in St. Mary's County, where he wound up buying six instant tickets. "I figured, since I was there, I would pick up some scratch-off games, too."

Two of the scratch-offs were the sixth edition of the \$100,000 Crossword game. He chose the \$10 game because of its extended-play feature. However, the busy dad never got around to scratching off the instant tickets until the next day, when he was playing his Pick 3, 4 and 5 games and remembered the scratch-offs. He began to scan the instant tickets, finding a few small wins until he came to the last \$100,000

Crossword game. He won \$100,000!

The calm winner didn't show any outward reaction, he recalled. "I just put the ticket away and went home."

About two weeks later, the lucky guy shared the news with his girlfriend.

"I didn't believe him," she told Lottery officials. "He just told me he won, not showing me the ticket or anything."

The lucky player, when claiming the prize with his girlfriend at Lottery headquarters in Baltimore, said he'll share some of his winnings with his family so they can take a vacation. He also plans to help his girlfriend get a new car and then will put the rest of the prize into the bank.

Also celebrating is the Lottery retailer that sold the top-prize winning scratch-off. Cook Liquors located at 25765 Three Notch Road in Hollywood will receive a \$1,000 bonus from the Lottery for its lucky sale.

## The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb  
Contributing Writer

We have spot, trout, rockfish, perch and the vanguard of cobia coming up from the mouth of the Bay.

I saw a photo of a 55-pound cobia caught just below the Target Ship last Sunday. The fish took a live eel in a chum line set up by lucky angler. The cobia are still hanging out below Windmill Point for the most part, waiting for the bay to warm up to 72 degrees and make them comfortable. The heat we have now will get them up in some numbers soon. There have been a handful caught in our area so far.

The big news is the spot run which is in high gear. These tasty Norfolk Spot are in the bay, rivers, and creeks hitting at anything edible. Catches are made with bloodworms (their favorite), Fishbites, lug worms, squid, shrimp, night crawlers, and bits of razor clam. The spot are so numerous they are pesky, eating bits of bait off spinner baits meant for white perch. The spot are small, but gaining size fast.

Rockfish are playing hide and seek. Good catches are made by casting bucktails, jigs with plastics, swimming plugs, etc. in the creeks and rivers around structure on running tides. Trollers up the Potomac in the vicinity of the 301 Bridge are doing well.

We have a spectacular speckled sea trout run developing. Lure casters are scoring on big trout daily in the mouth of the Potomac. Bluefish and rockfish are mixed in with the trout. Trout and rock are on the Cedar Point rock pile and on the rip. Little bluefish are



schooled up there also.

White perch fishing is good now when the tides are moving for bottom fishermen and Beetle Spin casters.

There are plenty of catfish up the Potomac and Patuxent for those with strong arms and fresh alewife for bait.

Crabs are running strong. Fresh alewife for bait is good, and razor clams will bring them in swimming from miles around.

Largemouth bass are very active.

Let's go fishing!



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## FIRE

## Bay District Volunteer Has Firefighting in His Blood

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Like many others, the U.S. Navy brought James Driscoll, a Long Island, New York native, to St. Mary's County where, after mustering out of the service as an aviation maintenance specialist, he continues to work at Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

But Driscoll's real passion is firefighting and he has the heritage to back it up.

Both his father and his grandfather were veterans of the New York City Fire Department with 75 years of experience between them.

"They were both in the Navy, too," Driscoll, 33, told The County Times. "I grew up around New York City firefighters my whole life."

Driscoll said he looked up to his father his whole life and wanted to follow in his footsteps.

"I saw him so happy going to work," Driscoll said. "He never complained.

"They aged him out; he didn't want to leave."

Driscoll carries on that family tradition here has a volunteer with the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department where he and

other volunteers are kept busy running calls of all kinds from fires, to car crashes to overdoses and even shootings.

"It's the only thing I ever really wanted to do," Driscoll said. "I've met lifelong friends here.

"The camaraderie, the friendship; I like the area, you get a little bit of everything."

He's spent the last eight years with the Bay District fire company and loves the excitement of the volunteer job no matter what it throws his way.

"We run the most fires but Mechanicsville probably has us beat for motor vehicle crashes," he said. "I like the teamwork and helping others.

"We don't show it all the time but every guy here wants to help people."

There's a dichotomy, though, in the fire service he said, which adds to the attraction of the place.

"Everyone here is a type 'A' personality, they're here to work," Driscoll said.

"Firemen are like kids that never grow up; were all adults but with 10 guys in a fire station it can be like a frat house."

Driscoll said that whatever his vocation may be, firefighting will continue to be his passion and true profession.



"I love being a fireman," Driscoll said. "It takes up 90 percent of my free time."

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# Career EMS Chief Rises to the Challenge

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Since he was 16 years old lifelong county resident Tom Raley has been volunteering as an emergency medical technician (EMT), firefighter and eventually rising to the level of paramedic in 2006.

Just a few years ago he took a job being a paid paramedic here in St. Mary's when the Commissioners of St. Mary's County pushed for paid emergency medical staff to operate in the volunteer stations during the most needful daytime hours.

Since January he has been the acting chief of paid medical personnel employed by the county. He never expected he'd be at that position but he's carrying on.

"It's a lot of work," Raley, 38, said. "But we're slowly getting things to where they need to be."

The introduction of paid EMTs and medics to St. Mary's was a difficult one, including a tough transition into paid ambulance services.

When he graduated from St. Mary's Ryken High School, he went to Duquesne University in Pittsburgh; he soon returned.

"I went to college; I didn't like it," Raley

said. "I came back and got my associates degree in emergency medical services from College of Southern Maryland.

"I didn't like leaving St. Mary's County."

When he got his education, there was no doubt in his mind what he wanted to do; he could look back to his first-time volunteering with the Leonardtown rescue squad.

"I remember running my first call and I was hooked," Raley said. "It was just the rush of going on that call."

He remembers watching a paramedic who he admired work; he knew he wanted to be just like them.

"I wanted to be the one everyone looked up to when they needed help," Raley said. "And I wanted to be there to help them."

He laments the recent supplanting of volunteer rescue workers for paid ones, but said the dwindling numbers of volunteers — even before the COVID-19 pandemic — necessitated it.

But he doesn't believe volunteers will ever be completely replaced. "I don't foresee that happening," Raley said. "I don't think we can afford it."

Raley works mostly in an office setting now, but loves running calls so much he works on weekends as a paramedic in



Calvert County.

"I'm very fortunate to work in something I love doing," said Raley.

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## POLICE

# Corrections Officer's Job Is More Than Just Working in a Jail

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Looking at Corrections Officer First Class Jordan Wagner, he looks exactly like a sheriff's office deputy in terms of uniform, gear, sidearm, and body armor.

"The only way you can tell are the panels on my vest and on my back," Wagner said.

They say "Corrections" but Wagner's job takes him outside the jail and into the community checking on those under house arrest awaiting trial; this puts him in close contact with offenders and residents at large.

One of the key differences between corrections officers and deputies is that corrections officers do not have arrest powers and do not answer 911 calls.

But Wagner has the training to respond to emergencies should they happen close to him.

"If I'm out doing house checks and there's an active shooter [at a nearby school] I'm going to respond," Wagner said.

More than a corrections officer who guards prisoners and checks on those under house arrest for compliance with the law,

Wagner is a firearms instructor, a defensive tactics instructor and an academic instructor for new corrections officers.

He's worked inside the county detention center and now does much of his duties from the Community Corrections Center, which deals with those on house arrest.

The program helps those awaiting trial and those who have been convicted but sentenced to house arrest stay within the law and rehabilitate.

"I think it's effective to a degree," Wagner said. "The defendants can only help themselves as much as they want."

He's worked for the corrections department, which is under the sheriff's office, since 2018 but continues serving as a military police officer in the Army National Guard.

He started out in the Army going for police training and found that was his calling, he continues that in corrections.

He said, as a career, it offers many opportunities for personal and professional growth.

"I'm very passionate for it," Wagner said. "Working in the jail builds your communi-



cations skills but being a corrections officer is not just being locked up in jail.

"It's just all about how hard you want it."

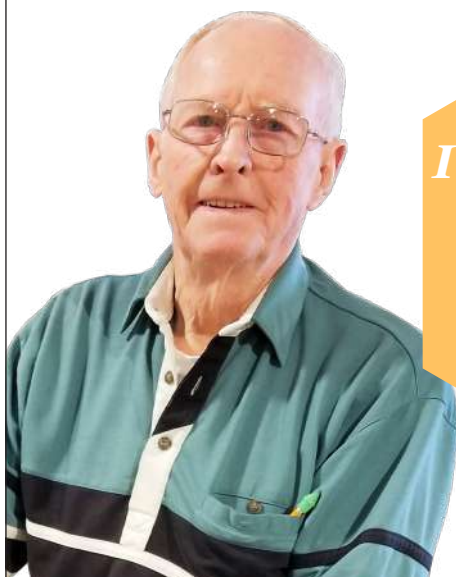
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# Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



## A Little Bit of This...

The words, “A Little bit of This a Little Bit of That” from the song The Game of Love by Santana has been going through my head for a few days, not sure why. Maybe my sub-conscious mind was telling me that it would probably be a good name for an article when a little bit of this and a little bit of that is what comes to mind for what to write. I wish it wasn’t so hard to focus on one train of thought, but sometimes that’s the way it is.

While driving through our neighborhood Monday I noticed many lawns had loads of happy yellow dandelions swaying in the light breeze. I swear I felt like they were smiling at me on their tall, slender stalks. Weird, right? I was just grateful that collectively so many people had decided not to cut their lawns on Sunday and take this beauty away. My husband looked at our yard Sunday and said, “It’s almost ready to cut, but not quite. I inwardly sighed in relief that maybe we would have lots of dandelions too. I hope I am not the only person that sees the dandelions, and buttercups too, as a happy reminder of childhood days spent sitting under trees reading with a transistor radio up to my ear, and not just as nuisance weeds.



We did have quite another nuisance in our yard last week when we had men who came to cut down some old fallen trees in the woods in our backyard. The fallen trees, mainly pines, have been a problem for us and many neighbors when they fall on the fences between everyone’s yards. In our neighborhood the tree guys must feel like they have hit the lottery with our Country Lakes development so full of trees...either fallen or needing to be cut down.

So, the tree guys are in the back yard happily cutting with their chainsaws and I’m doing things in the house when I hear a frantic knocking on the front door. I look out to find the head guy pointing at his arms and saying, “Bees, Bees!”. I was caught a little off guard, and not realizing what he was saying at first. “Oh, bees!” I said, and then realized he and his guys were getting stung. He said the rotten trees were filled with bees and asked if I had spray, so I went hunting and found some wasp spray. I was hoping that would do the trick. A few minutes later my husband returned to check on how they were doing out back and he got stung a bunch of times too. So much for wasp spray.

At least this time when the angry bees were on the warpath I answered the front door. Last time we had an incident like this I didn’t answer the door. I thought some crazy salesperson was out there. I couldn’t believe someone would knock that hard and loud even with my husband mowing the lawn out front. Turned out the crazy person was my husband and previous dog Tidbit. My husband had mowed over a large patch of those bloodthirsty, angry ground bees and riled them up. They latched onto him and Tidbit with their stingers and wouldn’t let go, following them all the way to the front door. I believe an even angrier husband and dog had to make their way around to the basement door. It was not a good night to say the least with each of them getting stung many, many times.

When I went out back a little while ago to get a picture of the beautiful flowers that my husband calls weeds, I thought maybe I could just walk in the backyard woods to peek at how it looks without the Jenga-like tangle of fallen trees. But, for some reason Mindy was keeping her distance from that area which must be a doggie instinct. My husband however, had mentioned a day or so ago that it might not be a bad idea if I checked the area out...with a sly smile on his face, saying that he heard bee stings were good for arthritis. I don’t know though, for some reason his eyes held just the slightest hint of, or hope of, revenge. He wouldn’t do that would he?? Well I’m not taking any chances, I’m just going to take the photo today of my happy flowers and run like heck back inside.

To each new day’s adventure, Shelby

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

# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## Take steps to prepare for a long retirement

How long will you live? Of course, your longevity is somewhat unpredictable. But it may be a good idea to plan for a long life — and the financial issues that go along with it.

It’s reasonable to think you’ve got a long way to go. In fact, 72% of retirees now think they will live longer than their parents, according to a recent survey from Age Wave and Edward Jones. Their optimism may be justified: A 65-year-old woman can expect to live almost 20 more years, while a 65-year-old man can anticipate about 17 more years, according to the Centers for Disease Control. And these figures are just averages — if you’re healthy at 65, you could spend two or even three more decades as a retiree.

To help maintain the resources necessary to pay for these years, you may need to take several steps, such as the following:

- *Seek income and growth from your investments.* Once you’re retired, you’ll probably need to rely more heavily on your investment portfolio to help pay for your cost of living. That means you will need a mix of investments that provide income — to supplement your Social Security and any pensions you might have — and growth — to help keep you ahead of inflation. You might also consider specific investments designed for longevity, such as a fixed annuity, which can provide you with a regular income stream you can’t outlive.
- *Establish a reasonable withdrawal rate.* You’ll need to establish and maintain a reasonable withdrawal rate — the percentage of your portfolio you take out each year. As a general rule, many people start out in retirement by designating a 4% annual withdrawal rate, but your individual figure will depend on a variety of factors, such as your age, the size of your portfolio, other sources of income and so on. And keeping an emergency fund on the side can help you with unforeseen costs that could otherwise cause you to withdraw more than you’d like. Unsurprisingly, the goal with choosing the appropriate withdrawal rate and monitoring it throughout retirement is so you don’t outlive your portfolio.
- *Consider adding some earned income.* Once you’ve formally retired from your career, you might consider working part time or doing some consulting. The added income can improve your cash flow and take some of the pressure off your investment portfolio. Keep in mind that your income level in retirement will determine what tax rate you pay on your Social Security benefits. If you take Social Security early and are earning above a certain amount, your benefits could be temporarily reduced.
- *Don’t underestimate health care costs.* Even with Medicare or Medicare Advantage, your out-of-pocket health care costs can be considerable. Upon first retiring, it’s often a good idea to budget between \$4,500 to \$6,500 per person annually, though depending on your health, prescriptions and supplemental insurance, your costs could certainly be higher or lower than this range. And these figures don’t include the costs of long-term care, which can be enormous and aren’t typically covered by Medicare. To help protect yourself — and your family — from long-term care expenses, you may want to work with a financial professional, who could recommend insurance strategies or other techniques.

A long life can certainly be rewarding — and even more so when you’re prepared for it.

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

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

*Contributed by David McDonough  
Financial Advisor at Edward Jones  
Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302  
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# In Remembrance

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

## Corinne Geraty, 90



Corinne Therese Geraty, 90, of Lexington Park, MD passed away on June 21, 2023. Corinne was born November 20, 1932 to the late James Aloysius Galvin and Martha

Jane Hancock of Norfolk, VA.

Corinne, a Holy Trinity High School senior, met Harry James Geraty - a navy sailor that she met after a basketball game. They courted, married and began the traveling life of a military family - with assignments at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Chincoteague, VA., Jacksonville, FL and Patuxent River, MD. With each transfer, another child was born. Corinne was a gifted homemaker and devoted mother, often taking on the Dad role." There were challenges, but our family was a noisy, happy, busy life, filled with the joy that faith, family and life-long friendships bring.

When the youngest children entered middle school - Corinne enrolled in Nursing School - graduating two years later at the top of her class, as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1977! She worked at St. Mary's Hospital and Nursing Home for several years.

Faithful members of every parish the family attended while in the military, Harry & Corinne were deeply involved when they joined Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. You name it - they did it! Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent DePaul, Food Pantry, Collection Counters and more. In the years after Harry's death, Corinne remained connected - in Bible study, church linens, Lazarus Committee, and always welcoming new parishioners. She enjoyed cooking and took immense pride in her yard. They traveled often with friends and family; enjoying visiting their many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Corinne is predeceased by her loving husband, Harry, with whom she shared 65 blessed years, her son, Glenn Edward Geraty and six Galvin siblings.

Additionally, she is survived by her children: Diane Carroll (James) of Columbus, OH; David Geraty (Patricia) of Eden Prairie, MN; Paul Geraty (Kelly) of Rehoboth Beach, DE; Mary Ellen McDaniel (Richard) of Virginia Beach; VA, Peggy Gugerty (Stephen) of Newark, DE; Maureen Petrino (Michael) of Bel Air, MD as well as, 22 Grandchildren and 19 Great Grandchildren.

Family and friends are invited to visit on July 7, 2023 from 7-9 PM at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 22375 Three Notch Rd., Lexington Park, MD 20653.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated July 8, 2023 at 11:00 AM followed by interment at the church cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 22375 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653, attention St. Vincent DePaul or Lazarus Committee.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD.

## Thelma Hayden, 94



Thelma Theresa "Tookie" Hayden of Hollywood, Maryland, passed away on Monday, June 19, 2023, at the age of 94. She is survived by her four children,

Patricia Mattingly of Mechanicsville, Maryland, Deborah Mattingly (Dennis) of Leonardtown, Maryland, Diane Koslofsky (Les) of Hollywood, Maryland, Robin VanKirk (Joe) of Mechanicsville, Maryland and her sister Phyllis Joseph of Solomons, Maryland. She was blessed with six grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and one great, great grandchild. She was predeceased in death by her loving husband Thomas (Teenie) Hayden, her father John Frank Wilkinson, her mother Mary Theresa (Russell) Wilkinson, her grandchild Scott Mattingly, and her siblings, Dot Barclift, John Wilkinson, and Frankie Sullivan.

She was born on August 27, 1928 in Washington, D.C. When she was 5 years old, her parents and oldest sister moved to St. Mary's County. She attended St. John's Catholic School graduating in 1942. She continued her education at St. Mary's Academy where she graduated in 1946. On May 30, 1951 she married Teenie Hayden. They were married for 56 years.

She played a huge part in the St. John's PTA while all four of her children attended the school. Religious education was very important to her. As the children grew older, she became a school bus (#38) driver for the public schools driving the bus for Mr. James Dean. As this career ended, she would become a Bank Teller at the First National Bank in Leonardtown, Maryland. She worked as a Bank Teller for 29 years and retired from the PNC Bank in 2001. During her work days, her social life centered around the Beck pool, a member of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, and attending family gatherings. Family was a high priority in her life. When she became a grandmother, her social life would include First Communion, Confirmations, Weddings, sporting events, school plays and the like. All throughout her life, she was a regular attendee at the 8:00 am daily mass and the 7:00 am Sunday mass at St. John's Catholic Church until five years ago where her illness became a problem.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, June 29, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers at 7:00 PM at

the Mattingley Gardiner Funeral Home, in Leonardtown, Maryland. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on June 30, 2023 at 12 :00 PM with Father Ray Schmidt officiating at St. John's Catholic Church in Hollywood, Maryland. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be William (Billy) Long, Jeffrey (Jeff) Koslofsky, Michael (Mike) Koslofsky, David Thompson, Florencio Torres, and Randy Chandler. Honorary Pallbearers will be Chris Sullivan, Tommy Thompson, Randy Johnson, Jimmy Hayden, Hank Hayden, and Chuck Hayden.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the St. John's Catholic Church Revitalization Fund, or to the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department, or to Meals on Wheels, St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650.

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

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

## Franny Cullison, 82



Frances (Franny) Ann Cullison, 82 of Ridge, MD, passed away on June 22, 2023 at St. Mary's Nursing home, with her loving family at her side.

Franny was born on February 23rd, 1941 in Leonardtown, MD to the late Bernard and Frances Christine (Aud) Stone. She was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and grew up in St. Inigoes, MD. She graduated from St. Michael's High School in June of 1959 and was the owner and operator of Fran's Beauty Shop in St. Inigoes, Maryland.

On April 2nd, 1977 she married the love of her life, John (Jack) Gregory Cullison, of Ridge Maryland. They celebrated 46 wonderful years together.

Franny joined the Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad in 1964 and was an active member for over 50 years. She served in various positions in the squad including, Past Chief, Past President, Life Member and numerous committees. She was very active in the planning and rebuilding of the new rescue squad building after the former building was destroyed by fire.

Franny was very active at St. Michael's Church, in Ridge, MD. She was a member of the church choir for numerous years and was also a Eucharistic minister for a number of years. After retirement her and her husband enjoyed camping and went on numerous camping trips and bus trips and enjoyed their Golden Years together. Franny had a great love for Shelties and raised many over her lifetime. Her fondest memories of them were Muff and most recently "her girls" Rosie and Susie. Her favorite holiday was Christmas and she collected numerous Christmas items and Sheltie collectables.



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Franny is survived by her husband, John (Jack) Gregory Cullison, an aunt, Betty Ann Norris, numerous cousins, a brother-in-law Joseph Pat Cullison, sister-in-law Varrina Yost and Jack's numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Family will receive friends on Wednesday, July 5th, 2023 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with prayers celebrated by Father Peter Giovanoni at 7:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday July 6th, 2023 at 11:00 AM by Father Peter Giovanoni with Msgr. Karl Chimiak con-celebrating, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 16566 Three Notch Road, Ridge, MD 20680. Interment will follow immediately in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Kee Abell, Wade Cullison, Clint Yost, Frances Raley, David Lowe and Allen Raley. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 456, Ridge, MD 20680, St. Michael's Church, P.O. Box 429, Ridge, MD 20680 or St. Michael's School, 16566 Three Notch Road, Ridge, MD 20680

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

### ***Ella Russell, 85***



Ella May Russell, 85 of Abell, MD passed away peacefully with her family by her side on June 26, 2023 at home.

She was born on January 12, 1938 in Baltimore, MD to the late Albert Sydney Hammond, Sr. and Ella May (Dillinger) Hammond.

Ella grew up in the Baltimore area and graduated from Trinity High School in 1956 and Bethany College, Bethany, WV in 1960. She married Robert "Bob" Allan Russell, Sr. on September 19, 1964 in Ellicott City, MD. After marrying they moved to St. Mary's County, Maryland where they resided for nearly 60 years. After graduating from high school Ella continued her education at Virginia Commonwealth University where she earned her Master's Degree in Social Work. Upon receiving her degree, she had the opportunity to work for the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services which led to a fulfilling career that spanned 53 years. During her career, Ella May was the Director of the Dept. of Social Services for over 30 years. Ella was the matriarch of the family. She and Bob were blessed with three children whom they adored. She was a member of Holy Angels Catholic Church in Avenue. She and Bob enjoyed traveling together. In their travels they often visited Europe. They visited every European country except Turkey. They also enjoyed travelling within the U.S., especially to the Homestead in Hot Springs, VA which they did annually and to their condo in North Myrtle Beach, SC with her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Robert; children, Melissa Ann Dicken of Salisbury,

MD, Robert Allan Russell, Jr. (Jenny) of Abell, MD, and Andrea Maria Alderson (Mike) of Coltons Point, MD; sister-in-law, Gloria Hammond of St. Paul, MN; brother-in-law, William "Billy" Paul Russell of Leonardtown, MD; four grandchildren, Sean Russell Alderson, Sophie Elizabeth Russell, Andrew Michael Alderson, and Chloe Lynn Russell, and many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Albert "Buddy" Sydney Hammond, Jr.; sister, Anita Poe; and sisters-in-law, Joan Hammond and Olga Russell.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, June 29, 2023 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with prayers at 7:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Mass of Christian Burial will be officiated by Rev. Wyble at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Angels Catholic Church, 21340 Colton Point Road, Avenue, MD 20609. Interment will be private.

Pallbearers will be Andrew Alderson, Sean Alderson, Col. Matt Russell, USA, (Ret.), Mark Russell, Gilbert Murphy, and Michael Hammond.

Memorial contributions may be made to Three Oaks Homeless Shelter, P.O. Box 776, Lexington Park, MD 20653, Seventh District Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 7, Avenue, MD 20609, and Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

### ***Malinda Perrotta, 75***



Malinda Jane Perrotta, 75, of Leonardtown, MD, formerly of Fairfax, VA, passed away on June 23, 2023 at her home surrounded by her loved ones. Born on October 7, 1947 in Washington D.C., she was the daughter of the late Palmer P. Clark and the late Carl Clark. Malinda is survived by her loving husband, Thomas M. Perrotta, whom she married on June 21, 1987 in Fairfax, VA, her son Will Perrotta of Annapolis, MD, and her daughter, Annie V. Perrotta of Westminster, MD, as well as one grandchild. In addition to her parents, Malinda is preceded in death by her brother, Malcom C. Clark.

Malinda graduated from Fairfax High School in 1965; she then attended George Washington University College, and graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Malinda spent a few years traveling overseas where she came back to work for the U.S. Department of State; she worked there for 25 years as a secretary and retired in December 1997.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday June 28, 2023 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 NOON in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a time of remembrance will be held in the funeral home chapel at 12:00 NOON.

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

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



## Ranked among the Nation's Top Individual Producers based on 2022 home sales in the RealTrends "America's Best"

Local agent Jimmy Hayden was recently recognized in the 2023 "America's Best Real Estate Professionals" rankings by RealTrends + Tom Ferry. The prestigious survey is made up of five categories for participating agents and teams in the U.S. based on 2022 numbers. The five categories are: individual producers, Small teams (2-5 agents), Medium teams (6-10), Large teams (11-20) and Mega teams (21+). Each category has two subcategories – one for transaction sides and one for sales volume. Hayden placed 107th in the individual rankings for 41 transaction sides and had \$16,599,002 sales volume.

"It's an honor to be included in this list of hardworking and dedicated real estate professionals across the country," said Hayden, Agent with RE/MAX 100. "I'm more grateful than ever for each client who trusted me to help them buy or sell a home in Southern Maryland over this truly unforgettable year."

Last year as well as this year are proving to be another monumental year. In 2022, Hayden achieved the Platinum Club award with RE/MAX for the third consecutive year.

"We are incredibly proud of these RE/MAX agents for being recognized as the best" said Nick Bailey, RE/MAX, LLC President and CEO. "This honor is a testament to their unwavering commitment to excellence and their dedication to providing exceptional service. It underscores our brand's ongoing position as the best option for productive professionals."

Ranking nearly 24,000 top producers, "America's Best Real Estate Professionals" is the industry's largest ranking of agents based on homes sold.

### **About RE/MAX 100:**

RE/MAX 100 is a locally owned and operated full-service real estate brokerage located in Leonardtown, MD. Founded in 2018, the brokerage has 22 Realtors® and specializes in all types of real estate. RE/MAX 100 is a proud supporter of Childrens Miracle Network Hospital and Hayden is a proud supporter of Homes For Heroes and is located at 22845 Washington Street Leonardtown, MD 20650. To learn more, please visit [www.ournexthouse.com](http://www.ournexthouse.com). Each office independently owned and operated.



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call 301-994-1471 or visit  
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# ★ ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



### Library Closed for Independence Day

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Tuesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day. All Library locations will be open regular business hours on Wednesday, July 5.

### Taiko: The Art of Japanese Drumming with Mark Rooney: Summer Performer

An interactive performance of traditional & contemporary songs & rhythms that explores the instruments, the voice in taiko, and a bit of history & Japanese vocabulary. Two sessions on Monday, July 10: Lexington Park Library from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. and Leonardtown Library from 2 - 3 p.m. Some audience volunteers will get to try their hand at playing these BIG drums! Note for those with sensitive ears: Taiko drums are very, very loud. Most seating will be on the floor—feel free to bring a blanket! Space may be limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Summer Performing Arts events are supported in part by a grant from the St. Mary's County Arts Council.

### DIY Bath Bombs

Join us at Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, July 11 from 5:30–7:30 and learn how to make your very own bath bombs in the Leonardtown Library's Makerspace. Materials and molds will be provided. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Top 20 Backyard Birds of Southern Maryland

Join us virtually on Thursday, July 6 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. as Barb Whipkey, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Lexington Park and LaPlata, MD, teaches us how to identify and attract our area's top twenty backyard birds. If you are new to birding, this program is perfect for you. You will learn what birds to be on the lookout for, as well as how to entice a wider variety of those birds to your feeders. Barb will share examples of the types of feeders and foods that each species prefers. This is a live, virtual program where you will receive a Zoom link via email a day or two before the program. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### All Together Now: An Art Project

Feeling creative? Join us at Charlotte Hall Library on Saturday, July 1 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. for All Together Now: An Art Project! This year's summer reading theme is All Together Now: Todos Juntos Ahora - Kindness/Friendship/Unity. What better way to celebrate than by making a drawing or painting that represents what the word "together" means to you? You can even submit your artwork for consideration to be included in a new display at the Charlotte Hall Library! This event aims to bring together artists from all skill levels and backgrounds. Art supplies will be provided. No registration.

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# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Sat, Jul 1

### Film on the Flight Line

Pax River Naval Air Museum  
22156 Three Notch Rd., Lexington  
Park  
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Our first Film on the Flight Line is July 1st. We will be showing a variety of short films including: historic naval aviation documentaries such as The Battle of Midway, exclusive content from our vast film collection, and classic cartoons like Popeye to bring in the Fourth of July weekend.

The price of admission for adults is \$10 and for children 12 & under is \$4. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the film will start at dusk.

Guests are welcome to bring blankets, chairs, and snacks, as concessions are limited for this showing.

Note: In the case of inclement weather, we will host the event inside of our Test & Evaluation Hall.

Purchase your tickets here: [www.eventbrite.com/e/film-on-the-flight-line-tickets-663207951837?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/film-on-the-flight-line-tickets-663207951837?aff=oddtcreator).

## Mon, Jul 3

### ELKs Texas Holdem Tournament

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

Buy-in: \$35.00. Blinds will start at 25-50 and progress every 20 minutes. Please enter from the side of the building. For any question or additional details contact:

James Dean  
240-577-0828  
[jdeanjunior@gmail.com](mailto:jdeanjunior@gmail.com)

## Thu, Jul 6

### American Legion Meeting & Officer Installation

American Legion 221  
21690 Colton Point Rd., Avenue  
6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active-duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00pm. E-mail us at [apost221@aol.com](mailto:apost221@aol.com) or call

301\*481\*6625 for more information. Tell them you saw the announcement on the SoMD Internet Calendar.

## Fri, Jul 7

### Jazz Cruises for the 2023 Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival

Leonardtown Wharf  
Noon to 2p.m.

Enhance your 3-day jazz Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival weekend with an exclusive two-hour cruise on beautiful Breton Bay right from the Wharf in downtown Leonardtown while enjoying live jazz music, light fare and refreshments.

You'll be joined by our very own Wynne Briscoe, the Jazz Ambassador for the Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival, during the trip. Beer, wine and light fare will be provided.

There are 4 cruises to choose from, two on Friday and two on Sunday. Advanced tickets required; no walk-ons accepted. Book now—this WILL sell out! \$75 per person; only 25 tickets will be sold for this exclusive cruise.

Cruise leaves from the Leonardtown

Wharf (end of Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650) at the time indicated sharp and cruises for 2 hours. Boarding begins 15 minutes prior to departure; please be prompt. ALL SALES FINAL. NO REFUNDS OFFERED FOR ANY REASON.

TICKETS: [www.eventbrite.com/cc/jazz-cruises-2023-2068909](http://www.eventbrite.com/cc/jazz-cruises-2023-2068909)

### Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival Concert

Leonardtown Square  
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The 3-day weekend of the 23rd Annual Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival kicks off on Friday, July 7, 2023 during Leonardtown July First Friday, with a FREE concert on the Leonardtown Square from 6 PM—9 PM featuring the astounding Eric Byrd Trio (this concert is part of the Leonardtown Summer Music Festival)!

For more information about the Leonardtown Summer Music Festival visit: [www.visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownmusicfest](http://www.visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownmusicfest)

For more information about the Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival visit: [www.facebook.com/PotomacJazzandSeafoodFestival/](http://www.facebook.com/PotomacJazzandSeafoodFestival/)



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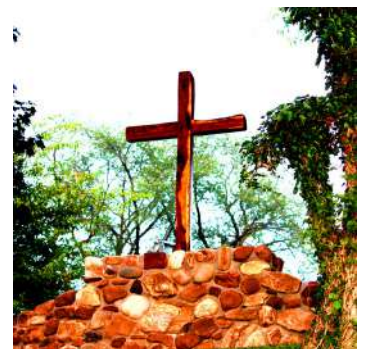
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Session 1: **July 17th-20th**  
Session 2: **August 1st-4th**

### Activities

fishing, crabbing, canoeing, swimming, arts & crafts, ecosystem awareness & bay health activities

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# Calvert Community Calendar

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

## Thu, Jun 29

### Summer STEAM

Calvert Library Southern Branch  
13920 H. G. Trueman Rd, Solomons,

Calvert Library Fairview Branch  
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Rd, Owings,

Twin Beaches Branch  
3819 Harbor Rd, Chesapeake Beach  
2:30-3:30 p.m.

Combat the heat and join our interactive Summer STEAM hour as we Imagine Our Story through books, activities and a snack. For kids K-5<sup>th</sup> grade. 410-326-5289, 410-257-2101 or 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Reading Buddies

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

Children that need some extra help with reading build confidence by reading with teens! With snacks, games, and reading incentives! A program for K-5 graders to practice reading in a relaxed and welcoming group space! A fun event that inspires a love of reading, offers great social activities for shy or anxious children and teens, and promotes positive interactions between children of all ages. Teens get to participate in a meaningful experience by encouraging children and helping them with their reading skills. They can also earn a service hour for school. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Fri, Jun 30

### 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. For library resources on this topic, click here! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Sat, Jul 1

### Sea Glass & Beach Crafts Market

Annemarie Garden, Solomons  
9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Admission to the market area is free

What a great way to start your July 4th holiday weekend! Our wildly popular beach-themed market is back! Join us for a celebration of summer and all things

sea glass and beachy! Browse more than 50 booths featuring an exceptional variety of handmade, homemade, and homegrown products! If you love sun and sand, this is the market for you! Food and drink will be available. Well-behaved pets on a short leash are welcome; rain or shine event; no smoking or vaping. Details: [www.annmariegarden.org](http://www.annmariegarden.org)

## Wed, Jul 5

### Career Coach: Skill Builders

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

Need help with the next steps in your career path? Once a quarter there will be a Career Coach at Calvert Library, Prince Frederick! This representative from the Department of Labor Job Center will be available to help you on that journey. Register for a 45 minute time slot. Come to your appointment with any resume and cover letter materials you might have. If an appointment is not available on the Career Coach day, please reach out to: Tanya Wallacetanya.wallace@maryland.gov 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### WOW (Work on Whatever) Wednesday

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

Bring your project and supplies. Whether it's paper craft, scrapbook, quilting, origami, or whatever you're working on. Come for the whole time or just a couple of hours. Get your projects done and make new friends! Registration is not required but you'll get a reminder if you do. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Book Discussion

North Beach Senior Center  
9010 Chesapeake Ave, North Beach  
11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join Calvert Library this month to discuss "The Measure" by Nikki Erlick. Would you choose to know how long you'll live? It seems like any other day. You wake up, pour a cup of coffee, and head out. But today, when you open your front door, waiting for you is a small wooden box. This box holds your fate inside. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Messy Crafts with Calvert County 4H

Calvert Library Southern Branch  
13920 H. G. Trueman Rd, Solomons  
3-4:30 p.m.

Is it art? Is it science? It's both!! Join 4H and

Calvert Library for six fun and educational Messy Crafts Workshops. Register at: <http://bit.ly/Calvert4-HMessyCrafts2023South>

## Thu, Jul 6

### Affordable Connectivity Program sign up + info session

Calvert Library Fairview Branch  
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Rd., Owings  
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a federal government program that helps households pay for home internet and connected devices. National School Lunch Program, SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Lifeline, Federal Pell Grants, WIC, and other benefit program recipients are eligible. Come to the library and drop into one of our ACP sign up and info sessions to learn more about the program, how to tell if you qualify, and how to get signed up! Librarians and internet service providers will be in attendance ready to answer questions. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Summer STEAM

Calvert Library Fairview Branch  
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Rd., Owings

Calvert Library Southern Branch  
13920 H. G. Trueman Rd., Solomons

Twin Beaches Branch  
3819 Harbor Rd., Chesapeake Beach  
2:30-3:30 p.m.

Combat the heat and join our interactive SummerSTEAM hour as we build a strong community through books, activities and a snack. For kids K-5<sup>th</sup> grade. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Sea Squirts: Rays

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

Children 18 months to 3 years, accompanied by an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. The cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

## Ongoing

### Maritime Art & Artifacts Show

Calvert Marine Museum  
Friday, June 30 – Sunday, July 2  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m., daily

The Arts Council of Calvert County and

the Calvert Marine Museum celebrate the treasures of the Chesapeake Bay region. Explore first-hand the maritime culture and natural history of the Chesapeake Bay through artistic interpretations and specific examples of marine life. Weather permitting, local artists may choose to set up an easel to paint or draw on-site and visitors will have the opportunity to purchase certain pieces of art. Included with museum admission.

### Wm. B. Tennison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum  
Wednesday thru Sunday, month of June  
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 for children 5-12 years. Children under 5 ride free when accompanied by a paying adult.

## Upcoming

### Sharkfest!

Calvert Marine Museum  
Saturday, July 8  
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Celebrate all things shark, all day, at CMM! Live sharks will be featured in the Corbin Nature Pavilion for viewing. Learn fascinating 'sharktoids', examine evidence of prehistoric sharks, and take a picture in the life-size jaws of a Megalodon shark. Food and drinks will be for sale on site. Strollers and carts are not allowed in the museum for SHARKFEST. We strongly recommend purchasing admission tickets in advance. Capacity is limited. Cost: Museum admission applies; CMM members are FREE. Complimentary museum passes will not be honored.

### Waterside Performance Series: LEE BRICE

Calvert Marine Museum  
Thursday, July 27  
7 p.m.

CMA and ACM award winner **Lee Brice** will take the stage for CMM's third Waterside Music Series concert. Lee has taken nine radio singles to Number One: "A Woman Like You," "Hard to Love," "I Drive Your Truck," "I Don't Dance," "Drinking Class," "Rumor," "I Hope You're Happy Now," "One of Them Girls," and "Memory I Don't Mess With." Opening for Brice is multi-platinum selling artist **Elle King**. Her unique blend of rock, blues, and country has captivated audiences around the world. Gates open at 5 p.m. with food and beverages onsite. Cost of tickets are \$39 - \$89 (additional fees apply).



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# County to Purchase Another Building in Prince Frederick



Image capture: Dec 2021 © 2023 Google

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Although Calvert County just let a bid for \$38,759,888 for the construction of a new county office building in Prince Frederick, the county appears to also be moving ahead with the purchase of another building in Prince Frederick for more than \$2 million.

The Calvert County Planning Commission at their June 21 meeting was told by Public Works Deputy Director Tom Jones, “The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) directed the Department of Public Works – General Services to pursue the property located at 110 Main Street, Prince Frederick, Maryland, after Armory Road LLC, the property owners, approached the County Administrator’s office of their intention to sell their property. Several departments will not be moving to the new County Administration Building. This facility offers space to relocate specific departmental staff.”

Jones said the proposal was being presented to the planning commission because Maryland state law says that certain types of projects “... may not be authorized or constructed in the local jurisdiction or in a geographic section of the local jurisdiction

until the planning commission has approved the location, character, and extent of the development as consistent with the plan” (e.g., comprehensive plan or a town center master plan). Types of projects include ‘publicly or privately-owned street, square, park, or other public way, ground, or open space, a public building or structure, or a public utility....’”

Jones said the property, which contains an office building, is approximately 1.34 acres. He said the county had made an option deposit of \$100,000 towards a purchase price of \$2,050,000. He said the property was appraised at \$1.8 million. He said the cost to renovate it for county use was to be determined.

Jones said the building will allow county government to vacate the courthouse, but he said the county commissioners would be moving to the new administration building. He said that most likely public works would move into the 110 Main Street location.

The planning commission unanimously voted that the use for the purchase location was consistent with the county’s comprehensive plan.

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

## SECONDHAND SMOKE IS NO JOKE!

**Definition:** noun *Secondhand Smoke* is.... smoke that is inhaled involuntarily from tobacco/chemicals being smoked by others.



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(2018 BRFSS data)

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- ▶ Ear Infections and increased need for surgery to have tubes put in
- ▶ Hay fever and allergies (runny nose and irritable)
- ▶ Dry Eye which can cause scarring on the surface of the eye
- ▶ Behavior Problems like irritability, ADHD
- ▶ Infant Mortality- rate is 68% higher than the rate of infants of nonsmokers
- ▶ And More!

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Source: Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control, MDH • Provided by: Maryland Cigarette Restitution Fund



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Prince Frederick, MD 20678

# Zoning Ordinance Changes Explained

## New Update Schedule Announced

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The staff of the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning had their first public presentation last week on the first draft of the update of the county's zoning ordinance. Commissioner President Buddy Hance assured the public that the effort was only the beginning of the process. And Planning and Zoning Director Mary Beth Cook extended the deadline for public comment on the first draft until July 21.

Cook and Planner III/Zoning Wil Hager made presentation June 21 to the planning commission and June 22 at a public workshop. Cook told the planners, "This is the staff draft. This is our starting point based on the adopted comprehensive plan for which we are expecting changes to be made based on future work sessions with the commissioners, comments from the planning commission, and also from public comments. Zoning staff took the adopted comprehensive plan and put together a draft, which we feel meets the comprehensive plan, which is a requirement by state law. This by no means is the final draft. This is our working copy. So, this is just the beginning."

Cook noted, "We've mirrored the process that was used for 2006 zoning ordinance update process but received a lot of comments that this seemed rushed. So, we've paused, we've regrouped, and we will be presenting a new schedule tonight. We've reformatted it so the public forums will be held before comments are due."

She noted the two information sessions were continued because there were a lot of changes being presented. She added they would be "reviewing the documents throughout the summer. After receiving and reviewing comments, the draft will be revised before scheduling the public hearing. Comments can be made up to the public hearing and any time from now until then. That won't occur until sometime mid-2024. The schedule is fluid. Adjustments will be made as needed."

The first draft includes some zoning category changes. The one that has drawn the most public interest so far is the area surrounding the Prince Frederick Town Center. Hager explained, "Under the current ordinance, higher residential densities are permitted with the purchase of TDRs (development rights) within a one-mile radius or one mile perimeter at the town centers.

"The comprehensive plan exchanged the one-mile radius/perimeter policy for

the town centers of Prince Frederick, Solomons, Lusby, Chesapeake Beach, and North Beach with a more clearly defined residential growth area. While the comprehensive plan retained the policy of permitting a higher residential density with the use of TDRs within a one-mile radius from the town centers of Dunkirk, Owings, Huntingtown and St. Leonard, it also stated that this policy will be reviewed during the update of zoning ordinance regulations. During this update process, we reviewed this policy and decided with the draft zoning ordinance to introduce a new zoning district that is meant to replace the one-mile radius policy for these town centers. And we're calling this district the Rural Neighborhood District (RND)."

Hager went on to say, "There exists a district known as the Rural Community District (RCD) under the current ordinance, but there have been some changes to the RCD in this draft in terms of permitted residential density, specifically transfer zone density. The RCD in the draft is comparable to the density that can be achieved in the RCD under the current ordinance outside of the mile radius. There's a slight difference, however, under the current ordinance. Outside the mile radius in the RCD, you can achieve a density of one unit per four acres with the purchase of TDRs; in the draft the transfer zone density in the RCD is one dwelling per five acres with the purchase TDRs."

Hager told the public workshop attendees that other factors come in to play in addition to the zoning category that determine density. For instance, he said along German Chapel Road, land is included in the state's Tier 3 category which means that no public water and sewer service is anticipated and thus they have to revert to a lower density.

Hager said, "The RCD is intended to maintain a mix of farms, forests, and residential uses, retain historic and scenic areas, and protect watersheds. These goals are to be achieved in part with the mandatory clustering of subdivisions and parcels 30 acres or greater in size with a minimum of 60 percent of the subdivision to be permanently preserved as open space and lots and roads to be clustered onto the remainder site."

He added that the new RND is "equivalent to the current permitted density in the RCD within one mile radius with the purchase of TDRs, which is one dwelling unit per acre. And there is no required clustering. Residential subdivisions and smaller minimum lot size are permitted as compared to the RCD."

Hager explained, "The decision on which parcels to include within the RND was based largely on proximity to the one-mile radius around town centers. However, other factors were considered. So for example, the parcels on Yellow Bank Road northwest of Dunkirk Town Center were not included in the RND despite mostly being located within the one mile radius because those parcels were FFD (Farm and Forrest District) under current zoning and the parcels to the east of Maryland 4 and to the north of Ward Road were also not included in the RND because of either their direct proximity to Maryland 4 or distinct road patterns that direct traffic away rather than towards the town center."

Hager also explained, "The WCD (Waterfront Conservation District) is intended to recognize existing long established residential waterfront communities along the Patuxent River, the Chesapeake Bay, and the tributaries. This district is predominantly located within areas recognized as rural villages by the Maryland Department of Planning. The primarily small lot residential development and water dependent uses, the characteristic of these communities, is recognized as distinct within Calvert County's rural landscape. So, think of areas like Cove Point, Broome's Island, White Sands, Long Beach.

The long-established nature of these communities limits future development within this district. The comprehensive plan states that waterfront communities are not planned for expansion or additional growth, and that TDRs may not be used to permit additional dwelling units in these areas. And that is reflected in the permitted residential densities for this district, which mean subdivisions resulting in the creation of additional lots are not permitted. However, a preexisting parcel can still pull a building permit if the parcel is buildable and preexisting lots can be combined in order to create a new lot. And the setbacks for this district are comparable to the current setbacks for previously platted residential lots, 20,000 square feet or less in size."

Before the June 21 planning commission meeting, after a joint public hearing with the county commissioners, an ordinance was passed pausing approval of new zoning map and text amendments. Those requests will be considered as part of the zoning ordinance update and not on a case-by-case basis.

For more information of the zoning ordinance update go to: <https://calvertcountymd.gov/3619/Zoning-Ordinance-Update>

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



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# Calvert Celebrates Independence Day



By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The skies over Calvert County will be brightly lit over the July 4th holiday. And because fireworks events are planned on consecutive days, residents will have a chance to double dip on their celebrations. Chesapeake Beach's Independence Day celebration will be on Monday July 3 and Solomons will hold theirs on July 4.

The Chesapeake Beach Town Council at their June 15 meeting was excited to hear about their plans from Town Administrator Holly Wahl.

She reported, "Every year the Town of Chesapeake Beach sponsors a fireworks display at the center of the town. The display is viewable along the Fishing Creek bridge, Kellam's Field, Veteran's Memorial Park, or at one of our waterfront restaurants or resort. The fireworks are held at dusk. Bring a blanket and a picnic for a family fun evening at Kellam's Field (glass containers and alcoholic beverages are prohibited)."

Fireworks will be set off from two barges in the Bay. For security, members of the Twin Beaches patrol of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office will be in full force with some on bicycles.

The rain date for the Chesapeake Beach celebration will be July 8.

The traffic plan for Twin Beaches on the night of fireworks is as follows: "The traffic plan is set up to eliminate all left-hand turns on a portion of Route 261 going through the Twin Beaches, eliminating the need to stop traffic randomly and enabling traffic to flow with minimal stopping. The centerline of Route 261 will be blocked with delineation devices that will prohibit vehicles from making U-turns. Traffic north of Route 260 along Route 261 on the east side of Route 261 must make right turns and exit left on 5th Street to Boyd's Turn Road to Route 260. Traffic on the west side of Route 261 must make a right turn and exit on 27th Street to G Street to Route 260. Traffic south of Route 260 along Route 261 on the east side of Route 261 must make a right turn and must turn left onto Route

260. Traffic on the west side of Route 261 must turn right and continue along Route 261 to Summer City Blvd or continue south to Ponds Wood Road and proceed to Maryland Route 4."

Solomons Island continues on July 4th with a noon boat parade and fireworks that are launched from a barge in the Patuxent. Games, crafts, and the Chesapeake Biological campus entertain the crowds before the pyrotechnic show. The fireworks begin at approximately 9:15 p.m.

According to the sponsor, Solomons Business Association, the following is the day's schedule:

- Flag Raising Ceremony / 10:00 a.m. / Watermen's Memorial near the entrance to Solomons Island
- Youth Bid Parade / 11:00 a.m. / Begins and concludes at Our Lady Star of the Sea (in the rear parking lot)
- Boat Parade / 12 p.m. / Begins in Back Creek and proceeds to the Patuxent River past the Riverside Boardwalk
- Free Historical Adventure Quest for Kids with Revolutionary War Reenactors / 12 – 3 p.m. / Begins at the Corbin Pavilion at the Calvert Marine Museum
- Visit an Award Winner Restaurant / All day / Across the island
- Free Live Concert / 7 – 9 p.m. / At the boardwalk gazebo
- Fireworks / 9:15 p.m. / Visible from nearly all points on Solomons Island

The Traffic & Parking Plan is as follows: "Vehicular traffic on the island will be restricted. Parking will be available in the grassy area of Glascock Field; proceeds go to Boy Scout Troop 451 and SBA Fireworks. Thanks to the Glascock Family for the generous use of the field. Please park in designated areas only; please respect private property. Cost of Parking in Glascock field \$5. Arrangements are being made to ensure that ample parking is available for all visitors to Solomons Island Fireworks! Early in the day, visitors may park on the island, but parking spots are very limited."

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

# Private Company Pitches Toll Bridge

## County to Assist in Public Outreach

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

A private company that wants to build and operate a toll bridge replacement for the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge made their first presentation June 27 to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The BOCC was told a \$500 million replacement four-lane bridge could be built in as little as three years, with tolls of about \$3 for each trip, although some local resident discounts could be possible. At the end of the presentation by officials from United Bridge Partners, Commissioner President Buddy Hance said they would work with the company to arrange meetings to explain the proposal to the public.

Hance said, "I believe the board here isn't opposed to community outreach to get a feel from the community. Because, as you recognize, we're not going to do it without their support."

The company, however, did not propose to construct the access roads, particularly on the St. Mary's County side. So that is one of the unanswered questions – whether the state or federal government would pay for that portion of what is needed.

Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart said, "You're just going to bottleneck right there. You're fine on the Calvert side. On St. Mary's side you go to one (lane)."

United Bridge Partners President/CEO Doug Witt said they have done six bridges, of which they own three and three they lease. The total value for the six bridges is \$750 million. The Solomons bridge would be their costliest.

Witt agreed with Hance, "Unless the community is behind it, we're not going to be behind it. We're not going to do that. Everybody needs to be aligned."

Witt said, "Two things are always at play in the communities in which we're in. One, there is a need to replace, and two, there's insufficient funds and neither of those tend to move. So, we tend to be an option that's available."

Witt noted, "We will commit upfront the entire amount of money to rebuild and replace the bridge." He said the \$500 million was a placeholder estimate. "If it were six, that's fine. If it were 250, that's fine. But we can go ahead and commit it upfront."

He said, "It's all equity. There's no debt here," adding, "It's like buying a house with cash. And one of the reasons is it helps us move quickly because obviously a short cycle time's important."

The projected toll amount was the subject of much discussion. "We absolutely want the lowest tolls to do this. And we're trying to contain cost on a number of fronts," Witt said.

Hart observed, "That area there is so dependent on that bridge. There's no other option. Really, going to Benedict is not a feasible option if you're working there all the time."



Hart added, "If I'm working a minimum wage job, that's a big hit. If I'm making \$300,000 a year, maybe not so much, but you have everybody in that equation."

Witt said, "We have been able to, in certain instances, implement resident friendly kind of toll rates that may be differentiated from the standard, call it \$3. And we've done that in a couple of examples."

Hart said, "I've heard about this bridge almost every day of my life. Sure. I can tell you if you're dependent on that bridge, some people make multiple trips. Doesn't sound like a lot, \$6, but if you're somebody that's on fixed income, what's to prohibit you to go to \$5 each way, \$10 each way?"

"We have ways to go ahead and manage that for the community," Witt responded. "And we've done it. We've made offers where there are monthly passes for multiple trips."

Witt said perhaps the state would be willing to apply the money they spend on maintenance on the current bridge to help subsidize the toll costs.

The realist in Hart said, "That bridge, waiting on the state and federal government, will not be replaced unless the darn thing falls in the ground, basically. So that's a fact. Everybody knows that. So, the only option to truly replace it would be a toll bridge. Problem is, is it financially cohesive to do?"

Hance said, "In all honesty, people have said they've realized that that bridge isn't getting replaced anytime soon. And this is an option. And people have said if the toll's only \$2 or \$3, I'll pay it to get a new bridge," adding, "This board is open to the discussion, but as you know and have said, we need to do community outreach, you need the community to buy in. Because we're not going to do it if the community doesn't buy in."

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

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## “THE SCHEDULE IS FLUID.”

P&Z DIRECTOR MARY BETH COOK ON THE ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE



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Toll bridge pitched to county commissioners



**LOCAL 6**  
County to purchase another building in Prince Frederick



**ON THE COVER**  
Solomons prepares to celebrate Independence Day

## WEEKLY FORECAST

<b>THU, JUN 29</b>  Sunny Hi: 83° Lo: 66°	<b>FRI, JUN 30</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 86° Lo: 70°	<b>SAT, JUL 1</b>  Scattered Storms Hi: 84° Lo: 70°	<b>SUN, JUL 2</b>  PM Thunderstorms Hi: 85° Lo: 70°
<b>MON, JUL 3</b>  PM Thunderstorms Hi: 88° Lo: 71°	<b>TUE, JUL 4</b>  PM Thunderstorms Hi: 86° Lo: 70°	<b>WED, JUL 5</b>  Scattered Storms Hi: 84° Lo: 71°	<b>THU, JUL 6</b>  Mostly Sunny Hi: 87° Lo: 71°

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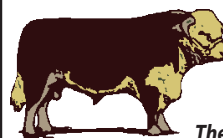
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<b>Fresh Rolls Hot Soups Sandwiches And Subs Hot &amp; Cold</b>	<b>Half Gallons - 30 Flavors! Pints • Ice Cream Cakes</b>
<b>Chicken Salad Homemade Desserts</b>	<b>Amish Baked Goods Delivered Weekly Large Variety</b>
<b>Hot Lunch Specials Available Monday - Friday</b>	<b>WINE • COLD BEER LOCAL HONEY</b>
<b>EXCHANGEABLE PROPANE TANKS</b>	
4300 HUNTING CREEK RD • HUNTINGTOWN, MARYLAND	
410-535-1304	FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK 410-257-2222
MON-FRI 6 AM - 8 PM • SAT-SUN 7 AM - 9 PM	

# Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2023

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**Is a Toll Bridge in  
the Future?**

**Zoning Ordinance  
Changes Explained**

**Another New County  
Office Building**

**FIREWORKS  
FOR THE 4<sup>TH</sup>**