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# St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023

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## “I’M GOING TO MISS THE PEOPLE.”

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**LOCAL 3**  
Questions remain in firefighter death



**LOCAL 7**  
Cannabis farm hearing continued to the fall



**ON THE COVER**  
GATTON'S BARBERSHOP MARKS 90 YEARS  
Gatton's Barbershop celebrates 90 years. The Gatton's Barber Shop crew from left: Kimberly Sullivan, Sarah Guiles, John Gatton, Jr. and John Gatton, Sr.

## WEEKLY FORECAST

<b>THU, JUL 13</b>  Mostly Sunny Hi: 92° Lo: 74°	<b>FRI, JUL 14</b>  Scattered Storms Hi: 85° Lo: 71°	<b>SAT, JUL 15</b>  Isolated Storms Hi: 87° Lo: 72°	<b>SUN, JUL 16</b>  Scattered Storms Hi: 86° Lo: 70°
<b>MON, JUL 17</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 88° Lo: 72°	<b>TUE, JUL 17</b>  PM Thunderstorms Hi: 91° Lo: 69°	<b>WED, JUL 19</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 87° Lo: 70°	<b>THU, JUL 20</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 87° Lo: 71°



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# Questions Remain in Firefighter's Death

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Investigators say they are still trying to piece together the events surrounding the early morning fire in Leonardtown last month that led to the death of Patuxent River Naval Air Station Firefighter Brice Trossbach, 25.

Two other firefighters were also injured in the blaze, which caused the entire single family home to collapse.

Trossbach entered the structure at about 4 a.m. June 27 on Deerwood Park Drive, which was almost fully engulfed in flames, to fight the fire but fell through to the basement when the floor under him collapsed.

Deputy Fire Marshal Oliver Alkire, spokesman for the state fire marshal's office, said that initial reports showed that the first firefighters on scene, of whom Trossbach was a part, observed that the structure was being consumed by a heavy blaze. "The reason why they went in...we don't know if they had the information that everyone had evacuated the house," Alkire told The County Times.

The investigation into the actions of Trossbach and other firefighters on the scene that day will be investigated by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Alkire said, as Trossbach was a federal employee.

He was also a member of the Leonardtown and Bay District volunteer fire departments as well as one of the county's oldest and well-known families.

One county firefighter, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the local volunteers are still dealing with the pain of Trossbach's loss.

"We really want to know what happened," the firefighter said. "And we want to learn from it."

The firefighter said that even if responders know that the occupants of a home had evacuated, they might still execute some



Brice Trossbach

kind of entry to attack the fire and knock it down more quickly.

The firefighter said they were anxious to know what caused such a catastrophic structural collapse; they said they had never seen such a collapse in their entire career.

"This in one of those one in 10,000 calls that need to be investigated to find out what happened," the firefighter said. "There's a process.

"It's very complex; there are so many things that go into an investigation like this."

Alkire said state fire marshals are still trying to determine the cause of the fire that claimed Trossbach's life and destroyed the entire single-family home.

"We are considering a lightning strike but they're still considering other causes," said Alkire.

There were thunderstorms reported in the area that night and several witnesses reported hearing a loud bang immediately before noticing the fire start at the house, investigators have reported.

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The aftermath of the fire on Deerwood Park Drive

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# Another Hotel Planned for Three Notch Road



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Construction crews have been clear cutting and grading a section of wooded land on Three Notch Road in California for the past several weeks in preparation for a new hotel — of which only the first phase is to be built, according to a ruling from the county planning commission two years ago.

The county’s planning commission initially heard the concept site plan for the Avid Hotel during the COVID-19 pandemic — in December of 2020 but approved the plan in March of 2021.

The commission approved only the first phase of the project, which the developer had proposed for three phases.

The two hotel buildings would encompass 76,076 square feet, while the retail element would take up 11,175 square feet.

The property is located on northbound Three Notch Road between Oakcrest Boulevard and Wildwood Boulevard.

The principal developer of the project Ronak Soni, told the county planning commission more than two years ago in

December of 2020 that the project would come in three phases.

The hotel, Soni said, would carry the IHD brand name.

“We already have the license with them,” Soni told board members.

The first to be built would be a four-story hotel which would have approximately 90 rooms, while the second phase would be the retail plaza building.

Included in the retail development, according to the applicant’s presentation, would be a structure containing 10 residential apartments.

“The third phase would be the remaining hotel,” Soni said.

Those two remaining phases have yet to be approved by the planning commission.

The developer estimated that the entire project, if approved, would be built and occupied in about five years.

The project approval was also contingent upon the developer funding improvements to the nearby roadways such as an expanded shoulder on northbound Route 235 in front of the project as well as a 5-foot sidewalk.

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

# Road Work To Close Manor Road

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The county plans to replace a boxed culvert on Manor Road in Chaptico over the Bull Run stream next week, which means a section of the road between Lori Lane and 37252 Manor Road will be closed for 30 days.

“A traffic control/detour plan with signage will be implemented for the duration of the road closure,” a notice from the county government stated.

The installation of the new box culvert is set to begin on or about July 17, according to the county’s Department of Public Works and Transportation.

The problem started years ago when a massive weather event flooded many of the streams in St. Mary’s and knocked out critical roads.

“When [Hurricane] Isaias went through it took out the culvert under the road,” said Jim Gotsch, county public works chief. “We put some pipes under the road... to get the

road open again.”

But the pipes don’t pass as much stream water as a proper box culvert does, Gotsch told The County Times, just enough to ensure that the stream continues to flow.

“It’s not hydraulically sufficient,” Gotsch said of the quick fix solution to the August 2020’s destructive wrath.

The new box culvert, though, took time for approvals from the Maryland Department of the Environment, Gotsch said; the county couldn’t begin work on installing it until the spawning season restrictions on streams were lifted.

Gotsch said he was unsure of any fish in the stream which would spawn there that would be affected by the work but the state’s regulations had to be obeyed.

The new box culvert will have one foot of soil placed on top of the grounded section to allow for a natural stream bed through it, he said.

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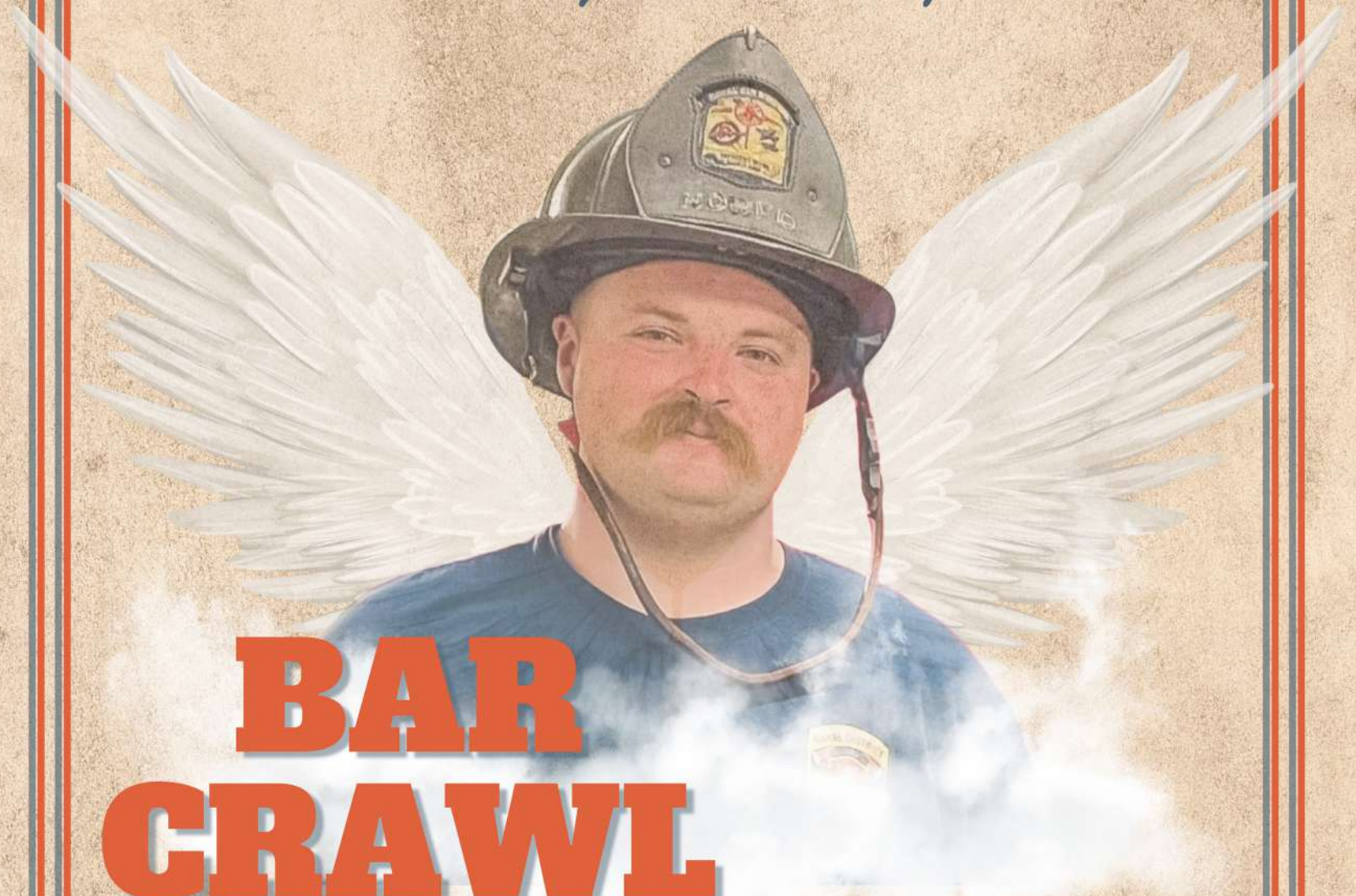
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# Cannabis Farm Hearing Continued to the Fall



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

A case before the county Board of Appeals that could decide whether an industrial sized medical cannabis facility in Abell can continue to operate will continue on Oct. 23 after a four-hour hearing the night of July 11 in Leonardtown.

In question is the county's approval of an amended site plan for Seven Point Agro Cultivation Center on Abell Road that allowed for an expanded mound septic system.

The owner of the property, Blue Griz LLC, tried to have the citizens' appeal against their operations there dismissed from before the zoning appeals board in May but failed.

In their argument against dismissing their case, the citizens appellants argue that then-land use director Bill Hunt approved a building permit in 2021 for the facility that would bring in 20 employees to work on 800 medical cannabis plants; but the county subsequently passed zoning laws that restricted such operations in the rural preservation district.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County did this in response to community uproar about such a large project in an environmentally sensitive area with no public community input.

These new zoning regulations made the cannabis farm a legal, non-conforming use.

But the owner of the facility, Seven Points Agro, owned by Blue Griz, LLC, would soon offer an amended site plan that brought the facility to more than 70 employees tending to 23,000 cannabis plants.

A 50,000 square foot cannabis growing warehouse already exists on the property with potential plans to build another of the same size.

The appellants argue that the amended site plan improperly authorized the expansion of that non-conforming use that exceeds the limits of the zoning ordinance.

The county approved this amended site plan that would increase the intensity of the operations at the cannabis farm in October of 2022, the appellants filed their case against Blue Griz LLC the following month.

"It had the immediate consequence of making the at-that-time under construction grow house a non-conforming use," said Assistant County Attorney John Houser at Tuesday night's meeting. "Under the new ordinance that was adopted — this parcel is located in the rural preservation district (RPD) — and such facilities as this grow house going forward... are not allowed in, among other zones, the rural preservation district." The amendment to the site plan for the facility came after the zoning ordinance approval, Houser said, and appellants argue that the county's approved amendment was "an illegal act" by the land use director.

Opposing counsel began what promises to be an extensive argument regarding the evidence in the case stretching into this autumn.

The attorney for the appellants, Alex Votaw, said the property had been used historically to raise agricultural crops for harvest but had drastically changed in the last few years.

"They all have a common goal," Votaw said of her clients. "To protect and care about their community. "This is not a vendetta against the cannabis warehouse, it's not a petty property dispute; it's a genuine concern... about the health of their families their neighbors and their environment."

The developer's counsel protested Votaw's efforts to lay out a broad environmental and community-based argument against his client and should not be admitted as evidence.

"Here we have a very narrow issue which just deals with a non-conforming use," said attorney Peter Hershey. "It doesn't deal with other aspects of the property."

Votaw said it was key to understand what impacts the continued operation at the site would have on the community. "We think it's really important to understand, on the ground, what is going on," Votaw said.

Appeals board Chair Daniel Ichniowski overruled the objection with more than three hours left to go in the hearing.

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# County Approves Charlotte Hall Self Storage

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Write

A new, large self-storage operation on Mount Wolf Road is one step closer to becoming a reality after the county planning commission unanimously voted to approve the developer's concept site plan this week.

That plan includes a 24,000 square-foot building in the first phase, according to county planning documents and a smaller 10,724 square-foot building in the second phase.

The project, known as Charlotte Hall Self Storage Mount Wolf Annex, is proposed by Charlotte Hall-based BKJ Investment, LLC, owned by long-time developer John Parlett.

The entire site on Mount Wolf Road is about 2.8 acres, according to county planning documents.

Parlett, during his presentation to the planning commission July 10 in Leonardtown, said he operated another self-storage facility off of Golden Beach Road less than a mile from the proposed site.

The extant facility is 104 units in size.

"We plan to manage this project from our own office and not have personnel in both places," Parlett said.

The current operational facility is in high demand, he said.

"We are continually operating at 99 percent capacity," Parlett said. "We're constantly turning people away."



Despite the size of the proposed project, Parlett said, he called it a "low intensity use."

Parlett said he anticipated a high of 46 vehicle trips per day at the new facility and would be electronically controlled for entrance and egress.

The average, he said, would be 14 vehicle trips per day; the business would be open for 16 hours each day.

The county has started the process of constructing a new traffic circle at Mount Wolf Road and Triangle Drive, Parlett said, to improve traffic flow and the developer for the new Royal Farms and Starbucks at

Oaks Road and Route 5 has agreed to install a double left turn to improve northbound traffic on Route 5.

The project would be placed behind the Tractor Supply Store in Charlotte Hall and in proximity to Cedar Point Federal Credit Union.

A driveway coming around Tractor Supply leading to a large to-be-constructed parking lot would separate the two phases of the project.

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# Gatton Looks Back on More Than 60 Years in the Barber Shop

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

As he walked into his old barbershop on Hollywood Road, John Gatton Sr., moved slowly using his cane.

But he did it with a smile on his face.

"I'm free," he told The County Times, continuing to savor the beginning of his retirement after 64 years on his feet cutting hair and providing shaves to thousands of clients over the years.

The family business, though, known as Gatton's Barber Shop since the 1930s, has been operating for 90 years.

Started by his father in just a tiny out-building in the Sandy Bottom community off of Mervell Dean Road in Hollywood, the business has become a thriving social institution where customers from all over the region, from everyday citizens to political, military and business leaders come for one of the most basic of human services.

"It was just two barber chairs and four waiting chairs," Gatton, 80, said of the family business's beginnings.

Looking out at the four barber chairs in the newer, more modern but still small shop in Hollywood, the place of his birth, his son and daughter John Gatton Jr. and Kimberly Sullivan are continuing the tradition.

"No two days are the same," John Jr. said. "You meet people from all backgrounds... it makes for good conversations."

Being a customer's barber means being there with them through their life; marriages, divorces, graduations and funerals.

While people talk freely to their barber, John Jr. said, some conversations are never repeated.

"They trust you," John Jr. said. "They confide in you."

Sullivan said she had pursued a career in the nursing field but having a family and the loss of one of her father's brothers made her think more about carrying on the family legacy.

"It's an honor to be able to continue the family tradition," Sullivan said. "It's a privilege to have worked with my father."

Gatton said he enjoyed his time cutting hair and forging relationships all those years but the toll on his body is telling.

"I'm going to miss the people, but I'm not going to miss the work," the elder Gatton



From left, Kimberly Sullivan; in the chair, Dick Fischer; and John Gatton, Sr.

said, noting his difficulty standing and walking now.

His father and two brothers started and worked in the business, Gatton said and he was just 16 years old and in high school when his life was about to change abruptly.

His father trained himself to be a barber, Gatton said, but he was sent to barber school in Baltimore.

"I was sitting in class and the secretary of the school came to me and said the principal wanted to see me," Gatton said. "I said 'Why does he want to see me? I didn't do anything.'"

He walked down to the office of the old Leonardtown High School, he said, and saw his mother and father standing there with his principal.

His bewilderment increased; his parents told him they had enrolled him in barber school about two years before he was ready to graduate.

It was May of 1959.

"Yeah, I was surprised," Gatton said. "I was only 16 years old."

For a young man who had spent his life in St. Mary's, which had only begun to change

from the installation of Patuxent River Naval Air Station, moving to Baltimore and living there with relatives was a huge step.

"It was a big transition for me," Gatton said. "I didn't fit in really well to begin with."

His parents gave him \$10 spending money each week; he would spend \$2.65 to take a Greyhound bus back home each weekend.

He took 1,200 hours-worth of training to return to work for his father back in St. Mary's; he was happy to be home. "It got used to it [living in Baltimore] but I would not stay there at all," said Gatton.

He would find that he and his father differed on how to do the job.

"He said 'That's not how you do it,'" Gatton said of this father all those years ago. "I said 'It is now.'"

Gatton would go on to cut hair on the navy base for 18 years.

"I brought home \$.40 a haircut; it was all on commission," Gatton said. "You had to hustle."

It was enough to live on until he could get the Hollywood Road operation going, he said.

In those years he made a vast number of

friends and acquaintances from his work in the barber's chair.

His shop became a clearing house of local information, personal anecdotes, political gossip and machinations and jokes and pranks.

He and his customers enjoy hacking on each other with the kind of good-natured abuse usually reserved for family.

"Everything he told you was a lie," said one customer.

"I told him you were a good man," Gatton responded in kind.

This would go on as more long-time customers approached him to wish him well in his retirement.

During COVID-19 Gatton's business suffered and was mandated to have customers by appointment only.

But, as Sullivan explained, it came to change the way they do business. "Now we can manage our schedules better," she said.

Gatton, who, along with his family members, has been a long-serving member of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department would sometimes see his family members go to run calls while he stayed behind to cut hair for customers.

It kept them all busy keeping the family business going.

"You hate to say 'no' to people but you've got to gauge yourself, too," Gatton said. "Lunch time and quitting time was when we were always busiest."

More than a retired barber and a firefighter, Gatton is also a Freemason and Shriner and served on the Maryland Board of Barbers for 31 years, 25 of which were as its head.

"I served under five governors," Gatton said.

Gatton said through all of the people he has served over the years — from everyday customers to high-ranking military and political figures, including members of Congress, everybody had to wait their turn.

"We treat them all the same," Gatton said, adding he has only fond memories of his work.

What did he like the most about the job? "The camaraderie with everybody," Gatton said.

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## County Times

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# CSM Expands Homeschool Programming into St. Mary's County

## Families Celebrate a Sense of Community

Enrollment for College of Southern Maryland's (CSM) homeschool programming opened July 12, with classes expanding to the college's Leonardtown Campus as the educational alternative continues to grow in popularity throughout the region.

The CSM Kids' & Teen College has offered families a supportive community along with a customizable experience that includes a wide variety of homeschool classes at the La Plata Campus since 2019. Beginning this fall, parents can now also connect with other families, share resources, and get the support they need to create an educational plan that works for their family in St. Mary's County.

"I take it as a personal challenge to let every family who walks through our doors know that they are not alone," shared CSM Youth Program Manager Dr. Tony Warrick. "I'm always looking for ways to create communities among our students and parents. If we can help new families face their fears, walk with them, and deal with their concerns – then we are succeeding."

CSM's homeschool program has grown exponentially, from 40 students in just a few classes to nearly 300 enrolled in dozens, since opening its doors in fall 2019. This mirrors larger trends statewide: according

to the Maryland Home School Association's (MDHSA) November 2020 report, homeschool children now account for 4.6 percent of the public-school K-12 population. In the 2020-2021 school year, the most recent year that the MDHSA has data available, 4,586 students in Southern Maryland were being homeschooled, and the total number of Maryland homeschool children now exceeds 40,000.

Recently, CSM interviewed two homeschool families about their experiences with the program and their reasons for choosing homeschooling and partnering with CSM. Those interviews are below:

Something unique that did not exist before: Turner and Ian Mudd-Stewart

When CSM first began planning homeschool classes in spring 2019, Warrick said he pulled together a small group of families to help him determine what offerings would align with families' homeschool curricula, appeal to the children, and most benefit the families overall. The Mudd-Stewart family, of La Plata, was part of that group.

Maggie Mudd-Stewart and her husband, David, said that they did not take their decision to homeschool lightly. David Stewart has been a public school teacher for more than 17 years and understands the value of

a public-school education. Mudd-Stewart owns and operates her own photography studio and said she was unsure of the logistics of fitting homeschooling into her busy schedule.

But when the family discovered during their son Turner's kindergarten year that the public school could not accommodate his gifts in a satisfactory way, they began to consider homeschooling. Eventually, they created a pro/con list, which made it clear that homeschooling was right for them at that time. With the help of CSM and other resources, it continues to be right for the whole family.

"This program is the perfect combination of the co-op mindset and a little more classroom structure to give my kids an opportunity to walk down the halls, raise their hands, wait their turn, and work with other children," said Mudd-Stewart. "It's a buffet of classes taught by professors and professionals with degrees with access to lab equipment and materials, and I can pick and choose the education elements that I want to add to their yearly plan."

Her children have been enrolled at CSM since the first semester that courses were offered, and they are thriving. Turner's gifts have continued to develop; he gravitates towards STEM fields and participates in extra-curricular activities including soccer, swimming, and playing the French horn in the homeschool co-op band. Their younger son, Ian, has also met and exceeded milestones in mathematics and is an advanced reader who loves art, soccer and swimming.

"The CSM homeschool program is good because it's a lot of hands-on stuff," said Turner. "You're always doing something. In the robotics class we are always building stuff, in the arts class we are always painting stuff."

Mudd-Stewart continues to serve on the advisory board for the program.

"The families on that board give me a valuable perspective that allows the program to continue to grow," said Warrick. "I know that we wouldn't be where we are today without them."

"Being a homeschooling parent is a huge part of my identity and I tell anyone who will listen how wonderful homeschooling is, and in every single one of these conversations I talk about the benefits of including CSM's program," Mudd-Stewart added. "CSM is offering something unique that did not exist before. You will find more than curriculum; you will become part of the community that is very special and unique and always growing."

Josh and Zoey Shaw: Being at CSM means being part of a community

Desair Shaw shared that she wasn't always on board with supplementing her children's homeschool curriculum. She and her husband, Erik Shaw, shared that they are on a mission to provide their children with the best possible educational experiences, and the children are on their own missions,

as well: Joshua, 6, would like to be a lawyer and eventually the president of the United States – or perhaps a firefighter, and maybe produce music. He is active in their church's children's choir and plays drums and several sports. Zoey, 8, is a gymnast and an artist who wants to be a doctor when she grows up and already "practices" on family members.

When the self-proclaimed protective mom spoke with Warrick about CSM's vision for growing, extending, and expanding the college's homeschool program, she said that Warrick's excitement was contagious. She saw the care and effort that CSM put into the design of each class and knew she had found a place where she would be happy to send her children.

"It is such an awesome program, everyone involved understands the needs and goals of a family dedicated to homeschooling," she said.

Shaw added that the family feels continually supported in their homeschool journey by the community at CSM. In 2021, Warrick was even able to provide the Shaws with a scholarship through the CSM Foundation and the Shaws, in-turn, assisted another family with their tuition. Shaw shared that it's this kind of mutual support between CSM and families that keeps her returning to the program.

"It's one thing to believe in something, but for [CSM] to believe in us enough to invest in our children, was a game changer," she said. "Being here means being part of a community, being connected to something bigger."

"It's a wonderful feeling to be able to provide assistance to our families," said Warrick. "CSM has really gotten behind the idea of supporting our homeschool families in their journey."

During the two years that Josh and Zoey have attended CSM, they have taken classes in subjects ranging from Spanish to Chemistry during both the school year and over the summer. Josh said he loves the "Engineering with Legos" classes. The young students also said they enjoy being on campus, interacting with the teachers, and learning alongside other children. Shaw said she is put at ease by the safety measures in place and that the best part is that her children are excited and engaged at pick-up time.

Next steps for CSM Homeschool Program Warrick said that his goal is to produce "lifelong learners who are going to be affiliated with CSM for the next 10-15 years of their lives."

"Right now, we are creating pathways for families to transition from public schools to the homeschool community," he said. "Eventually, we will be building a pipeline from homeschool to CSM, and beyond."

Registration for fall homeschool classes began on July 12. For more information on CSM's Kids' and Teen College and to explore the class schedule, visit <https://csmid.augusoft.net/info/landing/Homeschool-Courses>.

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# ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

## Identity Needed for Theft Suspect

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the subject pictured, regarding a theft investigation.

On Thursday, May 4, 2023, between the hours of 5:30 PM and 8:30 PM, the subject pictured entered Michael's store in California. While in the store, the suspect entered the closed employee lounge, pried open a lock and stole the victim's purse.

The purse was later found in a trash can, but the subject had removed the credit cards and other items prior to throwing it away.

The suspect then used one of the credit cards at the Hollywood Birdies before they could be canceled.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to contact Deputy Reynolds #394 at 301-475-4200, ext 8133 or email Brandon.Reynolds@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case #23706-23

Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at 301-475-3333 or send a text to 274637. Type "Tip239" in the message block and select send.

Continue the conversation with information on your tip after receiving the response.

Tip239 is case sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown, or the



system will not initiate the conversation.

Through the Crime Solvers Program, tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

## Wanted for Child Support Non-Payment

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the whereabouts of Samuel Tony Bryant, Jr, age 37 with a last known address in Lexington Park, for a warrant for Failure to Appear for Non-Support.

They are also looking for the whereabouts of Rodney Oneal Runnels, age 34 with a last known address in Lexington Park, for the same kind of warrant.

Anyone with information about Bryant's whereabouts is asked to contact Cpl. Patrick Handy at 240-526-1657, email Patrick.Handy@stmaryscountymd.gov or call the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office at 301-475-8008.

Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at 301-475-3333 or send a text to 274637. Type "Tip239" in the message block and select send. Continue the conversation with information on your tip after receiving the response.

NOTE: "Tip239" is case sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown, or the system will not initiate the conversation.

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.



Samuel Tony Bryant, Jr



Rodney Oneal Runnels

### LEGAL NOTICE COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 217

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Leonardtown have passed, and the Mayor has approved, Ordinance No. 217 -Chapter 62-Development Impact Fees of the Code of the Town of Leonardtown. A fair summary of the ordinance will follow:

Ordinance No. 217 - An ordinance for the purpose of repealing Chapter 62-1.1 regarding an impact fee for school facilities.

Ordinance No. 217 will become effective July 10, 2023. Full text of this ordinance may be obtained at the Town Office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or online on the Town's website at [www.Leonardtown.somd.com](http://www.Leonardtown.somd.com)

By Authority:  
Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator

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<p>USDA Inspected Boston Butt Pork Steaks <b>2.98</b> Lb.</p>	<p>16-Oz., Selected Bob Evans Pork Sausage <b>3.98</b></p>	<p>12-Oz., Selected Bob Evans Sausage Patties <b>3.98</b></p>	<p>11 To 12-Oz., Selected Nathan's Beef Franks <b>3.98</b></p>

### Take a BITE Into Savings

<p>15-Oz., Selected Wishbone Salad Dressing <b>2.48</b></p>	<p>7-Oz., Selected Cheez-It Crackers <b>2.48</b></p>
<p>12.08 To 18.71-Oz., Selected Oreo Cookies <b>2/\$9</b></p>	<p>6-Count Cardinal Paper Towels <b>3.98</b></p>
<p>28 To 32-Oz., Selected Hungry Jack Pancake And Waffle Mix <b>2.88</b></p>	<p>4.7 To 7.2 Oz., Selected Pasta Or Rice-A-Roni <b>5/\$5</b></p>

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**2/\$5**



16-Oz. Selected Land O'Lakes Butter

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8.3 To 12.63-Oz. Selected Stouffer's Entrees

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28.2 To 32.7-Oz. Selected CraV'n Flavor Rising Crust Pizza

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12-Ct. Lewis Bake Shop Brown 'N Serve Rolls



**5.98** Selected Deli Fresh Footlong Subs

<p>12-Oz. Bottles <b>12-Pack Yuengling</b> <b>11.99</b></p>	<p>12-Oz. Bottles <b>18-Pack Michelob Ultra</b> <b>16.99</b></p>	<p>12-Oz. Cans <b>30-Pack Miller Light</b> <b>24.99</b></p>	<p>10-Oz. Cans <b>24-Pack Bud Light</b> <b>19.89</b></p>	<p>12-Oz. Cans <b>12-Pack Twisted Tea</b> <b>16.99</b></p>
<p>1.75L <b>42.99</b> Crown Royal</p>	<p>1.75-Liter <b>32.99</b> Jose Cuervo Especial</p>	<p>1.75L <b>30.99</b> Jim Beam</p>	<p>750-ml <b>21.99</b> Jack Daniel's Whiskey</p>	<p>1.75L <b>30.49</b> Tito's Vodka</p>

# Wine of the Month

**10.99** Seaglass Wine  
750 ml

**11.99** Boordy Wine  
750-ml





# EXPLORE Leonardtown



*Leonardtwn Summer Events*

Bar Crawl and **Doc Martin & the Flannels** Concert in the Square in memory of **Brice Trossbach** (Donations for the family accepted at participating restaurants), 7/15

Summer Boat Regatta at the Wharf, 7/29 & 7/30

Wharf Fest First Friday Weekend with World's Largest Rubber Duck visit, 8/4 - 8/6

For Event Details Visit:  
[www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/Events](http://www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/Events)



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## NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

# Tomahawk Program Welcomes New Leadership



The Navy's Tomahawk Weapons System program office (PMA-280) welcomed a new program manager during a ceremony July 6 in Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

Rear Adm. Stephen Tedford, Program Executive Officer for Unmanned Aviation and Strike Weapons (PEO (U&W)), presided over the change of command ceremony where Capt. Jon Hersey relieved Capt. John Red, who will transition to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency in Arlington, Virginia later this month.

"For the past year, I have watched your [Red's] mastery of all things Tomahawk," Tedford said. "Your perseverance and steadfast dedication to the mission has never wavered."

Red completed two tours with PMA-280 prior to assuming role of program manager in 2019. During his tenure, he led the transition from Block IV to Block V variant and oversaw a number of upgrades to the Tomahawk weapons system including the Joint Multi-Effects Warhead System and Maritime Strike Tomahawk. His team also coordinated the first multi-service procurement of Tomahawk for the Army and Marine Corps.

From recertification and production efforts to innovative contracting strategies, Red recognized the entire team for their accomplishments of the last four years - 960 people strong, he said.

"Mike, your team is ready for your style of leadership and the challenges that have been laid forward," Red said. "The critical need of the weapon system is clear and the

program is in your hands."

A native of Westerville, Ohio, Hersey graduated from The Ohio State University in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering and a master's degree in material logistics support management from the Naval Postgraduate School.

In 2020, Hersey was designated an Aerospace Maintenance Duty Officer and deployed nine times in addition to his shore assignments. His program management tours include deputy program manager for missile systems in PMA-280, deputy program manager for Supersonic Sea Skimming Target in Aerial Targets Program (PMA-208), and branch head, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Readiness Branch (OPNAV N832) and Logistics and Readiness Branch (OPNAV N980L).

"I've inherited a remarkable team, one you have been integral in building," Hersey said to Red. "Your leadership has been deeply important in shaping the future of Tomahawk over the last few years."

Hersey will lead a geographically diverse program office of nearly 1,000 government, military and civilian personnel and a total obligation authority over \$18 billion dollars.

"Working together as partners, military, civilian and contractor personnel, we make up the Tomahawk family," he said. "We will drive to learn, maintain a positive mindset, build camaraderie ultimately achieving a modernized force that will be lethal, resilient, sustainable, survivable, agile and responsive if called upon."



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.



#### RE/MAX 100

Jimmy Hayden  
Professional Agent  
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301-884-9493 office  
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## Rain Barrel & Composting Workshop Registration Now Open



St. Mary's County Government's Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T), in partnership with the University of Maryland Extension will host an Environmental Stewardship Event, featuring workshops on rain barrels and composting on Saturday, August 19, 2023, from 10 a.m. to noon at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds.

Registration is required by August 15, 2023, and space is limited. The workshops are free to attend, and participants will also have the opportunity to purchase both rain barrels and compost bins at the following

discounted costs:

- Rain barrel (St. Mary's County resident): \$30
- Rain barrel (Non-resident): \$60
- Add-on flexible downspout connector (brown, white, tan, or green): \$10
- Add-on brass watering can spigot: \$8
- Compost Bin (St. Mary's County resident): \$17
- Compost Bin (Non-resident): \$34

For more information, or to register please contact Caroline DiGiovanni at [cdigiova@umd.edu](mailto:cdigiova@umd.edu) or at (240) 309-4189.

## NAS Patuxent River to Hold Environmental Open House

Want to know more about the Navy's program to investigate and clean up the environment from hazardous substances and munitions?

The Navy, in coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of the Environment, invites you to attend an open posterboard session. Drop in at any time between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 18 at the Lexington Park Public Library (21677 FDR Boulevard, Lexington Park, MD).

You will have an opportunity to talk one-

on-one with project team members from the Navy and federal and state agencies; view maps and photos of environmental work at NAS Patuxent River, Webster Field, and NRC Solomons; meet community members serving on the Restoration Advisory Board; and learn about opportunities to stay informed or to participate.

For more information, please contact Patrick Gordon, NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs, at [patrick.a.gordon10.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:patrick.a.gordon10.civ@us.navy.mil) or 301-757-3343.

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# Leonardtwn to Host Bar Crawl in Honor of Brice Trossbach

The Town of Leonardtown comes together once again on Saturday, July 15th to honor their fallen local hero. The Town and local Leonardtown Businesses will dedicate Saturday's Summer Bar Crawl and music festival concert in Brice's memory. Attendees may also lend their support by making donations for the family at the participating businesses (The Rex, Social Coffeehouse, Olde Town Pub, Antoinette's Garden and The Slice House) throughout the day.

The Bar Crawl begins at 2 p.m. at the

noted businesses and the Memorial Concert featuring Doc Martin & the Flannels, the Nation's premiere 90's tribute band, takes place in Leonardtown Square from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. (please bring a blanket or lawn chair for your comfort). The Leonardtown Trolley hours will be extended for the evening (courtesy of the Town of Leonardtown) and will operate from 2 p.m. – 11 p.m.

For more information about the event please visit: [VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/LeonardtwnMusicFest](http://VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/LeonardtwnMusicFest).

# Friday Roller Skating Returns to Leonard Hall Recreation Center

Community members of all ages can now welcome back the summer tradition of roller skating! Join us at the newly renovated Leonard Hall Recreation Center every Friday afternoon from 2 – 4 p.m. for an afternoon of music and staying active indoors to beat the summer heat. Entrance is \$5.00 per person and skates are available to rent for \$2.50, or feel free to bring your own skates.

Summer skate is offered through Friday, August 18, 2023, before the school year begins. Participants can choose to book

a date in advance and pay online. Simply check in at the ticket booth when you arrive. Online registration is available at [stmaryscountymd.gov/recreate](http://stmaryscountymd.gov/recreate), click the Online Registration button and then choose Special Events.

Family Skate is also offered year-round, every Sunday from 2 – 5 pm with online pre-registration available as well.

For more information, contact the Recreation & Parks main office at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1800 or by email at [webtrac@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:webtrac@stmaryscountymd.gov).

# Rotary Club Awards Scholarships to 15 Grads



This year's recipients of the Rotary Club of Lexington Park Scholarship for \$1,000 each are from left to right: Julianna Adkins (Chopticon HS), Zachary Horner (Leonardtwn HS), Gabriel Bonds (Leonardtwn HS), Sara Talbott (Chopticon HS), and Nnanna Iroanya (Great Mills HS). Also in the photo are Bob Merritts (RCLP Scholarship Committee Chairperson) and Tari Moore (RCLP 2022-23 President). Other RCLP Scholarship winners who could not attend: Emily Chen (Chopticon HS), Sara Clark (Chopticon HS), Destiny DeShields (St. Mary's Ryken HS), Marina Krula (Leonardtwn HS), Zachary Maldonado (St. Mary's Ryken HS), Kathleen O'Toole (Great Mill HS), Lauren Rigelsky (Leonardtwn HS), Scott Sokoloff (Great Mills HS), Adalynn Williamson (Great Mills HS), and Veronica Zhou (Great Mills HS)

# Pet OF THE WEEK

## MEET TIMONE



Kitties are little angels  
Sent from heaven above  
They fill our lives with joy  
And to our homes add love!

Hi everybody, my name is Timone. My favorite furever pastime is SNUGGLING UP with a wonderful person just like YOU. Now, I may take a minute to warm up to you, but then you'll quickly become my BEST SNUGGLE BUDDY! I seem to like other cats, I really enjoy my string toys, and, boy, do I have a hearty appetite! You will LOVE seeing my SWEET FACE every morning! MEOW is the time to stop by and meet me during adoption hours, Monday-Friday 11am-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm or email [animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov](mailto: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>



# Summer Dinner

Trinity Church Parish Hall  
St. Mary's City

**Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**11 am ~ until we**  
**run out!**

**CRAB CAKES – BAKED HAM**  
**FRIED CHICKEN – SIDES -DESSERT**

**CARRY OUT ONLY**

**\$30**

*Cash, check, credit/debit cards accepted.*

Call 301-862-4597 or email [trinityofficesmc@gmail.com](mailto:trinityofficesmc@gmail.com) for more information.



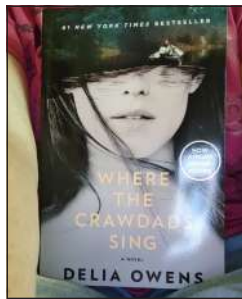
# Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



## Lost in the Pages

Do you ever read a book where you become lost so completely in the depths of its words and imagery that you actually live with the book in your head, and it becomes your world for that period of time, and even for weeks or months afterwards? These are the types of books that will live in your heart and mind always. I have had quite a few books like that in my life, like *Watership Down* by Richard Adams, many of which are bestsellers for a reason. Its funny though that I normally try to avoid bestsellers for some reason, though I think it is similar to myself, and others not getting in on the latest clothing or other trends. We so want to be individual, yet we also crave to be accepted into groups of friends and colleagues at the same time. Of course, these feelings change through the years... for me anyway.



I am very thankful that both my sons share the same love for books as I. Each of them find or buy books for me which I always end up tucking away into that “live forever in my heart” category. My sons definitely know their mom. And I find or buy books for them too. You can just imagine how I was during Scholastic book fair days or when we used to go to the old beloved Bay Books in Wildewood Center (everyone remember collecting crab stamps on the back) or to Joe Orlando’s Fenwick Street Books in Leonardtown, which thank goodness new owners have kept going.

Even though both sons pick up books for themselves or for me at other times, I always know that for Christmas, my birthday or Mother’s Day, I may receive a book, or two, from one or both of them. One of my favorite books, *First Light* by Sue Monk Kidd, who is also the author of *The Secret Life of Bees* and *The Mermaids Chair* amongst others, my youngest son Ryan and I found many years ago at The Farmer’s Market in Charlotte Hall at one of the vendor spots who has yards and yards of tables out in front of his shop. I had already read Sue Monk Kidd’s bestsellers when I came across *First Light* which was a bit musty and covered in the Farmer’s Market’s gritty yellow parking lot dust. But I can spot a treasure. I loved the cover at first sight and when I looked through the book’s pages there was also another treasure to be found: a folded up lined paper with a written Christmas poem and prayer in the most beautiful cursive handwriting that I had seen in a long time. Naturally, I still keep the letter inside *First Light*. Ryan bought the book for me, and I will keep it forever. *First Light* is an inspirational novel which “traces Sue Monk Kidd’s development as a spiritual seeker” in the midst of all her other life roles. *First Light* came into my hands at the perfect time.

My oldest son Robert buys me books which have some sort of mystery in them, which he knows I love. Some of the last few books, from *The Maidens* by Alex Michaelides to *Verity* by Collen Hoover and *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley were intriguing to the end. But the latest book I have read from my son was *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens which I know everyone has heard about either in book or movie format. This was one of those books that I kept thinking I wanted to read; however, it was one of those bestsellers that I don’t normally buy or check out for myself.

*Where the Crawdads Sing* takes you in quickly from the first beautifully crafted paragraph all the way through to the last sentence of the book. Her prose flows in and out with imagery and emotion like the main character, Kya Clark the “Marsh Girl’s” beloved currents in the swampy inlets of coastal North Carolina where family and lovers have abandoned her most of her life. There is not a moment throughout this book where Delia Owens does not convey emotion, knowledge, and suspense, since of course there is a murder mystery which is woven throughout the chapters. I was in that state of mind where I wanted to get to the end of the book to find out who murdered the antagonist, but really wanted to live in the story much longer. Even when I wasn’t reading it, I was in a daze, still in Kya’s head and with her in the swamp and wondering when I could slip another chapter in to read. After looking through the actors who were cast for the parts in the movie and noting that the author was a big part of the movie, I think I’m ready to see it now. I only wish I had saved the book to read until we are in the Outer Banks at the end of the month. I’d love to know if you have read *Where the Crawdads Sing*, what you thought of it, and what books have stayed in your heart.

To each new day’s adventure, Shelby

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

# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## Retirees: Talk finances with your grown children

When you’re retired, you’ll likely have some financial concerns — just like all retirees. However, if you’ve invested regularly and followed a long-term financial strategy, you should be able to address most issues that come your way. But there’s one important action that’s sometimes overlooked by retirees: sharing their financial situation with their grown children. And this knowledge can benefit everyone in your family.

You might be surprised by the concern your children have for your financial well-being. Consider these findings from a 2023 study by Age Wave and Edward Jones:

- 66% of millennials (generally defined as ranging from 27 to 42) worry that their parents or in-laws may not have enough money to live comfortably in retirement.
- 83% of millennials would rather know their parents are financially secure in their retirement, even if it means their parents pass on less money to them.

If you have children in this age range or older, or who soon will be, how can you address their concerns and potentially improve your financial outlook? Communication is the key. By openly communicating with your family about your financial status, you can reduce anxieties and misperceptions. If you’re in good financial shape, your adult children may be reassured that you won’t be needing their assistance. And if you are feeling some financial pressures, you can inform your children of the steps you are taking to improve your situation.

One such step may be to reduce your cost of living — the less you spend day to day, the better your ability to preserve your investment and retirement accounts. You may be able to reduce costs in many small ways, such as ending streaming services you no longer use, but you could make an even bigger impact by downsizing your living arrangements. In fact, 72% of today’s retirees have downsized or are willing to downsize to reduce their housing costs, according to the Age Wave/Edward Jones survey. Downsizing isn’t for everyone, but if it’s a possibility for you, it may be worth considering because the savings could be significant.

You may also be able to reduce or consolidate your debts. Start by understanding how much and what kinds of debt you have. Then, consider ways to lower your payments, such as refinancing. For example, if you’re carrying a balance on multiple credit cards, you might be able to transfer the amounts you owe onto a single card with a more favorable interest rate.

Here’s another move to consider: Adjust your investment mix to possibly provide you with more income in retirement. During your working years, you may have invested primarily for growth — after all, you could be retired for two or more decades, so you’ll need to draw on as many financial assets as possible. But once you’re retired, your investment focus may need to shift somewhat toward income-producing opportunities. Keep in mind, though, that you’ll still need some growth potential to help keep ahead of inflation.

One final suggestion: Let your children know if you already have a strategy in place to meet the potentially high costs of long-term care, such as a nursing home stay. This burden is certainly something you won’t want your children to take on.

By informing your children about your financial picture, and how you’re trying to improve it, you can ease everyone’s minds — so keep the lines of communication open.

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

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

*Contributed by David McDonough*

*Financial Advisor at Edward Jones*

*Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302*

*Leonardtown, MD 20650*

*301 997 1707*



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.

# In Remembrance

## Garn Godwin, 82



Mr. Garn Thomas Godwin III, 82, died June 28, 2023, at St. Mary's Hospital surrounded by close family after a long battle with cancer.

Garn was born on January 21, 1941, and grew up in Todd's Farm, Fort Howard, Maryland. Son of Garn "Bud" T. Godwin Jr. and Lillian "Liz" Elizabeth Huntzberry Godwin, and was the oldest of seven children. He graduated from Sparrows Point High School, where he met his first wife, Karleen Marie Fenske (m. 1959-1996). Garn relocated to Reisterstown, Maryland and raised three children, Garn, Kim, & Kevin.

Garn went on to attend the University of Maryland, College Park, majoring in engineering. Using his knowledge and work ethic he went on to work in the housing industry for Levitt & Sons, Boise Cascade and U.S Homes. Frustrated by large corporations, he chose to "be his own boss" and founded T. Wise Construction, Shawnee Construction, Topaz Construction and later GTG Construction, which is currently operating in southern Maryland and is family owned.

As a child, Garn grew up with North Point Creek as his back yard. This fostered his love of the outdoors. Garn was an avid salt-water angler (1st Place 2015 MSSA Rockfish Tournament), owning many fishing boats over his lifetime. He enjoyed waterfowl and big game hunting, taking multiple trophies throughout the United States and Canada, including Kodiak brown bear, grizzly bear, black bear, musk ox, mountain goat and mountain/barren ground/woodland/perry caribou, and more. Garn was also an accomplished technical/mixed gas scuba diver.

Garn divorced in 1996. He later married Gail Lee Williams (m. 2000-2015), and moved to beautiful St. Inigoes Creek, Lexington Park, Maryland. Living on the water, he would take his children, grandchildren, and friends fishing and crabbing. After Gail's passing in 2015, Garn continued to live on St. Inigoes Creek with his beloved dogs Teal, Izzy, Jack, and Trail.

Garn is survived by his former wife, Karleen Marie Cogswell and their children Garn T Godwin IV (Lynn) of Aquasco, MD, Kimberly Ann Godwin Clark (Bill) of Upper Marlboro, MD, and Kevin Karl Godwin (Angel) of Pylesville, MD; stepchildren Mark Williams (Mary) of Leonardtown, MD, Deborah Montalvo (Jesus) of Pasadena, MD, and Scott Williams of Pasadena, MD; 8 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, Garn Thomas Godwin VI, who will carry on his name; 5 siblings: Roger G. Godwin (Ann) of Sykesville, MD, Joseph "Pete" F. Godwin (Patricia) of Grovetown, GA, Deborah G. Major of Catonsville, MD, Byron S. Godwin (Janice) of Catonsville, MD, and Jeffrey K. Godwin (Victoria) of Millsboro, DE, and many nieces and nephews.

Garn is preceded by his wife Gail Lee Godwin, his sisters Patricia G. Vilas and

Penelope J. Godwin, and brother-in-law, John E. Major.

Garn will be missed by all, especially his dogs, Izzy and Trail.

The family will receive friends for Garn's Celebration of Life Service on July 10, 2023 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. with a Memorial Service at 1:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society <https://donate.cancer.org>

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## David Hayden, 36



David Wayne Hayden, II, 36 of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on July 1, 2023.

He was born October 12, 1986 in Leonardtown, MD to David Wayne Hayden and Rebecca Louise Hayden of Mechanicsville, MD.

David is a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and a 2005 graduate of Chopticon High School. He was a member of the Young Marines and attended services and Bible study at Mt Zion United Methodist Church. David spent most of his career in the construction industry. He was a jack of all trades and could fix anything. David had a passion for being on the water. He loved fishing and crabbing. He always said being on the water is where he felt free. David loved to cook and was a "Great Cook". He could create delicious meals based on what he had on hand. He was very artistic and loved to draw. Keeping with his artistic flair, he enjoyed cutting hair, despite no formal training. He took great pride in providing top of the line haircuts for many friends and family members. David had a very kind soul and his laughter and smile would brighten your day. He was a practical joker. He got a great thrill out of pulling pranks on his family members. His family was very important to him and he had a very close relationship with his grandparents.

In addition to his loving parents, David and Becky, David is also survived by his four children: Blake Hayden, Donovan Hayden, Destiny Hayden and Carter Hayden. He is also survived by his two sisters, Jacquelynne Franklin (Chris) of Lexington Park, MD, and Brandy Hayden (Josh) of Myrtle Beach, SC; nieces and nephews: Audrey Franklin, Colton Kessler and Maddox Kessler; grandparents, Diane and John Standish of Mechanicsville, MD, and Joseph Leonard Hayden of Spotsylvania, VA; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family and friends. David is preceded in death by his grandparents, Joseph Roland Hayden and Norma Louise Hayden.

A Memorial Service will be celebrated by

Pastor Darryl Kemp at 10:00 a.m. at Mount Zion United Methodist Church, 27108 Mount Zion Church Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Mount Zion United Methodist Church, 27108 Mount Zion Church Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## Noreen Neel, 85



Noreen Marie Neel, 85 of Solomons, formerly of Piney Point, Maryland died peacefully on June 24, 2023 at The Hermitage at Solomons Assisted

Living facility. She was well loved by family, friends, and the Hermitage staff. She was the daughter of the late Irvin A. Buckler and Francis M. Buckler. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Edward O'Donnell Neel Jr., and their children, Helen Nicewonger (Leonard), Edward Neel (Elizabeth), Maureen York (Kevin), Anne Piccoli (Philip) and Matthew Neel

(Michele). She is also survived by 11 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and her sister Mary Agnes Donato.

Mrs. Neel was a registered nurse, formally trained at St. Agnes School of Nursing in Baltimore. She has kept in touch with her graduating class at St. Agnes until her passing and met many times over the years with the girls to "catch up." She worked as a nurse for several years in Albuquerque, New Mexico while her husband was stationed there. Once Mr. and Mrs. Neel moved back to Maryland, Mrs. Neel worked at St. Mary's Hospital for 3 years, St. Mary's Nursing Home for 4 years and finally 22 years as the school nurse at The Seafarers Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship in Piney Point.

Mrs. Neel was very active in the community. She was a member of St. George Catholic Church, as a lector and choir member. She delivered meals to the homebound and attended bible study. She was a member of the St. Mary's Women's Club and served as chair of their Scholarship Committee. As a member, she volunteered her time to the St. Mary's Oyster Festival, clothing drives, and other fundraising events such as a house tour in Piney Point. She volunteered with the Valley Lee Rescue squad for 5 years. She organized many years of American

Continued on page 20



# Brinsfield

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*Our Family*  
SERVING YOURS

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FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR TWO GENERATIONS

## www.brinsfieldfuneral.com



# In Remembrance

Continued from page 19

Red Cross Blood Drives, worked on repairing homes for those in need, and was an Election Judge for many years as well. She was also the Mothers' March Chairperson one year for the St. Mary's Chapter of March of Dimes and with the help of many, raised thousands of dollars.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects on July 11 at St. George Catholic Church in Valley Lee, Maryland with Rev. Peter Giovanoni as the celebrant. Viewing will be from 11am to 12 noon. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12 noon. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory can be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (<https://www.michaeljfox.org>), the American Red Cross (<https://www.redcross.org>), Operation Smile (<http://www.operation-smile.org>) or to a charity of choice.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## Barbara Johnston, 77



Barbara Louise Johnston, 77 of Leonardtown, MD passed away on June 25, 2023 at home with her loving family at her side.

She was born on July 24, 1945 in Wilksburg, PA to the late Harold Arthur Lersch and Mary Louise Jack Lersch.

Barbara worked as an Accounting Technician for the United States Navy at Patuxent River Naval Air Station until she retired. She married her husband John W. "JJ" Johnston on September 4, 1965 in Monroeville, PA. They celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary together. Barbara was an active member of the Patuxent and Mechanicsville Moose Lodges. She was the Past Deputy Grand Regent for Maryland-Delaware-DC Moose Association. When Barbara was not attending events for the Moose Lodge you could find her with her friends at the Ark and Dove Quilt Group making beautiful quilts. She loved spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by her loving husband, John, her children Robert Johnston (Jackie) of Great Mills, MD, Deborah Johnston of Paris, France and Mark Bish of Wilbraham, MA and her siblings, David Lersch (Josie) of Plainfield, NH, Ronald Lersch of Oakdale, PA, Arthur Lersch (Lorie) of Jeannette, PA and sister-in-law Sally Lersch of Hobart, WI. She is preceded in death by her parents and her brother Donald Lersch.

Family will receive friends on Friday, June 30, 2023 for a Visitation from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a Memorial Service at 7:00 p.m., celebrated by Rev. Joe Orlando at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment is private.

In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 and the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 299, 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.

## Coralie Adams, 86



Coralie Anne Adams, 86, peacefully went to be with her Lord on July 7, 2023. She was born on February 16, 1937 to the late Raymond and Kathyne (Haigh) Whitham in Philadelphia, PA. She married John W. Adams on September 21, 1957 in Philadelphia. Coralie and Jack grew up on the 4100 block of Barnett Street in Northeast Philly, often walking to Sunday School together. Their first date was arranged as a surprise by her father when Jack was home on leave. Both only children, they formed a tight family unit and traveled where the U.S. Marine Corps took them. She was honored to be a Marine Corps wife and supported her husband's career. Coralie kept the home fires burning, raising four children, during John's many deployments. They were married until John's passing in May 1985.

Coralie is survived by four children, R. Scott Adams of Lusby, MD, Stephanie Hampton (Paul) of Leonardtown, MD, Melody VanMeter (Tony) of Mechanicsville, MD and Heather Adams of Lusby, MD and four grandchildren, Julia Hampton, Brianna Hampton, John VanMeter and Dale VanMeter.

The family moved to St. Mary's County in March 1975. Coralie was an active Member of Patuxent Presbyterian Church (formerly First Presbyterian Church of St. Mary's County) where she was an Ordained Elder, and served previously as Clerk of Session and a member of the Garden Club.

At her husband's urging, Coralie went to work when their youngest, Heather, started school. After being widowed, Coralie began attending college classes at night and on weekends. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Information Systems Management from University of Maryland University College in 1991. She held numerous positions in the federal government, retiring in December 2003 with over 28 years of service.

Coralie was very involved in the many activities of her children, serving as a Cub Scout Den Mother, Girl Scout Leader, Bethel Guardian in Job's Daughters as well as many others. She loved to travel and was proud to have visited all 50 U.S. states and numerous other countries. She was a skilled seamstress, having made Stephanie and Melody's wedding dresses, many other formal gowns, Easter outfits every year and Halloween costumes for her grandchildren.

Coralie was Member of CABS (Companions & Buddies), the CABS

monthly Book Club and a former member of the Northern Center Red Hats club.

A Memorial Service will be held at Patuxent Presbyterian Church, California, MD, on Thursday, July 13th at 2:00 pm, with Reverend Matt Pooley officiating. Visitation with her family will begin at 1:00 pm, and a reception will follow the service. She will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Coralie's honor to Patuxent Presbyterian Church, in support of the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child outreach ministry that shares the love of Jesus Christ with children throughout the United States and world.

## Jean Lawrence, 95



Jean Elizabeth Cutchember on June 17, 1928 to the late Leo Cutchember and Lillian Cutchember-Brown, lived in Valley Lee, Maryland her

entire life. She was educated through the St. Mary's County school system at the School Number One in Valley Lee, MD., St. Peter Claver Catholic School in St. Inigoes and Cardinal Gibbons Institute, Ridge Maryland.

Jean married the love of her life Carroll Cornelius Lawrence on June 22, 1946, through that union they were blessed to have 11 children, Robert Lawrence (deceased), Joan Dorsey, Ronald Lawrence, Lorraine Butler, Allen Lawrence, James Lawrence, Larry Lawrence, Jeffrey Lawrence, Elaine Lawrence-Langley, Carl Lawrence and Diana Lawrence. 19 Loving Grandchildren, 33 Great Grandchildren and 5 Great-Great Grandchildren. Jean also leaves siblings Leonard Hill (deceased) Donald Cutchember, John Kelly Cutchember (deceased), Geraldine Gabriel, LaVern Brown (deceased), Charlene Clark and Godson Irving Cutchember along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and many who loved her "Special Friends".

Jean enjoyed sharing her Knowledge as an African American Woman 95 years of St. Mary's County's history. Strong in Gods faith she was a faithful member of St. George's Catholic Church, she would read the Bible every morning, Daily scripture and Daily Bread with her coffee and doughnuts sitting on her porch, she always volunteered at the Annual Crab Cake and Fall church dinners, she loved to play Gospel music, Jazz and Oldies But Goodies, she loved to paint everything and plant flowers and gardening, as well as designing her own nails looking as if she had just left the Nail Salon. Her signature she was a Women of many Hats, all Colors and all kind, never left home without one. She loved going to the water/beach for Meditation and relaxation.

Mama was One of a Kind, Smart full of Wisdom, Beautiful, Elegant Sophisticated Lady, Comical and Hilarious, she loved to cook and share with her friends and neigh-

bors. Her favorite song and phrase was "Party Until the Lights Go Out"

Mama Your Light will forever shine in Each and Every one of US.

Home Going SERVICE: VIEWING at 11:00 AM-FUNERAL at 12:00PM on

Saturday JULY 15, 2023 at St. George's Catholic Church, 19199 St. Gorge's Church Rd. Valley Lee MD 20692. Officiating "Father Paul Nguyen"

## Terry Crowe, 76



Terry M. Crowe, 76, of Leonardtown, passed at his home on July 6, 2023.

Terry was born on January 14, 1947, in Oliver Springs, Tennessee, to William Crowe and Irene Clayton Crowe. After completing high school, Terry enlisted in the US Navy and relocated to St. Mary's County, where he worked as an aircraft mechanic at Pax River. After his honorable discharge in 1974, Terry was a Federal Marshall at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and also served as the base Game Warden for many years. After retirement from the federal government Terry provided security for the Presidential helicopter program. A community-minded person, Terry was also an active member of the Lexington Park volunteer rescue squad member, where he was an Assistant Chief.

Terry is survived by the love of his life Elizabeth of Leonardtown, MD; his sons Carl (JoLecia) of Frostburg, MD, Bob (Cyndi) of St. Johns, Indiana; Earl (June) of Houston, Texas, and daughter Robin (Frank) of Charlotte Hall, MD. Terry was a loving "Pop-Pop" to 19 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. Terry was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth, his son, John (Ginni), formally of California, MD.

Terry enjoyed spending time at The Club, a resort located on Lake Gaston in Gasburg, VA. Terry also enjoyed watching a good Western and reading books about the Vietnam War. He also loved spending time with his extended family, including Tracy Hunley and family of Leonardtown, MD, and Mary Longfield of Lexington Park, MD, who has been a lifelong family friend whom Terry loved like a daughter.

While Terry left us too soon, his impact will be felt for years to come. He lived well, loved much, generously gave his time and money, served his country and community with distinction, and asked for nothing in return. His sage wisdom, quick wit, sly smile, and big heart will be missed by everyone who loved him.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, July 13, 2023 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with a Life Celebration Service celebrated by Family at 1:30 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment to follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

In lieu of flowers, the family asked that



# In Remembrance

you give a donation to the Lexington Park volunteer rescue squad in Terry's memory. Donations can be made online at [www.lpvrs.org](http://www.lpvrs.org).

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## Charlotte Wathen, 77



Charlotte Ann Wathen, "Poppy", 77, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on July 8, 2023 in La Plata, MD. Born on October 10, 1945, she was the daughter of the late Mary Madeline (Abell) Dornell and the late Charles Nicolas Dornell, Sr. Charlotte was the loving wife of the late Leonard Briscoe Wathen, Sr., whom she married on November 30, 1963 in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Morganza, MD. Charlotte is survived by her children Leonard Lenny Wathen, Sr. of VA and Sandra Wood of Mechanicsville, MD, her siblings Anna Louise Storm of Anne Arundel County, MD and Cecilia Maude Flora of Mechanicsville, MD, her grandchildren Bradley Wathen, Corey Wathen, Wesley Wathen, Shelby Wood, Serena Wood, Lawson Wathen, and Lannie Wathen, as well as her great grandchildren Hallie McDonald, Jacob Wathen, Maddie Wood, Joshua Wood, Sammie Jo King, and Maevery Wathen. She is preceded in death by her daughter Lorraine Wathen, her siblings Mary Elizabeth Trossbach, Margaret Marie Hill, and Charles Nichol Dornell.

Charlotte was a homemaker. She loved playing cards and canning. Charlotte loved having family over for meals and holiday gatherings.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, July 13, 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 celebrated on Friday, July 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Mechanicsville, MD with Father Michael Tietjen officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Bradley Wathen, Corey Wathen, Wesley Wathen, James Morgan, Jr., Anthony King, Jr., and Jason Wood. Honorary pallbearers will be Lawson Wathen, Lannie Wathen, Jacob Wathen, Shelby Wood, Serena Wood, and Hallie McDonald.

Contributions may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 11921 Rockville Pike Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20852 or to the Mechanicsville Vol. Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 15 Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

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.

## Donald Brown, 89



Captain Donald Louis Brown, USN (Retired) passed away on July 1, 2023 at the age of 89. Donald was born December 15, 1933 to Nelson Alonzo Brown and the former Hazel Lomax in Fort Scott, Kansas. Following his graduation from Fort Scott High School in 1951, Donald attended Baker University for 1 year and was a member of Kappa Sigma National Fraternity before attending the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1952. Captain Brown graduated from the United States Naval Academy in the top third of his class with a B.S. in General Engineering and received his commission as an Ensign on June 1, 1956. Following graduation, Captain Brown attended United States Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and graduated with a B.S. in Engineering Electronics. Captain Brown married Angela Pearce of Baltimore on June 27, 1959 at the USNA Chapel in Annapolis.

Captain Brown served 31 years and one month on active duty in the intelligence community as a member of the Naval Security Group, designated as a Communication Specialist/Cryptologist. As a naval officer, Captain Brown served at sea and was stationed in Japan, Turkey, Philippines Islands, South Vietnam, Guam, Alaska and stateside in California, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington DC. While serving as executive officer on Guam, Captain Brown set up and directed the operations of three evacuee camps as part of Operation New Life when over 100,000 Vietnamese passed through Guam. Captain Brown retired on June 30, 1987 while serving at the National Security Agency. Captain Brown was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Navy Commendation Medal. Captain Brown is also authorized to wear the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Humanitarian Medal, and the Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation Medal.

Captain Brown and Angela retired to St. Mary's County in Southern Maryland to their home on the Patuxent River where they enjoyed the region's beauty, boating, fishing and the "land of pleasant living" lifestyle. In retirement, Captain Brown served as President of The Retired Officers Association of Southern Maryland, Member of the American Legion, Post 221 in Avenue, Maryland, Chapter Chairman of the St. Mary's American Red Cross and Board of Directors of the American Red Cross Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Region. Captain Brown volunteered and served as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Calvert Marine Museum, St. Mary's County citizen representative on the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, Chairman of the Republican Party of St.

Mary's County, Vice Chairman of Governor of Maryland's Patuxent River Commission, ran for Maryland State Senate in 1994 and was County Director of several successful presidential, governor, state senate and county commissioner political campaigns.

After 61 years of marriage, Angela passed away on January 15, 2021. His daughter Barbara predeceased them both in 1971 from Cystic Fibrosis. Over the years, the family has supported and fundraised to help find a cure for Cystic Fibrosis. Captain Brown is survived by his daughter Deborah Brown Radivo and son-in-law Nick Anthony Radivo of Centreville, Maryland. Viewings will be held at Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown, Maryland. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery.

## Bernard Morgan, 86



Bernard "Bernie" Leveille Morgan, 86, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away Friday, June 30, 2023, at his home.

Bernard was born on July 17, 1936, to the late Alfred and Dorothy Morgan of Mechanicsville, MD. He is survived by his wife Mary Eleanor Dingee Morgan of 62 years, and two children, Eleanor Marie Moreland (Richard) and Alfred

Leonard Morgan (Cathy) of Mechanicsville, MD. He was blessed with four grandchildren, Mary Beth, Megan (Mike), Gregory (Kortney), and Josh, and six great-grandchildren, Mason, McKenzie, Issac, Kennedy, Conor, Kylee, and Gregory Jr.

Bernard was the eldest of six siblings, Gloria Westfall of Stuttgart, AR, Sue Wood (Michael) of Mechanicsville, MD, Francis O. Morgan of Mechanicsville, MD, Ida Mae Kaminetz (Marvin) of Hollywood, MD, Teressa Quade (Joe) of Clements, MD, and Jeannie Carey (Bill) of Lusby, MD.

He lived in Mechanicsville all of his life, watching the crops grow, the changing of the seasons, the weather, and the beautiful sunrise over Morgan Brother's Farm from his home on the hill. Bernard was a farmer and waterman. He loved family get-togethers, teasing the grandkids, homecooked meals, and watching westerns on TV with his dog Bounce by his side. He also loved hunting, fishing, baseball, and horseshoes.

On July 17, 2023, the family will receive friends from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm with the memorial service beginning at 8:00 pm at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Hospice of St. Mary's.

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



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# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Thu, Jul 13

### Into the Woods

21744 South Coral Dr., Lexington Park  
8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim take everyone's favorite storybook characters and bring them together for a timeless yet relevant piece... and a rare modern classic. The Tony Award-winning book and score are both enchanting and touching.

The story follows a Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, they embark on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

One of Sondheim's most famous works, *Into the Woods*, is a musically sophisticated show with the opportunity to feature actors adept at dark comedy. Designers will especially enjoy highlighting the fantastical elements of this magical world.

Show Times: Thursdays-Saturdays 8:00 PM, Sundays 3:30 PM

Adults \$18; Special Discount Groups

\$15; Children 6-11 \$13; Under 5 free (not recommended for young children)  
NTP Members \$16

## Fri, Jul 14

### Intergenerational Bingo

Northern Senior Activity Center  
29655 Charlotte Hall Rd., Charlotte Hall  
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Cost: Suggested donation of \$3

Who doesn't love Bingo?! This special edition of Bingo allows your friends and family to participate! Start sending out those invites. School-aged grandchildren are highly encouraged to attend. There will be prizes geared towards their age group.

## Sat, Jul 15

### Leonardtwn Summer Music Festival Concert Feat. Doc Martin

Leonardtwn Square  
7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Doc Martin & the Flannels, a high-energy band from Baltimore, performs in

Leonardtwn Square for the first time for the Leonardtown Summer Music Festival.

## Sun, Jul 16

### Trinity Church, St. Mary's City Crab Cake Dinner

Trinity Church  
47477 Trinity Church Rd., St. Mary's City  
11 a.m.

Trinity Church in St. Mary's City will host their Summer Carryout Only Dinner featuring crabcakes, ham and fried chicken on Sunday, July 16 from 11 am until they run out. Call 301-862-4597 for more information or visit [www.facebook.com/trinitysmcmd/](http://www.facebook.com/trinitysmcmd/)

### Dinner & A Cruise Series at St. Clement's Island Museum

St. Clement's Island Museum  
38370 Point Breeze Rd., Coltons Point  
3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy cool breezes during a fun evening of cruising on the St. Clement's Island Water Taxi, delicious dinner at local waterside Morris Point Restaurant, and dessert recep-

tion at St. Clement's Island Museum during this series of themed cruises throughout the season!

Book soon at 301-769-2222—these will sell out soon. Only 20 seats are available per cruise for these exclusive events

If you were not able to book one of these cruises, we take private dinner and a cruise booking on a case-by-case basis for a group of 15-20 people. Call museum for information and availability.

## Ongoing

### HVFD Annual Carnival

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department  
Thu, Jul 13–Sun, Jul 16  
Thu, Jul 20–Sun, Jul 23  
7 p.m to 10 p.m nightly

Featured will be food, rides, and games. Unlimited rides every night for \$12.00, or tickets may be purchased separately. Free nightly prizes (must be present to win). Free 3 boys & 3 girls nightly bicycle raffle for ages 12 and under (must be present to win). A Treasure Chest cash prize will be raffled the last night of the carnival. Owned and operated by HVFD. ATM on site. Visit [www.hvfd7.com](http://www.hvfd7.com)

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Bud Light  
24 pk. 10 oz can

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Cupcake  
750 ML

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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, Jul 13

### Summer STEAM

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch  
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach

Fairview Branch  
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings

Southern Branch  
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons  
2:30-3:30 p.m.

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

### Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

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

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

## Fri, Jul 14

### Affordable Connectivity Program sign up + info session

Calvert Library Fairview Branch  
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings  
3-4:45 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. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Free Car Show

Rod 'N' Reel  
165 Mears Ave, Chesapeake Beach  
4-8 p.m.

Every second Friday thru October. On the rooftop of the Rod 'N' Reel parking garage by the Chesapeake Bay.

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## Sat, Jul 15

### Texas Hold'Em

St. Leonard Vol Fire Department  
6 p.m.

\$85 buy-in for \$20k in chips. Rounds are 20 minutes each.

Doors open at 5 pm, tournament starts at 6pm. BYOB, food and sodas will be available for purchase. See [www.slvfd.org](http://www.slvfd.org) or Facebook group [www.facebook.com/groups/500115481937635/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/500115481937635/) for more info.

## Tue, Jul 18

### Mornings at the Museum: Otters and Opossums

Calvert Marine Museum  
10 a.m. – noon

Meet our mammals! Get to know the mammals at the Calvert Marine Museum that are found within the Chesapeake Bay estuary. Observe and learn about Calvert and Chessie Grace - our North American river otters, as well as our newest addition, Poppie the Virginia opossum. Through hands-on activities, fun games, and crafts, we will explore their habitat, behavior, and biology. Cost: \$10 per participant; for ages 5-7.

### Tween Summer Book Fest

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

Join other book lovers during this fun summer book club! Each month we will read a new book and come together to discuss, play games and do activities. Did we mention there will be snacks?! First five registrants get a copy of the book to keep! Recommended for ages 10-12. July's book is "City Spies" by James Ponti. Sara Martinez is facing years in the juvenile detention system for hacking into the foster care computer system to prove that her foster parents are crooks. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Summer STEAM

Calvert Librarian Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
2:30pm-3:30pm.

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. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Book Discussion (Dine Out)

Heritage 485  
Meeting for dinner at 6pm  
Discussion starts at 7pm.

Join us this month to discuss "When Women Were Dragons" by Kelly Barnhill. Feminist fantasy set in the 1950's. Rollicking fun, a tiny bit of magic (just the dragon part), and a thought-provoking story of agency, suppression, conformity and heroism. Please

register! Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Tween Summer Book Fest

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way

Southern Branch  
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons  
6-7 p.m.

Join other book lovers during this fun summer book club! Each month we will read a new book and come together to discuss, play games and do activities. Did we mention there will be snacks?! First ten registrants get a copy of the book to keep! Recommended for ages 10-12. July's book is "City Spies" by James Ponti. Sara Martinez is facing years in the juvenile detention system for hacking into the foster care computer system to prove that her foster parents are crooks. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Wed, Jul 19

### Messy Crafts with Calvert County 4H

Calvert Library Southern Branch  
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, 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/Calvert4HMessyCrafts2023South> 410-326-5289. <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 (1) service learning hour for participating. It's a great way to socialize and build reading confidence! 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Mornings at the Museum: Fossil Adventures

Calvert Marine Museum  
10 a.m. – noon

Participants are dropped off at Cove Point Lighthouse, where they meet CMM educators. The program leader teaches a short lesson on local Miocene fossils and what to look for. From 10 AM to about 11:30 AM, you explore the beach to search for fossilized shells, bones, and shark teeth. After fossil collecting, you work with the museum educators to identify any fossils you have

found. The program ends at 12 PM. Cost: \$10 per participant, for ages 8-12.

## Thu, Jul 20

### Little Minnows: Shark Relatives

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

For preschoolers ages 3 – 5, accompanied by an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. 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

### Teen Book Box Pickup

Calvert Library (All Branches)  
July 15 – 31

During the summer, we will be checking out free boxes each month to teens who register. Inspired by subscription boxes like OwlCrate and Loot Crate, each box will have a theme and contain a library book (that needs to be returned), a free book (to keep!), a fun activity, and a snack. Boxes can be picked up from July 15 to July 31. The theme for July is "I Ship It". Boxes can be picked up from July 15 to July 31. Each library branch is participating, so be sure to choose the one you want to pick your box up at! We will have a limited supply each month, so if registration fills up, add your name to the wait list. Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Upcoming

### Waterside Performance Series: LEE BRICE

Calvert Marine Museum  
Thursday, July 27 at 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).



# CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of June 26 – July 2, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,915 calls for service throughout the community.

### Property Destruction: 23-45324

On June 25, 2023, Deputy Hudson responded to the 7900 block of Delores Court in Chesapeake Beach, for multiple complaints of property destruction. Contact was made with the complainants who advised they observed an individual throwing eggs out of a silver SUV. Investigation revealed several vehicles in the area had been egged. Deputies located empty egg crates along Bayside Road. The estimated value of damaged property is unknown at this time. This investigation is ongoing.

### Property Destruction: 23-45660

On June 27, 2023, Deputy DeSantis responded to the 7900 block of Delores Court in Chesapeake Beach, for multiple reports of property destruction. The complainants advised several vehicles had been egged by an unknown suspect (s). The estimated value of damaged property is unknown at this time.

### Theft: 23-46210

On June 29, 2023, DFC Aley responded to the 400 block of Hallowing Point Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime on June 28<sup>th</sup>, a black American Tactical G2G 322 rifle was stolen from inside the residence. The estimated value of stolen property is \$500.00.

### Theft: 23-46445

On June 30, 2023, Deputy Dawson responded to the 900 block of Cox Road in Huntingtown, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised two sets of Maryland registration plates had been stolen from a car trailer and a large camper parked in the backyard of the residence. The estimated value of stolen property is \$200.00.

### Theft: 23-45718

On June 27, 2023, Deputy Dawson responded to the 2100 block of Ponds Wood Road in Huntingtown, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between June 16 and June 27, an unknown

suspect (s) stolen the front registration plate from the victim's vehicle. The estimated value of stolen property is \$150.00.

### ARRESTS



Bronzton Xavier Carrington

On June 26, 2023, DFC Plant initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle along Main Street in Prince Frederick. Contact was made occupants, **Bronzton Xavier Carrington**, 19 of Prince Frederick,

was observed to be driving the vehicle and switched seats with a female passenger to avoid prosecution. A passenger in the vehicle, **Tyree Duprei Scott**, 29 of Lexington Park, was wanted on an open warrant through St. Mary's County. Carrington was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Driving a Vehicle without Required License and False Statement to a Police Officer. Scott was also transported to CCDC and served the open warrant.



Zachary Nathaniel Jenkins

On June 26, 2023, Deputy Gadwill responded to the 800 block of Costley Way in Prince Frederick, for the report of trespassing. Contact was made with **Zachary Nathaniel Jenkins**, 21 of no fixed

address, who was observed climbing over a locked gated area behind Five Guys to set up his belongings. When confronted, Jenkins became irate and refused to leave. Earlier that morning, Jenkins was found sleeping in an electrical room and sent on his way and advised not to return to the Market Square Shopping Center. Jenkins was observed on the property after being advised to leave and continued to ignore and refuse the deputies orders. Jenkins was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property and Failure to Obey a

### Lawful Order.



Shelley Marie Dodson

On June 26, 2023, DFC Kwitowski responded to the CRE Campground located at 295 Thunderbird Drive in Lusby, for the report of trespassing. The complainant advised **Shelley Marie Dodson**, 51

of Lusby, was advised to leave the campground to which she refused. Dodson was given numerous opportunities to leave but failed to do so. Dodson was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.



Robert Allen Rice

On June 30, 2023, Deputy McCourt was on patrol in the area of the Firehouse Subs located at 641 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, and observed **Robert Allen Rice**, 56 of no fixed address,

who had been previously trespassed from the establishment. Rice was advised of the trespass order in place. Rice was then transported to the Calvert County

Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.



Marvin Monroe Mackall

On July 2, 2023, DFC Plant was conducting a traffic stop in the parking lot of the Calvert Village Shopping Center in Prince Frederick. While on the traffic stop, Deputy Plant observed **Marvin Monroe Mackall**,

65 of Prince Frederick, walking on the side walk in front of ABD Liquors and Safeway. DFC Plant confirmed Mackall had been previously trespassed from both businesses. Contact was made with Mackall and advised him he had been indefinitely trespassed from both locations. Mackall was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

*Editor's Note: The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated*

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

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## Parks & Recreation Receives Youth Mentoring Grant To Target At-Risk Middle-Schoolers

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Department of Parks and Recreation has received a \$70,000 grant to establish a mentoring program, largely for middle schoolers. According to Recreation Division Chief Nate Smith, the monies will be used “to develop a youth mentoring program over a two-and-a-half-year period to support youth affected by substance misuse in Calvert County.”

Smith told the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their July 11 meeting that he has been with the department for 19 years and this is the first time they have been able to develop such a program. “I am excited to get this grant,” he said.

Smith was asked how many youths can be accommodated in the new program. “We can handle as many as are interested,” he said.

The monies will be used to hire a coordinator for the program. The funding comes from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) through the National

Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA).

Smith reported, “The grant will be utilized to develop a youth mentoring program utilizing NRPA’s Youth Mentoring Framework to implement group and one-on-one youth mentorship and family engagement opportunities within P&R. The program would be operated through P&R community centers overseen by Recreation division staff.”

The program will start in spring of 2024.

Smith explained in a memo to the BOCC, “The county will receive funds through a cost-reimbursable model, submitting quarterly financial reports to the NRPA program officer that will contain an invoice, itemized transactions and receipts for all expenses to NRPA. A budget adjustment in the amount of \$70,000 is requested to support this program which is fully reimbursable by NRPA.”

The commissioners unanimously approved the signing of the memorandum of understanding and the budget adjustment for \$70,000.

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## Calvert County to Receive Waterway Improvement Funds Governor Announces Two Local Projects

Governor Wes Moore announced on July 10 that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is providing \$13.5 million in Waterway Improvement Funds. The funds will support new and improved public boating access facilities, dredging of navigable public waterways, emergency vessels and equipment for local first responders, and other important infrastructure and initiatives.

Two projects in Calvert County were on the list. For a total of \$229,063 in funding, they are:

- St. Leonard Volunteer Fire Department — Dive and rescue rigid hull vessel
- Hallowing Point State Park — Boat ramp dredging and beneficial use

“Investing in infrastructure is integral to achieving the full potential of Maryland’s resources,” said . “This partnership between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and our local jurisdictions is critical to improving, maintaining, and promoting use of our public waterways.”

The Waterway Improvement Fund is pri-

marily derived from the one-time 5% excise tax when a boat is purchased and titled in the state, as well as a small portion of the state gas tax. It has been used to construct and maintain more than 400 public boating facilities and more than 250 public navigational channels across the state as well as the acquisition of vessels.

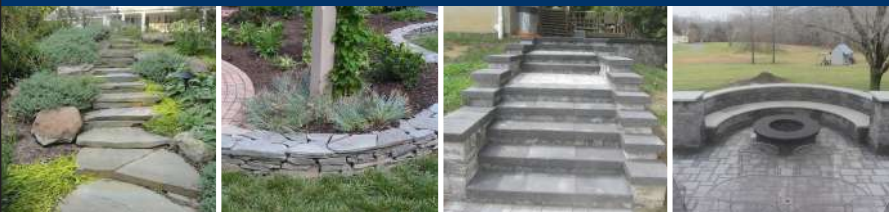
“Maryland’s Waterway Improvement Fund is an outstanding example of a user-pay, user-benefit program,” said Maryland Secretary of Natural Resources Secretary Josh Kurtz. “Paid largely by Maryland’s boating public, supporting local efforts are critical to this partnership.”

Applications are reviewed and projects are selected based on local government and state needs and priorities, which are evaluated to determine the benefit to the general motor boating public.

Starting after July 15, the Department of Natural Resources will accept Waterway Improvement Fund applications for the next fiscal year through the department’s online Grants Gateway.

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# Parks and Recreation Seeks Revenue Enhancement

## Some Fees Increased, Ad Policy Adopted

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Department of Parks and Recreation is trying to get funding for its operation more dependent on fees and other charges. Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Nazzal told the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their July 11 meeting that not too long ago fees covered 50 percent of the department's costs. Now revenue outside the county's general fund only makes up 30 percent.

With revenue enhancement in mind, Nazzal has proposed some slight increases in her department's fee schedule and also the BOCC has adopted an advertising policy for the department to generate additional revenue.

In a memo to the commissioners, Nazzal wrote: "The Department of Parks & Recreation (P&R) collects revenues and fees for many programs and facilities throughout Calvert County. This includes everything from summer camps, swim lessons, camping reservations, daily admissions, food sales, and more."

The BOCC approved the fee changes presented by Nazzal. For parks, natural resources, recreation and aquatics they

included adjusted daily camping fee and rates for adult softball increased by \$3 per game. She said, "Changes are recommended to offset labor and supply costs for cleaning and customer support. The softball rate is due to increased costs for officials."

The changes for concessions and golf included:

- Updated sample pricing for accuracy (percentages have not changed);
- Added fees for golf clubhouse beverage packages;
- Increased golf league rates by \$3; and
- Adjusted golf rates to separate greens fees and cart fees as well as one size range bucket.

Nazzal said, "Changes recommended due to the addition of clubhouse and benchmarking fee types with other courses."

During the discussion, Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart noted the escalating costs of everything, including a doubling of labor costs in recent years.

The increased fees will become effective January 1.

Two weeks earlier, the commissioners approved the policy for advertising and sponsoring recreation activities. Prior to the decision to approve Nazzal's recom-

mendation, Hart once again expressed reservations about political advertising in the department.

Nazzal said certain types of advertising would be prohibited, such as "tobacco or vaping products, alcoholic beverages, demeaning, disparaging words, profanity, violence, and a number of other items as well. And we would be monitoring for those types items to prohibit those from being advertised within our park system."

But Hart wanted to know about political advertising. "Me personally, I don't want political advertising on there. I didn't know how the rest of the board felt. We see it get pretty obnoxious, so I'd hate to see the field have 5,000 signs."

County Attorney John Norris seemed to leave the commissioners some wiggle room for some kinds of regulation despite free speech concerns. But he said the proposed policy had been reviewed for legal sufficiency without any political restrictions.

Nazzal said that for now there were no plans for advertising in parks, only in the department's printed materials.

Commissioner Catherine Grasso said, "I agree with what you're saying, Commissioner Hart. But if it's free speech



Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart

and if it's our right as Americans and that is the law, then we've got to go on with it."

In the end the BOCC, including Hart, went along with the request for the advertising policy that did allow political ads.

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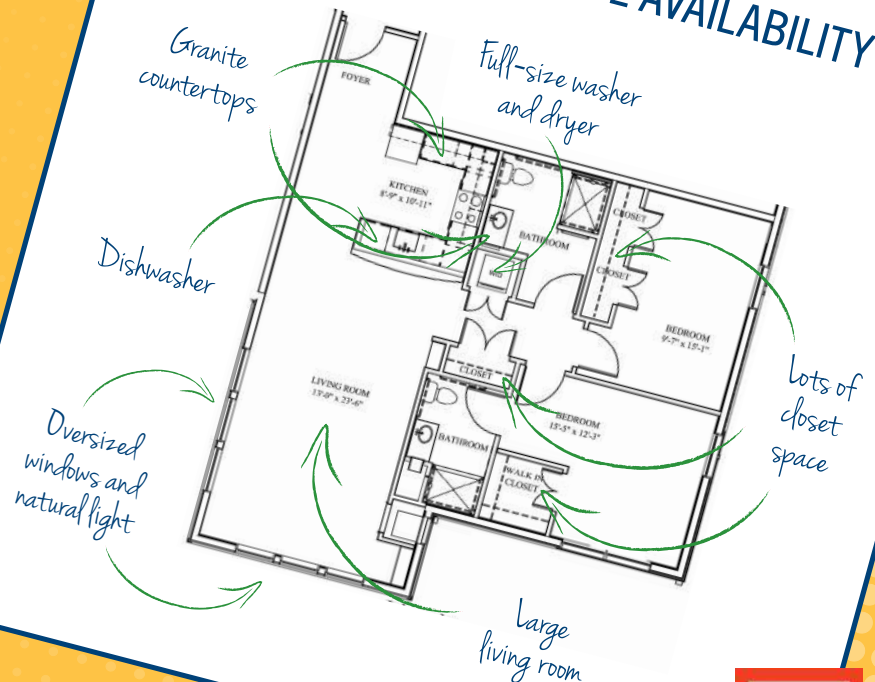
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# Owings Man Arrested on Child Pornography Charges



Jared Michael Lemon

Maryland State Police computer crimes investigators have charged a Calvert County man with the possession of child pornography.

The suspect is identified as Jared Michael Lemon, 42, of Owings. He is charged with five counts of possession of child pornography. He was arrested by Maryland State Police shortly before 5 a.m. this morning without incident and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he is being held without bond. During the course of the investigation, it was determined he is employed as an officer with the U.S. Capitol Police Department.

The investigation began in December

2022 when troopers from the Maryland State Police Prince Frederick Barrack initiated an investigation into the possession of child pornography. The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force also received a cybertip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that an online user, later identified as Lemon, had uploaded suspected child pornography. Members of the Maryland State Police Computer Crimes Unit, with assistance from troopers from the Prince Frederick Barrack and Homeland Security Investigations served a search warrant of Lemon's residence in December 2022. Investigators subsequently seized electronic devices for forensic analysis. The analysis revealed evidence of possession of child pornography.

The Maryland State Police Computer Crimes Unit coordinates the Maryland Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. This is a combined law enforcement effort involving police departments across Maryland that is made possible in part due to grant funds provided by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services and by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Task Force investigators focus on identifying those involved in child pornography via the Internet and other related crimes that victimize children.

The investigation continues.

# Lusby Woman Killed in Two-Car Crash

Members of the Calvert County Sheriff's Patrol Bureau responded on July 9 at 8:24 p.m., to report of a serious motor vehicle crash with injuries in the area of MD Rt. 4 and White Sands Drive in Lusby.

Upon arrival, deputies determined the one of the operators of the vehicles succumbed to their injuries and requested the Crash Reconstruction Unit to respond and assume the investigation.

Preliminary investigation revealed a 2003 Ford Focus, operated by Heather Nicole Hugel, 33 of Aquasco, was traveling south on Rt. 4 approaching the intersection of White Sands Drive. A second vehicle, a 2013 Honda Accord, operated by Denise Chaconas-Brown, 60 of Lusby, was attempting to make a left hand turn from White Sands Drive onto north Rt.4. Both vehicles entered the intersection at the same time causing the Ford to strike the Honda.

Hugel was transported to an area trauma center by MSP Trooper 7 for injuries received and is reported to be in stable condition.

Chaconas-Brown sustained fatal injuries from the crash and was pronounced



deceased on the scene.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Deputy First Class Andrew Ostazeski and Deputy First Class Michael Lewis of the Crash Reconstruction Team are conducting the investigation of the crash. Anyone who may have witnessed the crash or the events leading up to it, asked to contact the deputies at 410-535-2800 or via email: Andrew.Ostazeski@calvertcountymd.gov or Mike.Lewis.Jr@calvertcountymd.gov. Please reference case #23-48890.

# Prince Frederick Plan Outreach Questioned League of Women Voters Issues Critical Report



By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The League of Women Voters of Calvert County (LWVCC) has issued a 54-page report critical of the citizen participation process for the update of the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan (PFMP).

The Executive Summary of the report says: "The interests and concerns expressed by citizens who participated during the PFMP planning process were not adequately addressed."

The report notes citizen dissatisfaction with the process for the update of the overall county comprehensive plan, which serves as a guide for the town center plans and the county zoning ordinance. However, the LWV says they were not directly involved in that process, so decided to take a more active role when the PFMP update commenced.

"This presented an opportunity for the League to study the county's planning process," the executive summary states.

The study asks three questions:

1. "To what extent were the County's outreach efforts successful?"
2. "To what extent were citizen concerns addressed during the planning process?"
3. "Was the planning process transparent?"

The summary says. "To answer these questions, we conducted 17 interviews with community organizations, developed a LWVCC survey and reviewed seven public meetings and two surveys conducted by the county."

Regarding the failure to adequately address citizen concerns, the report noted, "The Recommended Land Use Plan proposed much more development within a larger area and at higher residential densities than most residents who participated in the process advocated or supported. The proposal to increase the 'scale, pace and density' of residential development met with opposition from citizens."

"Residents identified traffic congestion as a major problem that would likely worsen with the proposed amount of new development," the summary observed.

It further says, "They also pointed out that the rough topography and highly erodible soils in and around Prince Frederick were not conducive to intensive construc-

tion or development."

It goes on to say, "Citizens found that the amount and type of housing proposed in the plan appeared focused on promoting more development rather than meeting the specific housing needs of county residents."

According to the consultant, Sabra and Associates, LLC, "The amount of future residential development is to be left to market forces."

Another point raised in the summary is that "The long-standing county policy of 'controlled growth' had been dropped and fundamental questions about expansion of water and sewer facilities, aquifers and future infrastructure costs were not addressed."

The report says, "The mismatch between what many citizens said they wanted and what the county proposed may be explained, in part, by the outreach problems that occurred during the planning process, due largely to COVID-19. Not enough opportunity was provided to identify citizen concerns in face-to-face meetings or delve more deeply into the issues and arrive at community consensus."

But, it added, "Another, more fundamental factor in this considerable mismatch may be explained by the lack of transparency in the process of identifying and responding to citizens expressed needs."

During research for this study, the LWVCC learned that an informal coalition formed between the development community and the County in early 2015 that focused on ways to increase and accelerate growth in town centers.

"Ordinarily, this would not be a problem because it is fair to ask representatives of any interest group for their ideas and opinions. However, many of the recommendations made by developers during these meetings (which were not advertised publicly) appeared soon thereafter as amendments, rezonings and, ultimately, land use policy that became major features in the 2019 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and the July 2021 draft Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan. Since the public did not know about the meetings, these changes seemed to come out of nowhere."

"Even some developers who participated in the meetings expressed surprise at the extent of incorporation of the ideas and opinions from an informal coalition."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



# School System Budget Process Criticized

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Education (BOE) has come under fire from several citizen's groups over its budgeting process. Concerns are expected to be raised during the public comment portion of the board's July 13 meeting.

The biggest issue is the board's alleged failure to provide a line-item budget. Joshua Johnson, a member of Calvert County Concerned Citizens, filed a Freedom of Information request for a line-item budget and he says he was denied, citing "executive privilege." Johnson is also a member of the Calvert County Republican Central Committee.

Regarding the citing of executive privilege, Johnson said in an email to The County Times, "This would not be the case as monies were publically asked for and therefore it would not apply."

Johnson noted, "It is my understanding that once (the budget was) made public, which was done in the five Blueprint meetings as well as multiple meetings with the commissioners, that a line-item must exist and be provided.

Johnson said, "It is clear the BOE has not acted responsibly or been accountable. Factually. The BOE have a fiduciary duty to the taxpayers to spend their money responsibly and it is clear this is not being done."

Johnson detailed some recent school budget events:

- 2021 — failed audit where unusual

\$500,000 bonuses were paid to five individuals. Several purchases were made unauthorized over the \$25,000 (threshold).

- There was a key code on a \$1.3 million slush fund. Even under FOIA request in October in 2022, it was never provided. Why would a public budget need a key code, let alone refuse to give what law states they have to?
- 2022 — BOE asked for \$10 million of additional funds. It was found out they had \$10 million on their rainy-day fund.
- 2023 —w BOE asked for \$24 million. It has now been found out that they have \$23 million in their accounts, none of which is protected and should be returned to citizens.

When the school board refused to supply Johnson with a line-item budget, he filed a complaint with the state ombudsman within the Maryland Attorney General's Office. That office offered to provide mediation. Johnson accepted.

But Spencer Dove replied for the Ombudsman, "The Ombudsman was informed this morning that the BOE is respectfully declining mediation. At this juncture, the Ombudsman can take no further action on your mediation request."

The failed audit referred to by Johnson was performed by the Judicial Audit and Education Committee of the Maryland General Assembly, made up of members of the House and Senate. In a missive dated

Jan. 25, 2022, the committee said, "CCPS (Calvert County Public Schools) procurement policies were not sufficiently comprehensive and were not always consistently used when obtaining goods and services under intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreements."

That committee cited the \$500,000 bonus given to five unspecified administrators.

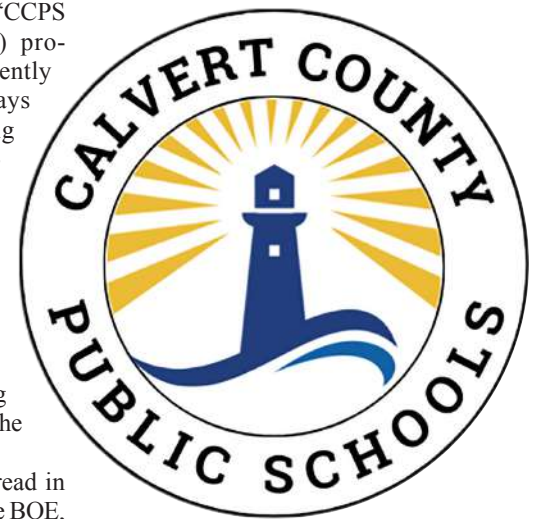
Myra Gowans, president of Calvert Citizens United, is another critic of the school board budgeting process. She is expected to testify at the July 13 BOE meeting.

In a document prepared for and read in part at a previous meeting, she said the BOE, "had a public fiduciary obligation": under state and federal law.

Gowans said, "Federal law states that parents are your beneficiaries when they turn their assets and resources over to you. The beneficiary's assets are their children, and their resources are the taxes, which the BOE demand that the BOCC be paid and absent any recognizable fiduciary standards of accounting,"

She added, "In fact you, the BOE, are sitting on a taxpayer largess of over \$24 million which is unaccounted for. Yet you want the BOCC to approve a request for next year of \$26 million.

"In essence you are requiring the BOCC to breach their fiduciary responsibility of trust, confidence and respon-



sibility to the taxpaying beneficiaries."

The commissioners in approving their budget last month gave the school system \$13 million more and promised to revisit the budget and the end of 2023 to see if more monies could be made available.

Gowans concluded by saying, "Courts contend that beneficiaries clearly dominate over the elected/selected public fiduciary. Clearly when public fiduciaries do not protect the beneficiary's assets and resources, they may be terminated."

A request for comment by the school system was not responded to as of press deadline.

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“WE SEE IT GET PRETTY OBNOXIOUS.”

COMMISSIONER MIKE HART ON POLITICAL AD SIGNS



**LOCAL** 4  
Owings man arrested for child porn



**LOCAL** 7  
Parks and Rec offering middle school mentoring



**ON THE COVER**  
Calvert BOE budgeting process slammed

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUL 13	FRI, JUL 14	SAT, JUL 15	SUN, JUL 16
 Mostly Sunny Hi: 93° Lo: 74°	 Scattered Storms Hi: 85° Lo: 71°	 Isolated Storms Hi: 87° Lo: 72°	 Scattered Storms Hi: 86° Lo: 70°
MON, JUL 17	TUE, JUL 17	WED, JUL 19	THU, JUL 20
 Partly Cloudy Hi: 88° Lo: 72°	 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 90° Lo: 69°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 87° Lo: 70°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 87° Lo: 70°

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Master Plan Process**

**Lusby Woman  
Dies in Crash**

**Owings Man Charged  
for Child Porn**



# SCHOOL BUDGETING UNDER SCRUTINY