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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2024

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**Avenue Shed Fire
Victim Identified**

**Student Walkout Planned
Over School Safety**

**Emergency Personnel
Still In Hospital**

**BATTLE CONTINUES OVER
POT FARM EXPANSION**

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“THERE IS NOT A DAY THAT GOES BY THAT WE DO NOT... SMELL THE STENCH OF MARIJUANA IN THE AIR.”

7TH DISTRICT RESIDENT KIMBERLY GIBSON TESTIFYING TO THE STATE SENATE ON THE ABELL CANNABIS FARM'S LOCAL IMPACTS.



LOCAL 3
Students may walk out over school fights, security



LOCAL 3
Injured emergency responders still in hospital



ON THE COVER
Bill would return power over cannabis facility expansion back to county

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, FEB 22 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 53° Lo: 46°	FRI, FEB 23 AM Showers Hi: 55° Lo: 35°	SAT, FEB 24 Partly Cloudy Hi: 42° Lo: 24°	SUN, FEB 25 Mostly Sunny Hi: 48° Lo: 37°
MON, FEB 26 Partly Cloudy Hi: 61° Lo: 46°	TUE, FEB 27 AM Showers Hi: 63° Lo: 56°	WED, FEB 28 AM Showers Hi: 66° Lo: 47°	THU, FEB 29 Showers Hi: 55° Lo: 32°

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Students Plan Walk Out in Protest Over School Safety

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Word has spread of a planned walk out by students throughout St. Mary's County Public Schools set for this Thursday, Feb. 22 in protest for more focus and resources on school safety and security, The County Times has learned.

The message has been spread on social media through students — but it also claims to invite staff to join students in a noise-less protest that would stay on campus.

Officially the school system has not commented on the potential walk-out but unofficially sources inside the school system have acknowledged the walk-out but say it is not sanctioned by the system.

A Great Mills High School student, Javari Dove, said he is the one who has organized the event with other like-minded students who are concerned about violence in his school in particular and the school system in general.

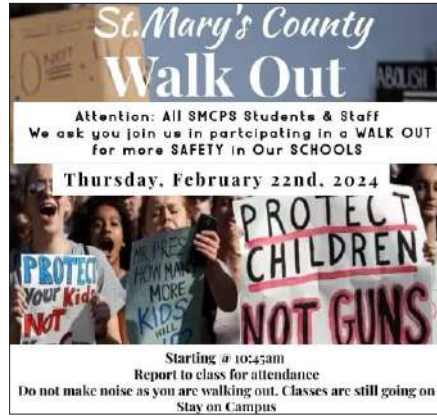
"It's to get everybody's attention on more safety in our schools," Dove said. "The school security personnel, they're not strict on us."

"That's why there are all these fights."

Dove said school security personnel often do not act to break up fights when they occur.

The school system has been shaken by recent events involving the threat of gun violence as well.

Earlier this month four former students at Great Mills High School illegally entered the building while students were changing classes and took several images of themselves in various parts of the school and posted them on line.



Some of those images showed that one of them very likely had a gun. When they were confronted by school security staff — after students had noticed the unauthorized entrants and reported them — the four trespassers fled without incident.

In the aftermath several of the intruders were arrested and charged and a firearm recovered but parents were still in shock over the ease with which the intruders gained access to the building and their ability to bring a firearm with them.

In another incident that happened last week the sheriff's office was alerted to a student at Spring Ridge Middle School about a student who had been inquiring of others about how to acquire a gun.

Other social media posts from Spring Ridge students also warned not to come to school because a student was planning to bring a gun, the sheriff's office reported.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Body Found at Dent Elementary School

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Lettie Marshal Dent Elementary School in Mechanicsville was closed down Feb. 21 after maintenance crews there found a deceased person there. Sources close to the investigation told The County Times that the deceased male was a maintenance worker who had hanged himself.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Delegate Warns of Sexual Identity Amendment to Education Bill

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

During deliberations Feb. 20 in the Maryland General Assembly Del. Vanessa Atterbeary (D-Dist.13) from Howard County introduced an amendment to HB 558 — titled Comprehensive Health Education Framework — that would eliminate the ability of parents to remove their children from the teaching on gender identity and sexual orientation in public schools.

HB 558 is Atterbeary's bill and in floor deliberations she said that parents would still be able to opt their children out of family life curricula but not teachings on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Del. Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29A) called the amendment an affront to parental rights.

"Remember when Democrats said gender identity ideology was not happening in our school," Morgan said in a social media post. "They just snuck in an amendment... that will disallow parents to opt out of the teaching of gender identity and sexual orientation curriculum.

"This curriculum will be taught to chil-

dren as young as kindergartners."

In her testimony, Atterbeary said the curricula taught to students on gender identity and sexual orientation would be "age appropriate."

The amendment was adopted by acclamation vote.

"Tell them that your child is not their property," Morgan posted to constituents. "Tell them to stop taking away parental rights."

As originally written, the bill would have provided options for parents to hold their children back from health topics taught in school; the bill also leaves responsibility for the establishment of curriculum to county school systems.

The bill also covers mental and emotional health, substance abuse prevention, healthy eating, disease prevention and violence prevention.

The bill, which was introduced Jan. 24, has already passed its second reading in the House of Delegates and will next proceed to a third and final reading in the house before moving to the Senate.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Medical Director, Paramedic Still in Critical Condition

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Two key personnel in the county's Department of Emergency Services (DES) who suffered severe injuries during a traffic collision earlier this month are still in hospital and face a long and difficult period of recovery, according to an update given on their condition.

Kiersten Shea, deputy director of DES, said Paramedic Todd Bowman and Regional Medical Director Dr. Todd Finkelstein remain in critical condition after being struck by another vehicle while in the performance of their duties.

"Obviously, it's been a very challenging week," Shea said at the Feb. 14 meeting of the Emergency Services Board. "They remain in critical condition and they face a long road ahead of them with multiple surgeries still to come.

"We continue to hope for positive news on their outcomes."

Shea thanked multiple county agencies — including some in neighboring Calvert County — who rendered assistance to the local agency during this time.



A GoFundMe account has been established to help pay for the extensive medical bills for both men.

So far there have been 141 donations since their crash, totaling \$17,405 raised for a goal of \$20,000.

The crash occurred Feb. 8.

"One of the things we do well in St. Mary's County is we take care of each other," said county rescue chief Sean Davidson. "It's been a moving experience to see all of that happen."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Chamber of Commerce Gala to Celebrate 50 Years



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce is celebrating half a century of bringing business, government and community together early next month at a gala evening in Callaway.

Dr. Christine Bergmark, president and CEO of the chamber, said the gala is open to members of the public who pay the entrance fee as well as chamber members; the evening will be full of networking opportunities as well.

"It's going to be a great event," Bergmark told The County Times. "Our goal is to thank the members of the chamber for all their support."

The chamber has accomplished much in its 50-year history, Bergmark said, including performing studies for the county on the need for workforce housing, forming recommendations for dealing with blight

and advocating for tax reductions for commercial businesses.

"We bring together big business, small business, community, government and non-profits," Bergmark said. "That's our mandate."

Scheduled to take place at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 8 at The White Rose in Callaway, the gala will feature dinner and dancing, Bergmark said.

"We are thrilled to commemorate this significant milestone with our community," she said. "For five decades, we have stood as a beacon of support for local businesses, and this gala is a testament to our shared success and enduring partnerships."

Tickets are available on a limited basis and can be secured by visiting Chamber Events Lexington Park (smcchamber.com) or contacting 301-737-3001.

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Shed Fire Victim Identified, Cause Still Under Investigation

The victim of last Friday night's shed fire in Avenue has been identified as 26-year-old Joseph Williams Bowles, Jr.

Deputy State Fire Marshals have concluded the fire originated within an 8' x 10 shed in his parents' backyard. While the fire remains under investigation, they have not recovered evidence that it was an act of arson and continue to explore all possible accidental causes.

At around 11:00 p.m. on Friday, the owners reported their shed on fire, with their son possibly still inside.

Firefighters arrived and extinguished the fire in under 10 minutes and confirmed a deceased victim was inside.

The Office of the State Fire Marshals continues to work in collaboration with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, which is a standard operating procedure whenever a fatal fire occurs.

Although smoke alarms are not required in sheds, the Office of the State Fire Marshal requests everyone to remain vigilant in installing and maintaining smoke alarms in their homes and practice fire safety, including having an escape plan. "Please take time to ensure the safety of your family and friends by maintaining these early warning life safety devices," stated Acting State Fire Marshal Jason M. Mowbray.



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County Times

Bill Would Stall Further Growth at Abell Pot Farm

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Legislation passed in the Maryland General Assembly last year ensured that cannabis facilities such as growers, processors and distributors, faced even fewer restrictions on their operations from local jurisdictions than before, argues Sen. Jack Bailey (R-Dist.29).

This means that local zoning regulations that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County promulgated and passed in the aftermath of the construction of a 50,000 square foot industrial cannabis growing plant in the heart of the 7th District and the critical area have been essentially swept away, Bailey argued last week in committee hearings in the state senate, and a new bill he has introduced aims at giving control on such matters back to the local elected officials.

"These processes have had a significant detrimental effect on my constituents who live near a cannabis facility," Bailey testified in the senate of the facility located in Abell that drew much controversy over its construction a little over two years ago.

Bailey's bill — SB 158 — would statewide hold facilities that were permitted and licensed prior to Oct. 1, 2022 to once again by subject to local zoning laws on cannabis facilities.

Bailey said he has routinely heard complaints from neighbors of the facility about noise and cannabis smell emanating from it disturbing the rural character of their homes.

The facility was initially allowed to be built when a zoning department director in St. Mary's categorized the use as agricultural in nature, thus exempting it from public scrutiny and approval requirements in the normal channels of the planning commission.

Also, at that time, the county had no specific regulations regarding zoning for such facilities, leading county commissioners to create some in the aftermath.

This caused an uproar as a major industrial facility unlike any other in the critical area of the watershed was allowed to be built, seemingly in contravention of the same environmental law.

"It's not to say they're opposed to the facility right now," Bailey said of neighbors to what now stands in Abell. "What they're



opposed to is that facility getting larger and having a detrimental effect on their area."

Matt Bohle, of RWL Law, representing Story of Maryland, the owners of the facility, said Bailey's legislation, if passed, would "create a patchwork system" of laws regulating cannabis.

"If counties are given greater authority to restrict this segment of the cannabis ecosystem it will result in less access and opportunity... a potentially create a patchwork system," Bohle said.

Bill Sullivan, executive vice president of operations for Story of Maryland, said the company has tried to maintain good relations with its neighbors in Abell as well as try to mitigate the smell and noise; any excess runoff from the facility's irrigation operations is collected and transported for treatment to Charles County at the Mattawoman-Beantown plant.

"The facility does not spill runoff into the nearby creek," Sullivan testified. "At this time, we do not have imminent plans to expand."

Sullivan said before the senate committee that his company is currently approved to expand by an additional 70,000 square feet.

Sullivan noted that the legislation, if passed, would essentially stall any expansion plans they may have at the Abell facility in the future and that would go for any other such license holders throughout the state.

Bailey said St. Mary's County was the original conservator of the watershed and the estuary.

"It's [the cannabis facility] right up against the water it is a huge industrial facility," Bailey argued. "This building is in direct conflict with everything we do."

"We are not here to limit medical marijuana in the State of Maryland."

Bailey further argued that Story of Maryland could eventually build two more cannabis growing buildings of the same size at the Abell property.

The zoning ordinances passed subsequently by the county to prevent such construction again in the critical area, Bailey said, were essentially made of none affect by cannabis legislation passed by the assembly last year.

"That is the whole reason we are here," Bailey said.

Kimberly Gibson, a local resident, said "gone are the days of serene quiet and fresh

air" from her childhood home in Abell with the arrival of the cannabis facility.

"There is not a day that goes by that we do not hear the buzzing of the 20-plus air compressor units or smell the stench of marijuana in the air," Gibson testified before the senate Finance Committee on Feb. 15. "There is now a commercial, industrial operation improperly placed in the critical area."

As a hospice nurse, Gibson said she saw patients who had benefited from the use of medical marijuana, but the placement of the facility so close by in Abell detracted from the value of the neighborhood's homes.

"We never had the opportunity to participate in a public hearing prior to this monstrosity being erected," Gibson said. "There were no studies done, no informational sessions, it wasn't required because it was deemed agricultural."

"Now any efforts made by citizens leave us with dead end phone calls and finger pointing back and forth between the county and the state."

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County Times

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\$1.4M Grant Awarded for School-Based Health Centers

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) has been awarded \$1.435 million in grant funding through the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, which is responsible for developing a statewide framework to expand access for behavioral health services for Maryland students. Funding was made available by the Maryland General Assembly under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

SMCHD's Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports award will support the addition of behavioral health services for St. Mary's County youth at the two School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) located at Margaret Brent and Spring Ridge Middle Schools. New services made available through this award are expected to begin in the Summer of 2024 and will include onsite evaluation and treatment for behavioral health concerns, individual and family counseling, care coordination and youth mentoring.

The SBHCs are open to all SBHC-enrolled SMCPs students and employees, regardless of host school, during and after school hours. The SBHCs are also available after school hours for general community members who enroll in the SBHC program. SMCHD provides routine and urgent med-

ical care, rapid testing and management for colds and chronic illnesses, sports physicals, treatment of minor injuries, and primary care services at the SBHCs. Regardless of health insurance, all persons can be seen, and a sliding fee scale is available for those without insurance.

"This grant provides the resources we need to expand behavioral health services for St. Mary's County youth and grow our youth development programs," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "The investments that the state and our County Commissioners made previously in our School-Based Health Centers are helping us bring additional grants and services to our county. I am grateful for their support, this new funding from the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, as well as the phenomenal work of our SMCHD Clinical Services Division Director Lisa Nelson and other health department team members leading this grant effort."

To learn more about the Maryland Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, please visit health.maryland.gov/mehrc/Pages/Maryland-Consortium-on-Consolidated-Community-Supports.aspx.

Public Meeting Announced on Transportation Plans



The Calvert-St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO) will hold a public meeting on March 5, 2024, from 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Lexington Park Library, to discuss the Long-Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. This public meeting will also include a Technical Advisory Committee Meeting from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

This meeting, including the Technical Advisory Committee portion, is open to the public. Community members are welcome to attend; light snacks and refreshments will be provided, and children's activities will be available for younger attendees. Staff representing Calvert, St. Mary's County, and the Maryland Department of Transportation will be available to answer questions.

On January 30, 2024, the C-SMMPO released draft updates to the Long-Range Transportation Plan and Transportation

Improvement Program, and announced the public comment period, open through March 15, 2024. To review the drafts or for more information, please visit: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/pio/docs/2024-020News-ReleaseC-SMMPOPlanUpdate.pdf.

Citizen input is essential to ensure transportation needs are accurately reflected within the region. Comments on the Long-Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program should be sent via email to Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov. Questions may be directed to Karly Maltby, Calvert-St. Mary's MPO Administrator, with St. Mary's County Government's Department of Land Use & Growth Management via email or at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507.

For more information on C-SMMPO, please visit: www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com.

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<https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/>



ST. MARY'S COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

Detectives Apprehend Suspect on Attempted Murder Charges

Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office apprehended Charles Vernon Russell, 26, of Mechanicsville, MD, on Friday, February 16, 2024. Russell was arrested under an active warrant for Attempted First Degree Murder, Attempted Second Degree Murder, Assault First Degree, and related firearms charges.



The warrant for Russell stemmed from a November 26, 2023, shooting outside an occupied residence in the 22000 block of Longmore Street in Leonardtown, MD. No injuries were reported because of the incident.

Following his arrest, the suspect was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center to await a bond hearing.

Sheriff's Office Investigates Threats of Gun Violence at Spring Ridge Middle School

On Thursday, February 15, 2024, Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office were called to investigate reports of a threat against Spring Ridge Middle School.

Deputies were alerted to a social media post circulating among Spring Ridge Middle School students warning them not to "go to school tomorrow" and indicating a student would be bringing a gun to the school on Friday. Deputies learned a Spring Ridge Middle School student had been asking other students how to obtain a gun, prompting the social media post.

Deputies identified the student, contacted

the parent of the student, and conducted a search of the residence and the student's personal items; no gun was found.

Per the Board of Education, "All students involved will be disciplined in accordance with the St. Mary's County Public School's Code of Conduct."

The investigation is ongoing, and anyone with additional information about this incident should contact the Spring Ridge Middle School Resource Officer, Corporal Chad Hartzell, at Chad.Hartzell@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Lexington Park Woman Arrested Following Robbery

On Monday, February 19 St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Deputies were called to a disturbance at a business located in the 21000 block of Great Mills Road in Lexington Park, MD.

An investigation revealed that a female suspect, Kelli Aaliyah Richardson, 22, of Lexington Park, attempted to steal multiple items from the business. When an employee confronted her, she assaulted the employee.

Richardson was arrested and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center to face charges for Robbery, Assault Second Degree, Resisting Arrest, and related charges.



Legal Notice

THE COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN ORDINANCE NO. 219 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Council (the "Council") of The Commissioners of Leonardtown (the "Town") will hold a public hearing to consider an Ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation debt in one or more series in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$6,000,000.00 (the "Bonds") to be issued under the State of Maryland's Local Government Infrastructure Financing Program, pursuant to the authority of Sections 4-101 through 4-255 of the Housing and Community Development Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended (the "Act"). The purpose of the Bonds is to provide all or a portion of the funds necessary to (i) finance, reimburse and/or refinance all or a portion of the costs of two separate projects generally referred to as the Meadows at Town Run Water Storage Tank Project and the Meadows at Town Run Well, (ii) fund reserves, and/or (iii) pay or reimburse costs of issuance and other related costs of the Bonds, subject to the further provisions of such Ordinance.

PLACE OF MEETING: Town Hall, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD
TIME: 4:15 p.m.

DATE: Monday, March 11, 2024

All interested parties are encouraged to attend the public hearing or to submit written comments as described below.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO:
leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov or by mail to The Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650 and must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2024.

The full text of the Ordinance is available online at www.leonardtown.somd.com or at Town Hall.

The public hearing is required by the Act. The Ordinance may be passed (i) as introduced or (ii) as amended, either at the Council meeting held on the same day as and following the public hearing or at a subsequent Council meeting.

Pursuant to the Act, (i) the Ordinance will become effective upon its passage by the Council and its approval by the chief executive officer of the Town and (ii) the qualified voters of the Town have the right to petition the Ordinance to referendum within 20 days after it is passed by the Council in accordance with the provisions of Town Charter Section 211.

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By authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

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CSM Dedicates New Cyber Security Lab for a Popular Educator

By Dave Spigler
Contributing Writer

There are many stories appearing in today's news fraught with warnings about the rise in "cybercrime" and the invasion of large corporate files by "digital thieves" up to no good. A recent CNBC report noted "the FBI has seen a 300% increase in reported cyber-crime cases since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic." Fortunately, this is not one of those tales. This is a "good news" story about a wonderful individual and her latest accomplishment in a long prestigious career as an educator, a naval officer, and community leader. This is a story about Barbara Ives, aka Captain B. Ives, USN ret., an impressive, multi-talented lady, wife and mother. Her story is inspiring. To quote Dr. Yolanda Wilson, President of College of Southern Maryland [CSM], "Barbara's impeccable service to our country, dedication to Southern Maryland and commitment to education, including her years working for CSM, are remarkable and we are deeply honored to name our new cybersecurity labs after her as a way of distinguishing her service and legacy for all future generations. Barbara's decorated career and decades of service to our warfighters, their families, and students of all ages in this community is simply extraor-

dinary and has certainly left an incredible positive impact on Southern Maryland."

These words introduced the audience to reasons why this lady was selected to have this important, state-of-the-art facility named in her honor. Amazingly, there is much more to this than meets the eye. To establish these labs took great persistence and discussion to acquire the amount of funding needed to invest in this large, complex laboratory. These elaborate technical classrooms are not cheap. And there was no funding in the college's budget to make them happen. So loving a challenge, Barbara stepped forward to lend a hand. Her vast experience as an educator provided access to many friends who could be called upon to help with this effort. She teamed up with the Patuxent Partnership whose support was pivotal to making this desire become a reality. She sought government funding that was available for these purposes. And she called upon many friends who directed her to sources of funding as well.

Barbara is a friendly, bright, and charming lady with a warm personality and beautiful smile that will naturally open doors of opportunity. But don't be fooled as she is also very persuasive and always determined to meet any objective she may choose. It is this dedication that was instrumental in mak-

ing the CSM cybersecurity labs becoming designated by the Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency as a "Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense for 2-year programs." There is no doubt she was the right person at the right time to make it happen.

A quick glimpse at her impressive record of accomplishments reveals her ability to pursue two parallel careers, that of a Naval Officer and as a civilian educator and leader in academia. A 1980 honors graduate of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, she was a member of the first class to include female midshipmen to graduate from this prestigious "men only" school. She pursued a naval career in the Meteorology and Oceanography field, but don't call her a "weather guesser." She fulfilled her 6-year obligation then transferred to the Naval Reserves where she continued for an additional 21 years and attained the rank of Captain. When she retired, she was the senior naval officer in her field.

Earlier in her career as a Lieutenant Junior Grade stationed in California, she was approached by a Lieutenant Glen Ives, a more senior officer, and gave him a "snappy" salute that thoroughly caught him off guard. She impressed him with her military bearing. As they chatted, she soon learned Glen was also a Naval Academy grad having graduated a few years earlier. They later married and started a family.

Barbara began her teaching career as a certified instructor in the California Community College system and then taught in several states due to their numerous Navy assignments. Her primary focus was in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math [STEAM]. She became a certified science fair judge for the Office of Naval Research. In 2001, the Ives family was transferred to Patuxent River and Barbara was hired by St. Mary's Ryken High School to teach Math and later became head of the Math Department. She was selected as "Veteran Teacher of the Year" by the Archdiocese of Washington and later honored by Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich as a "National Honor Roll Outstanding American Teacher."

Later, Barbara founded and served as the Director of the Individual Augmentee Spouse Support Group [IASSG] an organization designed to support spouses and families of service members serving overseas fighting the Global War on Terror. Her program became the model for all of these programs that formed throughout the country. For her efforts she was awarded the Maryland Governor's Volunteer Service Award as well as the Navy Meritorious Public Service Award for her support of 450 spouses and their families during her service.

In 2008, Barbara was selected as Dean of Academics for St. Mary's Ryken and rapidly went to work with developing new innovative and effective STEAM programs. She again was recognized as a "Xaverian Pillar of the Community Leader" for her development, implementation and management of



Xaverian Programs of Academic Excellence and STEAM curriculum. Additionally, she designed rigorous curricula to prepare her students for college. Further, she oversaw the development of a robotics programs and a Middle School Leadership Course with the support of many government leaders at the local, state, and national levels.

Over the years, this energetic lady continued to initiate programs to acknowledge the needs of citizens while demonstrating a lifetime commitment to community service in making a positive difference in the lives of others. She continues to receive recognition for her great volume of work. She recently was honored by the St. Mary's County Commission for Women with her selection for their "Ruth Bader Ginsberg Lifetime Achievement Award."

In January 2018, she was selected as the interim College of Southern Maryland Vice President and Dean at the Prince Frederick Campus responsible for supervising college administration and overseeing college operations. She also became involved with GI Enterprises, a firm that provides educational consulting to support grant, educational management, and leadership training needs for the Southern Maryland region including schools and the Navy. She has served as the CEO for this woman veteran owned small business.

Finally, just prior to Barbara's acceptance of this latest recognition by CSM, her husband Glen took the podium to offer some special remarks about his remarkable wife. He put many smiles on the faces of the audience when he mentioned "he never had his name placed on "anything." Many in the crowd knew Glen as a great and popular Commanding Officer for the Naval Air Station Patuxent River. He too has a great reputation as a leader and a friend who cares for others. He has fully supported Barbara's efforts over their many years together. They are a great team and are greatly missed by many here since their retirement to Florida two years ago. Although they have gone, they are not forgotten. Together, they have left a wonderful legacy and set a great example for all to follow.

Pet of the Week

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BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! 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>



A View From The BLEACHERS



GOING TO OVERTIME

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

The current view from the bleachers reveals only courts with rusty poles, slightly bent rims and frayed nets waiting to snap with the splash of another successful shot. Kids are playing half court games at either end. Their voices echo, but their words are indiscernible. Sweat glistens on their skin. Their laughter and determination are infectious. Balls bounce in some hypnotic rhythm. These are beautiful sights and sounds.

Ahh...basketball. This busy "View" will need regulation and overtime.

For the former, we will start with horse...or H-O-R-S-E. Not the animal. The game. It's a universal basketball language. Simple. Fantastic. A test of basketball skills and the imagination. One player makes a shot, then the other has to sink it or get cursed with a scarlet letter. Fail to match your opponent five times and you spell out HORSE - and take the loss. The shots can be traditional jumpers, lay-ups or deep bombs. And, if called in advance, they can be creative. Underhand shots. Bank shots. Behind the backboard attempts. Hook shots. Back to the basket. Bounce off the ground. Blindfolded. Whatever you can imagine.

I would lose HORSE to Caitlin Clark, Iowa's sensational guard and newly anointed all-time leading scorer in women's NCAA history, every time. It wouldn't be close. I would take an honorable "L".

Shooters, man. Here's the thing about them. Scant few humans can dunk. Just as few have elite basketball athleticism. And the masses who can't dunk and possess only modest moves, are acutely aware of said limitations; they aren't in the backyard duplicating Michael Jordan's dunks or LeBron James's fly-through-the-air-and-pin-the-ball-on-the-backboard blocks. Maybe on a Nerf rim, but not a real basketball court. This is other-worldly stuff beyond the capability of "normal" humans. We watch. Jaws drop. And that's it.

Shooters leave the imaginative door ajar. Anyone who has played basketball at any level sees the stuff Larry Bird did, and that Stephen Curry and Clark do, and thinks, hmm...I can do that. I can hit a fade-away jumper. I can finger-roll. I can drill "logo threes" two steps inside half-court. And we can. Not every time. Not regularly. Certainly not while being defended and in the clutch. But in the backyard? All alone? Sometimes. Sometimes we can hit those shots. And...it...feels...fantastic.

Which is, I think, part of Clark's allure. She is one of the best basketball players I've ever seen and maybe the best women's player ever. Her range, feel for the game, flair for the dramatic, confidence, command of the stage - sensational. She is the biggest thing in college basketball since some long-ago previous biggest thing that escapes my aging and cluttered mind. Around the country (world?), little kids, teenagers and aging weekend warriors, are shuffling out to public courts, driveways and hoops at the end of cul-de-sacs, and doing their best Caitlin Clark imitations. It usually ain't pretty, but every now and then, a shot tickles the nylon as it splashes through the hoop. These are the warm thoughts Clark inspires.

Clark's recent assault on the NCAA scoring record has been magic. It embodies everything we love about sports. She's transcended individual moments and accolades. This is an all-time, generational player doing stuff never seen before. It's prime Jordan. It's peak Jerry Rice. It's Wayne Gretzky hoisting Stanley Cups in Edmonton. It's Serena Williams and Novak Djokovic. It is one of those beautiful things that life drops in your lap sometimes and, with this likely her last season at Iowa, the only proper thing to do is enjoy it (and attempt feeble backyard replications).

Overtime: Charles "Lefty" Driesell passed away last week. He was 92. Maryland basketball fans of a certain vintage know that no greater personality has coached or played for the Terrapins. He was the coach of my youth - a bombastic, determine cuss who shook a defiant fist at the Atlantic Coast Conference power brokers in the state of North Carolina. I am grateful for the disdain he sowed for Duke and North Carolina; part of fanhood, part of loving a team, is knowing who to hate. Rest easy, Lefty. Tell Lenny we said hello (#34forever).
Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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In Remembrance

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

Phyllis Pilkerton, 88



Mary Phyllis Pilkerton, "Nanny", 88, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on February 16, 2024 at her home surrounded by her family. Born on February 24,

1935 in Clements, MD, she was the youngest child of the late Mattingly Gibbons Johnson and Catherine Elizabeth (Drury) Johnson.

Phyllis graduated from St. Mary's Academy in June 1953 and married William Archie Pilkerton, Jr. on September 26, 1953; they just recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with close family and friends.

Phyllis is survived by her husband, Archie, two children, Dale Pilkerton, Sr. of Hollywood, MD and Denise Finch (Eddie) of Mechanicsville, MD, her daughter-in-law, Debbie Pilkerton of Hollywood, MD, six grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son, Ricky Pilkerton, who passed in August 2023.

Phyllis worked at Mechanicsville Elementary School as a teacher's aide for five years, as well as Southern Maryland Oil for 28 years. She enjoyed vacations with family and friends, playing bingo, going on

bus trips to Dover or Harrington, playing Pitch and LRC, baking cakes, and making rosaries. Phyllis loved watching the Orioles and Ravens on TV, and took great pleasure in watching her children and grandchildren's sporting events, recitals, and competitions.

Phyllis belonged to the Ladies' Sodality at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Morganza, MD. She loved angels and surrounded herself with them, and her family is comforted to know that they now have one in Phyllis. She will be in our hearts forever and missed by all that knew her kind, caring spirit.

The family will receive friends on February 27, 2024 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 Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 10:00 AM in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Morganza, MD with Father Drew Royals officiating. Interment will follow at the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be her grandchildren, Dale Pilkerton, Jr., Timmy Pilkerton, Randy Pilkerton, Kevin Pilkerton, Eddie Finch, Jr., and Steven Kiley. Honorary pallbearers will be Kelly, Kiley, and Rachel Pilkerton, her great grandchildren, and her daily caregivers, all of whom have truly become family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O.

Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

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

Geneva Farrell, 91



Geneva Clarine Farrell, beloved widow, mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, 91, of Avenue, MD passed peacefully

on February 13, 2024, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born at home on February 20, 1932, in Greeneville, Tennessee to the late Gertrude Rosella Carter Presley and Frank Presley. Geneva was preceded in death by her first husband, the father of her children, J T West, second husband, Richard M. Farrell, four sisters, Mable Frances Presley, Lucille Wright Babb, Dorothy Jean Babb, and Elsie Hendrickson, brother in laws C.L. Greer, Jessie James Babb, and Howard "Booty" Babb, daughters Debbie Jean Hall and Freida Kay Dixon, son in law Ronnie Hall, granddaughter Linda May Clarke and grandson James Camden Whitney.

Geneva dedicated many years as a geriatric care giver at the St. Mary's Nursing Center and Office of Aging. Her most important job was mother to her children and grandmother to her grandchildren. Those who were close to Geneva knew her as loyal and loving to her family and friends and as a faithful Christian witness. She spent most of her time gardening, canning, and sewing. She was amazing with a needle and thread. She enjoyed repairing clothing and making quilts for her family and friends. Her evenings were spent watching Wheel of Fortune and 10 o'clock news.

Geneva is survived by her daughters Judy Marie Wilson of Leonardtown, MD, Kathy Lynn Bell (Johnny) of Leonardtown, MD. Grandchildren Sherry Hawkins, Christopher Johnson of Jacksonville, FL, Heather Bellosi (Marco), Lisa Ryce (Timmy), Timmy Dixon, Gary Quade Jr., Kerri Hall (Alex), and Ashley Bell Whitney (J.B.). Great-grandchildren Shane Hawkins, Cory Hawkins of CA, Seth Hawkins, Devin Johnson of CO, Lil Marco Bellosi III, Joshua Bellosi, Daniel Bellosi, James Bellosi, Matthew Bellosi, Cameron Dixon, Jacob Johnson, Cheyenne Knott (Michael), Heaven Ryce, Abi Ryce, Lizzy Ryce, Piper Ryce, Lynnzey Stonestreet (Derek), Bella Quade, Suzie Quade, Tiara Campbell, Jayden Gough, Bryan Gough, Bryson Gough, Jayson Gough, Amelia Bell, and Cannon Whitney. Great-great-grandchildren Cohen Hawkins, Coralynn Hawkins of CA, Giuliana Bellosi, Izzabella Bellosi, Michael Knott Jr, Ronald Knott, Derek Stonestreet Jr., and Grayson Stonestreet. Sister Wanda Greer of Johnson City, TN and brother Kenneth "Billy" Presley of Kankakee, IL, many nieces and nephews,

and her beloved cat, Wiggles.

The family will receive family and friends on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD from 10 AM to 12 PM. The funeral services will be held at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Gardens in Waldorf, MD.

Pallbearers will be Christopher Johnson, Timmy Dixon, Gary Quade Jr., Cory Hawkins, Devin Johnson and Joshua Bellosi. Honorary pallbearers are Sherry Hawkins, Heather Bellosi, Lisa Ryce, Kerri Hall, and Ashley Bell Whitney.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Becky Krueger, 63



Rebecca Ann Krueger, 63, of Hollywood, MD, passed away on February 13, 2024.

She is survived by her husband, William B. Krueger, her brothers

Daniel Kulick and August Kulick, her three children, Jennifer B. Miller (née Krueger), William C. Krueger (wife Christine Krueger), and Brian W. Krueger (wife Justina Krueger), her five grandchildren, Noah, Everly, Hannah, Abigail, and Autumn, and her dog, Piper.

Rebecca Krueger, (née Kulick) "Becky", born in Oakland, CA, to August and Magdalene Kulick on May 17, 1960, having two additional brothers who passed before her, Richard Kulick and David Kulick, attended Lansdowne High School in Baltimore County, MD.

She married her high school sweetheart, William B. Krueger, "Bill" on February 17, 1980, sharing nearly 44 years of marriage. Together they had three wonderful children, Jenny, Billy and Brian, who gave her five precious grandchildren.

Becky, a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, was known for her ultimate compassion, empathy and love. Her family meant everything to her and she loved nothing more than being surrounded by her loved ones. Becky took great care and passion in raising her children and always considered this to be her greatest accomplishment in life.

Becky passed away surrounded by her family. No words can convey how deeply she will be missed.

Becky's family will receive family members and friends for a memorial gathering, to be held at the Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD on Saturday, February 24, 2024, from 12:00pm to 2:00pm with a service starting at 2:00pm. In lieu of flowers, you may consider making a donation to your local animal shelter.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A.

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Scott Richards, 68



Scott Hamilton Richards, 68 of Hollywood, MD passed away on February 3, 2024, at home with his family by his side leaving behind a legacy of love, honor, and cherished memories.

He was born on October 22, 1955 in Pennsylvania to Earl Delos Richards and Gloria Ann Murphy.

Born into a family of service and commitment, Scott lived a life defined by his unwavering dedication to his country, his family, and his passions. He served his nation with distinction earning the rank of Chief Warrant Officer as a member of the United States Navy, where his leadership, expertise, and devotion touched the lives of many.

After retiring from the USN, he continued to serve his country as a federal employee for the Patuxent River Naval Air Station where he retired in 2018. Scott was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Scott continued to serve long after his military days ended. His involvement in these communities enriched his life, providing him with lifelong friendships, support, and opportunities to give back to his fellow veterans.

Beyond his service, Scott was known for his love of sports, meticulously maintaining his lawn, and a knack for being able to complete the crossword puzzle printed in the "Sunday" paper.

Scott will be fondly remembered for his warm heart, unwavering sense of duty, and his gentle spirit. He leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories that will forever live on the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know him.

The family will receive friends on February 28, 2023 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. with a funeral service at 11:00 a.m. officiated by Pastor Chris Whetlor, at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will follow at 2:30 p.m., at Maryland Veterans Cemetery, 11301 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, MD 20623.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 21 years, Michelle Richards, his children, Heather Hamilton (Kurt) of Mechanicsville, MD, "Bucky" Jonathan Stone (Jennifer) of Mechanicsville, MD; brother, David Richards (Donna) of Monroe, New Jersey, Pam Delapena (Thomas, "TJ") of Enon, Ohio; grandchildren, Miley Stone, Claire Hamilton, Mason Stone, Clayton Hamilton. He was preceded in death by his parents.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Hollywood Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 79, Hollywood, MD 20636 and Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Norman Stauffer, 82

Norman M. Stauffer, 82 of Leonardtown, MD passed away on February 19, 2024 at home with his family by his side.

He was born on May 31, 1941 in Ephrata, PA to the late David W. Stauffer and Mary A. Martin.

Norman is survived by his wife, Mary B. Stauffer and his children: Norman Stauffer, Jr. (Esther) of Warsaw, VA, Pauline Stauffer (Steven) of Mechanicsville, MD, Thelma Sensenig (John) of Ephrata, PA; Rebecca Zimmerman (Pheryl David) of Hillsboro, OH; Calvin Stauffer (Margaret) of Elkhorn, KY, Allen Stauffer (Susan) of Hillsboro, OH; Lorraine Stauffer (Dwayne) of Mechanicsville, MD; Catherine Stauffer (Anthony) of Mechanicsville, MD; Russell Stauffer (Angeline) of Leonardtown, MD; Eileen Martin (Warren) of Leonardtown, MD; Marion Stauffer (Randy) of Warsaw, VA; his sister, Elizabeth Brubaker (Paul) of Scottsville, KY; brother, Levi M. Stauffer (Elsie) of Liverpool, PA; sister-in-law's, Grace Stauffer of Leonard, MN and Arlene Stauffer, Port Trevorton, PA; 115 grandchildren; and 118 great grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his daughter-in-law, Sandra Stauffer (first wife of Norman Stauffer, Jr.); four brothers including, Daniel Stauffer and John Stauffer; four sisters; and three great-grandchildren.

Family will receive friends on Thursday, February 22, 2024 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the family home, 24945 Pincushion Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Funeral Service will be held on Friday, February 23, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. at Stauffer Mennonite Church. Interment will be held in the church cemetery.

Hugh Meehan, 83



Hugh F. Meehan, Sr. of St. Mary's County, Maryland died peacefully on February 11, 2024 at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home surrounded by his family.

He was born on August 5, 1940, in Chicago, IL. In 1958, Hugh enlisted in the United States Navy and proudly served his country for 20 dedicated years until his retirement as a Master Chief in 1978. After retiring from the U.S. Navy, he settled in Mechanicsville, Maryland where he continued his support for his country by working for Tracor/BAE Systems as a military defense contractor until his second retirement in 2000. He was an avid golfer and bowler. His retirement job was spent working in the golf shop at the Cedar Point Golf Course at Patuxent Naval Air Station and volunteering with AARP supplying tax services to the elder.

Hugh is survived by his wife Marilyn Massarini Meehan. Together they celebrated 62 years of marriage. In addition to his wife, Marilyn, he is also survived by his sister, Sister Grace Marie, his children, Angela Bronson, Hugh Meehan, Jr, Michelle Schuck, and Tina Wood along with 7 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

The family will have a Celebration of

Life at the Wildewood Village Event Center, 23154 Wetstone Lane, California, MD 20619 on February 16, 2024 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. with service at 11:30 a.m. Interment will be held at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, 29449 Charlotte Hall Rd, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Rita Cole-Murphy, 75



Mary Laurita "Rita" Cole-Murphy, 75, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away peacefully on February 15, 2024. Rita was born on October 7, 1948, and was the daughter of the late Albert Joseph Gray, Sr. and Ida Elizabeth "Bessie" (Hill) Gray of Chaptico, MD.

Rita graduated from Chopticon High School in 1966. She worked at Towne Florist for 25 years and then took a position with the United States Postal Service in Mechanicsville in 1992. She retired in 2015. Rita enjoyed spending her free time attending Street Rod Car Shows, going to yard sales, visiting casinos (win or lose, she always had a good time), and being with her family and friends. Rita was very talented at sewing, painting, and making floral arrange-

ments. She was loved by everyone she met.

Rita is survived by her husband, John Louis Murphy, son Chris Cole (Pam), and her grandson, Casey, her siblings, Pat Gray (Betty Ann), Judy Frank (Charlie), Michael Gray (Debbie), Elaine Joy (John), Glenda Mast (Wayne), and Maureen Abell (Timmy), as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Rita is predeceased by her parents, her first husband, Bill Cole (9/19/2014), her sisters Ida Dishinger (1/12/2022), Barbara Ferguson (8/1/2022), Marian Murdock (10/5/2022), and her brothers-in-law, Bill Dishinger, Dave Ferguson, Gail Murdock, and David Anderson.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, February 28th from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a prayer service will be held on Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 10:00 AM. Interment will follow at Queen of Peace Cemetery, Helen, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Casey Cole, Michael Gray, John Joy, Wayne Mast, Charlie Frank, and Jeffrey Gray. Honorary pallbearers will be Pat Gray and Timmy Abell.

Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

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



7th District Optimist Club

OUR BEER BATTERED COD IS BACK!

**Homemade Beer Battered Atlantic Cod
Buttermilk Fried Shrimp
Combination Platter Available
Steak Fries, Homemade Coleslaw,
Tartar Sauce, and a Roll**

FRIDAYS 5-7PM

Feb. 16 & 23: Fish & Shrimp

Mar. 1: Shrimp & Oysters (Fried)

Mar. 8, 15, & 22: Menu Options to Be Announced

\$20 CASH OR CREDIT

Proceeds to Benefit Optimist Youth Outreach Programs

STEAMED SHRIMP ALSO AVAILABLE: 1/2LB FOR \$10, 1LB FOR \$18

**7th District Optimist Club
21804 Coltons Point Rd
Avenue, MD**

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, Feb 23

Lenten Fish Fry

St. George Catholic Church
19199 St Georges Church Rd., Valley Lee
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Come get your fresh caught catfish or steamed shrimp dinners with french fries, pancit and more. \$20 per take out order, we will be there until sold out, so come early!

SMTMD HomeSpun Coffee House Open Mic

Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall
37497 Zach Fowler Rd., Chaptico
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Acoustic musicians of all skill levels are warmly welcomed to perform their favorite tunes. Doors open at 7 pm with performances beginning promptly at 7:30 PM. Admission is \$8; performers are admitted free of charge. Contact Chris Dudley in advance (ccdudley@rocketmail.com) to sign up as a performer. Info: smtmd2@gmail.com, www.smtmd.org/#/open-mic-night/

Sat, Feb 24

Coach Purse Bingo

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
27636 Mechanicsville Rd., Mechanicsville
12 noon to 5 p.m.

Presale tickets will go on sale Monday, February 12th for \$35. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$40. Admission includes 1 set of regular games.

*Raffle *Silent Auction *Extra games/specials available for purchase *Refreshments will be available for purchase

For more information or to purchase tickets contact Building Blocks of Faith at (301) 752-9802 or bbfschool@hotmail.com.

TEDxGreatMills 2024

Three Notch Theatre
21744 South Coral Dr., Lexington Park
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Get tickets: www.eventbrite.com/e/tedxgreatmills-2024-registration-756278327837

Join us for a lively evening of talks, performances, and interactive conversations with our 5 fabulous speakers and what happens when we open our minds to the infinite possibilities of "Yes, and..."!

Be inspired by our fascinating speakers as we explore music, how to apply conceptual thinking to social media and world dilemmas, decision-making in the face of AI and genetically engineered organisms, how we think about death, and more at our next TEDxGreatMills LIVE event.

- Michael Santos, Ph.D.: Uncharted territory: High-stakes decision-making for world-changing technologies
- Dr. Dale L. Moore: The Art, Science and Power of Conceptual Thinking
- Joel Tuminaro: Sharing Peaceful Handpan Music
- Jennifer Hopwood, Ed.D: How a lack of psychological safety can lead to creativity resistance
- Laura Lyster-Mensh: Yes, we all die, and talking about it won't kill us.

Whether you envision a black-tie affair or a casual ceremony, these experts can offer their services to help create timeless & treasured memories.

\$5/person at the door.

Info: porzia.purves@maryland.gov or 301-994-4400.

Upcoming

Leonardtown Lions Club: Guest Speaker John Richards

Olde Breton Inn
21890 Society Hill Rd, Leonardtown
Wednesday, March 6
7:30 p.m.

John Richards, President of the St. Mary's County Fair Association, will be the Guest Speaker at the Leonardtown Lions Club meeting.

"(I) will blow all the smoke away and reveal the truth about what has developed into a community resource, how it all got started, and what the future holds."

All interested community members are invited to attend. Buffet Dinner (optional 6:45) For reservations contact Lion George georgekirbylions@gmail.com

Sun, Feb 25

Wedding Expo at Historic St. Mary's City

47418 Old State House Rd.,
St. Mary's City
1p.m. to 4p.m.

Featuring an amazing selection of wedding professionals to help you find the perfect gown, reception venue, invitations, photographer, music, menu, honeymoon des-

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Community Garden Orientation & Gardening 101

Come hear all about Lexington Manor Passive Park's new community garden and learn the fundamentals of gardening from a Master Gardener! All are welcome! Come join us for all or just part of the morning's activities at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, February 24 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. We will first learn about our new community garden, opening at Lexington Manor Passive Park on March 2! After the garden orientation, there will be a Gardening 101 Class taught by a Master Gardener. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Live Irish Music

Captain John Pomerville, AKA "Captain John" will perform an array of Irish music, sprinkled with stories and history from the Emerald Isle at Leonardtown Library on Friday, March 1 from 2 – 3 p.m. Captain John is a retired Navy

Captain and civil servant who performs many styles of music including American folk, country, classic rock, Irish ballads, and Gaelic tunes throughout Southern Maryland and the DMV. This program is recommended for ages 10 and up. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Gardening for Biodiversity: Connecting People and Native Plants for A Healthy Planet

Explore the fascinating world of pollinators and beautiful Maryland native plants, while learning to recognize invasive "look-a-like" plant species that are commonly found in home gardens at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, March 2 from 10 – 11 a.m. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Join Esther Bonney and Sam Rutherford, co-founders of Nurture Natives, along with Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay founders Marlene and Bill Smith, for an inspiring and educational family event. After the presentation, there will be pollinator

crafts and activities, igniting a passion for conservation among all ages. You don't want to miss out on this inspiring presentation and workshop! Register on www.stmalib.org.

Loteria (Bingo) for Everyone!: Bilingual Bingo

It's a family event! All ages can have fun learning Spanish while playing Loteria, a fun Bingo game. Fun prizes for the winners! Lexington Park Library on Saturday, March 2 from 10 – 11 a.m. Join us for a morning of Loteria (Mexican Bingo) for all ages! The bingo boards have colorful pictures with Spanish words labeling the picture. Pictures will be called in Spanish and translated to English, giving you an opportunity to learn new Spanish or English words! Registration is recommended on www.stmalib.org. Walk-ins welcome as space allows.

Únase a nosotros para una mañana de Lotería para todas las edades! Los table-

ros de bingo tienen imágenes que se llamarán en español y se traducirán al inglés, ¡dándote la oportunidad de aprender nuevas palabras en español o inglés! Se recomienda registrarse. Se admiten personas sin cita previa según lo permita el espacio.
Register on www.stmalib.org.

How to Spot Fake News Online

Sharing the news with others? In the digital age, anyone can publish anything on the internet, even if it's completely false. This lecture will explain the way technology has made it easier to create and spread misinformation at Lexington Park Library on Monday, March 4 from 3 – 5 p.m. We'll discuss tools to evaluate news sources and review helpful fact-checking sites. You'll learn why it's important to read and check your sources before sharing! Register on www.stmalib.org.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Summer Camps



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www.BlackBeltAcademy.US.com

St. Mary's Has Lots of Summer Camps

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Summer will be here in a few months and St. Mary's has lots of opportunities for parents to ensure their children can have fun but still learn something when school lets out.

Some of the programs available have only been running for a short while, yet others have been operating for nearly 30 years.

At Camp Maria retreat center outside Leonardtown, staff there are leading young people aged 7-to-14 years old through Camp Creation, which introduces campers to the environment around them through a variety of activities.

"It's fishing, it's crabbing, it's canoeing, arts and crafts," said Greg Shedd, operations manager at Camp Maria. "We're trying to raise awareness of the ecosystem and the health of the [Chesapeake] Bay."

Shedd said that children who come to the day camp will learn about environmental stewardship and how they relate to the world around them.

This is just the second year that Camp Creation has run, Shedd said, and the session will run from July 15 through July 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At Black Belt Academy in California, Kyu Shim, Tae Kwon Do master, will be holding his 25th summer camp this year for young people aged 4 years old to 13 years old. The camp runs from June 17 through Aug. 19.

Along with teaching the Korean martial art — which is also an Olympic sport — stu-



dents will be able to take multiple field trips throughout their time there, from movies to magic shows, including trips to the Great Mills public swimming pool.

Games, arts and crafts are also part of the 10-week summer camp curriculum, Shim said, as well as weapons training and gymnastics.

"I'm expecting 60 to 80 students this year," Shim told The County Times, noting spaces were filling up quickly already.

Rich Olon, who runs the summer camp program for St. John's School and Catholic Church in Hollywood said their program is actually 86 individual and distinct learning opportunities for young people for eight weeks between June 17 and Aug. 9.

"Some camps run for just one week to two or three weeks," Olon said,

They include acting, baking, paintball, "gross and fun" science, junior engineering, volleyball, POM squad, sushi camp,

survival, flag football, stuffed animal design and Nerf wars, Olon said.

He said the camp employs approximately 80 high school and college students over the summer to teach each camp class; the program usually draws between 350 to 400 campers each week.

"This will be our 14th consecutive year," Olon said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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July 8 - July 12

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July 15 - July 20

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July 14 - July 20

info@brendansailing.org
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St. John's Summer Program

www.StJohnsSummerProgram.com

Hollywood, MD

2024



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8 weeks of camps from June 17th – August 9th

Ages 4-14

Online Registration opens March 3rd - www.StJohnsSummerProgram.com

80+ different camps offered! Among others: Air & Space, Baking, Candy Making, Cheerleading, Combat Archery, Cooking, Drone Academy, Duct Tape Fabrication, Escape Room, Emergency Med Training, Flag Football, Golf, Graphic Design Camp, Gross & Fun Science, Hot Wheels, Jr. Engineering, Lacrosse, LegoMotion, Lucky Dog Camp, Man vs. Wild, Minecraft, Mixed Martial Arts, Musical Theatre, Neon Glow Art, Paintball, Pizza Shoppe, Soccer, Spa Science, Survival Training, Sushi Camp, Tennis, Volleyball and War Games.

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Ages
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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Feb 22

S.T.E.A.M. PUNKS: A Different Perspective

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

Experience new technology and techniques as we adventure with science, engineering, math and the arts! We'll be exploring the use of perspective by artists like Georges Seurat and Yayoi Kusama! For artists in grades K to 5. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Feb 23

On Pins & Needles

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

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

Maritime Performance Series: THE BURNETT SISTERS BAND

Calvert Marine Museum
7 p.m.

The Burnett Sisters Band, based in Boone, North Carolina, consists of five members who create a unique blend of energetic music in the old-time, folk, classic country, and bluegrass traditions. Performance is in the museum's Harms Gallery starting at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online, up to one day prior, at bit.ly/MaritimeConcerts and \$25 the day of the concert, online and at the door.

Sat, Feb 24

Garden Smarter

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10-11 a.m.

Presentation on over 2 dozen invasive plants, vines, shrubs, and trees found in Calvert County. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Brain Games: Mahjongg

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
12-3 p.m.

Want to learn Mahjongg? Already know but want to play? Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us!

Please register. Interested in reading about Mahjongg? Take a look at what the library has. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Jewelry / Earring Workshop

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
2-4 p.m.

Join us to create wire wrapped earrings, learn how to use jewelry tools and work with wire while listening to meditation music on Freegal. You will leave with finished earrings and basic wire working knowledge to create your own jewelry at home with a new appreciation for meditation and relaxation surrounding art. You may even be inspired to learn more about jewelry making or start another hobby, maybe even a jewelry-making business. Please be aware each workshop covers the exact same material, choose one date to join us! 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, Feb 25

North Beach: Yesterday and Today: Our Homes, Our History

North Beach Town Hall
8916 Chesapeake Ave, North Beach
1-2 p.m.

Join us to talk to historian/storytellers Grace Mary Brady and Vincent P Turner II. Co-sponsored by Calvert Library, Bayside History Museum and John Hanson Chapter NSDAR. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fossil Club Meeting and Free Public Lecture

Calvert Marine Museum
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

The CMM Fossil Club meeting is at 1:30 p.m. in the Harms Gallery, followed by a free public lecture by Dr. Ralph Eshelman at 2:30 p.m. Dr. Eshelman will speak on Maryland Mammoths, Mastodons, and Gomphotheres.

Mon, Feb 26

S.T.E.A.M. PUNKS: A Different Perspective

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

Experience new technology and techniques as we adventure with science, engineering, math and the arts! We'll be exploring the use of perspective by artists like Georges Seurat and Yayoi Kusama! For artists in grades K to 5. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Monday Night Movie Musings

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way & Zoom
7-8 p.m.

This month's movie is: "Raising Arizona". It is available on Hoopla through Calvert Library. Watch the movie prior to the Zoom event and join us for a lively discussion on Monday night. Please register to receive an emailed link to the Zoom event an hour before it begins. Frantic and chaotic, yet somehow at the same time endearing and full of love, "Raising Arizona" (1987) is a wildly fun romp through the world of H.I. "Hi" McDunnough (Nicolas Cage) and his wife Edwina "Ed" McDunnough (Holly Hunter). Watch it here: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/movie/raising-arizona-nicolas-cage/14092119>. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Feb 27

Maritime Course: Make your own Sailor's Ditty Bag

Calvert Marine Museum
7 – 9 p.m.

Craft your very own classic sailor's ditty bag during this 8-hour course. A ditty bag is designed to hold the tools for repairing sails and canvas items on vessels. By the end of the course, you'll have a finished basic ditty bag and possess the skills and materials to personalize it and make it uniquely yours. Classes will meet at CMM's Patuxent Small Craft Center on Tuesdays, Feb. 27, and March 5, 12, & 19, 2024. Class is limited to six adults, ages 18 and older. Tuition Fee: \$35. Tools and materials fee: \$55. For more information, or to register, please visit: <https://calvert-marinemuseum.doubleknot.com/event/make-your-own-sailors-ditty-bag/3031929>

Wed, Feb 28

Job Seeker Resources - Skillbuilders

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Maryland Department of Labor, Veterans Program, Senior Community Service Employment and Job Service representatives will meet with those seeking employment or career change. Walk-ins welcome on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. If you have questions or need more information about resources available, please contact Cheryl Thorne at Maryland Department of Labor (cheryl.thorne@maryland.gov). 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Grooving and Moving

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
9:30-10 a.m. and 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Join us for Grooving and Moving where we will use music and movement to start the day! Fans of Storytime will enjoy this music session as we move, play instruments and sing together. For ages Birth - 5. Registration Required. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Professional Interview Workshop

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Participants will learn professional techniques and the importance of effective interviewing. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

THE BASICS: School Readiness Series

Calvert Country School
1350 Dares Beach Rd, Prince Frederick
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Stop by to learn ways to boost your child's early learning skills in routines you already do! Explore ideas and hands-on activities for morning routines, mealtimes, shopping, bath time, play, car rides and bedtime for children birth - age 3. Theme - Count, Group and Compare. Co-sponsored with Calvert Library, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Reading Buddies

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
6:30-7:30 p.m.

At this event, elementary aged children will do fun activities and read out loud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thu, Feb 29

Little Minnows

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

This month's theme is Chesapeake 1, 2, 3. For preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Join us for story time and craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25 – 40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Included with museum admission.

In Remembrance

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

Eileen Kleinheinz, 91



Eileen Kleinheinz (nee Michel) quickly passed away on February 8, 2024, days after celebrating her 91st birthday with family and staff at The Landings of Lake Gaston where she resided.

Eileen was born in New Jersey to parents, George and Edith who moved the family to Springfield, MA and later to Hyattsville, MD. Eileen and her 2 sisters Marilyn (Mannie) Hooker and Dorothy (Dottie) Hussmann grew up there and graduated from Hyattsville High School.

Eileen married Jim in 1958 and they began their family immediately. Patience was not her strong suit. The family grew up in Cheverly, MD where they established their lifelong friends who all eventually relocated to Chesapeake Beach, MD or nearby.

Eileen was an active parishioner of St. Anthony's Catholic Church where she had taught Faith Formation, served as a Eucharistic Minister, and was a member of the Ladies of Charity.

Eileen cherished her children and especially her grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Time with family was often in the form of holiday and Sunday dinners, pool parties, celebrations at their home, and an annual family vacation, where the Kleinheinz family talent show was always a highlight.

In 2020, after 62 years of marriage, she lost her soulmate and eventually moved to assisted living in Lake Gaston. She had regular visitors and greatly treasured her time with Mark and Mary who brought her pug, Gia, to sit in her lap while facetimeing her great grandbabies.

Eileen is survived by her children, Lynn (Mike) Weiner, Lori (Wayne) Romanek, Mark (Mary) Kleinheinz, Marcia (Matt) Colender; grandchildren, Michele (John) Buckley, Erica (Jake) Meer, Matthew Romanek, Michael Kleinheinz, Matthew Kleinheinz, Alex (Amanda) Weiner, Marissa (Jake) Herritt, Nate Colender, Faith Colender, Josephine Colender; great grandchildren, Ezekiel Herritt and Summer Buckley, and her beloved pug, Gia.

A service will be held to honor her beautiful life and legacy at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 8816 Chesapeake Ave., North Beach, MD, 20714 on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. The Ladies of Charity Calvert County will be leading a Rosary at 11:30 AM, followed by the Eulogy. Mass will begin at 12:00 Noon. Inurnment to follow the service at Jesus the Good Shepherd Cemetery, 1601 W. Mount Harmony Rd., Owings, MD, 20736. Afterwards, all are invited to return to St. Anthony's social hall for a reception and sharing of memories.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Eileen's memory to one of her favorite charities:

- MarCIA Courage in Action: marciacourageinaction.org
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital: stjude.org

What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending Category 1 site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their Feb. 21 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick.

1) CSPR-142807, **655 STR Gymnastics & Dance**, located at 655 Skimmers Turn Road, Owings, on multiple lots totaling 1.9 acres, zoned Light Industrial, utilizing private water and sewer. Proposed 10,800-square-foot building for holding classes in gymnastics (7,400 sf) and dance (3,400 sf). The submitted plan indicates a possible address change due to dual road frontage. The concept submittal was accepted March 23, 2022. Agent: Wilkerson & Associates.

2) CSPR-142988, **St. Leonard Volunteer Fire Department**, located on Calvert Beach Road, St. Leonard, on a 5.076-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Village District Subarea B. This project will have public water but will utilize a private septic system. Proposed 4.1 acres of disturbance for demolition of the existing pavilion and construction of a two-story, 40,280 -sf Fire & Rescue service building with eight double-loaded apparatus bays. The concept submittal was accepted June 28, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.

3) CSPR-142881, **Prince Frederick Town Center South, Shopping Plaza**, located on South Solomons Island Road, Prince Frederick, on 115-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Forest District. This project will have private water but will utilize public sewer. Proposed about 75,000-sf of commercial retail & office space with parking and site improvements. The concept submittal was accepted September 28, 2022. Agent: COA Barrett.

4) CSPR-143093, **Calvert C&D Recycling Center**, located in the Calvert Industrial Park on Ketch Road, Prince Frederick, on a 2.49-acre parcel, zoned Light Industrial, and is served by public water and sewer. The applicant proposes to develop the property as a commercial construction and demolition recycling facility with a 19,220-sf, one-story building with an anticipated 2.57 acres of disturbance for construction of the facility. The concept submittal was accepted October 25, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.

5) CSPR-143112, **CCIP Lot 3R**, located at 171 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, Lot 3R in the Calvert County Industrial Park, zoned Light Industrial. Proposed redevelopment of a portion of the 4.5-acre lot by demolishing the existing office and constructing a new two-story office building in its place. It is further proposed to repave the southern portion of the site and to construct a storage warehouse and wall to segregate parking between the storage building yard and the adjacent flex space tenants. A total of 6,524 sf of new construction with a total disturbance of 1.2-acres is proposed and the amenities will utilize public water and

sewer. The concept submittal was accepted December 20, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.

6) CSPR-143116, **145 Adelina Business Office**, located at 145 Adelina Road, Prince Frederick, combining Parcel 120 and Parcel 250, Lot 2 for a total of 2.44 acres, zoned Rural Commercial. Proposed remodeling of existing structure for use as an office and construction of a new 7,400 sf, two-story building for business-related storage with associated parking area required for the two buildings. This project will utilize private well and septic. The concept submittal was accepted December 20, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.

7) CSPR-143134, **Kelly Generator Storage Facility**, located at 7645 and 7655 Meadow Run Lane in Owings, MD. A redevelopment of Lots 6RR (1.43 acres) and 7RR (2.26 acres) in the Meadow Run Park Subdivision, zoned Light Industrial. Proposed construction of a 16,800-sf. two-story industrial storage facility with parking and site improvements. This project will utilize well and septic. The concept submittal was accepted January 24, 2024. Agent: COA Barret.

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

1) SD-142770, **Lusby Villas**, Lot 1, located on Lusby Parkway in Lusby. One commercial lot proposed on one parcel consisting of 24.87 acres, Zoned Lusby Town Center, Village Residential Office District, Tier I. The Preliminary Plan submittal was accepted January 26, 2022. Agent: COA Barrett.

2) SD-142999, **Magnolia Ridge**, located on Fox Run Boulevard, Prince Frederick, on a 31.29-acre parcel, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District and will be served by public water & sewer. Proposed 164 townhouse units and 96 apartments with a density of 8.3 units per acre. The project proposes 3.04 acres of recreation area and 12.58 acres of open space. The Preliminary Plan submittal was accepted August 23, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.

3) SD-143071, **Magnolia Ridge West**, located at Armory Road and Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, with frontage and access from Dares Beach Road & Armory Road. The project is proposed on multiple parcels totaling 26.3 acres, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District. The subdivision proposes 79 townhome lots and associated improvements with a density of about three units per acre. This project will be served by public water and sewer. A total of 19.47 acres of total open space is provided, including 3.81 acres of proposed recreation area. The preliminary submittal was accepted September 27, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.

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

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of February 5 – February 11, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to 1,948 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 61
- Disorderly: 24
- Domestic: 30
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 33
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 926
- Suspicious Persons/Vehicles: 27
- Traffic Complaints: 46
- 911 Hang Ups: 46
- Arrests: 11

NOTABLE CASES / INCIDENTS

CDS Violation: 24-10565 On February 9, 2024, Cpl. Kelly initiated a traffic stop in the area of Rt. 4 and Old Field Lane in Prince Frederick, for an equipment violation. Further investigation revealed K-9 Atlas conducted a K-9 sniff of the vehicle resulting in a positive alert. During a search of the driver, **Josephus Leroy Harris III**, 45 of Prince Frederick, several pills were located, along with \$300 in US Currency, two cell phones, and a snuff container and straw both containing a white powdery residue. A search of the passenger, **Tevon Anthony Middleton**, 35 of Prince Frederick, revealed



Josephus Leroy Harris III



Tevon Anthony Middleton

a scale covered in a white residue, seven Gabapentin pills, a cell phone, and a baggie containing two grams of suspected crack cocaine. A vehicle search revealed a scale with residue, a fourth cell phone, rip-offs containing multiple controlled dangerous substances and a baggie containing two grams of suspected crack cocaine. Both Harris and Middleton were transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. Harris was charged with CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics (x2), CDS Distribution, and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis (x2). Middleton was charged with CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics (x3) and CDS: Possession of Controlled Dangerous Paraphernalia (x2).

below the posted speed limit. Contact was made with the driver, **Dennis Monte Moore**, 27 of Lexington Park, who advised he did not have a valid driver's license. Further investigation revealed drug paraphernalia in plain view. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed a large sum of US currency, multiple rolled-up dollar bills covered in a white powdery substance, a plastic tear-off containing white powdery residue, 43 counterfeit Oxycodone pills, and a loaded Glock 17 gen 4 with a high-capacity magazine. A search of Moore's person revealed a bag containing 30 additional counterfeit Oxycodone pills. Moore was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Loaded Handgun in a Vehicle, CDS: Possession of Firearms, CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, Possessing a Firearm with a Felony Conviction along with several other firearm charges.



Dennis Monte Moore

CDS Violation: 24-10556 On February 8, 2024, Deputy Campbell initiated a traffic stop in the area of Monticello Drive in Solomons, on a vehicle displaying a false vehicle registration and traveling well below the posted speed limit. Contact was made with the driver, **Dennis Monte Moore**, 27 of Lexington Park, who advised he did not have a valid driver's license. Further investigation revealed drug paraphernalia in plain view. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed a large sum of US currency, multiple rolled-up dollar bills covered in a white powdery substance, a plastic tear-off containing white powdery residue, 43 counterfeit Oxycodone pills, and a loaded Glock 17 gen 4 with a high-capacity magazine. A search of Moore's person revealed a bag containing 30 additional counterfeit Oxycodone pills. Moore was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Loaded Handgun in a Vehicle, CDS: Possession of Firearms, CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, Possessing a Firearm with a Felony Conviction along with several other firearm charges.



Jaymen Ryan Greenfield

CDS Violation: 24-10281 On February 7, 2024, Master Deputy Cress initiated a traffic stop with lights and sirens activated on a vehicle for a moving violation. The vehicle continued traveling for several miles without stopping for deputies. Deputies executed a pit maneuver and a felony stop was conducted. Upon making contact with the driver **Jaymen Ryan Greenfield**, 38 of Temple Hills, a digital scale was observed in plain view. A vehicle search revealed three rocks of crack cocaine along with Amphetamine and Dextroamphetamine pills. A search of Greenfield's person revealed \$516 in US currency. Greenfield was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession- Not Cannabis and CDS:

Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics.



Robert Joseph Fry

Robert Joseph Fry, 46 of Lothian, who was driving on a suspended license, pieces of copper mesh were observed inside the vehicle. Further investigation revealed, K9 Zeus conducted a K9 sniff of Fry's vehicle resulting in a positive alert. A vehicle search revealed a glass smoking device with suspected crack cocaine, a Zip Lock baggie containing six grams of crack cocaine, one metal spoon with crack cocaine residue, a napkin containing small rocks of suspected cocaine along with a metal measuring spoon covered in cocaine residue. Fry was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Driving on a Suspended License, and Possessing a Suspended License.

Theft: 24-11170 On February 11, 2024, Cpl. J. Ward responded to Starbucks located at 55 Harrow Lane in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. Investigation revealed an unknown female entered the store and requested a paper menu. As the employee retrieved the menu in a back office, the suspect fled with a tip jar containing approximately \$20-\$30 in US currency. The suspect is described as a white female, approximately 5 feet 9 inches tall, with dark brown shoulder-length hair, wearing a black hoodie and gray sweatpants. The investigation continues.

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.com

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Recreational Facilities Capital Budget Presented

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As part of the six reviews of departmental capital budget requests, the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners on Feb. 13 reviewed the almost \$100 million, six-year recreational facilities request.

Capital Projects Analyst Veronica Atkinson said, "The Department of Finance & Budget has reviewed the Recreational Resources FY 2025-FY 2030 six-year CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) Staff Recommended Budget, totaling \$98,285,285. This allocation encompasses diverse initiatives, including recreational parks, pools, the Golf Course, and Natural Resource parks. The fiscal impact for Recreational Resources six-year CIP proposed budget of \$98,285,285, also includes \$18,062,285 in Grant Funding. The county funding portion is broken out below:

- Paygo/General Fund: \$ 6,615,300
- Debt/Bond: \$73,422,200
- Excise Tax: \$ 185,500
- Grants/Other: \$18,062,285
- Total county contribution: \$98,285,285

The discussion during the commissioners briefing included questions about the \$2 million budgeted for the Breezy Point camping pump out station. Acting Parks and Recreation Director Bob Branham said, "The move to transitioning to short-term camping at Breezy Point, there is a need to offer a pump-out station so that campers have easy access to get in and offload and get out of Blackwater Gray Water. Rather than use the current contract that we have for twice a week pumping of each individual camper."

He was asked if there was consideration for charging the campers for the pump out. He said, "We have not placed anything in the fee and revenue manual. We are currently working as a team on updating the fee and revenue manual. So, I would think that the plan would be to reflect it in the cost of camping or to have a fee to dump. But our current fees are a little high for the individualized pump outs. We're on a contract and it's roughly \$50 a pump out that we have to pay. It was put out to bid and that was the best deal we got. So, I think it actually could be a cost saving measure to the consumer as well.

Branham was asked how critical the \$875,000 budget item for Breezy Point parking and drainage was. He said, "I would say extremely. The property holds water and the design for this was to mitigate that, not only impermeable but permeable surfaces. So, we think that would be almost a phased approach. I think that that has to be done before you can have a pump out station. The likelihood is that there would be flooding around the pump station when it's holding water."

Park and Safety Division Chief Amanda Stillwagon explained the \$1 million for Cove Point Park is to "start building Cove Point Park out per its master plan. But I can tell you all right now, the biggest thing that I see as an issue there is the playground. It's in really, really bad shape. And to put it into perspective, when we replaced the playground that Dunkirk District Park a few years ago, we were just shy of \$800,000 then. So that million dollars could be used simply just to replace the playground, put in some new bottle filling stations, maybe some new covered areas for folks. It really is our main playground in the southern end of the county."



Acting P & R Director Bob Branham

The commissioners will resume their CIP review at their Feb. 27 meeting.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Three Injured in Huntingtown House Fire



Photo from Huntingtown VFD

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Three people reportedly suffered injuries in a Feb. 15 house fire in Huntingtown. Those injured were occupants of the home.

Elyse McKinstry of the fire department reported on their website: "At approximately 1230 hours, Huntingtown VFD and surrounding companies responded to the 800 block of Pat Lane for the house fire, with possible entrapment. While enroute, Calvert Emergency Communications advised units

that all occupants were out of the house. Engine 61 and Chief 6B arrived to find fire showing from the Charlie side of a single-story structure. Huntingtown units located a bedroom on fire and extinguished the same. Units operated until 1345 hours. Chief 6B Thrasher held the Huntingtown Command."

The extent of the injuries is not known at this time. The Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office was advised of the fire but did not respond to it.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Prince Frederick Man Facing Murder Charges

Deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau on Feb. 15 at approximately 10:22 p.m. responded to the area of Armory Road and Fairgrounds Road in Prince Frederick for the report of a serious assault. Deputies arrived on the scene and located one adult male suffering from critical injuries.

Emergency Medical Services responded to the scene and rendered aid to the victim. The victim identified as Shaquille Quadry Braxton, 30 of Prince Frederick, was transported to CalvertHealth where he succumbed to his injuries and was later pronounced deceased.

Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Bureau responded and assumed the investigation.

Through the investigation, detectives located the suspect Thomas Eugene Harris II, 27 of Prince Frederick, who was taken into custody. Harris was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and has been charged with First-Degree Murder and First-Degree Assault. Additional charges will be forthcoming.

This appears to be an isolated incident.



Thomas Eugene Harris II

Anyone with information specific to this investigation is urged to contact Detective William Freeland at 410-535-2800 or via email at will.freeland@calvertcountymd.gov.

Press Release from CCSO

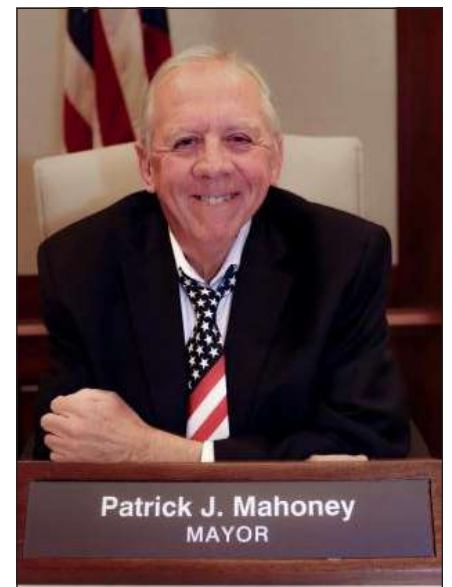
Chesapeake Beach 'State of the Town' Presented

During the Feb. 15 Chesapeake Beach Town Council meeting, Mayor Patrick "Irish" Mahoney presented the 2023 State of the Town. The theme of the 2023 State of the Town is "Serving the Interest of Town Citizens".

"When we prioritize what is best for our residents, we prioritize our businesses and our local economy," stated Mahoney. To view the full State of the Town Report go to: 2023 State of the Town Address ([chesapeakebeachmd.gov](https://www.chesapeakebeachmd.gov)). To view the State of the Town recap video, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNWOF9uWwRI>.

Key highlights from the State of the Town:

- General Fund operating expense reduction of \$782,612 in FY23.
- Utility Fund future expense reduction by \$1,978,000 by proactively investing in infrastructure upgrades through the saddle replacement project completed in 2023.
- Reduction of property taxes totaling \$516,765 during this Administration.
- Total assets exceed liabilities at the close of FY23 by \$50.8M, with \$22,300,000 in unrestricted funds of which \$10,200,000 is general fund unassigned.
- Total net position increased by \$2,900,000 in FY23.
- Debt reduction in FY23 of \$514,086 with total debt reduction of approximately \$7,588,624 during this Administration.



Mayor Patrick "Irish" Mahoney

- Additional \$1,600,000 in capital assets acquired in FY23.
- Town's total investment in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, as of June 30, 2023, amounts to \$32.4M.
- Taxable property valuations in Chesapeake Beach increased by 6.2 percent in 2023, as assessed by the State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation.

Press Release from Town of Chesapeake Beach



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Upcoming Election Could Change Makeup of School Board

Three Vie for 3rd District Seat in Primary



Jeanette Flaim



Melissa Goshorn



Paul Harrison



Joseph Marchio



Kelly McConkey



Mike Shisker



Antoine White

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County voters will have a local race to decide in the May primary in addition to the presidential and congressional races. Three Calvert County Board of Education seats are up for election this year. Since the top two vote getters in the primary move on to the November general election ballot, only one of the school board races is contested in May, with three candidates vying to represent the northern part of the county, Commissioner District 3. They are Jeanette Flaim, Melissa Goshorn and Kelly McConkey. Since it's a nonpartisan election, Democrats and Republicans will have a chance to cast their vote in the primary. Maryland law precludes Independents from voting in the primary.

Jeanette Flaim has lived in Calvert County for about 35 years. She and her husband have two children who went through the Calvert County Public Schools and the Career and Technology Academy. She has worked as a collections and contracts manager for a union electrical contractor for about 25 years.

She said her job gives her flexibility to serve on the board. "I've been here 25 years. I have two grade assistants, so I do have that flexibility."

The election is nonpartisan, although Flaim has been active in the Democratic Party, having formerly been chairperson of the Calvert County Democratic Central Committee.

As to why she's running, Flaim explained, "I decided to run because I think the school board has done a great job for our children and our students, and I just want to continue to promote those policies and support those policies."

She was asked if that means she supports the majority in recent 3-2 votes. She responded, "What I like about the school board is, even though it is a lot of times three to two votes, I think they all give consideration to what is happening. I don't think it's always cut and dry, like all three of us are going to do this. I've noticed lately that everyone's looking very, very closely, and thinking about things. So, I hope I do that, but again, I agree with all the policies that have happened so far, so I probably would be in the majority."

That means supporting the Anti-Racism Policy and against book censorship. "Yes, I would agree with those policies."

She was asked about violence against teachers and some students. "I've talked to other people and people who have gone to the school board to do the comments. I think everyone would agree that this is a complex problem with complex solutions. So being on the school board, I think you have the opportunity to see all the expert opinions of what you need to do. I've talked to school counselors. I've talked to school psychiatrists. It seems like it would be nice to have more of those people so they could help students navigate difficulties. And it would be nice to have more support staff or teachers so they can help students who need that help."

Regarding the commissioner audit, she said, "I don't think they voted against it as far as they wanted to know exactly what the board of county commissioners wanted to audit. They have audits all the time, so the Board of County Commissioners could look at those audits. I also think the Board of County Commissioners had said that they would pay for those audits. So, I think they just want to know exactly what's your question? What do you want audited?"

Flaim said, "My kids went through the school system. They got a great education. Whenever I went into the schools, you could see how much the teachers enjoyed being in that school. And my kids would always talk about what they learned. So that's what I want to support. That's what I want to continue with Calvert County Schools. Calvert County Schools are excellent, and I just want to be here to continue with that excellence."

By contrast Melissa Goshorn has often been on the vocal opposition. She and her husband have three children in the school system. She said, "Like many people, I moved here for the school system when I had my babies." That was 10 years ago. She was raised in Charles County.

Goshorn works for a digital services consultancy. "I'm the VP of Delivery and Professional Services. So, the company, we help different organizations with all things digital services, building software, data strategy, all things technology, mainly in the healthcare space." She said her job has flexibility that would allow her to serve on the board/

She said she is running because, "I tried everything else. I tried joining different committees within the school system. I tried doing public comment, and scheduling meetings and that sort of thing to get my voice heard. And it didn't seem like it was really working. And so, I figured the

only way to really make a difference in the school system is to run."

She at one time filed suit against the school system over Critical Race Theory but the suit was thrown out.

She said her philosophy would be aligned with board member Lisa Grenis and Jania Post, who were elected in 2022. That would give them a majority if she's elected. She added, though, "I would say all the races are important. If we get one seat, then the shift will happen. If we get a majority, then the shift will happen."

She noted, "I think that people just didn't pay attention to the school board for a long time. I think we all just assumed that it was going well. I'll say what I've learned, the school board is a lot of work. Jana and Lisa put in a lot of hours every single week," adding, "it's something that you have to do in addition to an actual job. So, it's a huge undertaking."

Regarding the Anti-Racism Policy, she said, "I think it's racist. I don't think that you can call out a single race in an anti-racism policy."

Is a policy needed? She said, "I think that the way that this school system functions is through policy. I think that what they aim to accomplish and creating a tolerant environment, they're not going to accomplish through that policy, because you need to change student behavior and students don't read policy. So, it's something I feel like the school system feels like they have to do, especially I think that it came about after those kids vandalized the football field that one year. I think that's what caused the anti-racism policy to be put in place. But I think that it's misguided."

What can be done, she was asked, "I think we need to start by enforcing the student code of conduct, and we need to hold kids accountable. Our school system is run by the children, and they know that they can break the rules and not be held accountable for them. And so that trickles down into everything, including the way that they treat one another. If we need to demand that the children follow the rules and we need to hold them accountable, and I think that it'll all trickle down to respecting one another."

Former county commissioner and school board member Kelly McConkey did not respond to The County Times invitation for an interview.

The 1st District race features Joseph Marchio and Dr. Michael Shisler. Shisler responded. He is a retired educator, having amassed 43 and a half of his 47 years as

an educator in Calvert. He was a classroom teacher for ten years and then vice principal and then for 31 years principal at Beach Elementary.

He is running, he said, "because it's important. And it was not on my radar screen right now. I had thought about it a couple years ago as I was getting closer to retirement, but I didn't want to run then because I didn't want to compete with some of the folks that were running who I thought were good candidates. But this time around, I was approached by a couple folks within the last month, started on Martin Luther King's birthday at the celebration. And a couple folks asked me if I would consider doing it, and my first response was, thank you for asking and I'm honored, but I wasn't sure that I lived in the first district. I had always been under the presumption that we lived in the second district, and the vacancy is in the first district. So, I confirmed that I did live in the first district, I gave it some more thought, went and got a packet from the local Board of Elections, looked that over and discussed it with my wife, and I decided it's very important to do this. I think the school system's made a lot of progress, not just academically, but socially in pushing the equity issues in the last decade or so. And I get surprised and upset when people feel threatened by equity issues."

In the 2nd District, incumbent Antoine White, the current school board president, is being challenged by Paul Harrison, who responded to the interview request. Harrison has raised three kids, native countians, all through the public school system. They have lived in the county since 2002.

Harrison is an accountant. He graduated from Georgetown University and went to graduate school at the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland College Park.

He feels his background will help him navigate the sometimes-confusing world of the school system's budget. He said, "I've seen the budget; I identified \$24 million that was unidentified. It was actually labeled as unidentified in the school budget. And that concerns me because there are needs in the county, and we need a budget that's more aligned with our needs."

"That's what I can look at quickly as an accountant, as a finance major." He added.

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WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, FEB 22 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 53° Lo: 45°	FRI, FEB 23 AM Showers Hi: 56° Lo: 35°	SAT, FEB 24 Partly Cloudy Hi: 41° Lo: 26°	SUN, FEB 25 Mostly Sunny Hi: 48° Lo: 38°
MON, FEB 26 Partly Cloudy Hi: 60° Lo: 47°	TUE, FEB 27 AM Showers Hi: 62° Lo: 56°	WED, FEB 28 AM Showers Hi: 64° Lo: 47°	THU, FEB 29 Showers Hi: 55° Lo: 33°

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