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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

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Why Are They Suing Calvert?

CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS 3

FEATURE 12

COPS & COURTS 14

COMMUNITY 15

EDUCATION 17

OBITUARIES 18

CALENDAR 21

BUSINESS DIRECTORY 22

FUN & GAMES 23



FEATURE 11
 (l to r): Phyllis Sherkus, Myra Gowans, Frank Grasso and Susan Dzurec stand in front of the Prince Frederick courthouse. They are members of Calvert Citizens United and the three women are plaintiffs in a suit against the county.



LOCAL 6
 North Beach Mayor Mike Benton hopes to reopen the waterfront.



EDUCATION 17
 School board honors Bill Phalen.

“WE TEACH TEAMWORK,”

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR MARK WILLIS ON DEPARTMENTS SHARING THE BUDGET CUTTING PAIN.

WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 4/8	Fri 4/9	Sat 4/10	Sun 4/11
64° 50°F	62° 54°F	67° 57°F	70° 51°F
Partly Cloudy	PM Showers	AM Showers	Showers
Mon 4/12	Tue 4/13	Wed 4/14	Thu 4/15
67° 49°F	64° 48°F	60° 47°F	60° 44°F
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	AM Showers	Partly Cloudy

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COVID-19

As of April 6

Positive Cases	Deaths
Calvert 5760	66

Information provided by Calvert Health Department

Final Phase of Vaccinations Begins

Ages 16 & Over Eligible



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

All Marylanders over the age of 16 could begin to get a vaccine dosage to fight COVID-19 beginning Apr. 6, Gov. Larry Hogan announced Monday, noting that fewer of Maryland's older population – those aged 65 and up – were being sickened by the virus due to successful vaccine efforts.

This announcement opened Phase 3 – the final phase – of vaccinations against the virus.

But more and more younger people were making up the majority of infection cases due to more infectious variants of the virus, Hogan said at the Apr. 5 Annapolis press conference, making it much more urgent to get as many younger residents vaccinated before the virus could take hold in that part of the population.

“Getting as many people vaccinated as we can as quickly as we can is our absolute best defense against these variants,” Hogan said. “We’re starting to see hospitalizations of people in their 20s, 30s and 40s as opposed to 70s, 80s and 90s.”

Residents can get their dosages at any of the mass vaccination sites across the state, Hogan said, but they must still make an appointment.

The increasing success of the state's vaccination program, as well as continued increased supply from the federal government, allowed his administration to open pre-registration for a Phase 3 inoculation; more than 500,000 have already done so, Hogan said.

“Even though we’re opening up eligibility to everyone does not mean everyone will be able to immediately get an appointment,” Hogan said, cautioning against a rush to get an inoculation.

On April 12 all providers of the vaccine will be required to allow dosages for all residents over the age of 16.

Hogan warned that 16-and-17-year-old residents can only get an inoculation at a clinic which uses the Pfizer vaccine; this was the only one with approval for that age group from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Hogan said any resident who was in Phase 1 and Phase 2 who had not yet received a dose would be prioritized for one.

So far, more than 42 percent of all Maryland adults have received a vaccine, while more than 76 percent of residents over the age of 65 have been inoculated, Hogan said.

The governor said the state is opening three new mass vaccination sites including one at the Greenbelt Metro Station, at the fairgrounds in Baltimore County and in Germantown at Montgomery College.

Last week the state started a walk-up vaccination clinic in Salisbury and starting Apr. 6 one was set to open in Hagerstown, Hogan said, neither require an appointment.

Marylanders can register for Phase 3 vaccinations at COVID-vax.maryland.gov or by calling 1-855-MD-GOVAX.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Prince Frederick First Draft Nears Completion

By Dick Myers
Editor

The first draft of the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan update is expected to be in the hands of the planning commission sometime this spring. At a virtual workshop on March 31 the transportation component of the plan was discussed, and other sections are being developed.

Consultant Jamie Kendrick explained one of the major changes – the elimination of the developer requirement for a traffic study for each large development. Kendrick said each project has a cumulative effect and it's unfair to make the developer at the end of the pipeline pay for it.

Kendrick said the transportation plan he has presented lays out the work that needs to be done. Instead of unnecessary traffic studies, he said developers should pay into an account their fair share of what needs to be done.

Unlike previous workshops, virtual attendees did not actively participate but instead could submit questions which were supplemented with about 35 that had been sent in advance. The questions were condensed to avoid duplication and were responded to by Kendrick, and planning staffers Jenny Plummer-Welker and Tamara Blake-Wallace.

A questioner wanted to know the relationship between the town center plan and the county comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance, and which would prevail.

Plummer-Welker said, "While the work on updating the current county zoning ordinance is taking longer than the original schedule, the Prince Frederick Town Center master plan and zoning regulations do not depend on the final language in the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance. The Prince Frederick master plan and the zoning ordinance is a legal document, which is adopted to accomplish the aims of the Prince Frederick master plan by regulating land use in a manner that promotes health, safety, and general welfare of Calvert County residents. And the Prince Frederick zoning ordinance is supplemental to the Calvert County zoning ordinance. And it applies to the Prince Frederick Town center. Except in cases specifically addressed in the Prince Frederick plan, the County zoning ordinance applies."

As to the plan's effect on streams, creeks, and the Bay in terms of storm water erosion, Blake-Wallace responded, "At this time, we are focused on getting the transportation and the land use framework in place. The county has storm water management requirements that would apply to any new development that would happen in the county that would not change at this

time. There are always opportunities to adjust the regulations specific to the land use type or in a certain geographic area and the full town center master could address those issues."

As to the impact of the proposed plan on water and wastewater, Blake-Wallace said, "This will be addressed further in the draft plan when it is released, but at a very high level, the county already has an additional facility being planned for construction."

As to how maximum yields were calculated, Kendrick said, "The most important thing to note about how they were calculated is what's not included. The reason that the maximum yield is not considerably higher, or the maximum yield of potential dwelling units is because we take out the steep slope areas. We take out the protected lands."

One questioner wrote: "I'm just really, really worried about if we build too much. The health of Calvert County really determines a lot about the health of the Bay. And so, I'm just really worried about if we overbuild, if we're going to really affect the health in the Bay?"

Plummer-Welker responded, "I think we're all concerned about the health of the Bay. We have Bernie Fowler to thank for his raising the level of awareness about the impact to our beloved Patuxent River and what was happening to it decades ago. One of the things to know about the county comprehensive plan and the effort to preserve farmland is that the town centers are just a very small amount of land, about three percent. And then with county commissioners proposing expansions of the town centers that just increases to about five percent of the county's overall land. And so, by directing the growth into some of the town centers, including Prince Frederick, Solomons, and Lusby, is that new development would be going onto the county wastewater system instead of a septic tanks, which have been noted to impact our waterways."

Susan Dzurec, one of the plaintiffs in the suit against the county on the approval of the comprehensive plan, told The County Times in an interview that she was concerned about the invoking of Fowler's name in the answer. She said Fowler at hearings expressed "his dismay about the comprehensive plan." She said Plummer-Welker noted Fowler's involvement "decades ago." Dzurec said, "Well, that's still happening."

Dzurec quoted a letter from Fowler that said, "It's impossible to adequately express in words how angry and frustrated I am with Calvert County's newly adopted comprehensive plan."

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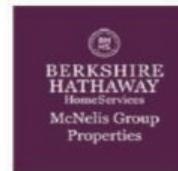
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North Beach Hopes for Waterfront Reopening

Mayor Eyes Memorial Day Weekend

By Dick Myers
Editor

North Beach's mayor would like to reopen the town waterfront on Memorial Day weekend. Mayor Mike Benton said the decision will depend on what's going on with COVID-19 at that time and any orders from the governor.

Benton told The County Times the beach use will be intended for town residents but it will be impossible to keep others out because of the large numbers of visitors who flock to the town every year, as evidenced by the crowds in town over Easter weekend.

To control the crowds, additional fees will be charged for non-town visitors. Also, online registration will be required.

Social distancing will be observed but as to other restrictions, such as masks, that will be decided closer to the Memorial Day anticipated opening, he said.

"We want to be as safe as possible for residents, staff and visitors," Benton said.

The opening of the beach, which was closed all of last year, will include some reduced hours and the opening of the pier for fishing, with some restrictions, Benton said.

Something else will be new this year. The Farmer's Market, which had previously been held on Friday nights on 5th Street is being



North Beach Mayor Mike Benton

relocated to the parking lot of the North Beach Senior Center and will occur instead on Saturday mornings from 8 to 11.

The relocation was necessary because of the beginning of construction of the new Twin Beaches Library on property adjacent to 5th Street.

Benton is excited about the change. He says it'll be a "real small-town, local farmer's market," with about 40 vendors selling all kinds of goodies.

Benton said the town no longer has use of the parking lot adjacent to 5th street, although the property owner is still allowing parking there for a fee until he begins his development plans.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Speed Bumps to be Installed at Solid Waste Convenience Centers

The Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, announces speed bumps will be installed at the following customer convenience centers for the safety of citizens and employees:

- Ball Road Convenience Center (1045 Ball Road, St. Leonard)
- Barstow Convenience Center (350 Stafford Road, Barstow)
- Huntingtown Convenience Center (3666 Hunting Creek Road, Huntingtown)
- Mt. Hope Convenience Center (96 Pushaw Station Road, Sunderland)
- Plum Point Convenience Center (2801 Plum Point Road, Huntingtown)

Installations may begin as early as March 22 and are expected to be com-



plete by April 30. Citizens are advised to use caution and stay alert when driving through all convenience centers.

For a list of convenience center locations, hours, phone numbers and accepted materials, visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/1753/Locations-Hours-Fees.

Press Release from Calvert County government.

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Funding Transfer From Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Passes House



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Del. Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29) led the effort on the floor of the House of Delegates last week to stop the transfer of \$1 million from the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, the only such facility in the state.

Morgan quoted the finance director working for Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs George Owings, who opposed the transfer, during floor debate.

“One million dollars is a full third of the money in this... fund that the money is being transferred from,” Morgan said. “It’s \$1 million that we will not be able to invest in COVID mitigation, parking lot improvements and upgrading equipment at the end of life.”

The statement noted that Owings had previously opposed this transfer in other hearings in his testimony.

“They’re really doing God’s work, these people have done so much for our country,” Morgan said of the importance of the care given to veterans at the facility, which has suffered heavily from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Del. Keith Haynes (D-Baltimore City) argued that the transfer of the \$1 million would not hamper the operations of the facility.

“This is what we call in the budget committees a fund swap,” Haynes said. “It is not a cut.”

Haynes said one contractor company provides the patient care at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, which bills the state about \$3 million each year for their services.

This year, the veterans home received an additional \$4.2 million

in CARES Act money from the federal government as well as \$2 million more in funding from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Haynes said.

“They have a fund balance way beyond what they normally have,” the Baltimore delegate said of the veterans’ home’s finances.

Recapturing the state’s \$1 million and putting it back into the general fund would relieve budgetary pressure, Haynes said, because federal dollars were there to replace it.

Del. Rick Impallaria (R-Baltimore County) said the state’s only veterans’ home shone above others because it did not have the same loss of life as similar facilities.

Impallaria said he has a loved one residing there.

“They’ve done a stellar job of treating our veterans in the best way they can be treated,” Impallaria said.

He said the money was being taken away because the Charlotte Hall facility was successful in dealing with COVID and got the federal money because of that success.

“We say we want to give our veterans something, but now... we’re going to take this money away from them,” Impallaria said.

“That place needs to be bigger; we need more places like that. We don’t need to be cutting their funding.”

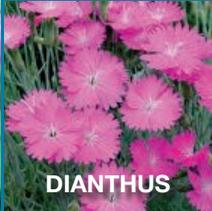
Though there was opposition to the funding removal, the motion passed.

The funding may still be restored when it goes to debate in the Senate.

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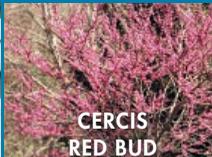
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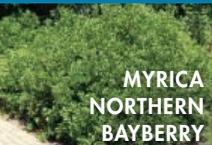
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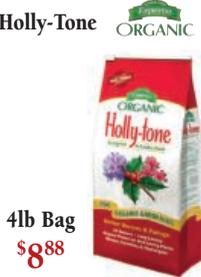
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Straight Talk on Straight Teeth

BY: JEFF TOMCSIK

Orthodontic braces and clear aligners such as Invisalign® are not just for straightening teeth and making your smile look better. In fact, a highly trained and skilled dentist will use orthodontic treatment to improve the function of the teeth which will result in a healthier, longer-lasting smile. While good looking teeth are attractive, the purpose of your teeth is to chew food. When teeth are misaligned, they can slowly damage opposing teeth during the chewing process. When they are in proper alignment, teeth break down the food they are chewing without damaging each other.

To help illustrate the point, think of a well working pair of scissors. When in good alignment the two blades come together and meet at a very precise point that makes them excellent at cutting paper. On the other hand, imagine one of the scissor blades had a slight bend or a ding in the metal. This imperfection would surely affect the scissor's ability to cut as well as when it was in perfect alignment. If the one blade is bent away from the other, there will be a gap between the points of contact that cause the cutting action. The result would likely be a failure

to cut effectively or efficiently. If the bend in the one blade is toward the other, it would cause the blades to scrape each other, making cutting difficult. More importantly to note, the blades scraping each other slowly destroy the cutting surface of both blades.

These same principles can be applied to your teeth. In any area of the mouth where your opposing teeth do not meet when you perform a chewing motion (meaning there is a space between the top and opposing-bottom tooth in any area of your mouth when your jaw is closed), like the scissor in the first scenario, it is rendered ineffective in the chewing process. On the other hand, if there are any teeth that are colliding with their opposing teeth, they are likely causing trauma to each other and slowly wearing down the enamel surface and eventually the tooth structure. This will likely lead to greater risk of decay and eventually risk the tooth's overall vitality.

Many people who have ongoing problems with decay or pain despite their efforts to keep their teeth clean, might be suffering from malocclusion issues that are causing the ongoing dental problems. The good

news is that orthodontics may be a solution to these problems, and a straighter, more beautiful smile is a bonus to the treatment, not the reason for the treatment.

If you're like most adults, the thought of braces is unnerving. Years in metal brackets and sharp wires is no-one's idea of a good time. If these thoughts are keeping you away from approaching your dentist about a straighter, more beautiful, better functioning, healthier smile, consider a clear aligner option such as Invisalign®. Invisalign® is a clear, removeable retainer that may achieve the same results as traditional braces in less time.

The fact that aligners are removeable means you can take them out whenever you eat. This makes eating more comfortable and cleaner as you will not have to worry about food particles being stuck in your braces. They also allow you to easily clean your teeth, where braces with wires make flossing and thorough brushing more difficult. The material used by Invisalign® is by far superior to all other aligners on the market. Not only is it the most invisible, it is also the fastest working material, meaning you will reach your desired outcome in a fraction

of the time to other safe orthodontic options.

Finally, with Invisalign® technology, your dentist can take a scan of your mouth and show you virtually what your results will look like, from the improved esthetics of your smile profile to the benefits of improving any occlusion issues that may be causing damage to your teeth.

The next time you go to your dentist, ask them if they are Invisalign® certified. Ask them if they can provide a virtual, digital smile makeover with the use of an iTero® scanner so that you can see your likely outcome. Also ask them if you have any occlusion issues during chewing and if orthodontics is right for you.

One of the biggest barriers to getting orthodontic treatment dentists hear the most is that it costs too much. Before you allow money to get between you and a healthy, beautiful smile, think about the amount of money you spent on your last car. That car will likely not be in your life ten years from now. The cost of braces or Invisalign® is a fraction of the cost of that car, and the results will last you a lifetime!

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Maryland Capitol Police Chief Files for Calvert Sheriff

Maryland Capitol Police Chief Mike Wilson has officially filed his candidacy for Office of the Sheriff in Calvert County for the 2022 elections.

Wilson's campaign issued the following press release upon his filing:

"I believe after devotedly performing the duties as Chief of the Maryland Capitol Police and working with leaders in Maryland to reorganize, restructure and grow the department to where it stands today, it is my time to apply my passion for public service closer to home and I am excited to officially file to run for Sheriff of Calvert County," said Wilson.

"Wilson has been a resident of Calvert County since 1988 when he first became a Maryland State Trooper and was assigned to the Prince Frederick State Police barracks. Prior to becoming a Maryland State Trooper, he served his country in the United States Air Force before he was honorably discharged. Through the past 35 years he has dedicated his life to public service and has gained the experience and necessary skills to become an affective law enforcement community leader.

"Wilson graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a Masters Degree in Organizational Leadership and a Bachelors Degree in Business Management. He lives with his wife Nancy in Huntingtown and together, they share four children and nine grandchildren.

"There are over 92,000 citizens in Calvert County. Calvert is a growing community that needs effective leaders. The Sheriff must be competent, transparent and possess the necessary skills to lead the department. The Sheriff is the lead law enforcement officer in the county and has many duties and responsibilities, to include:

- Protect the life and property of the citizens of Calvert County
- Safeguard each and every citizen in a fair and impartial manner, keeping them free from fear of criminal activities



Mike Wilson

- Uphold the United States Constitution
- Uphold the Constitution of Maryland
- Managing the Calvert County Detention Center
- Providing security to the courts
- Serve warrants, civil process, etc.

"If elected to serve the community, Chief Mike Wilson is committed to upholding these responsibilities and duties. (Retired) Captain Peter Spaulding, Commander of the Administrative Hearing Section, Maryland State Police, will serve as Campaign Chairman of the Committee to Elect Mike Wilson for Sheriff. Spaulding will also serve as Wilson's Lieutenant Colonel should he be elected Sheriff. 'I have the integrity, honesty and leadership experience to effectively lead the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and I would be honored to represent you, the citizens of Calvert County, as your Sheriff. Given the opportunity, I commit to ensuring community leadership, integrity and transparency will be the foundations from which I will lead,' said Wilson."

Wilson will hold his first fundraiser on Friday, April 23, 6-10 p.m. at the Barn at Cage Stables in St. Leonard.

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Eagles Soar In Calvert County

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Once on the endangered species list, the American Bald Eagle has made a stunning comeback and is most abundant in the Chesapeake Bay area in the continental United States, according to the conservationists who have watched their progress.

And Calvert County plays no small part in providing habitat for the national bird to not just survive but thrive.

Chris Eberly, with the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP), said the Bald Eagle is abundant in Southern Maryland and Calvert.

“Eagles tend to nest close to the water, that’s where their [preferred] food is,” Eberly said. “The Potomac and Patuxent rivers and Chesapeake Bay, those are key areas where you’ll find the highest density of eagles’ nests.”

According to the MBCP, there are even more Bald Eagles currently known in Calvert than St. Mary’s with 25 identified nesting pairs. One of them is located on the property of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, he said.

Most of the nests in Calvert are located on the Chesapeake Bay side of the county, Eberly said, noting that the nests are monitored by volunteers working with MBCP.



Bald eagle photographed in southern St. Mary’s County

In the mid-1970s their population was critical, with only about 44 nesting pairs known in Maryland, Eberly said.

This was the result of the proliferation of the pesticide DDT, which entered into the food supply of the eagles and when ingested affected the ability of their eggs to withstand the pressure of the birds as they sat on the eggs to incubate them.

The shells were weakened by a portion of DDT’s chemical composition,

Eberly said, and the adults would inadvertently crush them.

This led to virtually no reproduction of the species regionally.

But their recovery is a major success story, he said, with at least 1,400 nesting pairs in Maryland.

“They are really expanding and doing well,” Eberly said. “They’re experiencing a pretty huge growth curve.”

Gwen Brewer, science program man-

ager for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife and Heritage Service, said other improvements to the local habitat have also helped the eagles flourish.

“With taller trees and doing a better job of cleaning up our waterways, that gives them more places to nest and it’s a nicer food base,” Brewer told The County Times.

Also, the eagles do not seem to be bothered by being in close proximity to humans.

“They seem to adapt well to that,” Brewer said. “Many don’t have a problem being close to people.

“They’re quite tolerant.”

DNR scientists have stopped monitoring the progress of the eagle population since they made a strong recovery in about 2005, Brewer said, and have since come to rely on citizen volunteers, such as those with the MBCP, to help track the health and progress of the birds.

More volunteers to do the sometimes-arduous work are always needed.

“They’re a valuable source of information for us,” Brewer said. “People get excited about seeing eagles.

“With trees not having all their leaves it’s a good time to try and spot them because they’re nests are massive.”

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Who Are the Plaintiffs and W

By Dick Myers
Editor

They are collectively called the plaintiffs in court filings. Susan Dzurec and Myra Gowans of Huntingtown, Phyllis Sherkus of Dunkirk and Michael King of Prince Frederick are Calvert County citizens who have filed suit against the county seeking to overturn the August 6, 2019 adoption of the county's comprehensive plan. The county prevailed in a hearing in circuit court and now the four citizens have appealed the decision to the Maryland Court of Special Appeals.

Who are these people and why are they suing the county? The County Times interviewed the three women plaintiffs on April 4. King was unable to attend so he was replaced by Frank Grasso, a member of Calvert Citizens United, the group formed to pursue the suit and he is a supporter of it.

Gowans said, "I've lived in Calvert County for going on 50 years. My children went to school here in the county. I have three daughters. I guess I could call myself an entrepreneur and I've worked for 45 years in commercial and international development. I've written a children's book and it was published. And I'd like to do more of those when this lawsuit is finally over."

Dzurec said, "My family and I moved here in 1995. I had a background in nursing but got into catering. I am the original owner of Sweet Sue's Bake Shop in North Beach. We (she and her husband) sold that business in 2011 and I thought I was going to retire and then went to a public meeting here in the county in 2016. And that was on Armory Square and big box stores. And Commissioner Hejl announced to the public that there were things going on behind the scenes that we didn't know about. And that was all that I needed to hear and got involved in investigating this county."

Grasso said, "I live up in Dunkirk. I moved into the county and we built our own home in 1975. I'm retired from the military but worked for the federal government. I saw the way this county was changing, and it just got out of control and something needs to be done."

Sherkus said, "My husband and I moved to the county in 1991. We came to the DC area in 89 and went through training before we went to the embassy in Moscow, where my husband was assigned. We've been back here since 95 and we started getting interested in politics and ended up joining the Dunkirk Area Concerned Citizens Association



(L to R): Susan Dzurec, Myra Gowans, Frank Grasso and Phyllis Sherkus stand in front of the Prince Frederick courthouse. They are members of Calvert Citizens United and the three women are plaintiffs in a suit against the county.

"THE TRAIN IS BEING RUN BY THEM (SMALL BUSINESS INTEREST GROUP) AND THE COUNTY IS BEHIND IN THE CABOOSE. YOU KNOW, WE'RE NOT EVEN ON THE TRAIN."

MYRA GOWANS

(DACCA) and we're board members along with Frank. We also got involved in going to all the meetings for the comprehensive plan, and we probably did not miss a single meeting or workshop or anything through the whole process. So, we really disappointed with the results that we got."

Gowans explained how their collective involvement got started. "Sue and I were working on what was happening and Sue was so eager and focused and involved. I felt like my background would be able to put her in the right direction of the questions she was asking and the methodology of getting to the bottom of what was proposed."

Gowans noted the information that Dzurec was providing didn't make sense to her. "There's a real disconnect." She said what was missing was the collaboration between the county commissioners and the business organization called Small Business Interest Group (SBIG). "The train is being run by them and the county is behind in the caboose. You know, we're not even on the train."

She said she and Dzurec and

Sherkus "started putting this together and painting a picture." And the picture was developed, she said, by gathering the bi-monthly meeting minutes of SBIG, "that outlined the sellout of our county to the highest bidders."

During the development of the comprehensive plan, a group called Keep Calvert Country was active in opposition. Gowans said they chose not to become involved in a suit so the new group Calvert Citizens United (CCU) was formed.

She added, "From there we've just been fighting this case and we have not just been bystanders. We are the driving force. We work hand in glove with J. Macy Nelson, our attorney, and we advise him of what's going on down here so that he understands and can write his lawsuit and define his lawsuit to the benefit of the people here, the taxpayer citizens who we represent. We don't represent ourselves. We're not Republican, Democrat or Independent. We care about the citizens of this county. I worked on the longest running lawsuit in Maryland history back from 1980 to 1988. And it was on spot zoning. And this lawsuit is

as important as that lawsuit. But we won't need eight years. We'll be finished in a couple years."

Gowans explained, "Because we had the SBIG minutes, we could understand where certain aspects of the comprehensive plan was coming from because they would discuss it in these meetings. The members would give the county their marching orders. This is what we want, the expansion of the town centers now."

Dzurec said of the development of the comprehensive plan. "The whole thing was done very closed minded. They had their agenda they were pushing through. I talked to the guy that did the study for transportation. And he says, this is the standard for this. And I said, for where? And he says, well, in PG County. I said, we're not PG County. We're a skinny little peninsula that's only six miles wide. The main road, which is Route 4, is an evacuation route. They want to build all these homes. And if anything ever should happen, there's no way people could evacuate."

Grasso said of the comprehensive plan public sessions, "We started out going to the meetings and you could tell from the beginning that they were pushing an agenda. When they started taking public comment, they were getting a lot of push-back from the people, but we were ignored."

Sherkus said, "Some of our meetings had 200 people show up at it. One of DunKirk's main concerns

Why Did They Sue the County?

was the fact that we were switched from a minor town center to a major town center. And then they were going to call us just town center.” She explained, “A minor town center could not have public sewer and a major town center could,” which the area citizens opposed.

She added, “We don’t want apartments. We don’t want townhouses. Dunkirk sits at the top of the county. And if you start expanding that so much that you increase the traffic, everybody that lives south, the traffic’s bad enough as it is trying to get through Dunkirk.”

Gowans said at the final public hearing before adoption of the plan, SBIG President Anthony Williams, who has since passed away, said, “Here we are. We formed a coalition with the county government, with Mary Beth Cook (director of planning and zoning), with planning and zoning, with Mark Willis (county administrator), with (former) Commissioner Hejl, with Commissioner Hart. And now we’re being picked on basically.”

“And that’s when Sue and I figured out about SBIG, how they had this coalition, not just meetings, but a coalition with the government.” Gowans said.

She said before final vote the commissioners changed the plan to revisit it every two years, “to make sure that they were staying on track. That means something, because if you’re not on track for what they believe they need and want carte blanche, what they will do is change the plan and expand it even more.”

But she said on the date of the final plan vote, August 6, 2019, Commissioner Kelly McConkey’s vote to include two properties he owns into the Huntingtown Town Center was the center of their suit. She said she turned to Dzurec and said, “Don’t worry. We’re going to go to court. And here’s why, because McConkey owns that property in the highest form of ownership. He’s not a stockholder in that property that would allow him to vote. He owns that property as tenants by the entirety; he and his wife own it. They have the highest form of ownership. They control that property, and he should have recused himself.” She said that very day five people filed complaints with the Ethics Commission over the vote.

“It took less than 15 seconds for that to happen. They didn’t tell the citizens, they didn’t do anything prior to that. It was a last-minute deal to take his property and he could make money off of it,” she said.



Commissioner Kelly McConkey

Gowans said of McConkey’s vote: “It was the entire case because we don’t have a right to tell (the Board of Calvert County Commissioners) that they can’t vote on something. That is their right. And the judges will say, if you don’t like it, vote them out. His doing that was illegal in that he was ethically bound to recuse himself, according to the

come through with their ruling and in the nine-page ruling that they gave is very detailed. And now Commissioner McConkey is going back to court in order to be able to basically challenge that ruling.” She added, “Catherine (Grasso) and I (who filed ethics complaints) are now on that lawsuit as well. We’ve entered into that in order to make

“WHEN THEY STARTED TAKING PUBLIC COMMENT, THEY WERE GETTING A LOT OF PUSHBACK FROM THE PEOPLE, BUT WE WERE IGNORED.”

FRANK GRASSO

ethics bylaws and the oath he took of office.”

Sherkus said when hearing McConkey’s vote: “Disbelief. Betrayal. We were definitely not happy because we put two plus years into this and in a matter of seconds, not only did his property get added to the town center in Huntingtown, but they passed the plan.”

Grasso, who was also in attendance, said, “He has a history of breaking the laws. His nursery has got a lot of counts that are still waiting to be filed against things that go on in that nursery. It’s just been a string of stuff. He’s very arrogant. People feel that if they say anything to him, they’ll be sued.”

Dzurec said prior to the vote, “I made up packets and had them hand it out to each of the commissioners. And in that packet was the ethics commission information on recusal. So, it’s not like he had not received the information that the ethics commission would have handed him. And then he went ahead, and he voted on this.

“The ethics commission now has

two, which means it didn’t get approved. And it has to go back and who gets involved when it goes back, the citizens are reengaging in their own comprehensive plan.”

The four were asked what their vision for the county was for 20 years in the future, the timeframe for the comprehensive plan’s vision.

Gowans said, “These are our concerns. First and foremost, this is the smallest county in Maryland and the third smallest county in the whole United States. We’re a filtering county for the river and the Bay. We are 38 miles long, and we are only nine miles at the widest and four and a half miles at the narrowest. That’s how sensitive this county is. We have 21 watersheds that protect the waters that go to the Bay and the river. The Chesapeake Bay now has a D rating.

“What I would like to see is the plan that we had in 2014, modernized or updated or modified.”

She added, “That plan had good philosophy and good balance to it. It had a maneuverable balance that people could still make money.”

She said it’s a matter of saving the Bay. “The Bay is dying. So, there’s not going to be any more crabs and beer, maybe in the summertime soon. And what you need to do is get the Bay back up to being healthy, especially this lower Bay, where we are, and the lower Patuxent, before you can talk about increasing carte blanche.”

Dzurec said, “My concern is sustainability for generations to come. What they’re putting together for the Prince Frederick master plan, it’s like we get to 2040 and the world ends. They’re not considering that what we do now is going to impact every generation from now on.”

Grasso said he was told by Willis and County Commissioner Tim Hutchins that the county is going to be built out “whether the people like it or not.” And he added the people are going to pay for the water and sewer for it.

He added, “They want to build 139 homes up in Dunkirk, right by the water and their treatment plant is going to be right there on the Patuxent. We can’t sustain it. The water levels are dropping.”

Sherkus said, “We know that we can’t stop development, but the thing is that you need to take a measured, slow approach to it. Make sure your infrastructure is in there first before you start expanding, before you start developing anything.”

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Sheriff's Office Celebrates Autism Awareness Month

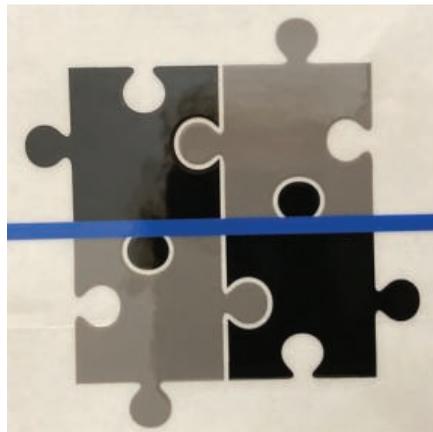
April is National Autism Awareness Month and April 2nd was World Autism Awareness Day and the Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) says they are excited to support and promote awareness of this important cause.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that an average of 1 in 68 children in the US have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) that can cause significant social, communication and behavior challenges. These challenges often present unique safety risks which may increase the chance of encounters with police and other first responders.

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office provides service to the growing needs of those on the Autism Spectrum. They say they are dedicated to the safety and inclusion of their citizens.

The agency has created Autism Awareness stickers/decals to place on a vehicle or residence where someone on the spectrum might travel in or reside, to alert law enforcement when responding to a call that they might encounter an individual with an intellectual or development disability. The stickers are free and available for pick-up at CCSO headquarters in Prince Frederick.

All of their deputies have the Autism FYI application on their agency issued cell phone. This app provides deputies with picture language, calming tips, de-escalation



tion tactics and much more.

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office wants to remind citizens they have a voluntary information form to assist personnel with providing the best service we can to those on the spectrum. This form provides our agency with emergency contacts, medical information, triggers, etc., which is put into a database, so that when our deputies respond to a call at an address on file or encounter a missing individual registered to us, they are prepared on how to communicate.

Those wishing to fill out an information form or obtain an Autism decal, stop by the CCSO office located at 30 Church, St. Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

For more information on the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Autism project, please contact DFC E. Durner at william.durner@calvertcountymd.gov.

Press Release from CCSO.

CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME REPORT

During the week of March 22 - 28, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,345 calls for service throughout the community.

Burglary: 2021-14963

On March 22, 2021, Deputy Dymond responded to a residence in the 2600 block of Lowery Road in Huntingtown, MD for a reported burglary. The complainant advised he witnessed someone attempting to break into the home via the front door. No entry was made and nothing was removed from the residence.

Damaged Property: 2021-15224

On March 23, 2021, Deputy Anderson responded to the 1800 block of Oriole Way in St. Leonard, MD for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised as a result of an earlier road rage incident, an unknown suspect punched out the passenger side window in his vehicle, shattering it. The estimated property damage is \$200.00

Damaged Property: 2021-15089

On March 23, 2021, Deputy Krueger responded to Cove Point Park in Lusby, MD for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised an unknown suspect(s) defaced the slide's hard plastic tunnel and mirror with graffiti. The approximate value of damaged property is \$750.

Damaged Property: 2021-15733

On March 26, 2021, Deputy Krueger responded to the 12400 block of San Jose Lane in Lusby, MD for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised unknown suspect(s) had thrown rocks at his Chevy work van around 10:30 p.m. on March 25th. Deputy Krueger observed some small dents with scratched paint and two red bricks close to the van. The approximate value of damaged property is unknown at this time.

Damaged Property: 2021-15704

On March 26, 2021, Deputy Krueger responded to the 12400 block of Catalina Drive in Lusby, MD for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised unknown suspects had broken the entire rear window of

her vehicle with a rock and left a dent in the hatch portion of the door sometime between 8:30 p.m. on March 25th and 8:30 a.m. on March 26th. The estimated property damage is unknown at this time.

Damaged Property: 2021-15907

On March 27, 2021, Deputy Aranda responded to the 6500 block of Old Bayside Road in Chesapeake Beach, MD for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised an unknown suspect(s) destroyed her mailbox. The approximate value of damaged property is \$100.00.

Theft: 2021-15531

On March 25, 2021 Deputy T. Buckler responded to Grace Brethren Church in Owings, MD for a reported theft from vehicle. The complainant advised an unknown suspect(s) had entered her unlocked vehicle and stole approximately \$5 in assorted US currency along with \$5 in

Chick-fil-A gift cards. The approximate value of stolen property is \$10.00.

ARRESTS

On March 24, 2021, Deputy Parks conducted a traffic stop in the area of SB Rt. 4 and Industry Lane in Prince Frederick, MD. The driver, **Marie Clare Stanton**, 34 of Lusby, MD, consented to a search of her person. The search revealed Alprazolam and Adderall pills for which Marie did not have a prescription for hidden inside her bra. Marie was then arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention center where she was charged with CDS: Not Marijuana.

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



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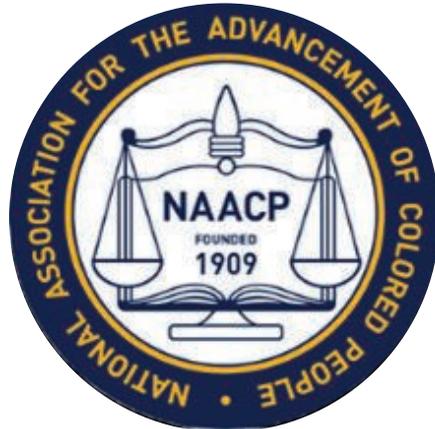
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NAACP Announces New Branch Officers

The Calvert County Branch of the NAACP announces the results of its election for the 2021-2022 term. The election was conducted November 3, 2020, under the supervision of the Calvert County Branch's Election Supervisory Committee.

The following election results were announced at the November 14, 2020 General Membership Meeting:

- President**
Michael G. Kent
- 1st Vice President**
Malcolm L. Funn
- 2nd Vice President**
Michael J. Moore
- 3rd Vice President**
Onyx Linthicum
- SECRETARY**
Delores Mackall
- Assist. Secretary**
Debora Harris
- Treasurer**
Michal Hawkins
- Assist. Treasurer**
Joyce Freeland
- At Large Members Of Executive Committee**
Shelia M. Parker
Andrea Chris Banks
Renita Alexander



Denise Plater
On December 16, 2020, our newly elected 2nd Vice President went home to be with the Lord. Therefore, the Executive Committee, in compliance with the Branch's By-laws filled the vacancy of the 2nd Vice President with Onyx Linthicum and eliminated the position of the 3rd Vice President.

The Maryland State Conference NAACP President, Willie Flowers installed the Branch officers at its February 13, 2021 Membership meeting.

Press Release from Calvert County Branch of the NAACP.

He is Risen



Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church Pastor Josh Olson conducted the Lusby's church's Easter Sunrise service at Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons.



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School Board Honors Bill Phalen



Bill Phalen's widow Donna and their son Kerry at the unveiling of his portrait which will hang at the Mary Harrison Cultural Arts Center.

By Dick Myers
Editor

The late Bill Phalen, who served a total of 23 years (1993 to 2010 and 2015 to 2020) on the Calvert County Board of Education, was honored by the board in a ceremony at their March 25 meeting.

The ceremony included an unveiling of a portrait of Phalen which will be hung at the Mary Harrison Cultural Arts Center. Phalen's widow, Donna and their son, Kerry were in attendance for the ceremony. The portrait was also shown to the county commissioners during a joint meeting at Northern Middle School on March 27.

The proclamation in his honor read in part: "Bill was one of the most familiar faces to students, staff and parents across the county due to his dedicated support and attendance at sports and the arts programs. Whereas Bill did not hesitate to champion the ideas he believed in, but was always willing to learn more, be open and to change his mind. Even when he was the most experienced, longest-serving board member, he listened to ideas and concepts that were unfamiliar or new to him. And whereas Bill took very seriously the role of helping new board members embrace their role, responsibilities and authorities; whereas in difficult conversations with emotions running high Bill always made time for everyone to be listened to."

The proclamation went on to say: "Bill enjoyed every aspect of school board life and never stepped back from his unwavering support of extracurricular programs, because he believed in developing every potential in each child. Bill was a consummate public servant who cared deeply about Calvert County Public Schools."

Former school board member Tracy McGuire said, "My friend Bill Phalen was a politician, and I don't mean that in the partisan pejorative sense of the word, but in the sense that he believed

we could do great things when we work together. And so, he took the work of the school board very seriously.

"He understood that the distance between the school boardroom and the school classroom is pretty narrow. So, he was very serious about our decision making but he enjoyed the whole process of getting to a decision. He enjoyed the discussion, he enjoyed seeking compromises. He enjoyed arguing a lot.

"He embraced all of that and he also enjoyed the privileges of being a school board member, the privilege of attending all of the high school graduations, the privilege of attending student activities up and down the county from athletic events to theater and musicals. He embraced all of that.

"And so, I hope when people see this picture of my friend Bill Phalen hanging in the Mary Harrison Center, they'll see what I see -- a man who was serious about improving his community and took great joy in the effort."

School Superintendent Dr. Daniel Curry said in his 33 years as a superintendent he has encountered many school board members. "I can say he has been one of the most professional, the most textbook at boardsmanship and understanding the role of the balance of administration and school board better than any other school board member I've ever worked with. He's a fine man and I wish I'd known him a lot longer."

Mrs. Phalen said, "He firmly believed that any student involved in at least one extracurricular activity would be a better student because of the time spent learning and practicing that activity, whether it be music, sports, theater, dance, or whatever choice was available, any choice is important because you'd never know what it might lead to. He was very pleased and proud of how many choices are available to students in Calvert County."

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In Remembrance

The Calvert County Times runs complimentary obituaries as submitted by funeral homes and readers. We run them in the order we receive them. Any submissions that come to dickmyers@countytimes.net after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

Lacramioara "Lily" Ion



Lacramioara "Lily" Ion, 59, of Lusby, MD passed away on March 23, 2021 at Calvert Health Medical Center.

Born August 1, 1961 in Bucharest, Romania,

she was the daughter of Gheorghe and Ioana Nedelcu. Lily moved to Calvert County from Fairfax, VA in 2005. She was a stay at home mother.

Lily is survived by her parents, Gheorghe and Ioana Nedelcu of Bucharest, Romania; her husband, Dragos Constantin Ion, whom she married on October 9, 1982 in Bucharest; her children, Razvan Andrei Ion, Bogdan Alexandru Ion and Narcisa Greta Young; and one grandchild, Mason James Ion.

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

William David "Bill" Tranmer

William David "Bill" Tranmer, 84, of Owings passed away peacefully on April 3, 2021 at his home surrounded by family. He was born July 24, 1936 in Washington, D.C. to Robert F., Sr. and Irvie Eggleston Tranmer. Bill was raised in Capitol Heights and graduated from Suitland High School. He married Frances in 1958 and they lived in Prince George's County before settling in Owings in 1977.

Bill was an entrepreneur. He owned and operated several successful companies throughout his lifetime, including: Arbez Flooring, Tranmer Construction (home building and master general contractor), Park Snacks Concessions in Dunkirk Park with his daughters, and Sonny's Tackle Shop with his brother. Bill built many beautiful

custom homes in southern Maryland, and after a long successful career as a contractor, he went on to work as the Director of Community Resources for the Calvert County Government, and later worked as Director of Construction for the Calvert County Board of Education, until his retirement in 1995.

Bill's wife and family were first in his heart. He was a self-proclaimed "people person" with a very kind soul; he was always willing to help family, friends, and others in need. Bill loved politics and ran for Calvert County Commissioner twice. He was also a member of the Jaycees and Optimists and he enjoyed gardening, spending time with family and life-long friends and collecting coins.

Bill is survived by his wife Frances Irene Tranmer (nee Vermillion), children Diana Tranmer of San Pablo, CA, Terry Bosak (Patrick) of Severna Park, Tracey Smith (Foster) of Severna Park, and Michelle Bryant (William) of Prince Frederick, his grandchildren whom he loved dearly, Ashleigh, Eleanor, Samantha, William, Macrae, and Lindsay, his sister Audrey Garber of Hollywood and brother Preston "Joe" Tranmer of Huntingtown. He was preceded in death by his sister Helen Whitley and brothers Ronald Tranmer and Robert F. Tranmer, Jr., and will be dearly missed by those he leaves behind.

Funeral Service will be Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 11 a.m. at Rausch Funeral Home-Owings, 8325 Mt. Harmony Lane, Owings, MD 20736.

Burial will be in Southern Memorial Gardens, 10155 Ward Road, Dunkirk, MD 20754.

Ingrid Tiina Pleake-Tamm

Ingrid Tiina Pleake-Tamm, 69, died April 2nd 2021 at home with family. Born July 5th 1951 in Bismarck,



North Dakota, Tiina was the youngest of four children to parents Peeter Tamm and Marta Oja Tamm. Tiina's father was the lead engineer in

Tartu, Estonia, who was slated for Russian "replacement" during the communist takeover in the 1940s; the Tamms claimed to be farmhands and were able to flee to America in 1949.

In 4th grade, Tiina and her dearest friends formed a "Turtle Club" that remained close throughout adulthood, with reunions for the Turtles, their Turtle-Tots, and the newest generation, Turtle-Teenies.

Tiina blossomed during the 1960s and 1970s, teaching yoga in Canada, making candles in Haight-Ashbury, operating a phone switchboard, and other odd jobs. By the 1970s, she had returned to Bismarck to be close to her widowed mother and was doing accounting for the Bismarck School system when she heard the click of cowboy boots coming down the hall. She thought to herself, "that's the man for me," that man turned out to be Dewey L. Pleake, who had been sent to audit the school system. They fell in love, living first in Denver and later in Rockville, MD where Tiina kept books for US Sen. Smathers. They were married in 1975 and started their first large-scale construction adventure, building a 40-ft trimaran sailboat in their backyard. They moved to Southern Maryland in 1985 to construct an ecologically friendly house and raise their two children, Peeter and Amalia.

Tiina was a devoted mother, scoutmaster, roomparent, costume-sewer, choir singer, baker, and avid gardener. She went back to work as the 231 bridgetender in Barstow for several years before settling into full gardening mode after her kids left home.

Tiina was the main caregiver for her own mother, and although she did not like nursing, she devotedly cared for her husband for 20 years as he battled a fatal illness. Her daughter's favourite memory of her mom is singing cowboy songs on the rooftops in Zanzibar; her son admiringly remembers her patience in explaining chemistry concepts again and again until he could master his homework.

Tiina passed away in the early morning hours surrounded by her children and pets. She is predeceased by her parents and husband. She leaves behind her children, Peeter and Amalia Pleake-Tamm, and her siblings: Andres, Tonis, and

Linda Tamm.

She will be buried in Bismarck with her family on April 8th. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to International Rescue Committee (<https://www.rescue.org/>) or the Washington Opera Society (<http://www.washingtonoperasociety.org/donate>).

William Reid Stanton Jr.



William Reid Stanton Jr. (Bill or Butch), 81, passed away April 1st 2021, at his home in Calvert County with his loving wife by his side. Mr. Stanton

was born February 24 1940 to Gwendolyn and William Stanton Sr.

Bill had a profound passion for character, duty, and family. Whenever possible he made a point to spend time with his family, especially his 3 grandchildren. He was always happy to offer his home and resources for a holiday, a family vacation, or even a dinner. And over the years he enthusiastically attended every school event, milestone moment, and local visit from any of his family. When he wasn't spending time directly with family, he became incredibly involved in his church and in his local community. It was there where he, among many other services, most notably helped build a new homeless shelter which helped reshape the lives of many. Bill touched the masses in more ways than anyone could have ever imagined

He is survived by his wife, Janice Stanton; his 2 sons and their spouses, J. Troy and Maggie Stanton, and Douglas and Crystal Stanton; his grandchildren, William Kane Stanton, Garrett Stanton, Maddi Stanton and her husband William Johnson; and an entire clan of extended family.

A funeral mass was held through his beloved church, St. John Vianney, attended by close family and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to Project ECHO, P.O. Box 2764 Prince Frederick, MD 20678; Link:

<https://projectecho.net/donate/> ot Humane Society of Calvert County, P.O. Box 3505, Prince Frederick, MD 20678; 410-257-4908; Link:

<https://humanesocietyofcalvert-county.org/>

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Robert Edward Shifflett



Robert Edward Shifflett, long time resident of Prince Frederick, Md, passed away on March 31, 2021, surrounded by his loved ones.

Robert was born on March 6, 1932, to Daniel Clark Shifflett and Annie Edith Shifflett (nee Morris) in Rockingham, VA. He was one of 10 children. His family moved to Maryland when Robert was 6 years old, following job opportunities in the lumber industry. It was during the lumbering days that Robert met and married his greatest love, Betty Louise (Halterman) Shifflett.

Robert and Betty made Prince Frederick their home, ultimately purchasing land on Clay Hammond Road. Together, they raised four children, Robert Lee Shifflett (Sharon) Dottie Lou (Shifflett) Moore, Roy Clark Shifflett (Theresa), and Charles Edward Shifflett (Laurie). He has 8 Grandchildren, Angelica, Jesse, Christopher (deceased), Amanda, Jennifer, Robert (Rob), Leonard Jr. (Junior), and Krystal. He also has 14 great-grandchildren, and a devoted cat, Danielle.

Robert served in the Prince Frederick National Guard for 6 years, being Honorably Discharged on March 9, 1955, along with several of his brothers and friends. He then went to work in the construction industry, building homes in and around Annapolis with his mentor, Persey Taylor. After 15 years or so, Robert decided to branch off on his own and form R. E. Shifflett Co, a family-owned and operated company, employing his 3 sons and his wife, Betty, as bookkeeper. Robert led the family business for 40 years, initially building custom homes in the Calvert County area, then expanding the business in conjunction with Hammett Building Services to build both custom-residential and commercial buildings.

Robert is pre-deceased by his beloved wife, Betty, after nearly 65 years of marriage; his father and mother; his brothers Lee, William, Everett, and James; and, his sisters Louise, Virginia and Betty Lou. Robert is survived by two sisters, Lorraine McKnew (Charles) and Mary Etta Halterman (Joseph).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Robert's memory to: Calvert Hospice (<https://calverthospice.org/donate/>) and/or The Johns Hopkins Hospital Kimmel Cancer Center – Merkel Cell Carcinoma research (https://www.hopkins-medicine.org/kimmel_cancer_cen-

[ter/our_center/charitable_giving/in_lieu_of.html](#))

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home-Port Republic.

Samantha Erin Hoofnagle



Samantha Erin Hoofnagle, 51, of Shady Side passed away March 30, 2021 at her home. She was born July 3, 1969 in Cheverly

to Barry Wayne and Mary Janet (Holland) Sullivan. Samantha was raised in the Cape Anne community in Churchton, and graduated from Southern High School in 1987. She married Timothy Hoofnagle and they lived in Lusby. Samantha was employed with Calvert Memorial Hospital in the medical records office, as well as the Asbury Retirement Community in Solomons and most recently Renno's Market in Shady Side. She enjoyed reading, puzzles, doing arts and crafts and playing electronic games.

Samantha was preceded in death by her husband, Timothy. She is survived by a daughter Chelsea L. Hoofnagle of Lusby, her parents Mary J. and Barry W. Sullivan of Edgewater, sisters Melinda Jones and husband Terrell of Lothian and Lindsey Horn and husband Richard, Jr. of Upper Marlboro, her companion Mark Sucey of Shady Side, three nieces and two nephews, and her mother-in-law Dee Hoofnagle of Lusby.

Samantha's family will be having a celebration of her life at a later date.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Frances Martin



Frances Martin of Churchton, MD passed away peacefully at Anne Arundel Medical Center on March, 30th 2021. Frances was born De-

cember 31, 1944 to Carr C. Barger and Emily (Zickefoose) Barger, and was raised on their farm in Upper Marlboro, MD. Frances graduated from Frederick Sasscer High School in Upper Marlboro, MD and began her Federal Civilian career as an FBI clerk typist. Mrs. Martin retired from Federal service in 2003 while working at NIH. She

also worked briefly for the State of Maryland, retiring to take care of her late husband John Martin.

Her life was a living example of Bible verse, Ephesians 4:32 – “And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ”.

Frances was preceded in death by her parents, her husband John, and siblings Blair and Boyden Barger, Mary Wingfield, and Edith Cummins. She is survived by her daughter Dianna Weeks and husband Jeff of Summerville, SC, a sister Carolyn Parker of Drayden, MD, grandchildren Amber Weishorn, Holly Ayers, Ava Lewis, David Lewis, and Harley Sixberry, great-grandchildren Shawn, Tana, Logan, Cooper, Bo, and Ryliegh, and step-children Lise Javage, Karen Brewton, and John Brewton.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home-Owings.

Virginia Beall Catterton



Virginia Beall Catterton, 80, of Owings and formerly of Mitchellville passed away March 29, 2021. She was born March 11, 1941

to William and Estelle (Gibson) Plotts. Virginia was raised in Mitchellville and graduated from Frederick Sasscer High School. She married Herbert Beall on December 17, 1960 and they lived in Mitchellville until Herbert's passing. Virginia married Raymond Thomas Catterton on June 11, 1999, over 40 years after they originally met in elementary school. Virginia was employed as a secretary for Prince George's County Board of Education for over 30 years, retiring in 1993. She enjoyed traveling, QVC, watching Gun-

smoke, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Virginia is survived by her husband Raymond Catterton of Owings, daughter Stacey Beall (John Maloney, Jr.) of Severn, grandchildren Krystal, Dustyn, David, Brittney, Timothy, Glenn, Terrance, Destiny, Shane, Faith, Mariah, and Mercedez, great-grandchildren Skylor, Savana, and Serena, sister Joyce Boswell, step-children Thomas Catterton (Leslie) and Edna Teahan (Denise Rogers), step-grandchildren Ray Trigger and Joseph Catterton, nieces Cheryl Underwood and Sharon Bowen and nephew Ronald Boswell. She was preceded in death by her husband Herbert Beall and daughter Melissa Thompson.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home-Owings.

Jacqueline Pierrette Dunn



Jacqueline Pierrette Dunn, 87, of North Beach and formerly of Silver Spring passed away March 29, 2021. She was born June 4, 1933 in La

Rochelle, France to Louis and Juliette (Bret) Enaud. Jackie was raised in La Rochelle and moved to the United States in 1958 with her husband, Robert Joseph Dunn. She worked as a seamstress for many years and sewed for various people including Henry Kissinger's wife, Nancy which led to an invitation to Richard Nixon's Inaugural Ball. Following her career as a seamstress, Jackie went to work for the Department of Defense and retired in 2012 at the age of 79. Jackie was a strong and spirited woman who in her spare time enjoyed fashion,

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In Remembrance

The Calvert County Times runs complimentary obituaries as submitted by funeral homes and readers. We run them in the order we receive them. Any submissions that come to jenicoster@countytimes.net after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

chocolate, traveling, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Jackie is survived by her son Phillip Louis Dunn of Annapolis, grandchildren Juliette Aponte and husband Robert Wagner of North Beach, John Anthony Hafferman and wife Angela of Bel Air, Benjamin Dunn of Edgewater, and Nicholas Dunn of Annapolis and great-grandchildren Anthony Aponte, Anthony Lee Hafferman, and Roman George Hafferman. She was preceded in death by her daughter Debbie Elaine Casagrande, grandson George Edward Hafferman II, and great-grandson Edward Michael Hafferman.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Wilma Rose Williams Sickle



Wilma Rose Williams Sickle, 88, of St. Leonard, Maryland passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 28, 2021 with her family by her side.

Willie, as most called her, was born in Cleveland, Ohio and was the ninth child born to Evelyn Ortman and Walter Ortman. Willie's birth father passed away a few months before she was born and was subsequently adopted by Minnie Williams and George Williams soon after her birth. Willie grew up helping her mother with the foster children her mother raised. Willie helped her mother raise 120 foster children over the years, all were infants and toddlers. Many of those children grew up to remain in her life.

Willie married the love of her life, Robert L. Sickle in August 1952. Willie and Bob met years earlier in their church as youth, never knowing they would marry years later. After the birth of their 7th child in 1969, they decided it was time to follow their dream, leave the suburbs of Cleveland and move to Maryland. In October 1970, they found a beautiful farm with a large old farmhouse in St. Leonard with plenty of bedrooms for all of their children. It was there where they planted their roots; Pleasant Acres was founded.

It was not unusual to see Willie working in her vegetable garden or in the tobacco field. There wasn't much that she didn't tackle. After her children were grown, Willie took a job in 1980 at Nationwide Pharmacy in Prince Frederick

where she worked until 1992. She made many lifelong friends with her co-workers and customers.

She was active in the Christ Episcopal Church Comfort Givers and the St. Leonard Volunteer Fire Department, Company 7 Alarmers. Willie dedicated 35 years to the Company 7 Alarmers where she served for 7 years as President. She served as chairperson on several committees and worked their Friday night bingo's.

Willie is preceded in her death by her husband, Robert L. Sickle, Sr, her parents, Minnie and George Williams, her siblings Russell Ortman, Walter Ortman Jr., Robert Ortman, William Ortman, Gracie Hayes, Arlene Todorovich, Dorothy Clair, Richard Ortman, Marie Douber, Sonny Horacek, and a grandson Dylan Larson. She is survived by her children, Pamela Bryant of Broomes Island, Constance Palombi of St. Leonard, Victoria Smiley (Ray) of St. Leonard, Roberta Baker (Daniel) of St. Leonard, Robert Sickle Jr. (Julie) of St. Leonard, James Sickle (Samantha) of St. Leonard, and Thomas Sickle (Lisa) of St. Leonard, her sister, Charlotte Canter and brother Ronnie Horacek. She is also survived by 19 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild, and numerous nieces and nephews.

In Lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Independent Dialysis Foundation (IDF), 840 Hollins St., Baltimore, MD 21201

or call 410-468-0900 for debit/credit card donation or Christ Church Comfort Givers, 3100 Broomes Island Road, Port Republic, Maryland 20676 or Company 7 Alarmers, P.O. Box 101, St. Leonard, Maryland 20685.

Heather Marie Irfan



Heather Marie Irfan, 42, of Cockeysville passed away March 27, 2021. She was born October 25, 1978 in Washington, D.C. to Robert M. Garrett and Pamela A. Martin. Heather was raised in Chesapeake Beach and attended Northern High School. She was an outgoing, friendly person who lived life to it's fullest. She was a devoted mother and loved her children and being outdoors.

Heather was preceded in death by a daughter Ella Grace Ann Garrison and her mother Pamela Amster. She is survived by her son Noah James Garrison, her father Robert M. Garrett and wife Nadine of Chesapeake

Beach, and step-father Charles Amster of Prince Frederick. Also surviving are sisters Veronica Jean Amster, Danielle Rebecca Amster and Nadine Rae Garrett, brother Justin Blaine Garrett as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, family and friends.

A memorial service will be held at North Beach Union Church on Saturday, April 10 at 1:00 PM. Masks and social distancing will be required with a maximum of 60 people allowed in the church.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Arnold Edward Petty



Arnold Edward Petty, 92, of Port Republic Maryland passed away peacefully in his sleep on Friday March 26, 2021. Arnold was born

on June 28, 1929 in Goodwill, West Virginia. He spent his youth supporting his family of 3 brothers and his widowed mother by working a variety of jobs including working timber horses in the mountains of West Virginia and working at a local gas station. Following graduation from high school he enlisted in the Navy. He made use of the education benefit provided by his service in the Navy to attend William and Mary College, where he met Molly, who he married after graduating. His early professional career started with Price WaterHouse, where he had many interesting auditing assignments, most notably auditing Alcatraz prison and recommending its closure, and auditing the assets of Marjorie Merriweather Post for several years. When auditing required more travel than his was willing to do, he joined federal service and remained in federal service until his retirement. As a federal employee he rose through the ranks to become the Deputy Director of the Bureau of Land Management, and was one of the first to achieve Senior Executive Service rank. He was recognized with many meritorious service awards during his federal tenure. Following his retirement, he and his wife Molly moved permanently to their home on Acacia Road in Scientists Cliffs, Port Republic, Maryland where he spent uncountable hours gardening and being a general "Mr. Fix-It" to any community member needing help.

Survivors include his daughters Sandra Masquith and Janette Thompson, both of Port Republic MD; brother William Petty and sis-

ter in-law Jo Petty of Amissville, VA; sister-in-law Carol Petty of Amissville, VA; sister-in-law Retha Petty of Florida, and many nephews and nieces.

Funeral service is scheduled for April 10. Attendance is limited to family and invited friends due to COVID restrictions.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Christ Church, Port Republic, MD or American Chestnut Land Trust, Port Republic, MD.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

Annie Marie Elliott



Annie Marie Elliott, 94, of Broomes Island, Maryland passed away on March 25, 2021 in Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Annie was born on August 15,

1926 in Broomes Island, Maryland to the late Thomas and Annie Denton Parks.

Annie was a Health Care provider for most of her life, working at Calvert Memorial Hospital for at least 20 years before leaving and going to Solomons Nursing Center and then Home Health Care Nurse for many years. She was a life time member of Broomes Island Wesleyan Church, where she served as Treasurer for 13 years

She is preceded in death by her husband, Edward L. Elliott, Sr., sons; Robert D, Richard L, G. Anthony Elliott and a daughter Brenda G. Durnbaugh. She was also preceded in death by her brothers, T. Carroll and Daniel M. Parks and her sisters Loraine Bowen and Alice Thrasher.

Annie is survived by her sons; Edward L. Elliott, Jr., Dwight W. Elliott, and Steven M. Elliott, 20 Grandchildren, 17 Great Grandchildren and two Great Great Grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on Monday, April 12, 2021 from 6-8 p.m. at the Rausch Funeral Home, 4405 Broomes Island Road, Port Republic MD.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday April 13, 2021 11:30 a.m. at the Broomes Island Wesleyan Church. Interment will follow in Maryland Veterans Cemetery, Cheltenham, MD.

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to Broomes island Wesleyan Church, 8520 Church Road, Broomes Island, MD.

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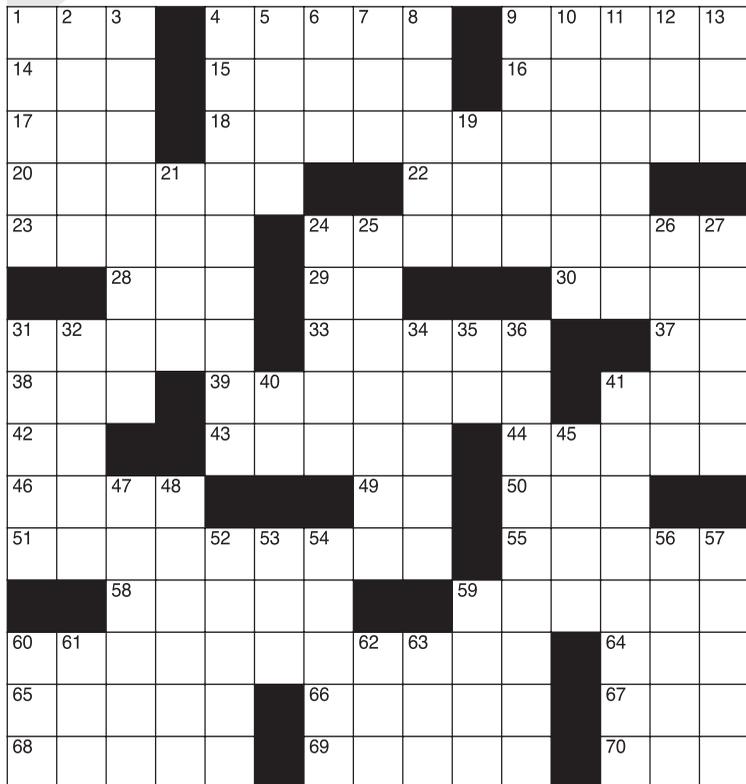
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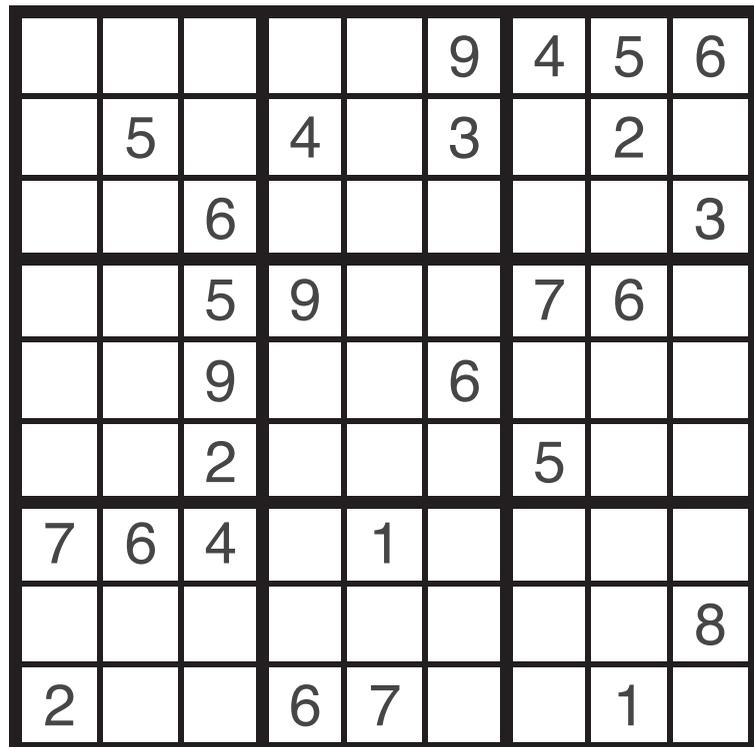
- 1. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
- 4. Ceramic jars
- 9. Monetary units
- 14. Alias
- 15. "Superman" actor
- 16. Britonic tribe
- 17. Shorten
- 18. LA Dodgers manager
- 20. Hoarded
- 22. Theatrically portray
- 23. Noah's grandson
- 24. Dependent
- 28. Peyton's little brother
- 29. Cools the house
- 30. Principle part of
- 31. Type of wrap
- 33. Peels
- 37. Commercial
- 38. Make an attempt
- 39. Arrange in steps
- 41. U. Utah athlete
- 42. Old English
- 43. Trade
- 44. Nostrils
- 46. Ticket seller ___Hub
- 49. Of I
- 50. Institute legal proceedings against
- 51. Takes apart
- 55. Doorway
- 58. Long int'l river

- 59. Trailblazing athlete Gibson
- 60. Former CBS News host
- 64. Sign language
- 65. Badgerlike mammal
- 66. Thin strips of wood
- 67. Brooklyn hoopster
- 68. Portents of good or evil
- 69. Footwear
- 70. When you think you'll arrive

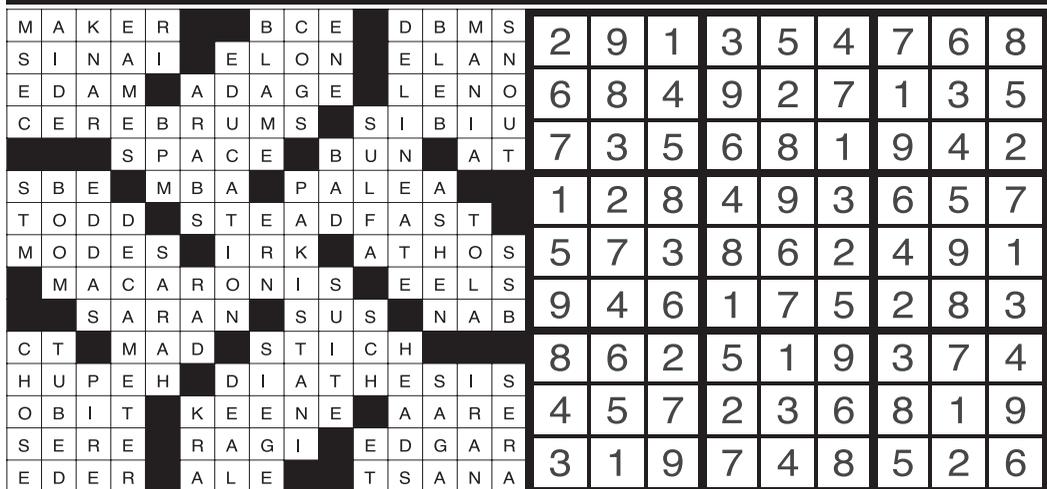
- 24. About Holy Father
- 25. Academic environment
- 26. Extremely angry
- 27. Surrenders
- 31. Swiss mountain pass
- 32. Sharp mountain ridge
- 34. Erases
- 35. Spielberg's alien
- 36. Absurd
- 40. Dorm worker
- 41. Used to make pesticides
- 45. The sister of your father or mother
- 47. A way to let know
- 48. Can't produce much vegetation
- 52. Small streams
- 53. Folk singer DiFranco
- 54. Weights
- 56. Start over
- 57. Black Sea resort city
- 59. Wimbledon champ
- 60. Corporate executive (abbr.)
- 61. Unskilled actor who overacts
- 62. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 63. Of or relating to ears

CLUES DOWN

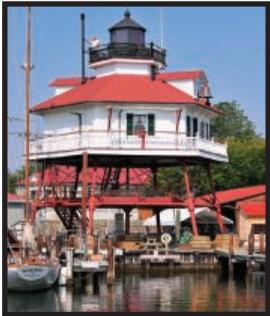
- 1. Batflower genus
- 2. Predatory seabirds
- 3. Fish farm
- 4. Arrangements
- 5. Go in advance of others
- 6. Bulgarian monetary unit
- 7. "___ Maria"
- 8. W. African ethnoreligious group
- 9. Wild Asian oxen genus
- 10. Vinegary
- 11. To this
- 12. Explosive
- 13. Female sibling
- 19. Orlando museum (abbr.)
- 21. Type of hoop



LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Publisher	Thomas McKay	<p>The Calvert County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of Calvert County. The Calvert County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies of the newspaper. The Calvert County Times does not espouse any political belief or endorse any product or service in its news coverage.</p> <p>To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the Calvert County Times will make every attempt possible to publish late content, but cannot guarantee so. Letters may be condensed/edited for clarity, although care is taken to preserve the core of the writer's argument. Copyright in material submitted to the newspaper and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the Calvert County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The Calvert County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.</p>
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