

Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

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**Running Hare Vineyard
Closed to Public**

**North Beach Opens
Nature Center**

**What's Coming
to Calvert**

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

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WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, APR 20 Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 62°	FRI, APR 21 Mostly Sunny Hi: 86° Lo: 61°	SAT, APR 22 PM Rain Hi: 75° Lo: 50°	SUN, APR 23 Partly Cloudy Hi: 68° Lo: 45°
MON, APR 24 Mostly Sunny Hi: 63° Lo: 45°	TUE, APR 25 Mostly Sunny Hi: 65° Lo: 46°	WED, APR 26 Partly Cloudy Hi: 66° Lo: 50°	THU, APR 27 Showers Hi: 66° Lo: 54°

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Zoning Dispute Shuttles Running Hare Vineyard to the Public

Continues to Operate for Special Events

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Running Hare Vineyard has been closed to the public for the past several weekends due to what has been described as a zoning dispute with the county. The business is located off Adelina Road in Prince Frederick. They continue to be open for private events, such as weddings. But wine tastings and the biergarten remain closed pending resolution of the dispute.

The County Times reached out to the county and to the business for additional information on the basis of the dispute but did not receive any as of press deadline.

A March 31 missive on the Running Hare Facebook page said, "To our loyal customers: We received a final verdict today from the Calvert County Government that we will not be able to open to the public as scheduled due to a recent Stop Work order. This decision was certainly unexpected, as we had scheduled staff, vendors, and musicians for this weekend. We certainly would not have done so if we had been expecting this decision. We thank all of those involved for being so understanding of our current situation. We are working closely with the

Calvert County Government to get this issue resolved and reopen as soon as possible.

"We have cherished our role as members of the Calvert County business community since 2008, having raised millions of dollars for local charities and organizations while providing family entertainment and employment for our community. We are looking forward to continuing to do so in the near future."

At the county commissioners' April 18 meeting, Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "Staff and this board and the previous board have been trying to work with the owners of Running Hare now for going on at least two years, maybe even longer, to resolve the issues that they have there. And unfortunately, it just came to resolution here recently that we felt we had no other option. Hopefully that'll resolve soon. We don't want to see any business out of business in Calvert County, but there are rules and regulations that everyone has to follow, and I promise you, the staff has worked diligently trying to help them through their issues for a long period of time. So, we hope that gets resolved soon."

The issue drew considerable social media comments, largely negative towards the county. On the vineyard's social media site,

for example, Mark Gurganus Sr. wrote, "It is sad to see Calvert County Government seemingly targeting a successful local business. A local business that supports other local businesses and the community. This is 'good ole boy' politics at its worst."

William Glenn Russell waxed poetic, saying, "Hardship Winemakers know all about hardship, it's the backbone of fine wines! The more of it a grape goes through, the more special it becomes, magical things happen to grapes that suffer, but it's a pity when those making the wine must suffer unneeded hardship created by those who don't want them to succeed, but you see ...

This too shall pass & the righteous shall overcome!"

The vineyard's owner Mike Scarborough told The County Times in a September 2020 article that when he was eight years old, he was living with his parents in France. He attended school there in the first, second and part of third grade.

He said, "I worked in the vineyard as a kid, picking snails off of the vines. And then, on Fridays, I was paid with two bottles of wine." He added, "On Friday and Saturday nights, I would have one with my mom and dad. They'd have a little demitasse glass, and they

put a little water in and a little bit of wine."

Scarborough purchased the 300-acre farm that had been owned by Circuit Court Judge Perry Bowen in November of 2000 and began to pursue his dream of establishing a vineyard.

It became a commercial operation with the harvest of 2007. Scarborough designed the striking Tuscany-styled main building that is the centerpiece of the property.

Ironically during that interview, Scarborough said, "I will tell you that Calvert County from the county commissioners to the planning and zoning permits, truly everybody in the county has been nothing short of fantastic to deal with."

He had a major setback several years ago when a fire destroyed their wine-making facility loaded with product. "We lost about \$800,000 worth of wine that had already been produced and in bottles," he said.

Now he's dealing with a setback of another kind as he attempts to overcome the zoning issues that as of press deadline have not been explained to The County Times.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Calvert County Prescription Medication Take-Back Day

Saturday, April 22, 2023
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Deputy Pleads Guilty to Misconduct In Office



Cpl. James Wahlgren while on deployment with the U.S. Navy in 2017

Maryland State Prosecutor Charlton T. Howard, III, announced April 17 that a Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputy, Corporal James L. Wahlgren, pleaded guilty in the Circuit Court for Calvert County to misconduct in office for engaging in sexual intercourse with a person requesting police assistance.

According to the Statement of Facts read in court in support of the plea, while Corporal Wahlgren was on duty with the Calvert County Sheriff's Department on March 13, 2022, a woman identified as J.B. called Corporal Wahlgren and requested police assistance related to a domestic dispute. Corporal Wahlgren responded to J.B.'s residence and subsequently transported J.B. to a nearby hotel in his police vehicle.

Corporal Wahlgren helped J.B. check into the hotel, walked with her to her hotel room,

and subsequently entered the hotel room. While inside of the room and still on duty, Corporal Wahlgren engaged in sexual intercourse with J.B.

During his encounter with J.B., Corporal Wahlgren failed to activate his body camera footage, or maintain contact with a dispatcher, both of which are required by the Calvert County Sheriff's Office's policies and procedures. Likewise, Corporal Wahlgren failed to create any written reports related to his interaction with J.B.

Corporal Wahlgren was sentenced today by the Honorable Michele D. Jaklitsch to probation before judgement and three years of probation.

The Office of the State Prosecutor is committed to ensuring that the members of our law enforcement community act with the highest level of respect and integrity when engaging with the community," said Howard. "We will continue to hold accountable state and local law enforcement officers who take actions that undermine public trust in law enforcement."

Howard thanked Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Abigail E. Ticse and Deputy State Prosecutor Sarah R. David for their work on this case. He also commended the investigative efforts of Office of the State Prosecutor Special Agent John Sieracki and the Maryland State Police.

Press Release from Maryland Special Prosecutor

North Beach Earth Day Features Nature Center Unveiling

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Town of North Beach “Earth Day Everyday Celebration” on Saturday, April 22 will be an extra special celebration this year. The event at Wetlands Overlook Park. will open with the ribbon cutting of the town’s new Nature Center. The ribbon cutting will be at 1 p.m. and the Earth Day Everyday celebration will continue to 4 p.m.

Community Conservation Outreach Coordinator Lisa Garrett has dreamed of a nature center ever since she started in her job in 2019.

“I did my programs out of town hall and reached out to the residents with programs and projects out of town hall and used our various parks for the programs. It came about that at one time I said it would be really great if we actually had a nature facility where I could do programs out of, and it would be good for the town as there isn’t really any nature center in the northern area of the county. And the mayor said he would look into it. And two years ago, they looked into getting a grant from Program Open Space from the state of Maryland.”

After receiving the grant, they began “designing a facility with the idea that it would open up in 2023, and right on Earth Day 2023 we’re going to open.”

When people get a look at the ribbon cutting, Garrett said, “They’re going to see our wonderful nature center. I’ve been a naturalist and working in nature centers for 25 years. So, I had some really good ideas of what I would like to have. And we’re looking forward to using it for lots of different programs.”

She said, “We’re going to have live animals and tanks for people to see, and we call those animal ambassadors,” adding, “We have an ambassador box turtle named Ryland, an ambassador mud turtle named Rosie. We have an ambassador little baby snapping turtle. We have a Chesapeake Bay

tank that was partnered with the Chesapeake Beach Oyster Recovery Society (CBOCS). And just yesterday (April 17) we got a blue crab and put him in, and he seems pretty happy in his big tank.”

The center will be holding a naming contest for that blue crab,

Garrett added, “We have a whole area set up for kids to sit on the rug and look at a whole wall of different kinds of activities, books and puppets and nature things to explore. We have a table with animal furs, and we call it the discovery touch table so they can learn more about some of the creatures that live here.”

“Explore our nearby nature” is their logo, she explained.

“We’re going to be doing programs, like Saturdays at 1 p.m. we’ll have a story time and a craft activity where people can drop in,” she added.

They also will be doing programs for homeschoolers and for families. There also will be hikes on the Woodland Trail that’s attached to the Wetlands Overlook Park. “It’s also a great birding area,” she said.

The event will include “Right Tree, Right Place” native tree giveaway sponsored by the North Beach Tree Committee. A short hike will be led by Tree Committee members to install signage on the County Champion Virginia Pine on the Woodland Trail.

The tree committee and the town’s environmental committee were instrumental in bringing the nature center idea to fruition. Garrett credited the leadership of the late town councilwoman Jane Hagen.

Garrett has been helped in getting the center open with a cadre of volunteers and they are looking for more, especially high school students.

“Having a center of operation is the dream of any naturalist, I feel. And, I think having a place where I cannot just lead people on an hour hike, but actually have a display about a house or have the rain garden out there. But we can have a Rain Garden workshop



The new North Beach Nature Center

and we can use the building to have workshops. So, I can do programs for adults and for kids. And plus, it helps people that live in the community; they can just walk over here or ride their bikes over and explore. And if they have questions about things that they see out in nature, I’m a good resource to help them discover more of their nearby nature,

to find out what’s out there and we can see the wetlands and we can see the Chesapeake Bay from here, from our location.”

The Wetlands Overlook Park is at 4030 11th Street.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Display at the new North Beach Nature Center



Parenting Again: Resource Conference

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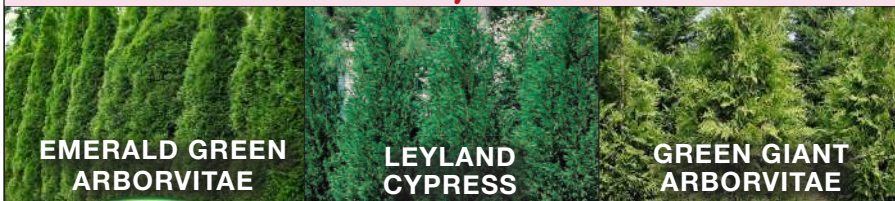
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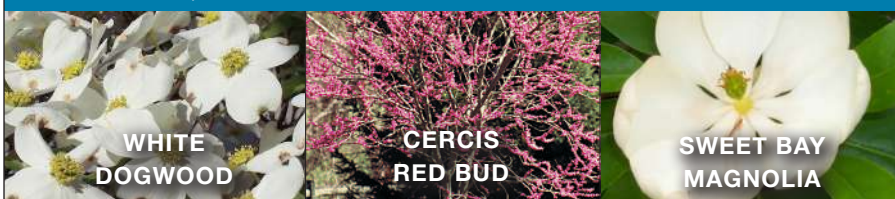
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North Beach 'State of the Town' Released

Mayor Presents Annual Report



By Dick Myers
 Staff Writer

It's 40 pages replete with color photographs to highlight the accomplishments of the town of North Beach in 2022. But in his verbal presentation of the report at the April 8 town meeting, Mayor Mike Benton attempted to put a human touch on it:

"It's a lot of work to keep this town the way it looks. It's a lot of work and I can't thank the staff enough. I cannot thank the residents enough. I can't thank the deputies enough for doing what they do. Our fire department, which is second to none, that's why they're Company One and they're from North Beach. We'll leave that at that."

But Benton also took note of the virtual side of things. He observed, "If you want to know how popular a town is, just go on any type of social media sites, type in North Beach and you'll see thousands upon thousands of photos. Come to the boardwalk. You'll see people coming from all over. And that's a testament to our staff and to our residents."

"What a year," Benton opined about 2022, which he said started in a snowstorm. "I don't think we had any snow after that. Now we're not having any rain."

One of the highlights outlined in the report was the groundbreaking to mark beginning of construction of the new Twin Beaches Branch Library on the town waterfront.

The town will retain a parking lot behind the library after it opens. "So, we're going to retain that even once the library's open, which will help the businesses down there and help residents and help the beachgoers."

Of the library, Benton said, "The contractors have been amazing to work with. They are very open to conversation. We have met there many times."

Also noted in the state of the Town message was the completion of the restoration of the part of the town boardwalk destroyed by a storm and the soon to start construction of the replacement of the town's public works building destroyed by fire.

Fiscally, it was reported that the town's net assessable real property base increased from \$270,443,751 on July 1, 2021, to \$276,810,631 on July 1, 2022. And the town's Constant Yield Rate of 0.5895 per \$100 of assessed value was adopted.

The complete State of the Town report can be accessed on Board Docs for the April 8 meeting under Mayor's Report.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Deputy Flynt's Road to Recovery

By Dave Spigler
Contributing Writer

On the evening of Saturday December 17, Senior Deputy First Class James Flynt of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office was shot following a high speed police chase in Northern Calvert. A young fleeing suspect from Prince Georges County led police on the pursuit in the southbound lane of Route 4. Officer Flynt in using the "PIT" maneuver, caused the driver to lose control and abandon the vehicle once it stopped. In fleeing the scene, the suspect exchanged gunshots with Deputy Flynt critically wounding the officer. Fellow officers apprehended the shooter and took him into custody. Quick acting, a team of police, dispatchers, and medical personnel are given credit in stabilizing Deputy Flynt's condition and preparing him for an emergency flight on Medstar. It was their actions that are credited with saving this officer's life. We are happy to report Deputy Flynt has made a remarkable improvement in his recovery from this serious wounding nearly four months ago. Deputy Flynt recently sat down for an interview with the County Times.



Pictured L to R: Dave Spigler, Deputy Flynt, former Sheriff Mike Evans

Detention Center, and now the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, have you ever been shot at previously, or needed to use your pistol?

I was shot when I was in 5th grade by my brother. We skipped school and played around with our father's .22 caliber revolver and I accidentally got shot. I still have that round in my chest today. Don't worry, my brother and I are best friends.

Other than what I had mentioned, I have never been shot at and have never had to use my pistol except euthanizing an injured animal, like a deer.

Do you know how long your rehabilitation is to take?

I have no idea at this point. I know I will be going to physical therapy for a long while. If I had to guess, I'm thinking over a year.

Is there anything you need at this time?

To answer the question, it's No. However Calvert County, the citizens, the Sheriff's Office, and people and agencies outside the county have been amazing! The amount of support is so overwhelming. I can honestly say, I love Calvert County.

Is there anything you would like the citizens here to know?

Those who live in Calvert County, live in a great county. We have an outstanding sheriff's office and we do our best to keep the crime levels down. It's very tough sometimes because we get our hands tied with some of these new laws coming out, but never the less, we do our jobs. I am hoping and praying I will return to full duty and be able to continue serving the citizens of Calvert until the day I retire.

High school I graduated from and year.

Calvert High School class of '91.

Senior Deputy Flynt, it has been a pleasure speaking with you! I know I speak for all the Calvert citizens in wishing you well and I want to thank you for your many years of heroic service. Good luck sir, and may God Speed your recovery!

How are you feeling today?

I am actually feeling pretty good. I've been allowed to start bearing weight on my leg, so I can start learning how to walk again.

How is your leg healing? Prognosis?

The leg is healing fine. The Burn Center is very happy with how the scars are healed and I no longer have to go back to them. My Orthopedic is happy with how my leg is doing, but I still have a ways to go.

Prognosis, is too soon to tell. Once I can get in my truck and drive again, I will be returning to light duty at the sheriff's office. I already know this is going to be a lengthy process, and the only thing I can do is take it one day at a time.

In all your time at the Calvert County



Deputy Flynt was presented with a portrait by Dave Spigler

Public Information Chapter Added to County Code

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has adopted a new chapter in the County Code with "local policies and procedures to implement the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA)."

According to County Attorney John Norris, the intent is "to educate the public on local government operations and available resources without unduly burdening the county taxpayers."

Norris noted the BOCC "expressed its wishes to enhance transparency on numerous occasions."

He said the new chapter in the county code "outlines the roles and responsibilities of the parties to a request for public records. In October 2022, the BOCC directed that a public survey and solicitation of input from stakeholders be performed before seeking approval to advertise for a public hearing. In coordination with Communications and Media Relations, public input was sought, and direct communications were sent to the Calvert County chapter of the League

of Women Voters, the Public Justice Center, the Center for Public Integrity, the ACLU-Maryland, and the MDDC Press Association. A public survey was published on the county website and closed on Monday, Feb. 13. No substantive comments or feedback have been received."

Norris explained there was "no increased financial burden upon the taxpayers than currently imposed by state law," adding, "the first two hours of a search are free. As a matter of practice, we priced that at the highest hourly rate of the county employee that worked on that request."

The only speaker at the April 17 public hearing was League of Women Voters of Calvert County President Judy "J.C." Hooker. She suggested "the ethics commission conduct quarterly training of county employees, particularly those that are new to the county government, with respect to the Public Information Act."

The commissioners adopted the new chapter of the county code unanimously and without comment.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their April 19 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-142828, **Magnolia Ridge West**, located at Armory Road and Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, on multiple parcels totaling 24.497 acres, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District. Proposed approximately 91,000 square feet creating 79 townhomes. This project is on public water and sewer. On the agenda for PC review on April 19, 2023. The concept submittal was accepted April 27, 2022. Agent: COA Barrett

2) CSPR-142842, **Sunset Terrace Condominiums, Mixed Use**, located at 14474 & 14478 South Solomons Island Road, Solomons, on two lots totaling .42 acres, zoned Solomons Town Center. Proposed 19,191-square-foot, three-story building for mixed use: 1,000-square-foot commercial retail space and 18,191 square feet for eight condominiums with parking and site improvements. This project is on public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted July 27, 2022. Agent: COA Barrett

3) CSPR-142856, **Solomons Condominiums**, located at 14516 & 14518 South Solomons Island Road, Solomons, on two lots totaling .67 acres, zoned Solomons Town Center. Proposed 34,483-square-foot, four-story building for mixed use: 2,450-square-foot commercial retail space and 32,033 square feet for 13 multi-family condominiums with parking and site improvements. This project is in the Critical Area and on public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted July 27, 2022. Agent: COA Barrett

4) 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 75,099 square feet of disturbance for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. The concept submittal was accepted September 28, 2022. Agent: COA Barrett

5) CSPR-142871, **Calvert Hills - Phase II**, located on Calvert Hills Road, Prince Frederick on a 2.33-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Village. This project is proposed for 35 apartment units, served by public water & sewer, to complete the development that started with Calvert Hills - Phase I. The concept submittal was accepted October 26, 2022. Agent: Bay Engineering

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

SD-142770, **Lusby Villas**, Lot 1m 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: Barrett & Associates

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.



COMING SOON

Farmers Markets Return with Local Food, Products

Buying local is easy with an abundance of fresh food from Calvert County's farmers, agri-businesses and watermen. Patrons can find local produce, meat, bedding plants (vegetables and herbs) and a bounty of other offerings.

Markets will be held on the following schedule:

- **Tuesdays in Prince Frederick** at CalvertHealth Medical Center back parking lot
130 Hospital Road
2:30-6:30 p.m., April 25-Nov. 21
Farmers Market Association market
- **Thursdays in Dunkirk** at the entrance of Dunkirk District Park
10750 Southern Maryland Blvd.
3:30-6:30 p.m., May 11-Sept. 7
Farmers Market Association market
- **Saturdays in Lusby** at the Sneade's Ace Home Center parking lot
11861 HG Trueman Road
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 13-Sept. 23
Farmers Market Association market
- **Saturdays in North Beach** at the North Beach Senior Center parking lot
9010 Chesapeake Ave.

8-11 a.m., May 6-Oct. 7

Town of North Beach municipal market
The Calvert County Farmers Market Association is seeking vendors for its Prince Frederick, Dunkirk and Lusby markets. These are "producers only" markets; all vegetables, fruits, herbs, tree nuts, meats, flowers, plants and other products sold at the markets must be grown or produced by a local farmer or vendor. Applications can be submitted throughout the farmers market season.

For those interested in being a vendor at the markets, please visit www.CalvertAg.com/FarmersMarketVendor. For more information on Calvert County's agricultural community and other updates, visit www.CalvertAg.com or contact the Calvert County Department of Economic Development at 410-535-4583 or info@choosecalvert.com.

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov. Stay up to date with Calvert County Government on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd and YouTube at www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

Live at Linda's Animal Adoption Premiering May 6 on Public Access

Calvert Broadcast in partnership with the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter will premiere "Live at Linda's," a biweekly live to tape talk show series featuring local, loveable animals in need of forever homes. The new series will premiere Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 1 p.m. on Comcast channel 1070 HD.

Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter staff will host the program featuring adoptable animals and welfare-minded tips and advice by the shelter's in-house veterinarian. Episodes will also air the following Monday on Calvert County Government social media platforms for expanded access.

"As animal lovers and advocates, we're always looking for ways to engage with the community and spread awareness about animal welfare," said Acting Public Safety Director Crystal Dowd. "Live at Linda's" is a fantastic opportunity to showcase the wonderful animals at the shelter and educate the public on the importance of responsible pet ownership. We're excited to bring this program to the public and hope it will inspire more people to adopt and provide loving homes for our furry, feathery and scaly companions."

Beginning May 6, tune in to Comcast channel 1070 HD every other Saturday at 1 p.m. or Calvert County Social Media

pages the following Monday to watch a new episode featuring loving animals ready to become part of your home.

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter, located at 5055 Hallowing Point Road, in Prince Frederick, is an open-admission animal shelter managed by the Animal Shelter Division of the Calvert County Department of Public Safety. Shelter hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please call 410-535-7387 to schedule an intake appointment. For more information about adopting from the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter visit www.CalvertCountyAnimalShelter.com.

Calvert Broadcast, a multimedia division of the Calvert County Office of the County Administrator, Communications & Media Relations Division, serves the citizens of Calvert County with programming that informs, educates, entertains and promotes inclusion and community. Citizens can tune into Calvert Broadcast news and information through the Calvert County Government YouTube channel, the Commissioners' Reports headline news podcast and Comcast channel 1070 HD. Find more information on Calvert Broadcast online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/CalvertBroadcast and follow @CalvertBroadcast on Instagram.

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CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of April 3 – April 9, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,611 calls for service throughout the community.

Theft: 23-24143

On April 6, 2023, Deputy Shoemaker responded to the 11300 block of Rawhide Road in Lusby, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised his rear Maryland registration plate was stolen from his vehicle. The estimated value of stolen property is \$100.

Theft: 23-24569

On April 8, 2023, DFC Sturdivant responded to the Giant Food Store located at 10790 Town Center Boulevard in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft in progress. Investigation revealed three black females entered the store, filled up shopping baskets with food and walked past all points of sale without paying for the merchandise. The females exited the store and got into a dark colored Chevrolet Malibu and fled the area. The estimated value of stolen items is unknown at this time.

ARRESTS



On April 4, 2023, Deputy Hendrickson initiated a traffic stop in the area of Rt. 4 and Patuxent Point Parkway in Solomons, for a traffic violation. Upon making contact with the driver, **James Jeremiah McLaughlin**, 30 of Port Republic, McLaughlin advised he did not have a license. Further investigation revealed, 2 needles, a round cap with a white residue (suspected Heroin), and a clear bag tied off containing a white powdery substance (suspected Heroin). McLaughlin was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



On April 5, 2023, Deputy McCourt was on patrol in the area of the Wawa located at 305 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick. Upon entry into the Wawa, Deputy McCourt observed **Nyequaan Jacquice Washington**, 25 of no fixed address, who had been previously trespassed from the establishment. Washington was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert

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



On April 5, 2023, two individuals flagged down DFC Wilder for a ride to the Quality Inn in Solomons. The passengers were advised they would be checked for weapons prior to being placed into the cage of Deputy Wilder's marked agency-issued patrol vehicle. While en route to the Quality Inn, passenger **Dior Christopher Christian**, 53 of Lusby, was observed placing his hands into the front of his jeans as if he was hiding a controlled dangerous substance. Christian was asked about the incident and pulled out one paper fold containing six white rock like substances (suspected crack) from his person and handed it to Deputy Wilder. Christian was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



On April 8, 2023, Deputy Hendrickson initiated a traffic stop in the area of Town Square Drive and Gunsmoke Trail in Lusby for a traffic violation. Upon making contact with the occupants, a strong odor of burnt marijuana was emitting from the vehicle. Further investigation revealed, glass marijuana pipes, blunt wrappers, and smoked joints were observed throughout the vehicle. A dark-colored "Charter Arms Corp. Undercover .38 special" revolver was also recovered. Passenger **Jonathan Joseph Townsend**, 18 of Lusby, claimed ownership of the property and was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Handgun in a Vehicle and Possession of a Firearm Under the Age of 21.

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

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



Patuxent River Job Fair Tuesday, April 25

IN-PERSON – 3PM-7PM

PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION MUSEUM

22156 Three Notch Rd,

Lexington Park, MD 20653 (next to Gate 1)

VIRTUAL – 4PM-7PM

<https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/x3peLW>

25+ Companies

Andrews AFB Job Fair Thursday, April 27

Sponsor: Top III Association

IN-PERSON – 10AM-2PM

459 ARW Wing Auditorium

3755 Patrick Ave. 20762

Must have a CAC Card or Military ID for base access or be on a preapproved security list.

Deadline for requesting base access approval is Friday, April 21.

VIRTUAL – 11AM-2PM

<https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/dyQK6d>

WWW.JOBZONEONLINE.COM
REGISTER – POST RESUME –
VIEW COMPANY UPDATES

- Plan your schedule in advance to participate in both setups (In-person & Virtual) to connect with all companies.
- Take advantage of FREE resume reviews in-person at both events.
- Register via website and post/link resume to events. Bring plenty copies of your resume.

Questions? 434-263-5102 / 540-226-1473

Janet.Giles@JobZoneOnline.com

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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.

Sat, Apr 22

Earth Arts Fest: an Earth Day Celebration

Annemarie Sculpture Garden
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Admission is a suggested donation of \$5; kids free

View and help create Earth art installation, listen to great live music, and shop the marketplace. For kids there will be plenty of hands-on fun and learning around the garden. Adults can enjoy wine and beer, demos, viewing and creating art, and relaxing in the garden. The marketplace will have plenty of food and drink options, along with great shopping. Rain or shine event, no pets, no smoking. Details: www.annemarietgarden.org

Free Paper Shredding Event

Northern Middle School
2954 Chaneyville Road, Owings
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, is hosting free paper shredding events for county residents and businesses. Shredding documents helps prevent identity theft by destroying confidential or sensitive information.

Proof of residency or business location is required. All paper must be removed from plastic bags and cardboard boxes prior to shredding. Paper clips and staples are acceptable. Binders and binder clips are not acceptable.

Businesses are permitted up to five banker boxes of paper per business (or the equivalent volume of five banker boxes in alternate containers). There is no limit for residents. Certificates of destruction will be provided if requested.

Shredding events are held monthly. For information about other recycling events, call the Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, at 410-326-0210 or visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Recycle.

Sun, Apr 23

Fossil Club Meeting & Public Lecture

Calvert Marine Museum
1:30 p.m.

The quarterly CMM Fossil Club Meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m., followed by a FREE public lecture at 2:30 p.m. Our guest speaker is Dr. Dale Greenwalt, a Resident Research Associate in the Department of Paleobiology at the Smithsonian. He has been affiliated with that department since 2007. Dr. Greenwalt's work centers on the description of the amazing fossil insect fauna of the Coal Creek Member of the Middle Eocene Kishenehn Formation in northwestern Montana. His presentation is entitled:

The Purple Fossil. The meeting and lecture will be held in person in the museum's Harms Gallery and also virtually via Zoom.

Memorial Service for Crime Victims and their Families

Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Dept.
Company 2, headquarters
1- 3 p.m.

The Calvert County State's Attorney's Office will be hosting the 33rd Annual Statewide Memorial Service for Crime Victims and their Families. The public is welcome.

The program will feature a number of guest speakers to include Calvert County Sheriff Ricky Cox, State's Attorney Bob Harvey, Kurt Wolfgang, Executive Director of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, and Dawn Collins, whose son, Lt. Richard Collins, III, was murdered at the University of Maryland in 2017. The program will offer the opportunity for the families and friends of crime victims to unite and share their experiences with victim services professionals and public officials.

Mon, Apr 24

Homeschool Meet Up: Construction Zone

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
1-3 p.m.

Come build with us as we use blocks, fort builders and more to explore engineering! Drop-ins welcome! For kids in grades K to 5. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Monday Night Movie Musings

Calvert Library, (Zoom), 7-8 p.m.

This month's movie is "Logan Luck." 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. Watch at <https://www.hoopladigital.com/title/15128209> 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Apr 25

Astronomy Night

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
7:50-8:50 p.m.

Come see what the night sky has to offer in the field behind Fairview. Learn about the equipment used to view the sky from the Astronomy Club of Southern Maryland.

All ages welcome. Outdoor only event, weather permitting. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Apr 26

Job Seeker Resources

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 be in person at Calvert Library, Prince Frederick to meet with those seeking employment or career change. Walk ins welcome on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Overcoming Challenges to Success.

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

This workshop offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center. Learn how to overcome and move forward from the most common challenges that interfere with your success. 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 aloud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one (1) service learning hour for participating. How it works for young readers: Register for the event on this page. Bring your favorite books, or pick one of ours when you get here—we have plenty! Choose your teen Reading Buddy and read them a story! Have fun! How it works for teen Reading Buddies: If you are interested in being a Teen Reading Buddy, please register for the event and expect an email with more information at least three days before the event. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thu, Apr 27

Little Minnows

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

This month's theme is Wacky Weather. 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 a takeaway craft, available while sup-

plies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Programming is included with museum admission.

JobSource Mobile Career Center

Southern Branch Calvert Library
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mobile Health Center from CalvertHealth

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Come talk about your healthcare questions or needs because a simple change can make a difference in you or your family's life. We are here to support you! The Mobile Health Center travels to areas of the community to bring free health services and education. For more information to view the full schedule or view an online tour of the vehicle, visit them online. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862 <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Reading Buddies

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

Children that need some extra help with reading build confidence by reading with teens! With snacks, games, and reading incentives! A program for K-5 graders to practice reading in a relaxed and welcoming group space! A fun event that inspires a love of reading, offers great social activities for shy or anxious children and teens, and promotes positive interactions between children of all ages. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Upcoming

Maritime Performance Series: Lulu's Fate

Calvert Marine Museum
Friday, April 28, 6-9 p.m.

Lulu's Fate performs a mix of music from the Appalachian, southern string band and country blues traditions, as well as early swing, gospel, original tunes and covers ranging from Hank Williams to Tom Waits. 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 and \$25 at the door.



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dylan and Marley are two
- 5. Makes healthy
- 10 The Who's "O'Riley"
- 14. Side sheltered from wind
- 15. Flat-bottomed sailboats
- 16. Egyptian supreme god
- 17. Advice
- 18. Mass of small, loose stones
- 19. Online learning services provider
- 20. "Lords" in Northwest Semitic languages
- 22. Of she
- 23. A place to relax
- 24. Critical and mocking
- 27. Consumed
- 30. You get one in summer
- 31. Bath
- 32. Luxury automaker
- 35. Spiders spin one
- 37. Guy (slang)
- 38. Greek personification of Earth
- 39. Large instruments
- 40. Domestic cattle genus
- 41. Appetizer
- 42. Oil group
- 43. Where to put groceries
- 44. Speak incessantly
- 45. Popular color
- 46. A place to sleep
- 47. Make fun of
- 48. Former CIA
- 49. Salts
- 52. Bleated
- 55. Never sleeps
- 56. Sword
- 60. Water (Spanish)
- 61. Cyprinids
- 63. "Dark Knight" actor Christian
- 64. Fictional demon
- 65. Old World lizard
- 66. The content of cognition
- 67. Makes a mistake
- 68. A way to make wet
- 69. Tide

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One-liner
- 2. Evergreen genus
- 3. College in Rome
- 4. Prevents from seeing
- 5. Cycles/second
- 6. Mischievous child
- 7. Less common
- 8. Honorably retired
- 9. Midway between south and southeast
- 10. A confusion of voices and other sounds
- 11. Bony fish genus
- 12. Type of pear
- 13. Egyptian cross
- 21. Satisfies
- 23. Founder of Babism
- 25. Bar bill
- 26. Chicago ballplayer
- 27. Performer
- 28. Hairpiece
- 29. Partner to flowed
- 32. Aircraft formation
- 33. You have 3 per day
- 34. Goes into
- 36. College athletic organization
- 37. Wet, muddy ground
- 38. Talk
- 40. Witty conversation
- 41. Gurus
- 43. "French Price of ___ Air"
- 44. Sports equipment
- 46. Try to get
- 47. Flower cluster
- 49. Sea dwellers
- 50. Palmlike subtropical plant
- 51. Polio vaccine developer
- 52. Baseball's Ruth
- 53. Gelatinous substance
- 54. Hungarian violinist Leopold
- 57. Offered
- 58. Ancient Greek City
- 59. A way to derive
- 61. Touch lightly
- 62. Witnessed

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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

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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Apr 20

Mean Girls—High School Version

Chopticon High School
25390 Coltons Point Road
Morganza
6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Chopticon High School's Bravehouse Productions is excited to be the first school in the state of Maryland to present MEAN GIRLS, the Musical (High School Version). The musical is based on the Paramount Pictures film Mean Girls.

Concessions will be available for purchase. Online ticket sales are highly recommended; visit bravehouse.booktix.com/

Please be advised that this production is not intended for younger audiences. This show contains mild language, innuendos, and the depiction of underage drinking.

Email bravehouseboosters@gmail.com for any concerns or questions.

cixxavierchurch.org. If you need additional information, please contact Sarah Matisick at 301-247-7416.

Golden Beach/ Patuxent Knolls Community Yard Sale

Golden Beach /Patuxent Knolls neighborhoods
7 a.m. to noon

Multi-family yard sales; Do all your yard sale shopping in one morning

Many various items: books, cookbooks, kitchen items, china, appliances, games, toys, videos, exercise equipment, garden items, tools, and much more.

Maps available at the Golden Beach/ Patuxent Knolls sign

For questions/information contact: Sherry Antosh at 301-643-5471 or sherry.antosh@comcast.net

SouthPoint 5K Fun Run and Walk

43160 St Andrews Church Rd
Leonardtown
9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The Southpoint 5K Fun Run and Walk supports sending SouthPoint Students to BigStuf summer camp. BigStuf provides students with a fun and fresh environment where they can hang out and learn about Jesus—at the beach! For more information: southpoint4u.com/bigstuf

Race will be held on April 22, 2023 at the Southpoint Church Leonardtown campus! This is a cross-country style course.

No dogs. Strollers are allowed but will be challenging on the wooded trail sections of the course.

Shirt size not guaranteed for registrations after March 31st.

Packet pickup on April 21st from 3-6pm Register at southpoint4u.com/5k

Spaghetti Dinner 2nd VFD&RS Hall

Social Hall of 2nd District VFD & RS
45245 Drayden Rd.
Valley Lee
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Menu Consisting of:
Spaghetti with meat sauce, Green Beans, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread & Dessert
Adults—\$15.00;

Children 6 to 12—\$7.00;

Children 5 & under are free

Sponsored (and prepared) by the 2nd District Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad Auxiliary.

For more information call: 301-904-1656

Proceeds from this fundraiser & the past fundraisers benefit the 2nd District Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad to continue to keep our community safe.

Relay For Life of St Mary's County

St Mary's College of Maryland
St. Mary's City
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Relay For Life of St Mary's County Planting the Seeds of Hope walk will take place on Saturday April 22nd from 6 pm to

9 pm at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Volunteers from St. Mary's County and St. Mary's College of Maryland are working together to host our annual Relay For Life event. They would love to see lots of local cancer survivors attend the event. They will provide a pre-packaged meal for our survivors who pre-register by April 14. This is an opportunity to fight back together against cancer. On April 22, there will have entertainment, food trucks, music, Zumba, various on-site fundraisers and a silent auction. Opening ceremonies are scheduled for 6pm at the Upper Patio of Montgomery Hall at St. Mary's College (47685 Margaret Brent Way, St. Mary's City, MD 20686; rain location will be inside the Michael P. O'Brien Athletic and Recreation Center on campus) For more information please visit secure.acevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr_id=105011

Upcoming

Drive Thru Dinner

May 6
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
27108 Mt. Zion Church Road,
Mechanicsville
Noon to 5 pm or until sold out

Menu: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, Mac Cheese, Cole Slaw and Applesauce. Price: \$20 per dinner. Dinners are packaged to go but you are invited to dine in the hall and picnic tables. Visit us at www.mtzionmech.org

Thank you for your continued support.

Sat, Apr 22

6th Annual "Walk in the Park" 5K Fun Run/Walk

The "Walk in the Park" at St. Francis Xavier Church just outside of Leonardtown on Saturday, April 22, 2023 is to benefit the Newtowne Manor House Restoration Fund. Registration starts at 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. and run/walk participants may begin at 8:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$20 which includes a tee shirt. Information on registration is available on our website: www.stfran-

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St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 1658
Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 1080
Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 3101

Unless otherwise specified, all activities are open to Senior Activity Center participants ages 50+. Please call your local Senior Activity Center or visit StMarysMD.com/aging for the most up-to-date information.

April Fool's Bingo

Attention jokesters and those who enjoy lighthearted fun: let's play a silly April Fool's themed Bingo. Join us at the Northern Senior Activity Center on Friday, April 28, from 9:45-11:15 a.m. There will be wacky prizes and decorations so imagine the unexpected -- including fun in the last week of April, not just on the 1st. Walk-ins only. Please arrive early to get your seat or to complete membership paperwork if 50 years-of-age and visiting for the first time.

Matter of Balance

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels. This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls. You will learn to view falls as controllable and make changes to reduce the risk of falls at home. Who should attend this course? Anyone who is concerned about falls, anyone interested in improving balance, flexibility, and strength, anyone who has fallen in the past, or anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns. Class will be held on Mondays and Thursdays each week beginning on Mondays, May 1-25, at the Garvey Senior Activity Center from 5:30-7:30 p.m. There is no charge for the class, however, advanced Registration is required. A commitment to attending all class sessions is required. Register at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs" and then "Garvey Senior Activity Center". Call the Reservation Request Line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, if you need assistance with registration.

scoutymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs" and then "Garvey Senior Activity Center". Call the Reservation Request Line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, if you need assistance with registration.

Supporting the Men & Women in Law Enforcement

The community is invited to join the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, the Department of Aging & Human Services, and the Triad/SALT Council to thank this year's Law Enforcement Officers of the Year and remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to their community.

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 11:30 a.m. at The White Rose, located at 21030 Point Lookout Road in Callaway, MD. The community is invited to stay for lunch, free of charge, following the ceremony. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Sarah Miller at 301-475-4200, ext. 1073, or at sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov.

New Collage Group

In this drop-in class you will learn how to make collages on postcards to send out to your friends and family. Collage involves cutting pictures and words from magazines or books and gluing them to any surface such as paper. The pictures overlap to cre-

ate a finished image. The group will meet Tuesdays, May 2 & 16, at 6 p.m. Advance registration is not required. Materials will be provided. There is no fee for the class. Collage Group is a beginner friendly arts and crafts where you can also socialize with others! To learn more call 301-475-4200, ext. 1050.

Beaded Sun Catchers

In this beginner friendly craft class, we will make beaded sun catchers for you to hang on your porch! No prior experience is required, and you will be able to take home your work of art. We will use wire and beads to create the sun catcher. The beads will sparkle in the sunlight! Class will be held at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, May 3, at 6 p.m. The cost for the class is \$15. Advanced Registration is required. Register at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs" and then "Garvey Senior Activity Center". Call the Reservation Request Line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, if you need assistance with registration.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Let's have a Friday fiesta on Friday, May 5, from 9-11:15 a.m. at the Northern Senior Activity Center! Join us for a fun game of Loteria -- a traditional Mexican game of chance, similar to bingo, with images relative to folk tales and general culture. Each

winner will pick a prize from the table and get one whack at the piñata. Start your morning with coffee and churros -- a popular Mexican pastry. Be sure to wear bright colors: red, white, & green - the colors of the Mexican flag and enjoy our Mexican culture display. Register and pay the \$3 activity fee by visiting www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs."

Lunch is not included in this event. If you wish to extend your day, reserve a meal by contacting the kitchen at 301-475-4200, ext. 3105.

Law Day

Do you have an Advance Healthcare Directive filled out? Is your document up to date? If your answer to either question is no, sign up for Law Day! Make an appointment with an attorney to fill out an Advance Healthcare Directive, completely free of charge, at the Northern, Garvey, or Loffler Senior Activity Center on Friday, May 5, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

All attorneys are members of the St. Mary's County Bar Association and are donating their time for Law Day to fill out Advance Care Directives ONLY. This is a free service.

Registration is required. For more information, please contact Sarah Miller at Sarah.Miller@stmaryscountymd.gov or 301-475-4200, ext. 1073.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



Open Art Workshop: Color Your Way

Art is all about self-expression, but having some guidance never hurt anyone. Artist Deb McClure will be at Leonardtown Library on Friday, April 28 from 1- 4 p.m., prepped with exercises and guidance, to help you create art that truly speaks to you. This program will focus on color (such as mixing, color theory, or just general usage). Painting supplies, such as canvas, brushes, and paints will be provided by the St. Mary's Arts Council. Each workshop will feature a still life set up for use, as well as other guided exercises specifically focused on improving your understanding and use of color. Deb will be on hand to offer advice, guidance, or just friendly

artistic conversation. Feel free to come in and stop by for however long you would like, just be ready to make some art! Register on www.stmalib.org.

Introduction to Boating Safety

Join the Lexington Park Library in learning about boating safety, security, navigation, and much more on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. The seminar is for boaters with little to no background or training in boating safety as well as a refresher for more experienced boaters. It covers the most critical components of boating safety a new boater needs to know immediately. The seminar includes the importance of life jackets, fire extinguishers and their use, how to get a free boat safety check, navigating on the water, navigation rules, safe fuel-

ing, anchoring and knots. This is a classroom seminar presented by a certified USCG Auxiliary instructor. It is not an on-the-water course. It covers the things that you should know but does not give you actual underway experience. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Scrap Your Spring! Scrapbook Event

Do you want to learn how to start a scrapbook? Then, join us at Lexington Park Library on Thursday, April 27 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. for our Spring Scrapbooking Event! During this program, we are going to show you how to start your very own scrapbook, and how to decorate the pages with fabulous materials. If you bring your own photos, we will make copies to paste into your book. Scrapbook materi-

als will be provided. Come join us for a fun day of accessorizing and crafting! Intended for ages 8-18. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Computer Class - Google Drive

Join us for this introductory class to learn how to use Google Drive at Lexington Park Library from Monday, May 1 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in learning how to use Google Drive, from what exactly is Google Drive to how to upload documents, create documents, organize items, this class will cover the majority of the basics, in addition to how to use Google Drive at the Library. Register on www.stmalib.org

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.

In Remembrance

Alice Bailey, 79



Alice Sophia Vallandingham Bailey, 79, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away on April 12, 2023. Born on August 3, 1943, she was the daughter of the late Stephen Lawrence Vallandingham, Jr. and the late Margaret Eleanor (Guy) Vallandingham Fortney.

Alice was the loving wife of the late John Robert "Robbie" Bailey, Jr., whom she married on August 5, 1961 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Morganza, MD, and who preceded her in death on July 5, 2014.

Alice was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1961. She was a court reporter for the Circuit Court of St. Mary's County, MD. Alice enjoyed painting, making stain glass, and upholstering. She founded the St. Mary's Women's Softball League in 1969.

She is survived by her children Kimberly Bailey Kaspar (Brian) of Hollywood, MD and John Robert Bailey III (Karen) of Leonardtown, MD; four grandchildren, John Robert Bailey IV (Blaise), Brittani Leigh Bailey (Christine), Robert Allan Williams, Jr., and Murphy Kyndall Brown (Richard); and seven great grandchildren; Robert Allen Williams III, Caleb Dylan Williams, Lyla Rae Bailey, Stella Mae Bailey, Monroe West Bailey and Elijah "Eli" Emanuel Bailey; one great great grandchild, Maxwell Javier Williams. In addition to her parents and husband, Alice was preceded in death by her grandchildren Samantha Jo Bailey and Dylan Robert Brown and her brother Stephen Guy Vallandingham.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday April 18, 2023 from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. with prayers recited at 7:00 P.M.

in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, Maryland. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Morganza, MD with Father Andrew Royals officiating. Interment will follow at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery, Leonardtown, MD.

Serving as pallbearers will be John Robert Bailey III, John Robert Bailey IV, Robert Allan Williams III, Caleb Dylan Williams, Brian Clarke Jarboe and Stephen Davis Vallandingham.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Hospice of St. Mary's P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown MD.

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.

Betty Warren, 79



It is with great sadness that the family of Elizabeth Marie (Betty) Warren, 79, of Lexington Park, Maryland, formerly of Washington D.C. announce her passing on March 29, 2023. Born on May 29, 1943 in Wilmington, Delaware she was the daughter of the late Theodore Messina and the late Helen Mature. Betty will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 57 years, Thomas Warren, her children Christopher Contino, Joanne Smith (Matthew), Donna Warren (Mark Flaherty), Victoria Laabs (Robert), her sister Gloria Whitehead and her grandchildren, Jennifer Warren, Jacob Smith, Tyler Laabs, Luke Smith, Cole Contino, Lauren Laabs, Thomas Laabs. She will also be dearly missed by her friends

at Lexington Park Adult Community. In addition to her parents, Betty was preceded in death by her adoptive parents, Michael Migliaccio and Maddelena Migliaccio, as well as her brother, Leonard Migliaccio and her sister Sandra McDaniel.

Betty will be remembered for her love of antiques and collectibles. She had a fierce love of her husband, family and friends. She was the best listener and always gave the best advice. She showed her love with humor and endless giving. Betty will be greatly missed.

Sandra Carlucci, 80



Sandra Gay Carlucci, 80, of Hughesville, MD, passed away on April 6, 2023.

Sandra was born on January 27, 1943, to McKinley and Florence York in Harlan, KY. After she graduated from Loyall High School in 1961, she pursued a degree in Business at Bowling Green Business College.

After college, she worked in the medical field for over 25 years. Sandra enjoyed what

she did for a living.

In 1977, she met John Carlucci at Southern Maryland Hospital. They were later married. She loved her three step-children as if they were her own - Christopher Carlucci of Waldorf, MD, Kathryn Carlucci of Lakeland, FL, and Patrick Carlucci who predeceased her.

Sandra retired in 1999 after 25 years in the medical field. While retired, she had time to pursue her love of fellowshiping with others.

Sandra was predeceased by her parents and her stepson Patrick Carlucci. She is survived by her two step-children, her brother Clyde Winegard, sister Deborah Wilson, one grandchild, Alexis and two great-grandchildren, Atlas and Asher.

On April 13, 2023, the family will receive friends for the visitation from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm with prayers at 7:00 pm at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to White Plains Baptist Church.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD.



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*A Tribute to the Loved One
Whose Memory Lives
On Forever in Your Heart*

Honor the memory of your cherished one by sharing the story of their life with friends, neighbors and associates here in the community.

For details and to place your notice of remembrance, call 301-373-4125 for assistance.



REMEMBRANCES
IN PRINT & ONLINE

County Times
St. Mary's County • Calvert County

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Earth Day lessons for investors

It's almost Earth Day, when people around the world focus on ways of protecting and preserving the environment. And the lessons from this occasion can be applied to other areas of life — such as investing.

Here are some themes to consider:

- **Sustainability** – From an environmental perspective, sustainability encompasses a range of issues, such as using natural resources wisely. As an investor, you, too, need to protect your resources. So, for example, to sustain a long-term investment strategy, you won't want to dip into your retirement accounts, such as your IRA and 401(k), to pay for major home or car repairs or other unexpected, costly bills before retirement. You can help prevent this by building an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. And once you're retired, you need to sustain your portfolio so it can help provide income for many years. For that to happen, you'll need to maintain a withdrawal rate that doesn't deplete your investments too soon.
- **Growth potential** – Many people plant trees to celebrate Earth Day, with the hope that, as the trees grow, they'll contribute to cleaner air. When you invest, you also need growth potential if you're going to achieve your goals, including a comfortable retirement. So, your portfolio will need a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented vehicles, such as stocks and stock-based mutual funds or exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Yet, you do need to be aware that these investments can lose value, especially during downturns in the financial markets. You can help reduce the impact of market turbulence on your holdings by also owning other types of investments, such as bonds, government securities and certificates of deposit (CDs). While these investments can also lose value, they are typically less volatile than stocks and stock-based mutual funds and ETFs. The appropriate percentage of growth and fixed-income investments in your portfolio depends on your risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term objectives.
- **Avoidance of "toxins"** – At some Earth Day events, you can learn about positive behaviors such as disposing of toxic items safely. And in the investment world, you'll also want to avoid toxic activities, such as chasing "hot" stocks that aren't appropriate for your needs, or trading investments so frequently that you run up commissions and taxes or jumping out of the markets altogether when there's a temporary decline.
- **Consolidation** – Getting rid of clutter and unnecessary possessions is another lesson some people take away from Earth Day. All of us, when we look around our homes, could probably find many duplicate items — do we really need two blenders or three brooms or five staplers? When you invest, it's also surprisingly easy to pick up "clutter" in the form of multiple accounts. You might have an IRA with one financial company and brokerage accounts with two or three others. If you were to consolidate these accounts with one provider, you might reduce correspondence — even if it is online — and possibly even lower the fees you pay. But perhaps more important, by consolidating these accounts at one place, possibly with the guidance of a financial professional who knows your needs and goals, you may find it easier to follow a single, unified investment strategy.

Earth Day only happens once a year — but it may provide lessons for investors that can last a lifetime.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Contributed by David McDonough

Financial Advisor at Edward Jones

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Leonardtown, MD 20650

301 997 1707

Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind
by Shelby Oppermann



The Never-Ending Paper Saga

Well, it's only taken me 23 years after my mother's passing to go through most all of the Rubbermaid boxes from her house. Most things I have gone through that were inside our house, but I didn't remember that we had stored quite a few boxes out in our big shed. It was sort of a whirlwind time around her four months long hospital stay until her death. I was trying to settle her estate in Upper Marlboro, find homes for her three remaining dogs since I couldn't take them at the time, and I was also in the middle of a short term contractual picture framing job on Base — which is how I later met my husband.

I didn't meet my husband until a few months after my mother's death in January 2000. He was a Godsend to me during those crazy months and willingly helped me through the long and winding probate process, and later that year asked me to marry him, and help get my things, my teenaged sons' things, and my mother's items into his home...and shortly thereafter moving my mother's boxes into the big shed when his mother came to live with us. Crazy times for sure.

Anyway, the time finally came a few weeks ago that my husband needed more room in the big shed for pool supplies like stocking up on bulk chlorine for his busy pool business season ahead. This became Uh Oh time for me, since it meant I had to go through things that I really hoped I would never have to deal with. Also included in many of those old Rubbermaid boxes were items that my brothers had left in the old Clinton home. One brother passed a few years ago, and my oldest brother is 76 today as you are reading this. Why do I still have all of their things??

Luckily my husband didn't have me go through all the boxes at once, but the few he brought out had lots of interesting items I thought were lost forever. But there were also tons of tax papers and check stubs from the 1950s on. I burned all the tax papers. I glanced through some of the old check registers before burning for fun just to see where my mother shopped back then. Many of the checks were from the Giant grocery store in Marlow Heights, our only real grocery store until Nick's opened up a few hundred yards from our house in Clinton. Before that we only had a gas station/grocery store named Kimble's which my brothers and I walked to for quick items. I also loved seeing her weekly checks to Elizabeth's, the hairdresser in Morningside near The Skyline Tavern where she got her "hair done". I, in fact, got my "hair done" yesterday at Ingrid's in Charlotte Hall. Ingrid is masterful at finding what looks good for your type face. I just said surprise me, and I am enjoying my short upswept "do", though I keep reaching back wondering what happened to my hair. I felt so comfortable in there chatting with Ingrid and all the women in various stages of hair prep, we all seemed to have something in common. The strange part is when I was talking about my husband's pool business and Ingrid and I came to the realization that she had called for a pool opening, but I hadn't gotten to that section of pool scheduling calls yet. I apologized profusely not immediately calling back, and Ingrid quipped to the effect that she was wielding the power of how my hair turned out. We all had fun and there was a lot of laughter, and a great cut as well.

And of course, if you lived in Clinton, you shopped at BK Miller's too. I even found her pay stubs from when she worked at Bk Miller's and Nicks as a cashier. And there were checks to Montgomery Ward's, Hechinger's, and for my annual summer camp fees at Camp Maria here in St. Mary's County. I even found her downpayment for our first Prowler Camper Trailer in May of 1972 for \$200. We definitely had wonderful trips in the camper (now called RV's I suppose) and the larger camper she bought a few year's later. My mother could winterize, hitch and unhitch it, and pull that trailer all over three states. My father didn't enjoy camper trailer trips so it was usually just my mom and I and friends of mine.

I also found more family photos, lots of old family letters and history from before I was born, and odd things like my brothers' erector and train set motors, and classic old beer signs, and jewelry which I will probably put on eBay. I was happy that the photos and papers weren't ruined, but they all have a decidedly musty smell with trace amounts of my mother's cigarette smoke still coming through. I think next week when it is cool again I will dive back into the big shed and tackle a few more boxes and decide what to do with my old 1970s stereo system and my brother's college papers from the 1960s. Burn pile probably...you can't keep everything, especially, and unfortunately, all of the past.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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

Free Public Screening of Netflix Documentary “Descendant” at St. Mary’s College of Maryland

St. Mary’s College of Maryland, Historic Sotterley and Historic St. Mary’s City are partnering to present “Whispers from the Water,” featuring a screening of the powerful 2022 Netflix film, “Descendant,” to our community. The screening will be followed by a panel that will discuss the film, how it showcases previously undiscovered historical findings, as well as the long-lasting negative economic, environmental and social impacts the slave trade continues to have on local descendants and our nation. The event will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, in St. Mary’s College of Maryland’s Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center, 47855 College Dr., St. Mary’s City. The public is welcome to this free event, though tickets are required through the College’s website at www.smc.edu/ww23.

Set in the small Alabama community of Africatown, the documentary follows the descendants of the survivors of the Clotilda, the last known slave ship to transport human beings as cargo from Africa to America. On July 9, 1860, more than 100 captive Africans were illicitly brought to the shores of Mobile, Alabama, under cover of darkness. The international slave trade had been made illegal in the US in 1808, but human trafficker Timothy Meaher made a bet that he could get around the law with his ship.

After the illegal voyage, the ship was burned and scuttled in Mobile Bay in an attempt to destroy the evidence. Today, the residents of Africatown, just north of Mobile, count the Clotilda survivors among their ancestors. Uncovering the truth about the Clotilda, which was a centuries-old open secret, was pursued by marine archaeologists to confirm the ship’s existence and bring its stories to the surface.

The panel will feature Jocelyn Davis, a direct descendant of Clotilda survivor Charlie Lewis and lifelong resident of Africatown, as well as Kamau Sadiki, President of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers, who was featured in the documentary for his work as a member of the dive team Divers with a Purpose that identified the Clotilda. Joining the panel will be Susan Langley, PhD, the Maryland state underwater archaeologist and adjunct professor of anthropology at St. Mary’s College of Maryland; Liza Gijanto, PhD, associate professor of anthropology at St. Mary’s College of Maryland; Kelsey Bush, Historic Sotterley descendant and board member as well as the community affairs liaison of St. Mary’s College of Maryland; and Gwen Bankins, Historic Sotterley descendant and secretary of the Board of Trustees.

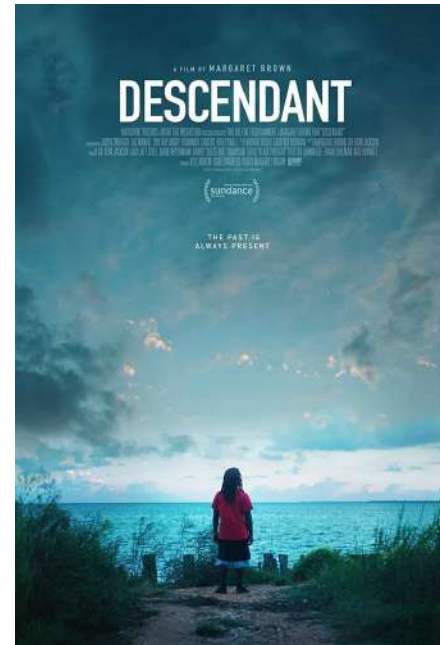
Doors will open at 1:00 pm., with the film

beginning at 1:30 pm. After a short intermission, the panel discussion will begin at approximately at 3:45 p.m. Several books related to the film’s subject will be available for purchase on site.

A National Historic Landmark and a UNESCO Site of Memory for the Routes of Enslaved Peoples, Sotterley is one of the oldest museums of its kind in the United States, with a history dating back to the turn of the 18th Century. Through the preservation of the site’s historic structures and natural environment and the use of powerful stories to educate and bring American history to life, the organization strives to foster a better understanding of our world today by providing a living link to America’s complex history and legacy of slavery.

Historic St. Mary’s City is a National Historic Landmark, a uniquely well-preserved archaeological record of more than 10,000 years of human occupation - including archaeological artifacts left by native peoples and European colonists. Today, the site is home to a living history museum that engages both students and the general public in educational programs through novel and exciting ways, encouraging people of all ages to connect the past with their contemporary lives.

St. Mary’s College of Maryland is accredited



ited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. St. Mary’s College, the National Public Honors College, is ranked as the top public liberal arts college in the U.S. by Money magazine. Approximately 1,600 students attend the college, nestled on the St. Mary’s River in Southern Maryland.

The Tackle Box Fishing Report



By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Perch are in the creeks. We had several reports on Monday of perch being caught in Patuxent and Potomac creeks. The fish are located in the deeper holes and love bits of bloodworm. Double hook bottom rigs with spinner hooks work well.

Tiny spot have moved into the lower Potomac where pound netters reported them last Friday and Monday morning.

Blue catfish are in the Patuxent and Potomac and will take cut bait. One fisher-

man reported filling three big trash cans full with his party of kids just above Benedict near the Horse Farm on Saturday. The Potomac has all the catfish you care to catch in the vicinity of the 301 Bridge. DNR wants this invasive species wiped out and ask all fishermen remove as many as they can. The catfish are excellent eating.

Snakehead are in the creeks now. The head waters of the St. Mary’s River is loaded with snakehead.

Bass, bluegill, crappie, and pickerel await freshwater fishermen at St. Mary’s Lake and local ponds.

Pre-Order/Pre-pay/ Drive-thru-only Dinner at Immaculate Conception



on
Sunday, May 7th, 2023

from 12:00 noon until 3:00 pm

Menu

Fried Chicken, Steamed Ship Round (Beef), Shrimp Salad, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Coleslaw, and Applesauce.

\$25.00 per dinner

Please visit ICChurchMD.org

Click on “Parish Dinner” to order and pay for your dinner by Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023. Call 301-884-3123

Questions? Call 301-904-0796

FREE EVENT BIKE TO WORK DAY FRIDAY MAY 19, 2023

Pre-Register by May 12 for
FREE T-SHIRT* & BIKE RAFFLE
REGISTER TODAY AT
BikeToWorkMetroDC.org
Free refreshments & giveaways at
participating locations, while supplies last.



Register for free at
BIKETOWORKMETRODC.ORG
800.745.7433

f t #BTWD2023

Visit biketoworkmetrodc.org for pit stop locations and times.

*T-Shirts available at pit stops to first 15,000 registrants.
Pit stops in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia!

Bike to Work Day is funded by DDOT, MDT, VDOT, and USDOT.



CONTACT US

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

Health Department Hosting Community Baby Shower

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) invites expecting parents in St. Mary's County to a Community Baby Shower on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Spring Ridge Middle School-Based Health Center.

This FREE event will offer giveaway items to attendees while supplies last. These items include diapers, baby wipes, bath thermometers, and safe sleep booklets. Special door prizes include strollers, car seats, pack-n-plays, diaper bags, tummy time mats, and nursing boppies. Expecting parents will be connected to community resources and provided with information on maintaining a healthy pregnancy.

"Promoting maternal, infant, and child health is vital to the overall health and wellness of every community. The health depart-

ment is proud to provide programs that focus on improving access to prenatal care, education on infant care to decrease infant mortality rates, and nurse case management programs that focus on maternal behavioral and mental health," said Angela Cochran, Director of Health Promotion & Community Services at SMCHD. "This is an opportunity for the community to come together not only to learn about local resources for mothers, babies, and children, but also to connect with other families."

Registration is preferred, but not required - registration form available at smchd.org

To learn more about programs and services at SMCHD for infants, children and adolescents, please visit smchd.org/infants-and-children.

Corteau Vineyards Grand Opening

Corteau Vineyards will present their Tasting Room Grand Opening at 38713 Golden Beach Rd on April 28, 2023 at 2 pm. It will feature a ribbon cutting ceremony with local dignitaries, free wine tastings, and charcuterie boards while supplies last. The free wine tastings and charcuterie will be available for the entire weekend. Singer/songwriter Joseph Norris will be performing on Saturday, April 29 from 2-5 pm.

Corteau Vineyards joins Xella Winery and Vineyard, Generations Vineyard, and Port of Leonardtown Winery as the fourth winery on the First Landing Wine Trail in St. Mary's County.

Corteau Vineyards has been growing grapes since 2004 and were previously members of Port of Leonardtown Winery.

Now in their 19th year of production, Corteau Vineyards grapes are now being made into wine onsite for sale at the Corteau Vineyards Tasting Room. The Tasting Room is open Fridays, 3-8 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays, 12-6 pm.

The family farm has been in the family since 1941 when Charles Conrad of Arlington, VA bought it. In the past, the land has been used for tobacco, lumber, and various grains. Conrad's grandchildren have chosen to maintain the agricultural use of the land by growing grapes - currently 13 acres and 14 varieties. The owners are Peter Byrne of Charlotte Hall, MD; Kathleen Mazingo of Chesapeake Beach, MD; Michael Byrne of Vienna, VA; and Gerald Byrne of Leesburg, VA.

11 Quilts of Valor Awarded



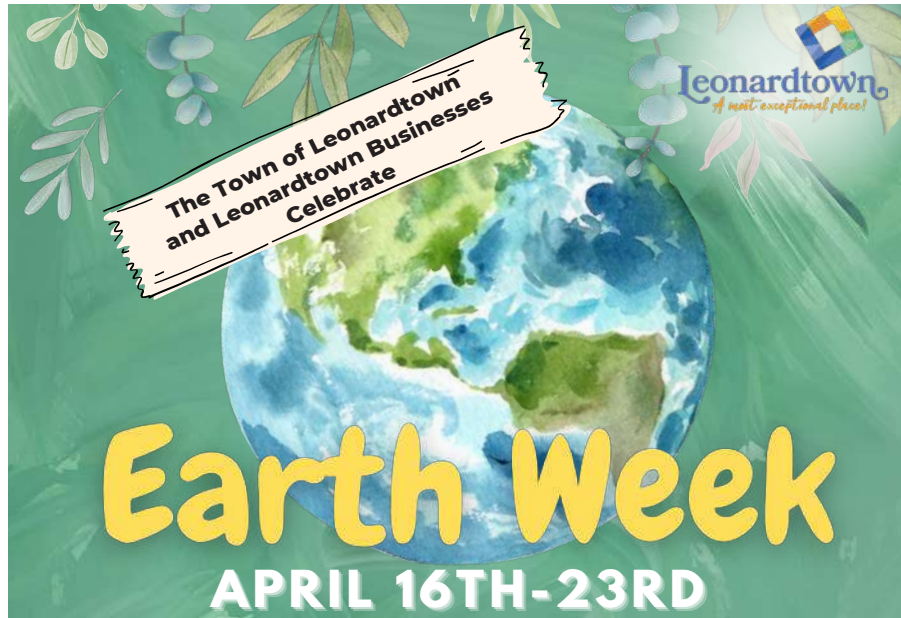
Front row, left to right: Allan Mason (Army, 20 years), Rolanda Stone (Navy, 8 years), Richard Axtell (Navy, 20 years), Ben Smith (Navy, 5 years), Rachel McGraw (Navy, 8 years), and Theodore Short (Army, 20 years). Back row, left to right: Dale Kelly (Air Force, 5 years), Robert Williams (Navy, 26 years), Jerry Girdlestone, Sr. (Navy, 24 years), Roger Huot (Navy, 21 years) and Kenneth Williams (Navy, 4 years).

PAX Sound of Freedom awarded 11 Quilts of Valor to local veterans at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park on April 15, 2023.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a non-profit organization established and operated

in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. To date the national organization has presented 343,365 quilts to active duty personnel and veterans.

Leonardtwn Celebrates Earth Week



Local Leonardtown businesses have partnered with the Town of Leonardtown to create the Leonardtown Earth Week Celebration. This week-long event officially kicked off on Sunday, April 16th with the Leonardtown Cleanup event – a social media challenge where participants can post photos of themselves, family and/or friends cleaning up around their neighborhoods to the Town of Leonardtown Facebook page with the hashtag #CleanupLeonardtwn from Sunday, April 16th – Friday, April 21st for a chance to win one of three fabulous gift baskets filled with goodies from Leonardtown businesses (total value - \$300). The gift baskets will be awarded at the Opening Ceremony on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22nd at the Brudergarten at Shepherd’s Old Field Market - located at: 22625 Duke Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650 (the ceremony begins at 11 a.m., you must be present to win).

The majority of the events and activities take place on Earth Day (Saturday, April 22nd) throughout Leonardtown. You can enjoy the beautiful view of Breton Bay and celebrate the day with free yoga with SPICE Studio and kayaking demos with Patuxent Adventure, magnet fishing courtesy of the Frog Town Ice Cream Shop, and Plein Air and Sound Bath events (courtesy of Leonardtown Arts & Entertainment, Carrie Patterson of The Yellow Line Studio, St. Mary’s County Arts Council and Reflexology with Ruth) at the Leonardtown Wharf; buy organic fruits and vegetables at The Good Earth Natural Foods Company and Town Market; enjoy a Pet Parent event at Earthwise Pet Store featuring healthy products for your pet and the Earth; shop with local Earth-friendly vendors at popup shops around Town. Popup locations include: St. Mary’s County Arts Council, Town Market, the Marie & Nash Gift Shop, Heritage Chocolates, Port of Leonardtown Winery, Shepherd’s Old Field Market and Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy (Leonard Hall will also have fun activities for the kids including face painting and a moon bounce at their Vendor Fair); and bring your used mascara wands to the drop-off station outside Dreamy Days Beauty and

Fen Holistic Therapies for donation to Pact Collective (Fen will also be donating a portion of their sales in their shop throughout the entire month of April to the Rainforest Alliance), a charity that repurposes mascara wands for wildlife care, and your clean, gently used clothing to the Marie & Nash Gift Shop to swap for new-to-you fashion to update your wardrobe.

In addition to hosting the Opening Ceremony, Shepherd’s Old Field Market (SOF Market) is giving away free tree saplings while supplies last. While at SOF Market, bring your own mug to Botanic Café for a free cup of coffee (one per person between the hours of 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.) and attend free nutrition (11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.) and potting/planting classes (bring the entire family from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.) at Viking Axe Throwing courtesy of Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine and SOMD Vegan Events. After taking in all the exciting events and activities around Town come back to SOF Market for the Official After Party with the Brudergarten and Viking Axe Throwing. Rent a lane to throw axes or try your hand at archery with Viking Axe Throwing while sampling tasty food (along with Vegan offerings) from the Brudergarten.

The Leonardtown Trolley will be running on Saturday from 2 p.m. – 10 p.m. with a special stop to the Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy for their Spring Vendor Fair. Why not park and ride the Leonardtown Trolley to all the great events and activities for FREE!

Sunday, April 23rd wraps up our Earth Week Celebration with the 3rd Annual Barre & Bloom Event at Xella Winery hosted by SPICE Studio and other participating businesses. Enjoy a Barreless class with Lauren, a picnic lunch from the Real Food Studio, wine from Xella and take home a packet of seeds from Anchored Roots Farm – a great way to end the week’s festivities!

We hope you can join us for this exciting week of events dedicated to our Earth. For more details about the Leonardtown Earth Week Celebration visit: www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/EarthDay.

Pet OF THE WEEK

MEET DISCO DAN



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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>



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LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED



The REX Theater Raises Close to \$6,000 for Leadership Southern Maryland

The REX Theater in Leonardtown, MD, presented nonprofit organization Leadership Southern Maryland (LSM) with a \$5,926 check this week, proceeds of a March 18 fundraiser featuring the Blazin' Keys Dueling Pianos.

The REX partnered with the LSM Executive Program Class of 2023, who approached owner Joe Kurley with the idea to host an encore performance of fan favorites, the Blazin' Keys, to raise funds for a class gift to LSM.

"When posed with the question of what to do as a class fundraiser, I immediately thought of hosting an event at The REX," said Ryan Morning, AVA Group President and Co-Founder and LSM class member. "The recently completed REX Theater, a 300+ person event venue, was the perfect location to host a Dueling Pianos event, and having worked with the Blazin' Keys, I knew they would like the venue and put on a great show."

"To say we had a blast is an understatement," Kurley said. "The Blazin' Keys always bring audiences to their feet. The fun we all had that night was enhanced, for us at The REX, by the fact that we were also supporting our community."

"Joe Kurley and general manager Kiera Johnson are fantastic to work with,"

Morning added. "They do so much to help support local nonprofits and went over and above to ensure this event was a success. From coordinating ticket sales and displaying the logos of our sponsors, to special touches like sponsors' names on table displays and ushering sponsors to their tables, The REX helped the LSM Class of 2023 set the bar high! And the venue is fantastic. There is truly not a bad seat in the house."

The REX Theater hosts award-winning national and regional acts from across the country, bringing high-caliber shows you see in major cities, including comedy shows and dueling pianos. The venue is also available for private events. For more information and notifications for future events, visit the theater's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089120350079>.

Leadership Southern Maryland's flagship Executive Program is an interactive nine-month "behind-the-scenes" experience designed to enhance the collaborative abilities of our region's top senior professionals. LSM welcomes mid- to senior-level executives who are committed to addressing the community needs of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. Find out more and learn how you can become an LSM participant or supporter at www.leadershipsomd.org.



Joe Kurley of The REX (third from right) presents the Leadership Southern Maryland Class of 2023 with the proceeds of their fundraiser.

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PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION *News*

Navy Engineers Test Aging Equipment to Find a Cost-Saving Solution For MQ-25 Stingray

Engineers at the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) are testing the Navy's current fleet of Aerial Refueling Store pods to support the service's new air-to-air refueling tanker, the MQ-25 Stingray, potentially saving millions.

Today, the current fleet of Aerial Refueling Store pods fly aboard naval aircraft like F/A-18 and are expected to reach their estimated end-of-life in 2025. Conversely, the MQ-25 will need dozens of pods delivered between now and 2035 as the Stingray heads to the fleet.

"There are about 200 pods in inventory and each carries 2,000 lbs. of fuel," said NAWCAD engineer, Tom Cavallaro. "With this proven life-extension testing, the pods should be able to expand Stingray's reach and operate in the fleet through 2040."

New fuel pods cost the Navy about \$2.2 million each.

"If testing is successful, Flight Readiness Center (FRC) Southeast can reuse the current

pod shells and update their internal workings at less than half the cost," said NAWCAD structural engineer, Corey Golladay.

To test the integrity of the pods' frame, NAWCAD engineers and technicians created a custom test rig featuring hydraulic arms that twist and flex the pod replicating gravity and acceleration forces gathered from flight data.

"The test took two-and-a-half months to run 6,292 unique cases of flight data – in total, 440,720 simulated loads," said Golladay. "That's equivalent to two lifetimes of force – with no visual damage to the shell exterior."

NAWCAD's Structures lab, with experts in aircraft structural and fatigue testing and strain gage installations, collaborated with the Navy's Precision Strike Weapons Program Office (PMA-201) for the project. The team will next send the tested pod to FRC Southeast in Jacksonville, Florida, to check for wear and determine whether refurbishment will be the solution.



Watch Navy engineers test an aging refueling pod here: [youtube.com/watch?v=uM6fwJeLzxo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uM6fwJeLzxo)

The Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division employs more than 17,000 military, civilian and contract personnel. It operates test ranges, laboratories and air-

craft in support of test, evaluation, research, development and sustainment of everything flown by the Navy and Marine Corps. Based in Patuxent River, Maryland, the command also has major sites in St. Inigoes, Maryland; Lakehurst, New Jersey; and Orlando, Florida.

Small Businesses Are Essential to Increased Capabilities, Fleet Readiness



Small businesses are not only a primary source of naval aviation innovation and future capability, but also key partners in the Naval Air Systems Command's (NAVAIR) disciplined approach to increasing speed of capability, affordability and availability, according to NAVAIR Deputy Commander Tom Rudowsky.

Rudowsky was the keynote speaker on March 14 at the joint NAVAIR and Naval Sea Systems Command Small Business Innovation Research Program/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Innovative Technology Showcase. The three-day event, part of the DoN's SBIR/STTR Program and held this year at the VTG Defense Conference Center in Washington, D.C., connected more than 150 small businesses, nonprofit research institutions, acquisition professionals and technologists.

"Much of today's fleet capability is gen-

erated by individuals, companies and groups such as this. You let us know what is possible, what's over the horizon and how we can bring them into fruition," Rudowsky said in his remarks to small businesses on the event's opening day. "The technologies we need to infuse into the battlespace today are increasingly critical, and the timelines to transition those technologies are shorter than they have been in the past. You are instrumental in determining what the future will be. That's why your role is so essential to mission success."

Joint events such as the Innovative Technology Showcase provides acquisition professionals and technologists from across two different system commands and other government agencies the opportunity to talk in person with representatives from companies that have developed technologies in their areas, said Kristi DePriest,

NAVAIR SBIR/STTR Program manager. "It also encourages them to have in-depth conversations with other companies and offer insights as to how they can leverage each other's technologies," she said.

Rudowsky shared NAVAIR's transformation focus areas that will provide the command with the necessary direction, alignment and disciplined approach to procuring, testing and delivering the next generation of integrated warfighting capability. "Capability is about delivering integrated warfighting capabilities at increased speed. Availability focuses on the number of assets ready for use by combatant commanders; and affordability focuses on opportunities for reduced cost and by maximizing every dollar for warfighter outcomes. Safety is a fourth focus area that will be added soon," he explained.

This approach, commonly referred to as CAA, will touch all naval aviation stakeholders, including small businesses. "Most of a weapons system's cost is in its sustainment phase and is determined by the decisions made in its design and acquisition phase. So, it starts here with you.

"Change is hard work," Rudowsky added. "We are challenging ourselves at every turn on how we think, act and operate."

In support of CAA, he asked small businesses to take a critical look at their operations and concentrate on efforts that matter. "There's a lot of activity going on in all of our organizations, but they aren't necessarily the ones that drive toward critical

mission outcomes," he said. "Our common focus is providing the warfighter with the capability to perform the mission and come home safely; that is what we need to see today from all stakeholders. It's action to outcome. If you understand what can be brought to bear, we can field much-needed technologies quicker."

Part of that success depends on small businesses communicating with their customers, the NAVAIR Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) and the NAVAIR SBIR/STTR Program Office. "We need to understand the challenges, the barriers you face and what help is needed. Only when we identify them, can we partner with you to address them, create capability, improve affordability and enhance availability," he advised.

Guest speaker Jimmy Smith, Department of Navy OSBP director, also asked small businesses during the question and answer session to be proactive in their engagement and feedback. "The work you do is absolutely required," he reiterated. "If you have any challenges, tell OSBP. You have a perspective and insight that is different from ours. It's our job to eliminate barriers to your success."

The intellectual capacity of small businesses is much needed by naval aviation, Rudowsky said. "Think beyond the ideas presented here, design systems for reliability and deliver capabilities on time. I ask you to better understand what the expected outcomes are and build them. That starts here with in-depth discussions and engagement with the program office representatives."

Leonardtwn Looking To Recruit New Retail Businesses

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

At last week's State of the Town presentation, Leonardtown merchants and investors spoke about the synergy between business and town government that has precipitated great growth and prosperity there.

But the town is not willing to rest on its laurels, said Town Administrator Laschelle McKay, and is preparing a strategy to bring more retail businesses into town to stop what town government believes is the spending of consumer dollars that the town should be able to capture itself.

Part of that strategy is a prospectus the town has prepared for interested investors detailing aspects such as its population — 63,000 people live within a 20-minute drive of its downtown — and median household income of \$105,000.

Moreover, the prospectus details the various thriving retail markets in town that still could support more such businesses; those are clothing and accessories, gifts and antiques, health and personal care, hobbies such as toys, games and books, home furnishings, restaurants and specialty foods.

All of these market sectors, McKay said, have demands greater than can be served by the businesses already in town.

The town estimates it has a \$64.3 million demand in its restaurant sector alone with \$55.1 million in sales fulfilled.

That leaves an estimated \$9.2 million the town could be collecting that is going to other venues or jurisdictions.

"There's still a lot of leakage of money that we will keep in town with more retail support," McKay said. "There are still 10 infill parcels available in the downtown."

But the town will be able to recruit many more businesses once the Tudor Hall development is built out, McKay said, which would be 400 acres split between 160 acres of residential mixed use and commercial properties and 240 acres owned by the town for recreation and open space.

The town will not wait for businesses to come looking for opportunities locally, though.

"We get contacted all the time by people looking for space," McKay said. "But we'll be going out actively seeking businesses."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

St. Mary's Ranks 6th Healthiest Jurisdiction in Maryland

St. Mary's County ranks in the top quartile of Maryland jurisdictions as the sixth healthiest county in Maryland, according to the annual County Health Rankings, released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. This ranking reflects improvement from 2021 and 2022. Rates of adult smoking, obesity, alcohol-impaired driving deaths, and low access to primary care indicated some areas of ongoing challenge for St. Mary's County when compared to the other 23 Maryland jurisdictions.

The County Health Rankings is an annual report that ranks the overall health of nearly every local jurisdiction in the United States. The Rankings provides a snapshot of a community's health, and helps to identify issues and possible solutions to create healthier places to live, learn, work and play. For more than a decade, the Rankings' data, guidance and stories have broadened the nation's understanding about the many factors that shape health.

The Rankings allow for relative comparisons between counties within a state on overall health and well-being. These comparisons are based on an assessment of four areas that influence health: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment. These fac-

tors are rated using local-level data from measures that include smoking, education, physical inactivity, preventable hospitalizations, and the availability of primary care physicians.

The 2023 Rankings focus on the connection between civic health and thriving communities. Civic health reflects the opportunities people have to participate in their communities, starting in local communities and representing promise, opportunity, belonging and shared responsibility.

"In St. Mary's County, we have an incredibly engaged community of organizational partners and residents working together to advance health," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "This diverse, multi-sector partnership helps us to achieve better health outcomes for our community and support quality of life for those who live here."

The Rankings are available online at www.countyhealthrankings.org. In addition to the county-level data, the Rankings also features What Works for Health, a database of more than 400 evidence-informed strategies to support communities as they implement local action around public health. If interested in supporting health in St. Mary's County, consider visiting healthystmarys.com and joining the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership.

Identity Needed for Theft Suspect



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the man pictured in a theft investigation. On Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023, at 12:45 pm, the suspect walked out of the Ollie's Bargain Outlet in Lexington Park with two vacuum cleaners

and other merchandise and did not pay for any of the items.


The suspect appears to be a tall, thin white male, last seen leaving in a black Chrysler van.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to contact Deputy Helen Deitrich at 301-475-4200, ext. 78066 or email helen.deitrich@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case # 10396-23

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

Legal Notice

Authorization is being requested from the State's Attorney's Office for St. Mary's County, Maryland to remove the remains of Carolyn Ann Weiler, currently interred in St. Mary's Queen of Peace Cemetery, Mechanicsville, Maryland, Section 501-104; Lot 713; Site #5, and to reinter said remains in the St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Compton, Maryland, Section 508-1; Row A; Grave #17. This relocation is being made to relocate the deceased to the family plot. Donald E. Weiler, husband of Carolyn Ann Weiler is making the request. Any interested party should contact Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A. at 301-475-8500 prior to May 5, 2023.




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Delegation Talks Over Tough General Assembly Session



Pictured L to R: Delegate Todd Morgan, Senator Jack Bailey, Delegate Matt Morgan

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Del. Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29A) said this past General Assembly was a tough one for Southern Maryland and the GOP in general but there were some mitigating circumstances that prevented it from being worse for jurisdictions that opposed the dominant party's left-leaning fiscal and social policies.

"I won't say it was a bad session," Morgan told attendees at the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce's legislative review luncheon Apr. 18 at Olde Breton Inn in Leonardtown. "It was a character-building session."

The legislature passed bills that all but cancelled the right to legally conceal a handgun, even with a state-issued permit, all while enshrining abortion rights in the state constitution and requiring Medicare to pay for gender-affirming treatments to anyone in the state regardless of age.

It also legalized recreational cannabis and forbade law officers from searching vehicles for the drug even if they smelled marijuana.

"Approximately 70 percent of the illegal guns confiscated come from those kinds of traffic stops," said Sen. Jack Bailey, a for-

mer Natural Resources Police officer, of the complications for law enforcement that came from this year's legislature.

Del. Todd Morgan, representing St. Mary's and Calvert in District 29C, said there were wins for St. Mary's local bills.

"We were able to pass the bill on gaming in senior centers," Todd Morgan said. "So, grandmothers won't be accused of illegal gambling."

A bill to allow unregistered golf carts on certain county roads also passed, he said.

Todd Morgan said the cannabis bill "was crazy on the house side" and would allow distribution businesses to operate within 500 feet of elementary schools, day care centers and hospitals.

"The bill's a woke dumpster fire," Matt Morgan said of the cannabis legislation. "It forces [distributors] out of the medical cannabis industry and into the recreational industry."

"We'll be fixing this for years to come."

Bailey said other bills that passed included child sex abusers would not receive reduced sentences if their victims were older than 11 years old.

"We closed the loophole on pedophiles," Bailey said.

The legislature also passed legislation that ensured those who were found guilty of driving drunk in a car on first offense did not receive another first offense if found guilty of drunk driving while operating a boat.

"That means the second time they're caught no matter what their driving it's a second offense," Bailey said. Matt Morgan said he was grateful for what bills did not pass the legislature despite much political support behind them; in this case it was the money available that made the difference.

Those measures which did not pass included for allowing safe injection sites for drug addicts with illicit substances and subsidized health insurance for illegal immigrants, Matt Morgan said.

"There was a \$500 million write down," he said. "Everything got parsed down. 'I'm pretty happy these bills didn't pass.'"

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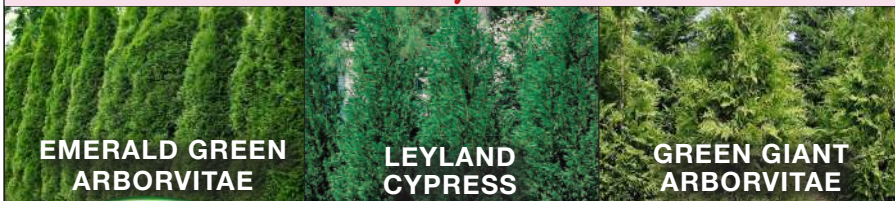
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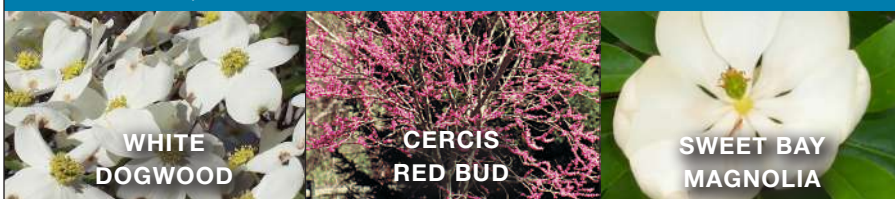
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Decision on Stewart's Grant Delayed Again



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county planning commission has continued the public hearing for the Stewart's Grant project to May 15 after a three-and-a-half-hour meeting April 17 that included no public testimony on the matter.

The last meeting held in March ran for a similar amount of time with considerable discussion about the scope and impact of the project which promises to be the most intense housing development situated on Great Mills Road in recent years.

The project would bring 1,122 housing units to a 394-acre piece of land in the area of Quatman Road and Great Mills Road, according to county planning documents.

But only about 20 percent of the entire project, or about 80 acres, would be dedicated to the residential piece, planning documents reveal, with about 256 acres set aside for open space.

About 20 acres would be used for commercial development.

The concept site plan calls for 619 town homes, 291 single family homes and a four-story apartment building with 224 units, planning documents show.

Assistant County Attorney John Houser said that despite the project proposal's age — it was approved before 2008 which would normally remove it from considerations of adequate public facilities services requirements — the county was pressing the notion that it could still hold the project to some sort of analysis for whether it could adequately be served by police, fire, EMS and schools.

Houser said he expected the applicant to contest that notion.

The project should have a build out period of between 10 to 12 years, Houser said.

Planning Commission Chair Howard Thompson, said in a subsequent interview that the commission wanted to be thorough in its deliberation the project.

"It's a big development," Thompson said. "It's a special development.

"It's almost like a miniature Wildewood." His main concern, he said, was traffic mitigation and: "How are we going to keep cars slow?"

Since the project would be built out in

phases, the developer would have to make reports to the planning commission each year on its progress and meet adequate public facilities requirements each year, Thompson said.

The public schools have already expressed concern that the number of families coming to such a development would put even more pressure on local classrooms.

Now the sheriff's office is expressing similar concerns.

"This project will bring an additional 1,122 dwelling units to a densely populated area of the county," wrote Capt. Steve Simonds, commander of the sheriff's patrol division. "Based on current U.S. Census Bureau data, the average persons per household in St. Mary's County... is 2.75.

"Therefore, it is expected an additional 3,086 people will be residing in the Great Mills area upon completion of the project."

That meant much more traffic and the concurrent traffic complaints, Simonds said.

"If half of those people own a motor vehicle, roughly 1,543 more cars will be traveling the roadways in Great Mills," Simonds said.

"A DPW&T memo dated January 5 stated an expected increase in cut through traffic on secondary neighborhood roads like Westbury Boulevard and Pegg Road once Stewarts Grant connector roads are built. This is a concern as a large part of our speed complaints come from neighborhoods like the aforementioned. It should also be noted that the entire Great Mills corridor is heavily trafficked by pedestrians."

A report from the Department of Public Works and Transportation, made part of the ever-growing public record for the project, states that Great Mills Road intersections with Route 237 and Route 5 should still function at acceptable levels of service through to the build out of the project.

"However, there are queuing issues for the left turns from [north bound] MD 246 onto MD 237 as well as the left turns from MD 5 onto MD 246," the report stated. "The developer can extend these turn bays if deemed appropriate by the county and [State Highway Administration]."

"Any improvements to be constructed by this developer will be in place prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the project."

Excise Tax Draws Fire

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The backlash against county government has been growing over plans to enact an excise tax on new construction but the question comes down to what will happen once the excise tax is enacted.

Will the Commissioners of St. Mary's County have an excise tax that continues to bring in the same amount of revenue as the soon-to-be-defunct impact fees or will they use it as a method to raise taxes?

Commissioner Scott Ostrow said he wants to ensure that the excise tax remains revenue neutral; he says the prospectus from a Bethesda-based consultant, that the county government paid for, showed the commissioners could choose to increase tax revenues by as much as 350 percent.

"The number that freaked everyone out was the maximum amount we could take it to," Ostrow told The County Times this week. "Nothing's been decided.

"We still have a lot of work to do on this." Only a few citizens, mostly in the real estate industry, spoke out about concerns they had on the excise tax at an Apr. 18 public hearing.

They said, too, that it should be kept revenue neutral.

But one business owner, Donnie Tennyson, who owns a hardware store

in Ridge, said the excise tax as proposed would make it significantly more difficult to expand his store.

"According to this... I'm going to have to pay \$32,000 up front just to get the project going," Tennyson told commissioners. "For a small place like me, that's just astronomical. "And I have to pay that even before the [construction] permit is issued."

Tennyson questioned whether the commissioners would hurt businesses through enacting the tax.

"Are you trying to discourage businesses?" Tennyson asked.

The fiscal 2024 budget shows the county is set to rake in an additional \$15 million in revenues combined from just income and property taxes; the excise tax is estimated to bring in an additional \$3.8 million.

Increased property taxes will yield \$6.2 million over last year, and income taxes \$8.9 million more than last year as well, according to county budget documents.

Chris Hill, a local realtor, said the excise tax, if not kept to a level of revenue neutrality, could have a crippling effect on the housing market.

"We have a serious housing crisis," Hill said. "Housing prices are out of control.

"These [tax increases] are going to do nothing but raise prices."

The legislation to give commissioners the authority to enact an excise tax was

approved by the General Assembly in 2021, said Del. Matt Morgan (R-District 29A), with the intention of giving them more flexibility to spend money raised on different expenses than was allowed for the impact fees.

Those expenses are typically for fire, emergency medical response and school capacity, but those could be expanded with the excise tax.

But Morgan said he was worried about what smacked of a move to raise taxes.

"From a political and policy standpoint it makes sense," Morgan said. "But it's supposed to be revenue neutral.

"What I'm disappointed in is they're using this as an opportunity to raise taxes and I don't think that's right."

Morgan said commissioners had to consider how they would pay for school renovations and many other expenses in coming year.

Ostrow himself has said that a new roof for Great Mills High School, which includes new heating, air conditioning and ventilation upgrades, could cost \$50 million.

A new high school, which is not in the construction plans for the school system, Ostrow said, could cost upwards of \$200 million.

That is roughly two-thirds of the county's proposed operating budget.

Other major costs are paying for the state's Blueprint for Education.

"They see hard times coming and are using it to get more revenue," Morgan said. "These prices are insane."

Despite Ostrow's intentions that the county not take more than what impact fees are already bringing in in revenue, he admitted the excise tax gives a commissioner board the authority to raise taxes.

"We could," Ostrow said. "Even if we did, we'd still be lower than the surrounding counties by a lot."

The immediate burden of an excise tax would be borne by residential construction but that could be extended to commercial construction as well, Ostrow said.

Commissioner Eric Colvin said the excise tax was a fait accompli as the impact fees were going to go away July 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

"We don't have a choice, it's going to happen," Colvin, who supported revenue neutrality, said.

The Southern Maryland Association of Realtors has lambasted the excise tax proposition.

"This plan has been in the works for some time," the group has argued in a position statement. "However, they have not always been planning a significant increase of roughly 367 percent.

"At the same time, the commissioners are also planning to raise property taxes by 3.5%."

While the property tax rates are set to remain the same in the fiscal 2024 budget, increases in property values would necessitate the increased payments in property tax revenues.

"St. Mary's County should not enact a policy that hinders economic goals and should minimize excise tax collection on non-residential development," the group's statement continued.

"We understand that it is expensive to maintain growing public facilities.

"Many people look to St. Mary's County right now to find a safe, pleasant, and expanding community. We don't want to see that change."

Former county commissioner Dan Raley said the excise tax was likely to increase, either now or later, the cost of a home no matter what it was called.

"Whether it's taxes or fees it's still money coming out of peoples' pockets," Raley said.



Commissioner Eric Colvin Speaks to Donnie Tennyson



Realtor Chris Hill talks to Commissioner Mike Hewitt



Commissioner Scott Ostrow and Troy Cowan

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

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Buck Hewitt Road Work Next Step for FDR Boulevard



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

In just a few more months the next section of FDR Boulevard — running from Chancellors Run Road further south about one mile to Buck Hewitt Road — should be complete.

But it won't happen without some major work that is already under way on the Buck Hewitt Road connection.

"The project will be substantially completed in September," said Allen Settle, project manager with St. Mary's County Department of Public Works and Transportation.

Right now, construction crews are working on a major lane diversion at the planned intersection on Buck Hewitt Road for the installation of a traffic roundabout that will be 120-feet in diameter Settle told The County Times.

The work, which started Apr. 3, is focused currently on the southern portion of the space that will be roundabout, Settle said.

This includes reconstructing a retaining wall for a storm water management facility adjacent to the space there, he said. "That's the purpose of the lane changes at Buck Hewitt Road," said Settle.

The entire FDR Boulevard project has been a long time in coming, with years being

needed in some instances to construct less than one mile of roadway at a time.

Settle said the situation was more complicated than just building different phases of a road that will eventually run parallel to Route 235 connecting St. Andrews Church Road to Pegg Road — a span of a little over three miles.

"It's very involved," Settle said. "We've got a lot of utility relocations."

Gas lines as well as internet, cable and power lines have had to be moved to make way for the project.

"Not to mention all of the property acquisitions still underway," Settle said.

The current phase of the project underway is Phase 3A, with the final phase of the project, Phase 3B, connecting Buck Hewitt to Pegg Road.

The goal of the project is to provide traffic relief on Route 235 by providing a parallel route for residents to access their homes and businesses more readily.

"It's really going to provide a great benefit to the motorists in the county once it's finished," Settle said.

Work is also scheduled to begin on another traffic roundabout in June to be located on MacArthur Boulevard and the coming intersection with FDR Boulevard.

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Construction Firm Pitches Tolls as New Bridge Solution

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Doug Witt, president and CEO of United Bridge Partners, told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County this week that his construction firm could build a new Thomas Johnson Bridge across the Patuxent River in two to three years with no financial liability to the county.

There was one caveat that was sure to draw controversy, though, Witt said.

"If there's one landmine, it's one word... that word is 'toll,'" Witt said. "That's the biggest hurdle, that's your only hurdle

"We see it all the time."

Witt said United Bridge Partners takes on all the cost of construction of bridges, of which they have completed several in the just the past few years, but they must be able to profit from the venture, too.

Witt gave a passing estimate of \$400 million to build a new bridge to Calvert County and Solomons Island.

The idea of building a new span has been spoken of but never fully funded for more than a decade locally despite pleas from officials in both counties to the state for more funding to go beyond the planning stages.

State transportation officials have said the new span is not a priority as the current bridge is obsolete though structurally safe; they have said it would take a major federal

commitment of transportation funds to begin construction but that has never materialized.

"When I joined [United Bridge Partners] five years ago we had one bridge," Witt said. "Now we have six; we'll be opening three this year.

"No [Department of Transportation] in the country will open three bridges in their state this year."

Witt said United Bridge Partners would leave it to the commissioners to help rally public support behind a bridge that would have to have some kind of toll structure to recoup the costs for the builders.

"We will not do a project unless the community is behind it," Witt said, who added that his firm would demolish the old bridge.

In a later interview Commissioner Eric Colvin said he was not sure about the timeline for completion Witt proclaimed.

"I do think the private sector can do it faster than the government can," Colvin said. "But I said I won't support a toll on that bridge."

Colvin was also opposed to any revenue sharing agreement that would see money come back to the county government.

"That would just be revenue generation," Colvin said.

"This would have to be a real collaborative effort," said Commissioner Mike Hewitt to Witt during the commissioners' business meeting. "Calvert would have to

be on board."

Hewitt noted that because the state handled toll bridges, such as the construction of the Harry W. Nice Bridge leading to Virginia, that it was built relatively quickly.

"They got that faster than we can get a new lane built in Leonardtown," Hewitt said.

On the issue of a toll, Hewitt said: "If it's a quarter, maybe people will go for that."

"If you built this bridge, how many lanes would it have?"

The presenters said it would likely be four lanes over the current two.

"I'm old enough that I lived under that bridge when they were building it; I was in college," Hewitt said. "The point is I've been using it for free for 50 years.

"I can still get across it most times without an issue."

Hewitt asked what the benefit of a toll was.

"There is no benefit of a toll unless you need a bridge," Witt responded. "It's under \$3, maybe two-fifty-ish.

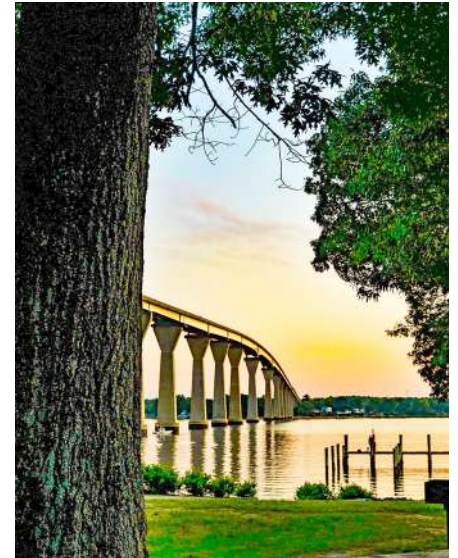
"And we can segment the tolling; trucks and cars don't get tolled the same."

Witt said his firm had programs that gave local residents monthly passes for bridge use.

"We want to make it work for the local community," Witt said.

John Irvine, vice president with the construction firm, said toll increases could only occur with public input.

If the deal were to come to fruition, Witt



said, the state would have to transfer the bridge to the county.

United Bridge Partners would handle the maintenance, Witt said, who noted 15 months ago he had a meeting with state transportation officials in which they told Witt that if he could get the support of the counties the state would be willing to support the deal.

Since then, there has been a change of administrations.

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The forgotten tragedy on the Potomac...

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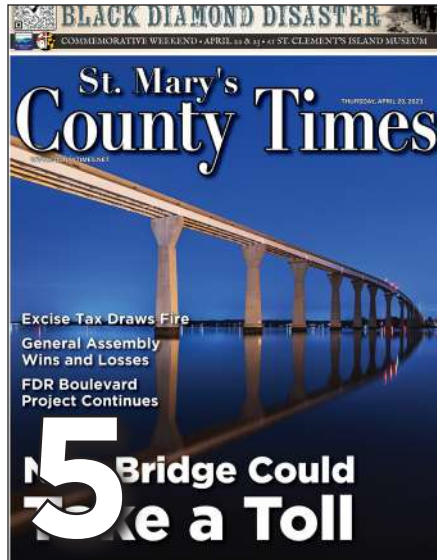
UNITED BRIDGE PARTNERS CEO DOUG WITT ON THE FIRM'S EFFICACY IN BUILDING BRIDGES



LOCAL 6
Buck Hewitt Road project continues



LOCAL 7
Excise tax debated



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Could a toll bridge be the answer for a new Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge?

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