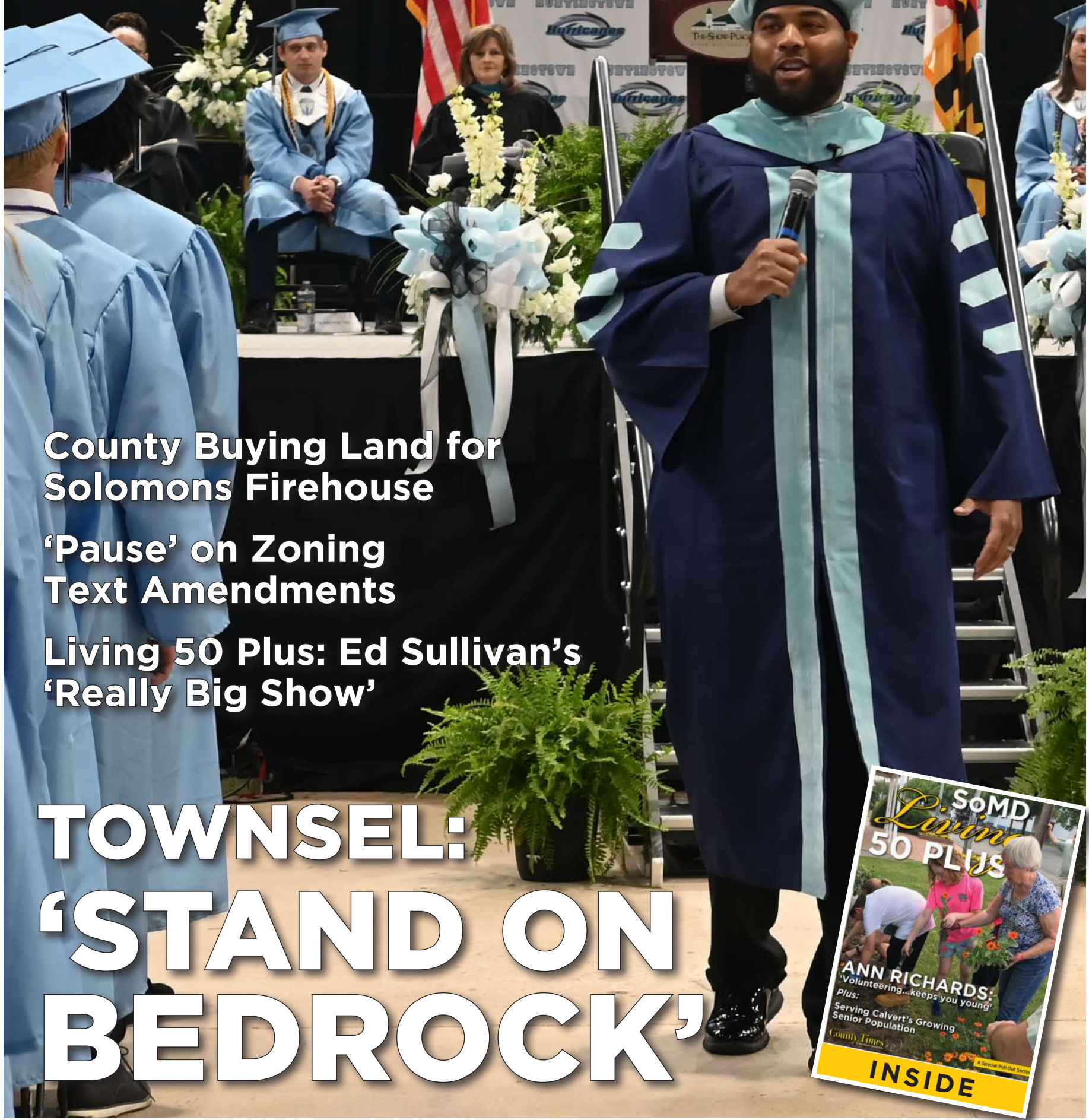


Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

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**County Buying Land for
Solomons Firehouse**

**'Pause' on Zoning
Text Amendments**

**Living 50 Plus: Ed Sullivan's
'Really Big Show'**

**TOWNSEL:
'STAND ON
BEDROCK'**



ANN RICHARDS:
Volunteering...keeps you young
Plus:
Serving Calvert's Growing
Senior Population

INSIDE



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<p>THU, JUN 15</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 81° Lo: 63°</p>	<p>FRI, JUN 16</p> <p>Scattered Storms Hi: 78° Lo: 61°</p>	<p>SAT, JUN 17</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 60°</p>	<p>SUN, JUN 18</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 83° Lo: 64°</p>
<p>MON, JUN 19</p> <p>Scattered Storms Hi: 83° Lo: 65°</p>	<p>TUE, JUN 20</p> <p>Scattered Storms Hi: 75° Lo: 63°</p>	<p>WED, JUN 21</p> <p>Showers Hi: 74° Lo: 61°</p>	<p>THU, JUN 22</p> <p>Showers Hi: 74° Lo: 61°</p>

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<p>Fresh Rolls Hot Soups Sandwiches And Subs Hot & Cold</p>	<p>Chicken Salad Homemade Desserts</p>
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Townsel Praised for Graduation Address

Challenges Students to Stand on Bedrock

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Andrae Townsel is receiving kudos for his address at the graduation ceremonies last week for the county's four high schools. At the June 13 county commissioners' meeting, several of them praised the speech.

At Patuxent High School, as he did for the other three, Townsel left the podium for the floor and asked the seniors to stand and meet him eye to eye.

He started out by saying, "First and foremost, congratulations on all of your accomplishments that's gotten you to this point right here. All the privileges and benefits that come from your high school diploma and every accolade that you've earned, you deserve it. And you should be congratulated."

Townsel said he got the idea for his message watching a "60 Minutes" report on the sinking and leaning San Francisco residential high rise Millennium Towers. "They found out that that structure was built on sand," he said, when if they had dug the foundation deeper, they would have hit solid bedrock. He cautioned the graduates to be on solid footing, not on sand.

Townsel said he speaks from his freshman year experience at Howard University. He told The County Times in a June 14 interview, "I thought I had the world in my hands. And then as soon as a year went past, I found myself academically ineligible and on my way back to Detroit, Michigan, with everything forfeited and gone, because I did not meet the appropriate requirements. I thought my procrastination, I thought that was something I could always do. I thought that being late and asking for extra credit, those were always an option. And those are not options at the next level. In fact, there's not even an option on your job. You can't get extra credit at work. You can't come in late and knock out an assignment or a project at work and expect supervisors to be okay with that. There are no do-overs at the next level. And if you're not secure to that bedrock, you hear people say, if you do it right the first time, you're good. So, this is me telling young people to do it right the first time. Now that you're going off, have all

the disciplines now, so you don't have the regrets later."

He was asked what put him on that bedrock. He said, "I had the opportunities post high school. When I saw it being taken away from me, literally my future flashed before my eyes," adding, "literally everything I wanted to do in my life was clear as day, and I saw it fading away in my future. I didn't see myself holding a career. I couldn't see myself raising a family. All of those things were diminishing."

He said, "I was faked out with the effort that it takes to actually be successful. I thought it was going to be easy when I realized it wasn't going to be easy. I made those adjustments."

He observed, "My coaches and advisors at Howard University really got me on track."

At the graduation ceremonies, Dr. Townsel told the seniors, "So what you must do is understand, how do I ensure that I hit bedrock? My foundation is strong because life is tough and difficult and hard, and there will be adversity. I'm telling you, don't wish it was easier, wish that you were better. I'm asking you, don't wish for less challenges. Wish for more skill. Don't wish for less problems, wish for more wisdom. Don't wish for less work. Wish that you have more work ethic. And when life gets harder, when it gets tough, I'm not telling you to wish it was easy, I'm telling you to do it hard and do it tough."

He then gave five takeaway pillars: "First thing, self-awareness. Know who you are. Know what you bring to the table. Know your strengths. Know your weaknesses. If you have procrastination issues, you have to address that.

"Second thing, self-management. You have to be responsible, but don't be impulsive. Don't let anybody get you off your square. You must be unflappable.

"Third, social awareness. What's going on around me? What's happening in my community? Why is it foggy outside right now? Social awareness, being aware. Understand what's happening in your surroundings.

"Fourth, relationship skills. Ladies and gentlemen, I promise you, if you try to do something great, you can't do it alone. You have to develop good relationships with peo-



Dr. Andrae Townsel at a graduation ceremony

ple, good social skills. You have to understand how to talk and build relationships that work. Build friends and influence people.

"And the last thing is responsible decision making. I believe everyone here knows the difference between right and wrong. I believe everyone here has someone, whether in the audience or at home, that care about you and expect you to make the right decisions because you know why, everything that you deserve, you should get it. I'm happy if you got a scholarship. Well, I want you to have that, but this is a phase and everything that you've done to this point has gotten you here. But there's a whole other level that's out there right now. We might be 18, you're still not 21, you're not 25, you're not 28, you haven't hit 30. There are levels to this. So, Dr. Townsel, how do I go to the next level? Set the bar, meet the bar, exceed the bar. What's the last one? Raise the bar.

Set, meet, exceed, raise. That's how you get to that next level.

"And if you can put those pillars into your bedrock of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making, I do believe that the rest of your life will be the best of your life. I don't want you to be exposed to the elements. I don't want you to think it's sweet, it's not sweet and it's not easy. Let me tell you. I believe right now young people are the smartest young people in society today. Information at your fingertips. The problem is you have all the answers, but can you show your work? Don't be on sand. Make sure your foundation is strong. And put all those pillars of everything you've learned and everything you know, get down to your bedrock."

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Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Text Amendment Moratorium Proposal Modified

Joint Public Hearing Scheduled

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will hold a joint public hearing with the planning commission on June 21 to consider a plan to pause any case-by-case zoning text amendment requests while the county is going through the process of amending the zoning ordinance.

The original proposal from Director of Planning and Zoning Mary Beth Cook asked for a moratorium on requests. Now Cook is calling it a pause instead. During a June 13 briefing for the BOCC, Cook said, "We're asking that the changes that come in as tax amendments be processed as part of that (zoning ordinance update) process instead of handing them on a case-by-case basis."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance had expressed concern about pressing issues that may come in while the zoning ordinance is being rewritten. Cook said, "Text and map amendment requests received after 4 p.m. local prevailing time on Wednesday June 21st, 2023, which is the date of the public hearing, will be held in abeyance and considered as part of the drafting of the new Calvert County Zoning Ordinance, unless the Board of County Commissioners finds that a request should be considered because

it either corrects a mistake or is necessary to address public health, safety or welfare. Requesters not subject to an exemption will be afforded a period of 30 days after the effective date of the new Calver County Zoning Ordinance to request revival of their request, if not satisfied how it was addressed in the new zoning ordinance."

County planning and zoning staff have created a first draft of the rewrite and posted it online and also solicited comments. That comment period has closed, which has drawn criticism that citizens usually like work sessions first before they have time to comment. Cook now says the process has been modified to allow for more comments.

Commissioner Catherine Grasso said, "I was one of them who had a real problem with the comp plan. I'd really like to see us as we go forward and we put out any text amendments, I'd like for the public to be able to see what was there and what we're proposing. I'd also like to see more public comments, more public interaction than we had originally discussed. Yes, I think this is really big, this is the meat and potatoes of the comp plan, and the public really needs to have a voice with this."

Cook responded, "We're planning to take the summer to do news splashes, get more information out, give people the opportunity to take the summer to read it while they're

on vacation or doing what they're doing, and then regroup in September with opening up a comment period, having a public forum, keeping that comment period open for a week or so after the forum, after they've had an opportunity to talk. And then bring those comments forward to the commissioners and the planning commission. In addition, at any time during this process, if there's a group out there that wants us to come out and talk to them about it, we will absolutely do that."

The rewrite has already begun to draw criticism, Sue Dzurec, with the group called Calvert Citizens United, which unsuccessfully challenged the comprehensive plan all the way to Maryland's supreme court, in a briefing expressed concern about the amount of growth allowed in the area immediately outside the Prince Frederick Town Center.

She wrote, "Maybe Prince Frederick isn't all that well suited as a center for residential development. Its nearby roads are hilly, winding, and narrow; the landscape is highly dissected, making connections between outlying communities and the town center expensive and difficult. Its soils are highly erodible and drain into streams that are still nearly pristine. A congested highway splits the town center in two.

"Maybe it's time to explore Prince Frederick's potential as a kind of regional



Director of Planning and Zoning Mary Beth Cook

'trailhead,' providing access to extensive forests to the east all the way to the Chesapeake Bay and extensive farmland to the west all the way to the Patuxent River."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Road Dedicated to Former Sheriff



A section of HG Trueman Road south of Cove Point Road was dedicated on May 31 to Calvert County Sheriff Oscar William "Billy" Lusby.

Sheriff Lusby was sworn in on Dec. 7, 1970. During his tenure, he enacted changes that produced great improvements within the Calvert County Sheriff's Office for both his employees and the citizens of Calvert County. He began outsourcing meals and arranging for prompt and essential care of those housed in the detention center and changed the hiring process for deputies ensuring minority inclusion. Sheriff Lusby

also worked in concert with the Board of County Commissioners to supplement Maryland State Police and worked towards having a fulltime Sheriff's Office.

Tragically, Sheriff Lusby was struck head-on and killed by another vehicle while en route to assist Maryland State Police on a burglary-in-progress call on Dec. 5, 1971.

Dedicating this section of highway is a fitting gesture to honor such a humble, hard-working and trailblazing man, and serves as a reminder of the life and legacy of Sheriff Oscar William "Billy" Lusby.

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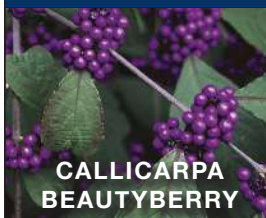


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County to Buy Land for New Solomons Firehouse

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved exercising an option to purchase property in Lusby for the new home of the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department.

The property consists of 14.76 acres of flat unimproved real estate at 12025 HG Trueman Road just south of Sneade's Ace Home Center.

The property is owned by Dominion Cove Point LNG LP and had been used as a staging area during construction of the plant. Purchase price is \$920,000, which is in the current county Capital Improvement plan.

The move north from their current location in Solomons has been in the works for a number of years in order to get a facility closer to their first due area's population center of Chesapeake Ranch Estates and to help reduce that community's insurance costs.

At the June 13 public hearing before the unanimous BOCC approval, Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "We did ask the fire department to do an extensive community outreach to make sure the community knows that they're moving, and they've done that. And so, we greatly appreciate all the effort that went into that. I just want to make sure the community was aware of what was going on. I didn't want anybody be surprised."

Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart said it was a long journey to reach that point. "(It) wasn't easy. Seems like things never are sometimes. There's a lot of memories in that building. There's a lot of family history. That property and building mean more than a whole lot of things out here. There's probably not a word or phrase that can sum up what's in that building more than family. When this came up, obviously it's controversial, like with any change. The members of Solomons didn't waiver. They knew they needed a facility

that could handle the future. They've outgrown that building's use," he said, adding, "It's served the community for a long, long time."

Hart noted, "Whatever Solomons felt was going to be the best for the community, best for the membership, I'm all about it."

The only speaker at the public hearing was Department President Terry Anderson. He said, "This process has been a very long process. We have worked closely

with various departments within

the county to get to this point. We have held multiple public hearings and met with various HOAs (homeowner's associations), multiple senior community centers, and even had an open town hall in our current facility. At each of those town hearings, we received overwhelming support for this potential move. We want to thank the county commissioners, the county staff, and the community during this process for listening to us and providing their support for this project. We look forward to working with you and staff for this project in the future."

According to a history of the department on their website: "During October 1954, a group of local men met initially at the Solomons Island Yacht Club to consider the need for an emergency rescue service in Calvert County. After additional meetings and first aid classes, the Calvert County Volunteer Rescue Squad was formed. The Rescue Squad commenced operations serving Calvert County on 1 January 1955 with a 1955 Studebaker ambulance. At 4:30 that same day, they answered the first emergency call and were credited with saving the lives of two men that had become overcome with carbon monoxide poisoning."

According to that same history, "The firehouse cost \$324,000 and had four engine bay doors making it substantially larger than the previous one. The keys to the building were handed over on February 22, 1980."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Legal Notice

TOWN OF CHESAPEAKE BEACH PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Chesapeake Beach requests proposals for the construction of Pocket Parks at two locations eMMA Sourcing Project: **BPM038247**. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on June 21, 2023, at 9:00 AM at the Chesapeake Beach Town Hall located at 8200 Bayside Rd Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732.

Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Jun 15

Browser Basics: Using Google Chrome

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 5-7:30 p.m.

Please join us for an interactive workshop on getting comfortable using Google Chrome! This workshop will be an introduction to browsing the internet using google chrome. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Jun 16

Red Cross Blood Drive

Jesus the Good Shepherd
1601 W. Mt. Harmony Rd., Owings
Noon-5:30 p.m.

Give the gift of Life! Join us for a Red Cross Blood Drive. All types are needed. redcrossblood.org

Sat, Jun 17

Community Day Celebration of Juneteenth

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
in St. Leonard
11am to 5pm.

The Calvert County Branch of the NAACP host this annual Juneteenth celebratory event. In 2021, Juneteenth was officially recognized as a federal holiday. Everyone is welcomed to attend this free family event. The day will start at 11am with a brief prayer ceremony recognizing the collection of soils from various plantations and farms in Southern Maryland that held enslaved African Americans. The soil collections will be sent on a "Return Passage" to Ghana, Africa for a ceremony in August. Pastors and clergy from different faiths will participate in the ceremony. After receiving a proclamation by our County Commissioners, the public will enjoy a car show, petting zoo, talent show, music from a Motown Tribute band, specialty vehicles presented by the fire department and local and State law enforcement agencies. There will be plenty of family friendly games and activities including two bicycle giveaways! The Calvert Library Bookmobile and Health Department van will be available alongside local food trucks, merchandise vendors and organizational information tables.

Fossil Field Experience

Calvert Marine Museum

9 a.m. – noon

Come and explore the fossils at Cove Point. Learn more about fossils: where to find them, how to identify them, and what they can tell us about the past. This program is for adults and children eight and older that are accompanied by an adult. Preregistration is required at least two business days before the program.

Sun, Jun 18

Father's Day Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
4:30 – 6 p.m.

Celebrate Dad during an evening cruise onboard the historic Wm. B. Tennison and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Solomons Harbor and Patuxent River. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, a Father's Day cake, water, tea, and drinks will be served. You are also welcome to bring food or drinks of your choice in small, hand-held coolers. Cost is \$40 for ages 13 and older, \$20 for ages 5-12, and \$10 for children 5 and under.

Mon, Jun 19

Juneteenth Wm. B. Tennison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
2 p.m.

Celebrate Juneteenth with a leisurely one-hour sightseeing cruise on the river aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*, a log-built bugeye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. If there is inclement weather, you will be notified by the crew prior to the cruise. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 5-12 years. Children under 5 ride free when accompanied by a paying adult.

Tue, Jun 20

Mornings at the Museum: Otters and Opossums

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m. – noon

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

ticipant; for ages 5-7.

Affordable Connectivity Program

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
12:30-2:30 p.m.

Talk with specialists and your local librarian about whether you may be eligible for a reduction on your home internet bill. The Affordable connectivity Program (ACP) is a federal government program that helps households pay for home internet and connected devices. Please bring your identification and benefit documentation. Learn more at <https://www.fcc.gov/acp> or by stopping by to see us! 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Summer STEAM

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
2:30-3:30 p.m.

Combat the heat and join our interactive Summer STEAM hour as we build a strong community through books, activities and a snack. For kids K-5th grade. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Jun 21

Mornings at the Museum: Fossil Adventures

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m. – noon

At 10 a.m., participants are dropped off at Cove Point Lighthouse, where they meet CMM educators. The program leader teaches a short lesson on local Miocene fossils and what to look for. From 10 a.m. to about 11:30 a.m., you explore the beach to search for fossilized shells, bones, and shark teeth. After fossil collecting, work with museum educators to identify any fossils you have found. The program ends at noon. Cost is \$10 per participant, for ages 8-12.

Thu, Jun 22

Little Minnows: Plants

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

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 craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. The cost is free with museum admission. Sign up

at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

JobSource Mobile Career Center

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

Stop by to visit the JobSource Mobile Career Center for your job search needs! Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. 410-326-5289.

<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Groovy Nate®: Summer Fun

Dunkirk Fire Hall
3170 W Ward Rd, Owings
10:00am-11:00am.

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
2-3 p.m.

Get ready for Groovy Nate® in his first appearance with Calvert Library! Groovy Nate® is a Grammy nominated children's entertainer who creates fun and educational shows using exotic musical instruments and puppet skits a la Sesame Street meets Parliament/Funkadelic. Catch a preview at www.groovynate.com! All ages. Hosted by Calvert Library. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mobile Health Center

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. Calvert Health Mobile van information from CalvertHealth. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Summer STEAM

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach
2:30pm-3:30pm.

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
2:30pm-3:30 p.m.

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

Combat the heat and join our interactive Summer STEAM hour as we build a strong community through books, activities and a snack. For kids K-5th grade.

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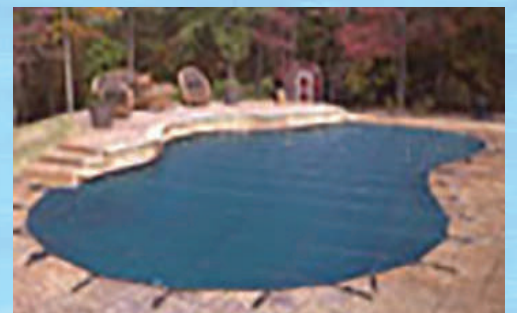
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Contaminant (units)	Collection Date	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range		Violation	Typical Source
					Low	High		
Barium (ppm)	2022	2	2	0.0639	0	0.0639	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppm)	2022	100	100	5.1	0	5.1	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2022	4	4	0.4	0.4	0.4	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Radioactive Contaminants:								
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	04/23/2020	0	50	8.1	8.1	8.1	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon & uranium (pCi/L)	04/23/2020	0	15	4.6	4.6	4.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

- **MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risks for safety. MCLG allows for margin of safety.
- **MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **AL:** Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **ALG:** Action Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbe contaminants.
- **MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbe contaminants.

Units of Measurement & Conversions:

- NA: Not applicable

- **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- **ppm:** parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- **ppb:** parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Chesapeake Beach is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Marti Gilpin at 410-257-2230. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Copper

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Arsenic

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Barium

Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

Fluoride

Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

PFAS

PFAS—or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances—refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

Beginning in 2020, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) initiated a PFAS monitoring program. Our water system was not tested for PFAS by the State of Maryland in 2022; however, the Town of Chesapeake Beach voluntarily conducted a third party test for PFAS in 2022 of all three wells and the results were negative for PFAS. In March 2023, EPA announced proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS, and a Group Hazard Index for four additional PFAS compounds. Future regulations would require additional monitoring as well as certain actions for systems above the MCLs. EPA will publish the final MCLs and requirements by the end of 2023 or beginning of 2024. Additional information about PFAS can be found on the MDE website: <https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>

If you want to learn more, you are encouraged to attend any town meeting held on the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. For additional information or questions contact:

**The Town of Chesapeake Beach
P.O. Box 400
Chesapeake Beach, MD
(410)-257-2230
www.chesapeakebeachmd.gov**

Chesapeake Beach 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Is my water safe?

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all EPA and state drinking water health standards. Chesapeake Beach is pleased to provide this annual water quality report for calendar year 2022. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Chesapeake Beach routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water. We vigilantly safeguard our water supplies and once again we are proud to report that our system has never violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some

elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from and what are the potential sources of contamination?

Your drinking water is supplied by three wells. The source of Chesapeake Beach's water supply is the Aquia aquifer, which is located 500 feet below ground. The susceptibility analysis for The Town of Chesapeake Beach's water supply is based on a review of the water quality data, potential sources of contamination, aquifer characteristics, and well integrity. For more information on the source of your water, the significant potential sources of contamination, and susceptibility analysis, contact the Maryland Source Water Assessment Program at the Maryland Department of the Environment at (410) 537-3714 or visit on the web at https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/

Pages/by_county.aspx

Why may there be contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

1. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
2. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts

and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

3. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
4. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
5. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected in your water. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, may be up to five years old.

Contaminant	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 th Percentile	# sites over AL	Units	Violation	Typical Source
Copper	06/26/2020	1.3	1.3	0.43	0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems

Contaminant (units)	Collection Date	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range		Violation	Typical Source
					Low	High		
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products:								
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2022	No goal for the total	80	2	1.5	1.5	No	Byproduct of chlorination
Chlorine (ppm)	2022	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	1.2	1	1.2	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Inorganic Contaminants:								
Arsenic (ppb)	2022	0	10	2.28	0	2.28	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, Jun 16

Meal & Motorcycles

Northern Senior Activity Center
29655 Charlotte Hall Rd, Charlotte Hall
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Cost: Lunch donation or \$6 if under 60 yrs.

Happy Father's Day! Guys, come show off your sweet rides at the center. Grab a tasty lunch to bring outside to meet up with other motorcycle enthusiasts. All are welcome—don't have to own a bike. Come check out the show and enjoy some giveaways. Those interested in displaying their motorcycles can contact Keilan Ruppert via email at keilan.ruppert@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Food Truck Fri. @ 2nd Dist. VFD&RS—Pizza Hotline

2nd District VFD & RS
19330 Piney Point Rd., Valley Lee
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Come get dinner to take home!
A percentage of sales from food truck goes back to the department.
For more info contact Stephanie Alvey @ stephanie.alvey@hotmail.com

Sat, Jun 17

Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open House

Drayden African American Schoolhouse
18287 Cherryfield Rd., Drayden
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visit one of the nation's best-preserved, one-room African American schoolhouses the first Saturday of each month from April to October and during Juneteenth weekend. Check out the restored schoolhouse and learn about its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County. Staff will be available at the school during this time to answer any questions and provide information.

UCAC Juneteenth Celebration

Lancaster Park
Lexington Park
Noon to 6:30 p.m.

Juneteenth is a national holiday celebrating the end of slavery and African American culture. A free, family-friendly event with live music (gospel and jazz) African drumming and dance, vendors, food trucks, ponies, exhibits, crafts for young people and a genealogy workshop! website: ucaconline.org

Mon, Jun 19

Companions and Buddies for Singles Seniors

23630 Hayden Farm Ln, Leonardtown
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

This is a group of singles seniors ages 50 and up. We meet on Mondays at the

Leonardtown Library. We Have half hour socializing. We plan on events to go to such as movies, dine out, movies, plays, picnics and trips. For more information call Christine Olson 301-997-4160 or email mccambridgec@yahoo.com or just show up.

Fri, Jun 23

SMTMD Acoustic Open Mic

Christ Church Parish Hall
37497 Zach Fowler Rd., Chaptico
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Come to Christ Church Parish Hall in Chaptico to enjoy some fine acoustic music performed by local talented singers and songwriters. Musicians of all skill levels are warmly invited to perform. The admission is \$7; performers are admitted free of charge. Contact Michael Smith smtmd-mike@gmail.com in advance if you'd like to sign up to perform. Visit www.smtmd.org for more information.



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Hollywood, MD 20636.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Vincent Merz, 83



Vincent P. Merz, 83 a retired U.S. Navy Captain, and subsequently, a private sector senior executive, died on June 11, 2023 at home with his family.

Captain Merz, a Naval Flight Officer, served in the U.S. Navy for more than 26 years until 1988, and his contributions were most notable in the Anti-Submarine Warfare mission area and the field of Naval Aviation test and evaluation.

His operational assignments included three tours in Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance squadrons, culminating in command of VP-22 in 1979/80. A graduate of the U. S. Naval Test Pilot School in 1972, Captain Merz served three tours at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD leading the Force Aircraft Test Directorate from 1984 until retirement in August 1988. During his over 26 years of service he accumulated in excess of 5,500 flight hours in a wide variety of types and models of aircraft.

Mr. Merz's second career was an extension of his first. He was an Aviation Technical Specialist and Senior Executive spanning three decades, most recently with Zenetex/Information Spectrum Inc./Anteon Corp., providing professional services in support of Naval Aviation at the Patuxent River Naval Aviation Complex.

Captain Merz was a native of Sterling,

NY and graduated from General Motors Institute of Technology in 1961 with a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering degree. Subsequently, he earned advanced degrees at the Naval Postgraduate School, Salve Regina College, Florida Institute of Technology, and Strayer University. He was a graduate of Leadership Maryland, Class 2000. Formal military training included graduation from the Armed Forces Staff College and the College of Naval Warfare.

Mr. Merz, a USSF certified soccer referee, enjoyed over 20 consecutive years of contribution to youth through adult soccer in the southern Maryland region. He was lifetime member of the Association of Naval Aviation, and a stalwart of the local chapter of the International Test and Evaluation Association. He has served continuously since 1996 on the Board of Directors for Hospice of St. Mary's. He was an active member of Rotary of Lexington Park, MD. His favorite hobbies were admiring, owning and driving Chevrolet Corvettes, and rooting for the New York Yankees.

Ensign Merz and Gail Janice Sweeten were married in Pensacola, FL on April 17, 1964 and had remained partners for life. Along with his wife, their three children survive Captain Merz: Laurie-Lee Merz Mueller (Mark) of Lexington Park, MD; Anne-Marie Merz of California, MD; and Vincent Paul Merz, Jr. (Jacquelyn) of Panama City Beach, FL. He was preceded in death by his father Vincent E. Merz and mother Ruth E. Merz of Oswego, NY, and his brother Vernon R. Merz of Marysville, OH.

All services are private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Sacred Heart Church ANNUAL JUNE Drive-Thru Dinner

23080 MADDOX ROAD
BUSHWOOD, MARYLAND 20618

Sunday, June 25, 2023

11:00 a.m. 'til Sold-Out

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**Potato Salad, Cole Slaw,
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REMEMBRANCES
IN PRINT & ONLINE

County Times
St. Mary's County - Calvert County

In Remembrance

working his way from heavy equipment operator to project superintendent and part owner of the company.

Michael was known and loved far and wide. He maintained a huge community of friends who knew him to be fun-loving, kind and humorous. He was an avid outdoorsman with a passion for fishing. From offshore charter boat trips to fishing the local rivers and bay, he loved the sport and thrill of the catch. He loved cooking his catches and was always up for hosting a barbecue. Getting up early to smoke meat for everyone to enjoy during a Redskins game was a common occurrence.

To know him was to love him. Michael will be sadly missed by so many. His memory will live long and strong through the amazing memories each one of us has of our time spent with him.

Michael is preceded in death by his father Glenn Harold Whitney. He is survived by his mother Kathleen Marie Whitney, brother Steven James Whitney and sister Anne Louise Whitney.

Gone but never forgotten, rest in peace.

The family will receive friends for a Memorial Gathering on Friday, June 16, 2023 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. with a Service of Remembrance at 6:00 p.m., at Brinsfield

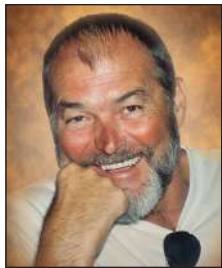
Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment is private.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service, Tawes State Office Building E-1, Annapolis, MD 21401.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Jim Bohle, 81



James "Jim" Kenneth Bohle, 81, of Mechanicsville, MD died suddenly on June 8, 2023 at his home. Born on February 17, 1942 in Oraville, MD, he was the son of the

late John Egon Bohle and Louise Madeline Buckler Bohle.

As a boy Jim attended Oraville Elementary School and Margaret Brent. He was employed as a Utility Lineman with Smeco for 40 years before retiring in 1999.

Jim was a hardworking, kind hearted and knowledgeable husband, father, godfather and friend. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed spending his time fishing, boating, woodworking, doing his own taxidermy and throwing darts. He was an avid hunter who hunted many animals including turkeys, squirrels, rabbits and prairie dogs. But his main passion in life was deer hunting. He also loved spending time with his dog, a white Bichon named Tobi who was his faithful companion that knew just when to climb in his lap for a treat.

Back in the day you could find him spending many late evenings in the "Dog House" laughing and drinking beer with many of his friends. While others were trying to call it quits Jim was always saying "just one more!"

Even after suffering a stroke in 2013, Jim still enjoyed trips to Ocean City, Maryland, Williamsburg, Virginia and Mechanicsville, Virginia. He liked riding around the farm on his buggy, sitting in his recliner at the pool and taking many trips to Costco.

Jim is survived by his wife, Helen M. Bohle of Mechanicsville, MD whom he was married to for 39 years until his death; his daughters, Debbie Bohle (Cindy) of Mechanicsville, MD and Becky Bohle (Ambrose) of Mechanicsville, MD; his siblings Christine "Tootie" Armbruster of White Plains, MD, Fred Bohle (Julia) of Mechanicsville, MD, Carole Ann Tyng of St. Charles, MD, Frank Bohle (Ruth) of Myersville, MD, Jerry Bohle (Wanda) of Charleston, SC, and Mary Lou Bohle of Charleston, SC and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his brother John E. Bohle II, his step son Jamie Dean Stiles and his son in law John Christman, Jr.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, June 15, 2023 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. Where a Funeral Service will be held at 4:00 PM in the Funeral Home Chapel Leonardtown, MD. Interment will be private. Honorary Pallbearers will be: Armand "Buster" Pomerleau III, Dylan Pomerleau, Brett Pomerleau, Dave Appleby, Leonard Morgan, and Jeff Buckler.

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.

Dickie Norris, 93



William Richley "Dickie" Norris, Jr. passed away June 11, 2023 at home surrounded by his loving family.

He was born September 6, 1929 to the late William Richley and Mary Catherine Norris. On June 8, 1950 Dickie married the love of his life, Mary Delaney Norris. They celebrated

almost 73 wonderful years together before her passing on May 28, 2023.

Dickie attended St. John's Francis Regis Catholic School and Margaret Brent High School before leaving to work the family farm. He enjoyed farming and gardening most his life, and he excelled at it. He also worked many other jobs such as delivery driver, warehouse worker, grocery store clerk, and equipment operator to provide for his family.

A lifelong resident of St Marys County, Dickie was loved and respected by his family, friends, and coworkers. He was a genuine nice person. He was the father of nine children and proudly boasted about all of them. Despite his large family Dickie made time for everyone. His second love was getting on the water with his boat. He had an affinity for the water and especially enjoyed countless fishing and crabbing trips with his family and friends. He also took great pride in his grilling skills. He enjoyed grilling fresh fish that he caught with some corn on the cob. He especially enjoyed having family eat a meal he cooked.

He was a long-time member of St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church and a past-member of St. Mary's County Farm Bureau.

Dickie is survived by his children: Cathy Creech (Eddie) of Benham, KY, Vicky Russell (Carl) of Warminster PA, Becky Tennyson (Thomas) of Great Mills, MD, Barbara Tennyson (Donnie) of Hollywood, MD, Billy Norris (Wendy) of Mechanicsville, MD, Michael Norris (Shawna) of Mechanicsville, MD, Debbie Karr of Clements, MD, Sue Ryce (Johnny) of Clements, MD, and Steven Norris of Hollywood, MD. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren, 3 great-great grandchildren; his sisters, Delores Wheeler and Betty Jean Guy; and his brothers: John Abell Norris, Charles Norris, and George Norris.

In addition to his parents, William and Mary Catherine Norris and his wife, Mary Delaney Norris, he is also preceded in death by an infant son, his brothers, Robert Norris (Bobby) and Phillip Norris; and his grandsons, Kevin Tennyson and John Ryce III.

Family will receive friends on Thursday, June 15, 2023 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church, 43927 St. Johns Road, Hollywood, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Reverend Raymond Schmidt at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens in Leonardtown, MD.

Serving as pallbearers will be his grandsons: Andrew Norris, Brian Dunlap, John Ryce, Jr., Steven Norris, Jr., Scott Tennyson, Bob Norris, Eric Creech, and Daniel Norris. Richie Creech, grandson, will serve as an honorary pallbearer.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 628, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 79,

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**St. Mary's County
Department of Aging &
Human Services**

**Senior Medicare Patrol
301-475-4200, ext. 1064**



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

Betty Lund, 87



Betty Louise Snyder Lund, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt, passed away on May 31, 2023, at 87.

Betty was born on October 6, 1935, in New Castle, PA, as the only child of the late Paul and Olive Snyder. Betty is survived by her loving husband of 66 years, Peter C. Lund. Their children include Mark C. Lund (deceased), A. Louise Lund (wed to James P. Kirk, deceased), and Karen C. Lund (wed to Matthew V. Barton). Their grandchildren include Matthew C. Lund (wed to Julie Lund) and Peter A. Kirk. Their great-grandchildren are David and Caleb Lund. She is also survived by nephew and niece James & Susan Queen and their families.

Betty graduated from Surrattsville High School in Clinton, MD, in 1953. She was an active member in 4-H when young, becoming a 4-H All Star for Life. She joined Job's Daughters in Bethel 1 in Washington, DC, and later founded Bethel 41 in Maryland. While in Job's Daughters, she was Honored Queen, Guardian, and Grand Bethel Honored Queen of Maryland. Later, she joined the Order of the Eastern Star Trinity Chapter of DC.

Betty married Peter Lund in 1956. They owned a Gulf Gas Station in Clinton, MD, for a number of years, and later opened a family business, Lund's Camping Center, where she was the corporate vice president. She worked there many years, blazing a trail as a female business leader in an industry led by men.

Betty loved to dance, read, and watch old movies, especially musicals. She adored dogs and owned many in her lifetime. She was feisty, opinionated, and generous, especially to religious charities and Native American schools. She was fiercely devoted to her family and, despite many medical issues in later years, loved being with them as much as possible. Her most devoted lifelong friends--her beloved Aunt Leora Heckathorne and her beloved friend Mary Davis--went before her this past year. She leaves behind another devoted friend, Sherley Howell. Raised as a Presbyterian, Betty had an ecumenical spirit and an abiding faith in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Visitation will be held at Hunt Funeral Home, 3035 Old Washington Rd., Waldorf, MD, from 9:00am to 11:00am on June 19, 2023, and will immediately be followed by a funeral service at 11:00am. Refreshments will be served afterward. A private family burial will be held at 1:30pm at Trinity Memorial Gardens in Waldorf, MD. Donations in tribute to Betty Lund can be made to Capitol Caring Health (<https://capitolcaring-tributelights.funraise.org>).

Johnny Wood, 87



John (Johnny) Francis Wood, Jr of Mechanicsville, MD passed away at home surrounded by his family, on June 9, 2023. Johnny was the son of the late Genevieve

Mattingly Wood and John Francis Wood, Sr. Johnny was the loving husband of Barbara Ann Wood, whom he married on November 25, 1954 in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Mechanicsville, MD

Johnny is survived by his wife of 68 years, Barbara Ann Wood, his nine children Cathy Colonna (Paul), Ronnie Wood (Donna), Larry Wood (Beverly), Kenny Wood (Dana), John Wood III, Bonnie Stone (Wayne, deceased), all of Mechanicsville, MD, Donna Mitchell (Todd) of Richmond, VA, Patty Wood (Bobby) of Leonardtown, MD and Julie Wynkoop (Ben) of Montross, VA. Along with 30 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great grandchild, plus 2 great and 1 great-great grandchildren on the way. Siblings Jimmy Wood (Betty Rose, deceased) of LaPlata, MD; Mary Virginia "Monkey" Tennyson (Jackie, deceased) of Chaptico MD; and Jeanne Biscoe (Walt) of Mechanicsville, MD and sister-in-law Jeannette Way. In addition to his parents, Johnny is preceded in death by his sister Margaret Ann Hayden, brother Lewis Harold Wood, son-in-law Wayne Stone, Sr., granddaughter Stephanie Wood and granddaughter-in-law Wendy Gibson.

Johnny was a member of the Maryland National Guard. After graduating from Charlotte Hall Military Academy in 1955, Johnny immediately started serving his community and building life-long friendships as owner of Wood's Food Rite in Mechanicsville, MD for 37 years. Johnny was also very compassionate and truly loved his beautiful home State of Maryland, specifically, St. Mary's County. Johnny was a dedicated advocate to his constituents during his 28 years as a Maryland State Delegate. Johnny finished his last 30 years as co-owner of Cross, Wood & Wynkoop Insurance Agency in Mechanicsville, MD. Throughout his career, Johnny served on various boards, organizations and committees, many of which he served as President or Chaired, such as Commerce & Government Matters Committee (Vice Chair/Chair), Appropriations Committee, 7th Judicial Nomination Committee, St. Mary's County Juvenile & Adult Drug Court Advisory Board, Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission, Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland Board of Trustees, Maryland Veterans Home Commission, Chesapeake Bay Commission, Maryland Correctional Enterprises Management Council, St. Mary's County Adult Substance Abuse Recovery, Mother Catherine Academy Board, Mechanicsville

Volunteer Fire Department, Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, St. Mary's Hospital Board of Directors, Mid-Atlantic Food Dealers Association (Chairman), 7th District Optimist Club (President), Mechanicsville Optimist Club, Mechanicsville Moose Lodge, St. Clements Island Hundred, St. Clements Island Museum, Farm Bureau, Historic Sotterley, Charlotte Hall Veteran Home and Cedar Lane Senior Living. And above all else, Johnny was a family man. Johnny was often heard bragging about his large family gatherings and how proud he was of each of them.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, June 15, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with prayers recited at 7:00 p.m. and Optimist prayers recited at 7:15 p.m. in Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall, Mechanicsville, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated on Friday, June 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church in Mechanicsville, MD with Father Michael Tietjen officiating. Interment will follow in Queen of Peace Cemetery, Helen, MD. Serving as Pallbearers will be grandchildren Danny Stone, David Wood, John Wood IV, Hayden Wynkoop, Kenny E. Wood, Rob Wood, Breann Barrick, Heather Cropper and Tara Wood. Honorary Pallbearers will

be his grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 37, Mechanicsville, MD 20659 and Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 15, Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

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.

Michael Whitney, 48



Michael Glenn Whitney, age 48, passed away on June 5, 2023.

Michael was born on February 15, 1975 in Orange Park, Florida. Since 1979 Michael was

a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, Maryland. He attended Saint Mary's County Public Schools, graduating from Leonardtown High School in 1993, lettering in golf, tennis and basketball.

Shortly after high school he began his career with CPF Underground Utilities,

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Office on Aging

Continued from page 5



Ed Sullivan with his grandson

The nation's and the county's population is aging. He said, "We are working alongside our Calvert County Commission on Aging, a group of citizens appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, to make Calvert County as age friendly as we possibly can. And we are currently undergoing this Age-Friendly Community process." That was initiated by the former commissioner board in an application to AARP, which they have accepted. He explained, "And now we have been collecting surveys from the community and holding community listening sessions to get feedback from the community in an effort to guide our work to make Calvert County even more age-friendly than it was. What does that mean? In practical terms, if there's a way we can keep seniors in their homes longer, our desire is to try to make that happen. If there's a way we can improve transportation for older adults in Calvert County, we want to make that happen. We already have services that help seniors, but if we can improve in any way, shape, or fashion, our desire is to serve the citizens at a greater level."

Sullivan said, "Seniors are becoming more health conscious. How that impacts us, we offer many evidence-based health classes to encourage good health amongst our seniors. For example, we work closely with our health department in offering diabetes self-management classes so individuals can manage their condition."

He added, "Something new that we brought to the agency in the last year is we have hired a registered dietician. The office has never had one in the past, but now we have one on staff, and we look forward to our registered dietician providing nutrition education and nutrition counseling to seniors."

He noted, "We also have three fitness centers, one at each of our senior center locations. We just doubled the size of the fitness room at the Southern Pines Senior Center in Lusby. And we're looking forward to adding equipment there in the next month or two." The fitness rooms are free.

But their emphasis is not just on physical

health, but also mental health. "Socialization is so important. We learned this from the pandemic. So, we have lots of fun activities, recreational activities."

"We have a holistic approach," he explained, "So we offer behavioral health counseling at our centers. We offer bereavement groups in partnership with Hospice of the Chesapeake and veterans support groups."

They are also seeking to hear from seniors what they want in the way of services. He said, "We have focus groups coming up at each of our centers later this year about recreational programming activities. Doesn't have to be recreational programming, but we hold groups to make sure we get feedback from the senior community. And we want to try to meet those needs if we can."

"We're trying to bring healthcare services even on a limited scale to the community," Sullivan noted. "We want to go to North Beach, we want to go to Southern Pines in Lusby, and we have a partnership with our local hospital, CavertHealth. They bring their mobile health vehicle to each senior center with a pharmacist, with a registered nurse. That way seniors who have difficulty with transportation, if they can just make it to one of our senior centers, they have access to those services."

Within healthcare, he said, "One of the big challenges nowadays is behavioral health or mental health. We do provide those services, but we know that coming out of Covid and with many people living longer, sometimes without families, support systems are necessary, and counseling might be necessary. So, we're trying to meet those needs as best we can now. But I think that's something that's going to continue to be a challenge for us."

They're also seeing a rise in guardianship cases where the office on aging is designated by the court as the legal guardian of person, not property, but legal guardian of person for seniors who have no assistance and might not have the family to take care of them.

Director of the Department of Community Resources Jennifer Moreland noted, "We did get funding this year from the commissioners to add a case manager position to help support those long-term care cases that are challenging."

This is Elder Abuse Awareness Week, an issue that the office also addresses. A representative of the county technology office and a deputy, Sullivan said, "visited our senior centers to educate seniors on the signs of elder abuse."

To learn more about programs of the Office on Aging, go to their website at: <https://calvertcountymd.gov/113/Office-on-Aging>

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Calvert Office on Aging Serves a Growing Population

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Ed Sullivan gets asked about his name a lot. The Division Chief of the Calvert County Office on Aging, part of the Department of Community Resources, shares the same name with the host of one of the most popular TV shows of all time, which ran from 1948 to 1971, starting life as Toast of the Town and then later the Ed Sullivan Show. That TV Ed Sullivan had almost no personality, but he had a talent for showcasing talent, including the Beatles American TV debut. He was indeed "A Really Big Shoe," which was how Sullivan pronounced "Show."

As Calvert County's aging population continues to grow, the Office on Aging has indeed become a really big show locally.

Calvert County's Ed Sullivan has been the head of the Office on Aging since 2021, taking over from Susan Justice, who retired. Sullivan had been program manager since 2017 and before that ran the Calvert Pines Senior Center in Lusby.

He said, "I had been the executive director of the now defunct Adult Daycare of Calvert County. I was in that position for a couple of years as well. So, this is not my first go around with senior citizens. I had worked also as a case manager, assisting individuals with disabilities for a couple of years also."

Sullivan explained, "I can't really say that it was something I had my heart set on. It just happened. It fell into place for me. The fact that I'm the division chief now is sometimes I can't believe that. But I'm thankful for the opportunities. What drew me in -- any time you have an opportunity to help people, that's something I'm going to consider. I've had other opportunities to lead in some service type capacities, and I've turned them down in recent years. I try to go where I think God is leading me and where I can make a positive impact."

He added a personal experience. "My grandparents on my father's side, I watched them grow old together. They've both since passed, but my grandfather was a World War II veteran. He served in the Japanese theater. My grandmother was a secretary at an elementary school. And I saw them age, and I was near my grandmother when she passed and had the privilege of being in the hospital with her during her last days, years ago. And that was something I always cherish."

He added, "I was just beside her, her and myself for a couple of days. And obviously they loved me dearly. I would go over to my grandparents' house as a youngster. They lived in Temple Hills, and they spoiled me and my little sister to no end. They were wonderful grandparents."

He started as division chief in the height of the pandemic. "That was tough," he

said, "because in the sense that we were closed due to Governor Hogan's mandate that all senior centers throughout the state of Maryland be closed. So, community resources and the Office on Aging for county government, how could we still make a positive impact on our seniors? What were the needs that the seniors had? And at that time, our focus was predominantly in two areas. One was making sure that every senior had a vaccination that desired one. We worked alongside CalvertHealth and our local health department to make that happen inside our three senior centers. Our staff made hundreds of phone calls and took hundreds of calls from the Calvert County senior community in order to get hundreds, if not a couple of thousand seniors vaccinated inside our three senior centers. So that was quite a task, but we did fairly well, I think."

Then, he said, "Obviously with our senior centers closed, we were not serving meals inside our senior centers like we do Monday through Friday every single day. So, we delivered about 55,000 meals to the Calvert County senior community. And this was the Office on Aging staff who took this on. I'm very proud of our staff."

He doesn't think things have yet returned quite to pre-pandemic levels, "But we're definitely moving in that direction."

He added, "Since the time we've reopened, we've seen a steady increase in



Division Chief of the Calvert County Office on Aging Ed Sullivan

seniors returning to our centers. And we're absolutely thrilled about that. And obviously, we hope that trend continues. We are fully open for meals for seniors who need them inside our senior centers and we're still delivering home delivered meals in partnership with our Calvert Meals on Wheels volunteers. We are seeing many people come back for recreational activities and trips."

See **Office on Aging**, page 7

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WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?



Types of Elder Abuse:

- **Physical Abuse:** Use of force to threaten or physically injure an older person
- **Emotional Abuse:** Verbal attacks, threats, isolation or belittling that cause mental distress to an older person
- **Sexual Abuse:** Sexual contact that is forced upon an older adult, or anyone who is unable to give consent
- **Exploitation:** Theft, fraud or misuse of authority as a way to gain control over an older person's money or property
- **Neglect:** Failure to care for an older person properly

WHO IS AFFECTED BY ELDER ABUSE?



Elder abuse affects older people across all socioeconomic groups, cultures, and races and can occur anywhere when they are disconnected from social supports:

- In a person's own home
- In nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other institutional settings
- In hospitals

THINGS EVERYONE CAN DO TO PREVENT ELDER ABUSE



- Learn the signs of elder abuse
- Provide respite breaks for over-burdened caregivers
- Check on older adults regularly to prevent them from feeling isolated
- Be aware and take note of what may be happening with your older neighbors and acquaintances
- Report suspected abuse and neglect to local Adult Protective Services or Law Enforcement

For Richards, Volunteering Is a Way of Life

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Despite being in her 80s, Ann Richards continues to remain active as a volunteer, spending much of her time working with the St. Mary's County Fair Board to keep the fairgrounds in Leonardtown in good working order.

Partnering with her husband, John Richards, who heads the fair board, she has continued to volunteer and help others not just with the county fair but with other laudable events such as the annual hospice run and serving at a local soup kitchen feeding the needy.

She can remember she had her husband taking on the county fair work decades ago.

"We got involved with the fair board through 4-H," Richards told The County Times, noting the youth group that teaches members about agriculture and farm life.

She and her husband eventually took over the leadership of the local Tudor Hall 4-H Club before moving onto the county fair.

"It's still a thriving club now," she said. "It's been a wonderful experience."

The years working at the fairgrounds have been rewarding but they've also been taxing; it's a lot of physical effort keeping up with the upkeep.

"We've accepted the fact that we're getting old," Richards said with humor. "The fairgrounds are so much busier now than they were 40 years ago."

There is seldom a time when the fair-



grounds are not in use.

There are five weeks of day camps for young people during the year, she said, and there are rabies clinics for pets that astound her as to how many pets there are in St. Mary's County.

"Cats and dogs are everywhere," she said.

There are gardening demonstrations, she said, and two other main events to include the Oyster Festival and the Crab Festival on top of many other activities.

But with her age comes perspective on how to improve the fairgrounds.

"Now that we're in our 80's we realized years ago we should have put steps in the stands and a hand rail," Richards said, noting how important it was to provide



mobility for senior-aged people coming to the fairgrounds.

All of her time working at the fairgrounds has been without a title, she said, but she's managed to garner a list of exceptional volunteers to help her and the mission there in general.

It's what has kept the fairgrounds such a busy and successful place — the people who keep it running out of their own enthusiasm.

"They love being here," she said of the several dozen faithful helpers. "If you have problems finding volunteers, you're looking in the wrong places."

"You look for people who are 55 to 60 years old, who've retired."

She said those who are looking for vol-

unteer opportunities should look for people who are passionate about the work they're trying to get others involved in.

"People who complain aren't the ones you want to work for anyway," Richards said.

Richards said she has found St. Mary's County to be a refuge of community in a time when troubles seem to be everywhere; the readiness of people to volunteer is part of that.

"I'm very positive about St. Mary's County," Richards said. "I see more churches being built and that means more people are going."

"Volunteering is fun; it keeps you young until [age] jumps up into your face."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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.

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 is when you cut out pictures from magazines or books and glue them to any surface such as paper. The pictures overlap to create a finished image. Collage Group will meet at Garvey Senior Activity Center every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 20, at 6 p.m. You do not need to register in advance. Materials will be provided. There is no fee for the class. Collage Group is beginner-friendly arts and crafts where you can also socialize with others! Please call 301-475-4200, ext. 1080, if you have any questions.

Summer Kickoff & Karaoke – Intergenerational Event

School's out for summer! Celebrate the first official day of summer at Northern Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, June 21, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with a delicious lunch, including chicken tenders, followed by karaoke & fun. Grandparents are encouraged to attend with their school-aged + older grandchildren! Register for this event by visiting www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs." If assistance is needed, leave a

message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115. Lunch is by donation for those over 60 years of age, and \$6 otherwise. The lunch fee is payable in-person on the day of the event.

Lyme Disease Documentary Screening: The Quiet Epidemic

The St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services is excited to be bringing *The Quiet Epidemic* (1hr 45min), an important new documentary about Chronic Lyme Disease, to our community! It is hosted by the Lyme Disease Discussion and Support Initiative and will be held at the Northern Senior Activity Center in Charlotte Hall on Monday, June 26, from 1-4 p.m. Join us for the special screening at 1 p.m. and discussion from 3-4 p.m. to help raise awareness and learn more about Lyme disease in our community. The Quiet Epidemic community screening is being held free to the public with event + Center registration required in advance. Register for this event by visiting www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs." If assistance is needed, leave a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115. Those who are new to the Center can complete the free-membership registration form in-person or online at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/aim.

Patriotic Posies

Liven up your 4th of July holiday with wood-based flowers that you hand-dye, tuck into a fabric vase, then mount onto wood to become a hanging or desk-top display. Class will be at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Friday, June 23, at 10 a.m. Cost is \$20. You can sign up to make one at www.stmarysmd.com/Aging. Advance registration and payment required. Class is limited to 10 but must have 3 to take place. Cost includes all materials and supplies needed to complete the project.

July 3D Flower Plaque

Come join Penny B. at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Tuesday, June 27, at 10 a.m. as she shows you how to create a beautiful 3D plaque for the July holiday! All instructions and supplies are provided. The cost of the class is \$20. You can now use the online registration at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs". To learn more, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1080. Advanced registration is required.

Stars & Stripes Celebration at Loffler

The Loffler Senior Activity Center will be hosting this Intergenerational Event on Thursday, July 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. so

invite your (grown) children and grandchildren here to extend the celebration of our nation's origins with you for some patriotic fun! We'll have a hot dog lunch, sing some songs with our chorus group, host a Hall Parade and finish off with ice cream. Be sure to wear red, white and blue! Cost \$3 per adult; Plus, lunch donation for 60+ and \$6 for under 60. Sign up and prepay \$3 fee at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging or leave a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660, and pay fee in person. Lunch payments shall be paid on the day of event. Preregistration is required, limited seating available.

MGM Casino Trip

Do you want to get out of town, but don't want to fight the city traffic? Come join us for the MGM Casino Trip! The cost is \$55 per person. Cost includes luxury round-trip motorcoach transportation, snacks, and water on the bus. As well as gratuities for the bus driver. Lunch and Casino play will be at your own cost! There is a large selection of restaurants within the casino. Pick-up will be at the Garvey Senior Activity Center at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 19, and drop-off will be at the Garvey Senior Activity Center at 5 p.m. depending on traffic.



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A Special Pull Out Section

Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



The “Must Be Getting Close to Birthday” Blues

I was just talking to my brother Bobby out in Utah for an hour about all sorts of things. He said he had been thinking about our (maternal) grandparents a lot the last week, and I said, so had I. I asked him what made him think of them. Bobby said that Ma and Pa passed so young, in their early 60s back in the 1960s, and they looked like the stereotypical grandparents in old movies. He went on to say that people seem to look and act younger now than they did back then. His wife Kathy added that possibly better medical help, knowing about better foods to eat may be a factor in this. Hard to say, though my grandmother looked like a grandmother even when she was a teenager. She wore plain dresses and always had her hair braided and curled into a bun just like her mother did. As the oldest child of eight I guess she did take on a motherly role and look. I have Ma’s chubby cheeks, not being fortunate to have my mother’s high cheekbones and long, graceful neck.



We also talked about the old family photos again and that I really should finish scanning all the family pictures. I told him that could be a problem since the scanning part of my all in one printer hasn’t worked in a year or two. I suppose I should just go and get a new printer soon to finish the job. I have mentioned how many photos I have before. There are probably 50 to 60 photo albums and scrapbooks I have put together over the years, though like many people I stopped with all that once digital photos became the norm. And there are still Rubbermaid boxes full of scrapbooks and photos in envelopes that need to be organized and digitized. Quite overwhelming. My mother loved to take photos and so did/do I. I’d love to pull out all those photos of my sons that I took in the 80s, 90s, and early 2000s and scan them to the computer or hard drive (which I don’t even have a clue how to do, let alone time). Some day.

And speaking of time, that was what I was thinking about in regard to my sweet grandmother. I only had her for 8 years when she died at 62 in 1969; enough time for wonderful memories of playing Candy Land and Hi Ho Cherrio-o’s, and her patience in teaching me to read so young, but not enough time to find out about her life. Not unlike with my father passing at 52 when I was 18; I was too stupid or self-absorbed to ask about what his life was like growing up. Now there is no one left to ask. Now that I will be 62 next week, I start to get heart palpitations when I think that’s how old Ma was when she passed, and I was the same way when I hit 52, the age my father passed. Will I get enough time with my grandkids to pass on anything about me or the history of our family? Again, I feel there isn’t enough time; everyone is so busy with day to day life, commitments, and events. Time whizzes by.

Something I brought up to my brother Bobby also was: Where are all our childhood birthday photos? My mother loved taking photos, so it’s something I don’t understand. We each have photos from maybe two birthday parties when we were young, and for my poor late brother Billy there are no birthday photos. My mother never really liked my brother Billy and that’s a shame since he, like my father, was one of the sweetest, gentlest people you would ever meet. She finally did tell Billy she loved him when she was on morphine and dying.

On to brighter things. I’m grateful for having these long talks with my brother, even when we seem to revert back to me being 12 and him 26 some of the time. I’m grateful that my husband will have another wonderful birthday and Father’s Day this weekend. I’m grateful I will turn 62, and it seems like I’ll be around for awhile to pass on my history (well some of it), our family history and recipes to the grandkids...I was going to say pass on my wisdom and knowledge, but you all know that isn’t true. Now is the time to have fun, talk, listen, and make memories. Hoping over Father’s Day that you and your family get to talk, share, or reminisce...and take photos or videos! Happy Father’s Day!

To each new day’s adventure, Shelby

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

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Biggest threats to a comfortable retirement?

If you save and invest for decades, you’d like to know you can retire without financial worries. Nonetheless, you still have to be aware of some threats to a comfortable retirement — and how to respond to them.

These threats include:

- **Inflation** – Inflation has been high recently, but even a mild inflation rate can seriously erode your purchasing power. In fact, with just a 3% inflation rate, your expenses could double in about 25 years — and your retirement could easily last that long. So, if you’re going to rely on your investment portfolio for a sizable part of your retirement income, you will need to own a reasonable number of growth-oriented investments, such as stocks or stock-based funds, whose potential returns can equal or exceed the inflation rate.
- **Excessive withdrawals** – Once you retire, you should establish a withdrawal rate for your portfolio — an amount you can take out each year and still feel secure that you won’t run out of money. Some people make the mistake of withdrawing too much, too soon, once they’re retired. Your withdrawal rate should be based on several factors, including your age at retirement, the size of your portfolio and the amount of income you receive from other sources, such as Social Security. A financial professional can help you determine a withdrawal rate that’s appropriate for your needs.
- **Market volatility** – The financial markets will always fluctuate. When you’re still working, this volatility may not be such a problem, as you have years or decades to recover from short-term downturns. But when you retire, you don’t want to have to sell investments when their price is down. To help prevent this, you can tap into the cash in your portfolio, assuming you have enough to cover several months’ worth of living expenses. You could also draw on a CD “ladder” — a group of CDs that mature at different times — to provide you with resources for the next few years and allow your equity investments time to recover their value.
- **Unexpected costs** – You had them when you were working, and you’ll probably have them when you’re retired: the furnace that breaks down, the car that needs a major repair, and so on. But if you’ve established an emergency fund containing a year’s worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid account, you may be able to “ride out” these costs without jeopardizing your investment portfolio. Be sure to keep these reserves separate from your typical day-to-day accounts to avoid the temptation of spending your emergency money.
- **Health** – Retirees may face more health concerns than younger people, and those concerns often come with larger medical bills. That’s why it’s important to maximize the benefits from Medicare or your Medicare Advantage plan. Also, if you contributed to a Health Savings Account (HSA) while you were working, and you haven’t depleted it, you can use the money in retirement. As long as the HSA funds are used for qualified medical expenses, withdrawals are tax- and penalty-free, and won’t be included in your income. This could help keep your income below certain levels, lower your Medicare premiums or avoid the 3.8% surtax on net investment income that can be assessed on high-net-worth taxpayers.

Retirement can be a pleasant time in your life — and you’ll enjoy it more if you’re prepared for the challenges that face all retirees.

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

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Sheriff's Deputy Injured in Assault

On Monday, June 12, 2023, at 2:12 am, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the 21600 block of Great Mills Road in Lexington Park for the report of an assault in progress involving Antoine Keith Mackall III, age 29 of no fixed address, attacking several victims inside of a residence. Patrol Deputy Devin Absher was the first to arrive on the scene and heard a loud disturbance. Deputy Absher observed Mackall exit the apartment and run towards the wood line.

A foot chase ensued and Mackall attempted to jump a fence. At the fence line, Mackall punched Deputy Absher in the face multiple times and ran toward the woods. Despite the violent assault against him, Deputy Absher continued the pursuit and was able to successfully take the suspect into custody. Upon a search of Mackall, a glass smoking device with suspected crack cocaine was located on his person.

A medical assessment of Deputy Absher determined he needed to be flown to a trauma unit as a result of his injuries. He was later released and is recovering at home.

On Tuesday, Sheriff Steve Hall visited Deputy Absher at his home and awarded him with a Sheriff's Office Purple Heart Medal.

"This is an example of a 21st-century police officer," Sheriff Hall said. "Deputy Absher is fueled by a passion to serve. He's directed by his training, and he's defined by the courage to get the job done, no mat-



Sheriff Steve Hall presents Deputy Absher with a Sheriff's Office Purple Heart Medal

ter what. This is the danger deputies face. These are the blows they're willing to take for the people in this community," the Sheriff continued. "I am inspired."

Mackall is charged with Second-Degree Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer; four counts of Second-Degree Assault on multiple victims; Resisting/Interfere with Arrest; two counts of Malicious Destruction of Property less than \$1,000; Failure to Obey a Lawful Order; CDS Possession: Cocaine and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

Mackall is currently held on a no-bond status at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown.



Letters to the Editor

Gun Control. Is it the answer? Do we need more gun control? Do we need to take away all of the arms away from everyone except for police and our military? Actually, as recent as 1986 the United States had Federal Law Enforcement Officers fully trained in the carry and use of a firearm. But, where restricted from carrying the firearm. It seems like every time I hear about a Mass Shooting, the demand for gun control resurfaces. There are many States that currently have some strong gun control laws. But, why do they continue to have Mass Shootings in a strong gun control State? Why didn't their strong gun control law work? Maryland has recently passed some very strict gun control laws. The previous gun control laws of Maryland were found to be unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. Since then, Maryland's new laws restricts a person with a legal conceal carry permit from carrying a gun almost everywhere. Essentially, Maryland treats some of the new laws it passes as "mud". It throws it on the wall and waits to see what will stick. Remember all laws are legal until they are overturned.

As for your firearm, Maryland might let you carry it while you are sitting on a toilet. But, it depends upon where the toilet is.

Of course the new attempt by Maryland to infringe upon a person's right to keep and bare arms as said in the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution will fail again.

The new law Maryland created is already promised to make its way through the Courts even before the ink is dry from the Governor signing the new law.

One of the Forefathers of our Nation, Thomas Jefferson said in a letter to William Stephens Smith, the son-in-law of John Adams on December 20th, 1787 that :

"The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such a nature. They disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes.... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

Benjamin Franklin wrote in the Historical Review of Pennsylvania, 1759

"To disarm the people...is the most effectual way to enslave them."

It is important to note that throughout the cry to restrict the Second Amendment right to carry firearms there is very little cry to address the significant growth in mental illness. It is the people with mental illness that pull the trigger of a firearm. It is not the firearm which pulls the trigger. The firearm does not possess the ability to have a mental illness.

v/r,
Roy Fedders
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Pet



OF THE WEEK

MEET BETH

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Hi, my name is Beth. As you can see, I'm definitely a 10 on the CUTENESS CHART! Now, I'm usually a QUIET GIRL but I can get a little "sassy" when you startle me. Most of the time, I'm that PLAYFUL girl who enjoys hanging out with someone just like YOU. My favorite perch is on your shoulder or in your lap while we watch some TV. I'm a SKILLED SNUGGLE BUNNY! I really LOVE being with other cats but dogs and loud children scare me, so a slow introduction is best. My favorite toys are my red feather and I LOVE, LOVE cardboard boxes! PLEASE come meet me ASAP! I'm waiting here for YOU! Adoption hours are Monday-Friday 11am-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm or email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! And remember, ALWAYS OPT TO ADOPT, please don't shop!

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River Concert Celebrating 25 Years



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Dr. Jeffrey Silberschlag, maestro of the Chesapeake Orchestra, said this year's River Concert Series will have music that just about everyone will know and enjoy.

"I really tried to do a populist [music] season," Silberschlag told The County Times. "This is stuff people are really familiar with."

It's part of a theme to celebrate the quarter of a century the concert series has been in St. Mary's County bringing musical culture but also enhancing a sense of community.

The concert series starts next week on June 23 with the orchestra playing selections from Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim with a particular focus on the great divas of the 1960s and 1970's, Silberschlag said.

Those include music by Dione Warwick, Whitney Houston and Diana Ross.

Providing vocals along with the orchestra will be N'Kenge, a world-famous vocalist and one of the concert series' inaugural performers.

"All these years have passed and she's done these great things," Silberschlag said.

The next performance will be June 30 with the orchestra kicking off with a royal treatment theme; that includes music from Duke Ellington, Prince and the iconic rock band Queen.

The musical selections continue through July 21 and include everything from Beethoven's 6th Symphony and Paganini

to great modern conductors such as John Williams.

Food and drink vendors will be on hand at the concert and a fireworks display is planned for the evening of June 30.

Numerous corporate sponsors, many of them local defense contractors and other businesses ensure that visitors can come and enjoy the performances free of charge.

"We've kept this free for 25 years," Silberschlag said. "That's tough to do."

In the beginning of the River Concert Series' life, it was defense contractors who wanted to start a cultural event to help foster a sense of community among the many new people who had come to the county from other communities a result of military base consolidations.

Over the years, Silberschlag said, these sponsors and many loyal fans of the concert series have been responsible for keeping it going.

"It's brought a viable artistic enterprise here," Silberschlag said. "It brings people together. People have become friends sitting next to each other out there."

This family-friendly music festival, and winner of two Governor's Awards for Arts, Tourism, and Community Economic Development will be held on the St. Mary's College Townhouse Green, a college statement reads. The programs will be on Friday evenings at 7 p.m.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Night Flight Activities Scheduled through July

Communities surrounding Naval Air Station Patuxent River and Webster Outlying Field are advised that noise-generating nighttime testing events are scheduled to take place late June through July 2023.

Pilots at NAS Patuxent River will be conducting night departures and landings June 27 through July 21, 2023 from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Additionally, pilots at Webster Outlying Field will conduct low-altitude helicopter flight test events June 26 through June 30, 2023 from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Night testing and training is essential for the precision and safety of our military pilots and the success of their mission. Residents may notice increased noise levels due to these operations.

As with all operations, NAS Patuxent River takes precautions to lessen the impact of testing activities on the community. For more information call 1-866-819-9028. To view all current NAS PAX noise advisories please click the following link: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/PaxRiverNoise>

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St. Mary's Mourns Johnny Wood's Passing

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

John F. Wood, Jr., a former state delegate who represented Northern St. Mary's County and a portion of Charles County while he served in the Maryland General Assembly, passed away June 9.

He was 87.

Wood was a lifelong county resident and business owner, operating a grocery store and the Mechanicsville insurance agency Cross, Wood & Wynkoop.

He was also famous for holding an annual bull roast at the Olde Breton Inn in Leonardtown for years when he was an elected official that brought hundreds — including some of Maryland's political elite — to raise funds for worthy charities in the community.

He was widely regarded as a pillar of the community and a friend to many.

"Johnny's contributions to our state were many and varied," said Del. Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29 A) in a social media post expressing his condolences. "Early in

his career, he fought to increase funding for local schools and expand access to affordable healthcare for all Marylanders.

"Later, he was instrumental in securing additional resources for our state's first responders and law enforcement officials"

Though Wood was a lifelong Democrat, he was politically and socially conservative and stood by St. Mary's traditions and ideals.

"Throughout his time in office, Johnny stood up for what he believed in and fought for the common good," Morgan, who now represents a form of Wood's old district, said.

Wood served in the House of Delegates from 1987 to 2015, serving on numerous important committees.

He also was a member of many service organizations including the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department, the Mechanicsville and 7th District Optimist Clubs; and the Mechanicsville Moose Lodge.

He was born in Leonardtown in 1936 and is survived by his wife, Barbara, nine children, 26 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

J. Earnest Bell, a long-time lawyer and friend to Wood, served alongside him in the legislature of about eight years.

Bell lamented the loss of a friend whom he had first met when Wood was a baseball player for the then-Charlotte Hall Military Academy.

"He was a good man," Bell said. "He left a community and political legacy I doubt will ever be duplicated."

Bell said Wood possessed a genial and open nature and was widely liked by all.

"He was a man of his word," Bell said. "You always knew where he stood; he never equivocated."

"And there was never a hint of impropriety or scandal attached to him."

The last time Bell said he spoke to Wood was just a few weeks ago when they both made plans to attend



the funeral of former state Speaker Casper Taylor, but weather kept them from traveling to Cumberland.

Bell said Wood never tired of serving in the House of Delegates or engaging in politics and policy making.

"He was so well liked," Bell said. "He was like a magnet for people."

"He just loved people." Bell said Wood was such a fixture of life in St. Mary's and Southern Maryland that it was hard to imagine him no longer being a part of it.

"He loved everything he did," Bell said. "Not to take him for granted but we always thought he'd be there."

"I think I and everyone who knew him were better for having known him."

Jamie Raley, a local farmer and former St. Mary's deputy sheriff, said Wood was "one of the finest gentlemen I've ever known."

"He cared about his family, his community and his church," Raley said of Wood. "He was a member of the county farm board and he supported county agriculture when he was a member of the House of Delegates."

Wood helped protect farmers' operations when it came to stringent regulations from

the state, particularly when it came to the use of fertilizers on their land.

The state requires that farmers submit nutrient management plans to the state detailing how much fertilizer they use, but, Raley said, Wood pressed to keep specifics of those uses individually confidential and aggregated in public reports.

"It helps farmers in keeping their business operations from being singled out by groups who are opposed to using fertilizers or chicken litter in fields," Raley said.

As a business man, Wood was always front and center with the public.

"I always enjoyed chatting with him when he was running his grocery store in Mechanicsville," Raley said. "He'd ask after your family, that meant a lot."

A traditional country gentleman, Wood was remembered for his honesty and fairness and kindness.

"He took his philosophy of family and community service to Annapolis with him," Raley said. "Today, that's something we're sorely in need of."

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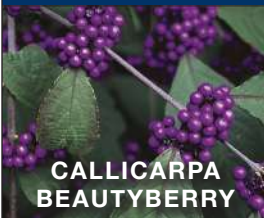


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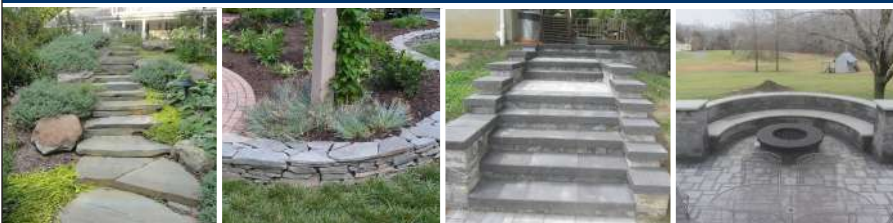
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Town's Arts and Entertainment Designation Renewed



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

About a decade ago Leonardtown applied for and won an Arts and Entertainment District designation from the state, making it one of 29 such districts in Maryland to receive such an honor.

It has become a key tool of reinventing and revitalizing the town, by attracting artists to help beautify public spaces and distinguish the town; the designation also brings with it tax incentives and support funding grants to spur economic development and reinvestment in communities.

"It's a good thing," Town Administrator Laschelle McKay said of the renewal of the designation at the June 12 town council meeting.

Leonardtown is the only arts and entertainment district in Southern Maryland.

Town officials gave a private tour to the state's arts and entertainment review committee in January to showcase the progress

made in transforming the town.

This included artwork that can be found around Town, including the vibrant murals that were created by local artists in L'Town Alley project and the diverse collection of galleries and art related businesses in and around the town square.

In the redesignation award letter sent on behalf of Governor Wes Moore, Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson recognized the town's hard work in maintaining an A&E designation.

"I realize that redesignation is the culmination of the many years of work as well as the dedicated effort of the district management and many devoted community members," Anderson said.

"Please accept my continued wishes for success in fostering economic development through the arts in the Town of Leonardtown."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Historic Skills for Kids at the Old Jail Museum

The St. Mary's County Museum Division is pleased to announce summer dates for a new kids' activity at the Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center, Historic Skill Set Social Hour: Kids Sewing will be offered from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on June 22, 2023; July 6 & 13, 2023; and August 3, 10 & 17, 2023.

Over 100 years ago or more in Leonardtown, when clothes were worn down or got a hole, one didn't simply throw them out - you mended them. Boys and girls alike learned to sew as a basic skill and now modern kids can too. Join staff in the sitting room of the Old Jail Museum in Leonardtown for some basic sewing skills. Bring a clean, laundered article of clothing you wish to mend, and staff will provide the needle, thread, and assistance, as well

as some fun history along the way.

Don't have a hole in your shirt? The museum will have fun, easy sewing projects to practice on such as stuffed animal friends, felt key chains, hair scrunchies and more. While sitting and working, museum staff talk about the history of the Old Jail as well as the local area.

This program is suitable for ages 8 and up due to sewing needle and scissor usage. The cost is \$5 per person. No registration required; walk ups welcome. If you just wish to visit the Old Jail Museum, admission is always free for all ages, daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information regarding hours of operation, programs, events, admission prices and more, visit Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum or call (240) 925-3427.

Resurfacing to Begin on Route 5 Through Leonardtown

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The State Highway Administration (SHA) is warning motorists who use Route 5 through Leonardtown that for the next month-and-a-half their work crews will be resurfacing the roadway and, local leaders hope, bringing to a conclusion a critical traffic safety project that has languished for several years.

The key to the project at Route 5 and Moakley Street is the addition of a center turn lane which is designed to reduce congestion by giving drivers a way to circumvent other vehicles making turns.

The section of road is notorious for traffic congestion due to its constricted nature and rear end collisions.

The SHA released a statement last week saying the resurfacing work was to begin June 11 but that work had yet to begin as of June 13.

The schedule of work hours SHA set is from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. from Sunday through Thursday nights and 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Friday night, if needed.

SHA reminded drivers to reduce speeds and remain alert for work crews, equipment, and lane shifts at the intersection of Route 5 and Moakley Streets.

Temporary traffic signs and barrels will guide drivers through the work zone, SHA stated.

District 29A Del. Matt Morgan, a frequent critic of how the state has handled the project, said at least two contractors defaulted on the project and the state has had to retake the bond on the project to ensure its completion.

"They weren't paying their subcontractors," Morgan said of one of the reasons for the continued delays in road work. "It's been a painstaking process.

"It's really embarrassing."

Reliable Contracting is now the new company in charge of finishing the project, Morgan said.

"They're a reputable company," Morgan said. "They do a lot of work for the state.

"I would think they could get the job done."

Morgan said the project has fallen behind schedule by almost two years; excavation began between late 2018 and 2019.

"It should have been finished up last November," Morgan said.

Residents who have questions about this work may contact the SHA District 5 Office at 410-841-1000 or toll-free at 1-800-331-5603.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Funeral Homes Warn of Bereavement Scam

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A local funeral home director is sounding the alarm on a scam targeting families who have just lost loved ones.

John Parker, owner of Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home in Leonardtown said scammers have been targeting mourners nationwide with phone calls impersonating staff of a funeral home or other agencies like regulatory boards and asking for payment related to funeral arrangements for deceased family members.

According to the National Association of Funeral Directors scammers are using details from obituaries to seem more credible to their victims; some Maryland families have reported callers claiming to be funeral home bookkeepers and asking for personal financial details such as credit card numbers and account numbers so that a refund can be processed back to the family.

Parker said some families in Montgomery County were recently targeted with this scam and is urging anyone in St. Mary's

County who receives suspicious calls to report them to the St. Marys' sheriff's office and to the funeral home that was purportedly making the call.

"Scammers are 'spoofing' funeral home identities, so caller ID makes it appear the call is being made from the funeral home," Parker said. "We are not making these calls and these individuals do not work for the funeral home.

"We always discuss payment options and arrangements with families during the arrangement conference and we will never demand immediate payment over the telephone."

Jason Babcock, spokesperson for the county sheriff's office, said the agency had yet to receive any such reports of scams locally but urged anyone who believed they had been targeted or victimized by one to report the incident.

"We recommend people be vigilant of this new scam," Babcock said.

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Officials Still Wary of Cannabis Despite Legalization

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Recreational use of cannabis in Maryland is now legal for those 21 years old and older but the local sheriff and health officer are still worried over the consequences of the virtually-assured proliferation of the drug.

“The legalization of cannabis is not going to be the end of the world, it’s just going to be the end of the one that we’re used to,” said Sheriff Steve Hall at a June 7 public informational session in Leonardtown on cannabis legalization. “The legalization of cannabis increases availability of the product... it stands that more people are likely to try it.

“I’m particularly concerned about the young people; with that proliferation and that stigma being removed.”

There must be a “united and concerted” education effort, Hall continued, to educate youth about the adverse effects cannabis use can have on developing minds and bodies.

“It might have to be more than we’ve done with alcohol,” Hall said. “It might have to be more than we’ve done with fentanyl, than we’ve done with heroin or tobacco.”

Deputies and correctional officers are dealing with greater amounts of mental health crises than ever before, the sheriff said, and there was no slowing down of the increase.

“Add a narcotic to the list of choices people have may exacerbate some of those mental illnesses and I don’t know to what costs that price will have to be paid,” Hall said.

Worse, cannabis proliferation would make traffic safety and impaired driving enforcement more difficult.

“There is not an acute roadside test for cannabis,” Hall said. “But we’ve been preparing.”

That includes all K-9 officers in the agency being assigned dogs that are not trained in the detection of marijuana.

Hall explained that a dog who detects marijuana — now legalized — during a traffic stop would produce results that would not stand up in court were other illicit substances found due to that search.

It would create a situation where civil rights would be violated, Hall confirmed.

Deputies are also being retrained to better identify the signs of impaired driving, Hall said, and to better articulate those reasons to better make a charge bear up to scrutiny in court.

“Maryland law does prohibit driving under the influence of drugs,” Hall reiterated. “The legalization process has been unfairly characterized as a free for all

“It’s still illegal to smoke [cannabis] in public.”

In speaking with other law officers in other states that have legalized cannabis, Hall said, the agency is now preparing for an increase — possibly a spike — in motor vehicle crashes.

Up until now, Hall said, traffic stops that revealed the smell of burnt marijuana provided probable cause for a lawful search of the vehicle.

These have led to confiscation of other illicit drugs, arrests for outstanding warrants, and “most importantly”, he said, seizing of illegal guns.

“I’ll just let you use your imagination to see where they go and what they’re used for,” Hall said.

Dr. Meena Brewster, the county’s chief health officer, said cannabis legalization presented health risks including poisoning or acute toxicity and could most negatively impact young people who use the narcotic.

“There is still much we’re learning about cannabis... and the effects of cannabis on health,” Brewster said and that included cannabis use disorder.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states that “some people who use marijuana will develop marijuana use disorder, meaning that they are unable to stop using marijuana even though it’s causing health and social problems in their lives.

“One study estimated that approximately three in 10 people who use marijuana have marijuana use disorder, another study estimated that people who use cannabis have about a 10 percent likelihood of becoming addicted.”

The risk of developing this disorder is greater in young people who begin using the drug, the CDC states.

“It can have an effect on thinking, on attention, memory, coordination,” Brewster said of the effects of cannabis beyond the psychoactive effect or “high.”

“Longer term, our major concern on the impact of cannabis is brain development,” she said. “We’re especially concerned about the younger, developing brain.”

Cannabis addiction, from which approximately 30-to-40 percent of users suffer, negatively effects work performance, family and social relationships, Brewster continued, and may contribute to depression, social anxiety and temporary psychosis.

“You could lose connection with reality and have hallucinations,” Brewster said. “Longer term use may even be connected to schizophrenia.”

She reiterated that smoking marijuana can also cause lung damage and that second-hand smoke can pass on the psychoactive effect to others nearby.

People who consume marijuana through so-called edibles could also expose themselves to poisoning as they can eat too much of the foodstuff because they do not feel the immediate effects of the tetrahydrocannabinol in marijuana.

Edibles also often resembled foods people wanted to eat.

“Adults, children, pets even, could mistake those for regular foods,” Brewster warned.

The health department has monitored a nationwide increase in edible poisonings, she said, and health officials are not sure of all the side effects of cannabis when mixed with alcohol or other medications.

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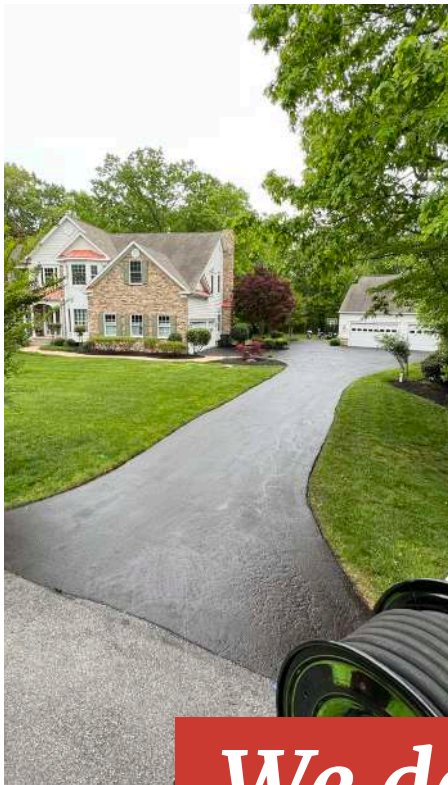


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“IT’S BEEN A PAINSTAKING PROCESS. IT’S REALLY EMBARRASSING.”

DEL. MATT MORGAN ON THE DELAYS OF THE ROUTE 5 BREAKOUT PROJECT IN LEONARDTOWN



LOCAL 5
Officials warn of cannabis use despite coming legalization



LOCAL 10
River Concert Series begins June 23



ON THE COVER
Former delegate Johnny Wood passed away June 9

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FATHER'S DAY

My father has always strived his hardest to provide for me and our family. Whether it was setting aside his pride and taking free donations of food while he was a full-time student and my mother was on bed rest or taking the option of back-to-back deployments so that his children would have a stable home-life, my father always put our well-being before his own. I didn't always understand my father though, and occasionally I would mistake his gifts for deprivation, often arguing with him over these misunderstandings. In time, I would come to understand the sacrifices he was making for us and learned to appreciate the great effort he put into providing what he saw fit and necessary, even when what was best for me was difficult for both of us.

In Matthew 7, verses 7 through 11, Jesus talks about how we, in our limited and imperfect humanity, are able to provide good things for our children. How a father would never provide a stone when asked for bread. Sometimes, in my childish arrogance, I felt as though my father were providing stone, but as I grew and matured, I learned that he had been sacrificing the very food from his own plate, both literally and metaphorically.

But Jesus goes further, stating that "If you... know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him." (CEB).

Our Heavenly Father gives us good gifts, even when our hearts cannot readily receive them as good and pleasing. His greatest gift was His Son, Jesus, whom He had sent as a sacrifice for our sins, in order that we might find a deep and loving relationship with Him.

This Father's Day, I plan on spending the day with my father as a thank you for the sacrifices which he has made to keep me comforted, as well as those sacrifices and hard decisions which made me uncomfortable, but spurred within me greater growth than any comfort could have produced. If I can recognize that my own earthly father has provided both comfort and discomfort for my benefit and growth, I must also recognize and have gratitude for those things which my Heavenly Father has allowed, both the comforts and hardships, which have led to the strengthening of my spirit.

I pray that you would join me, this Father's Day, in thanking our earthly fathers, reminding them of what we have seen them do for us, and in dwelling with the Heavenly Father, showing Him gratitude and appreciation for the things He has done and is doing for us, both the things seen and unseen. For those whose fathers have passed, or have had difficult relationships, I pray that you can find comfort in the Heavenly Father, and in the understanding that He is watching over you, caring for you, rooting for you at every opportunity, and hurting with you at every shortfall.

Spencer Arthur
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