

# County Times

THURSDAY, MAY 7 2020

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**COVID Can't Stop  
Mother's Day**



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**"ONE WAY OR THE OTHER NEXT WEEK YOU SENIORS WILL HAVE YOUR CAP AND GOWN,"**

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT SCOTT SMITH.

### WEEKLY FORECAST

Thu 5/7 63°   46°F  Mostly Sunny	Fri 5/8 59°   40°F  PM Showers	Sat 5/9 52°   39°F  Mostly Sunny	Sun 5/10 61°   46°F  Mostly Sunny
Mon 5/11 63°   44°F  Partly Cloudy	Tue 5/12 63°   47°F  Mostly Sunny	Wed 5/13 62°   50°F  Partly Cloudy	Thu 5/14 66°   52°F  Showers

**County Times**  
St. Mary's County • Calvert County

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# Schools Closed for Rest of Academic Year

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

State Schools Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon announced May 6 that she was closing all schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year due to the novel coronavirus.

Salmon made her announcement at a joint press conference with Gov. Larry Hogan, who said that improving COVID-19 hospitalizations and intensive care admittances were trending downward and the state was preparing to begin its first stage of reopening and recovering the state's economy.

"I'm convinced this is the appropriate decision to keep students and school staff safe from exposure to the virus," Salmon said.

Salmon said the state Department of Education had formulated a blueprint to guide schools through the rest of the school year and help guide them in how they might reopen and recover the pandemic.

"On-line and distance learning will continue," Salmon said. "Local school systems will have the flexibility to adapt these models to their individual needs."

The reopening of schools would not be in the first stage of the governor's plans, Salmon said, but would come in the third and final stage.

Hogan said stage one of his plan could begin in as little as a week if certain trends continued.

"We are beginning to see these encouraging numbers," Hogan said. "Our ICU [intensive care] numbers have been flat for eight straight days."

Hogan said his medical and scientific advisors agreed that limited outdoor activities could resume statewide; starting May 7 at 7 a.m. state parks could reopen for limited activities to include golf, tennis and fishing; also boating and camping could resume as long as social distancing and anti-viral precautions continued.

"We are flattening the curve," Hogan said. "We are preparing to launch our recovery plan."

Increases in testing kits, critical hospital bed space, personal protective gear and ability to trace anyone who was in contact with a person infected with the coronavirus all brought the recovery plan into sharper focus, Hogan said.

"All of this puts us closer to launching Stage 1 of our recovery plan," said Hogan.

The state has also received 1,600 initial doses of Remdesivir, which has proven effective in treating COVID-19; these are to be distributed to Prince George's and Montgomery counties where the outbreak is the worst, said Hogan.

The first trials of a new vaccine were also started this week in cooperation with the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Hogan said, adding that he had directed an order for protective gear and ventilators from a company called Blue Flame Medical, which had been accused of fraud and other wrongdoing in its business dealings with other states, to be cancelled.

"It's unconscionable anyone would try to exploit this pandemic or profit or their own personal gain," Hogan said.

*guyleonard@countytimes.net*

# Little Change on Town Council Following Election

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Mayor Dan Burris and Town Council Member Jay Mattingly both won reelection to Leonardtown government after ballots were tallied from the May 5 elections; Nick Colvin, a planner at the county's Department of Land Use and Growth Management, won his bid to get a seat on the council as its newest member.

Colvin ran unsuccessfully two years ago.

Doug Isleib, a member of the town's appeals board, failed in his campaign to win one of the two seats on the council up for the taking.

The election took place under special conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic with town staff sanitizing voting stations each time they were used inside the town hall and the number of voters allowed in at a time was kept to four.

When town staff and election judge J. Ernest Bell tallied the ballots, they were wearing masks; the town offices were locked at the time with just 10 people allowed inside.

Town Administrator Laschelle McKay said those inside included the four candidates.

All four candidates ran on a platform of fostering economic growth in town and ensuring that residential growth was well managed to tie in with infrastructure.

McKay said there were 238 ballots cast; Burris got 198 votes, Mattingly got 190 with Colvin earning 126 votes.

Isleib received 92 votes.

There was also greater interest in absentee ballots this election cycle due to the virus with 55 being entered in.

In Leonardtown elections, the top vote winners get seats on the council or the mayor's office.

Burris ran unopposed this election cycle.

Considering the fears about the novel coronavirus, the election brought out voters, McKay said.

"It was a good turnout for what was going on," McKay said. "There was a steady stream of people all day, it never really stopped."

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# Cap and Gown Distribution Delayed

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

School system officials said they were flooded with angry calls from parents of high school seniors this week after they learned the distribution of caps and gowns for the graduating Class of 2020 was being postponed.

The system is working now to find a way distribute caps and gowns, possibly by mail, next week.

The caps and gowns had already been delivered to the three public high schools, Superintendent Scott Smith told The County Times May 5, but he and system leadership realized several days earlier that having students come to schools to pick them up was a violation of Gov. Larry Hogan's executive order for residents to stay and home and only travel for essential goods and services.

Getting graduation paraphernalia was non-essential under the governor's order, Smith said.

Seniors are set to graduate on May 19, 20 and 21.

"People are mad and frustrated," Smith said. "We didn't take into account the governor's state-at-home order and the non-essential travel plan."

"That was our oversight."

The plan to allow for students to drive up to their schools, get out and walk the stage

in groups no larger than five was one that was approved by Dr. Meena Brewster, the county health officer, Smith said.

It was a good plan but for the oversight of the stay-at-home order, Smith said, and now the county had to wait for the a relaxing of the order for seniors to get their accoutrements.

"The governor needs to start stage No. 1 of his recovery plan and lift the stay-at-home order by May 15," Smith said of what was required to keep graduations on schedule.

Smith said he was hopeful he would receive some guidance from either the state or the Maryland Department of Education on how to proceed as early as this week.

The St. Mary's County Board of Education watched the joint press conference May 6 with Hogan and State Superintendent Karen Salmon and they decided to seek further guidance from the State's Attorney General's Office on whether students travelling to their respective high schools was allowed under the recently relaxed rules to the governor announced.

Caps and gowns were to have been distributed this week, but the board resolved to get them to students soon by some method.

"One way or the other next week you seniors will have your cap and gown," said Smith.

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# Health Officer: No South Korean Test Kits Yet

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

St. Mary's County Health Officer Dr. Meena Brewster said this week that none of the test kits brought into the state from South Korea have come here.

Brewster told The County Times that she had spoken with state officials multiple times to understand when some of the 500,000 kits will come to St. Mary's but to no avail.

"The focus of the test kits is going to be the long-term care facilities," Brewster said. "That's the nursing homes.

"We are waiting for these supplies to proceed with the universal testing."

The priority locally for such testing is the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, which currently has 18 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with one person there dying from the disease.

Gov. Larry Hogan's most recent executive order mandates universal testing in all state nursing homes both of residents and staff as well as daily monitoring for the novel coronavirus.

The 500,000 test kits were recently flown in from South Korea as part of a \$9.4 million deal brokered between a foreign laboratory and Hogan with the close help of his South Korean-born wife Yumi Hogan.

But since the arrival of the kits, there location has been closely guarded with multiple media reports stating that they are being kept in a secret site away from the possible confiscatory actions of the federal government.

Charlie Gischlar, spokesperson for the governor's office, did not comment on

whether the kits were being guarded, only that their location was secret.

"The testing kits are currently at an undisclosed location," Gischlar stated in a response e-mail to The County Times.

Brewster said state officials even declined to tell her where the kits were located.

"They're not releasing that information," she said.

Brewster added that the state was to introduce a distribution strategy this week for the half-million test kits but based on the overall need in St. Mary's County she expected to be lower on the priority list.

The one exception to that might be the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home as it is a state-run facility, Brewster said.

Locally, the health department continues to prepare for increased cases of COVID-19, Brewster said, as well as expanding testing capability for high-risk groups such as the elderly, those with prior medical conditions or both.

As of May 5, there were more than 170 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in St. Mary's with seven total deaths; there have been 34 hospitalizations with 73 people recovered and released from isolation, according to the health department's data.

Brewster told county commissioners Tuesday that the health department was working to expand testing to residents, especially asymptomatic people, who, she said, "play a significant roll of spread in the community."

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# Population At Homeless Camp Doubles

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Just under a month ago the county started an encampment at the Lexington Manor property, next to Lancaster Park, in an attempt to monitor the homeless population for COVID-19.

In that time the population there has doubled from 14 residents in tents to 28 as of May 4, according to Three Oaks Homeless Shelter Director H. Spearman "Lanny" Lancaster.

"We've had as high as 34 residents," Lancaster told The County Times. "Our goal is to house as many as we can as soon as possible before June."

So far, the program, which includes the homeless shelter, the county recreation and parks department as property manager and the county health department, has been able to place eight people living in the encampment into apartment housing.

Federal money is most often used to house the homeless who exhibit severe mental illness, often one of the leading factors in homelessness, Lancaster said.

"We make sure they're connected with a mental health agency," said Lancaster said.

The program also puts some of the homeless residents there in touch with recovery programs such as addiction treatment, where they might not be

ready for individual living conditions but would be better suited to a group home.

Arthur Shepherd, director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, said the south parcel of the park has been made available entirely for the encampment.

"It's 50 acres," Shepherd said. "There are running water toilets and portable units available and meals are served twice a day."

Security cameras and lights are also on site, Shepherd said, and the sheriff's office provides additional security.

While the encampment program has been useful in getting the homeless into housing it has yet to find one of its residents carrying the novel coronavirus.

Lancaster said he has had just one person in his entire continuum of services outside of the encampment test positive for the virus.

"It doesn't surprise me, but it does surprise a lot of people," Lancaster said. "People who are homeless are isolated any way and they mostly interact among themselves.

"They're not in the general population as much as you might think."

Lancaster said their natural level of social distancing was, perhaps, "a blessing in disguise."

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# McConkey Injured in Traffic Accident

## He's Already Back at the Helm

By Dick Myers  
Editor

If cats have nine lives, "You're down to one life left," was how Calvert County Commissioner Mike Hart described Commissioner President Kelly McConkey's brush with fate. McConkey was sitting at a traffic light on Route 4 in Dunkirk on Friday May 1 when a speeding car crashed into his vehicle. "My Chevy Traverse saved my life," he said.

McConkey was flown to Prince George's Shock Trauma Center with serious injuries but by Sunday he had been released home and home by Tuesday, May 5 he was running the commissioner meeting with no visible signs of injury.

At the meeting McConkey credited the emergency personnel on the scene. In his first Facebook post after the accident he also shouted out to them. "Thank you to all the first responders and Rodney Railey. Thank you for all your help. Thank you Ashley Maria Madariaga for taking care of me."

McConkey said the first doctor to visit with him at the shock trauma center said he didn't know who he was but he must be someone important because "Senator (Mike) Miller called five times demanding to let my wife in."

The Maryland State Police issued the following report on the accident.

"Maryland State Police have cited a Prince George's County woman following a six-vehicle crash Friday in Calvert County.

"The suspect, Stephanie Clax, 40, of Lanham, was issued 11 traffic citations, including failure to control vehicle speed to avoid a collision, driving under the influence, reckless driving, negligent driving, speeding and driving while impaired by a controlled dangerous substance.

"Shortly before 1:20 p.m. on Friday, troopers from the Prince Frederick Barrack responded to a multi-vehicle crash in the area of southbound MD Route 4 at Town Center Boulevard in Dunkirk. In all, six vehicles were involved in the crash with one victim flown to Prince George's Hospital Center."

The press release went on to say: "According to a preliminary investigation, witnesses told investigators that Clax was viewed rear-ending several vehicles, which led to a chain-reaction crash.

"The case remains under investigation."

Dunkirk VFD Deputy Chief Jonathan Riffe posted the following information about the accident: "On May 1 at 5:40 p.m. "At 1319 hours, Squad 5, Engine 52, Ambulance 58, the Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief & Fire Chief responded to Route 4 & Town Center Boulevard in Dunkirk for the serious motor vehicle accident.

"The Dunkirk VFD arrived and found a four-vehicle accident with one person trapped. The crew from Squad 5 performed a total sidewall removal of the driver's side to remove the patient. The patient was

ground transported to a local hospital. A patient in another vehicle was flown to a local trauma center by Trooper 2."

Commissioner Tim Hutchins, former commandant of the Maryland State Police, said McConkey was "very fortunate." He said driving is one of the most dangerous things that anyone can do. "Driving takes a tremendous toll," he said.

Commissioner Buddy Hance noted the irony that McConkey, who owns a tree and landscaping business, often finds himself in the dangerous position atop trees, yet he was injured sitting in his vehicle at a traffic light.

Reporter Guy Leonard contributed to this article.

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Commissioner President Kelly McConkey's badly damaged Chevy Traverse



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# Calvert's Economic Development Dept: On the Coronavirus Frontline for Business

By Dick Myers  
Editor

This week was to have been the annual Business Appreciation Week in Calvert County, with the county commissioners paying visits and special events such as workshops and awards ceremonies planned. That all went out the window with the coronavirus pandemic, although some of the events may eventually occur virtually.

But for now, Calvert County businesses are coping with massive change. Some are closed entirely, and others are dealing with a new norm.

Director of the Department of Economic Development Kelly Robertson-Slagle said, "It's been confusing for them and as you can imagine, very scary for all of our business community. Certainly, they were blindsided. This was not something that anybody anticipated."

But she delivers a positive message to the business community: "We will get through this together. Absolutely. One thing I know for certain is that our local economy was really good and was on the rise before this happened. And in Calvert County, one of the things that I love about working here is that we are small enough that we can truly get our arms around each business, whether big or small. We will get through this and we are committed."

Immediately with the governor's order to shut things down, Robertson-Slagle convened a "business response team" with her staff, the Chamber of Commerce, state agencies and the Small Business Development Center

She explained, "All of us in our daily organizational responsibilities work directly with the local business community." They spread the workload. "We really wanted to be able to provide a coordinated response."

It didn't stop with initial contacts but also numerous follow-ups. In all they have reached out to 180 county businesses.

Providing information has been their key role, particularly with the rollout of assistance programs from the federal and state governments.

She observed, "Healthy businesses usually have a couple of weeks, if not months' worth of cash reserves in the bank. Basically, when the economy gets completely shut down, it's not like a gradual downside. It's like a cliff."

They are just starting to hear about approvals under the federal Paycheck Protection Program. She praised the small local banks, like Community Bank of the Chesapeake and Cedar Point Federal Credit Union. She said, "I am hearing, and my staff is hearing more success with our local banks than with the larger ones, like Bank of America or PNC."

Rev. Robert Hahn, CEO of End Hunger in Calvert County, was critical in a Facebook post of PNC's level of effort in applying for a loan through the program. "Those



Kelly Robertson-Slagle

larger banks seem to be very slow on approvals and getting the money ultimately to the end user," Robertson-Slagle said.

The economic director was asked if she had heard of reluctance of workers to come back under the Paycheck Protection Plan because they can make more on unemployment, with the federal bonus.

"We are hearing that," she said, noting that she believes the governor's office is looking into it. "There could be some sort of notice to those folks that applied for unemployment, saying your employer does have a job opportunity open for you."

The team has been working with employers to adjust, such as for curbside service. She said, "If they've had a successful business model that has gone in this direction for so long, to encourage them that in some ways this is going to be our new normal and in order to be successful and to continue to be able to compete in what is our new normal, you're going to have to look at creative ways to pivot the business model."

She gave as an example Gwen Novak at No Thyme to Cook in Solomons, who will be starting an online virtual cooking class "where you pay a small fee and you're in your kitchen and she's in her kitchen and you will have the opportunity to cook together."

She also mentioned the Calvert County Farmer's Market which has successfully initiated a drive-through service.

It is still unclear what the reopening of the state will look like. Robertson-Slagle is encouraging businesses to do their homework and reach out to their trade group "for best practices to keep their employees safe as well as their customers safe."

The local Business Appreciation Week coincided with the national Economic Development Week. "We really are where the rubber hits the road with the local business community. When things are good, we're there to help, but when things go bad, we're definitely there to help."

Robertson-Slagle's message through it all: "Stay positive!"

"Let us be there as a part of their team to get through this," she said to the business community.

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# Judge Denies Suit Dismissal of Comp. Plan

## Trial Date to be Set in August

By Dick Myers  
Editor

A circuit court judge has ruled against Calvert County in their motion to dismiss a suit by four citizens seeking to overturn the adoption last August of the update of the county's comprehensive plan. The ruling by Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Associate Judge Michele Jaklitsch eliminates the scheduled June 9 hearing on the county's motion.

A trial on the case is still well into the future. On April 22, Calvert County Circuit Court Administrative Judge Mark Chandlee signed a scheduling order that sets the next 180 days for motions and discovery on both sides. A pre-trial conference will be held on August 20 for the purpose of setting a trial date.

During the motions and rebuttals leading up to the decision to throw out the county's request for dismissal of the suit, the county attorney, John Mattingly, filed a strident response in which he said it provides him an opportunity to chastise the plaintiffs for "bad faith and gamesmanship for which the Court should not countenance."

The suit was filed Dec. 24, 2019 in Calvert County Circuit Court by attorney G. Macy Nelson on behalf of Susan Dzurec and Myra Gowans of Huntingtown, Phyllis Sherkus of Dunkirk and Michael King of Prince Fred-

erick, members of a newly formed citizens group called Calvert Citizens United (CCU).

The citizens group had earlier filed a petition for judicial review seeking to overturn the plan. The suit filed Dec. 24 formalized that request.

The suit alleges two flaws in the commissioners' 3-2 decision to adopt the plan update. It says that Commissioner Kelly McConkey, now commissioner president, should have recused himself on the 3-2 vote that placed two pieces of property he owns in Huntingtown into an expanded Huntingtown Town Center. The suit said that violates the county's Ethics Ordinance (a complaint has also been filed with the ethics commission and McConkey has subsequently sued that volunteer board).

Mattingly had argued that the plaintiff's suit was not timely because the Ethics Commission had not ruled in the case against McConkey and that the plaintiffs had not established their standing in filing suit. Later the plaintiffs filed an amendment on the standing issue

In response to Mattingly's argument, Nelson said the court had considerable latitude in the issues raised by the county's attorney, and with "the genuine disputes of material fact, it would be improper for the Court to strike the amended complaint."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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# COVID-19

As of May 6	Positive Cases	Deaths
<b>Calvert</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>St. Mary's</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>8</b>

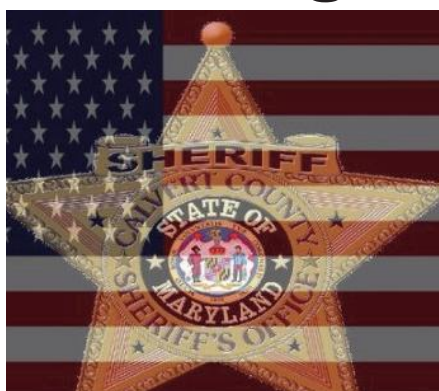
Information provided by St. Mary's and Calvert Health Departments  
5-6-2020

## Deputies Investigate White Sands Shooting

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office is seeking the assistance of the public concerning a shooting.

On Saturday, May 2nd at approximately 11pm we received a report of a shooting in the 500 block of Maple Way in White Sands. There are no reported injuries at this time. However, a residence and several parked cars were damaged by gunfire. A dark colored sedan was witnessed leaving the area immediately after.

Anyone with any information, please contact Detective Ted Yates at 410-535-1600 ext 21.



Press Release from CCSO.

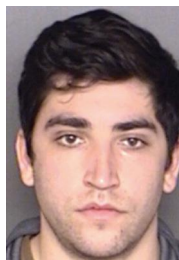
## ST. MARY'S SHERIFFS OFFICE CRIME REPORT

**Assault:** On April 23, 2020, Deputy Latisha Baker responded to the 21600 block of Liberty Street in Lexington Park for the report of an assault. Deputy Baker met with the victim who advised that Levar Tremaine Jackson, 30 of Lexington Park, assaulted the victim over an argument, causing scratch marks on the victim's chest, arms and back. Jackson was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown and charged with Second-Degree Assault.



Levar Jackson

**Assault:** On April 23, 2020, Deputy Courtney Edwards responded to the 21500 block of Warwick Court in Lexington Park for the report of an assault. The victim advised the deputy that on the prior day Aidan



Aidan Lasky

James Lasky, 27 of Lexington Park, physically assaulted the victim during an argument. The victim said Lasky slapped the victim across the face, then strangled the victim on the floor, then pushed the victim against a wall and punched the victim in the stomach. The victim had several visible injuries and Lasky was charged with Second-Degree Assault.



Wendell Ford

**Escape:** On April 27, 2020, Deputy Michael Graves was in the area of 21300 Windsor Drive in Lexington Park when he located Wendell Ignatius Ford, 30 of Lexington Park, who was wanted on several warrants. Ford had been evicted from a court-ordered inpatient treatment facility and did not return to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center. Ford was charged with Second-Degree Escape, Failure to Appear (CDS Possession Not Marijuana), Failure to Appear (Theft Scheme: \$10,000 to under \$100,000) and a retake warrant.

## Identity Needed for Attempted Burglary Suspect

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the person pictured in an attempted burglary investigation. On Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 2:02 am, the suspect attempted to enter a home in the 22100 block of Long Bow Drive in the Arrowhead subdivision in California. The suspect was observed pulling on the front doorknob and walking around the exterior of the home. A witness confronted the suspect while he was sitting in a blue vehicle and said his name was "Jay."

Anyone with information about the suspects or this incident is asked to call Deputy Zachary Jerew at 301-475-4200, ext. 78154 or email zachary.jerew@stmarysmd.com. Case #

27532-20

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



## Single Vehicle Collision Under Investigation

On May 3, 2020, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 20900 block of Three Notch Road in Lexington Park, for the reported single vehicle collision. Upon arrival deputies located a vehicle off the roadway with three injured occupants. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Collision Reconstruction Unit responded to the scene and continued the investigation.

Preliminary investigation determined a 2004 Ford Expedition operated by Calvin Matthew Douglas, age 35 of Lexington Park, was traveling northbound on Three Notch Road, in the area of Turkey Neck Road, when the vehicle left the roadway and struck a tree. The rear seat passenger, Jamie Shammara Nicole Biscoe, age 32 of Lexington Park, was ejected from the vehicle. Biscoe and the front-seat passenger Blair Elizabeth Spicer, age 29 of Great Mills, were flown to an area trauma

center with incapacitating injuries and at this time are in stable condition. Douglas was transported to a local hospital with incapacitating injuries.

The circumstances surrounding the collision remain under investigation. Anyone who witnessed the collision or events leading up to the collision is asked to contact Corporal Brian Connelly at (301) 475-4200 extension 78031 or by email at Brian.Connelly@stmarysmd.com.

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

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# Commissioners Face Revenue Shortfall

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted May 5 to shift their revenue projections for income taxes down from 4.5 percent growth to 3.5 percent at fiscal 2021 budget work session.

The reduction in what they expect in revenues is due to lost income of residents from the COVID-19 shutdown; commissioners warned further that the next budget work session set for May 12 would likely bring further cuts in expenditures as the county faces a \$2.5 million shortfall.

The county's chief financial officer Jeanett Cudmore said that due to the way the state dispersed tax revenues to the counties, once every several months, it could take up to 18 months to fully understand just how much reductions in revenue would be to the county.

The operating budget for fiscal 2021 is \$259 million, while the capital construction budget is about \$87 million.

The commissioners voted to cut from the budget about half the funding for

the maintenance to stormwater management ponds at the new Garvey Senior Center and Leonardtown Library complex down to \$15,000.

They also did not fully fund a request for seven replacement deputies to come to the sheriff's office next year to fill in for officers leaving but left enough funding in to start the hiring process to include items such as background checks.

The commissioners also cut library funding requests for health care costs, merit and cost-of-living increases; they wanted the library board to use its own fund balance to pay for those expenditures.

The commissioners did decide to fund a community broadband project at the cost of \$200,000 with a federal money match.

Commissioner Todd Morgan said bigger cuts would likely come, or at least be debated, at the May 12 budget work session.

"I think there needs to be cuts across the board," Morgan said.

*guyleonard@countytimes.net*

# Hogan Orders Testing at All Nursing Homes

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

With nearly half the deaths in Maryland attributed to the COVID-19 disease occurring at nursing homes, Gov. Larry Hogan issued an executive order April 29 that all nursing home residents and staff be tested for the novel coronavirus.

Hogan said as of Wednesday there were nearly 21,000 cases of COVID-19 in Maryland with 985 deaths; there have been 4,402 hospitalizations with 1,610 currently hospitalized.

There are nearly 600 Marylanders currently in intensive care units around the state, he said at a press conference in Annapolis.

Hogan said the state was focusing its efforts on targeting likely sites for outbreaks and hotspots of coronavirus to stop the spread of the disease.

"We are no longer playing defense," Hogan said. "We are going on offense against this virus."

Under Hogan's order any staff member of a nursing home who tests positive for the virus will be isolated; all residents must be evaluated daily as well.

Nursing homes must also provide staffing plans in the event their staff becomes depleted due to the virus, according to Hogan's order and management of the facility must comply with the directives of the strike teams the state has sent out to contain the spread of the virus.

Moreover, the state would send out what Hogan called "bridge teams" to fill the staffing gaps at nursing facilities due to the virus.

He also ordered that nursing homes must

provide regular updates to families of residents quarantined there as well as the staff and resident representatives.

"It's heart wrenching enough when families can't visit their loved ones," Hogan said. "It's even worse when they can't get information about what is happening inside these facilities."

Hogan said he was also sending teams to monitor poultry plants on the Eastern Shore, where 262 Marylanders associated with the poultry industry have been diagnosed with the disease.

Wicomico County's infection rate per 100,000 people is now the fifth highest in the state, Hogan said.

"These outbreaks are not only a serious public health concern but are also a potential threat to Maryland's leading agricultural industry and our nation's essential food supply chain, Hogan said.

The threat posed by the virus led Hogan to announce the use of Purdue Stadium in Salisbury as a testing site for the disease for workers at nearby poultry processing plants.

Hogan said he continued to be frustrated by the failure of the state's new website in efficiently processing the burgeoning number of unemployment claims.

"Maryland is now successfully handling 33 new claims every minute," Hogan said, noting recent improvements over the old system. "It simply is not enough."

Hogan said his administration would "do whatever it takes to get this straight" and ensure that every claimant "gets every last penny of financial assistance they deserve."

*guyleonard@countytimes.net*

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# Museums Offer Free Future Admission

## Mother's Day Packages Available

The Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Lighthouse Museums are offering all moms a free admission ticket to either museum site operated by the St. Mary's County Museum Division to utilize in the future once the sites are back open. The museums normally hold a Mother's Day Open House where moms enjoy free admission, but due to the statewide shut down, the free admission event is unable to happen.

Karen Stone, manager for the St. Mary's County Museum Division, noted "With the weather breaking around Mother's Day, we've always had so many families visiting the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and St. Clement's Island Museum on Mother's Day for our free admission open house. Under the current circumstances, we still wanted to extend this offer to moms for a future visit to our sites."

The Museum Stores have added a free admission ticket for moms to the online store. To claim your ticket for the moms in your life, click on the ticket and add the address where you would like the admission ticket mailed.

Alternatively, while on the online store claiming your free ticket, you can

check out fun discount Mother's Day Packages. There are 4 different gift assortments to choose from with total value of \$60 to \$70 being offered for a special Mother's Day price of \$49.99. The themes are "Maryland Proud," "Oodles of Osprey," "MD State Shines" and "Maryland Beach Time."

"I wanted to offer something special for the moms of Southern Maryland who are often holding together the family during this trying time. These special packages are gift-packaged for free delivery only and the recipient must be in St. Mary's County. You can even add a personal note to the delivery under special instructions when ordering," revealed Jayne Walsh, the museum store manager.

All orders placed will be delivered free of charge (and contact-free) between Thursday, May 7 and Sunday, May 10.

To order your free future Mother's Day admission ticket, or one of the four Mother's Day packages as a gift for mom, visit <http://FriendsMuseumStore.Square.Site>

*Press Release from St. Mary's County government.*

# St. Mary's Native Serves on USS Harry S. Truman



Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Zachary Tanner. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Bela Chambers)

Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Zachary Tanner, from Mechanicsville tapes an MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter, assigned to the "Proud Warriors" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 72, in the hangar bay of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) in the Atlantic Ocean

April 14, 2020.

The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group is conducting operations in the Atlantic in support of maritime security operations. Truman has spent at least one day underway for 30 of the last 34 months, in direct support of global security around the world.

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# Pet

## OF THE WEEK

### MEET CHLOE

I can't think of anything more rewarding than making the last years of a pet's life the best that they can be! Hi there everybody, my name is Chloe.

I'm a REALLY REALLY SWEET, mature girl that likes other cats. Now, I'm hoping to find a new LOVING FOREVER HOME in a quiet house. I'll greet you each morning and show you how much love I still have to give! I'm so EASY TO PLEASE. Give me my own box and I'm in heaven! I'm diligently home hunting so if you can BE MY MIRACLE, I'll easily fit right in. Send an email to TCAS and set up your appointment to meet me ASAP! MY MIRACLE! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

And remember if there is room in the heart, there is room in the house.

Email the wonderful gang at TCAS to schedule an appointment at animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov. To see more of my amazing friends available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Tri-County Animal Shelter Southern MD. TCAS is located at 6707 Animal Shelter Road, Hughesville, MD.

**TRI-COUNTY  
ANIMAL  
SHELTER**



## Homes for Heroes® Affiliate Established

Julie Fuller of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices McNelis Group Properties, based at the Dunkirk office, recently became an affiliate real estate specialist with a national program called Homes for Heroes®.

She teamed up with Homes for Heroes because it allowed her to provide better benefits to a greater scope of deserving heroes.

Julie believes these heroes are the backbone of our community and she wants to make the real estate process as smooth as possible for them. Because service deserves its rewards.

The Homes for Heroes® program established shortly after the tragic events of 9/11, has become a way to give back and say "Thank You" to our nation's heroes - the firefighters, law enforcement, military (active, reserves and veterans), healthcare workers, EMS and teachers.

When our heroes work with a Homes for Heroes® affiliate real estate specialist they receive Hero Rewards® which are an easy way for them to save significant money when buying, selling or refinancing a home; or when making every day home-related purchases. With Heroes Rewards they can:

- BUY A HOME and receive a check from Homes for Heroes in the mail.
- SELL A HOME and receive reduced real estate service fees at closing.
- MORTGAGE or REFINANCE and receive reduced lending fees.
- LOCAL BUSINESS AFFILIATES also provide special hero discounts.

Julie's husband was Navy and she was a proud Navy spouse. She is a volunteer with her church, the community homeless projects and the USO.



Julie Fuller

Julie says, "I spent a great deal of time researching an option that would allow me to do more through my career as a real estate agent, and having found the Homes for Heroes® program I am proud to be associated as a real estate affiliate specialist."

A portion of Homes for Heroes' earnings is donated to the Homes for Heroes Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) that provides assistance to heroes in need.

Press Release

## Purchase and Retire Price Increased

### Designed to Preserve Farmland

By Dick Myers  
Editor

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has voted to increase the per acre amount to acquire development rights under the Purchase and Retire (PAR) program. The price was increased from \$3,037 to \$4,000 for every transferred development right (TDR).

The vote to go with the staff recommendation and advice of the county's Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board was 3-1, with Commissioner President Kelly McConkey opposing it. He did not explain his vote. Commissioner Buddy Hance, who owns agricultural land, recused himself from the vote.

Before leaving the room Hance said he supported the PAR programs and hopes the county would reinvigorate the TDR program.

The \$3,037 price was established last year, but the county had only 10 applicants for the more than \$4 million available in the PAR program, according to Director of Planning and Zoning Mary Beth Cook. One applicant did not qualify, so only \$635,622 has been committed in this fiscal year. The BOCC decision makes the additional monies per acre available to those nine applicants.

Rural Planner Ronald Marney, in



Commissioner Buddy Hance

a memo to the BOCC, called the increased price a stimulus package for rural landowners due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to being retroactive to applicants from January 1 of this year, the vote included reopening the PAR cycle for new applications and advertising and accepting PAR fund applications for ranking. That ranking is done by the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board.

According to Marney, the available funding in the program, factoring in the new per acre price, would prevent 181 single-family homes or 302 townhomes or 907 apartment units from being built or a net of 462 units with an equal mix of the three types of housing.

dickmyers@countrytimes.net

## Spot Open on Calvert Democratic Committee

The Calvert County Democratic Central Committee is seeking one female candidate to fill a gender balanced vacancy on the Central Committee as an Associate Member. To be eligible for consideration, an individual must be a registered Democratic voter in Calvert County, MD.

We would like you to show a history of volunteerism and your ability and enthusiasm to serve your community. We are looking for a leader ready to work for and represent all Democrats here in Calvert County. This is an unpaid position. The successful applicant will serve out the remainder of the current term, which ends in June 2022.

Interested individuals may request an application by emailing CCDemOffice@gmail.com. The deadline to apply is Saturday, June 13, 2020.

The Committee will hold a vote to select the new member at its regular public meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2020, 6:30 p.m. at the Mt. Hope Community Center, 104 Pushaw Station Rd, Sunderland, MD 20689 or via Zoom depending on social distancing requirements at that time. Candidates must be present for the election. For more information, contact CCDemOffice@gmail.com.

Press Release from Calvert Country  
Democratic Central Committee

**CALVERT**   
**DEMOCRATS**



# Study Probes Menhaden Fishery

*CBL Researcher is Co-Author*



A research technician holds an Atlantic menhaden after it was measured during a seining study at UMCES' Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. (Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program)

New research suggests that large-scale environmental factors influence the size of one of the ocean's most abundant forage species, menhaden. Scientists from Louisiana State University, NOAA, the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science evaluated large-scale ecosystem dynamics influencing growth of menhaden in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. They found that human activity such as fishing pressures affected menhaden in the Atlantic more than in the Gulf, where environmental factors were the more dominant predictors of growth.

"This study allowed us to get a better handle on the way the menhaden population responds to fishing versus environmental conditions, which should feed into managers' thinking about how much effect their regulations can have on these stocks and how these stocks might respond," said Geneviève Nesslage, co-author and assistant research professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.

Menhaden are used primarily for the production of fishmeal and fish oil, and small quantities are used for bait. According to NOAA's 2018 Fisheries of the United States report, menhaden ranked number two by volume, after Alaska pollock, on the list of major U.S. domestic species "landed," or caught and brought to port. More than 1.5 billion pounds of menhaden were landed in that year. Menhaden ranked number 10 by value of the landings, totaling more than \$160 million. In addition to their commercial value, menhaden are critically important components of their food webs.

"They're sort of the classic forage species—meaning they provide a really important link in marine food webs. They are not exerting any kind of population pressure on any other fish species because they're not eating any other fish species, but other fish species eat them," said Steve Midway, lead author and assistant professor in Louisiana State University's Department of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences. "They sup-



Geneviève Nesslage, co-author and assistant research professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.

port the higher levels of the food web and ecosystem."

The scientists evaluated the coast-wide annual growth of Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) and Gulf menhaden (*Brevoortia patronus*) during the past 50-60 years. They found that, in the Atlantic, fishing pressure was the primary influence on the length-at-age (used to determine how rapidly a fish grows in a given period) at the time of harvest. By contrast, Gulf menhaden growth was influenced primarily by environmental conditions: a combination of wind and the Atlantic Multi-Decadal Oscillation, or AMO—a climate cycle that affects the sea surface temperature.

In the Atlantic, they found that easterly winds correlated positively with menhaden growth in the northern portion of the East Coast; however, while wind and AMO significantly influenced menhaden growth, the primary influence was fishing pressure. The more menhaden that were landed, the more likely they were to grow faster. From this data, the scientists hypothesize that the population reduction caused by commercial fishing may reduce competition among menhaden and allow individual fishes to have access to more resources that would allow them to grow larger at a faster rate.

In the Gulf, the researchers found that northerly winds reduced the growth of menhaden. They think the reason for this may be that the northerly winds interacted with freshwater from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers and displaced that water further offshore, negatively affecting the saltwater-preferring menhaden.

Currently, these environmental factors are not taken into account when determining fisheries assessment outcomes, according to Amy Schueller, co-author of the paper and research fish biologist in NOAA's Southeast Fisheries Science Center; however, this research could be used as predictive tool by fisheries management agencies to forecast menhaden growth each season and determine management strategies in the future. "Macroscale drivers of Atlantic and Gulf Menhaden growth" was published in *Fisheries Oceanography*.

*Press Release from Chesapeake Biological Laboratory*

# Regional Library CEO Retires

Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (SMRLA) CEO Sharan Marshall retired April 24 following 24 years of service with the regional resource center for the Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's County public libraries.

Marshall was named SMRLA CEO in July 1995 soon after independent county leadership replaced a regional governance structure for Southern Maryland libraries. She led the association as it developed a partnership with the county library systems to meet library customers' needs in one of Maryland's fastest growing regions.

Under Marshall's leadership, SMRLA implemented three new major computer systems with the county libraries; greatly expanded materials delivery across Southern Maryland; and developed a robust training program for library staff. Marshall was also instrumental in elevating the visibility of Southern Maryland libraries across the state. She built statewide relationships and secured dedicated funding for SMRLA and the state's two other regional libraries, along with capital funding for county libraries. Marshall also helped successfully lobby for Maryland to designate libraries as essential community services during emergencies.

Most recently, Marshall led a reorganization of SMRLA to streamline operations and ushered in a new strategic plan to set the stage for future success.

"I am grateful to be leaving SMRLA and the region poised for greater things," Marshall said. "I am fond of an African



Sharan Marshall

proverb that says, 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others.' Together SMRLA and the three Southern Maryland library systems have come far. I thank the leadership of the county libraries, the SMRLA staff and our Board of Trustees, and all of Southern Maryland's wonderful library staff members for their support in providing world-class library services to our community."

Marshall will remain active in the state library community following her retirement. She was appointed by Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan to serve on the Maryland State Library Board, a 12-member panel that promotes the improvement of the state's library services.

A nationwide search is underway for Marshall's replacement as SMRLA CEO.

*Press Release from Southern Maryland Regional Library Association.*

# CalvertHealth Foundation Extends Scholarship Deadline

In an effort to assist all allied health and medical students interested in applying for this year's CalvertHealth Foundation scholarship programs, the deadline to submit completed scholarship packages has been extended to May 31. Application requirements remain the same and applicants are asked to contact the foundation directly with questions about the application or requirements.

The CalvertHealth Foundation Scholarship Fund is offering tuition assistance to students who are pursuing higher education in medicine or allied health fields. Since its inception, the scholarship fund has awarded more than 450 scholarships totaling more than \$575,000 to area students.

In order to be eligible for the Allied Health Scholarship, funded by a generous endowment from Calvert Arundel Medical Facilities, Inc., applicants must be accepted into an accredited

school of nursing or other allied health curriculum.

The E. Anne Spitzer, MD Memorial Scholarship was created in 1988 to encourage Calvert County students seeking careers in the medical field in honor of Dr. Spitzer. Funded by Dr. Spitzer's friends, family and the Calvert County Medical Society, the E. Anne Spitzer, MD Memorial Scholarship is open to students who graduated from a Calvert County High School and are pursuing a career in medicine. Students must be admitted to an accredited medical school at the time of application with a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Specific guidelines and application forms are listed on the website at <https://calverthealthfoundation.org/about-us/scholarships/>. For further information please call the CalvertHealth Foundation at 410.414.4570.

*Press Release from CalvertHealth.*





National Nurses Day  
May 6

# NURSES

## Better Our Lives

On National Nurses Day, we salute the hardworking men and women who dedicate their lives to caring for others. Thank you for all you do!

# How You Can Thank Nurses

Nurses play essential roles in our community. Nurses interact with and assist their patients in many different ways.

Nurses are the foundation of most successful social healthcare programs, and they are often the powering force behind implementing private- or government-funded universal health plans. In addition, nurses are key players in community health awareness and promoting preventative health measures.

People who recognize the impact a great nurse can have may wonder how they can honor this special person. While nursing organizations offer prestigious awards for nursing excellence, a community-based or individual recognition may be just as meaningful.

### School nurses day

School administration can set aside a special day each year, whether it's in May on National School Nurses Day or another time of year, to pay homage to the school nurse. Children can be urged to draw thank-you cards, and parents can chip in for a special luncheon or gift.

### Donate in tribute

Honor a special nurse by making a donation in his or her name to a charitable

healthcare organization. Honorees may receive a listing on a website, notification of the tribute, official certificates of honor, or a letter of honor sent to his or her place of employment.

### Volunteer services

Pitching in may be a big help to a dedicated yet overworked nurse. Volunteering at a hospital or health center can show a nurse how much he or she is appreciated.

### Offer gifts

People who want to thank a nurse who has provided exemplary service may want to offer a gift to the nurse directly or provide something for the entire medical office or hospital floor. Catered food, flowers, gift cards, candy, or similar gifts may be appreciated.

### Offer a public thanks

In an era of social media posts, someone can share with the community (and the world) how a nurse impacted his or her life for the better. Thanking a nurse online can be a way to start a positive pay-it-forward movement.

Nurses work long hours for the benefit of their patients. Offering a word or gesture of thanks can mean the world to these dedicated individuals.

# Happy Mother's Day

## DECORATE A CAKE FOR MOM

THURSDAY, MAY 7	FRIDAY, MAY 8	SATURDAY, MAY 9
4 P.M. - 8 P.M.	4 P.M. - 8 P.M.	11 A.M. - 4 P.M.

8 in.  
Single Layer  
Cake  
\$3.00

Kit includes:  
8" single layer cake,  
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MedStar Health

# Thank you for all that you do!

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital is grateful for our nursing healthcare heroes, who change lives by caring for others with their hearts, hands, and minds.



**Happy Nurses' Week**  
**May 6-12**



# Celebrating Mother's D

By Dick Myers, Editor  
and Dave Spigler, Contributing Writer

"Give virtual hugs to all the moms out there," was the request of Calvert County Commissioner Steve Weems at the May 5 board meeting. Indeed, this will likely be a virtual Mother's Day this year as social distancing remains the norm and families surely don't want to infect their loved ones on their special occasion.

With so many children using Zoom for classwork, many of their parents may have picked up on the idea and use it to celebrate with their own mothers.

The County Times contributing writer Dave Spigler, well known as Washington Redskins Hogette "Spiggy," will be gathering with his wife Deb at 10 a.m. on Mother's Day in their Lusby home to connect with their widespread family via Zoom.

Spigler talked to a few of his acquaintances to find out what they were doing and found some surprised that Mother's Day was fast approaching.

He said, "I learned that life has become very complicated for many who I know and love." He added, "I did get many ideas and interesting plans from my associates. A common thread that seems to run through most respondent's thoughts deals with the need to get out of their homes for some fresh spring air. Many are wishing for sunny warm weather this weekend. The combination of the government's push to 'stay home' and the large number of gray cloudy and rainy days of late has truly dampened everyone's enthusiasm.

"Several wish to just get out and enjoy a walk on the boardwalk in Solomons. Others are planning to do the walk up at the Flag Ponds Nature Park."

The Boulais Family in Prince Frederick are looking to celebrate Mother's Day in their newly finished home with a brunch prepared by a steak restaurant there for pickup complete with mimosas and Crème de Brulee French toast!

The Nash Family, also in Prince Frederick, is having their dinner delivered by another well know eatery. They hope to dine outside. Due to their age they are considered "high



Commissioner Steve Weems sang to his mother Shirley at the annual GOP dinner several years ago at which he was honored as Republican Man of the Year

risk" and have been cooped up at home while performing their work via teleworking for weeks thanks to COVID-19. They are hoping to sit back and enjoy a good movie later in the day.

Several families intend to cook out with their immediate family, weather permitting. For those that cannot join them they plan on using Skype or one of the other internet methods to see family and chat with one another. Attending church services that are being streamed into homes has become a popular way to stay connected with fellow parishioners and clergy. It's a way of sharing in one's faith and receiving inspiration and guidance and you don't even need to put on your "Sunday finest" to participate!

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Solomons was one of the first parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington to provide this means of connectivity within their flock. Their new Pastor Ken Gill has become somewhat of a "Rock Star" in using modern technology to bring the Mass to the 1,200 Parish families. It is a great example of how we have learned to adapt to the challenges of the COVID -19 era.

Spigler said his clan "is spread all over from Bel Air, Maryland to Martinsburg, West Virginia to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, so the 20 of us plan to get together utilizing ZOOM and spend an hour with one another on our monitors. It will be a fun event

as we have a family of 'drama queens' who love to perform and dance once they are in the spotlight! I have no idea where they get this from, but I am assured each of the nine grandchildren, ages nine to 21, will have a silly joke or story they are going to entertain us with.

"And I plan on showing to my wife Deb and two daughters and our daughter-in-law and my sister and mom a gift that I have ordered for each of them and plan to present. I cannot tell you what it is, but I think they will all be happy to receive it when we can all get together once more!"

With restaurants closed for sit down, that prototypical Mother's Day outing is out the window. Instead some restaurants who have converted temporarily to curbside service have added special Mother's Day menus for pickup by the family or delivery directly to the mothers.

Westlawn Inn in North Beach is one. Mother's Day brunch is one of their biggest events of the year according to owner Jan Travers. Unable to do that this year they have planned special take out dinner offerings that include eight-ounce filet mignon with garlic mashed potatoes and seasoned brocolini or lobster and shrimp mac and cheese served with rotini pasta in a shell and marsala cream sauce., They are taking orders (beginning today (Thursday, May 7) starting at 4 p.m.

Since this is a first for Westlawn Inn, Travers said they are uncertain how it will go. The pandemic has hurt all of the country's restaurants hard. Travers said of the Mother's Day special: "Hopefully it's a shot in the arm."

Jewelry is another coveted Mother's Day gift. With jewelry stores, such as Maerten's Fine Jewelry in Lusby, closed by the governor's order, they have been reduced to taking phone or online orders. Owner Heather Maerten said that some women have been calling and placing wish-list orders to present to their husbands or children for that big day.

Maerten has been able to retain her staff through the federal Paycheck Protection Program. She credited Community Bank of the Chesapeake for helping process her application.

"They were a dream," she said.

Of course, stores are open for candy. Flowers can be purchased online through the websites of the shuttered brick and mortar florists or through the many online flower delivery services.

As for Commissioner Weems. He said he will probably take flowers to his mother Shirley and visit with her on her front porch while maintaining a safe distance.,

"They are special, special people," said Commissioner Mike Hart of mothers. So, the changed circumstances will push their sons and daughters to come up with their own special way to honor their own special mom.

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Rockin' Elvis serenaded Dave Spigler's mother Bessie at he and his wife Deb's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary party last July at the Holiday Inn in Solomons.





# ay at a Social Distance

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Celebrating Mother's Day, one of the biggest holidays of the year, is made more difficult this year because of COVID-19, with restaurant's being closed and visiting mothers in some instances is restricted because of the need to social distance.

But residents and businesses in St. Mary's are still moving ahead with finding ways to make sure mothers know they are appreciated.

In some cases, families have gotten creative in how they will be celebrating their mothers on the May 10 holiday; the inability to simply get reservations and take their mothers out to dinner and give her a card and a gift have made creativity a necessity this year.

"This Mother's Day the kids have put together an at-home scavenger hunt for their mother," said John Lachkovic, a Lexington Park resident who has a home in a secluded parcel of woods that is ideal for hiding things. "We'll have some things hidden, presents for her, and the kids will give her a map so she can go find them."

"We'll have a nice dinner at home afterwards."

Lachkovic has four daughters and he and his wife Jami Lachkovic will also attend a drive-in Mother's Day service at Patuxent Baptist Church.

"She's going to like it," John told The County Times about what his daughters have planned for their mother on the day set aside for her. "It's more genuine, she's going to have a real change this year."

And, of course, Jaime won't have to worry about anything on that day, her husband said.

"She's not going to have to lift a finger," he said. "We have some gardening around the house we're going to be doing for her."

Flowers have always been a large part of celebrating Mother's Day, but supplies are short, said Julie Pitt, owner of Kenny's Flowers.

And since her business is not considered essential under Gov. Larry Hogan's recent executive orders they are only allowed to operate on a limited capacity and mostly have to take on-line or call-in orders for floral arrangements.

Supplies of flowers are tough to get as well.

"We've had flowers pushed off of planes for medical supplies," Pitt said. "Most of the public has been really



Amy Weigle with sons Brendan, Ian and daughter Alyssa from left to right.

understanding.

"People call in wanting a certain arrangement and we try to get them something bright and colorful."

Pitt said her two daughters had asked her what they should do for her for Mother's Day, and she said she's willing to take things simply.

"I told them 'Let's just have a nice dinner together,'" Pitt said. "It's just such a different time."

Rick Norris, owner of Rick's Jewelers, said COVID-19 has hit luxury industries, but that are popular for Mother's Day, hard.

"We've lost just about all our Mother's Day business because we're closed," Norris said, noting customers are calling in orders or going on-line with requests for jewelry.

"We have it ready for when they drive up," Norris said. "Mother's Day for us is the second-biggest shopping day of the year for us."

Norris has parents in their 80s and he said that it was better to postpone Mother's Day.

"We've anchored them down," Norris said.

Jason Weigle and his five children have special plans for their mother Amy this weekend as well.

His oldest daughter, Alyssa, has led the effort for the past month to make a modified celebration happen.

"The biggest thing we've gotten her is a Mother's Ring, it's got all five birth stones for us on it," Alyssa Weigle said. "She lost her first one and we got this one to replace it."

The siblings also have arranged a set of balloons with pictures of each one of them on them through the years as a reminder of the family Amy has raised.

"It's of her being a mom," Alyssa said.

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## St. Mary's College SGA Donates to Recovery Fund

On Tuesday, April 28, 2020, during their regularly scheduled meeting, the St. Mary's College of Maryland Student Government Association (SGA) approved a \$50,000 donation to the College's Recovery Fund that has been created to help reduce financial burdens and obstacles facing the SMCM community.

"St. Mary's College of Maryland is a close-knit community. We look out for each other. We thank the College's Student Government Association for its special gift of \$50,000 to the SMCM Recovery Fund. This donation will go toward helping fellow students who have experienced financial hardships as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Carolyn Curry, VP for Institutional Advancement. "The SGA students ignite our passion to serve and we hope others will follow their example and give to the Recovery Fund in these unprecedented times."

The College's SGA is charged with promoting the standards of the College, unifying the student body, and representing the students to the faculty, administration and community. In cooperation with the Student Activities Office, the SGA normally allocates student activity fees to support such student-initiated programs as campus media, student publications, guest lecturers, dances, concerts, film series, and more than 80 clubs and organizations reflecting varied student interests.

"When the pandemic hit and our world drastically changed, the way we serve our students also needed to change. This was a big decision, but it was absolutely necessary for continuing to fulfill our duty as representatives of the student body," said SGA Class of 2022 President Erin Lanham.

"A collective sense of responsibility as leaders on this campus to help our peers during this really stressful time led us to passing this bill. I think it was only appropriate that we help our fellow students who are in need," said SGA Class of 2023 President Nicholas Howard.

The Recovery Fund will assist SMCM students with financial hardships they may face caused by the pandemic, especially as they prepare to return in the fall.

"By setting up a recovery fund and SGA donating a large sum to it, we are not only standing by members of the student body greatly affected by this, but we are also helping alleviate some of those difficulties," said Joshua O. Ajanaku '22, Dorchester senator and vice-president-elect.

"I hope this donation is able to improve the lives of the students in our community who were most affected by these dramatic changes caused by COVID-19," said Justin Karolyi '22, Waring Commons senator.

For additional information, visit the Recovery Fund Webpage: <https://go.smcm.edu/recovery-fund/>.

*Press Release from SMCM.*



## What is Southern Maryland Reading?

### Top 10 Downloads During Pandemic

As Southern Marylanders practice social distancing, they are catching up on their reading lists and taking advantage of digital books offered through their public libraries. The region's top 10 downloaded books include memoirs, an older fantasy favorite and recent bestselling novels.

The top 10 books downloaded from Southern Maryland public libraries since March 16 are:

"Funny, You Don't Look Autistic: A Comedian's Guide to Life on the Spectrum" by Michael McCreary

"Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" by J.K. Rowling

"Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens

"Becoming" by Michelle Obama

"Educated: A Memoir" by Tara Westover

"Nine Perfect Strangers" by Liane Moriarty

"One Good Deed" by David Baldacci

"Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng

"Twisted Twenty-Six" by Janet Evanovich

It's a tie! "Blue Moon: A Jack Reacher Novel" by Lee Child and "The Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moyes

Libraries recently increased access to online library materials through a boost in funding from the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (SMRLA). The funding supports 24/7 access to e-books, audiobooks, streaming movies, TV shows and more. E-book downloads are provided through the digital service Overdrive, which allows library customers to borrow and read free e-books, audiobooks and magazines using a

phone or a tablet. Each county library system curates a custom collection of titles in Overdrive developed specifically for the community.

Library customers can also access movies, music, audiobooks, e-books, comics and TV shows through the Hoopla platform to enjoy on a computer, tablet or phone. Additionally, more than 3,200 free online versions of the most popular magazines are available through digital media provider RBDigital. All of these services are available on county public library websites.

To help regional customers, the library systems of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties have increased the number of digital items that can be checked out at one time, delayed the due dates of materials and extended renewals of library cards. New customers can get 180-day temporary e-library cards to use for digital materials/resources through a "Get a Card" link on library websites. Many library locations also offer free WiFi access from their parking lots.

To learn more about library services, visit your public library website:

Calvert Library – <https://calvertlibrary.info>

Charles County Public Library – <https://www.ccplonline.org/>

St. Mary's County Library – <https://www.stmalib.org/>

Access to digital magazines and other downloadable materials is also available on the Collection of Southern Maryland's Online Services (COSMOS) website.

*Press Release from SMRLA.*

# Southern Maryland

# Online

Your Online Community for Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties

Stop by & see what Southern Maryland Online has to offer! Stay abreast of community happenings, speak your mind, & make new friends in the forums, or buy & sell in the most popular classified market in the area.

[www.somd.com](http://www.somd.com)



# SMECO Honors Math, Science, and STEM Teachers

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) worked with the school systems of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties to select and honor 20 educators with Outstanding Teacher awards for their leadership in the fields of mathematics, science, technology, and engineering.

Receiving awards this year were eight math teachers, eight science teachers, and four STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) teachers from schools in four counties. The teachers were chosen for their outstanding performance in the areas of creativity, rapport with students, enthusiasm for teaching, professionalism, and innovative teaching methods. Each teacher receives a plaque and a cash award. Over the past 29 years, SMECO has recognized almost 420 local math and science teachers.

"Traditionally, we would present the awards to the SMECO Outstanding Teachers at a dinner held in their honor. And we're disappointed that we won't be able to host a reception for them because of the COVID-19 outbreak," explained Sonja Cox, SMECO president and CEO. "Because of the pandemic, we are living through an evolution. The changes in our society that are taking place right now highlight the importance of education and how teachers who are visionary, focused, innovative, and dedicated are so vitally important to our students and our future."

Cox added, "The teachers we are recognizing know that just presenting information to a group of students is not how they learn. Students acquire skills because good teachers take the time and effort to develop their students' understanding. They create experiences, provide feedback, and reinforce their students' ability to acquire knowledge. When their students graduate and join the workforce, SMECO benefits from the solid background these educators provide, and we are proud to acknowledge the good work these teachers have accomplished."

SMECO's Outstanding Mathematics, Science, and STEM Teachers of the Year are listed below.

## Calvert County

Kristen Craft, Calvert High School  
Kimberly Hawkins, Patuxent High School

Jessica Minnich, Windy Hill Middle School

John Phillips, Northern Middle School

Stacey Read, Mill Creek Middle School

John Taylor III, Patuxent Appeal Campus

Willanette Thomas-Lohr, Huntingtown Elementary School

Shane Wines, Calvert High School

## Charles County

Laura Buzzell, Lackey High School

Lolita Cariaso Kiorpes, North Point High School

Donna Day, Theodore Davis Middle School

Victoria Farrell, Piccowaxen Middle School

Nicole Joly-O'Brien, JC Parks Elementary School

Deanna Wheeler, JC Parks Elementary School

## Prince George's County

Danita Matthews, Gwynn Park High School

## St. Mary's County

Lynsey Hayden, Dynard Elementary School

Heather McLearn, Chesapeake Public Charter School

Dorothy Nelson, Spring Ridge Middle School

Kristen Pearce, Esperanza Middle School

Lindsey Toothacker, Benjamin Baneker Elementary School

Enhancing the quality of life in southern Maryland is part of SMECO's mission. The cooperative sponsors events for students to encourage them to excel in math, science, and technology. These events include the local MATH-COUNTS competition, the annual Southern Maryland Regional Computer Bowl, and the Elementary Math Challenge. So far this year, nearly 1,100 students in SMECO's service area have participated in these events.

*Press Release from SMECO*

## Calvert County



Kristen Craft



Kimberly Hawkins



Jessica Minnich



John Phillips



Stacey Read



John Taylor III



Willanette Thomas-Lohr



Shane Wines

## St. Mary's County



Lynsey Hayden



Heather McLearn



Dorothy Nelson



Kristen Pearce



Lindsey Toothacker



## Legal Notice

IN THE MATTER OF KARIN NICOLE KOCH  
FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO KARIN NICOLE JONES

In the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland

Case No.: C-04-FM-20-000032  
Notice (Adult) (DOM REL 61)

The above petitioner, Karin Nicole Koch, has filed a *Petition for Change of Name* in which she seeks to change her name from KARIN NICOLE KOCH to KARIN NICOLE JONES. The Petitioner is seeking a name change because she wants to be restored to her maiden after divorce.

Any person may file an objection to the Petition for Change of Name on or before the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020. The objection must be supported by an affidavit (written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation) and served on the Petitioner or her attorney, Steven B. Mudd, Esquire, P.O. Box 209, College Park, MD 20741, Tel: (301) 441-4505, E-mail: steven@philipsmudd.com. See Md. Rule 1-321. If no timely objection is filed, the Court may issue a default judgement or grant the name change.

The Honorable Kathy P. Smith,  
Clerk of Court for  
Calvert County Maryland

find us on **facebook**



[www.facebook.com/CountyTimesCalvert](http://www.facebook.com/CountyTimesCalvert)



## Employees of the Month Recognized

The Board of Education of Calvert County Public Schools recognized Employees of the Month for the month of April.

The Employees of the Month are:

### Northern High School

Kenny Seibert  
Krystal Butler

### Northern Middle

Susie Agnolutto  
Michael Freeman

### Windy Hill Middle

Jessica Minnich  
Amy Bodmer

### Beach Elementary

Carrie Smith  
Julie Francis

### Mt. Harmony Elementary

Sheila Niswander  
Tricia Leighton

### Windy Hill Elementary

Melinda Wilson  
Catherine Howlin

School system employees are recognized monthly at Board of Education meetings in accordance with Policy #6620. During the school year, the Board recognizes one support staff member and one professional staff member from designated schools, with each school scheduled for recognition one time per year. Central office support staff and teacher specialists are recognized in June. School and central office administrators are recognized in August.

*Press Release from CCPS*



## Mignardi Named School Librarian of the Year

Donna Mignardi of Calvert High School was named the 2020 Maryland School Librarian of the Year. Presented by the Maryland Association of School Librarians, the annual award honors a school librarian for exemplary service and outstanding achievements in the field of school library media. Mignardi shares this year's award with April Wathen of St. Mary's County Public Schools.

Superintendent Dr. Daniel D. Curry t, said, "Ms. Mignardi is truly deserving of this award. Her work benefits both the teachers and students at Calvert High, and her national-, state- and county-level contributions enhance the entire CCPS community."

Mignardi holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Maryland. A school librarian for over 20 years, she is an advocate for information literacy and is passionate about developing ethical researchers and savvy consumers of information. With a colleague, she writes a monthly blog post for Programming Librarian, a website of the American Library Association Public Programs Office, and recently had an article published in Knowledge Quest, the journal of the American Association of School Librarians. She is an advocate for professional development and a member of numerous professional organizations, and she serves on numerous committees for her school, district, and state. Ms. Mignardi sponsors many student clubs and organizations at her school including Class Council, Girls Who Code, Journalism Club, Film



Donna Mignardi

Club, Book Club and the Equity Team. She has presented at district, state and national conferences, most recently at the American Association of School Librarians Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. Steven Lucas, principal of Calvert High School, said, "Ms. Donna Mignardi is one of the most beloved and caring educators at Calvert High. Whether she is leading the morning broadcast team, teaching a lesson on research tools, or encouraging students and staff to pick up a new book, Ms. Mignardi is constantly on the go. She has relentlessly pursued obtaining new print and digital resources for the media center and helped supply teachers with new voice amplification systems. She is always thinking of ways to improve our school and is a vital member of the leadership team."

*Press Release from CCPS.*

## CSM to Hold First Virtual Commencement

### Open House, Night of Cybersecurity Via Zoom

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) will host its 61<sup>st</sup> Spring Commencement virtually on May 25 at 11 a.m. to celebrate 472 candidates for graduation. The commencement ceremony will include formal remarks from faculty, staff and a CSM student, and include a watch party on social media. <https://www.csmd.edu/student-services/registrar/graduation/>

**Virtual Open House:** 5 – 7 p.m. May 13. The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) will hold a virtual open house in Zoom. Participants can learn how to get started at CSM, meet faculty, learn about financial aid and scholarships, incur less debt, receive transfer information, and hear from CSM alumni. Must register to receive Zoom meeting login/password. Free. <https://www.csmd.edu/apply-register/credit/campus-open-house-tours/>.

**Virtual Night of Cybersecurity:** 5 – 7 p.m. May 20. The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) will hold a virtual Night of Cybersecurity using Zoom. Participants can learn more about the wide range of career and industry options within Cybersecurity, along with an overview of CSM's Cybersecurity Program. Must register to receive Zoom meeting login/password. Free. [https://www.csmd.edu/calendar/community-events/laplata/2020-03-04\\_nightofcybersecurity](https://www.csmd.edu/calendar/community-events/laplata/2020-03-04_nightofcybersecurity).

**CSM Closed for Memorial Day Weekend.** May 23-25. No classes will be held May 23 to 25 for Memorial Day weekend. [www.csmd.edu](http://www.csmd.edu).

**Accommodations Request:** CSM strives to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to engage fully. To request an accommoda-



tion or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Glennis Daniels-Bacchus at 301-934-7614 or [godaniels-bacchus@csmd.edu](mailto:godaniels-bacchus@csmd.edu).

### Coronavirus Update

CSM will maintain a virtual learning environment for its students, and faculty and staff will continue to operate remotely, or in restricted mode, through Aug. 16, 2020. CSM's campuses remain restricted to pre-approved and authorized personnel. This date may again be extended as CSM stands united with the nation in the fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Along with limiting public access to campuses, CSM has made several operational changes that can be tracked at [ready.csmd.edu/covid-19/](http://ready.csmd.edu/covid-19/). Please visit the website often for resources and updates.

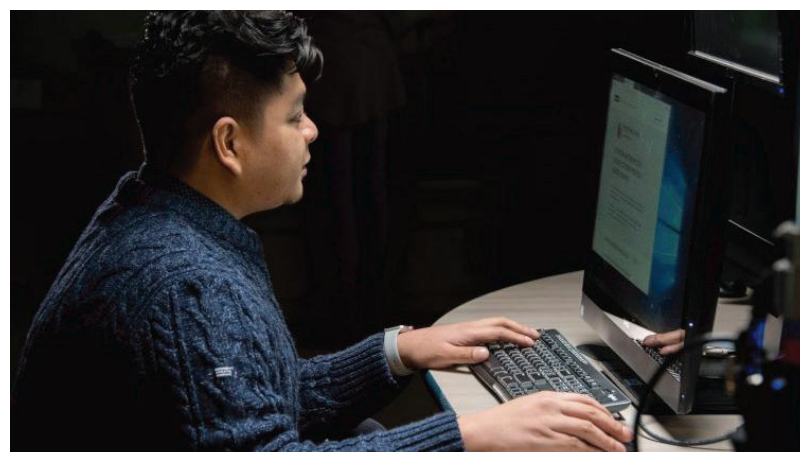
Students should make sure they are monitoring their CSM student email accounts, as well as the MyLearning course shells for their individual courses, and stay in close contact with their professors if they have any questions about their courses.

CSM remains in contact with local, state and federal authorities, and will share information as quickly as possible when and if these new operating conditions change.

*Press Release from CSM.*

## CSM Plans Online Events

Upcoming online events at CSM provide creative outreach to new and returning students while ensuring their health and welfare – and the continuity of enrollment and learning.





## 2020 Waterside Concerts Cancelled



Calvert Marie Museum has posted the following on their website regarding the canceling of the upcoming summer concert season:

"After considering the advice of state leaders, medical professionals, and our partners in the entertainment industry, we can now provide you with an update on our current plan for this summer.

"We are heartbroken to share that the museum will be unable to host any concerts this year. With such an uncertain environment, and with the best interest of our small community foremost in our minds, we believe this is the right course of action. We are currently working with Old Dominion, and other performers that had not yet been announced, to re-schedule their concert dates for summer 2021.

"In the meantime, as we patiently wait for a time when live music can bring us together again, there are still ways to

stay connected to our Waterside Music Community. One exciting way will be through a new exhibit that we are putting together right now. The exhibit celebrates the 35 years of summer concerts that our local community helped to grow into a successful fundraising series that supports the museum year-round.

"The Waterside Team is working behind the scenes to get this ready and wants to hear from you. Visit [calvertmarinemuseum.com/watersidememories](http://calvertmarinemuseum.com/watersidememories) to share your pictures and stories about what the Waterside Music Series means to you. If your submission is selected for inclusion in the exhibit, you'll be notified so you can join us for the opening.

"This is going to be a tough year for all of us, but we cannot wait to move forward, open our doors, and celebrate with every single one of you again."

## Get Your Bluegrass Fix Online

*Donate to Hollywood VRS*



Jay Armsworthy and Eastern Tradition

On Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>, the Hollywood Volunteer Rescye Squad would have held their annual Bluegrass fundraiser at the St. Mary's Co Fairgrounds. Due to the Corona Virus outbreak it was decided that the safest thing to do would be to cancel the event. At this time a postponed date has not been planned.

Many locals in Southern Maryland have been missing the places to go out and listen to live Bluegrass music. Jay Armsworthy has decided to bring the local Bluegrass music to the computers, cell phones, and tablets in the homes of the local fans.

On Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 p.m, there will be a virtual Facebook Live event to feature performances from many local Bluegrass bands and musicians in Southern Maryland. At this time it is planned to be three hours long, but seems to be growing. At the end will be a special live treat.

The event can be viewed on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/jay.armsworthy](http://www.facebook.com/jay.armsworthy).

During the event, there will be an opportunity to make a donation to the Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad's Building Fund located in Hollywood, MD.

## Coronavirus or Not, Kids' Playwriting Festival to be Held

Coronavirus or no coronavirus, the 15th Annual Kids' Playwriting Festival marches on. The program is hosted every year by Twin Beach Players, and if the usual live performances are not possible, an online reading of the shows may be held. In any event, the six top playwrights will be recognized.

Any school-age child in Maryland may enter, including public, private or home-schooled. Entries must be post-marked by May 31, and winners will be announced no later than July 15. The six winning playwrights will receive \$100 awards. All that enter receive a congratulatory commissioners' certificate and coin.

Each play will be read by at least three judges, and prizes will be awarded on the basis of imagination and human

values, as well as play writing skill. The age and grade of the playwright will be taken into consideration by the judges.

For the complete rules, visit [www.twinbeachplayers.org](http://www.twinbeachplayers.org).

*Press Release from Twin Beach Players*



## Gallery Continues Its Digital Experience

*May Features Home and Garden*

May is a time for flowers, gardens and sprucing up our homes and our creative artists have everything you need to get in the Swing of Spring. CalvART Gallery is celebrating May with "HOME AND GARDEN". Since the gallery remains temporarily closed, our show will be presented via our Facebook site! <https://www.facebook.com/www.calvartgallery.org/> The ONLINE SHOW opens May 6<sup>th</sup> and will run through June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Participating artists: Gail Chenevey (Steampunk Sculpture); Ray & Phyllis Noble (Stained Glass); Ray Bogle, Denise Breitburg and Marie Estabrook (Pottery); Barbara Hance and Mickey Kunkle (Jewelry); Ann Trentman, Ann Crain, Suzanne Shelden, Mimi Little, Linda Craven, Marcia Van Gemert and Abby Griffin (Watercolor/Acrylic); Dick Preston (Wood); Barbara Boward, Lonnie Harkins and Steve Richardson (Photography).

From ceramics, sculptures, assemblages, wooden toys and photography to fine art paintings we have it all! And don't forget, we also have a wide selection of beautiful jewelry! Looking good is a part of feeling good and quarantine retail therapy may be just what you need right now!

We have worked out an easy, personal and friendly and safe way to buy art online. Stay well, enjoy your home and garden. Celebrate with us!

Money spent locally stays in the local economy and continues to strengthen the economic base of the



entire community. Small local businesses make indispensable contributions to communities and neighborhoods. Supporting local artists allows them the opportunity to continue to serve their communities. You will often see members of calvART supporting local charities and organizations by participating in art shows, teaching workshops, and donating items for fundraisers.

The calvART Gallery is located in the Prince Frederick Center at the intersection of Rt. 4 and Rt. 231 nestled between the Sakura Restaurant and Dreamweaver Café. Open Wednesday through Sunday from 11am-5pm. For more information visit the website [www.calvartgallery.org](http://www.calvartgallery.org) or call 410-535-9252. The calvART Gallery is a program of the Arts Council of Calvert County. The Gallery has new shows every month and our receptions are open to the public. Please bring your friends.

*Press Release from calvART.*



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

## In Remembrance

### Lisa Joyce Tucker



Lisa Joyce Tucker, born to the late Laymon and Leona Tucker, passed peacefully in her sleep at the young age of 59 in Washington, DC on Sunday, April 26, 2020.

Born in Newfoundland, Canada on October 8, 1960, Lisa soon became a Lexington Park, Maryland resident, where she remained, except for her time spent studying at Herkimer College in New York. At Herkimer, her studies included botany and photography. She was a graduate of Great Mills High School where she remained active on the reunion committee. Lisa loved to travel, but the restaurants and Broadway shows of New York City remained a favorite.

Lisa loved spending time with her family, especially the littlest ones, including Jackson & Kayden, and her rescue dog Romeo. She cared for others, especially those in need, and in return everyone cared for her. Lisa valued connection and treasured her friends; even on the worst hospital day visitors would likely get a smile. Her quick wit and talkativeness immediately put you at ease, but behind the charming smile was a dry, sarcastic humor that would surprise you and leave you laughing until you cried.

Lisa was a foodie who loved to try new eateries wherever she visited, frequent her favorite hometown establishments and still enjoyed home-cooked meals from brother-in-law Kelsey and

her sister Linda's famous lasagna. She made sure no holiday passed without Lumpia, a personal and family favorite. She was an avid collector of Hallmark Christmas ornaments and shared an extensive clock collection with her late mother, Leona. Though she could often be found watching the news, she was just as likely to kick back in her chair viewing shows such as Mad Men, Law & Order and South Park. Just some examples of her diverse interests and tastes.

Lisa was a dedicated civilian employee at the Patuxent River Naval Base and was looking forward to retirement in the near future. Through her multiple decades there, she enjoyed several roles with different departments, her most recent as a procurement specialist. She made friends at each stop along the way, adding to her collection, especially as she became increasingly involved in the American Federation of Government Employees union after joining in 1997.

Lisa is survived by uncles James Tucker of Oxon Hill, MD and Roosevelt Tucker of Atlanta, GA, aunt Gloria Finley of Detroit, MI, sisters Linda Martines of Stephenson, VA and Leslie Tucker (spouse Kelsey Saunders) of Lexington Park, MD, niece Kristin Hodnett (spouse Michael Hodnett) of Stephenson, VA and a host of cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents.

All services are pending. Arrangements are being handled by Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD.

In lieu of flowers and in light of the current pandemic and Lisa's generous spirit, memorial contributions may be made to the Sepsis Alliance <https://donate.sepsis.org/ltucker> where you can also share your stories and memories with her friends and family on her personal memorial page.

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

### James Richard Beasley

James Richard Beasley, 61, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on May 2, 2020 at his home. He was born on July 16, 1958 in Alexandria, VA and was the loving son of the late Peggy Larue Bray Beasley and James Otho Beasley. James was the loving husband of the late Connie Marie Beasley whom he married on December 27, 1996 in Leonardtown, MD and who preceded him in death on February 14, 2020. James is survived by his son J. Ryan Beasley of Mechanicsville, MD.

All Funeral Services will be private at this time.

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

### Harry Weems Clarke



Harry Weems Clarke, 88, of St. Inigoes, MD passed away on April 28, 2020 at his home. He was born on August 28, 1931 in St. Inigoes, MD and was the son of the late Evelyn Weems Clarke and Thomas Bennett Clarke. Harry was the loving husband of the late Helen Cecile Clarke whom he married on March 28, 1953 in St. Michaels Catholic Church Ridge, MD, and who preceded him in death on August 30, 2018. Harry is survived by his children Ken Clarke (Lori) of St. Inigoes, MD, Kathy Groat (Bob) of St. Inigoes, MD, Lynn Huett of St. Inigoes, MD, Jen Nickelson (Jack) of Evergreen, CO, Steve Clarke (Karen) of Gilbertsville, KY, 8 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, and sister in law Betty Ann Clarke. He was preceded in death by his sister Trixie Lynch (Jack) and Tom Clarke.

Harry was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident. He graduated from St. Michael's School in 1949, and St. Mary's College of Maryland in 1965 with a Degree in Engineering. Harry served in the United States Air Force from 1949 to 1954. While in the United States Air Force, he was station in Korea, and earned the Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Soldiers Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Good Conduct Medal.

He was an Electronics Engineer at Patuxent Naval Air Station retiring on

1987 after 36 years of service.

All Funeral Services will be private at this time.

Contributions may be made to the ALS Association DC/MD/VA Chapter 30 W. Gude Drive, Suite 150 Rockville, MD 20850 or [www.alsa.org](http://www.alsa.org).

My'Aishah Amoni McCoy  
My'Aishah Amoni McCoy, 2, of Great Mills, MD passed away on April 27, 2020 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Leonardtown, MD.

She was born on October 28, 2017 in Baltimore, MD to Michael Anthony McCoy, Jr. of Lexington Park, MD and Tamika Nicole Dorsey of Great Mills, MD.

My'Aishah was a beautiful little angel who adored her family. She loved anything pink. Her favorite things to do were watch YouTube, dance, sing, and play with her sisters. She had a truly special bond with her cousin Jokavia, aka, "kayy" and would FaceTime with her every day. My'Aishah will forever be loved and missed by her friends and family.

In addition to her parents she is survived by her siblings, Brianna Pinson, Tamiya McCoy, Amari Hyatte, Jalen McCoy, Malaysia McCoy, Marquis McCoy, and Maria McCoy, and her maternal grandparents, Mary and James Dorsey, Sr. and paternal grandparents, Sarah and Michael McCoy, Sr.

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

### John Michael "Mike" Mandeville



John Michael "Mike" Mandeville, 75, of Mechanicsville, MD departed this life on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore.

Mike was born on January 25, 1945 in Kansas City, Kansas to the late Bernard John Mandeville and Mary Louise (Feters) Mandeville.

After graduating from Clemson University in 1968, Mike enlisted in the United States Army. He served 15 months in Vietnam, and was honorably discharged in 1970. After returning home, he began searching for job opportunities. He eventually made the move to the Washington, DC area, where he

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accepted a position with the Federal Government.

On June 7, 1975, he married Patricia Marie (Scheungrab) Mandeville and they spent almost forty-five (45) years happily married. They welcomed three (3) kind, strong and respectful sons.

Mike worked for the Government until his retirement in 2006. After his retirement, he and Pat relocated to St. Mary's County and Mike took a part-time job at the Target Store in LaPlata. During the ten (10) years he worked there he was affectionately known as "Mr. Mike".

Mike was a hardworking and devoted family man. His world revolved around his wife, sons and grandchildren. An active father, he spent many nights and weekends working with his sons with all of their Boy Scout activities. He was their "go to" guy for help with their math homework, the official school report typist and a faithful presence at their sports practices and games. He enjoyed bowling and had belonged to a number of leagues over the years. Mike was a gardener with a green thumb. He grew everything from vegetables to berry bushes to fruit trees, but, by far, his greatest enjoyment came from tending to his yard and his many flower beds. He found comfort in working outdoors under the blue sky.

Whether you knew him as Mike, Dad, or Grandpa, you knew his commitment to his family. He may be gone, but his legacy of honor, strength and hardworking ways will be carried on and duplicated for many generations. Mike will be missed by many, but none as much as his family.

Mike is survived by his wife, Patricia "Pat" Mandeville; children, Christopher M. Mandeville (Michelle) of Thurmont, MD, Jason M. Mandeville (Maria) of Mechanicsville, MD and John D. Mandeville (Will) of Overland Park, KS; four grandchildren, Madolyn, Josephine, Jacob and Mariella. He is also survived by his siblings, Thomas "Tom" Mandeville of Spotsylvania, VA, Edwin "Ed" Mandeville (Tammy) of Olympia, WA and William "Bill" Mandeville (Carly) of Leavenworth, KS. Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Bernard and Mary Mandeville.

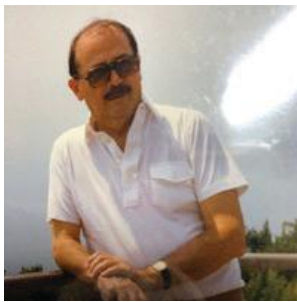
At this time all services will be private. Pallbearers will be Chris, Jason and John Mandeville, Bob Scheungrab, Jules Greenwell and Allan Canter.

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

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

### Anthony Mecca

On Wednesday, April 22, 2020, Anthony (Tony) Mecca departed this life at Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home with his wife Gabriele by his side. Tony was



### John Raymond "JR" Butler,

Jr.



### John Vincent Mason

born on February 18, 1921, in San Fele, (Potenza) Italy, son of Maria Nigro and Giuseppe Mecca. He and his mother emigrated to the United States in 1928 where they were met in New York by his father.

Tony lived with his family in New York City until he enlisted in the US Army in 1942. After Basic Training, he was deployed to Calcutta, India, where he was assigned to the 126th Area US Army Hospital serving as an X-ray technician. He completed his military service in 1946 and was honorably discharged. At the time of his death, at age 99, Tony was one of the oldest surviving World War II veterans.

After leaving the military, Tony held a variety of positions until he found his passion: the hospitality and travel industry. He, along with several family members bought and operated two hotels in Virginia. When the hotels were sold, Tony joined the West Park hotel chain where he developed the Red Carpet Reception for tour groups. He went on to have a successful career in the hotel resource service. In 1989, he married Gabriele. He and Gabriele were avid travelers, and in 1991, they opened their own tour and travel company that they both ran until Tony retired from it in 2016.

Tony was preceded in death by his father Giuseppe, his mother Maria, his beloved sister Frances, and brother-in law Salvatore. He leaves behind his devoted wife Gabriele; his brother Salvatore; his daughter Toni Ann; three grandsons, Charles (Alison); Paul (Tracie); and Lawrence; and four great granddaughters, Haley, Mary Danielle, and Hope; and his nephew, Ron (Narda) and their daughter Lindsay, and his niece, Diana (Rocky) and their sons Joseph and John. He is also survived by four stepchildren, Christina, Daniella (Larry); Jason (Erika), and Melissa (Frank); and eight step grandchildren.

Due to current circumstances, Tony's funeral service and burial with military honors will be held at a later date.

Donations in Tony's memory may be made to Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home [www.charhall.org](http://www.charhall.org).

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

All arrangements have been made at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, Charlotte Hall, MD.

John Raymond "JR" Butler, Jr. 73 of Charlotte Hall, MD passed away on April 25, 2020 at Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home.

He was born on February 1, 1947 in Worcester, MA to John Raymond Butler, Sr., of Suitland, MD and the late Marion (Korkus) Butler.

John was employed as a Manager in the automotive industry at Amoco Gas Station in Forest Heights for many years. While there he became well known for providing exceptional service as well as making many lasting relationships with his customers and employees. When he was not working he enjoyed collecting coins, watching sports including hockey and baseball, but, most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandson Kyle.

He is survived by his son, Carl Butler (Jenn) of Callaway, MD; his daughter, Julie Butler of Melbourne, FL; his siblings, Robert Butler of Waldorf, MD, Richard Butler of Clinton, MD, Russell Butler of Dunkirk, MD; and his grandson, Kyle Butler. He was preceded in death by his father, John Butler, his mother, Marion Butler, and his sister, Joanne Smith.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

John Vincent Mason was born on April 11, 1944 in Compton, MD. John was the third child of twelve children born to the late Jeremiah Mason, Sr. and Mary Florence Hebb Mason. He was called to his heavenly mansion Sunday morning, April 26, 2020, surrounded by his loving wife and children.

John received his formal education from Banneker Elementary and High School, Loveville, MD, graduating with the Class of 1962. After high school graduation, John attended Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD. He worked for a short while in Washington, D.C. due to being drafted into the U.S. Army. John completed one military tour serving his country the same time as his brothers George and Joseph. Upon being discharged from the U.S. Army, John returned home to St. Mary's County, Maryland.

John then started his civil service career with the Naval Air Station at Patuxent River, MD where he worked and retired after 36 years and 3 months of Federal Government service. He faithfully continued his military service in the U.S. Navy Reserves, and honorably retired after dedicating over 20 years of service.

John was an active member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Lexington Park, MD for many years.

John was a 32nd Degree Master Mason, Past Master and active member of Joseph A. Egans Masonic Lodge #104 in Valley Lee, MD and James A. Mingo Consistory Lodge #334 in Accokeek, MD. He also held various positions in the Fidelity Chapter #60 Order of the Eastern Star and MISR Temple # 213 Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine in Accokeek, Maryland.

John enjoyed driving his bright blue



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## In Remembrance

classic car and his bright red Corvette in car shows with his best friend Vernon Thomas. He loved to sing which was evident when he became a lead singer for the Ralph Butler Rhythm Makers band for many years. John will fondly be remembered for his infectious smile and his baritone laugh. Most of all, John proudly enjoyed being the patriarch of the Mason family and truly showed his love for his family.

John is survived by his wife Bevaline Barnes Mason, and daughters: Sona Powell (William), Sandy Savoy (Francis), and Rhonda Butler (Rufus); and one son, Avell Barnes. John's legacy includes eleven grandchildren: Shanelle Savoy, Nijah Savoy, Trevon Savoy, Kyran Powell, Caitlin Rice, Deja Butler, Avell Barnes, Jr., Jerome D. Jones, Jr., Takisha Jones Kirkner, Randy (Shawnta) Thomas Jones and Denise Golding; and twelve great grandchildren: Shanita Savoy, Braelynn Terry, Lydia Terry-Jones, Alena Terry-Jones, Althea Terry-Jones, Christopher Barnes, LaChe Goldring, Brykel Goldring, Naomi Goldring, Roman Goldring, Inajah Jones, and Rashad Jones. Also left to mourn John's death is one sister, Mary Lillian Jones (Mark Sr.) and, three brothers: James Mason,

Douglas Mason (Vicky), and Michael Mason (Phyllis); sisters-in-law: Mamie Mason, Elizabeth Mason, Marie Miles, Mary Young, Elaine Sheffield and Paula Mason; brothers-in-law: Bernard Barnes, Jr. (Lorraine), Nelson Barnes, Chester Barnes (Barbara), Elvert Xavier Barnes; aunts: Agnes Hortense Barnes, Mary Hebb, Rosetta Gough, Linda Dyson (Preston), and Ella Louise Robinson; and, one uncle, Francis Hebb. He was preceded in death by brothers: Jeremiah Mason, Jr, George Mason, Joseph Mason, Thomas Mason, and Leroy Mason; sisters: Maria Nelson (Lorenzo), and Carolyn Mason; one daughter, Charnissa Mason; and, sons Lloyd Jones and Eugene Jones. John's memory will remain in the hearts of many surviving nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Services are private.

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

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

### Betty Mae Robbins

Betty Mae Robbins, 82, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on Wednesday,



April 15, 2020 at her home.

Born on January 15, 1938, in Conneville, PA, she was the daughter of the late William Franklin Tressler and the late Eleanor Haberer Tressler.

Betty married the love of her life, Robert Scott Robbins in 1956. Together they celebrated over 50 of marriage until his passing in 2009. As their love grew, they adopted their only child, a daughter, Rowena, into their family. Betty worked as a Sales Manager for Sears Department Store retiring in 1990.

Betty enjoyed crocheting and volunteering at the thrift shop on Andrews Air Force Base.

Betty is survived by her daughter, Rowena Rohls of Waldorf; her sister, Lu Porter and brother-in-law, Ronald Porter, of Pennsylvania; 3 grandchildren Dawn, Melissa and Sarah; and 11 great-grandchildren Yasmin, Brianna, Natavia, Brian, Serenity, Izabell, Willow, Jaxson, Aiden, Camerin and Anthony. She is preceded in death by her husband and her parents.

At this time all services will be private. Betty will be inurned at Arlington National Cemetery with her beloved husband at a later date.

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

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

### Lt Col. John Thomas Kite



Lt Col. John Thomas Kite, 88 of Solomons, MD passed away peacefully on April 24, 2020 in Solomons, MD. He was born on August 21, 1931 in Kansas City, MO to the late Helen Catherine and Don Frederick Kite. He married Edna Kite in California and they had three beautiful children from their marriage. They later divorced, however stayed friends and she preceded him in death in 1993.

John joined the US Air Force in 1955 and served as a Navigator. He retired in 1975 after serving over 20 years as a Lt. Colonel. He moved to Calvert Co. in 2015 from Charleston, SC. and enjoyed traveling around the world, playing golf, and bowling. He was kind and generous, sometimes goofy, and always sweet and precious. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

John is survived by his three daughters, Cathy Van Houten of Waldorf, MD, Cindy Kite of Umea, Sweden, and Linda Kite of Prince Frederick, MD; grandchildren, Nina, Amy, Angela, Jonathan, and Alex; great-grandchildren, Brett, Logan, Carlymae, AJ, and Davis. He was preceded in death by his parents, ex-wife, and sisters, Margaret and Marie Therese.

Funeral Services will be private for immediate family. The family ask for memorial contributions to be made in John's name to the Asbury Solomons Benevolent Care Fund, [www.theasburyfoundation.org/donate](http://www.theasburyfoundation.org/donate) 11100 Asbury Circle, Solomons, MD 20688 and or Calvert Hospice, [www.calverthospice.org](http://www.calverthospice.org), P.O. Box 838, Prince Frederick, MD 20678. To leave the family a condolence please visit [www.rauschfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rauschfuneralhomes.com).

### Jean Marie (Pender) Kemon



Jean Marie (Pender) Kemon, 76, of Mayo MD & recently of Neola WV, passed away on Thursday May 1, 2020 at the home of her daughter after a courageous battle with metastatic bone cancer.

Born on March 30, 1944 in Washington DC to Irvin Pender and Frances (Sniegowski) Pender, Jean did not meet her father until two years later when he returned from WWII's European battlefield. Raised in the DC-MD-VA area, she frequently spent many joy-filled times with her large extended family at her grandparents' home in DC and at their beach house in Shoreham Beach, MD. Her strong independent stubborn streak, plus a touch of snarky humor, helped her get through many of her life's trials, including fighting both polio and spinal scoliosis as a youth.

Jean graduated from Annapolis HS in 1962. She then attended the Lucy Webb Hayes School of Nursing at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington DC,

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graduating as a diploma nurse in the spring of 1965. While in nursing school, Jean met Chad Kemon at "Dave's Corner", an old dance hall tavern located in Beverley Beach. Jean and Chad married in Oct. 1966 and, after a brief stint living in Eastport, they settled into a home and raised their family in Shoreham Beach in the same neighborhood as her parents and grandparents.

Jean worked as a registered nurse for over forty years. She began her profession in medical-surgical and geriatric nursing and then private duty home health, before spending the next twenty-five plus years working as a pediatric nurse for Azam Baig MD of South River Pediatrics at both his Edgewater and Kent Island locations. Jean loved seeing her little patients grow up over the years and return with their own children who also learned to call her "Miss Jean." She was a longtime member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 226 in Mayo where she facilitated many outreach programs between the Unit 226 Juniors and area veteran facilities during the 1980s. Jean attended the Annapolis Senior Center for many years after retiring where she participated in tai chi and ceramics classes. She enjoyed reading, gardening, baking, dancing, crafts, playing Bingo & slot machines, traveling, embroidery, Wii bowling with her grandsons, all types of music, her game shows, the antics of her cats, and feeding her birds and squirrels. She especially loved spending time with her children and grandchildren, her close-knit group of cousins, and her best friends Cathy and Sharon.

Jean was predeceased by her parents, her husband Walter C. "Chad" Kemon Jr in 1984, and her significant other of sixteen years William L. "Bill" Kelley Jr in 2004. She is survived by her beloved sister Mary Louise "Lou" Pender, recently of Mayo MD and currently of Neola WV; her children Michael Kemon and wife Stephanie of Ronceverte WV, Tammy (Kemon) Beardmore and husband Jerry of St. Leonard MD, and David Kemon of Mayo MD. She was the proud & loving MeMaw to seven grandchildren who brought such joy & laughter to her life: Chad, Megan, Aimee, Jake, Nate, Breann, and Paitlin and her great grandson Luke.

The family will host relatives and friends for a celebration of Jean's life in May 2021. There will be a private graveside service & internment at Lakemont Memorial Gardens in Davidsonville. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jean's memory can be made to Calvert Hospice or a no-kill animal shelter of choice.

### **Dominic Anthony Di Iorio**

Dominic Anthony Di Iorio, 70, of North Beach, Maryland, passed away Sunday, May 3, 2020 at Anne Arundel Medical Center. Dominic was born on



July 24, 1949 in Campo Di Grove, Abruzzi, Italy the son of Raffaele Di Iorio and Silvia Di Tana. Dominic voyaged to the United States aboard the SS Andrea Doria in 1954, and arrived at his new home in Westfield, NJ. He was a champion soccer player at Westfield High School, and after graduating went on to earn his Associate of Applied Science degree at Union County College. He also served in the National Guard from 1970 to 1978, and was employed with the Pitney Bowes company as a copier service technician for 21 years, retiring in 1993. He married Ellen Di Maggio on October 13, 1973, and they continued to reside in Westfield, NJ, until August of 2014 when they moved to North Beach, MD. Dominic was a member of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield, NJ, St. Anthony's Catholic Church in North Beach, the Knights of Columbus Calvert Council 7870, and the American Legion Stallings-Williams Post 206. Dominic will be remembered as a friendly and caring man who greatly treasured family tradition and his Italian heritage.

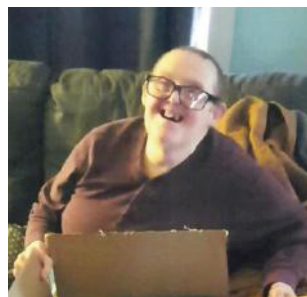
Dominic is survived by his wife Ellen Di Maggio Di Iorio of North Beach, sons Jason Di Iorio of Clark, NJ, and Jonathan Di Iorio and his wife Megan of Prince Frederick, MD and grandchildren Wesley, Hunter, and Molly Di Iorio. He is also survived by brother Adelfio Di Iorio and his wife Anna, sister Anita Russo and her husband Mario, and cousins Leo and Victor Villani, all of Westfield, NJ, as well as many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Dominic's name may be made to the American Legion Stalling Williams Post 206, 3330 Chesapeake Beach Road, Chesapeake Beach MD 20732 or the Knights of Columbus Calvert Council 7870, PO Box 28, North Beach, MD 20714; Link: <https://stanthonycal.us/knights-of-columbus-calvert-council>

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

### **Thomas Victor Flynn**

Thomas Victor Flynn, 61, of Chesapeake Beach passed away April 29, 2020. He was born October 21, 1958 in Cheverly to Charles O. and Willie Mae (McDaniel) Flynn. Thomas attended Friendly Adult Day Care in Huntingtown for 20 years and thoroughly enjoyed his time there. Thomas loved life and people. He touched so many lives



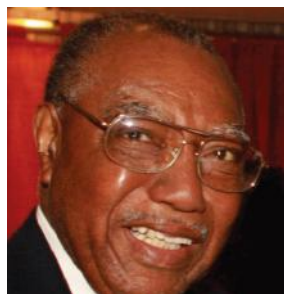
throughout his life and could easily brighten anyone's day. Thomas enjoyed dancing, bowling, playing games, going to church at New Life Baptist Church in Prince Frederick and the Dallas Cowboys. Thomas also loved interacting with police officers, firemen, and the rescue squad.

Thomas is survived by his sister Peggy Lee Francis and her husband Robert of Chesapeake Beach, as well as two nephews, three nieces, five great nephews, two great nieces, and two great-great nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents Charles and Willie Flynn and sister Barbara Ann Hardesty.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions all services will be private. A celebration of Thomas' life will be held at a later date.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

### **Mack Ester Spencer**



Mack Ester Spencer, 96, of Dunkirk, Maryland, passed away peacefully at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home on April 29, 2020, due to natural causes.

Mack Spencer was born in Eutaw, Al-

abama on September 8, 1923, the eldest son of the late Curley Spencer and Alice (Coleman) Spencer. Mack grew up in rural Eutaw and as a teenager moved to Birmingham for a better High School education. Soon after graduation, he enlisted in the Army to fight in World War II. He was part of the Normandy Invasion and the Battle of the Bulge, serving under General Patton. Mack continued to serve in the Korean War. He made the Army a career for 27 years serving at stations in Germany, France, South Korea, Raven Rock Mountain Complex (RRMC), an underground nuclear bunker near Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania, and Ft. Meade, Maryland.

After retirement from the military in 1970, Mack entered the civilian workforce as the Director of Food Services for the Prince George's Hospital Center (PGHC), where he was responsible for dietary food preparation for the entire hospital.

Upon retiring from PGHC, Mack continued doing what he loved the most; traveling the world with his family. He and his wife Hanna visited over 75 countries and made three trips around the world. Mack loved visiting family in Holland on an almost annual basis. One of their favorite excursions was to spend the Christmas holidays at a resort on Spain's coastline. Travel was in Mack's blood.

Mack grew up attending the United Methodist Church, in which his father was a minister. Mack continued attending church his entire life to include Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington D.C., Huntingtown Church of Christ, Grace Brethren, and Chesapeake Community Church.

In the community he was heavily involved in Kiwanis where he served in several positions in the Calvert County Chapter, providing educational and support resources for youth locally and internationally.

More than anything Mack loved people, and just talking and sharing. He would always greet everyone, to include

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## In Remembrance

strangers, with a big hello and smile, and often with a gallant kiss on the hand for the ladies. He was a fantastic storyteller, frequently telling about his travel adventures and the many inspiring people he had met throughout his life. If you knew Mack, you knew his radiant smile, booming voice, and contagious laugh. He treated everyone he met like family. Mack's motto was "Enjoy Life," which he truly emulated throughout his fulfilling life of 96 years.

Surviving are his wife Hanna Spencer; daughter Désirée Spencer Stamps and her husband Ronald Stamps of Fort Pierce, Florida; son Mack-Jan Honoré Spencer and his wife Victoria of Owings, MD; three grandsons Spencer Stamps of Chesapeake Beach, MD, and Atticus and Caius Spencer of Owings, MD; one brother and two sisters. Mack was preceded in death by seven brothers, one sister, and a granddaughter Jasmine Ferne Stamps.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings and travel, a memorial celebration will be held at a later date. Rather than receiving flowers, the family would greatly prefer donations to be given to support the community in honor of Mack at <https://www.mightycause.com/story/Mackspencer>.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

### Dorothy Walke Kostanecki



Dorothy Walke Kostanecki, 90, died on April 28, 2020 in Annapolis, MD. She was born on April 10, 1930 in Prince Frederick, MD to Emil Paul and Louise Walke. She married Raymond G. Kostanecki on July 6, 1968. They made their home in Annapolis, MD. They enjoyed traveling.

Dorothy graduated from Southern High School and received her RN at the hospital for The Women of Maryland with honors. She furthered her studies at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Most of her nursing career was at Anne Arundel General Hospital.

Dorothy was a member of St. James' Parish, Lothian, MD, where she established a scholarship fund in memory of her husband. There were more than twenty-five students who were recipients of her generosity. She was also a member of the Marlboro Chapter #61 Order of the Eastern Star.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, two brothers, Ed-

ward Walke, Emil Paul Walke, Jr., and sister, Catherine Walke. She is survived by a brother, Henry E. Walke (Willie K. Walke) of Lothian, MD, two sisters, Mary W. Kittel of Catonsville, MD, Lorraine W. Taylor of Friendship, MD, and many nieces and nephews and their families.

There will be a private graveside service with interment at St. James' Parish. Memorial contributions in her memory can be made to Anne Arundel Medical Center, 2000 Medical Parkway, Belcher Pavilion, Suite 604, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

### Early Clinton Cox, Sr.



Early Clinton Cox, Sr., 89, of Huntingtown, MD passed away April 28, 2020 at the Calvert County Nursing Center. He was born August 28, 1930 to Albert and Christie (Montgomery) Cox in Floyd County, VA. He joined the US Army in September 1950 and spent a majority of his service in Germany and achieved the rank of Mess Sergeant before being honorably discharged in September 1953. He met the love of his life, Billie Joyce Myers, in 1954. They were married on December 24, 1954 and moved to St. Leonard, Maryland. Once in Maryland, Clinton started his own successful logging company which he operated in Calvert County for almost 40 years. Clinton became a charter member of the Huntingtown Volunteer Fire Department in 1972, and upon his death was the oldest living charter member. He loved to tell stories of living and working on a farm as a child and young man. He loved to work on his logging and farm equipment and offer advice and driving directions to anyone who needed it. His favorite thing to talk about was his children and grandchildren and what all of them had accomplished and will accomplish in the future. More than anything, he loved Billie and was heartbroken upon her death in February 2012.

Clinton and Billie had six children: Clinton Cox, Jr (Millie) of Huntingtown, Patty White (Steve) of Southport, NC, Sandy Sams (Joseph) of Prince Frederick, Karen Dickersheid (Bob) of Lititz, PA, Terry Cox (Susan) of Prince Frederick, and Dawn Cox of Radford, VA. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren, and a brother Kelly Cox of Pisgah, MD. He was preceded in death by a sister

Myrtle Phillips, and brothers Elmer, Warren, Charlie, Archie, and Leslie Cox

A Memorial Service for Mr. Cox will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Huntingtown Volunteer Fire Department, 4030 Old Town Road, m

PO Box 482, Huntingtown, MD 20639; Link: <https://www.hvfd6.org/>

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

### Alene Vivian Stamp



Alene Vivian Stamp, 100, of Huntingtown, MD passed away April 27, 2020 at Calvert County Nursing Center. She was born December 19, 1919 in Brandywine, WV to Sally M. (Propst) and Romer Foster Eye. She was raised and attended school in WV, and married James Arthur Stamp after moving to the Washington, D.C. area. They resided in Hillside, MD and Alene was employed as a cashier with People's Drug Stores for 28 years. After moving to Calvert County in 1986 where she lived with her daughter, Alene worked at the Ben Franklin variety store and at Double D's Gym, both in Prince Frederick. Alene loved traveling the world, horse racing, and spending time with family, especially her grandchildren.

Alene was preceded in death by her husband James who passed away in 1965, and by her brothers Allen and Paul Eye. She is survived by daughters Sharon Sue Koontz of Prince Frederick and her friend Frank Edwards, and Linda Darlene Howdyshell and her husband David of Huntingtown, and by a son James Shay Eye of Seattle, WA. She is also survived by 7 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Calvert County Nursing Center, 85 Hospital Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678; Link: <https://calvertcountynursingcenter.org/> or Alzheimer's Association, National Capital Area Chapter, 8180 Greensboro Drive,

Suite 400, McLean, VA 22102; Link: <https://alz.org/nca>

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

### Richard Steven Williams

Richard Steven Williams of Rose Haven, Maryland passed away peacefully at Anne Arundel Medical Center, in



Annapolis, Maryland on April 24, 2020 with his brother Keith by his side and his daughter Melissa there by arrangement via an iPad, made possible by the heroic efforts of the Nurses and Doctors at AAMC.

Steve was born in Stuart, Virginia on January 25, 1950 to Peggy Tatum Williams and Richard Aaron Williams. The family moved to Prince Frederick, Maryland when Steve was 13. His father preceded him in death and he is survived by his loving mother, Peggy, his beloved daughter Melissa Jean Williams, and two precious granddaughters, Zoe and Chloe Gertz, One cherished best friend and brother, Michael Keith Williams, loving Nephew Shayne Williams and his wife Tracey Williams, loving Nephew Damon Williams and his wife Dawn Williams, and his adored nieces, Hailey, Kalli, Camryn and Claire Williams, his best dog friend and loyal companion, Loki, and Grand dog, Emmyloo. Steve also had a wonderful and large extended family in Virginia all of which he loved dearly.

Steve played varsity basketball and graduated from Calvert High School June 11, 1966. He then attended East Tennessee State University and Graduated in 1972. He worked for the Calvert County Government at the Department of Parks and Recreation and went on to later work with his father and brother in the trucking, logging and land clearing business. His truck driving experience led him to drive for Bob Hall Distributors. After retiring he kept busy and regularly helped his friends and family whenever anyone was in need. He was a huge lover of dogs. Steve was happiest with his pups, friends and family, fishing, playing corn hole, listening to music, and dancing the night away every chance he got. He never met a stranger and would do anything for the ones he loved. Steve was truly one of a kind, and truly just plain kind. He always had a hug and a smile for everyone. Your day was brighter if it had Steve in it. He will be Dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

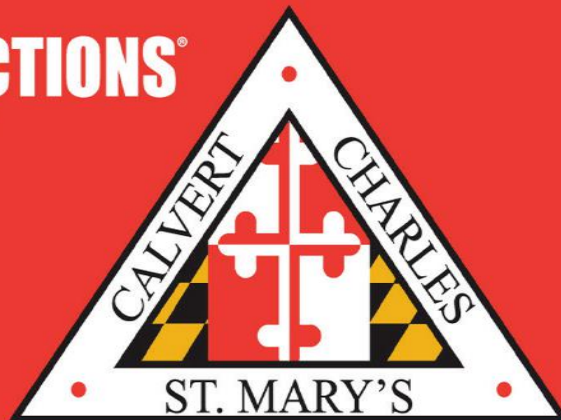
A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.





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Area businesses that encourage and support the use of vanpools and public transit services may be eligible for commuter tax credits. The Maryland State Legislature created an income tax credit (House Bill 646/Chapter 560 and Senate Bill 390/Chapter 559 of the session laws of 1999) for employers who provided commuting benefits to their employees. The Council's Regional Rideshare Coordinator/Employer Outreach Specialist will assist your business with a FREE evaluation of the commuting needs of your employees.

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# Rockfish Season Now Open



Rockfish 1  
Jeff Smith caught this 40 inch rockfish at Ragged Point in the Potomac Sunday on a green sparkle tandem rig.

By Ken Lamb  
The Tackle Box

Friday, May first, was the beginning of the Trophy Rockfish season, and it was cold, windy, and with hard rain blowing sideways.

There were a surprising number of hardy fishermen who braved the conditions even suspecting that the fish would be uncooperative, which they were. Many trollers were skunked. Others landed one or two. One boat reported a catch of four. The fish are big for the most part, in the 45- to 50-inch range.

The skies cleared in the afternoon and the fishing improved marginally with most boats picking up one or two fish if they were lucky.

Saturday and Sunday were better in the Bay where some boats scored five or more fish. There was a report of one striper that was in excess of 50 pounds.

Fishing brightened in the Potomac where trollers in the area of St. George Island found a hot spot.

In other news, there are plenty of catfish in the Potomac and the Patuxent. They like to eat chunks of fresh alewife.

The white perch are getting started in the creeks and rivers.

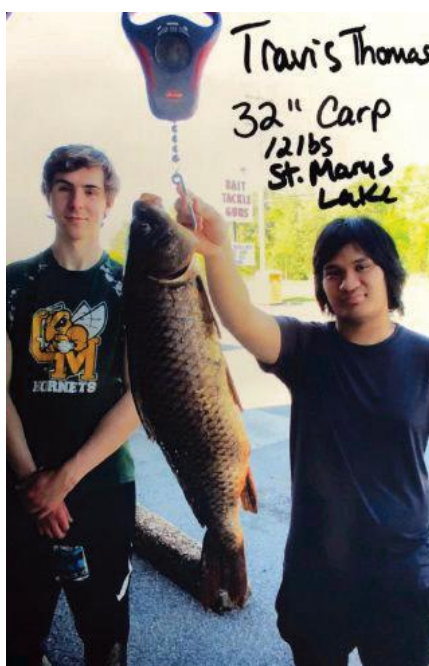
Nothing improves May fishing like the first of June.

St. Mary's County Official Statement: St. Mary's County Park Use Limited to Reduce Spread of COVID-19: St. Mary's County Government owned and operated parks are operating with additional limitations in response to the COVID-19 Stay-at-Home Order issued by Governor Larry Hogan. Waterfront parks, including Elms Beach, Myrtle Point, and Snow Hill Park, remain closed to the public. Public landings, including boat ramps, piers and gathering spaces are closed to the public. An exception is made allowing commercial



Rockfish 2  
"Skippy" landed this 12 pound catfish off Bushwood Wharf off the Potomac.

waterman with valid licenses to use the public landings. Recreational boating is not permitted under the Governor's Order. All other St. Mary's County Government-owned and operated parks are open under the following specific safety guidelines: exercise activities such as walking, hiking, running or biking while adhering to recommended 6-foot social distancing measures are permitted. Any sports or activities which engage in bodily contact such as basketball, soccer, football are not permitted. Gathering of groups are limited to no more than 10 people in any specific area of the park. Park hours and operations are available at the [www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/parks](http://www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/parks). For the list of all county government operations and COVID-19 resources, visit St. Mary's County Government at [www.stmarysmd.com](http://www.stmarysmd.com).



Rockfish 3  
Travis Thomas caught this 32 inch carp in St. Mary's Lake.

## Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



### "Reaching Back"



Now that my stack of library books, that I luckily picked out right before the libraries shut down, have all been read, I am reaching back to some beloved books to either re-read or browse through. I have the time, and I have the need for books in hand. No more thinking of, oh, I'll just rush out for part of the day to my errand loop once or twice a week. I don't just go out now for one or two items that I think I have to have, and then end up wandering around to other stops along the way.

So, this reaching back has included a few of the comfort or important books of my childhood and teenhood, not so much to read, but to hold their timeworn covers and magical words close to my heart and memory. Some books bring back that childhood feeling of innocence and love of learning we all felt at one time, others inspired/inspire new life concepts and inspiration.

Uncle Wiggily and Friends by Howard R. Garis and Old Man Rabbit's Dinner Party by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey, which still bear the crayon scribbles from my oldest brother 70 years ago, most likely do not bring mind-shattering insights into the human condition, but share stories of friendship, helping those in need, and pooling resources in uncertain times. "The Rabbit Gentleman" as Uncle Wiggily is referred to in the books always finds creative ways to solve problems for all he meets in his travels. The story of Uncle Wiggily and the Apple Dumpling is always my favorite, where he picks up an apple dumpling from Nurse Jane Fuzzy Wuzzy to deliver to Grandfather Goosey Gander, but along the way to Grandfather's home he encounters a hollow stump house with windows stuffed with rags and papers. He hears a voice from inside saying, "Oh mamma, I'm so cold and hungry!" Uncle Wiggily jumped out of his auto and took the apple dumpling into the little squirrel family to their delight and went back to get another hot apple dumpling for Grandfather Goosey Gander.

In Old Man Rabbit's Dinner Party, he starts out gathering and hoarding piles of food from around the countryside, thinking about the fine dinner he would have, but as he stares out his door while his pudding is bubbling on the stove, his animal neighbors are scurrying around looking for food to eat. Old Man Rabbit

asks one of the little animals, Tommy Chickadee, "What are you scolding about?" "the weather and the bad times," chirped Tommy Chickadee. "Not a crumb of bread or berry to be found anywhere." As Old Man Rabbit went back inside to his cozy little burrow with all the piles of vegetables, he suddenly gets the idea to have a dinner party for all his neighbors. At the end of dinner party, he is happily surprised with how it turned out and thinks, "dinner with his neighbors tasted better than eating alone."

I love these simple themes of giving with food or friendship. Sometimes it is nice to go back to basics. Watership Down by Richard Adams, 1984, Children of the Counterculture, and Thoreau's Walden were favorites in the teen year: great for teenage angst and self-isolation daydreaming in bedrooms. Walden seemed so romantic to me: living in isolation in a cabin in the woods with a pond to ponder and write down great thoughts, everything I loved. Then later I found that Thoreau was not truly isolated, his mother and sister came to bring his meals and take his laundry, somehow I realized that I would not be so fortunate. Watership Down, the story of rabbits mirroring human society with all its good and all its failings was and is still my favorite book, I still have the copy my father gave to me. It might be a good day to read it on the 40th year of his passing today. I never tire of Watership Down or most any book or anything at all to do with rabbits.

At present, I am re-reading one of Sue Monk Kidd's books, When the Heart Waits, (also the author of The Secret Life of Bees) about a time in her life when everything is crumbling, and she has lost direction. She feels rushed, demanding, what she calls being a quickaholic. Kidd happens to stumble upon a cocoon (so relevant right now) and follows it's life journey and makes it analogous with her own healing and life journey. So, I will go back into my cocoon right now, and try to think some great thoughts, or how to be of help to someone in some way, other than whether I can find what I need at a store when I want it or appease something else in a quickaholic mood.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby  
Please send your comments or ideas to: [shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com](mailto:shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com) or find me on Facebook.





# Letters TO THE Editor

## Sign the Ballot Envelope

To the Editor:

We just received our ballots for the June Primary election with the accompanying instructions and mailing envelope. Voting has always been important to me and I will certainly vote as I hope everyone will.

One thing about the process concerns me however. In order for my vote to count I need to sign the envelope. I understand the need for this – if you vote in person you sign. It's an effort to verify you are who you say you are. But, I wonder how many people will not sign either through inattention or ignorance of the need.

Please share with your family and friends how important it is for everyone to sign the envelope. This is not a partisan issue -- it's important for everyone to vote and to have their vote counted. And I think this Primary election is a good test of the process for the November election.

Marta Kelsey,  
Hollywood, MD

## St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

### Programs and Activities

Visit [www.stmarysmd.com/aging](http://www.stmarysmd.com/aging) for the most up-to date information

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 71658  
Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 71050  
Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 73101

Brought to you by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County: James R. Guy, President; Michael L. Hewitt; Eric Colvin; Todd B. Morgan; John E. O'Connor; and the Department of Aging & Human Services

### Get on Facebook and Join the Fun

During this time of closed senior activity centers, we'd like to keep you engaged! The Department of Aging & Human Services has been posting some fun things for you to see and do on our Facebook page so that we can stay connected. The department page St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services is easy to access and you will find some familiar faces there. We are making videos for you so that you can do crafts, practice your Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention, and more. Visit our Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/SMCDAHS](http://www.Facebook.com/SMCDAHS). Our videos are accessible to the public at [www.Facebook.com/SMCDAHS/videos](http://www.Facebook.com/SMCDAHS/videos).

### Sign Series on Facebook

The Department of Aging & Human Services has started a Sign Series on our Facebook Page that features YOU! We hope you'll get in on the fun if you haven't already. The directions are simple- take a picture of yourself engaging in the category prescribed, e-mail the picture to Shellie at [Sheila.graziano@stmarysmd.com](mailto:Sheila.graziano@stmarysmd.com) by the deadline. A few days later the sign will be posted on our Facebook page. Include a caption with the names of yourself and anyone else in the picture. If you don't want the names published, indicate that in the e-mail. The next category is How I'm

Fitnessing While Quarantining. Send a picture of yourself walking, striking your favorite yoga pose, working out or whatever you're doing to stay fit by May 15.

### Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

Attention all who have completed Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention I and II: Practice videos have been made for you so that you can continue working on the movements you've learned in classes. For Tai Chi I practice go on the internet and type in: <https://www.facebook.com/SMCDAHS/videos/160966462009883/> If you want to follow that up with a relaxation exercise or just want to relieve some stress go to: <https://www.facebook.com/SMCDAHS/videos/2901326226654076/> The videos and activities that are on our St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services Facebook page are designed to keep us all in communication with each other. You do not need a Facebook account to check these videos out, but you would have access to so much more if you did open an account, which is easy to do and free. For questions e-mail Sheila. [graziano@stmarysmd.com](mailto:graziano@stmarysmd.com)

For more information and updates, visit [www.stmarysmd.com/aging](http://www.stmarysmd.com/aging), [www.Facebook.com/SMCDAHS](http://www.Facebook.com/SMCDAHS), or call 301-475-4200, ext. 71050.

## The Mission New Property Purchase Update

As many in the community may know, The Mission has been negotiating the purchase of the current facilities. While we were able to negotiate a purchase price, The Mission was not able to agree to other important details which we found necessary to have a successful transaction. For these and other reasons, The Mission decided to pray and look for a new location.

### NEW PROPERTY LOCATION

Upon investigation, the board and I located a property and entered a contract across the street from the new Sheriff's Station on Great Mills Rd, at 21606 Sheriff Miedzinski Way. The two story building is 4600 sq. feet (3600sq feet bigger than our current location) and is located on 1.7 acres with floor space for a day room, chapel, counseling offices, as well as ample indoor and outdoor storage to expand. The board and I are very pleased with the location, the parking, and the layout as well with the condition of the utilities and recently replaced HVAC. After the down payment, the mortgage will be around \$1,530, which is less than if we had to rent.

### DOWN PAYMENT AND CLOSING COSTS UPDATE

Because of the Communities commitment to serve those in need in the name of Christ, we have already raised \$72,200 towards the \$105,000 down payment and closing cost. (This is \$95,000 less than what we originally needed to purchase the current build-

ing.) Therefore, we need to raise as of this announcement \$32,800 more in order to establish a permanent presence which will be an anchor to serve the homeless in our community for decades to come.

Our goal is to raise the needed \$32,800 by June 15th with an estimated settlement date of July 1st. Funds raised in excess of \$32,800 will be used towards renovations of the new building.

### PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

PLEASE TELL ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS that The Mission is close to our vision to become a permanent agent for effective, compassionate Christian outreach to the homeless, working poor and those suffering from addictions, please go to our funding website [Seekingshelter.com](http://Seekingshelter.com). Alternatively, you can send your contribution to:

The Mission, P.O Box 2011, California MD 20619 (PLEASE INDICATE THAT IT'S FOR THE MISSION BUILDING)

Our GOFUNDME Page is still active, but since GOFUNDME funds are transferred only 1 day a month (25th), Please consider a donation by May 20th so that those funds will be received in time. The link is on [seekingshelter.com](http://seekingshelter.com). -Thanks

### THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Richard Myers, Executive Director The Mission

## Celebrate National Nurses Week

To the Editor:

We celebrate National Nurses Week (May 6 – 12) each year in appreciation of the dedicated men and women who give of themselves to selflessly provide care, encouragement and support for patients, families and their community. This year, due to the current novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, now more than ever most of us have seen the sacrifices our nurses make behind the scenes every day.

At the frontline of a world public health crisis, nursing professionals deserve special recognition for their dedication to delivering compassionate care and demonstrating ethical practice in the healthcare profession. Nurses are integral members of healthcare teams who are committed to providing quality health care services while respect-

ing the dignity and humanity of those in healing.

Patients rely on our nurses for medical support and compassion, and nurses show empathy by caring for the body, mind and spirit. Nurses are healers, advocates, teachers and friends who work tirelessly at all hours of the day and night.

On behalf of the St. Mary's County Health Department, I give my thanks to all nurses for their life-saving care and life-changing work. I am proud to work alongside nurses, here at the health department and in this community, as we serve our residents. My heartfelt thanks go out to all of them.

Sincerely,

Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer



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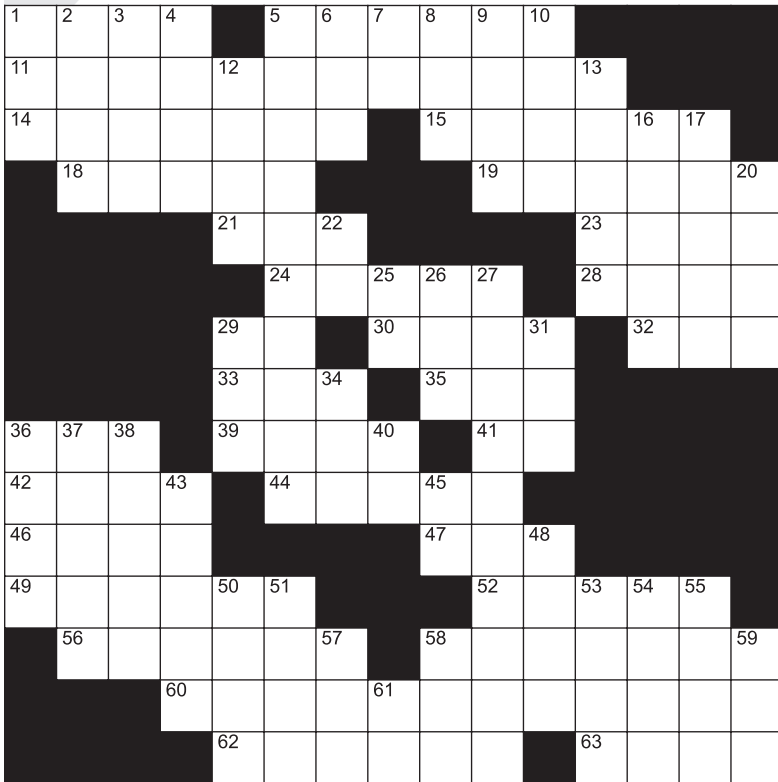
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# GAMES & PUZZLES



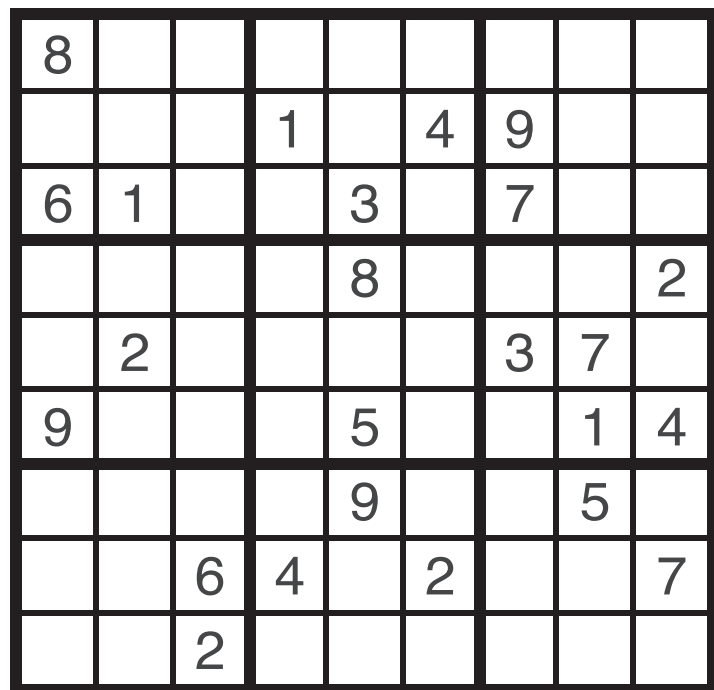
**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 5. Not bad
- 11. NYC Mayor
- 14. Essays
- 15. Walk lightly
- 18. Those who utilize
- 19. Actress Judd
- 21. One-time community of nations
- 23. Norwegian river
- 24. Unconscious states
- 28. Make muddy
- 29. Unit of volume
- 30. Consciousnesses
- 32. Envision
- 33. When you aim to get there
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Passports are some
- 39. Snakelike fish
- 41. Military flyers (abbr.)
- 42. Popular computers
- 44. Ecological stage
- 46. Wings
- 47. Used in combination
- 49. Laid back
- 52. Princess's headgear
- 56. Musical composition
- 58. Famed Falls
- 60. Reiterations
- 62. Eras
- 63. Track event

- 4. A type of gin
- 5. Torments
- 6. One point south of due east
- 7. Actor Pacino
- 8. Feline
- 9. Chinese dynasty
- 10. Short cries for help
- 12. Straits can sometimes be this
- 13. Further
- 16. Variety shows
- 17. Supernatural
- 20. A university in Connecticut
- 22. Atomic #27
- 25. Of I
- 26. We all have one
- 27. Religious guilds
- 29. This can sting
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Brew
- 36. Religious leader
- 37. Indigo bush
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Jr.'s father
- 43. Ray-finned fish genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Straight line passing from side to side (abbr.)
- 50. S-shaped line
- 51. Small bunch of hay
- 53. Ripened
- 54. Crater on Mars
- 55. Humanities
- 57. Of the ears
- 58. To the \_\_ degree
- 59. Wood
- 61. Cools your home

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Defensive nuclear weapon (abbr.)
- 2. Instead
- 3. Gifts for the poor



Level: Intermediate

**LAST WEEKS ANSWERS**

R	P	M	P	S	A	L	M	S												
A	L	E	D	E	N	I	E	D												
I	R	C	U	D	N	O	N	E												
M	A	S	E	R	U	E	D	I	T	I	N	G								
A	N	I	M	A	L	G	E	N	I	T	O	R								
M	I	C	E	L	L	E	A	S	N	A	M	A								
					A	X	E	L	G	L	I	M								
C	B	S	S	O	R	E	L	Y	A	P										
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**ST. MARY'S**  
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# WHY, GOD?

We are living in unscripted times, but as the Bible says, there is nothing new under the sun (**Ecclesiastes 1:9**). None of us have ever lived through something like this in our lives. We will all remember 2020 and COVID-19. We will have different stories to tell, for we all have been impacted in different ways, but we all experienced this together. Some of us will speak of how we were isolated and ordered to stay at home. Others will speak of tragic loss of life or jobs. Some will talk about serving in essential fields like medical and first responders. Regardless of how it impacted us individually, this virus impacted the world.

Perhaps some of us have done some soul searching during this experience. If you have, there is a good chance that you have asked why this happened. If you are a naysayer, you will claim this entire thing was blown out of proportion and all for naught. If you are a doomsdayer, you will say we didn't do enough to prevent it and there must have been a conspiracy. It doesn't matter which extreme you chose or somewhere in between; we are all left with this reality: the virus affected us all. The answer of why this happened will produce all kinds of answers, but there is one answer that is for certain. God's Word gives us an explanation. We live in a fallen world. Sin has brought a curse upon all of mankind (Genesis 3), which ultimately leads to death (**Genesis 2:17 and Romans 6:23**). This COVID-19 is a product of the fall and the curse upon the earth because of sin. So, did this virus happen because of our sin? Let's see what God's Word says about that.

**LUKE 13:1-5** *At that time, some people came and reported to him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 And he[a] responded to them, "Do you think that these Galileans were more sinful than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as well. 4 Or those eighteen that the tower in Siloam fell on and killed—do you think they were more sinful than all the other people who live in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as well."*

The questions we ask today of why this happened are no different than the questions people asked Jesus when He lived on earth. Jesus was asked who was at fault for human suffering. There was a Roman leader named Pilate killing people and a tower in Siloam that fell and killed people. In both situations many people died. Their deaths were tragedies, leaving the people of Jesus' day to ask Him why. Jesus answered them in both cases the same way; you think these people have done something wrong or they are more sinful than other people? Jesus makes it clear that is not the case. He says all need to repent or we will all perish.

Jesus similarly said, "(God) causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (**Matthew 5:45**) While we all have various experiences and losses that we face during this pandemic, it affects the righteous and unrighteous alike. Some of us will know of someone who dies, and others will get sick. Some will lose their jobs and their businesses. Some people will suffer through depression from isolation. Others will grieve the important events in life that were missed, like graduations and weddings. We all will face some form of suffering because of COVID-19. That doesn't have to be the only story we tell. We can repent and turn to God while we still can, just like Jesus told the people of Israel.

The Bible teaches that we have all sinned (**Romans 3:23**) and that the wages of sin is death, but it also says that the gift of God is eternal life (**Romans 6:23**). God demonstrated His great love for us, that while we were still in a lifestyle of sinful behavior, Christ died for us (**Romans 5:8**). Ultimately, anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord through repentance and belief will be saved (**Romans 10:13**). So have you heeded the words of Jesus? Have you repented of your sin why you still can? Will you call upon Jesus for salvation today?

Here is the good news - the Lord doesn't want any of us to perish, but wants all to come to repentance.  
**(2 Peter 3:9)**

Trusting Him,  
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