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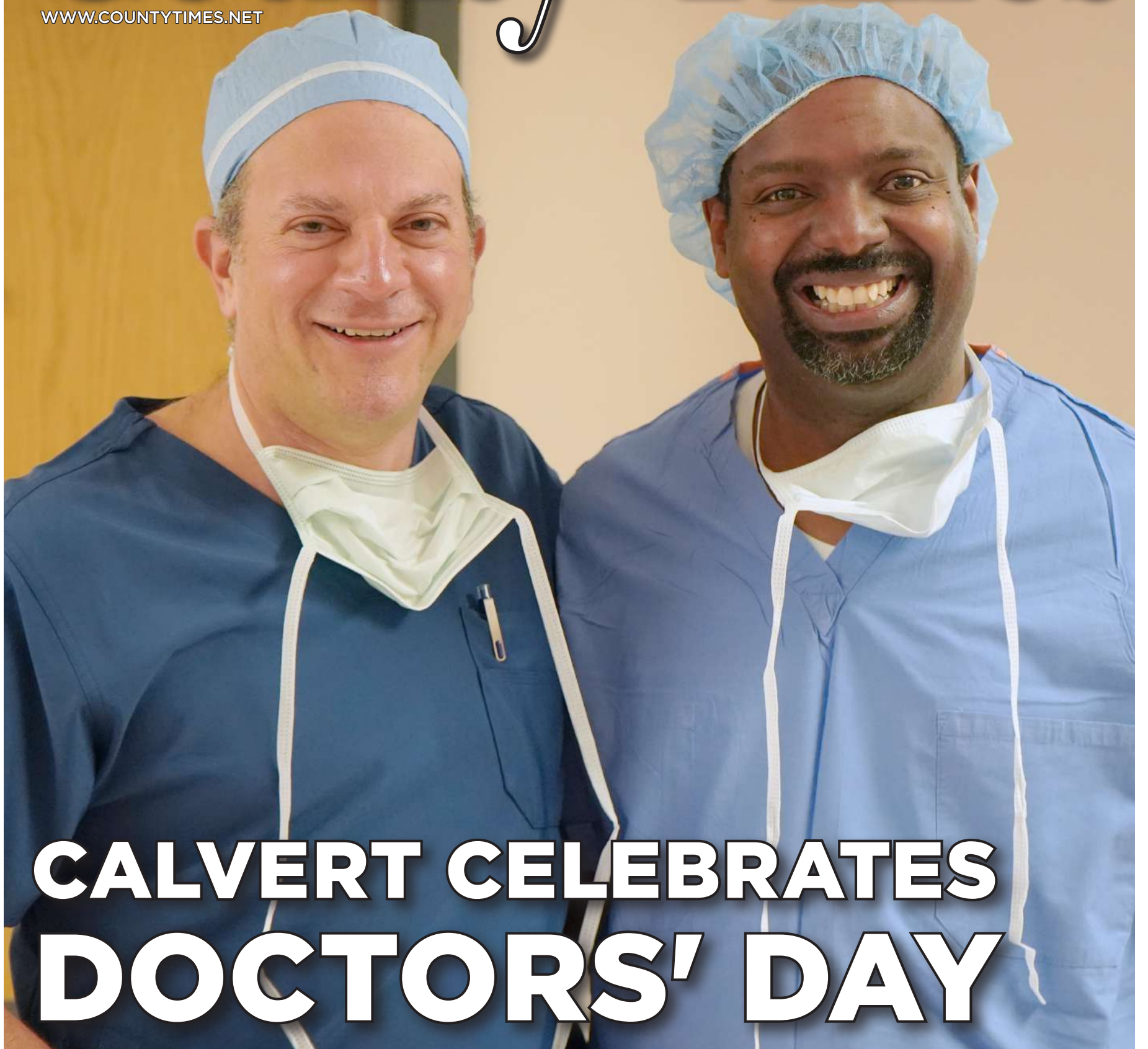
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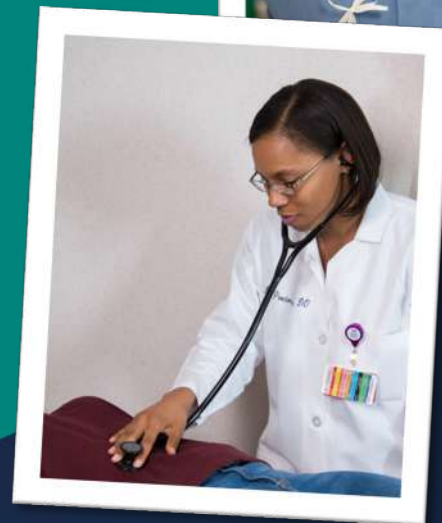
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DAY**

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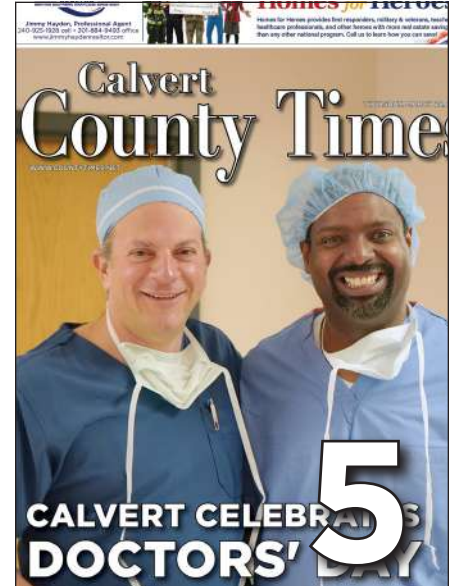
CONSULTANT ON PROPOSED ANNMARIE GARDEN WELCOME CENTER



LOCAL 4
Plan addresses AnnMarie Gardens expansion



LOCAL 8
County escalates sign enforcement



ON THE COVER
CalvertHealth celebrates Doctors' Day. Pictured: CalvertHealth robotic surgeons Dr. Ramzi Alami (l) and Dr. Gregory Dalencourt (r)

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAR 28 Rain Hi: 49° Lo: 38°	FRI, MAR 29 Sunny Hi: 60° Lo: 41°	SAT, MAR 30 PM Showers Hi: 61° Lo: 47°	SUN, MAR 31 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 67° Lo: 47°
MON, APR 1 Showers Hi: 58° Lo: 49°	TUE, APR 2 Rain Hi: 65° Lo: 49°	WED, APR 3 Showers Hi: 55° Lo: 38°	THU, APR 4 Mostly Sunny Hi: 56° Lo: 39°

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Annmarie Garden Expansion Plan Unveiled

Includes Waterfront Welcome Center

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The long-range expansion plan for Annmarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center was unveiled March 26 in a briefing for the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

Annmarie Director Stacey Hann-Ruff and consultant Scott Scarfone of Mahan Rykiel Associates of Baltimore presented the plan. Highlights include a Waterfront Welcome Center overlooking St. John's Creek and an improved parking area.

According to the county's public information officer, "Annmarie Garden (AMG) had requested Calvert County Government incorporate their organization within the county government structure; to date, the decision to this request is delayed. The county continues to support AMG through Outside Agency Funds (over \$300,000 in FY 2024), a lease arrangement for the use of county property and general maintenance services."

Hann-Ruff said the facility is run by two non-profit organizations, Ann Circle, and the Koenig Private Foundation, which she said have a 20-year partnership with Calvert County Government.

She explained, "Our campus consists of two properties. The main part of the campus is the 30 acres that belongs to Calvert County and the people of Calvert County and was donated to the county in 1991 by Mr. and Mrs. Koenig. The other property is about 20 acres and sits right next door, and it is owned by the Koenig Private Foundation. And so,



Artist's rendering of the proposed Annmarie Garden Waterfront Welcome Center

this truly is a public/private endeavor and a true partnership. But when we undertook this long-range planning process, our goal was to really look at the two properties as a whole campus. We want them looking forward. We want them to feel like one place."

So, Hann-Ruff said the planning process began 18 months ago and included multiple listening sessions with stakeholders/.

Scarfone said of accomplishing the plan's goals, "It's not going to happen overnight. It could take 15, 20 years to realize, and it's going to take a lot of hard work and a lot of money," adding, "The fundraising comes from a myriad of different sources."

He said of the Waterfront Welcome Center, "This was something that was, I don't want to say required, but sort of the top of the wish list." He noted, "This was something that was strongly desired. And so, this was a big driving element between the

plan to try and find out how we can get the garden to have more of a focus on the water."

The consultant said, "With the Koenig parcel, there was an opportunity with the view shed, it looked right down St. John's Creek, to really present the garden as part of being on the water. And so, when guests come to the garden, their first experience will be the water, and then they will come into the woods and experience the garden from that. So, it's a paradigm shift from how visitors are going to experience the garden and make it more water-centric."

Scarfone said, "There's a series of spaces around the welcome center that include outdoor patios for both guests as well as for staff, as well as for special events."

Hann-Ruff said the welcome center would include a retail space for the selling of items such as art and sculpture.

The consultant said, "One of the big things

we're recommending as part of this, there's actually a dilapidated timber bulkhead down there now. We're recommending that being removed and be created into a living shoreline. There's a pier that's out there now that we're recommending being rehabilitated, which will allow boat access and kayak access, as well as pedestrian access to actually get down and touch the water where there's none now."

Of the parking lot, he said, "So where's the balance that we strike between providing enough parking, but also keeping the garden looking like a garden. So, we spent a lot of energy trying to understand the parking, get as much parking in there as we can without making it feel like a parking lot. So, the recommendation for the parking is to create a sustainable parking lot with pervious pavement, bioswales, lots of plantings to really minimize the impacts that it's going to have, because we're right adjacent to the critical areas."

Other parts of the plan include the Studio School environs, Fairy Folly Nature Play Area and more gardens along the sculpture garden walkways and woodlands.

The consultant said a detailed budget for the plan would be available shortly.

The commissioners gave the proposal a generally favorable review. Commissioner Mike Hart said, "It would be phenomenal. There's no doubt."

Hart added, "What you've done with it is incredible with just a little bit of space to work with now. It would be truly phenomenal for that (the plan). It would be a destination spot."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Calvert Bills Pass House, Move to Senate

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As the 2024 Maryland General Assembly Session enters the home stretch of its closing two weeks, several Calvert County bills have passed the House of Delegates and are now in the Senate for hearings. The bills are all supported by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners. They are:

- **HB 766:** Prohibiting a person from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations from the occupant of a vehicle in Calvert County.
- **HB 834:** Requiring that the conflict of interest provisions enacted by Calvert County include certain provisions relating to judicial relief for certain violations of the county's conflict of interest provisions; requiring the ethics provisions enacted by Calvert County to include a provision requiring the Calvert County Ethics Commission to make public any recommendation it makes to expel a Commissioner; and requiring Calvert County to enact a law or regulation that authorizes the removal of a county elected official for certain violations.
- **HB 835:** Authorizing the County



Commissioners of Calvert County to enact an ordinance that establishes a local percentage preference for certain procurement contracts; and requiring the County Commissioners to comply with certain provisions of law under certain circumstances.

Two of the bills, HB 766 and HB 835, had been unsuccessfully introduced last year and have been modified in hopes of securing passage this year.

The ethics bill is new this year and was proposed by the advocacy group Calvert Citizens United to prevent situations such as occurred when former commissioner Kelly McConkey voted to add to the Huntingtown Town Center two pieces of property that he owns.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Students Charged with Hate Crimes

Three 13-year-old students at Plum Point Middle School have been charged as juveniles with harassment and violations of Maryland's hate crimes statutes. According to charging documents, the students displayed swastikas, made Nazi salutes, and directed offensive comments to a classmate because of the classmate's religious beliefs.

The behavior began in December, 2023, and continued over several months, despite repeated requests to stop. The victim ultimately reported the matter to Maryland State Police officers, who investigated and filed the charges against the juveniles.

The charges will be forwarded to the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) for appropriate action. DJS has the discretion to refer the charges to the Calvert

County Circuit Court for an adjudicatory hearing, at which time the State will be required to prove the allegations beyond a reasonable doubt.

Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Harvey issued the following statement: "Maryland was founded on the principle of religious toleration. It is frankly astonishing that nearly 400 years later some people continue to persecute others based upon their religion. I call upon parents, educators, and community and faith leaders to make sure that our children know that religious persecution has no place in our society."

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney

TOWN OF CHESAPEAKE BEACH PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Chesapeake Beach requests proposals for refuse collection services. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on April 11th at 10 AM at the Chesapeake Beach Town Hall: 8200 Bayside Rd. Chesapeake Beach, MD. Sealed proposals are due April 29th at 9:00 AM. Information on this project can be obtained through eMMA #BPM043156 or by contacting Holly Wahl at hwahl@chesapeakebeachmd.gov.

Observing National Doctors' Day

CalvertHealth Chief of Medical Staff Muses on His Profession

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As the community's hospital, CalvertHealth Medical Center, prepares to celebrate National Doctors' Day on Saturday, March 30, The County Times spoke to their Chief of Medical Staff Dr. Samuel Foster about the profession.

He said, "Medicine is a highly regarded profession. And I think any profession where you are sacrificing and involved in the care of others and helping others heal and get better, it's always going to be rewarding and satisfying. People can look at it from different angles. Now, the esteem level, and that's in reference to how we are seen by other professionals and by society as a whole, that has changed somewhat in terms of the perception."

Dr. Foster, a cardiologist, observed, "I think some of the confusion there has really come about because of how healthcare is being delivered at this time. You no longer have primary doctors per se in terms of private practice or solo practice. You have doctors who are part of big community set-ups or big national setups or regional set-ups, the MedStars of this world, etc. And when you have doctors involved in a setup like that, they no longer have control of their time and, as such, time that they can spend with patients to some extent. So, I think that sometimes takes away from what the patient's perception is of the provider because of circumstances beyond their control. But it's still very rewarding, something that I think people should aspire to if you have the desire. Never go into it out of thinking that you're going to be wealthy."

He added, "I've always believed personally, you go into it, and if you do the best that you can for every patient that you see day in, day out, then that's rewarding enough. And any financial rewards that will come, will come your way as a result. Just do your best for your patients."

It's not something that you can see patients in the morning and play golf in the afternoon, he was asked. He said, "Not in this present environment at all."

CalvertHealth, which is not part of a chain, allows doctors to avoid bureaucracy. He said, "I think that's one of the beauties. I am with Calvert Internal Medicine Group. I'm one of the owners of them. And the model that we use in Calvert Internal Medicine Group is really one way. It is, we



Board-certified cardiologist Dr. Samuel Foster

encourage independence for providers in terms of how they provide care. So, you have that time, there's no time constraints on how long you spend with patients. Now with CalvertHealth Medical Center, they also have adopted a similar model where I think they allow the primary providers to spend that quality time to build relationships with the patients, which is really important because half of healing has to do with belief. It goes into the idea of is the glass half full or is the glass half empty? If I can have a patient come into me with a sense of despair, but at the end of the day they have that sense of that things are going to be better tomorrow, then that's a win for me and a win for the patient. But mindset is very important in terms of recovery from any kind of illness, and in terms of your general wellbeing."

Dr. Foster originally wanted to be a veterinarian. He said, "I'd gotten accepted in the Royal College of Edinburgh to study veterinary medicine. But at the time, my sister was at NYU and the resources weren't there. So, I got a national scholarship and my dad said to me, well, son, you know, you like taking care of animals. Maybe you'd enjoy taking care of people. From there, really and truly, I have really enjoyed being able to interact, take care of patients, and the joy of having them feel better at the end of a visit, there's nothing more rewarding than that for me."

He's been a doctor since 1993. Since then, he said, "There have been changes in terms of how we practice. And the main change, I think, has to do with healthcare is no lon-



Dr. Samuel Foster (second from right) presents an award to Dr. Bud Ehrmantraut for his commitment to the Calvert Community. Also pictured, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Theodore Tsangaris and CEO Jeremy Bradford.

ger just about the individual provider, but it's really more about the ability to provide care to the community and in whatever form that might make. So, you have a community-based approach to healthcare where we are looking at Calvert and how we provide healthcare to Calvert County. How do we keep patients out of the hospital? We've really moved in that direction as opposed to one where it is as an individual provider, you focus on that one patient, and you try to provide care to that one patient as best as possible. We're looking at it from a larger scale now, and if you are in groups, your quality of care is measured by your ability to meet certain benchmarks now. So there are more markers they use for quality of care now, than it was back then. And I think doctors, to some extent, are expected now to work harder, to demonstrate their abilities and competencies when it comes to these things."

As Chief of Medical Staff, Dr. Foster said, "responsibilities entail being part of the credentials committee. So, we are under medical executive committee, and we are essentially functioning as the gatekeepers to ensure that quality providers become members of staff, and that we can rest assured that our patients that come through the turnstile, they are getting the highest possible care. And it involves also disciplinary proceedings if necessary, or counseling as necessary. And it's really with the aim of keeping the medical staff involved, which is something that's difficult in this day and age. And it involves ensuring to a large extent

that the needs of not just the physicians, but the institution is being met."

Dr. Foster said, "Medical schools are always over applied for, so there are never empty slots. But unfortunately, where we are going right now, we have the expectation that by 2035, there is going to be definite unmatched needs in terms of primary care and different specialties. So, we have to try and come up with a solution as to how to deal with that. Doctors are no longer practicing into their seventies, as we did before. And I think sometimes the stresses of the healthcare are providers are retiring at a time when they can. So, it is not the same as it used to be, and we don't have the answers, or at least we are not willing to listen to what the real answers are. And what we are doing by and large is a Band-Aid approach where we are training our more mid-level. So instead of creating new physician slots, we are creating mid-level spots, which would be like your nurse practitioners and your physician assistants, to try to fill some of that gap left by the physicians."

On Doctors' Day, Dr. Foster said he would like residents to remember "that we doctors are dedicated to providing quality care to them, that we empathize, we have concern for them. And we will always try to do what's best for them. And that's something that they can't find with Google Doc. Because many people now are using Google as their source for healthcare."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Changes Approved for Emergency Communications

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on March 26 approved three regulation changes affecting emergency communications. The approvals came after three separate public hearings during which there was no opposition voiced.

The changes are:

- Incorporating the provisions of Kari's Law into county code.
- Requiring emergency communication compatibility for new construction and major renovations.
- Raising the 9-1-1 county surcharge fee to be consistent with state law.

Communications Chief Stanley Harris provided briefings on each of the proposals. He explained, "Kari's Law was enacted by Congress in 2018 following the tragic death of Kari Hunt, who was killed by her estranged husband on December 1, 2013, in a Texas motel bathroom. Hunt's daughter attempted to dial 911 four times without success, as she was unaware that the hotel telephone system required dialing an additional access digit, "9," to reach an outside line. Maryland Public Safety Code § 1-314 mandates that multiple-line telephone systems connect directly to a public safety answering point (PSAP) without necessitating the user to dial any supplementary numbers. Additionally, the enforcement and PSAP certification of compliance are integral aspects of the code."

For the second proposal, Harris explained, "Calvert County operates an 800 MHz digital trunked public safety radio system for first responder's communications within the county, while the State of Maryland operates a statewide 700 MHz digital trunked public safety radio system. These systems are utilized by both local and State first responders in Calvert County. However, modern building design and construction techniques, particularly those required for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building designs, can hinder reliable two-way radio coverage for first responders inside buildings. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1 Fire Code, 2021 Edition, and NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, 2021 Edition, outline requirements for ensuring reliable public safety radio system coverage in both new and existing structures."

As to the 911 fee increase, he said, "Telecommunications service providers offering "9-1-1 accessible service" in

Maryland are mandated to collect a 9-1-1 surcharge fee for each subscriber. In 2003, Maryland enacted House Bill 780 to bolster the 9-1-1 Trust Fund, augmenting services for wireless callers. This legislation increased the State monthly fee from \$0.10 to \$0.25, with counties empowered to adjust their local charge to \$0.75. Until 2019, the fee stood at \$1 per phone account in Maryland. In 2019, the General Assembly passed Carl Henn's Law, implementing recommendations from the Commission to Advance Next Generation 911 (NG911) Across Maryland. This included a fee increase for 9-1-1 services, as existing revenues covered only about 40 percent of actual costs. Instead of the previous \$1.00 per phone bill, the new structure charges \$1.25 per phone line, thereby raising the State portion of the surcharge \$0.25 and encompassing mobile phone accounts with multiple numbers. Carl Henn's Law also enabled counties to increase the County portion of the surcharge from \$0.75 to a maximum of \$2.25 per subscriber. Since 2003, it is pertinent to highlight that the county portion of the surcharge has remained constant at \$0.75."

Regarding Kari's Law, Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "Just so everybody understands, this is a system whereby if you have to dial a number to get out, it eliminates that process for 9 1."

Hance wanted to know who would cover the cost. Harris said, "The cost is covered by the business," adding, "They would work with their telephone provider to strip that number from any phone to dial 9-1-1."

Harris added, "Maryland law requires it. We're just incorporating that into the county code ordinances."

Regarding building compatibility for emergency communications, Hance said, "So just once again, so everybody understands, if somebody's building a new building, if there's some design feature in that building that would inhibit radio communications, we would ask them to alter that design or make some change to make sure that there is communications inside and outside."

Harris said those constructing new buildings will be notified of the provision. For willful violations, there would be "a \$100 fine for the first offense and \$200 every day that you're in non-compliance for a second and every subsequent event." Harris said. They would be given enough time to correct the problem before the fines kick in.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Chesapeake Beach Honors George Owings

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

April 11 of every year will be George W. Owings, III Day in the Town of Chesapeake Beach. The town council established the day in a resolution passed on March 21 9n honor of the long-time public servant who died on Oct. 41 of last year.

The council in the same resolution renamed the town's annual Memorial Day weekend festival as the George W. Owings, III Stars and Stripes Festival.

Owings was a state delegate for 16 years (1988-2004) and was Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs under governors Robert Ehrlich and Larry Hogan (2004-07, 2015-23). Owings, a Democrat, held a major legislative leadership position (majority whip) for 10 years.

The resolution enacted by the council noted that Owings "was born on April 11, 1945, grew up in North Beach, and proudly referred to himself as a 'Beach Kid'."

He was raised in Calvert County and attended Calvert High School before enlisting and serving in the United States Marine Corps and the Vietnam War from 1964 until 1968.

The resolution took note of the fact that Owing was "an advocate of our first responders (and) testified, along with Mayor Mahoney, North Beach Volunteer Fire Department Chief Mills, and late President Weber before the Maryland State Senate, to rename the Fishing Creek Bridge, the Fallen Heroes Bridge."

It further stated that Owings "believed in service and with vigor fought for this Country, State, County, and the Twin Beaches."

He was one of the founders of the Stars and Stripes Festival and annually attended the event in his official capacities and as a private citizen after leaving state government.

Former governor Larry Hogan said on Owings passing that he was "a dedicated public servant, tireless advocate for our veterans, father, grandfather, and close friend. His distinguished career in the Maryland House of Delegates and as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs left an incredible mark on our state. As a Sergeant in the Marine Corps who served our country in Vietnam, George's commitment to those who have worn our nation's uniform was



Owings at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in 2015

unwavering. His leadership and dedication to our veterans and our state set a high standard for all who follow in his footsteps. Yumi and I offer our prayers and heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones."

County Commissioner President Buddy Gance, who served as Maryland Secretary of Agriculture, said Owings was a great guy who served "a great deal of his life to Maryland. We're going to miss George."

"He worked hard on issues and worked across party," Hance added.

Former state senator Roy Dyson said it wasn't just Owings' bipartisanship. "If you or I were governor and an issue came up, it would be so easy to turn to George and say, George, can you take care of this? Are you aware of this? I think it was his effectiveness that ensured that he was a good secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. If you have a situation and I had many, and maybe it was trying to get somebody buried into one of our veteran's cemeteries, you want somebody that's effective. Families don't really care about your politics or if you're partisan. They just want it handled."

Dyson said, "I think he was a great representative for the veterans."

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and are subject to change.

Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 10 a.m., Commissioners' Hearing Room, 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick

Boards and Commissions Meetings

Meetings are held via Zoom unless otherwise noted.

Call-in information can be found on www.calvertcountymd.gov.

Architectural Review Committee - Solomons Town Center, Monday, April 1, 2024, 10 a.m.

Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board Meeting Monday, April 1, 2024, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Architectural Review Committee - St. Leonard Town Center, Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

County Government Events

County Government Offices closed on Friday, March 29, 2024

VACANCIES ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Every day, decisions made by Calvert County Government officials affect you.

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ARTICLES 20 & 21 OF THE DRAFT 2023/24 CALVERT ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

Public Comment Period open March 8 through April 5, 2024

Joint Work Session: Calvert County Board of County Commissioners & Planning Commission, April 17, 2024, 7 p.m., Harriet E. Brown Community Center, Prince Frederick

Find the full schedule and documents online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/ZoningOrdinanceUpdate.

NEW SHERIFF'S OFFICE DISTRICT STATIONS

Two new Sheriff Office District Stations have recently opened in Dunkirk and Lusby and are ready to serve the community.

Visit the new locations at:

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Lusby District Station
11780 HG Trueman Road, Lusby, MD 20657

SPEAK UP CALVERT

Explore Calvert County Government's community engagement platform, Speak Up Calvert. This central hub invites community members to participate in discussions, exchange insights and collaborate with the county to tackle crucial issues, challenges and opportunities in our community.



Ensure your voice is heard by visiting www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/SpeakUpCalvert.

KARI'S LAW

The Calvert County Department of Public Safety, Emergency Communications Division, reminds residents and business owners to ensure their multi-line telephone systems provide direct access to 911 without requiring an individual to dial any other numbers first, as required by state and federal law. Multi-line telephone systems are typically found in office buildings, campuses, hotels and other enterprises.



For questions or more information, call 410-535-1600, ext. 8626 or www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/KarisLaw

NEW CLUBHOUSE

The Chesapeake Hills Golf Course Clubhouse is now open! We invite you to come see what the excitement is all about and encourage you to consider having your next special event at the clubhouse. Call 410-326-GOLF (4653) or e-mail Reservations.CHGC@CalvertCountyMd.gov



UNPERMITTED SIGNS NOTICE

Effective April 1, 2024, unpermitted signs on the sides of roads will be removed by the Department of Public Works. Signs will be stored for two weeks and can be bought back for \$6 per sign before being permanently discarded. For more information visit: www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/UnpermittedSignage.



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County Escalates Sign Enforcement

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning continues to work on updating the county's zoning ordinance, only minor changes are being proposed for the sign regulations contained within it. But the county is launching on a new sign enforcement initiative.

According to a press release from the county, "The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) recently approved a proactive initiative aimed at enhancing the safety and aesthetics of our community by eliminating unpermitted signage that does not conform to the signage regulations. These unpermitted signs pose a hinderance to motorists by obstructing views at intersections and they contribute to excessive clutter along our roadways.

"Beginning April 1, 2024, unpermitted signs will be removed by the Department of Public Works staff. The signs will be stored for two weeks at the Appeal Landfill located at 401 Sweetwater Road in Lusby and may be retrieved by the owner for a fee of \$6 per sign. Any signs remaining after two weeks will be discarded.

"The BOCC encourages all residents and businesses to support this initiative by adhering to the sign regulations listed in the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance. If you require permitted signage, the process is designed to accommodate legal and safe placement. View the sign ordinance at <https://ecode360.com/29293346Z>. By working together, we

can ensure pleasing aesthetics, safer roadways, and intersections free of obstructions."

The existing and proposed sign regulations were explained by Planner III / Zoning Will Hager at a March 20 joint work session with the county commissioners and the planning commission.

Hager explained, "Current sign regulations go all the way back to 2011. The BOCC directed staff to complete a comprehensive review of sign regulations using a large stakeholder group to simplify, make more consistent, and to address the filing issues, regulation of signs on vehicles, banners attached to vehicles, and the use of vehicles in parking lots as signs. Again, temporary signs, specifically the placing of signs near competitors' businesses, and the lack of enforcement of size of signs, complaints that the permitted sizes of the signs were too small to read from the road, farm signs on farms not located on a main road, and off-prem directional signs. And considering the allowance of electronic signs on and off premises for individual businesses and/or shared by multiple businesses.

"Meetings were held on a regular basis in 2012 and 2013 to study the issues and to develop proposed changes.

"In 2015, there was a US Supreme Court decision, Reed vs. town of Gilbert, Arizona, where the court found that communities cannot regulate signs based on the content of the sign. You should not have to read the sign to determine how to regulate it.

"Since the county's draft regulations included content-based regulations, the draft regulations needed to be reworked to

address the Supreme Court's decision. The county hired a consultant to write new sign regulations to address the US Supreme Court case to be content neutral. Public meetings were held in 2015 to allow for public input on the draft regulations."

Hager said, "Options for decision in the joint public hearing included window signs to be allowed with a restriction exemption of inward facing signs for stadiums, open air theaters, parks, and similar use facilities. Electronic message centers were to be permitted and the amount of time a message may change. The updated sign regulations were officially incorporated into Calvert County zoning ordinance in early 2018."

Hager said because those regulations are relatively new, major changes this time around were not deemed necessary, although he said that could change based on public comment. So far there has been none.

The only proposed change Hager explained: "Signs will be removed when the circumstances leading to its erection or installation no longer apply."

Commissioner Catherine Grasso asked, "What do we do, with the advent of shopping centers up and down Route 4 and businesses with beer being advertised on sale, mattress flags flapping, and then on the weekend, and it seems to go into the beginning of the week, we have those trashy little signs. You know, you have to have 50 of them in one spot. I don't know why."

Grasso was informed about the new county enforcement effort. "That's great," she responded.



Director of Planning and Zoning Mary Beth Cook

Director of Planning and Zoning Mary Beth Cook said, "For years there was, what we called a handshake agreement with realtors, and it extended to businesses, that we weren't going to regulate if they put signs up on Friday night and took them down on Sunday. It went in waves where there would be compliant because they were limited to the number that they could have."

But she added, "State Highway would pick them up on occasion. They haven't been doing that so much anymore. So, we got together internally as a county and public works is going to start April 1 picking up those signs, not only on the weekends, but during the week."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Living Well With Diabetes

SIX-WEEK WORKSHOP

Southern Pines Senior Center, Lusby

20 Appeal Lane, Lusby, MD 20657
Tuesdays, April 16 - May 21 | 1-3:30 p.m.

Calvert Pines Senior Center, Prince Frederick

450 W. Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Tuesdays, June 25 - July 30 | 1-3:30 p.m.

FREE!

Get the support you need while exploring strategies that promote well-being and decrease the risk of complications associated with diabetes. Learn simple techniques to manage your symptoms and receive effective ways to talk with your doctor and family about your health.



To register, please call
410-535-5400, ext. 514.

Funding for these workshops is provided by the Maryland Department of Aging, Title IIID funds.

CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of March 11– March 17, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,255 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health – 61
- Disorderly – 18
- Domestic – 23
- Motor Vehicle Crashes – 47
- Patrol Checks / School Checks – 1,069
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles – 38
- Traffic Complaints – 80
- 911 Hang Ups – 57
- ARRESTS – 32



Bryan Tristan

Disorderly Subject: 24-21494 On March 15, 2024, Deputy Hudson responded to the Fastop located at 8834 Chesapeake Ave in North Beach, for the report of a disorderly subject. The complainant advised

Bryan Tristan, 29 of Chesapeake Beach, was threatening cashiers for not selling him alcohol and refused to leave the establishment. Tristan was observed on surveillance using profanity towards customers and assaulting a cashier. Tristan was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. Further investigation revealed Tristan was in possession of 29 Suboxone strips. Tristan was arrested and charged with

Disorderly Conduct, Assault-2 nd Degree and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.



Michael Duane Lang

CDS Violation: 24-20897 On March 13, 2024, Cpl. Buck was dispatched to a lookout vehicle entering Calvert County from SB Rt. 4 into Dunkirk, that had struck two guardrails. The vehicle's front wheel entirely fell from the axle and the side airbag had deployed. The driver continued to drive south on Rt. 4 without a front wheel causing the axle to drag on the pavement causing sparks to fly. Master Deputy Aurich attempted to conduct a traffic stop in the area of Dunkirk Park, however, the operator failed to comply and continued driving crossing the center line nearly striking oncoming vehicles. Deputies were able to safely guide the vehicle to a stop near the intersection of Ferry Landing Road and Kaylorite Street in Dunkirk. Investigation revealed the driver, **Michael Duane Lang**, 61 of Owings, was possessing 8 Oxycodone Hydrochloride pills and one plastic "tie off". Lang was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where two Suboxone strips were located. Lang was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Fleeing and Eluding, Negligent Driving, and DWI.

CDS Violation: 24-21570 On March 15, 2024, Cpl. Kelly initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for an equipment violation along SB Rt. 4 in the area of the Walmart parking lot in Prince Frederick.



Charles Furman Coles, Jr.

Investigation revealed the driver, **Charles Furman Coles, Jr.**, 59 of St. Carver, MA, was in possession of a paper fold containing crack cocaine. Coles was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

CDS Violation: 24- On March 16, 2024, Deputy DeSantis initiated a traffic stop along HG Trueman Road in Lusby, for a traffic violation. Contact was made with the driver, **Jarred Cody Edwards**, 30 of Lusby, and a female passenger who originally provided a false name, but was later identified as **Kristina May Alvey**, 30 of no fixed address. Alvey consented to a search of her purse which revealed burnt scouring pads, a cylinder with residue, a suspected push rod for a crack pipe, and a small container containing a white powdery residue. A vehicle search revealed a second glass cylinder with a scouring pad and suspected crack residue. Both Edwards and Alvey were placed into custody. During a search of Edwards, a paper



Jarred Cody Edwards



Kristina May Alvey

fold containing suspected crack cocaine and a crack pipe were located. Alvey admitted to having narcotics inside of her and produced a paper fold of suspected heroin. Both Edwards and Alvey were transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of paraphernalia. Alvey faces an addition charge of Fraud - Per Identification Avoid Prosecution.

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

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

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Assisted Living | Dementia Care



Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Mar 28

JobSource Mobile Career Center

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

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

Anime Night

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
6-7 p.m.

A fun night of anime! Tweens/Teens in grades 6-12 invited. Come hang out with friends and other fans of anime. We will watch anime, talk about our favorite manga and sample some books, use art supplies for anime creations, and try some Japanese snacks! 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Reading Buddies: Young Readers

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

At this event, elementary aged children will do fun activities and read out loud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating. It's a great way to socialize and build reading confidence! Does your K-5th grade child love to read out loud, or struggle with reading confidence? Here's the chance for everyone to practice in a safe and welcoming space! 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Mar 29

Chesapeake Watershed

Calvert Marine Museum
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Chesapeake watershed is enormous – covering an area of more than 64,000 square miles. Identify how human activities impact the watershed as you watch a demonstration about rainfall runoff and learn how we can keep the waters of the bay in a healthy state. Appropriate for ages 5-10. Included with museum admission.

Sat, Mar 30

Fossil Egg Hunt

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m. – noon

NEW: Pre-Registration Required! Participate in our annual fossil egg hunt! Look for eggs with real fossils inside, hidden around the museum. Participants will be given a container for egg collection and fossil identification guides; no baskets are needed (limit: 4 eggs per child)! For ages 3 – 10. A follow-up activity (ages 5+) allows you to “excavate” fossils from matrix. Pre-registration is required for this event. To e to register: <https://calvert-marinemuseum.doubleknot.com/event/fossil-egg-hunt-2024/3027044>

Warhammer 40k

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

Curious about this popular miniature strategy tabletop game Warhammer 40k? Drop by and learn to play. You only need to register if you plan to actually play. "Just watching" is allowed! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mock Interviews: Teens

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
12-2 p.m.

Need help preparing for an interview? In this mock interview process, you will answer commonly asked questions and have a chance to practice interview skills in a no stakes environment. Dress your best if possible! This event is for people between the ages of 13 and 18. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

MakePlayLearn

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
2-4 p.m.

Take building and creativity to a whole new level at the library. We provide the space, building bricks and other building materials. You provide the imagination. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Bake Sale

Chesapeake Station Shopping Center
Bayside Rd, Chesapeake Beach
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Assorted baked goods. For benefit of NBVFD Auxiliary.

Sun, Mar 31

Easter Services

Calvert Marine Museum Lighthouse
Solomons
6:30 a.m.

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church
9463 HG Trueman Road, Lusby
10:30 a.m.

There will be food and an Easter egg hunt following each service.

Mon, Apr 1

Guided Bird Walks

Calvert Marine Museum
10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 12 p.m., and 12:45 p.m.

With fields, woodlots, thickets, a saltmarsh, and Back Creek all nearby, many different species of birds visit the Calvert Marine Museum campus. Join us for guided bird walks to appreciate and explore the diversity of our avian friends. Space is limited. Included with museum admission.

12 Hikes in '24 Challenger

All trails at American Chestnut Land Trust
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Participants must register, and then sign-in using the QR code at any American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) trailhead at least one time each month to qualify for a prize at the end of the year. Participants are encouraged to upload photos from each hike to ACLT's Facebook and Instagram with hashtag #ACLT12Hikesin24, and to join the Facebook Group "ACLT's Hiking Challenges Group." For information on ACLT trails, visit www.actweb.org/

Thu, Apr 4

Sea Squirts: Spring Ahead

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

Children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

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

To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the County Times will make every attempt possible to publish late content, but cannot guarantee so. Letters may be condensed/edited for clarity, although care is taken to preserve the core of the writer's argument. Copyright in material submitted to the newspaper and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Mar 28

Team Trivia at Wicomico Shores Golf Course

Riverview Restaurant at Wicomico Shores Golf Course
35794 Aviation Yacht Club Rd., Mechanicsville
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Team trivia every Thursday in March! Bring a team, or come and join one. Fun and food galore! Please call 301-884-0399 to reserve a table.

Maudy Thursday Worship

Patuxent Presbyterian Church
23421 Kingston Creek Rd., California
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

To view online worship: www.youtube.com/

patuxentpresbyterianchurch
To learn more about our church, please visit: www.paxpres.com.

Fri, Mar 29

Working on a Weir

Historic St. Mary's City
18751 Hogaboom Ln., St. Mary's City
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Spend spring break with Historic St. Mary's City! Learn about weirs, an easily constructed fishing trap used by the native peoples of Maryland. Help HSMC staff construct a weir by creating a strand of yucca cordage or grabbing a piece of natural material and weaving it into the weir's frame

Included with Museum admission, which then allows you to visit all indoor & outdoor exhibits throughout the day! Free for

members.
Info: www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events
email hsmcc.groups@maryland.gov;
301-994-4371

Drive Thru Fried Shrimp Dinner

Seventh District Firehouse
21660 Colton Pt. Rd., Avenue
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Menu includes eight fried shrimp, fries, cole slaw, corn bread and dessert. \$20 per person. Carryout only. thanks in advance for your support. Stay safe and check your smoke alarm. Keep your family safe.

Upcoming

Dolly and Me Tea

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department

24801 Three Notch Rd, Hollywood
Saturday, June 8
12 p.m to 3 p.m.
Deadline to register is Friday, May 31

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department presents its 3rd annual Dolly and Me Tea.

Finger sandwiches, scones, dessert and tea will be provided. Vendors will be on site selling clothing items for your dolls. Decorate your own table to be entered for a chance to win 1st, 2nd or 3rd Place Prize. Raffle Items: 6 tickets for \$5.00 Arms Length for \$30.00. Musical Chairs with free prizes; 4X6 Cinderella Picture for \$10.00.

\$25.00 per ticket. Make reservations by Friday May 31, 2024. Contact: Lynn Brady 240-538-2503

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Who's Nesting in My Backyard?

Join Barb Whipkey, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Lexington Park and LaPlata, as she shares information about the birds who may be nesting in our yards in a virtual presentation on Thursday, March 28 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Barb will give tips on helping to create successful nesting habitats and feeding tips for these birds. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Solar Eclipse Party

Join us for an exploration of the solar system in preparation of the Solar Eclipse! We'll have a variety of activities and crafts for people of all ages at Charlotte Hall Library on Friday, March 29 at 2 p.m. and at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, March 30 at 2 p.m. Those in attendance at this program will get a pair of solar eclipse glasses to use to safely view the eclipse on April 8. Please register each participant. Register for a session on www.stmalib.org.

Holocaust as Portrayed in Pop Culture

Paul Rose, a Research Historian at United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, will share how books, films,

comics, and television have portrayed the Holocaust over the years at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, March 30 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Starting with media created during World War 2, to media made today, learn how pop culture's view of the Holocaust and how it is discussed has changed throughout history. After the presentation, there will be a short time for Q&A. Paul Rose is a researcher at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum but is not acting a representative of the institution in this presentation. Register on www.stmalib.org.

D&D Saturdays

Dungeons And Dragons at the library for players of all experience levels at Charlotte Hall Library on Saturday, March 30 from 2 - 4 p.m. Characters will be provided for players in this month's game. Drinks and snacks will be provided. No experience required! Adventures are standalone and don't require having played at previous library games. Ages 16+; under 16 permitted with parent or guardian. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Stitch for the Stars: Beginner Constellation Embroidery

April is Global Astronomy Month, so this is the perfect chance for embroiders of all skill levels to reach for (and stitch) the

stars at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, April 6 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Patterns will be available for a variety of constellations, whether you want to make your astrological sign or showcase a favorite star, and designs should be able to be completed before the end of the program. All materials will be provided. No experience is necessary, though basic sewing skills would be beneficial for participants. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Family Parachute Play

Join us at Lexington Park Library where the whole family can joyfully gather under our colorful parachute for songs, games and endless smiles at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, April 6 from 10 - 11 a.m. Everyone loves parachute play, where imagination soars as high as our chute. We will sing songs, play games and bounce soft balls on our giant parachute. This engaging activity fosters creativity, cooperation, and endless fun for all ages! Register on www.stmalib.org.

Connect and Converse

Do you enjoy arts and crafts? Do you enjoy games? Do you want to make new friends? Connect and Converse might just be the event for you! Join us at the Charlotte Hall Library on Monday, April 8 from 12 - 1 p.m. for an opportunity to

connect and converse with others. During this monthly program, we will gather in the meeting room to either create artwork or play a game. You are encouraged (but not required) to bring your own lunch with you! For the month of April, our art activity will be color or paint by number. Our game will be Blokus. This event is intended for adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities as well as their friends, family, and caregivers. Connect and Converse usually meets on the second Monday of the month. Food will not be provided.

Introduction to A.I.

Come chat with ChatGPT and learn about A.I. at Lexington Park Library on Wednesday, April 10 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Curious about A.I.? Want to know more about Chat GPT? This lecture will introduce some of the basic ideas around artificial intelligence. We'll talk about how A.I. is being used today, what its current limitations are, and how it will shape the future! Computer Skills needed for this class: Internet searching. Register on www.stmalib.org.

2024 BALTIMORE ORIOLES SCHEDULE

MARCH/APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				LAA 3:05		LAA 4:05
LAA 1:35	KC 6:35	KC 6:35	KC 1:05		PIT 4:12	PIT 4:05
PIT 1:35		BOS 2:10	BOS 7:10	BOS 7:10	MIL 7:05	MIL 4:05
MIL 1:35	MIN 6:35	MIN 6:35	MIN 1:05		KC 7:40	KC 7:10
KC 2:10	LAA 9:38	LAA 9:38	LAA 4:07		OAK 7:05	OAK 4:05
OAK 1:35	NYN 6:35	NYN 6:35				

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		SEA 9:40	SEA 10:10	SEA 4:10	OAK 9:40	OAK 4:07
OAK 4:07		CHC 6:35	CHC 6:35	CHC 6:35	NYN 7:05	NYN 4:05
NYN 1:35	ALL-STAR BREAK				TEX 8:05	TEX 7:05
TEX 2:35		MIA 6:40	MIA 6:40	MIA 12:10	SD 7:05	SD 4:05
SD 1:35	TOR 6:35	TOR 6:35	TOR 12:35			

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			NYN 6:35	NYN 1:05	CIN 6:10	CIN 6:40
CIN 4:10		WSH 6:45	WSH 6:45		AZ 7:05	AZ 4:05
AZ 1:35	TOR 6:35	TOR 6:35	TOR 12:35		SEA 7:05	SEA 4:05
SEA 1:35	STL 7:45	STL 7:45	STL 1:15	CWS 7:40	CWS 7:40	CWS 2:10
CWS 2:10	BOS 1:05	BOS 6:35	BOS 6:35		TB 7:05	

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				CLE 6:40	CLE 7:10	CLE 7:15
CLE 1:40		TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TB 6:50	TB 7:15
TB 1:40		WSH 6:35	WSH 6:35	BOS 6:35	BOS 7:05	BOS 4:05
BOS 1:35	NYM 7:10	NYM 7:10	NYM 1:10	HOU 7:15	HOU 7:05	HOU 4:05
HOU 1:35		LAD 10:10	LAD 10:10	LAD 10:10	COL 8:40	COL 8:10

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						TB 4:05
TB 1:35	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 7:07	TOR 1:07	TB 6:50	TB 4:10
TB 1:40	TB 6:50	ATL 6:35	ATL 6:35	ATL 1:05	PHI 7:05	PHI 4:05
PHI 1:35		NYN 7:05	NYN 7:05	NYN 4:05	HOU 8:10	HOU 4:10
HOU 2:10	CLE 6:35	CLE 6:35	CLE 6:35	TEX 6:35	TEX 7:05	TEX 7:15
TEX 1:35						

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
COL 3:10	CWS 1:05	CWS 6:35	CWS 6:35		TB 7:05	TB 4:05
TB 1:35	BOS 7:10	BOS 7:10	BOS 7:10		DET 6:40	DET 6:10
DET 1:40		SF 6:35	SF 6:35	SF 1:05	DET 7:05	DET 4:05
DET 1:35		NYN 7:05	NYN 7:05	NYN 7:05	MIN 8:10	MIN 2:10
MIN 3:10						

DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



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

In Remembrance

Frank Dorsey, 74



Frank Edward Dorsey, 74, was born in Bristol, Maryland on July 3, 1949 to the late Ernest and Lillian Dorsey.

He graduated in 1967 from Great Mills High School. Frank then served in the United States Army as a PVT E1 where he performed as an aircraft powertrain repairman. He quickly became a SP5 E5 receiving a service star along with several service, campaign and commendation medals; including Meritorious Achievement in the Republic of Vietnam before an honorable discharge. He worked the rest of his career in highway construction operating and repairing any and all heavy equipment.

Frank had an easy nature with the presence of a bear. His jolly, playful demeanor made him the favorite of children. His love of animals and nature compelled him to be an avid fisherman, hunter, outdoorsman. Repairing cars and playing billiards were also favorite pass times.

Frank is preceded in death by his parents Ernest and Lillian Dorsey; brother Nelson; sister Sharon.

He leaves to mourn his son Frank; and grandchildren Desiree, Sophia, Trinity, Isaac, Taylor. His siblings Ernest (Cordelia), Leroy (Joan), Lilly (Crawford), Joseph (Diane), Vincent (Sandra), Lowenda, Earl (Shavonne). His sisters-in-law Annie and Beatrice, brother-in-law Ricardo. Also mourning are Audrey; his aunts Martha, Blondell and Joyce; his multi-generational family members which include a host of nieces, nephews, cousins; and especially his friends.

Frank's family would like to thank Autumn Lake Waugh Chapel in Gambrills, Maryland for the excellent comfort provided our loved one for the last fifteen years. Additionally, Chesapeake Palliative Medicine/Hospice of Chesapeake in Pasadena, Maryland for the extra care during his final months.

Frank is resting peacefully at Brinsfield Funeral Home P.A.; 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, Maryland. Services are scheduled for Friday, March 29, 2024; visitation 11:00 a.m. service at 12:00 p.m. Interment will follow at Evergreen Memorial Gardens; 22020 Chancellors Run Road, Great Mills Maryland.

Our entire family thanks you for your support and endless love throughout this trying time; you are a great comfort!

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

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

Janet Clark, 68



On March 4th, 2024, Janet Lynn Clark died at St. Mary's Hospital. She was 68 years old.

She was born May 26th, 1955. She is preceded in death by her mother and stepfather, Genieva and George Hill; her father, John M. Clark; and her sister, Joyce I. Wathen. She is survived by her daughter, Merrilynn N. Lawrence; her four granddaughters; her sisters, Brenda Sydnor, Alice (Vicky) Sams and Barbara (Bobbie) Miller; and her brother-in-law Artie Miller; as well as lots of nieces and nephews.

She loved doing things for her friends and family such as cooking and taking care of anyone who needed it.

She had a restaurant back in the 70's which she loved and had her own cleaning business in St. Mary's County.

She will be truly missed, our baby sister.

Danny Carroll, 59



Daniel Eric Carroll, "Danny", 59, of Avenue, MD, passed away on March 24, 2024 at his home surrounded by his loving family. Born on March 7, 1965 in Leonardtown,

MD, Danny was the loving son of Rose Marie Carroll of Avenue, MD and the late Charles E. Carroll. In addition to his mother, Danny is survived by his two sisters, Kathy Tennyson (Donnie) of Chaptico, MD and Tina Rhoads of Avenue, MD. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Chuck Carroll and Mike Carroll.

Danny was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident. He enjoyed being around his family and friends and particularly loved playing cards and corn hole with them.

Another favorite pastime for Danny was bird watching.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, April 4, 2024 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in Holy Angels Catholic Church, Avenue, MD where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 AM with Father Ted Hagnauer officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Ryan Klock, Tyler Rhoads, Charlie Rhoads, Joe Rhoads, Nathan Butler, and Anthony Quade.

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

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

Terry Flanagan, 75



Terrence Francis "Terry" Flanagan, 75, of Lexington Park, MD passed away on March 21, 2024, with his loving family at his side.

He was born April 28, 1948, in Washington D.C. to the late Joseph Francis Flanagan and Yvette Couleman Flanagan.

In May 1968, Terry was drafted into the U.S. Army and served his country until

his Honorable Discharge in December of 1968. During his service he earned the National Defense Service Medal and the Sharpshooter Badge (M-14 rifle).

On October 7, 1972, Terry married his beloved wife, Elaine Mary Flanagan, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Ridge, MD. Together they celebrated over 51 wonderful years of marriage. Terry spent his entire career as a highly-skilled automotive mechanic until his retirement. In his spare time, he loved working on anything with a motor, and being a proud girl dad, he enjoyed go-carting with his daughters as they grew up. Terry loved to spend time on the water, whether it was vacationing at the beach, fishing, or just relaxing on a boat ride. His family was his greatest love.

In addition to his wife, Elaine, Terry is also survived by his daughters: Denise Flanagan-Doyle (Bryan Doyle) of Prince Frederick, MD, Laura Flanagan (Robert McClellan) of Colorado Springs, CO, and Christine Borman (Alexander) of Upper Marlboro, MD; sister, Cristine Goodman (Bill) of Los Altos, CA; brother, Craig Flanagan (Rachel) of Manassas, VA; granddaughters: Lindsay Flanagan, Madelyn Flanagan, and Eleanor Doyle; and extended family and friends.

All services will be private.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.



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When should you take Social Security?

One of your important sources of retirement income will likely be Social Security — but when should you start taking it?

You can start collecting Social Security benefits at 62, but your checks will be considerably bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. You could even wait until you're 70, at which point the payments will max out, except for yearly cost-of-living adjustments. But if you need the money, you need the money, even if you're just 62 or any age before full retirement age.

However, if you have adequate financial resources to meet your monthly needs, whether through earned income, your investment portfolio or a combination of the two, you could have some flexibility in choosing when to take Social Security. In this case, you may want to weigh these considerations:

- *Life expectancy* – For all of us, it's one of life's great mysteries: How long will we live? Of course, we can't see into the future, so the question can't be answered with total confidence. But to make an informed decision on when to take Social Security, you don't need to know your exact lifespan — you just need to make a reasonably good estimate. So, for example, if you're approaching 62, you're enjoying excellent health and you have a family history of longevity, you might conclude it's worth waiting a few years to collect Social Security, so you can receive the bigger payments. Conversely, if your health is questionable and your family has not been fortunate in terms of longevity, you might want to start taking your benefits earlier.
- *Employment* – You can certainly continue working and still receive Social Security benefits. However, if you're under your full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefits for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit of \$22,320. In the year you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above \$59,520. So, you may want to keep these reductions in mind when deciding when to begin accepting benefits. Once you reach your full retirement age, you can earn any amount without losing benefits. (Also, at your full retirement age, Social Security will recalculate your benefit amount to credit you for the months you received reduced benefits because of your excess earnings.)
- *Spouse* – Spouses can receive two types of Social Security benefits: spousal and survivor. With a spousal benefit, your spouse can receive up to 50% of your full retirement benefits, regardless of when you start taking them. (Your spouse's benefit can be reduced by the amount of their own retirement benefit and whether they took Social Security before their full retirement age.) But with a survivor benefit, your decision about when to take Social Security can make a big difference. A surviving spouse can receive the larger of their own benefit or 100% of a deceased spouse's benefit, so if you take benefits early and receive a permanent reduction, your spouse's survivor benefit may also be reduced for their lifetime.

When to take Social Security is an important — and irrevocable — decision. So, consider all the factors before making your choice.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Contributed by David McDonough

Financial Advisor at Edward Jones

Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302

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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



Happy Spring Thoughts

Yesterday, my back fence neighbor and I were talking about what flowers to plant that will not get eaten by moles, voles, deer, and insects. I believe the end result was to plant marigolds. I remember hearing many years ago that vegetable gardeners would plant them around the plot to ward off certain creatures. I may have to surround the hostas and daylilies too. Nothing seems to bother the daffodils thank goodness. Normally, our pansies were not bothered but last year the deer ate them as hors d'oeuvres.

What I would love to plant are hyacinths again. My husband normally gets me flowers or a hyacinth pot to put on the table for Easter. I usually have to plant the hyacinths quickly because I am so highly allergic to their beautiful scent. Previous Easter's hyacinths used to come back year after year, but a few years back something would come and eat the blooms by the next day. Our yard has become a smorgasbord for creatures.

At present, no flowers, Easter baskets, or anything else can fit on the dining room table because I have about 5 piles of LLC tax items spread out on one long side of the table just waiting to be added up and taken to our tax preparer. My husband's bread and snack basket takes up one short side of the table. The other short side is where I put all my paperwork that needs to be gone through and dealt with. Mindy's snacks are on the other long side. And with the two tier fruit basket and napkin holder in the middle it is impossible to see the surface of the table. Somehow it will be clear before Easter... or more like on Easter morning.

And somehow, everything will get dusted, vacuumed, and mopped before Easter morning; those usually are Saturday's tasks though I've been doing little bits here and there as my back allows. I had two cortisone shots Friday and may have overdone things on a very busy weekend for us. I stupidly danced a couple dances at The Blues Brothers live show down at The White Rose Hall in Callaway – very fun night. But it felt sooo good – until the next day anyway when I could barely move. My husband kept saying when we got home, "I tried to tell you not to do it". But there are times when you just want to feel normal or like you used to feel and took for granted. I just wanted to dance!!! I never realized back problems can nearly grind you to a halt until the fall of 2020.

But I am happy because Easter is almost here, and I cannot wait to see the early morning sunlight filter through the colorful Easter bags, or the happiness in our grandkids' eyes. A photo is attached from a past Easter Sunday. I have loved that memory from childhood of the sunlight streaming through purple, red, and yellow cellophane and creating prisms on the table and floor. I have no photos of Easter growing up, but that image is imprinted on my mind like a photograph. One of my favorite memories of Easter was the little bottles of Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry that my mother would put in our Easter baskets. No, I have not kept that tradition alive for our grandkids.

Springtime thoughts of our Christ Church Lenten and Easter week preparations, spring flowers, spring cleaning and Easter Sunday happiness are heavy on my mind. My husband will smoke a ham starting early Easter morning. It always tastes so good. Depending on how many family members are coming, we sometimes bake a spiral ham as well. I also thought about getting an already cooked smoked salmon slice this year to have out as an appetizer. My husband just came home from errands, and lo and behold he bought the ham, other groceries, and a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Uh oh, I guess I better start getting that dining room table cleared off earlier than Saturday. So, I will get to that, but I want to wish for you a beautiful spring Easter weekend with thoughts of the resurrection, our own renewal and a host of family to cherish and love.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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





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Saturday, April 6th

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Spring Saturdays

April 6, 11 AM

Thyme to Garden

*Help plant seeds at the HSMC Visitor Center!**

April 20, 9:30 AM - 11 AM

Plant Swap

Bring cuttings, houseplants, seeds, pots, or tools to swap with fellow garden lovers!

May Day

May 4, 10 AM - 4 PM

*Celebrate the arrival of spring with games, a maypole dance, natural crafts, and more!**

**All activities are included in the cost of admission.*



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www.HSMCdigsHistory.org

HISTORIC
ST. MARY'S CITY

Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood

Friday, April 12 – Sunday, April 28
Three Notch Theatre
21744 S Coral Dr., Lexington Park
Admission: \$15-\$20

The Newtowne Players present Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood! Packed with thrills, romance, laughter, and immortal characters like Little John, Friar Tuck, and Maid Marian, this show tells the enduring story of a hero of the people who takes on the ruthless powers that be. So get ready to duck a quarterstaff or two – you won't want to miss a moment of the swashbuckling fun!

XDA Spring Nationals

Friday, April 19 – Sunday, April 21
Maryland International Raceway
27861 Budds Creek Rd., Mechanicsville

The Xtreme Dragbike Association (XDA) kicks off the season at Maryland International Raceway with the 30th annual Platinum General Services Spring Nationals! The event features the Orient Express Pro Street class that run speeds over 230 mph in only 6-seconds, and the "Running of the Bulls" Grudge Program on Saturday night with the baddest Grudge racers in the game!

Over 700 Professional, Sportsman, and Grudge motorcycle racers will also be in competition all weekend long, battling it out for over \$90,000 in cash purse at this event. And don't forget the vendor midway will be full of great deals on motorcycle parts, accessories and apparel.

Spring Fling Car Show

Sunday, April 28, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Leonardtwn Square
22670 Washington St., Leonardtown
Admission: \$5 spectator fee; proceeds benefit Hospice of St. Mary's and other non-profits

St. Mary's Rod & Classic Car Club presents its Spring Fling Car Show! Spend the day admiring hot rods, vintage cars, and antique vehicles in the center of Downtown Leonardtown. Dash plaques will be awarded to the first 250 registered cars, trucks, or motorcycles, while trophies will be given to the top 60 and 15 specialized honors. There will be a selection of food and drinks, music, door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, shopping, and Annual Running of the Balls, among other activities. Rain date: May 5, 2024.

Leonardtwn First Friday

Friday, May 3
Leonardtwn

It's First Friday in Leonardtown - explore, dine, and shop your way to a great Friday night! You'll find extra fun and special deals all around town.

May Day

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Historic St. Mary's City
47414 Old State House Rd., St. Mary's City
Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (60+) \$9,

Youth (6-18 years or college ID) \$6, Child (5 and under) Free

Now that spring has arrived, it's time to celebrate in colonial style. Join Historic St. Mary's City in honoring some May Day traditions. To commemorate the season, play games from the 17th century, take part in hands-on nature activities, and enjoy the gorgeous surroundings.

COSMIC Symphony Orchestra Concert

Saturday, May 4, 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center
47855 College Dr., St. Mary's City
Admission: Free

Treat your senses to a free concert performance by COSMIC Symphony, Southern Maryland's only community orchestra.

COSMIC Symphony's primary objective is to provide the Southern Maryland community with high-quality classical music performed by local musicians. COSMIC Symphony provides an enjoyable orchestral experience for a large cross-section of our community through the diversity of their musical selections.

On the Water's Edge Concert featuring Cover Your Six

Saturday, May 18, 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Leonardtwn Wharf
22510 Washington St., Leonardtown
Admission: Free

Come by water or land to enjoy an Armed Forces Day Concert featuring Cover Your Six at the beautiful Leonardtown Wharf Park. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and enjoy live music, sample award-winning wine from Port of Leonardtown Winery, purchase beer from the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department tent, and cool down with sweet treats from Frog Town Ice Cream.

Third Tuesday Tunes

Tuesday, May 21, 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM
Leonardtwn Square

Escape the midweek monotony and immerse yourself in the enchanting melodies of live acoustic music in Leonardtown Square! Talented local acoustic artists will serenade you with an eclectic mix of tunes, creating the perfect backdrop for a relaxing and enjoyable break from your day. From classic hits to contemporary favorites, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Bring a picnic lunch or explore the nearby eateries as you settle into the rhythmic ambiance. Leonardtown Square becomes the perfect setting to savor delicious bites while being serenaded by soul-soothing tunes.

RenFest Southern Maryland

Saturday, May 25, 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Brüdergarten and Viking Axe Throwing
22725 Duke St., Leonardtown

Medieval, Viking, and Renaissance life festival at Leonardtown's own Brüdergarten Beer Garden. Enjoy entertainment, food and drink, artisan vendors, demonstrations, kids' activities and so much more!

bRüderbRüch & Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30, 2024

Brüdergarten Beer Garden

22725 Duke Street, Leonardtown

Brunch: 10 AM – 1 PM

1:30 PM: Kids Egg Hunt, Ages Toddler - 12 yrs

bRüderbRüch

Charcuterie-for-2 Includes:

- Bacon
- Cinnamon Roll
- Eggs
- Farmer's Casserole
- Fresh Fruit
- German Pancakes
- Potato Pancakes
- Sausage Links
- Semolina Pudding
- Yogurt & Granola



View our full menu including kids' favorites at www.brudergarten.com

COMEDY INVASION
For Project Graduation

Silent Auction at 6:30 p.m.!

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024

Silent Auction at 6:30 p.m. | Auditorium Seating Open at 7:30 p.m. | Show Starts at 8 p.m.
Huntingtown High School Auditorium, 4125 Solomons Island Road, Huntingtown



MICHAEL PALASCAK is a comedian who grew up in Indiana and now lives in LA. He performed on both *The Late Late Show with James Corden* and *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* in the same year. In addition, his résumé includes appearances on *A Little Late with Lilly Singh*, *The Tonight Show*, *Letterman*, *Craig Ferguson*, *Conan*, has a Comedy Central half hour special and was a top five finalist on *Last Comic Standing* where one judge claimed, "My first impression of Michael was a great likability. Michael's optimism continues in the new National Lampoon series on YouTube, *The Bright Side*, where he takes a positive stance on a negative topic. Consistently writing and performing, Michael released both a new album, *The Internet Live*, through 800 Pound Gorilla and a new stand-up special called *1984* on the Dry Bar app this summer. Visit www.michaelpalascak.com for more information.

HAYWOOD TURNIPSEED JR. During the day Haywood Turnipseed Jr. is a Husband, a Dad, a Telephone Man, and a Jedi; at night he becomes a Stand-Up Comic, and occasionally a Sith Lord. Haywood likes both Michael Jackson's & Prince's Music; Hip-Hop; The Pittsburgh Steelers Football Team; Mambo Sauce on chicken wings; and Laughing. Originally from the Holy Land of Indiana, Haywood graduated from high school in Moon Township, PA., attended two semesters at Waynesburg College, then enlisted in the US Air Force.

EDDIE MORRISON is a D.C. native who has performed stand-up comedy all over the metro area. His career includes appearances include the DC Improv, the Kennedy Center, the Comedy Store and Magooby's Jokehouse, where he was named runner-up at the 2015 New Comedian of the Year Competition. Eddie won Comedy Kumite 15.2 at the DC Improv in spring 2018 and Kumite 30 in spring 2021.

TICKETS

- \$35 in advance
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- \$25 for CAASA members and students 13-18
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Southern Maryland Spring Events

Guided Bird Walks

Monday, April 1
Calvert Marine Museum
14200 Solomons Island Rd., Solomons

With fields, woodlots, thickets, a saltmarsh, and Back Creek all nearby, many different species of birds visit the Calvert Marine Museum campus. Join us for guided bird walks at 10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 12 p.m., and 12:45 p.m. to appreciate and explore the diversity of our avian friends. Space is limited. Included with museum admission.

Leonardtown First Friday

Friday, April 5
Leonardtown

It's First Friday in Leonardtown - explore, dine, and shop your way to a great Friday night! You'll find extra fun and special deals all around town.

The Reagan Years in Concert

Friday, April 5, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge
Performing Arts Center
47855 College Dr., St. Mary's City
Admission: \$10

Spend an evening with the East Coast's Original 80s tribute band, The Reagan Years, as they recreate the iconic sounds of the 1980s. These talented musicians have incredibly diverse vocal abilities that enable them to replicate uncanny versions of the pop, rock, new wave, and heavy metal hits of the MTV era.

Southern Maryland Fishing & Outdoor Adventure Fair

Saturday, April 6, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Sunday, April 7, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown
Admission: \$5 cash only at entrance;
Kids 12 and under are free

Fishing and outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy this family-friendly event! Learn from local captains at various seminars and browse vendors for all your gear needs including rods/reels, lures, umbrellas, tackle, outdoor sports gear, outdoor-inspired art, and more. Kids can enjoy a casting contest and adults can enter for door prizes. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

A Maryland Boater Safety Course will also be offered with class on Saturday and exam and certification on Sunday. Contact America's Boating Club at 240-561-8910 or contact@abcsomd.org to register.

Cherry Blossom Festival

Saturday, April 6, 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Lexington Manor Passive Park
21675 South Coral Dr., Lexington Park
Admission: Free

Stroll through Lexington Manor Passive Park and enjoy the bright blossoms of spring! Enjoy loads of additional activities including disc golf, arts & crafts, golf

demos, food & retail vendors, live music, skateboarding, a horse kissing booth, Interpretive Center tours, and more.

Free parking at Lancaster Park, located at 21550 Willows Drive in Lexington Park.

Creature Feature

Tuesday, April 9, 10:15 AM to 11:15 AM
Calvert Marine Museum
14200 Solomons Island Rd., Solomons
Included with museum admission

Come to the museum for the Monthly Mystery Creature Feature. Every second Tuesday of the month, the CMM Education Team will feature an animal in the museum lobby that is not normally on display. Learn about a new animal and discover the wonderful variety of creatures found in our local estuaries. Take-home educational coloring pages will be available! Check our social media feed for the big reveal on Monday to find out what Tuesday's Creature Feature will be!

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RenFest garb encouraged!
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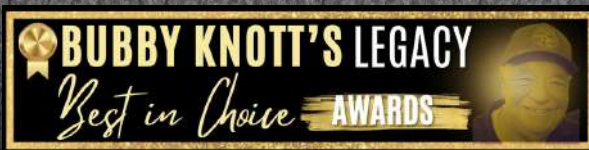
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Maryland 12th Annual Dog Fest

APRIL 27 & 28

Charles County Fairgrounds
La Plata, MD



MarylandDogFest.com



Continued from page 1

The militiamen lay in wait, hiding in bushes along the shore line, and fired on the landing boats and the troops within when they rowed into range.

By July 19, about 400 militiamen had arrived in St. George Island and were able to keep Dunmore and his forces from establishing a base of operations there.

The Battle of St. George Island is recognized as one of the earliest victories for the patriots in their war for independence against King George III, though it is mostly thought of as a major skirmish rather than a fully-fledged battle.

History records five British ships being disabled during the battle, which were scuttled under the orders of Dunmore to prevent them from falling into the hands of rebel forces.

The Institute of Maritime History has targeted the battle site, where the St. Mary's River joins the Potomac River, as worthy of underwater investigation in an attempt to find the remains of what has been called "Dunmore's Floating City."

Bob Crickenberger, a member of the Friends of Point Lookout which will take part in the event Apr. 6 as part of the St. Mary's Militia, said the militia and members of the Continental Army, which were from Maryland, returned from Annapolis to counter the British invasion.

Crickenberger and other reenactors will be on hand in Revolutionary War gear, garb and weapons — including a reproduction cannon from that era — to give visitors a glimpse into what the patriots had to deal



with on short notice.

"It was a smart skirmish," Crickenberger said of the relatively low casualty rate suffered on both sides versus the tactical benefits the patriots achieved.

"They held them off," Crickenberger said of the combined force of militia and regular troops. "They [the British] could have held those Maryland troops from going to [Gen. George] Washington's army.

"That's one possibility."

Southern Maryland acquitted itself well in the Revolutionary War, both on its one home front battle on St. George Island and throughout other campaigns.

Maryland troops gained notoriety for aiding Washington's retreat from impending destruction during the Battle of Long Island in New York; it is here that Maryland gained the name "The Old Line State" from the stal-

wart behavior of its troops in that battle.

"It was big news down here at that time," Crickenberger said of the skirmish at St. George Island. "Here's the British coming down on us right off the coast.

"We lucked out; the British Navy was the most powerful in the world at that time."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



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Leonardtwn hosts a summer of exciting FREE concerts from April - October throughout the Town from historic Leonardtown Square to picturesque Leonardtown Wharf and beyond! Enjoy a variety of live music, dancing, great food, drinks, and more during the season.

THIRD TUESDAY TUNES LEONARDTOWN SQUARE



ON THE WATER'S EDGE LEONARDTOWN WHARF

Escape the midweek monotony and immerse yourself in the enchanting melodies of live acoustic music in Leonardtown Square! Join us for "Third Tuesday Tunes," a musical oasis that transforms lunchtime into a soulful and vibrant experience. Brought to you by the Town of Leonardtown and Jimmy Hayden of RE/MAX 100 and Homes for Heroes. Explore the local eateries as talented local acoustic artists serenade you with an eclectic mix of tunes.

The Town of Leonardtown and the Leonardtown Business Association present the On the Water's Edge Concert Series at the Leonardtown Wharf. Brought to you by Jimmy Hayden of RE-MAX/100 and Homes for Heroes. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy live music, sample award-winning wine from Port of Leonardtown Winery, purchase beer from the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department tent, and cool down with sweet treats from Frog Town Ice Cream.

APR 16 BECKY TITUS
12 pm - 1 pm

CHRIS DEAN **MAY 21**
12 pm - 1 pm

APR 20 TRIO CALIENTE
Latin Concert
5 pm - 7 pm

COVER YOUR SIX **MAY 18**
Military Appreciation Concert
5 pm - 7 pm



For full schedule & more information, visit: www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/LeonardtwnMusicFest



Come to our Spring

OPEN HOUSE

APR 20

REGISTER HERE:



[SMCM.EDU/OPH24](https://smcm.edu/oph24)



ST MARY'S

COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College

UPCOMING EVENTS

AT THE NANCY R. & NORTON T. DODGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

FRIDAY, APR. 5 | 7:00 P.M.

THE REAGAN YEARS

The East Coast's original 1980's tribute band

SATURDAY, APR. 13 | 7:00 P.M.

CHOPTEETH

Fela Kuti-inspired big-band funk

LEARN MORE:



[SMCM.EDU/S24](https://smcm.edu/s24)



2024 Spring Fling

Your guide to Spring fun
in Southern Maryland

Spring Celebration for the Battle of St. George Island

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Southern Maryland usually doesn't figure prominently in the list of great battles of the Revolutionary War in most history lessons, but in the summer of 1776, shortly after the colonies declared their independence from Great Britain, local militia members repulsed British regulars from the shores of St. George Island.

For Maryland, it was the biggest battle of the nascent nation's war for independence against its far-flung colonial master. It was also the only Revolutionary War battle to occur in Maryland.

The county is holding a celebration April 6 at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum — near the sight of the centuries-old battle — to commemorate the local patriots who

fought to make America free.

Rebels and Redcoats will offer military reenactments, historical displays of life in Revolutionary War-era Maryland, period encampments, food vendors and more, according to the St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks Museum Division.

The all-day event is free to the public.

On July 16, 1776 a British invasion fleet attempted to invade St. George Island; John Murray, the Earl of Dunmore, had been the colonial governor of Virginia before being driven out by colonists.

Murray took to using British naval force to prosecute raids against patriot forces along the Chesapeake Bay coast in an attempt to reestablish royal control over the region and resupply his forces.

By July of 1776, Dunmore had about 70 ships that needed resupplying as Maryland

patriot troops were gathering in Annapolis to head to New York to counter the next anticipated major British strike.

But warnings soon came to the patriot forces that a major naval flotilla was coming up from the south near Point Lookout to threaten patriot forces in their rear.

The British were able to land about 10 boats full of troops to forage for supplies; they also dumped bodies of those who had perished from small pox on the journey up and down the coast.

By July 16, though, patriot forces had arrived under the command of local militia Captain Rezin Beall, who led his 100 militiamen in a holding action that prevented the enemy from again coming ashore on St. George Island.

Continued on page 3

BRADFORDS

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2-Ct. Selected
Pet Ritz
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Mrs. T's
Pierogies

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15 To 16-Oz. Selected
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Kraft Philadelphia
Cream Cheese

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12-Oz. Cans
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Or Coors Lite

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10-Oz. Cans
24 Pack
Bud Light

19.89



16-Oz. Aluminum Bottles
15-Pack Coors
Light

15.99



1.75L
Crown
Royal

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750 ML
Jameson Irish
Whiskey

26.99



750 ML
Mr. Black Coffee
Liqueur

24.99



1.75L
Tito's
Vodka

30.49



750-ML
Ecco Domani
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750-ml., Selected
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Casillero del Diablo
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Ham Butt Or
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LIMIT 1 PER HOUSEHOLD WITH \$35 PURCHASE.

SALE PRICE

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DIGITAL COUPON

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COUPON REDEEMABLE 3/27/24 - 4/1/24
LIMIT ONE PER HOUSEHOLD
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Salads

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Farmer's Finest
Fresh Tender
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Tender Sweet, In The Husk
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12-Oz. Garden Mix or 14-Oz.
Fresh Express
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2/\$3



1-Lb. Fresh
Red Ripe
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7-Oz. Great On Berries
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12-Oz. Selected
12 Pack
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5.5 To 7.25-Oz., Selected
Kraft
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40-Oz., Selected
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22 To 28-Oz., Selected Grillin' Or
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20-Oz., Selected
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Pineapple
2/\$3



5-Lb. Selected
Pillsbury
Flour
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Maxwell House
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8.98



3.7 To 4.12-Oz. Selected
Maxwell House
K Cups
6.98



10-Oz.
Jet Puffed Mini
Marshmallows
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14 To 16-Oz., Selected
Kraft Dressing
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DIGITAL COUPON
1.00 OFF TWO
2/\$4



12-Oz., Selected
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2/\$5
DIGITAL COUPON
1.00 OFF TWO
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16.5 To 20.2-Oz., Selected
Heinz Mashups
4.48
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6-Oz., Selected
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1.00 OFF TWO
2/\$4



7-Oz.
Baker's
Angel Flake
2/\$4



4-Oz., Selected
Baker's
Chocolate
2/\$5



10-Pack, Selected
Kool-Aid
Jammers
2/\$6



WED 27	THURS 28	FRI 29	SAT 30	SUN 31	MON 1	TUES 2
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PRICES GOOD FROM
March 27 THRU April 2, 2024

WE ACCEPT:



STORE HOURS:

Monday - Saturday 7am to 8 pm
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Protect Yourself Against Medicare Fraud



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

301-475-4200, ext. 1050

www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Aging/Senior-Medicare-Patrol/

Jeweler Earns Gemology Certificate

G&H Jewelers & Gemologists is proud to congratulate CAD Specialist Mathew J. Harris on earning a certificate of completion for the Gem Identification Lab offered by the prestigious Gemological Institute of America (GIA).

Throughout the course, Mathew honed essential skills using a comprehensive array of gemological tools in successfully identifying over 60 species of gemstones, distinguishing between natural and laboratory-grown gems, and detecting various gem treatments.

G&H Jewelers commends Mathew J. Harris for his dedication, hard work, and commitment to mastering the art and science of gemology. We are confident that Mathew will continue to excel in his studies and career as he progresses further in his journey to become a distinguished GIA Graduate Gemologist.



Mathew Harris

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Certified Carpet & Air Duct Cleaning in Hollywood, MD is Hiring Helpers and Technicians.

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Call 301-373-4791 to learn more about this exciting job opportunity.

Candidates must be drug free, have a clean criminal record and dependable transportation.

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Preference given to retired government employees & military. Hiring driver for pick-ups to and from airports, residences, and train stations. Candidates must be neat, friendly, and timely. Experience preferred but not necessary. Criminal background check & clean driving record required. Position pays hourly rate plus tips and bonus.

Send your resume to gomassinc@aol.com

If you would like to place a classified ad, please call the County Times at 301-373-4125 or email aldailey@countytimes.net

County Times
St. Mary's County - Calvert County

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LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED



Drayden African American Schoolhouse Offers Free Open Houses



The St. Mary's County Museum Division, in partnership with the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC), will be offering free Open Houses for visitors and the community at the Drayden African American Schoolhouse in Drayden, one Saturday a month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open House dates include: April 6, May 4, June 1, June 15, 16 & 19 (special Juneteenth holiday weekend hours), July 6, August 3, September 7, and October 5.

The Drayden African American Schoolhouse is one of the nation's best-preserved one-room African American schoolhouses, and its story represents a significant part of St. Mary's County's African American history. Visitors are invited to learn more about the restored schoolhouse, its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County. Hear the real stories about how African American students learned in this school up until the mid-20th century.

"The Division is pleased to offer open houses at the Drayden African American Schoolhouse each month so guests can

learn more about this important piece of our county's African American educational history," says Karen Stone, Manager of the St. Mary's County Museum Division. "We further appreciate the continuing support of the volunteers who staff it for us, most of whom are members of the UCAC."

Volunteers will be available on site during the open houses to share stories about the schoolhouse's history with visitors. All ages are welcome, and admission is free.

The St. Mary's County Museum Division also offers special programs for school, bus, and other tour groups who would like to schedule a visit to the Drayden site. Individual visitors who would like to see the schoolhouse during times outside open house hours can contact the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum at (301) 994-1471 to arrange a visit.

For more information about the Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open Houses, programs, admission prices, and more, visit the Drayden African American Schoolhouse Facebook page at Facebook.com/DraydenSchool or call (301) 994-1471.

Woman's Club Donates to Feed St. Mary's



On March 18th, the Woman's Club of St. Mary's County, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Feed St. Mary's in an effort to assist in its mission to alleviate food insecurity throughout St. Mary's County and to create a St. Mary's County that is free from hunger. Pictured left to right are Carole Romary, Woman's Club president; Minister Charlie Wharton, Feed St. Mary's marketing lead; and Bonnie Clark, Woman's Club Treasurer.

Pet of the Week

MEET PATRICK



Have you ever seen a catfish? No, how do they hold a rod and reel?

Hi there, my name is Patrick. I'm a DAPPER grey and white feline with a knack for sticking my tongue out at life's absurdities! I'm a CHARMING cat who is not just HANDSOME; I'm the epitome of FRIENDLINESS, ready to CHARM my way into YOUR HEART and HOME with my tongue-wagging antics! Get ready for ENDLESS LAUGHS and CUDDLES because who needs a comedian when you have a TONGUE-TASTIC cat like me?

Come meet me during adoption hours, Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! ALWAYS OPT TO ADOPT, please don't shop!

To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



Sell it - Buy it at Auction

Over 750 Lots!

Online Auction
Selling Items for the Family of Bubby Knott

- Pedal Cars & Tractors • Die Cast Collector Tractors, Toys & Cars • Advertising Signs/Items • Antiques & Collectibles • Advertising Fuel Pumps • Household Furniture & Items • "Big Foot", Life Size Concrete Statue • Large Composite Pig, Buffalo, & other Statues • Concrete Benches/Items • More!

Online Auction Closes Tuesday Evening, April 2, 2024 beginning at 6 pm

Pick up of "Won" Items will be on WED, April 3rd, THURS, April 4th - 9:30 am to 5 pm & FRI, April 5th - 9 am to 11 am at Flat Iron Farm, Great Mills, MD



Go to www.FarrellAuctionService.com to register, view items & bid online.

www.FarrellAuctionService.com
301.904.3402

School System Offers Solar Eclipse Viewing

A partial solar eclipse will occur on Monday, April 8, 2024, in St. Mary's County. The eclipse will begin at approximately 2:00 p.m. and end just after 4:30 p.m., with maximum coverage at approximately 3:20 p.m. During the eclipse, there will be 86-88% coverage, during which it will get darker outside, but there will not be total darkness.

All St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) dismiss at some point during the eclipse period. Families and students should be aware of the following safety tips:

- Never look directly at the sun, especially during a solar eclipse. It is dangerous and can cause permanent damage to the eyes. Do not look at the sun through sunglasses, telescopes, or binoculars.
- Anyone using special viewing glasses or filters should only use those that conform to all International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards.
- If you purchase special viewing glasses, ensure they are from reputable manufacturers. There have been reports of counterfeit products labeled as if they conform to international safety standards. The American Astronomical Society, whose products are known to conform to ISO standards, provides a list of reputable companies that conform to safety standards.

Eclipse resources for elementary students, including how to safely view the eclipse, will be shared with schools on April 2.

Students and families are encouraged to read more about solar eclipses and safety and enjoy experiencing this exciting phenomenon.

Families and students can safely view the eclipse via live stream at science.nasa.gov.

In addition, St. Mary's County libraries will host the following Solar Eclipse Parties:

- Charlotte Hall Library on Friday, March 29 at 2 pm: <https://stmalib.libnet.info/event/9822769>
- Leonardtown Library on Friday, March 29 at 2 pm — this program is already full, but folks can join the waitlist for a spot in case of cancellations: <https://stmalib.libnet.info/event/9704060>
- Lexington Park Library on Saturday, March 30 at 2 p.m.: <https://stmalib.libnet.info/event/10155082>

Everyone who attends will receive eclipse-viewing glasses (and make their own pinhole viewer). If the branches have surplus glasses after their programs, they will be available to library visitors on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Then, on the day of the eclipse, the Mobile Library will be at the Dorsey Park pavilion with the same solar science activities and more glasses to give away.

Fill Out an Advance Health Care Directive at Law Day

Do you have an Advance Healthcare Directive? Is it up to date? If you answered no – sign up for Law Day to meet with an attorney and fill one out, free of charge! Law Day will be held on Friday, May 3, 2024, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at four locations:

- Department of Aging & Human Services Office (41780 Baldrige Street, Leonardtown)
- Garvey Senior Activity Center (23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown)
- Loffler Senior Activity Center (21905 Chancellors Run Road, Great Mills)
- Northern Senior Activity Center (29655 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall)

Registration is required for this event. For more information or to register, please contact Sarah Miller at Sarah.Miller@stmaryscountymd.gov or (301) 475-4200, ext. 1073.

All participating attorneys are members of the St. Mary's County Bar Association and are donating their time for Law Day. Please note the legal support provided at this event is limited to Advance Care Directives ONLY.

An Advance Health Care Directive:

- Names your Health Care Agent, the person(s) who will make your health care decisions.
- Decides when your Agent's power becomes effective.
- States your decisions relating to life sustaining procedures if you are unable to give instructions regarding your care due to an end-of-life condition.
- Can be customized with your personal instructions and statements.
- Determines pain relief measures to relieve pain and suffering.
- States your wishes concerning organ donation or the donation of your body.
- States your desires and preferences regarding funeral and burial, cremation, memorial service, or other final instructions.

For more information on the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services, including the three Senior Activity Center locations and other programs, please visit stmaryscountymd.gov/aging or follow them on social media at [Facebook.com/SMCDAHS](https://www.facebook.com/SMCDAHS).

Home Grown Farmers Market

Treat Yourself to Fresh Flowers and Veggies This Easter

Saturdays

9AM-1PM

Fresh Produce | Flowers | Plants |

Meats | Cheeses | Baked Goods



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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER News

Contract Awarded for New Block III Super Hornet Aircraft



The U.S. Navy awarded The Boeing Company a \$1.3 billion contract March 19 for the purchase of 17 F/A-18 Super Hornets and delivery of a technical data package vital to the sustainment of the platform.

"The technical data package was a crucial part of this negotiation; it is necessary for naval aviation's operational readiness and post-production sustainment," said Rear Adm. John Lemmon, Program Executive Officer for Tactical Aircraft Programs. "The Super Hornet remains a predominant aircraft in the carrier air wing and will continue to provide significant combat capability into the 2040s."

The Navy received appropriated funds from Congress to purchase these Super Hornets to help mitigate the strike fighter

shortfall. The award is an Undefined Contract Action with the intent to definitize within the next few months.

"I am very proud of our team; their mission-focused mindset, data-driven approach and persistence resulted in an agreement that will greatly benefit the sustainment of the Super Hornet and Growler aircraft well into the future," said Capt. Michael Burks, Program Manager for the F/A-18 and EA-18G Program Office. "It is our job to ensure our warfighters have all the necessary resources to defend our nation and return home safely."

Delivery of the new Super Hornets is scheduled to begin in the winter of 2026, with final delivery no later than spring 2027.

Leonardtown to Host Renaissance Festival



RenFest Southern MD, May 25, 2024, 10 AM – 8 PM, Brüdergarten Beer Garden, 22725 Duke Street, Leonardtown, MD - Immerse yourself in Medieval, Viking, and Renaissance life, as Leonardtown's own Brüdergarten Beer Garden and Viking Axe Throwing are transformed into a woodland village, filled with live music and entertainment, vendors, food and drink, culture, axe throwing, swordfight demonstrations, and jousting competitions! You'll be surrounded by skilled artisans, vendors, foods, beers, wine, roving performers, medieval culture, play areas for the kids, and so much more!

Play your part as royal rivalries and feudal dramas unfold around you. Watch action-packed, full armor combat and festive jousting matches. Engage in interactive demonstrations by skilled artisans. Feast on period-inspired fare and enjoy a tankard or two of your favorite local beer. Travel back in time, at this truly unique and unforgetta-

ble Renaissance experience.

From Middle Earth to the Middle Ages, RenFest Southern MD welcomes knights, jesters, wenches, vikings, fairies, ogres, pirates, and wizards of all ages! Everyone is encouraged to wear period or fantasy costumes, or just come as you are and enjoy our festival! For safety reasons, attendees are prohibited from bringing weapons of any kind to the event, including costume and prop pieces.

Limited vendor space is available in the woodland village. Interested vendors should email RenFestSouthernMD@gmail.com for consideration.

RenFest Southern Maryland is a collaboration between Brüdergarten Beer Garden and Viking Axe Throwing, along with a talented and creative village of partners and performers.

For more information and advance ticket sales, follow the official Facebook page, RenFest Southern MD!

An Amazing Community Event Awaits



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Participate/Donate/Sponsor @ runforhospice.org



27th Run & Walk for Hospice Sat April 6 Leonardtown, MD

100% net Proceeds benefit HoSM in caring for the Terminally ill



Sponsor us! see runforhospice.org

Southern Maryland Fishing & Outdoor Adventure Fair

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
Saturday, April 6 | 8am–3pm
Sunday, April 7 | 8am–2pm



Fishing & Outdoor Vendors
Speakers | Food
50/50 Raffle | Door Prizes
Kids' Casting Contest

Boater Safety Course
by America's Boat Club

240-561-8910 or contact@abcsomd.org

Admission \$5 cash at entrance
Kids 12 & Under Free!

Sponsored by the Southern Maryland
Recreational Fishing Organization, Inc.

Vendor Registration: smrfo2021@gmail.com
Sponsorship opportunities available!
Contact 301-481-7411 or greerer@gmail.com



St. Mary's to Adopt Maryland Building Performance Standards

In compliance with State law and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), St. Mary's County Government's Department of Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM) will begin the adoption process for Maryland Building Performance Standards (MBPS). This initiative includes the incorporation of the International Code Council's 2021 version of the International Building Code, the International Energy Conservation Code, the International Residential Code, and the International Green Construction Code, as modified by the Maryland Department of Labor and published in COMAR. More information can be found online at: <https://www.dlhr.state.md.us/labor/build/buildcodes.shtml>.

St. Mary's County Government is obligated by law to ensure that the implementation and enforcement of the MBPS includes the following:

- Review and acceptance of appropriate plans for permitting.
- Issuance of building permits.
- Inspection of work authorized by building permits.
- Issuance of use and occupancy certificates.

LUGM will also review additional codes drafted by the International Code Council, such as the National Electrical Code and the Maryland Swimming Pool and Spa Standards, which have been amended by various State agencies including the Maryland Department of Labor and the State Boards of Plumbing and Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration.

The Department's review of the 2021 International Codes aims to identify necessary modifications relevant to St. Mary's County. The following tentative timeline has been established and the Department intends to collaborate with stakeholders throughout the process:

- January 2024: Feedback solicited from various stakeholder boards, including the Building Code Board of Appeals, the Electrical Board, and the Plumbing & Gas Board.
- April 2024: Local amendments drafted and made available for public review and comment before consideration

by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC). Public comments can be emailed to bpservice@stmaryscountymd.gov.

- April 9, 2024: LUGM will submit a request to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) to hold a public hearing on April 30, 2024, to receive public testimony prior to adoption.

LUGM is considering adopting the following codes, which have been partially modified by various State agencies responsible for creating them:

- COMAR 09.12.50
- COMAR 09.12.51

Free public digital access to review the following documents are available:

- 2021 International Building Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IBC2021P2>
- 2021 International Residential Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IRC2021P1>
- 2021 International Mechanical Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/imc2021p1>
- 2018 International Existing Building Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IEBC2018>
- 2021 International Energy Conservation Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IECC2021P1>
- 2021 International Fuel Gas Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IFGC2021P2>
- 2021 International Plumbing Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IPC2021P1>
- 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/ISPS2021P1>

To review the International Codes (i-Codes), visit: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/codes/maryland>.

Questions may be directed to LUGM at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1542 or via email to bpservice@stmaryscountymd.gov. Residents can learn more about the Department of Land Use & Growth Management at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/lugm.

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Computer Scientist Runs for District 4 School Board Seat

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Charles Carrington, a 27-year-old computer scientist who works for the federal government says that parents need to go back to being more involved in the education of their children and he wants to win the District 4 school board seat to aid in that return.

Carrington, who lives in Lexington Park, is especially worried about young men in schools, who he said are being left to their own devices with predictable results.

"They get involved in stealing cars, becoming violent," Carrington told The County Times. "My main thing is addressing the needs of these young boys.

"We don't pay attention to them until they become a problem."

He said he wants to ensure that all students are well instructed in the basics of mathematics and reading, especially with an eye towards teaching them how to think and learn properly and not just gather information.

Parents are key in achieving that goal, Carrington said.

"That means getting the PTAs and PTOs back in schools," Carrington said.

He also wanted to institute tutoring programs for students in need of help with subject matter but also wanted to extend help to parents so they could tutor their own children.

"How long has it been since you've



Charles Carrington

taken a geometry test?" Carrington asked by way of explanation. "It also helps when it comes to things of a moral question that teachers and parents are on the same page."

Parents, he said, should know what their teachers are sharing with their children and also have a say in what their children are taught.

Getting parents more involved in the education of children, even making them more able to participate in the educating, worked, Carrington said, because his parents and teachers worked together closely.

"I'm a result of cooperation between parents and teachers," Carrington said. "Education is a community responsibility."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Traffic Stop Results in Arrest for Drugs and Concealed Weapon

On Sunday, March 24, 2024, James Errick Barnes, 52, of Lexington Park, MD, was arrested following a traffic stop conducted by Patrol Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

During proactive traffic patrol in Lexington Park, Deputy Joseph Senatore witnessed a Ford Taurus fail to stop as required by a traffic control device. A traffic stop was initiated at Great Mills Road near North Essex Drive. During the traffic stop, deputies observed the operator pass an item to a passenger in the vehicle, who then attempted to conceal the item. The operator, identified as James Errick Barnes, was found to be unlicensed, and the vehicle was unregistered. A subsequent search of the vehicle by Cpl. Lacey Smith and K9 Kyra revealed narcotics and a brass knuckle knife.

Barnes was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center and charged with concealment of a dangerous weapon, CDS: Possession



James Errick Barnes

Not Cannabis, and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia. Barnes was also issued traffic citations for 12 related violations of Maryland Vehicle Law.

Town to Mull "Ice House" Project Proposal for Wharf

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

For almost two decades now the Town of Leonardtown has been seeking interested developers who might be willing to establish some sort of restaurant, eatery or food court at their wharf property at the end of Washington Street.

After sending out a request for proposals in January, said Town Administrator Laschelle McKay, the town is now ready to examine one.

"We have a presentation that the person who responded to the proposal will give and then it will go to the [town council]," McKay said. "Right now, it's a negotiation on how the deal will be constructed."

The details of the proposal, which the town is not divulging to the public yet, will be negotiated between the developer, McKay said, and a committee to include her, Mayor Dan Burris and newly-hired Main Street Manager Emily Stagner and a member of the consultant group the town has hired to help carry out the development of the wharf property.

The plan would then go to the town council



for consideration in public, McKay said.


"The details would be worked out in private negotiations," McKay said.

The town's plans to develop the wharf property include a structure that would serve to house multiple food vendors — named "The Ice House" — and boost tourism and public use of the wharf.

McKay said the initial meeting with the as-yet-unnamed developer was set for the first week in April.

"We're excited," McKay said. "Hopefully it will come to fruition."

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Changes Proposed to Animal Control Ordinance

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Significant changes could be coming to the county's animal control laws, including more stringent and expensive regulations pertaining to the ownership of dogs.

At their March 19 meeting the Commissioners of St. Mary's County were briefed on the culmination of several years of work to revise the county's animal control ordinance.

Perhaps the most significant change to the ordinance, which was last updated in 2017, is the institution of a fee for a dog license and a \$250 fine for not having a license.

"Currently the average is about 2,000 a year," said Animal Control Warden Joy Wilson of the number of dog licenses the county provides.

The number of owners with dogs who must get a license, which is proof of rabies vaccination, is much more than the annual number, she intimated.

"Hopefully this [new ordinance] will bring our compliance much higher," Wilson said.

In response to a question on the necessity of licensing from Commissioner Eric Colvin, Wilson replied that the county had to follow state law in requiring that canines be licensed.

"We know we're bringing animals into rabies compliance [with licensing]," Wilson



said. "If they have the dog licensed, we know where they live."

If a licensed dog goes missing, that can help reunite them with their family.

"We can get them home," Wilson said, noting there is "a very large population" of unregistered dogs in St. Mary's.

The fee for a dog license would be set by the county commissioners each year, according to the updated, proposed ordinance.

The new ordinance also makes illegal the feeding of stray cats in public parks operated by the county, which has long been the practice of certain cat lovers in the Lexington Park area and elsewhere for years.

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Missing Person: Tabitha Marie Wilson

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking information on the whereabouts of Tabitha Marie Wilson, who was last seen on Friday, March 1, 2024, in the Great Mills area.

If you have information on this individual's whereabouts, please contact Detective Andrew Burgess at 301-475-4200, ext. 8041, or by email at Andrew.Burgess@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Tipsters can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or send a text to Crime Solvers at 274637. Type "Tip239" in the message block and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

Note: Tip239 is case-sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown. With Crime Solvers, you never have to give your name. You may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.



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MedStar Surgeon Makes a Home in St. Mary's

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Dr. Veronica Marshall has only been working at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown for less than a year now, but she said she and her husband already plan on making a life here for the foreseeable future.

"I really enjoy St. Mary's County," said the Pennsylvania native, noting that the local hospital where she performs surgeries largely reflects the type of community she has come to call home.

"I like the community atmosphere," Marshall told The County Times of the local MedStar unit. "They truly focus on quality patient care."

"I want to treat them [the patient] like people rather than a number."

Marshall's route to becoming a doctor — specifically a general surgeon — is an interesting one.

She attended Grove City College, also in Pennsylvania, majoring in history with a concentration in pre-medical studies.

"I'm glad I had a concentration in the humanities," Marshall said. "It reminded me of the importance of focusing on people."

Before completing her medical training, she even worked as a sailor on board a tall ship, the U.S. Brig Niagara, that sailed Lake Erie.

The heavy emphasis on hard work and team work on board ship appealed to her nature, which she carried over into the operating room.

"It showed me the importance of doing something that needs to be done, you work hard at it," Marshall said.

As a board-certified general surgeon, Marshall is kept busy tending to patients, but she is one of a new breed of surgeons who are using the latest technology that changes what it means to go under the physician's knife.

She does a lot of laproscopic procedures — or surgeries that use small incisions, aided by a camera, into the abdominal or pelvic areas, that are designed to be minimally invasive.

Her skills are augmented when using the surgical robot known as the Da Vinci machine.

"It allows us to see the anatomy better," she said of the multi-armed surgical robot



Dr. Veronica Marshall

that performs the surgery with her at the controls. "We do a lot of abdominal work."

The machine provides a three-dimensional image versus the normal laproscopic procedure using the camera which provides a two-dimensional image on a screen, offering greater precision.

This translates into easier and faster recovery times for patients.

"It makes it significantly better for patients," Marshall said. "Patients do very, very well afterwards."

"It's the wave of the future."

Though she wants to engage in what she calls minimally invasive surgeries, Marshall said, there are still times when she must take much more invasive steps to make a patient better.

Marshall said she admires her colleagues in medicine, but being a surgeon means the most to her in what she can accomplish in a relatively short amount of time.

"What makes a good surgeon is also knowing when not to cut," Marshall said. "But, I'd much rather get in there and get things done, take out what needs to be taken out." Marshall and her husband have just welcomed a baby boy into their lives.

"I plan on staying here for some time," Marshall said.

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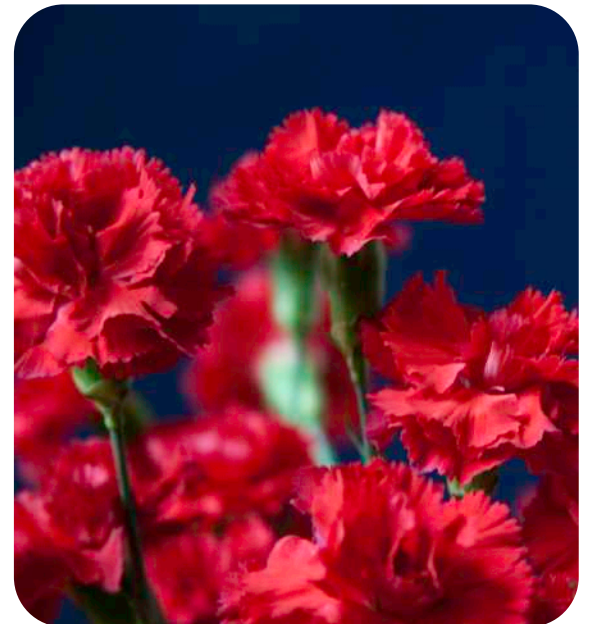


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Budget, with Tax, Fee Increases, Goes to Public Hearing

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The public will soon have the chance to tell the Commissioners of St. Mary's County their thoughts on the fiscal 2025 operating budget after local leaders approved the spending plan go to public hearing.

The latest budget contains an increase in the income tax rate from 3 percent to 3.2 percent, an increase in the fire and rescue tax for three volunteer fire companies — Leonardtown, Mechanicsville and Ridge as well as other fee increases.

The total operating budget for the coming fiscal year is \$329 million, according to county budget documents, with an unassigned fund balance of about \$5.4 million added to bolster the operating funds.

The commissioners have a reserve to allocate as they see fit to honor certain budget requests of a little over \$573,000.

The fire tax increases requested would raise the rate to 5.6 cents per \$100 of assessment, county budget documents show.

Four of the five county commissioners voted to approve the budget as writ-

ten; Commissioner Mike Hewitt, who has opposed any tax increases this year and was especially vocal in opposing the income tax increase voted against approving the budget proposal.

All five commissioners did vote to schedule the April 23 public hearing on the fiscal 2025 budget; commissioners said in the prior budget work session of March 19 that they would reconsider raising the income tax if public outcry against the increase was sufficient.

Commissioner Eric Colvin proposed the income tax increase in previous budget work sessions in order to provide an additional \$7 million for the county public schools system to fulfill state mandates of providing base level teacher salaries of \$60,000.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith warned without this extra funding that the system would likely have to cut up to 120 positions and even consider redistricting students to other schools so they could shut down one of them to save operating costs.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Commissioner Rails Against Assault on CHS Student

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office recently announced that one student at Chopticon High School was assaulted by five others earlier this month, with one of the alleged attackers being charged with both first-and-second-degree assault.

Commissioner Mike Alderson, a parent of a student at Chopticon High School, decried the "cowardly" assault this week near the end of the regular business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

"What bothers me the most about this as a parent ... is that we received no notification other than what my son told me a couple of days ago," Alderson said.

The sheriff's office reported that the assault occurred March 4, approximately three weeks ago.

The initial investigation by the sheriff's office revealed that five students attacked another student in the hallway of the school. Specifically, during the assault, the suspect's actions had the potential to cause life-threatening, severe, serious

bodily injury to the victim, the sheriff's office reported.

That male juvenile has been charged as an adult.

The other four suspects involved in the assault have been charged as juveniles with second-degree assault, according to the sheriff's office.

The school system, sheriff's office and state's attorney's office "need to come down very, very hard on this," Alderson said, owing to the rumored reasons for the assault on the student.

"This behavior cannot be tolerated," Alderson, whose wife is also a public school teacher, said. "If you allow this kind of behavior in school, unchecked, these kids turn into adults who believe that behavior can carry on into adulthood."

"We cannot stand for that as a society."

Alderson said it "pained" him as a county commissioner to be made by the state to fund schools where this kind of behavior continued.

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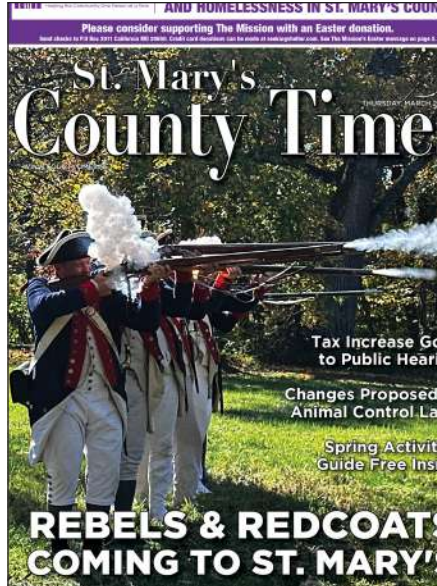
MEDSTAR ST. MARY'S SURGEON DR. VERONICA MARSHALL



LOCAL 7
MedStar commemorates Doctors' Day



LOCAL 9
Town entertains wharf development plan



ON THE COVER
County to commemorate Revolutionary War Battle

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAR 28	FRI, MAR 29	SAT, MAR 30	SUN, MAR 31
Rain Hi: 49° Lo: 38°	Sunny Hi: 60° Lo: 40°	PM Showers Hi: 63° Lo: 47°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 68° Lo: 47°
MON, APR 1	TUE, APR 2	WED, APR 3	THU, APR 4
Showers Hi: 59° Lo: 50°	Rain Hi: 67° Lo: 50°	Showers Hi: 56° Lo: 38°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 56° Lo: 39°



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Sometimes we refuse help because the person offering is not close to us, and sometimes it's because we feel that we don't deserve the help.

In the Gospel of John, we see a situation very similar to this. Jesus had gathered all of His disciples for Passover for a supper of celebration on the night He would be betrayed. Before eating, Jesus donned servant's clothing and offered to wash the feet of His friends, an act of service of which Peter deemed himself unworthy. When Jesus came to him, Peter questioned the purpose and then declared that Jesus would "Never wash my feet!" He couldn't see a world in which his Lord should take on a servant's position, helping him with such a lowly task.

But Jesus responded with words which cut to the heart of His reasons, saying, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." And so Peter accepted Jesus's offer of help.

Many of us can be like Peter, at times. "Certainly, God wouldn't help me with this," or "God doesn't want to help me because of that." But He is willing and desiring to be the help we need, loving us all with a love expressed by His sacrifice on the cross.

Jesus told Peter that He wanted to wash Peter's feet to make him clean. Likewise, He has spilled His blood in sacrifice, hoping that we would be washed by His blood so that we can be made clean in Him. He, long ago, put on His servant's clothing by coming down to us in flesh and took up the lowly position of suffering the consequences of our sin, so that we could wash in His grace and be made whole in Him. He's now waiting for us to accept His offer to help.

And the help Jesus offers is not just an offer of salvation after death, but a promise to help us in life. He will seek and work towards a better way of life for us, through our relationship with Him, in our relationships with others, and in our view of ourselves. Jesus has offered us a way out of the negative we see around and within us.

If you've been feeling the weight of this world but don't know where to turn, please remember that Jesus is waiting patiently, arms open. I pray that you will find His embrace and allow Him to begin healing you and to wash away the sin and the hurt that weigh us all down.



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