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THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024

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“I JUST THINK THAT WE’RE TRYING TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY.”

COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT BUDDY HANCE ON TOWN CENTER ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS.



LOCAL 7
 Dunkirk sewage disposal plan tabled



LOCAL 7
 Commissioners push back on town center environmental rules

ON THE COVER
 Calvert honors its top teacher

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, APR 25 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 56° Lo: 44°	FRI, APR 26 Sunny Hi: 63° Lo: 46°	SAT, APR 27 Cloudy Hi: 62° Lo: 53°	SUN, APR 28 Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 61°
MON, APR 29 Mostly Sunny Hi: 83° Lo: 64°	TUE, APR 30 PM Showers Hi: 83° Lo: 62°	WED, MAY 1 Mostly Sunny Hi: 78° Lo: 59°	THU, MAY 2 Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 57°

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Teacher of the Year Meagan Jeffries

Honored to Represent 'Amazing Teachers'

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County's 2024 Teacher of the Year, Sunderland Elementary School 3rd Grade teacher Meagan Jeffries, originally didn't have teaching on her radar.

"I went to college with full intentions of being an audiologist. But in one of the classes, we were working with elementary school students, just like a volunteer with speech pathology. And when we were working with those students, I was like, wow, this is really fun. I really like this. And so, I started looking into the education program, applied to the program at WVU (West Virginia University) and got in," she explained.

Jeffries said, "I definitely think that this is exactly where I'm meant to be. I fully love my job, even after 11 years. I know a lot of educators are feeling burnouts or their heart's not into it anymore. But I thoroughly love my job and I know that's where I was supposed to end up."

Was it as she expected? She said, "I feel like it's turned out better. I feel like my experience in the classroom, 20 years ago, 30 years ago, I don't feel like we did as much hands-on, immersive activities as what the students are exposed to now. I feel like school is way more fun now. So, I feel like as a teacher, I'm having way more fun than I ever expected to have, because I get to do that hands-on critical thinking, getting their hands dirty type of lessons. And so, it's way more fun than I think I expected it to be."

She was born and raised in West Virginia and got her bachelor's and master's from WVU. She said, "My husband and I moved to Maryland right after we graduated college. We just wanted better job opportunities." They moved first to Prince George's County, where she taught for nine years. Then, she said, "When we had our children, we decided we wanted a slower pace of life. So, we moved down here to Calvert County. We knew that the school system was amazing. We wanted our kids to be able to have those opportunities that Calvert County provides for their students. So, we moved down here in 2020 and I've been teaching in Calvert County Public Schools for two years now." Their children are four and five.

She feels she has the best of all worlds as a third-grade teacher. "I think in third grade, they're still in that stage of life where it's all about pleasing. And so, there's a respect for adults and authority that we see. And in elementary school in general, I don't think that there is that discipline problem that we're hearing about recently. I think in elementary school, there's still that mutual respect for the adults in their life."

"Third grade is my absolute favorite grade. It was my favorite grade when I was in school and it's my favorite grade to teach," she said.

Jeffries is her school's Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) liaison. She explained, "I serve as a liaison to offer extra opportunities for students who are identified as GATE. It's kind of like a bridge between the GATE office at the board, and then into the school system to the schools."



There are only four schools in the county with GATE coordinators. She said, "Truly to make it equitable, we need a GATE resource teacher in every building. The resources that those teachers are able to provide in those schools is amazing."

One tool is Destination Imagination. She said, "It was a before school activity that we ran here at Sunland. We ended up having five teams, and they took on different challenges. Three of our teams had to make a pinball machine, and the pinball was the size of a soccer ball. So, they were huge machines that we had trouble getting through the doors. Another team made living artwork where they did the *Christ the Redeemer* statue in Rio de Janeiro. They built it and had it fall down and crash and come back to life. And then we had an improv team. So, it's just extra ways for students to be creative."

Her day starts, she explained: "I am so lucky in my classroom. We are raising the terrapin. So, one third grade teacher in every elementary school in Calvert County raises a terrapin for the National Aquarium that will be released in May on Poplar Island. So, when I come in, the first thing I do is take care of Poppy. We make sure that she's fed, check her water temperatures, check her salinity levels."

From there, she "gets right into getting ready for the day, work through the day with health and reading, math, ending our day with science and social studies. So, it's pretty fast-paced. There's a lot to get in, especially now that we're getting ready for the big state testing. So, it's a lot of prep work, but trying to make sure that the kids are still fully engaged, not get burnout either, especially with this beautiful weather."

Does she take work home with her? She said, "I'm pretty good at managing my time. I come into school about an hour before I'm required to get here. So, most of my stuff is done in the mornings. I also have a couple of wonderful parent volunteers that come in to do the laminating or the copying and things like that that I need. They have really saved me this year with that. I have two little

boys at home, and so they take up most of my evenings."

She said of being chosen the county's Teacher of the Year, "I was even blown away to be Teacher of the Year at Sunderland in the beginning. I really had a hard time believing that I was picked from my peers. The teachers at Sunderland just are a truly amazing group of teachers that work so hard

every day to find the best way to meet their students' needs. So, to be picked even at the school level, I was blown away. So then when we filled out the application, I think a lot of what came through in my application for the county teacher of the year was just how dedicated I am to making sure that the students are the ones with their hands dirty. The students are the ones that are getting in there and figuring things out. I don't ever want a student to sit in my classroom and just absorb information that I'm staying. I want them to absorb information that they're learning from investigations or their own research. And I'm kind of a self-starter. So, if I get an idea in my head, I kind of run with it, which is good and bad. It usually makes a lot more work for myself because I get these outrageous ideas in my head, but I think it's for the student's benefit."

"I'm so humbled and I'm so honored to represent this county that's so full of amazing teachers. I just hope that the world sees that Calvert County is just full of these amazing educators that are just changing lives. We moved our kids down here for Calvert County education. So, to be a representative of it is a dream of a lifetime," she noted.

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Calvert County Prescription Medication Take-Back Day

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- Remove unused and expired medications from your home.
- Keep prescription medications from being abused.
- Prevention, treatment and recovery information will be available.
- Syringe disposal and Narcan training will be available at Northeast and Southern Community Centers.
- Deterra medication drug disposal packets will be available free of charge for county residents. The packets allow medications to be deactivated and thrown in your household trash. Limit of three packets per family, while supplies last.

Drop Off Locations:

- Calvert County Sheriff's Office
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- Maryland State Police, Barrack "U"
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- Northeast Community Center
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Former CHS Assistant Principal Speaks Out



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

In the wake of concerns from Calvert High School (CHS) staff about discipline problems there, former CHS Assistant Principal Cathy Sutton has contacted The County Times about the situation at the school while she was there.

Sutton wrote, “Thank you for the article you published this week (April 18) regarding Calvert High School. I would like to share with you an email I sent in July 2022 after my resignation as Assistant Principal from CHS. I deeply care about CHS as my children attend this school and I am close with the teaching staff. We need to shed more light on the issues faced by our staff. The high turnover of brilliant teachers and administrators at CHS is alarming.”

She said she resent to the school board the email letter she originally sent in July of 2022. The email is as follows:

“Welcome to CCPS (Calvert County Public Schools)! I am very excited for the changes you can bring to our system. I was an employee of CCPS for the last 18 years and, during that time, earned Maryland State Assistant Principal of the Year, Promising Principals Academy completer, and respect from Calvert High teachers, students, and parents.

“Recently, I had to make the difficult decision to resign. I will be returning to the classroom in a neighboring school district next school year. However, my husband and many of my closest friends are employees of CCPS. My four children also attend CCPS schools. It is incredibly important to me that our system improves its culture. I wanted to share my exit survey response that I submitted to HR with you. I am also willing to speak with you if you’d like more insight.

“Again, I am rooting for you and the positive energy and changes you can bring to CCPS!

“My Exit Survey Response: CCPS does not value dynamic building leaders. The PSEL standards outline how a building leaders’ primary role is to lead instruction and establish positive climate and culture. However, CCPS bogs down building administrators with endless tasks that do not allow instructional leadership to take centerstage. In other districts, tasks like testing, IEP’s,

and 504’s are not assigned to administrators. This allows for them to have the time it takes to do the work that matters. For this reason, your best leaders experience burnout because they complete the endless tasks they are asked to do AND focus on instructional leadership (because they deeply care about their students).

“CCPS is currently in the habit of hiring managerial building leaders who do not have the capacity or willingness to lead instructional change. I cannot blame them—they too will experience burnout if they try to do it all.

“Furthermore, Calvert High School desperately needs four assistant principals as well as a social worker. I cannot understand why the decision was made to understaff one of the highest needs high schools. I guarantee you are going to see a decline in student achievement and climate under the current leadership you have. You have hired building administrators who are interested in managing the building and surviving a school day. Again, you can’t blame them because they are being asked to do a job that is much more than one person should have to do.

Lastly, I was a loyal, dedicated employee for 18 years. The only time I took leave was to be home with my four babies for maternity leave or if one of them was sick. I rarely ever took leave, even when I was sick. I entered work each day determined to make my school a better place. I cannot believe that a student was permitted to threaten and harass me to the point that I suffered severe psychological damage, something that had never been an issue with me before this year. I was treated as though I was “crazy” or “high maintenance” for wanting to feel safe at work. When I decided that I could move past this situation and apply for principal, I was informed from several colleagues that the principal of PHS was telling his teachers that I was “batshit crazy” and “could never be a principal.” We have created a culture in CCPS where administrators do not care for one another. It is toxic and disturbing.”

Four staff members and one student presented concerns of the entire staff at CHS at the April 11 school board meeting. The board next meets on April 25.

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Commissioners Push Back on Town Center Environmental Regs

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

“Looking at it on its face, it’s like in the town centers or the employment in center districts we’re not going to protect the environment as much as we will in other areas,” said commissioner president Buddy Hance. He was referring to a proposal to increase environmental standards in the zoning ordinance update for most of the county except in the town centers and the employment districts.

Hance’s comments took traction among the other commissioners during a work session with 5egh planning commission on April 17, which included reviews on two chapters of the draft update.

Planner III/Zoning Will Hager have responded, “That essentially is what it is. maybe.”

Hager noted, “I would say that it’s probably because those areas are where growth is planned to be concentrated.”

Hance wondered, “The water quality inside the town center’s not as important as it is outside the town center?”

Hager responded, “Well, it’s all important.”

To which Hance quipped, “Apparently it’s not.”

Hager explained, “It’s not like there are no protected buffers in the town centers. They’re still protected buffers and they just would be staying as close to where they are today.”

Hance said, “I just think that the public’s going to be concerned that a steep slope in the town center is not going to be protected as much as a steep slope outside of a town center just because you want to develop the property.”

Planning commission member Chris Gadway said, “I was looking at it from a perspective of a residential landowner. If he sees that a business in the town center or the employment center district can get away with it, why can’t he? It’s almost like two-tiered justice or two-tiered implemen-

tation of policy.”

Hager answered, “That’s what it is. Right!”

Director of Planning and Zoning Mary Beth Cook said the proposal could be revised to meet the commissioners’ concerns.

“That’s the direction I would want to go with,” Hance said. “I just think that we’re trying to protect water quality, I don’t think we should reduce the standards just because you’re in the town center.”

Prior to that discussion, Hager explained what the regulation changes would have said for Chapter 21 on Natural Resources. He explained, “The first thing I want to make clear here is that the regulations of Article 21, these do not apply inside critical area. The critical area has its own regulations and protections of sensitive environmental features that are separate from the regulations of this article.”

He added, “Development adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams in the draft regulations protecting the sensitive environmental feeders, including streams, wetlands, steep slopes, highly erodible soils and buffer areas, have been consolidated and are included within what is called Natural Resource Protection Area, or NRPA.”

Hager said, “The purpose section of Article 21 states as follows: ‘The purpose of the natural Resource protection area is to serve as a buffer that will minimize disturbance to sensitive environmental features from future development. The intent of the NRPA is to protect water quality and quantity and streams, water courses and wetlands, protect steep slopes and minimize erosion and siltation, protect native and non-invasive vegetation, and to protect persons property from environmental hazards such as erosion, siltation, and flood waters.’”

The draft had two NRPA areas, one outside the town center and employment zone, and the other inside them, with different regulations, which led to the concerns raised by Hance.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Planners Defer Dunkirk Sewage Disposal Area



Map showing area proposed to be added to Dunkirk Town Center

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A proposal to put property into the Dunkirk Town Center for a community septic/sewer effluent disposal field has been deferred by the Calvert County Planning Commission.

The planners at an earlier meeting had approval sending out for agency comments a plan to include in the town center property to serve as a sewage disposal site for the Dunkirk Gateway Shopping Center

But at the planning commission April 17 meeting, a revised proposal was submitted to serve the entire Dunkirk Town Center.

Long Range Planner Tay Harris, in a memo to the commission, explained, “A revision to the request to change a designated planning category for 17.15 acres of a 49.89-acre parcel from the Rural Community District to the Town Center has been received by the Department of Planning and Zoning (P&Z). At the March 20 meeting, the Planning Commission directed staff to distribute the proposal for the 60-day comment period pursuant to Md. Ann. Code, Land Use Art. 3.07.c. The proposed revision is substantive; therefore, the request for comments distributed per the Planning commission’s direction has been rescinded and the revision is being presented for your consideration to initiate the 60-day comment period for the revised proposal.”

Harris went on to explain, “The property is located at 10350 Ward Road in Dunkirk (Tax Map 6, Parcel 450). The applicant proposes to utilize the land area as future septic/sewer effluent disposal fields to better serve the Dunkirk Town Center. The proposed septic/sewerage drainage field originally planned to serve the Dunkirk Gateway Shopping Center, and the revised would serve the entire Dunkirk Town Center. The 17.15 acres currently adjoin, but are outside of, the Dunkirk Town Center, and will require an amendment to the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. The proposal is consistent with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan’s visions, goals and objectives to promote sustainable development, encourage a stable and enduring economic base and provide for health and safety (2019 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, as amended in 2022, p. E-S). The proposal is also consistent with the objective to allow community sewer systems in all Town Centers, when needed to support environmental health and/or county-identified economic development

goals, and with the objective to permit new sewerage service areas to serve existing developed lots in septic failure areas (2019 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, as amended in 2022, p. 9-16). Since P&Z staff is updating the Dunkirk Town Center Master Plan, the proposal may be submitted for consideration as part of the update.”

The applicant, however, had not completed engineering studies to determine if the site was feasible for land disposal, a fact that gave pause for the planners, enough for them to defer a decision and also seek guidance from the state.

Commission member Chris Gadway said, “I can’t wrap my head around this. Last month there was a significant amount of discussion on this based on slopes, based on waterways, based on Maryland Health Department hasn’t weighed in on it and all that other litany of questions that were posed without any possible answers. I had made the motion to sit out for agency comment. It (the request) was narrowly passed, but they just said to scrap all of that. And so now we’re back to square one with a substantive change.”

New planning commissioner James McQueen said, “You’ve got a creek going through the area, and you’ve got a pond in the area and you’re talking about doing a spray; it’s going to seep through the ground. What’s protecting those areas? To me, that’s another example of what we just had less than a week ago, where 17,000 gallons of sewage went into the Hellen Creek.”

Director of Planning and Zoning Mary Beth Cook said, “So, all of those questions will be reviewed by me when the time comes to propose the system. So, there would be setbacks from the streams, from the pond. All of that would be addressed. So right now, we’re just facilitating the idea of it being able to happen.”

But the planners were not comfortable giving the foot in the door without more answers. Commission member Wilson Freeland said, “I move to defer until engineering studies are performed that at least provide some information where it would prove the site to be adequate for what its intended use is.”

Gadway added the caveat, “We also add a request for Maryland state to weigh on it as far as the health department goes?”

The motion with Gadway’s amendment carried unanimously.

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Annual Celtic Festival Set for 45th Run

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The spirit of the 7 Celtic Nations will be on display once again this Saturday, April 27 at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum for the 45th Annual Southern Maryland Celtic Festival.

The sound of the bagpipes will be calling you home at the festival sponsored by the Celtic Society of Southern Maryland (CSSM), started in 1976 as an information sharing organization and expanded in 1979 to a formal organization with officers and structure to offer to the public the Celtic Festival of Southern Maryland. In 1986 the society was incorporated in Maryland and accepted as a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational corporation in 1987.

According to the festival website, "Whether it be the music, food, dance or other Celtic attractions — we beckon you to join us."

"Enjoy the sounds of Internationally known Celtic bands performing on multiple entertainment stages throughout the grounds, offering continuous music, dance, and jam sessions throughout the day! Check out our Clan Row, where more than 50 clans and societies have information to share with you about your Celtic heritage! Watch Scottish/Irish country-dance performances, listen to harp and Scottish fiddling all while storytellers weave tales alongside historical displays, craft demonstrations and living history reenactments. Stop by the Celtic Marketplace for a wide selection of tradi-



Photo courtesy of the Celtic Society of Southern Maryland

tional and non-traditional Celtic foods and gifts providing an old-world atmosphere. Be sure to check out the Celtic Kids' Activities and the all-day competitions taking place throughout the park including Pipers, Drummers, Pipe Bands, Highland Dancers, Highland Athletics, and Rugby games," the

society informs.

Gates are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine. General admission (13+) is \$25 for pre-sale and \$30 at the gate. Children (6-12) are \$5; children (5 and under) are free with an adult ticket sale.

All Pre-Purchased General Admission

Tickets will be scanned at the gate. No ticket, no entry. General Admission Gate Ticket Sales will be credit card sale (fee associated with card sales). No cash sales at the gate.

No pets are allowed in the park during the festival. No outside alcohol of any kind is permitted into the park or festival. Alcoholic beverages are available for sale at multiple locations throughout the festival grounds.

The 2024 Southern Maryland Celtic Festival official opening ceremony welcomes all competitors, festival participants, and visitors to the day's events. Welcoming Ceremonies are marked by the Parade of Clans and Nations with representation by the participating clans, Living History Regiments, and the ever-popular Massed Bands.

"Come cheer them on as they march down the field with their flags, colors, costumes, kilts, pipes, and drums!" festival organizers say.

Benfield Brass Band is a traditional British-style brass band, originally formed in 1998 for the express purpose of participating at the Gettysburg Brass Band Festival, held in June.

In British style, the band is composed of brass and percussion instruments. The instrumentation consists of cornets, flugelhorn, tenor horns, baritones, euphoniums, trombones, and basses, as well as percussion. Currently the band has 40 volunteer members performing from midfall to midsummer.

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of April 8, 2024 – April 14, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,246 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health – 53
- Disorderly -- 28
- Domestic -- 23
- Motor Vehicle Crashes -- 15
- Patrol Checks / School Checks -- 1068
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles -- 26
- Traffic Complaints -- 85
- 911 Hang Ups -- 65
- ARRESTS -- 22



Mark Emery Cress

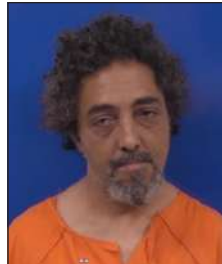
Burglary: 24-28165

On April 8, 2024, Master Deputy Cress responded to the 120 block of Llewellyn Lane in Huntingtown, for the report of a trespasser. The complainant advised an unknown male suspect was discovered inside the victim's garage. Once confronted by the homeowner, the suspect, later identified as **Mark Emery Cress**, 41 of Huntingtown, fled on foot. Deputy Cress quickly apprehended Mark and a search of Mark's person incident to arrest revealed 13 packages of Suboxone. Cress was charged with Fourth-Degree Burglary and CDS:

Possession-Not Cannabis.



DaTonya Monique Riley



Michael Lorenzo Fernanders

CDS Violation: 24-29942

On April 13, 2024, Deputy Hill initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for a traffic violation in the area of Main Street and Old Field Lane in Prince Frederick. Contact was made with the driver, **DaTonya Monique Riley**, 37 of Prince Frederick, and passenger **Michael Lorenzo Fernanders**, 49 of Prince Frederick. Further investigation revealed numerous pills were located inside the vehicle along with an improvised smoking device. Both Riley and Fernanders were transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. During a secondary search of Riley, 11 additional Oxycodone pills were located in Riley's underwear and one Oxycodone pill in Fernander's sock. Riley was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and Possession of CDS While

Confining. Fernanders was charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.

Confining. Fernanders was charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.



Calvin Wayne Blackwell

Damaged Property: 24-28509

On April 9, 2024, Deputy Strong responded to the 3200 block of Ina Chase Street in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised on April 8, 2024, at 10:48 p.m., the side view mirror of the victim's vehicle was destroyed. Investigation revealed the suspect was **Calvin Wayne Blackwell**, 42 of Chesapeake Beach. Blackwell was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Malicious Destruction of Property.

Motor Vehicle Theft: 24-29854 On April 13th, 2024, Deputy Tavares responded to the 11400 block of Rawhide Road in Lusby MD, for the report of a motor vehicle theft that already occurred. The complainant advised his vehicle was stolen between 10 p.m. on April 12 and 6 a.m. on April 13 and returned with damage to the right side of the vehicle and a ¼ tank of gas depleted. The complainant advised the keys were left in the ignition. The estimated value of damaged property is unknown at this time.

Theft: 24-28269 On April 8, 2024, DFC Huy responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office located at 30 Church Street in Prince Frederick, for the report of stolen property. The complainant advised a black Firestar M43 was stolen from a residence in the 2200 block of Garrity Road in St. Leonard. The estimated value of stolen property is \$300.00.

Theft: 24-29312 On April 11, 2024, Master Deputy Aurich responded to the 200 block of Harbor Drive in Lusby, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised both the front and rear registration plates had been stolen from a vehicle parked outside the residence. The estimated value of stolen property is \$160.00.

Theft: 24-29580 On April 12, 2024, Deputy Campbell responded to the Wawa located at 305 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised she misplaced her ATM

card while at the Wawa and an unknown suspect made unauthorized charges on the card before canceling it. The estimated value of unauthorized charges is \$36.76.



Timothy Wayne Downs

Trespassing: 24-28413

On April 9, 2024, Deputy Hill responded to the Wawa located at 305 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick, for the report of trespassing. The complainant advised **Timothy Wayne Downs**, 41 of no fixed address, had been previously trespassed from the establishment and was observed at the checkout counter. Downs was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.



Arneisha Brianna Barnes

Trespassing: 24-30258

On April 14, 2024, Deputy Tunnell responded to 713 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of trespassing. The complainant advised a female wearing purple sweatpants and brown pants was inside the store asking employees for beer money. Contact was made with the female, identified as **Arneisha Brianna Barnes**, 28 of no fixed address, sitting on the sidewalk outside the store consuming an alcoholic beverage. Investigation revealed Barnes had been previously trespassed from the establishment. Barnes was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

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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What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending Category 1 site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their April 17 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet



E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick.

1) CSPR-142988, **St. Leonard Volunteer Fire Department**, located on Calvert Beach Road, Saint Leonard, on a 5.076-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Village District Subarea B. This project will have public water but will utilize a private septic system. Proposed 4.1 acres of disturbance for demolition of the existing pavilion and construction of a two-story, 40,280-sf Fire & Rescue service building with eight double-loaded apparatus bays. The concept submittal was accepted June 28, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett

2) CSPR-142881, **Prince Frederick Town Center South, Shopping Plaza**, located on South Solomons Island Road, Prince Frederick, on 115-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Forest District. This project will have private water but will utilize public sewer. Proposed about 75,000 sf of commercial retail & office space with parking and site improvements. The concept submittal was accepted September 28, 2022. Agent: COA Barrett

3) CSPR-143112, **CCIP Lot 3R**, located at 171 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, Lot 3R in the Calvert County Industrial Park, zoned Light Industrial. Proposed redevelopment of a portion of the 4.5-acre lot by demolishing the existing office and constructing a new two-story office building in its place. It is further proposed to repave the southern portion of the site and to construct a storage warehouse and wall to segregate parking between the storage building yard & adjacent flex space tenants. A total of 6,524 sf of new construction with a total disturbance of 1.2-acres is proposed and the amenities will utilize public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted December 20, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett

4) CSPR-143116, **145 Adelina Business Office**, located at 145 Adelina Road, Prince Frederick, combining Parcel 120 and Parcel 250, Lot 2 for a total of 2.44 acres, zoned Rural Commercial. Proposed remodeling of existing structure for use as an office and construction of a new 7,400-sf, two-story building for business-related storage with associated parking area required for the two buildings. This project will utilize private well and septic. The concept submittal was accepted December 20, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett

5) CSPR-143134, **Kelly Generator Storage Facility**, located at 7645 and 7655 Meadow Run Lane in Owings, MD. A redevelopment of Lots 6RR (1.43 acres) and 7RR (2.26 acres) in the Meadow Run

Park Subdivision, zoned Light Industrial. Proposed construction of a 16,800 sf, two-story industrial storage facility with parking and site improvements. This project will utilize well and septic. The concept submittal was accepted January 24, 2024. Agent: COA Barrett

6) CSPR-143148, **SMILE Driveway Expansion**, located off of H.G. Trueman Road in Lusby, MD and is zoned Farm and Forest District. This project proposes an expansion of the access drive leading to the SMILE Warehouse & Thrift Shop facility. Work is proposed on the SMILE property as well as the adjoining St. Peter's Parish property, both being owned by St. Peter's Parish. Due to the necessary operation of the donation center, parking stalls that were originally created for SMILE along the east side of the building are proposed for removal from the site plan. The reduction in parking will be mitigated through a shared parking agreement. The concept submittal was accepted February 28, 2024. Agent: COA Barrett.

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

1) SD-142770, **Lusby Villas**, Lot 1, located on Lusby Parkway in Lusby. One commercial lot proposed on one parcel consisting of 24.87 acres, Zoned Lusby Town Center, Village Residential Office District, Tier I. The preliminary plan submittal was accepted January 26, 2022. Agent: COA Barrett

2) SD-142999, **Magnolia Ridge**, located on Fox Run Boulevard, Prince Frederick, on a 31.29-acre parcel, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District and will be served by public water & sewer. Proposed 164 Townhouse Units and 96 Apartments with a density of 8.3 units per acre. The project proposes 3.04 acres of recreation area and 12.58 acres of open space. The preliminary plan submittal was accepted August 23, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett

3) SD-143071, **Magnolia Ridge West**, located at Armory Road and Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, with frontage and access from Dares Beach Road & Armory Road. The project is proposed on multiple parcels totaling 26.3 acres, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District. The subdivision proposes 79 townhome lots and associated improvements with a density of ~3 units per acre. This project will be served by public water and sewer. A total of 19.47 acres of total open space is provided, including 3.81 acres of proposed recreation area. The preliminary plan submittal was accepted September 27, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett

Concept submittals have been removed from this list. There is no assurance that those projects will reach Preliminary Plan status. If/when they do, they will be placed on this list under their Preliminary Plan project number.



Letters to the Editor

Forty-five years of compassion and commitment

This year, Hospice of the Chesapeake celebrates 45 years of caring for families. Our organization was founded by a small group of volunteers who planted the seeds for a not-for-profit organization that would impact the lives of thousands of families. Their work as volunteers forever changed healthcare in our community.

Imagine the strength of commitment it took for those original volunteers to decide to challenge the norm; to blaze a new and different trail. I spoke with one of the founders, Martha O'Herlihy, and she assures me that they had no idea that 45 years later, their radical ideas would touch the lives of more than 7,000 patients each year, directly impacting how we care for those in our community living with advanced illness and coping with loss every day.

During Volunteer Appreciation Week,

April 21 to 27, we honor the thousands of people who have given selflessly to make moments that matter for individuals and families at a difficult yet sacred time in their lives. Many reading this have volunteered for us in some way over these historic years, helping to shape us into who we are today. Thank you, each of you, for your role in caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure are cherished every day, but especially during this week of national recognition and in our 45th year.

With gratitude,

*Becky Miller
President and CEO
Hospice of the Chesapeake*

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor, please include your name & town of residence.

Email: aldailey@countytimes.net
P.O. Box 250 Hollywood, MD 20636

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CALVERT COUNTY INFORMATION & EVENTS

Calvert County Government will be responsible and accountable to all citizens of Calvert County; provide high quality, effective and efficient services; preserve Calvert County's environment, heritage and rural character; foster opportunities for responsible and sustainable residential growth and economic development; and support Calvert County's essential institutions and keep them strong.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

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 Town Center Meetings:


- St. Leonard: Wednesday, May 1, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Find more information about all Boards and Commissions at www.calvertcountymd.gov/GetInvolved. Now is a great time to get involved! Call 410-535-1600, ext. 2201 with any questions.

CAPITAL REGION HONOR FLIGHT

Thursday, April 25, 6 p.m. at Dunkirk District Park

Join us in staging a joyful welcome home to local veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, as they return from their Capital Region Honor Flight. Homemade signs and waving of American flags are encouraged as we honor these courageous warriors and heroes, and give them a warm "welcome home" that some have never received.

PRIMARY ELECTION
Skip the lines, vote early!
May 2-9, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To view the early voting wait time dashboard visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/EarlyVotingDashboard



CHESAPEAKE HILL GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE RIBBON CUTTING

Join the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, April 30 at noon for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Chesapeake Hills Golfcourse Clubhouse located at 11352 HG Trueman Road in Lusby.



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-  YOUTUBE www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov
-  LINKEDIN www.linkedin.com/company/calvert-county-government

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, Apr 25

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

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 (1) service learning hour for participating. It's a great way to socialize and build reading confidence! 410-326-5289.

<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Investigation Station

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th Street, North Beach
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Question, Discover, and Explore! Investigate science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) with dynamic books, experiments, and other fun, hands-on activities. For technicians in grades 3-5. Registration required. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Apr 26

On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way

1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Maritime Performance Series: The Benjie Porecki Trio

Calvert Mariune Museum
7 - 9 p.m.

The Benjie Porecki Trio pays homage to jazz as one of the true American art forms. The trio renders classic jazz standards with fire and intensity. Keyboardist Benjie Porecki, drummer Mark Prince, and Zack Pride on bass create a joyful experience in toe-tapping- funky-jazz, brilliantly painted rifts, melancholy ballads, and searing drum solos. Performance is in the museum's Harms Gallery starting at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online, up to one day prior, at bit.ly/MaritimeConcerts and \$25 the day of the concert, online and at the door.

Sat, Apr 27

Annual Plant Sale

Christ Church
3100 Broomes Island Rd., Port Republic
9 a.m. - Noon

Calvert Garden Club will be selling locally grown plants dug and potted by members of the club, "from our garden to yours". In addition, plants from several local nurseries will be at the sale. A wide variety of plants, trees, and shrubs will be available for purchase including native and pollinator perennials and annuals, hanging baskets, vegetable plants, herbs, and house plants. Friendly knowledgeable club members will be available to answer questions including a display and information on pollinators. A raffle table, baked goods table, grilled concessions, and yard sale treasures will also be at the sale. Proceeds from

the plant sale benefit community projects and Calvert Garden Club's Grant program. For additional information visit our website www.calvertgardenclub.com.

Community Yard Sale

Oakland Hall
April 27 & 28

Multiple homes on Oakland Hall Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

Fossil Field Experience

Calvert Marine Museum
9 a.m. - noon

Come and explore the fossils at Cove Point. Learn more about fossils: where to find them, how to identify them, and what they can tell us about the past. This program is for adults and children 8 and older that are accompanied by an adult. Preregistration required at least two business days before the program. The cost is \$25 per person. For more information, visit:

<https://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/215/Fossil-Field-Experience>

Sun, Apr 28

Southern Maryland Bluegrass

Elks Lodge #2620
1015 Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick
2 p.m.

If you've ever listened to classic Bluegrass from yesteryear and wondered why no one has done these songs in so long, the answer is simple. Few have been able to do them justice. David Peterson & 1946 is a band that is playing and singing quality traditional Bluegrass like the masters intended. They bring the much-loved sounds of the past right into the present with their own refreshing signature. Tickets will be \$23 per person and sold at the door. The doors will open promptly at Noon. Children under 12 are admitted free with a paying adult. Food

will be available for sale by the Calvert Elks Lodge beginning at noon until 2:30 p.m. A 50/50 raffle and door prizes will be offered. For more information, please call 301-737-3004 or go to www.somdbluegrass.com.

Fossil Club Meeting & Public Lecture

Calvert Marine Museum
1:30 - 4 p.m.

The CMM Fossil Club meeting starts at 1:30 p.m., followed a free public lecture at 2:30 p.m. in the CMM Harms Gallery. Internationally recognized underwater photographer/videographer and shark naturalist, Tanya Houppermans, will give a lecture titled 'Swimming with Sharks: Working with the World's Most Misunderstood Creature.'

Mon, Apr 29

Grooving and Moving

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
9:15-9:35 a.m. for ages 2 & under
10-10:30 a.m. for ages 3-5

Join us for Grooving and Moving where we will use music and movement to start the day! Fans of Storytime will enjoy playing instruments, moving, and singing together. Registration required. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Ongoing

Jewelry Trunk Show

Calvert Marine Museum Store
Friday, April 26 – Sunday, April 28
10:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., daily.

Unique and One-Of-A-Kind Jewelry Styles will be available. Shoppers will have the opportunity to see and try on pieces in-person that they might not have access to otherwise. For more information, contact the Museum Store at 410-326-2750.

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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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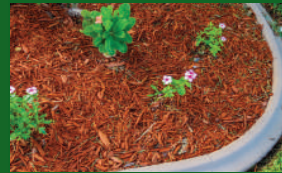
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Excessively theatrical actors
5. Footwear
10. A way to disfigure
14. Exchange rate
15. Hawaiian wreaths
16. North-central Indian city
17. Bungle
18. Extremely angry
19. A short note of what's owed
20. Criminal organization
22. Mimic
23. Try to grab
24. U.S.-born individuals
27. Some are covert
30. Order of the British Empire
31. Don't know when yet
32. Payment (abbr.)
35. Winged angelic being
37. Variety of Chinese
38. A way to be anxious
39. Famed wrestler Hulk
40. Partner to cheese
41. Slang for sergeant
42. Canadian flyers
43. Actress Ryan
44. Highly unpleasant vapor
45. Body part
46. Halfway
47. Cool!
48. Consume
49. Salts
52. Upper bract of a floret of grass
55. Housepet
56. Cavalry-sword
60. Symbol of a nation
61. Frocks
63. Used to carry food
64. Portuguese folk song
65. Sharp mountain ridge
66. Ireland
67. Where golfers begin
68. Greek mythological sorceress
69. Fluid suspensions

CLUES DOWN

1. "Mad Men" leading man
2. Water (Spanish)
3. Annoy
4. Bulgarian capital
5. Japanese title
6. Capital of Zimbabwe
7. Giraffe
8. A mixture of substances
9. Midway between south and southeast
10. Staffs
11. Turkish title
12. Type of acid
13. Thin, flat strip of wood
21. Russian river
23. Ribonucleic acid
25. Partner to flow
26. Airborne (abbr.)
27. Earthy pigment
28. Genus of earless seals
29. "Key to the Highway" bluesman
32. By or in itself
33. Hot fluid below the earth's surface
34. Partner to trick
36. British Air Aces
37. Ammunition
38. Supervises flying
40. Health care for the aged
41. Flanks
43. Millimeters
44. Where wrestlers perform
46. Not around
47. Flightless bird
49. Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
50. Expressed concern for
51. Satisfies
52. Flew off!
53. Wings
54. Load a ship
57. Vigor
58. British title
59. Whiskeys
61. ___ Adams: founding father
62. Body of water

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APRIL 18 SOLUTIONS

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3	8	9	2	6	1	7	4	5
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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Apr 25

Candidate Forum Board of Education District 4

Lexington Park Library
21677 FDR Blvd., Lexington Park
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

An opportunity to hear candidates express their ideas and respond to questions.

- 5:00—5:30 Meet and Greet in the Library Lobby
- 5:30—6:30 Candidate Forum in Meeting Rooms A & B

This forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of St. Mary's County, St. Mary's County NAACP Branch 7025, the Center for the Study of Democracy at St. Mary's College of Maryland, and the St. Mary's County Library.

Sat, Apr 27

The Something to Wear Sale

7th District Volunteer Rescue Squad
Auxiliary
21530 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
Saturday hours – 8 am to 12 pm
Sunday hours – 9 am to 1 pm

New with tags and gently worn clothing. Fill a 13-gallon bag for \$10.00. Thanks for supporting this fundraising event.

Spring Bazaar—Golden Beach/Patuxent Fire House

Golden Beach Firehouse
29848 Theresa Circle, Mechanicsville
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vendors, Food Trucks, Door Prizes

Tue, Apr 30

HOPE for St. Mary's Community Dinner

Church of the Ascension
21641 Great Mills Rd., Lexington Park
5 p.m.

We want to share how HOPE for St. Mary's is growing & changing and how that could benefit you. We hope you will venture out of your comfort zone, indulge your curiosity, and stop by on a Tuesday evening.

If you would like to join us, RSVP for our Hope SMC Community dinner by emailing us at: kimberly@hopesmc.org and we will save you a seat at the dinner table.

Upcoming

Youth Cornhole Tournament

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd.,
Mechanicsville
Sat, May 11
Registration: 10 am to 11 am
Tournament starts: 12 pm

Groups ages 4 to 7 FREE, 8 to 12 \$5, 13 to 17 \$10, and adults plus 17 under \$20

"Luck of the Draw." Please bring cornhole boards if you have one. Popcorn, cotton candy machine, hotdogs, hamburgers, sodas etc. Need more info: John Standish 240-577-5067 or standishjL@gmail.com

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



All About Hummingbirds

Join Barb Whipkey, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Lexington Park and LaPlata, for this virtual talk all about hummingbirds on Thursday, April 25 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Barb will discuss nesting behaviors, attracting hummingbirds to your feeders, and more. Barb will even give some of her tips for hand feeding the hummingbirds. Make this your best hummingbird season ever! Register on www.stmalib.org with an email address to receive a link to join the online event.

DIY Crafternoon: Graduation Caps

Calling all 2024 graduates! You've worked hard to make it to graduation day, so why stick to the plain graduation regalia? Let your personality, studies, and goals shine by creating a personalized graduation cap! Visit Leonardtown's Makerspace on Friday, April 26 from 2 - 4 p.m. to create a stylish cap personal to you and your accomplishments. We will have an array of free supplies available, but feel

free to bring your own as well! Register on www.stmailb.org.

Sustainability Fair

Attend enlightening lectures, make eco-inspired art projects, and connect with community organizations driving positive change at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, April 27. All ages are welcome! Let's shape a greener future together! Learn more about the fair and find a list of programs and activities on www.stmalib.org.

Día del Niño: Day of the Child

Come celebrate Día del Niño/Day of the Child with crafts and activities at Lexington Park Library on Sunday, April 28 from 2 - 4 p.m. One free book per child while supplies last. El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), commonly known as Día, is a celebration every day of children, families, and reading that culminates yearly on April 30. Día del Niño is a nationally recognized initiative that emphasizes the importance of literacy for all children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Money and Conflict: Strategies to Handle

Disagreements about money can be challenging to work through. Join us and the Community Mediation Center staff at Lexington Park Library on Monday, April 29 from 12 - 1 p.m. and learn about how to work through the conflict that can arise when talking about finances. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Covered Bridges: Not Just Pretty Artifacts

Join us for this virtual archaeology presentation on Monday, April 29 from 7 - 8 p.m. Guest speaker Dr. Jim Gibb will discuss design principles in bridge construction, with a special focus on Maryland and nearby states. Please register with an email address to receive the Zoom link the day before the event. Register on www.stmailb.org.

Puzzlemania! Jigsaw Puzzle Competition and Swap

A jigsaw puzzle bonanza! Team puzzle competition for prizes as well as leisure puzzler activities including a puzzle

swap event at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. All puzzlers welcome! All teams will go head-to-head to see who can complete their copy of a 500 piece puzzle the fastest. Prizes awarded. Teams are made up of 2-3 people, ages 16+, and registration is required for the team event. Register today to reserve a spot for your team on www.stmalib.org! Only one team member should register for the team. Don't want the pressure of a timed puzzle? We've got something for you too! We'll be having a puzzle swap, so bring any puzzles you're ready to part with and pick up a new one here. (Please make sure any puzzle you bring to swap has all the pieces.) We'll also have leisure jigsaw puzzles to put together and other puzzle games available. No registration is required for the puzzle swap or other puzzle activities, just drop in when you can.

ter, Rose Marie Goldsborough, her nephew, Benjamin Raymond Birch, and her husband, Walter Curtis McDaniel. She is survived by her children, Christopher Todd McDaniel (Kristin), and Megan Marie McDaniel, her granddaughter, Joanie Elizabeth McDaniel, sisters Josephine Ann Scully and Agnes Elizabeth Birch, as well as her nieces, Jennifer Marie Butler, Mary Ruth Jackson, Katie Ann Birch, and Leslie Renee Montgomery.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 8:00PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM at the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, May 2nd, 2024 at 10:00AM at Our Lady's Church of Medley's Neck, Leonardtown, MD, with Father John Ngyuen officiating. Interment will follow in the Our Lady's Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be James L. Knott, Stephen Goddard, Clarence Goddard III, Timothy Buhler, John Fenwick, and Wesley Cory. James Knott will serve as honorary pallbearer.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Our Lady's Cemetery Society, and the American Cancer Society.

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.

Bruce Maynard, 83



Bruce E. Maynard of Lexington Park, MD born on May 2, 1940 in Burlington Vermont age 83 passed away on April 21, 2024 at his home surrounded by family.

Preceding him in death was father, George E. Maynard and mother, Rita B. White. Also, his wife Lee A. Maynard (12/18/16) He is survived by his two daughters, Susan Cardona (Peter) of Hollywood, MD and Karen Maynard of Lexington Park, MD. Grandsons Catlin Cardona (Kaise) of Kingsland, GA, Cordell Cardona of Hollywood, MD and great grandson Dallas Cardona of Kingsland GA. He is also survived by his significant other, Patsy Baxley of Drayden, MD.

Bruce was a dedicated husband, father, and friend. He served in the Air National Guard from 1958-1968 where he acquired his knowledge of electrical engineering. After 30 years of working in the DoD he finally retired from Northrop Grumman. Since retiring, he gave back to the community through volunteer work. In his many years of aid, you could find him always smiling, whether helping people to see better with the Lions Club, filing taxes for AARP and finally as the vice president of A.C.T.S (A Community That Shares). You might have even seen him helping out on Thanksgiving serving dinners at a local church.

Family will receive guests for Bruce's life celebration service on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 4:00 PM with the memorial service at 5:30 PM at Brinsfield Funeral Home,

22955 Hollywood Rd., Leonardtown, MD 20650. A repass will follow (TBD). Private interment to be held at a later date.

Donations in memory of Bruce may be made to ACTS, PO Box 54, Bushwood, MD 20618 or, with VENMO @ ACommunitythatsharesInc.

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

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

Gordon Zollinhofer, 95



Our beloved father, Gordon Walter Zollinhofer, "Zee" passed away peacefully in his home on April 5, 2024 at the age of 95. He is survived by his three children, Richard

G. Zollinhofer (Linda), Noni Anne Evans, Lee Marie Steinberger, and step children Robert L. Patterson and Gloria J. Patterson. He is survived by his three sisters Ida G. Zollinhofer, Jacklyn S. Randall (Richard), and M. Candace Miller; and sister-in law, Janet E. Zollinhofer. He was affectionately known as Pop Pop to many, including his grandchildren Amy (Kevin), Emily (Gary), Celia, Carlton, Joe and great grandchildren Wyatt, Hank, Blake, Kaitlyn, Rylee, Dylan, Breanna, Jaxson, Brooke, Brenna, and Kamryn. He is survived by numerous nephews, and nieces. Gordon was pre-deceased by his parents and his brother, Reverend Henry E. Zollinhofer.

Gordon was born to Gordon W. and Naomi E. Zollinhofer in Washington, D.C. on January 12, 1929. He grew up in Riverdale, Maryland and Lanham, Maryland. He had a 75 year career delivering The Evening Star and The Washington Post newspapers. Gordon graduated from the University of Maryland. He served in the U. S. Army. Then he lived in Leonardtown, Maryland, resuming newspaper delivery as well as owning the Esso station in Leonardtown. Gordon gave to his community by serving in the Junior Chamber of Commerce. In the 70's, Gordon started his A to Z Landscaping business. While delivering the newspaper full time, Gordon worked another full time job delivering parts for Bee's NAPA. He worked until he could no longer drive, at age 86.

Gordon's adult years included membership in the United Methodist Church. In his later years, he attended First Saints Community Church UMC at the St. George's Island and St. Paul's campuses.

A service of life celebration will be held on April 26, 2024 at 12:00 pm in the First Saints Community Church UMC, St. Paul's Campus. Interment will follow at Cheltenham Veteran's Cemetery in Cheltenham, MD.

Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice of St. Mary's or to the St. Mary's County Board of Education Shoe Fund.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

May 1 - 5, 2024 #nfflightthenight2024
#firehero2024
#lightthenight4brice



LIGHT THE NIGHT
for Fallen Firefighters

Homes 

Fire Departments 

Landmarks 

Let's Light Up Southern Maryland to Show We Remember



Please join the **National Fallen Firefighters Foundation** on May 1-5, 2024 in honoring and remembering the sacrifice of America's fallen fire heroes. We invite landmarks, fire and community organizations, businesses, and homes across the nation to light up red from May 1 through the **National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend**. Learn more or watch live at: weekend.firehero.org.

Sign up & find resources at: firehero.org/light-the-night

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

Immaculate Conception




Pick up is at the Parish Center located behind the church.

on

Sunday, May 5th, 2024

from 12:00 noon until 3:00 pm

Menu

Fried Chicken, Crab Balls, Ham, Shrimp Salad
Parsley Potatoes, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Dinner Roll & Butter
and Country Applesauce.

\$28.00 per dinner

Please visit ICChurchMD.org

Click on "Parish Dinner" to order and pay for your dinner by
Wednesday, May 1st, 2024.

Questions? Call 301-884-3123 M-F, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Continued from page 23

planting and pulling weeds to make her yard one of the most beautiful in Culver City.

Jimmie was a proud member of the VFW Post 1732 representing the women's auxiliary as President for many years. She made it a point to go visit the VA Hospital in Long Beach, CA every month for years, bringing small necessities and someone to talk to making their lives a little bit better.

Jimmie made many friends over the years some that we didn't even know about. It may be someone she met at the VFW who fell on hard times or a neighbor she would go visit for years in a nursing home. We learned over the years how much she thought of other people first, by visiting when she could, cutting newspaper articles out, sending them to different people because she thought it would help them and much more.

Jimmie is survived by son Steve, wife Shirley, son Ron, ex-wife Marion Simms, brother Col. Bob Pratt from Deltaville, VA, sisters Mary "Snooky" and brother-in-law James Raley, Salinda Mae Carroll, sister-in-law Audrey Pratt from Ridge, MD and numerous nieces, nephews and many friends. Laurel Polson from Los Angeles, who was always there to help, listen and take Jimmie around for short drives. She loved all dearly. Much to her chagrin there were no grandkids, but she was surrounded by and adopted all the kids in the neighborhood, especially Andy Almado whom she watched grow from a little boy up to a man. She loved him as her own. Jimmie was predeceased by her parents George William Pratt & Hattie Elizabeth Naumann Pratt, her siblings: Hattie Anita

Dunbar, Alice Adelaide Trossbach, George William Pratt Jr, Steven Mark Pratt, Edwin Louis Pratt, & James Irving (Tinks) Pratt.

Jimmie's caregivers allowed her to stay in her home. Elaine Respicio Solt, Arlette Moore, and Fe Toledo were wonderful and helped her over many years.

Services will be held graveside on April 27, 2024, at 11:30 am: Trinity Episcopal Church, 47444 Trinity Church Road, Saint Mary's City, MD 20686.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 520 Ridge, MD 20680 or Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 456, Ridge MD 20680.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

King Norris, 73



King Herbert Norris, 73, of Chaptico, died Tuesday, April 16, at Medstar Southern Maryland Hospital, Clinton, from complications related to cancer.

Born July 24, 1950 in Leonardtown, he was the son of Joseph Elmer Norris Sr. and Mary Ora Hill Norris of Chaptico.

He attended Holy Angel-Sacred Heart School in Avenue and graduated from Chopticon High School, Morganza in 1971. King graduated June 11 and was drafted into

the United States Army five days later. He was the last person from St. Mary's County processed for the Vietnam War.

Sadly, King's service in Southeast Asia would define his life. The U.S. Army assigned him to the 212th MP Company at Long Binh, an ammunition dump 10 miles to the northwest of Saigon, Vietnam. Exposure to the toxic defoliant Agent Orange first caused health problems related to his central nervous system in 1979. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2014. In 2020, he was diagnosed with leukemia, which doctors successfully treated with a new drug which cost \$15,000 a month. Earlier this year, his cancer returned with a vengeance and metastasized to his spinal column.

His mother once told him that King was "born in the wrong century. He should have been a mountain man," she said. He was a natural woodsman, hunting from the time he was a boy. He could track deer with such skill, he could often see the bushes moving up ahead where it had just passed through the brush. He loved to fish as well.

King was a talented craftsman. He loved to work with cedar, and crafted tables and art from the wood. He was also a talented singer and songwriter. When his central nervous system was affected by Agent Orange, he found that he could no longer play guitar or do his woodworking. He turned his energy toward helping others. Since Covid 19, he took food to the emergency room doctors and nurses at the Medstar St. Mary's Hospital Emergency Room twice a month at his own expense. When his friend's daughter needed a car, he bought her one. If a friend's child needed a swing set, he purchased one for her. There are numerous friends and family, too many to mention, who benefitted from his benevolence.

He was predeceased in death by his parents, and his dearest friend J.R. Shoemaker.

He is survived by his siblings, Joseph Leo (Mary); Kathy (Allen); twin brothers Joseph (Jackie) and David (Cathy); sisters Angie and Rose (Mel); his special "grandkids," Josh and Jennifer Thompson; many cousins, nephews and nieces, family and friends too numerous to mention. To King, friends and family were the same thing.

A Mass will be celebrated Wednesday, May 22 at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church, Chaptico, with a Celebration of Life to follow.

George Kohut, 80



George F. Kohut, 80, of Frederica, DE, passed away on March 19, 2024 at the Center at Eden Hill after a long battle with many health issues. He was born on September 17, 1943 in St. Mary's City, MD to the late George C. Kohut and Hilda Hammett Kohut.

Mr. Kohut graduated from St. Michael's High School in 1961. He enlisted in the U. S. Air Force and served proudly from 1961 to 1965, the last two years stationed at Dover Air Force Base. He worked for Tudor

Electric and then started his own business, Kohut Electric in 1976.

In 1963 he met and then married the love of his life, Edythe (Wilson) Kohut of Dover.

Mr. Kohut achieved scouting's highest rank, the Eagle Scout Award, in 1957. He was an avid Eagles fan and deer hunter, teaching young teenagers how to hunt. He was a friend to many.

Mr. Kohut is survived by his wife of 57 years, Edie; his daughter Shelly (Michael) of Magnolia, DE; his son George "Bo" (Kelly) of Elkton, MD; his granddaughters Anneke and Elle; his sister Carole (Robert) Smith Hardesty of Chambersburg, PA; and four nephews: Matthew and Mark Smith and Sean and Scott Baldwin. His greatest gift was being "Pop-Pop" to his granddaughters, beloved children and devoted sister.

He was preceded in death by his parents and by his sister Kathleen Kohut Baldwin in 1989.

A private interment with military honors for family will be held at Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Millsboro, DE. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in George's name to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105. God Bless You All! Online condolences may be made via www.pippinfuneralhome.com.

Mary Louise McDaniel, 72



Mary Louise McDaniel passed away peacefully on April 16, 2024 at the age of 72. A lifelong resident of Leonardtown, Maryland, Mary Louise was born on

January 19, 1952. She was the daughter of Benjamin Samuel Goddard and Mary Louise Goddard.

She was a graduate of the Class of 1969 at Chopticon High School. After graduation, she worked at the local Ben Franklin for many years in various positions leading up to warehouse manager. Following her work at Ben Franklin, Mary Louise started work at a warehouse in St. Inigoes and became a financial manager for the Department of the Navy at Patuxent River Naval Air Station. Mary Louise retired as a financial manager after 32 years.

She enjoyed gardening and flowers, especially lilies and hostas, holidays, particularly Christmas, a good deal on groceries, and especially her role within her family, always working to please and serve as she thought best. She also enjoyed volunteering in the community and helping with the Farm and Garden exhibitions at the St. Mary's County Fair. She worked for many years as the gate attendant at the cattle gate.

A dedicated mother, Mary Louise was blessed with two children, Christopher Todd McDaniel and Megan Marie McDaniel. She loved spending time with her family. Mary Louise was overjoyed to be a grandmother and loved playing with her granddaughter, Joanie Elizabeth McDaniel. She is preceded in death by her parents, Benjamin Samuel Goddard and Mary Louise Goddard, her sis-



INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR OLDER ADULTS

ST. MARY'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGING & HUMAN SERVICES
301-475-4200, EXT. 1050
WWW.STMARYSCOUNTYMD.GOV/AGING

In Remembrance

Stage Manager for USA NETWORK. He was responsible for all aspects of floor, stage, and production management, which included scenic, camera, crew logistics, and all details from setup to filming. During that time, he met and worked with famous showbiz stars such as Gregory Peck, Mr. T., Danny DeVito, and George Burns.

Between 1990 and 1997, Gary was a Deputy Investigator/Detective for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office in Fonda, New York. Gary conducted surveillance through video and audio taping, investigated and analyzed intelligence from informants regarding drug dealers. He received many accolades for this work, to quote one, "His undercover work, in particular, is the very definition of excellence. I could not begin to adequately describe his abilities that led to literally hundreds of undercover narcotics purchases with the city. Many of my Officers are now doing higher quality work, thanks to their interaction with Investigator Meekins".

He retired from NYPD in 1997 and moved to St. Mary's County, MD to marry his childhood sweetheart, Marilyn Matthis, who sadly succumbed to cancer in 2007.

Between 1998 and 2008, he was as a Uniformed Protective Officer for the United States Department of State in Washington, DC. and the Office of Naval Intelligence at Andrews Air Force Base in Suitland, MD. His main responsibility was to screen people and vehicles related to Homeland Security, national security, and ONI security. During this period, Gary was honored the award of Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medal for his participation in the response to the 9/11 attack on the United States of America.

In 2008, he married his wife of 15 years, Mary, and, the same year, he took a position working as an intelligence analyst for the Office of Naval Intelligence as the liaison for USN, USAF, intelligence and law enforcement communities. He also coordinated logistical efforts in relation to TRIDENT deploying forces.

After his retirement in 2011, Gary enjoyed the social community he found at the Patuxent Moose Lodge and collecting and driving classic cars. He founded and managed the "Blue Eyed Blues" band of which he was the lead singer and performed gigs for several years in the Southern Maryland area.

The family will receive friends on Friday, April 19, 2024 from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held in the funeral home chapel at 4:00 PM with Rev. Ray Schmidt officiating. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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.

Cathy Fowler, 87



Catherine Aurelia Fowler, "Cathy", 87, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on April 17, 2024, in Prince Frederick, MD. Born on December 13, 1936 in Washington, D.C.,

she was the daughter of the late Mary Delia Davis and the late Philip Henry Davis. Cathy was the loving wife of the late Thomas Franklin "Tucker" Fowler, Sr., whom she married in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Mechanicsville, MD on November 21, 1959. She is survived by her children, Thomas Franklin "Tommy" Fowler, Jr. (Gail) of Mechanicsville, MD, David Holmes Fowler (Stephanie) of Mechanicsville, MD, Nannette Marie "Nancy" Fowler of Boynton, FL, and Wanda Buckler (Mark), who was loved and adored like her own daughter, her grandchildren, Erin Sieber, Christy Hardy, Taylor, Seth, Blake, Kennedy, Blair, and Trey Fowler, and Lucas and Celine Ponzoa, as well as her great grandchildren, Hannah, Bryce, and Lincoln Hardy, Waylon Fowler, and Flynn Sieber. In addition to her parents and husband, Cathy was preceded in death by her sisters, Hazel Stultz and Judy Vallandingham.

Cathy was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident, and graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1954. She then attended Catholic University and was a clerk for the United States Postal Service for 36 and a half years, retiring in 2005. Cathy enjoyed playing softball, travelling, fishing, crabbing water skiing, and outings with friends. More than anything, she treasured her family and embraced every moment with them. Cathy especially loved her role as a grandmother and great-grandmother.

The family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to her very dedicated caregivers, Linda Copsey, Ashley Buckler, Kelly Buckler, Christina O'Neil, Jennifer Calo, and Cheryl Begg.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, April 28, 2024, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, with prayers recited by Deacon Bill Kyte at 4:30 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, April 29, 2024, at 10:00 AM in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Mechanicsville, MD, with Fr. Michael Tietjen officiating. Interment will follow at Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery, Helen, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Seth Fowler, Blake Fowler, Trey Fowler, Shaun Handy, Jake Senatore, and Mark Buckler. Honorary pallbearers will be Christy Hardy, Taylor Fowler, Kennedy Fowler, and Bair Fowler.

Contributions may be made to the Mechanicsville Vol. Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 15, Mechanicsville, MD 20659 and/or the Mechanicsville Vol. Fire Department, P.O. Box 37, Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

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

Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-

Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Jimmie Simms, 100



Agnes Lorraine Pratt Simms, or Jimmie, as she was known, was born in Ridge, MD on August 19, 1923 and was well on her way to 101 when her health took a turn and she passed away on

April 8, 2024 in her Culver City home. She had beaten cancer twice and various other illnesses so many times, she was a fighter.

Jimmie attended Ridge Elementary, a one room all age group school, then on to Great Mills High School before attending St. Mary's College.

In 1941 Jimmie moved to Washington DC to be with her sister Hattie Pratt and began work at the Pentagon distributing ration books for things such as gasoline and other fuel along with foods (including sugar, meats, cheese). It was there that she met George Simms when he was assigned duties at the Pentagon and talked her into showing him and his buddies around DC. She had known him a month when she took the train down to Asheville NC and married him right before he shipped out to Gander, Newfoundland.

They were married for 73 years.

When George returned from Gander, he convinced Jimmie to move to Los Angeles, CA. She thought she would come home on the weekends to visit her family in Ridge. After being in the car driving across the country for six days, she realized her life had changed forever.

First born Steve came along shortly after they moved to California and five years later his little brother Ronnie was born. They lived in Walnut Park, CA for 31 years before making the move over to their beloved Culver City, CA where they remained for the rest of their lives. During this time they took numerous trips: to Ridge, MD frequently, twice to Europe, where they stayed in Germany with brother Bob Pratt, cruised the Caribbean, Alaska, Hawaii, the Panama Canal and of course their beloved Catalina Island 26 miles off the California coast. They were most happy when camping all up and down the West Coast from San Diego to Vancouver British Columbia in their Volkswagen and Toyota campers.

Jimmie had a career working first at Wineman's Department Store in Huntington Park before joining the State of California Unemployment office in Los Angeles, finally retiring in 1985. She loved her gardening and could often be found in her yard

Continued on page 24



Brinsfield

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Our Family
SERVING YOURS

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Memorial Packages & Pre-need Services Provided



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Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-475-5588



BRINSFIELD FUNERAL HOME, P.A.
30195 Three Notch Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
301-472-4400

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR TWO GENERATIONS

www.brinsfieldfuneral.com

In Remembrance

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.

Billie Mattingly, 101



Among the fresh blooms of Spring, Mary Catherine "Billie" O'Connell Mattingly, beloved daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, and cherished member of

her community, passed away peacefully on April 17, 2024 at her home in Leonardtown, MD. Born May 25, 1922 in Baltimore, Billie lived a life marked by love, compassion, and unwavering devotion to her family and friends.

Mary Catherine was the first child of the late Lucy Louise Norris O'Connell and the late Francis Aloysius O'Connell. When Billie was 1 year old, the family moved to New York City to be closer to the O'Connell family. Billie and her younger brothers, Frank and Joe, grew up in the Bronx and attended Catholic schools. Billie would bring her brothers home and prepare their lunches, while her mother worked. The O'Connell children made many trips to Leonardtown to spend time with their Grandparents, James and Leila Norris. Billie was very close to her Leonardtown uncles, who would live with the family in New York for extended periods during the Depression Era. As a young woman, Billie worked as a model for Lord & Taylor and at Sperry Corporation making gyroscopes for submarines.

On a visit to Leonardtown, Grandmother Norris convinced Billie to meet a young lawyer and Navy lieutenant from Leonardtown, Joseph Aloysius Mattingly. Billie and Joe were married on June 21, 1947 at the Church of the Epiphany, Manhattan, NY by her uncle, Rev. Msgr. Joseph S. O'Connell. They moved to the "Cottage" on Old Fields Farm, the Mattingly family farm in Medleys Neck. Together, they raised 12 children on the banks of Breton Bay.

Billie was supportive of Joe's political, state and legal jobs, but first and foremost she was Mother — guiding her children through Father Andrew White, Leonard Hall, St. Mary's Academy, Ryken High School, Chopticon High School and various colleges. Frequently, she was PTA president, class trip chaperone and classroom mother. She was forever devoted to children and their education — commanding respect without raising her voice.

With the little ones in school, Billie went back to work in Leonardtown with The Barley Company, John R. Drury & Son and O'Brien Realty, eventually forming her own appraisal business. She was the first female real estate broker in Southern Maryland and a founding member of the Southern Maryland Association of Realtors -- always an advocate for ethics and professionalism.

Billie volunteered as a Grey Lady at St. Mary's Hospital and managed Red Cross blood drives in the local schools, frequently collecting 200 pints a day. Billie was court-appointed (CASA) for St. Mary's County working on behalf of abused, neglected and foster children. She espe-

cially enjoyed "working" with her friends at the St. Mary's County Garden Club and won her share of awards for flower arrangements at the County Fair. She and Joe were loyal members of the St. Mary's County Historical Society and they thoroughly enjoyed their travels to England, Ireland, Norway, France, Italy, Spain, Puerto Rico, Russia and China. In retirement, she loved to read, travel and play bridge. Billie leaves behind a legacy of love and a community enriched by her presence.

In addition to her beloved husband, parents, and brothers, Billie was preceded in death by an infant daughter Mary, son Christopher, and grandson Andrew. She is survived by eleven children: Joseph Mattingly, Jr. of Leonardtown; Helen Victor of Solomons; Jini Beavers (Dal) Hollywood; John F. Mattingly of Leonardtown; Louise Mann (Bob) of Dameron; Martha Mattingly of New York, NY; Patricia Strittmatter (Dennis) of Bowie; Robert Mattingly (Darcie) of Hollywood; Thomas Mattingly (Lisa) of Palm Harbor, FL; Lillian Mattingly (Tyler Fadely) of Hollywood; and Leila Rothschild of Austin, TX. She was blessed with 18 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Visitation and Prayers will be held at Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown on Sunday, April, 28 from 2:00-5:00pm. A mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Our Lady's Church in Medley's Neck on Monday, April 29 at 11am. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mary's County ACTS (acts-smc.org) or Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad (www.LVRS.org). Billie's spirit will live on in the hearts of all who were touched by her grace and her love. May she rest in peace — dearly loved and deeply missed.

Eugene Buckler, 76



Francis Eugene Buckler, Sr., "Eugene", 76, of Clements, MD, passed away on April 14, 2024, in Leonardtown, MD. Born on January 26, 1948, he was the son

of the late Hazel Elizabeth Buckler and the late Perry Lee Buckler. Eugene was the loving husband of the late Ruby Buckler, who preceded him in death on February 22, 2014. He is survived by his children, Sharon Downs of Hague, VA, Dale Downs of Montross, VA, and Eugene Buckler, Jr. (Shelby) of Clements, MD, his sister, Charlotte Buckler of Clements, MD, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Eugene was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and attended Margaret Brent High School. He served in the United States Army and was a Building Service Manager for the Board of Education for 40 years.

The family will receive friends on Monday, April 29, 2024 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of

Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 11:00 AM in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Mechanicsville, MD, with Father Michael Tietjen officiating. Interment will follow at Maryland Veterans Cemetery, Cheltenham, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Dale Downs, Eugene Buckler, Jr., Bobby Thompson, Parker Thompson, Roger Murphy, and Norman Carrick III.

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.

Phyllis Bowling, 86



Phyllis Lee Guy Bowling, 86, of Clements MD, departed this earth to be with the Lord on April 16, 2024. Phyllis was born in

Leonardtown, MD on August 15, 1937, to Norman Aloysius Guy, Sr. and Mary Genevieve Johnson Guy. Phyllis grew up in St. Mary's County along with her brothers and sister, first in Loveville and then Mechanicsville. Upon her marriage, she moved to Charlotte Hall, MD until 2004, when she moved to Delaware. In 2017, Phyllis permanently moved back to St. Mary's County until her passing.

Phyllis was a 1955 graduate of Margaret Brent High School, where she excelled in both sports and academics. She met and then married Benjamin Franklin (Frank) Bowling, Sr. on June 2, 1956. They had five beautiful children and spent most of their married life on the Bowling Farm in Charlotte Hall, MD. During Phyllis' career, she worked as a receptionist/office manager for Dr. Edward Edelen in LaPlata, MD, until his retirement. She then started working for the Federal Government at the Census Bureau in Suitland, MD. She decided later in her life to go back to school at the College of Southern Maryland and was very proud of her associate degree that she achieved while still working. She finally retired as a Security Specialist in July 2004.

Phyllis was a lovingly devoted daughter, sister, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great grandmother, sister-in-law, aunt, and friend. She was an avid golfer and was a member and past Club Champion of the Wicomico Shores Yacht & Country Club and past President of the Wicomico Shores Ladies' Golf Association. When she lived in Delaware, she was a valued member of the Jonathan's Landing Ladies Golf Association in Dover. She absolutely loved golf, and particularly enjoyed the annual Ladies Golf trips to Fayetteville, NC as a part of the "On the Road Again" Crew. She often mentioned how much she enjoyed golf, but that it was the friendships with the Ladies she cherished the most.

Phyllis is survived by her children, Sheila (Frank) Miskowsky, Donna Bowling, Karen (Bob) Price, and Benjamin Franklin

Bowling, Jr., daughter-in-law, Jennifer (Peter) Weber, brother-in-law, James Wood, seven grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Norman and Genevieve Guy, her son, Brent Guy Bowling, and her siblings, Norman "Nornie" Guy Jr., William "Billy" Guy, John (Jackie) Guy, Sr., Elizabeth (Betty Rose) Wood, and Baby Guy.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 10:00 AM in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Mechanicsville, MD, with Father Michael Tietjen officiating. Interment will follow at Queen of Peace, Helen MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Bob Price, Robbie Price, Howie Guy, Brandon Wood, Brian Rawlings, and Joshua Norris.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, A Community that Shares (ACTS) in Avenue MD, the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department, and the Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad.

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.

Gary Meekins, 79



Gary James Meekins, 79, passed away on April 15, 2024, at his home in Hollywood, MD, after a hard-fought battle with cancer. He was born on

January 20, 1945 in Oceanside, NY, and was the son of Elmer Joseph Meekins and Anna Cecilia Trebolitiche Meekins. Gary is survived by his loving wife, Mary Knott Farmer-Meekins, his stepsons, Michael W. Farmer (Cathy) of Hughesville, MD and Anthony J. "A.J." Farmer (Faith) of Hollywood, MD, and his sisters, Barbara Fracchia (John) of Horsehead, NY and Victoria Meekins (Ron) of Middleburg, NY. He was predeceased in death by his brothers, Dennis Meekins of NY and Richard Meekins of Florida.

Gary was gifted with a talented voice, loved the "BLUES" and composed many of his own songs. He formed a band called Water Brother and performed at various venues in Manhattan, NY. During his budding music career, he met and performed with popular musicians of the time such as Jack Sonni of Dire Straits. He was offered the lead role in "JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR" but turned it down because of his loyalty to his band members. Gary removed himself from the musical field when he realized his musical career would be controlled by the Mafia of NY.

Between 1978 and 1990, Gary was the

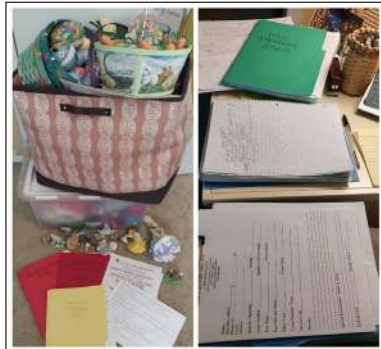
Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



Things on My Wandering Mind

Yes, there are lots of little things on my wandering mind. So many calls (and waiting on hold for it seems like forever for a live person{s}) to make each day for appointments, insurance things, and household things. Then going to all the appointments, and the dump, grocery store, cooking, and other errands. Does this get harder or more tiring for everyone as the years go on? Am I just losing the sharp quick mind, organization, patience, and serenity I used to be so proud of?



Also, I'm in the midst of Strawberry Festival preparations, actually it's in the last 3 week stretch at this point since the festival is on May 19th. I start planning, calling, and emailing in January through April and have a detailed month by month, pages long Strawberry Notes document I keep with me at all times, checking things off as I go. It's my strawberry bible. I also keep a copy of the original notes, that the late LaRue Redmond made 30 years ago when she started the Strawberry Festival, in my purse to keep me calm. In about two weeks my stomach starts turning when I worry about how all the farmers' little strawberries are doing and what the price will be this year. All those little berries and all the wonderful people who come to the festival help the three charities that all the proceeds help fund. This year our charities are Hospice, ACTS, and The Clements Cuties Foundation.

And of course, you know it is pool season at our house and I'm busy scheduling. But I'm fine and somehow it will all get done, I hope. Well, actually I haven't even put the Easter decorations back in their Rubbermaid boxes yet to go under the steps. The decorations aren't out anymore, but they are piled on top of their boxes in the upstairs back bedroom. I had hoped to get all that put away this past weekend, but I ended up with a mild diverticulosis attack after having some delicious crab dip at one of our Leonardtown Luau stops on Friday representing The Clements Cuties. It seems that my body and Old Bay aren't getting along again, and I love Old Bay. My husband did try to warn me as I was just starting to dip the crusty bread into the crab dip, but it was sooo good. So, two days were lost to me after that, and I tried hard to catch up on Monday and Tuesday. I was not as successful as I would have liked, though I am still trying. I know there are wet towels waiting to go in the dryer from earlier. Next trip downstairs I will get on that, maybe with Easter items in tow.

Another thing you know is that in the spring I start to get paranoid about ants coming into the house. Sometimes I do a quick doubletake when I see toast crumbs on the kitchen counter or a speck of dirt from outside on the floor. A few days ago, I was making the bed, and my husband was over at the bureau, half-turned and I heard him say something about "Here's an ant" or something to that effect. Hearing "ant", I was already running towards the door to run to the kitchen yelling, "Where?!" "I'll go grab the ant spray!" My husband looked at me like I was crazy, and I said "What?, I know you don't like that peppermint smell, but I have to get right on this". He pointed to his hand where he was holding his weekly Mega Millions lottery ticket and said, "Not ant, what I said was I am waiting for you to say EHHH! (The sound a game show buzzer makes when you give a wrong answer). "Ohhhh" I replied seeing the lottery ticket in his hand. It's a weekly ritual for him to hand me the lottery ticket and he waits to hear the EHHH! before saying, "Darn, I guess I have to go to work today". I can say that there are a lot more EHHH! Sounds than gasps of, "Wow, you won \$2" throughout the year.

My husband, just like my late mother, is still waiting on that proverbial "lottery" ship to come in. I always wonder about my mother though, because all of us at her funeral put our money in to get a few lottery tickets for her to take with her to the great beyond. My best friend went over from Lee Funeral home to the 7-11 in Clinton to buy them all. My mother could be a millionaire and we will never know.

Well, I guess I better get to finishing all of my catching up chores that never seem to end. I'm sure you have a few of those as well. Those Easter bunny decorations won't hop into their boxes and hop on downstairs, and those towels won't jump into the dryer by themselves...darn it.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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

FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Financial literacy: It's important for everyone

April is National Financial Literacy Month — a good reminder that all of us can benefit from boosting our financial knowledge.

But what is financial literacy? There's no one single definition, but the term certainly covers these areas:

- **Saving** – Most of us would probably agree that saving money is important, but actually doing it can be challenging given all the expenses of modern living. Still, techniques are available that everyone can follow, such as having money automatically moved each month from a checking or savings account to a financial account that's not used for daily expenses.
- **Budgeting** – Budgeting isn't necessarily a fun activity — but it's an important one. And it's easier than ever these days, given the variety of budgeting tools available online. By tracking your spending every month and organizing it into categories, you may be able to find areas where you can cut back, such as on streaming services you rarely use.
- **Borrowing** – Virtually all of us carry some type of debt at various times in our lives. But it's important to manage your debt load so it doesn't become too burdensome. One way of achieving this goal is to use "good" debts wisely — such as a low-rate mortgage on your home — and avoid "bad" debts — such as high-rate credit cards used for unnecessary purchases.
- **Investing** – As you go through life, you'll likely have a variety of financial goals, such as making a down payment on a house, sending your children to college and attaining a comfortable retirement lifestyle. And to achieve these goals, you'll need to invest for them. That's why it's important to learn about different types of investments and how to develop an investment strategy that's appropriate for your objectives, risk tolerance and time horizon.

We aren't born with these skills — we have to learn them. Unfortunately, as valuable as they are, they aren't widely taught to young people. In fact, according to a 2023 Edward Jones study conducted with Morning Consult, only 20% of respondents reported receiving financial education in school. This situation may be changing, though, as many states are now requiring or recommending personal finance education before high school graduation.

For now, though, if you have younger children, try to teach them money management skills. You will likely find that they enjoy learning about these matters. You can make it fun for them in different ways, too. For example, to teach them about investing, why not buy them a share or two of stock of a company with which they're familiar? Charting a stock's progress and learning something of the factors affecting its price can help children build a foundation in investing, which will be valuable when they reach the age when they can invest for themselves.

But financial education isn't just for kids. If you feel that you are lacking somewhat in any of the key financial management areas mentioned above, you can always educate yourself by reading or talking to people knowledgeable in these subjects. You also might find it valuable to work with a financial professional — someone who will take a holistic approach to your finances and make appropriate suggestions.

National Financial Literacy Month will end on April 30, but the benefits of financial literacy can last a lifetime.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Contributed by David McDonough

Financial Advisor at Edward Jones

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10.8 To 18-Oz., Selected
Birds Eye
Frozen Vegetables

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Black Forest or Regular
Cornershop Cuts
Ham Off The Bone
5.98lb.



61-Oz.
Double Layer
Carrot Cake
14.98

Bakery & Deli Fresh

Cornershop
Yellow
American Cheese
4.98lb.



22-Oz., 8-Inch
Coconut Or
Egg Custard Pie
4.98



9-Ct., Selected
Bakery Fresh
Tea Cakes
4.98



10.5-Oz. Lewis
Angel Food
Cake
3.98



14-Oz., Selected
Dulceria
Cookies
4.48



Liquor and Beer

16-Oz Cans
12-Pack Miller
Lite
13.99



12-Oz. Cans
30-Pack
Michelob Ultra
28.99



10-Oz. Cans
24-Pack
Bud Light
19.89



12-Pack Bottles
Corona and
Corona Light
16.99



750mL
Jameson Irish
Whiskey
26.99



1.75 Liter
Tito's
Vodka
30.49



750ML
Hendrick's
Gin
30.99



1.75L
Crown
Royal
42.99



750-ml., Selected
Apothic
Red Wine
11.98



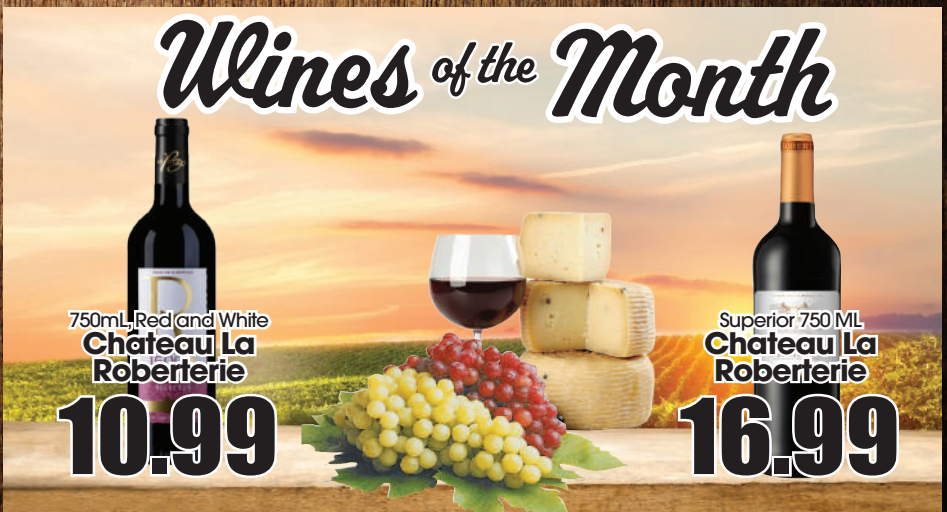
750 ml. Pinot Grigio
Seaglass
Wine
10.98

Wines of the Month

750mL Red and White
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Superior 750 ML
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Family Pack
**Beef
Ribeye Steaks**



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Fillets**



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Delicious!
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Tuna**



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Tail-On Shrimp**



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**Swagerty's
Sausage Roll**



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16-Oz. Mild
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**Family Pack
Ground Round**



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**Maryland Crab
Cakes**



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6-Oz.
**Salmon
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Yellow Rice
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6 To 7.1 Oz., Selected
**Hamburger
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4/\$5

7.5 To 8.5-Oz., Selected
Wheat Thin, Triscuit Crackers
SALE PRICE **2/\$8**
DIGITAL COUPON **1.00** OFF TWO
FINAL PRICE **2/\$7**

12 To 16-Oz., Selected
Food Club Pasta
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DIGITAL COUPON **1.00** OFF TWO
FINAL PRICE **2/\$1**

23.5 To 24-Oz., Selected
Food Club Pasta Sauce
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7.5-Oz., Selected
**Chef Boyardee
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6-Pack, Selected
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6-Pack, Selected
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Apple Sauce**
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8.5 To 12.5-Oz., Selected
**Keebler
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3.7 To 5.98-Oz., Selected
**Maxwell House Or
Gevalia K-Cup Coffee**
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4.75 To 8-Oz., Selected
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PRICES GOOD FROM APRIL 24 THRU APRIL 30, 2024						



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Monday - Saturday 7am to 9 pm
SUNDAY 8 am to 7 pm

Eight Honored with Quilts of Valor



PAX Sound of Freedom awarded eight Quilts of Valor to veterans on April 20, 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park. From left to right are: Larry Walthour, Navy (20 years); Ronald Dyson, Marines (2 years); Jim Ashby, Navy (26 years); Gary Haskins, Air Force (30 years); Francis Russell, Army (13 years); Robert Mosley, Army (23 years); Kevin Wright, Navy (6 years); Michael Tourville, Navy (26 years).

Lions Donate to Mission of Mercy



Retired St. Mary's County dentist, and Lion, Dr. Martin Barley DDS (center), accepts Leonardtown Lions Club Annual donation to the local Mission of Mercy (M.O.M.) program from Leonardtown Lions George Kirby (L) and Angie Payne (R). Mission Mercy provides free dental examinations and services to the underserved in Southern Maryland. For more information on how to learn more about the M.O.M. program visit Mission of Mercy.org. Photo by Lions Club.

Spring into Spring **Auction**

May 4 | 9am - 3pm
2024

Loveville Produce Auction
40454 Bishop Road | Loveville, Maryland

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Lawn Furniture, Quilts, Rugs, & More*

All stock will be available in small quantities for the homeowner

Kitchens will be open | Restrooms on site
Cash or Check
A buyer number must be obtained for all purchasing
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Candidates must be drug free with a clean criminal record and have dependable transportation.

Sustainability Award Winners Recognized

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Commission on the Environment are pleased to announce the 2023 St Mary's County Sustainability Award winners:

School Category

- Winner: Father Andrew White, S.J. School
- Honorable Mention: Elms Environmental Education Center, Maryland Master Naturalist Program

Non-profit Category:

- Winner: Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)
- Honorable Mention: St Mary's River Watershed Association

The Sustainability Awards recognize outstanding students, restaurants, businesses, non-profits, and farms in St Mary's County for their environmental stewardship, resource conservation, innovative best practices, and pollution prevention efforts. All nominees for the 2023 calendar year demonstrated impressive commitment to improving local environmental impacts.

The winner of the school category is Father Andrew White, S.J. School (FAW). FAW began a food waste program midway through last school year, in late winter to spring of 2023. Victoria Rutherford manages the school's kitchen, serving up to 200 children and staff each day. When she noticed food being discarded due to absences, she partnered with the school nurse, a volunteer at Summerseat Farm, to devise and implement a plan to reduce food waste.

They collected leftover or spoiled food appropriate for the farm animals to eat, averaging 25lbs of food per week. FAW hopes to further expand this program to engage elementary students in learning about food waste and separating their cafeteria waste on their own.

"The kitchen now throws away very little actual food," said Rutherford. "Kitchen waste is relegated to packaging." Composting and keeping food waste out of the landfill waste stream is economical and a priority project of the Commission on the Environment.

The winner in the non-profit category is Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D). In 2023, RC&D

launched several educational programs. RC&D's Sunday Eco-School, held at the Barns at New Market in Mechanicsville, was designed to provide free environmental education for all ages. Topics in the first year included the importance of wetlands, the history of agriculture in Southern Maryland, native plants, Maryland trees, and soil health. The lessons were valuable for home-schooled kids who have fewer opportunities for environmental education. RC&D also started a virtual Winter Seminar series, four in total but two taking place in 2023. These well-attended lectures were presented by experts in the field and generated lots of good questions and discussion.

Additionally, RC&D's Program Director for Land Conservation served as an adjunct professor at St. Mary's College during the spring and fall semesters, teaching second- and third-year students about careers in the environmental and conservation fields. RC&D also applied for and became a Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps (CCCC) host site in 2023. This allows RC&D to mentor a young adult to obtain gainful employment in the environmental field. The mentorship officially began in August of 2023 and will continue until August of 2024.

RC&D has also continued to help implement the State of Maryland's Rural Legacy Program, which conserves rural land throughout the state. In 2023, RC&D was awarded \$1,461,697 in Rural Legacy grant funding. Three new conservation easements went to settlement in 2023, and RC&D has continued to monitor the other 27 conservation easements it holds under this program.

In addition to the two winners, the Commission on the Environment named two Honorable Mentions: The Elms Environmental Education Center, MD Master Naturalist Program and St Mary's River Watershed Association. Their efforts in 2023 were also impactful and outstanding!

Selection of the Sustainability Award winners was based on outstanding demonstrated efforts to improve the environment and for initiatives and projects exceeding business norms and requirements. For more information on the Commission on the Environment, please visit stmaryscountymd.gov/coe.

SMECO Elementary Math Challenge Results Announced

The annual Elementary Mathematics Challenge Competition, co-sponsored by Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO), for fourth and fifth-grade students, was held from school sites on Thursday, April 4, 2024. Eighteen elementary schools participated, with a total of 35 teams and 243 mathletes in attendance. The competition consisted of an individual challenge and a team challenge. During the Individual challenge, each team member took a test consisting of multiple-choice questions. During the Team challenge, team members collaborated to answer five multiple-step mathematics problems. The scores of the top five finishers on the individual tests from each school were averaged to make the individual school total. The individual school total was combined with the team score to make the final school team score.

Below are the school team results for the first five places in each grade level:

Grade 4

- 1st Place: Evergreen Elementary
- 2nd Place: Benjamin Banneker Elementary
- 3rd Place: Oakville Elementary
- 4th Place: Mechanicsville Elementary
- 5th Place: Piney Point Elementary

Grade 5

- 1st Place: C.W.F. Duke Elementary
- 2nd Place: Piney Point Elementary
- 3rd Place: Green Holly Elementary
- 4th Place: Evergreen Elementary
- 5th Place: Oakville Elementary

Below are the school individual results for the first three places in each grade level:

Grade 4

- 1st Place: Caitlyn Shafer, Leonardtown Elementary
- 2nd Place: Mark Wheat, Evergreen Elementary
- 3rd Place: Jackson Via, Oakville Elementary

Grade 5

- 1st Place: Anna Feragotti, Evergreen Elementary
- 2nd Place: Camille Winings, C.W.F. Duke Elementary
- 3rd Place: Bruce Howell, C.W.F. Duke Elementary

Congratulations to all participants. If you have questions, please contact Rebekah Loker at 301-475-5511, ext. 32105, or by e-mail at rbloker@smcps.org.

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of the Week

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Find your truest friend!

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





Southern MD 29th Annual Spring Festival

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds, Leonardtown, MD

May 2nd thru May 5th

Family fun for everyone!

Spring Festival Gate Hours

Thursday May 2	5 pm - 10 pm
Friday May 3	5 pm - 10 pm
Saturday May 4	10 am - 10 pm
Sunday May 5	10 am - 6 pm

Admission

Thursday (Rides Only)	FREE
Friday Saturday Sunday:	
Adults	\$6
6-12 years	\$3
Under 6	FREE

Bring a non-perishable canned food item and receive \$1 off admission

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- ✿ Chainsaw Artist - Joe Wenal
- ✿ Tractor Pull (Sat & Sun)
- ✿ Car Show (Sat)
- ✿ Live Entertainment
- ✿ Reggie Rice's Fool of Illusions (Sat)
- ✿ SOMD Laser Tag
- ✿ Viking Axe Throwing
- ✿ Kid's Games Area
- ✿ Raffle and Pull Tabs
- ✿ Artists & Crafters
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Law Enforcement in St. Mary's County: Retired Police Officers Look Back

By Florence Ballengee
Contributing Writer

St. Mary's County has experienced monumental growth during the last 20 years. In the early 1970's when retired Major Gary Cox came to St. Mary's as a young trooper, the population of the county was 68,500. Today it has surpassed 113,000.

Much has changed and among the changes has been the way the law is enforced. The way in which police officers are paid, equipped and regarded by those they serve has also changed.

We gathered five retired police officers who patrolled the roads of this county back in the day when everyone knew everyone. They talked about what it was like back then. The comparison between today and back then is striking and in many ways humorous.

Long time county residents may remember them. They were cops before the George Floyd incident and before anyone dreamed of suggesting that police departments be done away with. Back then according to all five officers, they were respected and they respected the people they served. They knew everyone and everyone knew them. "We liked the bad guys and the bad guys liked us." They raised their families here, they played softball here and they became an integral part of what was St. Mary's County.

Who They Were:

Retired Corporal Oliver Stewart has always been known as "Skip." He was raised in Ridge in southern St. Mary's County. He graduated from Great Mills High School. As a teen he worked summers at the boy's camp in Ridge that was owned and run by the DC Metro Police Department. It was there his plan to become a cop started. He was advised by one of the officers to stay out of the city. So, in 1973, taking that advice, Stewart joined the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department.

Retired Sgt. John Simms was born and raised in Baltimore County. He joined the Maryland State Police in 1966. Simms patrolled the roads of St. Mary's County, and has done farming, home building and along with his wife, Sheila, raised a family and built a successful insurance business.

Retired Trooper Duke May joined the Maryland State Police in 1982. He previously was an officer in Hereford County, North Carolina. He retired from the state police after an injury and stayed in St. Mary's County to raise his family and establish several successful businesses.

Retired Detective Sgt. Donald Holloway was born and raised in a small Virginia town called Clinch Mountain. He joined the Maryland State Police in 1974 after serving in the Army and working in construction. He and his wife Georgia have lived in St. Mary's since he was assigned here. Their children attended St. Mary's County schools and their son Donald is now Vice Principal of Leonardtown Middle School.

Retired Major Gary Cox joined the Maryland State Police in 1975 after serving in the Navy and working in construction. He and his wife Debbie settled in St. Mary's



and raised their three children here. As he rose in rank, attaining the rank of Major, he was moved to many areas and facets of law enforcement in the state police. He was often assigned quite a distance from his home which always was and remains St. Mary's County. Their children attended school here and their daughter Julie teaches in the county school system. Their son Robert works on the base.

While Stewart is the only officer of the five who came from St. Mary's, all five invested their very lives here and remain here today as an integral part of the community. As retired police officers and long-time county residents, they have a unique perspective on the changes that have taken place in the county and in law enforcement. Four of them patrolled the highways and back roads of this county in yellow cars with whip antennas. In Stewart's case he patrolled in his blue cruiser on the very roads he traveled while growing up.

There were dangerous times. There were humorous times. And they shared their old "war stories" back in the day when they arrested the "bad guys." They knew who would or wouldn't fight them. They knew who to look out for and how to find even those who tried to elude them. There was seldom, if ever, any hard feelings between them and the people they arrested because they were treated with respect and returned the respect.

They shared many of the same memories because they shared those times backing each other up. It didn't matter whether state or local, they had each other's backs. Their perspectives are reminiscent of the county that was; the county that many long-time residents remember well. They smile remembering some of the "bad guys." And they say with all sincerity that for the most part they liked the bad guys and the bad guys liked them. They played softball here, they worked hard here, and they took care of their families here.

Retired Major Gary Cox was the highest-ranking officer we interviewed. He said that years ago, the officers were a "brotherhood." If someone needed a new roof, they gathered and put on a new roof. They backed each other up on and off duty. Houses were sheet rocked, roofs were repaired, barns were built, hay was baled.

The retired troopers remember the days when they drove the big yellow cars with the whip antennas. But there weren't enough cars to go around so they would drive their personal vehicles to Leonardtown and wait for a car from the previous shift to come in and be available.

At times they would arrive at work to find that they were the only one on duty due to injuries, sickness, vacations, etc. That would leave them to patrol the entire county. There were even times when they filled in for the duty officer and had to patrol also.

Communication was at times non-existent. And there were areas of the county where they could not have any contact with headquarters if they got in trouble and needed back up. At times they had to rely on radio "skip" where what they radioed could not be received in Leonardtown and they found themselves talking to dispatchers with deep southern accents by way of radio "skip" in Alabama or Louisiana. Those southern dispatchers would then pass along the message to Leonardtown dispatchers who would pass their messages to the southern dispatchers to message back to the officers right in St. Mary's County.

For many of their years in police work there were no issued bullet proof vests. Stewart remembers that it was some citizens in St. Mary's County that purchased bullet proof vests for the Sheriff's Department.

When Stewart joined the Sheriff's Office, he was one of 13 officers. Today there are 206 which includes the detention center.

When Simms joined the Maryland State Police he did so in 1966 with a salary of \$5,800 per year. Stewart joined the county in 1973 at \$5,866. Today both county and state officers upon graduation from the police academy are paid over \$60,000 per year. Whether because of the risks or because of the changed public perception of police officers, even at that salary recruitment has to be vigorous in order to staff police agencies. The job is dangerous and public disrespect is at an all-time high.

For officers who patrolled the north end, there was no food available at night and their first cup of coffee came from Fred's Liquor Store at 5 a.m. when retired trooper Ralph Burkhouse opened up and put the coffee on for them. Those who patrolled south of Lexington Park couldn't get anything to eat

unless they drove back to the donut shop in Lexington Park.

There were no substations. They were on their own. They directed traffic at accidents in the rain and in the snow and their cars provided the only shelter.

Back then there were only two or three traffic lights in the county and a busy area like Golden Beach Road and Route 5 had only a stop sign. The road from below Lexington Park to St. Mary's City was tar and chip.

These are just five of those who patrolled alone without vests, on lonely back roads, with little to no communication. And yet they were some of the innovators and changers in law enforcement as it has become in St. Mary's County.

When the day was done and they were off duty, they still served the citizens of this county. Stewart was a member of the Board of Directors of Marcey House, a halfway house for the treatment of alcoholism and drug addiction.

Some troopers were active in the local Optimist Clubs and John Simms partnered with this writer to establish Project Graduation in St. Mary's County in 1984.

As he began to rise in rank, Cox brought many innovations to the Maryland State Police. He designed the Maryland State Police flag, and for many years was one of only a few troopers and was Assistant Commander of the Maryland State Police Underwater Recovery Team.

Simms brought many new and different programs as a crime prevention officer including the crime prevention bus which he and other troopers retrofitted when the bus was donated to the Maryland State Police. They laugh as they tease Simms about those who had to wear the McGruff costume and pose as the crime prevention dog.

When a manpower shortage at the Leonardtown Barracks would have meant that Project Graduation had no adult supervision, Cox, then barracks commander at Forestville, sent troopers down from that barracks and the troopers and their wives filled in all four nights.

Next in the series: Some of the major cases of yesteryear, including the Stephanie Roper murder, and how the cars and officers are now equipped for duty.

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Pax River Sailor Provides Life-Saving Roadside Assistance



Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Isaiah Mercado is no stranger to high-stress scenarios. As a Navy armament weapons support equipment technician with Navy Munitions Command Atlantic Detachment Patuxent River (NMCLANT DET Pax) his duties include supporting both air- and surface-launched weapons by performing intermediate level maintenance on both peculiar and common ordnance handling and transportation equipment. Maintaining the equipment that transports explosive ordnance requires a strong nerve, so it is no surprise that he was able to coolly and calmly act when he came across a vehicle collision shortly after 10 a.m. Sunday, April 7.

Driving with his wife, Mercado saw the scene of the collision involving a motorcycle and a compact SUV at Three Notch Road and Tom Hodges Drive in Hollywood. Realizing he was the first on scene he went into action without a second thought.

"It was just a natural instinct to stop," recounted Mercado. "As soon as I saw the accident my first thought was to get there as fast as I could and help out the victims."

Telling his wife to call 911, he assessed the scene and began to check all parties for injuries. Finding the driver of the SUV responsive and able to talk, she asked Mercado to check on her child in the backseat.

"The child was in the back unconscious from the collision," said Mercado, going through the scenario play-by-play. "I started to ask if she can hear me or move at all. I checked for a pulse and told the mother her daughter was still alive and with a pulse. My next step was to check on the motorcyclist and I was asking if he could hear me and then I tapped him a couple times and got no response."

Mercado was then joined on the scene by an off-duty St. Mary's County Sheriff's Deputy, who began to assist with the injured as well, freeing Mercado to check back on the unconscious child in the SUV.

"My wife handed me the phone since I had a better understanding being in the car and getting a triage done on those involved," said Mercado. "I told the 911 operator my

guess on the age of the two unconscious people and told them I checked for a pulse on the little girl. The off-duty sheriff asked me to help stabilize the girls' neck and he took over the call to the dispatcher."

Joined by a third passerby, Mercado enlisted her with helping the driver out of the SUV.

"I told her she needs to get the mom and take her out the car because I didn't want her to see her child like this," said Mercado. "After that the first responders came and asked us if we needed a collar for the child's neck, then went off to get one and our next focus was to get her out of the car."

Mercado's initial assessment of the scene made it clear that the SUV's door buckled in the collision with enough force to roll the SUV's frame onto the child's booster seat, making it difficult to remove her from that side of the vehicle.

"I told them I can just carry her out from the car," said Mercado. "I unbuckled her and then cradled her and scooted out of the car then carried her to the gurney. They then asked for her name, so I went to the mother and asked her for it. After I got it, I proceeded back to the area where they were tending to her and called her by her name to get a response."

Tragically, despite the efforts of Mercado and first responders who began CPR, the motorcyclist was pronounced dead at the scene. The woman and child were transported by ambulance to St. Mary's Hospital and flown by Maryland State Police to separate hospitals for further care.

For those who know Mercado, his actions that day speak volumes to his character.

"AO2's ability to jump into a scene and render aide without a moment's hesitation is exactly why he's a trusted leader on our team," said Senior Chief Aviation Ordnanceman Paul Nelson, Senior Enlisted Advisor for NMCLANT DET Pax. "I have no doubt his speed, cool head, and competent actions prevented further loss of life in a difficult situation, and I am incredibly proud have him as a member of NMCLANT DET Pax."



Letters to the Editor

Thirty-three years of professional dedication

There are many words we could use to describe our friend, Sue Ann Armitage but the best word would be 'dedicated'. A dedicated wife, mother, friend, lawyer, and St. Mary's Countian, Sue Ann has the qualities needed to be our next circuit court judge.

Over the past 33 years Sue Ann has dedicated her professional life to providing some of the best legal representation in Maryland. This dedication to her profession and more importantly, to the people she has represented, has provided the foundation needed to be our next circuit court judge. From her pro bono work with members of our military, to her place on several boards and commissions, she has always worked for the betterment of others and giving back to the county that she calls home.

As a highly respected attorney, Sue Ann has been honored by her peers and community for work in and out of the courtroom. Among her awards are recognitions from the Maryland State Bar Association with their Pro Bono Service Award, a spot on the list of Top 25 Maryland Family Attorneys and was selected as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women. She will remain dedicated to our community through the initiatives she plans

to put in place. These initiatives include a veteran's recovery program for non-violent offenders and a juvenile recovery program that focuses on intervention and court supervised treatment programs all while remaining dedicated to her core, guiding principle of keeping the community safe from repeat violent offenders.

From Sue Ann's website:

"When police do their job and gather convincing evidence, and when a jury concludes that a defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, the judge must also fulfill his or her responsibilities and render a sentence that maintains the community's safety. Sue Ann understands this and will meet her obligation."

We ask you to join us as we wholeheartedly endorse and support successful business owner, accomplished attorney and dedicated St. Mary's Countian, Sue Ann Armitage as our next Circuit Court Judge.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Mike and Andrea
Alderson
Coltons Point

'The convergence of business and community'

The St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of our 50th-anniversary gala held at the White Rose in Callaway, MD. The event was truly remarkable, brimming with laughter, fond memories, lively dancing, delectable cuisine, and captivating entertainment. We are deeply appreciative of the collaborative efforts that made this celebration possible.

We wish to express our special appreciation to all our former board chairs who graced us with their presence, our invaluable sponsors whose support was indispensable in making this event a reality, and our local newspapers—The BayNet, Southern Maryland News, and the County Times—for their extensive coverage, highlighting the rich history and significance of the St. Mary's Chamber over the past five decades.

A particular acknowledgment is due to our dedicated ambassadors: Carolyn Huff, Ann Lewis, and Jennifer Misner, whose meticulous planning and dedication in organizing storyboards beautifully showcased

50 years of symbiotic relationships between businesses and the community. We extend our sincere thanks to Karen Clark-Reddon of Devonshire of A Perfect Events Company for her exceptional contributions in orchestrating what truly became the epitome of a perfect event.

We are grateful for the generous support of our sponsors: Shore United, SMECO, Dugan, McKissik & Longmore, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Naval Air Systems Inc., Taylor Gas Company, AIRTEC, Inc., Serv Pro of Calvert and St. Mary's, OE Realty, and Personalized Touch Catering.

The gala was an embodiment of the convergence of business and community, marking a momentous occasion where the past, present, and future of our Chamber were celebrated in unison. We look forward to continuing our journey of fostering prosperity and collaboration in the years to come.

Christine L. Bergmark, PhD
CEO/President
St. Mary's County Chamber of
Commerce

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor, please include your name & town of residence.

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Legal Notices

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Ordinance No. 222

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 4:15 p.m. at the Town Office, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. The purpose of the hearing will be to present for public review and receive public comment regarding the request to acquire a 16,978 sq foot +/- parcel of real property shown on Tax Map 133, Grid 15, Parcel 330, from RAR Associates Development Corp. for the public purpose of constructing additional parking for visitors of Leonardtown Wharf Public Park. Copies of the documents are available for public review at the Leonardtown Town Office. The public is invited to attend and/or send written comments to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650 to be received no later than May 13, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Ordinance No. 223

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Office, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. The purpose of the hearing will be to present for public review and receive public comment regarding the request to establish a real property tax credit for the Leonardtown real property tax for volunteers from the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department and the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad. Copies of the documents are available for public review at the Leonardtown Town Office. The public is invited to attend and/or send written comments to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650 to be received no later than May 13, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

Patrol Deputies Make Drug Arrests Following Proactive Traffic Stops



Arcel Lamont Hall (photo from 2023)



Karim Martinez Bouarfa

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Deputies recovered drugs and cash early Monday morning following two separate traffic stops.

At approximately 12:27 a.m., on April 22, 2024, Deputy First Class Travis Wimberly stopped a 2021 Nissan Versa at the intersection of Pleasant Mill Drive and Great Mills Road in Great Mills for equipment and traffic violations. After observing controlled dangerous substance (CDS) related items in the vehicle, Deputy Wimberly conducted a search of the car and located a quantity of suspected heroin and suboxone, a bottle of urine containing an enzyme suspected of being used to tamper with drug tests, and paraphernalia with suspected CDS residue.

The driver of the Nissan was identified as Arcel Lamont Hall, 54, of Lusby, MD. Hall was arrested and charged with CDS: possession - not marijuana, CDS: possession of paraphernalia, and related charges.

At approximately 3:31 a.m., on April 22, 2024, while conducting a stop at the intersection of Chancellors Run Road and Combs Aud Way in Lexington Park on a 1999 Ford Explorer for a traffic violation, Deputy Joseph Senatore observed suspected CDS paraphernalia in the vehicle. The resulting search of the Ford uncovered suspected quantities of crack cocaine, heroin, cocaine, suboxone pills, a large amount of cash, a digital scale, and a bottle of urine.

The driver of the Ford, identified as Karim Martinez Bouarfa, 27, of Lexington Park, MD, was arrested on four counts of CDS: Possession - not cannabis, three counts of CDS: Possession - of paraphernalia, and related charges.

Both suspects were transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center to await bond hearings.

Lexington Park Library Open for Limited Use May 6-12

Meeting Room Use, Lobby, and Holds Checkout Will Be Available

The St. Mary's County Library is excited to announce Lexington Park Library will be installing new shelving to beautify the Library and enhance the browsing experience for our customers. This shelving project is possible through a generous donation from the Friends of the St. Mary's County Library. The new shelving will be installed starting on Monday, May 6 and should be complete by Monday, May 13. During the installation, the meeting rooms will be open for use (by reservation), the lobby will be open, and customers can pick up their holds to checkout. The main part of the Library will be closed to the public. The closed area includes the computer lab and public computers, the children's area, the art gallery,

the teen area, and the adult area.

To place a hold for an item to pick up at Lexington Park Library, please browse our catalog on www.stmalib.org and simply "Place Hold Request". You will get a notification by email or phone call that your hold is ready.

Leonardtown Library and Charlotte Hall Library will be fully open for regular business hours. The Mobile Library will be at the regularly scheduled stops, find more information on www.stmalib.org/about-us/mobile-library-and-outreach-services.

We hope the public will visit Lexington Park Library to see the new shelving starting on Monday, May 13!



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Mayoral Candidates to Debate at Forum



Mayor Dan Burris



Ken Held

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Elections for the Town of Leonardtown will take place May 7 and a little less than a week away town residents will get a chance to hear the vision of the two candidates for the mayor's seat: the incumbent, Mayor Dan Burris and his opponent Slice House owner Ken Held.

The forum will take place April 30 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at The Rex Theater on the town square.

The event, which is sponsored by the Leonardtown Business Association, is open to the public.

Anyone who attends the forum will be able to pose their own questions to the candidates, though only town residents will be able to cast a vote for candidates at the upcoming town election.

Two other candidates have also filed for re-election to two seats on the town council, Nick Colvin and Jay Mattingly, who are incumbents running unopposed

in this election.

"This forum is designed to foster a constructive dialogue between Leonardtown residents and the mayoral and council candidates, providing a unique opportunity to submit questions and hear the candidates' positions on issues that matter to the Leonardtown community," a press release from the town regarding the event stated.

Observers have said the most important issue in town is its future, particularly how the revitalization and development and growth of the town is managed and carried forward.

The town continues to redesign and revitalize its downtown and is focusing on how to recruit and retain new businesses.

The town is also focusing on finally moving ahead with the Tudor Hall development, which will take advantage of land along the waterfront of Breton Bay and help connect other communities without putting extra strain on Route 5.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Costs Rising for Child Care Facility

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Earlier this year the Commissioners of St. Mary's County set out to establish a facility to be used by county employees for day care of their children; the county's public works chief Jim Gotsch told elected leaders this week that the concept site plan for the modular building has been developed as well as the building design.

The facility would be built on the county government campus in Leonardtown, county planning documents state.

The site selected so far is the undeveloped field between the Leonard Hall Recreation Center and Leonard Hall Drive, county planning documents state.

Gotsch said his department is recommending a plan that would build a facility 6,437 square feet in size that would accommodate up to 73 children.

The project is expected to be completed by June of 2025.

"As we've gone along in the process, we've gotten some hard bids back," said Gotsch. "And the trailers have increased in price."

"The original cost of the project was

[approximately] \$1.87 million, the cost for the trailers now is \$1.1 million and that's just for the trailers and nothing else."

Gotsch told Commissioner Mike Hewitt in response to his question that the original cost of the trailers was \$692,000, with \$31,000 for the roof.

"We're getting hit with inflation and everything that's inside the building," Gotsch said.

The building includes a sprinkler system as well as wiring for information technology requirements, county documents show.

Gotsch also said that the building could not be expanded beyond the current plans.

"Let's get it up and operating before we talk about expanding it, is my thought," said Commissioner Eric Colvin.

Gotsch said his department was looking at monies from other projects that could be returned to the capital construction budget — to the tune of about \$600,000 — that could be used, in part, to fund the child care facility.

"So please, when \$600,000 is returned to the reserve please don't spend it all," Gotsch said. "Leave me some."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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We expect these auctions to be online mid-May with closing to be in early June on two different nights in the same week. Over 1500 lots expected! More information to be posted soon.

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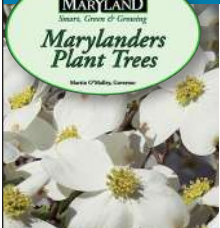
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Auto Parts Business, Million Dollar Home Destroyed by Fires



The aftermath of the fires at Champion Used Auto Parts (top) and a Tall Timbers home (bottom). Photos courtesy of Maryland State Fire Marshal.

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Investigators with the State Fire Marshal's Office say the fire that destroyed the Champion Used Auto Parts business in Valley Lee April 23 was an accident, the result of an employee working on vehicle while inside the building.

The same employee was flown by state police helicopter with burns to their upper body to Washington Hospital Center for treatment.

There were no additional injuries, fire marshals reported.

The two-alarm fire brought 95 firefighters to the scene to battle the blaze; it took two hours to bring under control, fire marshals reported.

The next day, at about 3:55 a.m., a blaze at a single-family home on Whitestone Drive in Tall Timbers destroyed a home and its contents valued at \$1.3 million, fire marshals reported.

It took 70 firefighters 90 minutes to control the blaze, which investigators say started in the front of the home.

The homeowners were awakened by the activation of the smoke detectors inside the home, fire marshals, reported. The occupants were able to exit through the back of the home, without any injuries.

Anyone with any information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Southern Regional Office, at 443-550-6835.

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Judge Candidates Spar Over Campaign Donations

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Circuit Court Judge Amy Lorenzini and her challenger for the seat this year, attorney Sue Ann Armitage, have touted their records from the bench and from the lawyer's side of the court room respectively in at least two candidate forums this past month.

But the issue of whether judicial candidates should take contributions from attorneys who could find themselves and their clients in front of either woman has continued to be raised.

Campaign finance reports show that at least seven other attorneys have contributed to Lorenzini's campaign, all from outside St. Mary's County.

Records also show that a Calvert County law firm has contributed to Armitage's campaign — Lloyd Law, LLC — as has St. Mary's County State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling.

An Annapolis family law firm, Reinstein, Glackin & Herriott, LLC, has also contributed to Armitage's campaign.

Armitage has been vocal in stating that a judge should recuse themselves if an attorney who appears before them was also a campaign contributor.

When The County Times asked Armitage in a telephone interview this week about the Sterling contribution, the candidate said she would return it.

"Jaymi came to my event and bought a [\$100] ticket," Armitage said. "I'm going to give her back her money."



Sue Ann Armitage

Armitage said if attorneys from the law firms appeared before her, she would recuse herself.

Armitage has criticized Lorenzini in particular for hearing cases from a prominent La Plata defense attorney — Hammad Matin — who has contributed \$5,000 to the incumbent's campaign.

Armitage said cases of Matin's heard before Lorenzini have resulted in "favorable outcomes and light sentences" for his clients.

Lorenzini has rebuffed those claims, saying that in recent cases involving Matin, that juries acquitted his clients, not her.

Armitage has also repeated on several occasions publicly that there is a recusal request before Lorenzini that the judge has



Judge Amy Lorenzini

yet to decide upon.

Lorenzini said this week, also in a telephone interview that there was no formal request, rather a comment made by Matin regarding a case he had before her that would be decided not by a jury but by Lorenzini herself.

Matin told the judge he was not sure if there was an actual conflict of interest, Lorenzini said, but she has acted accordingly.

"That is under advisement," Lorenzini said of the case in question. "I'm doing the research on where the line is drawn."

Lorenzini said that in the cases involving Matin that neither he nor the prosecution has raised concerns about the appearance of

impropriety due to campaign contributions.

The judge said "traditionally these questions are handled on a case-by-case basis" and it was up to the judge to decide, dispassionately, whether to recuse or not.

"Other than Mrs. Armitage, no one has brought that [the campaign contribution issue] up to me," said Lorenzini. "When you make a ruling, you're ruling on a case or a client, not the attorney."

Armitage also said that she has not called attorneys seeking donations, either, something she said Lorenzini's previous law firm — Cumberland and Earley, based in Prince Frederick — has done.

The challenger said that action put undue pressure on attorneys to contribute.

Lorenzini confirmed her old law firm had solicited attorneys for donations on her behalf.

"What's wrong with soliciting donations?" Lorenzini said. "Everybody does that in a campaign."

Lorenzini said she has recused herself from certain cases in her two years on the bench, though not in regards to campaign contributions.

The judge said one case involved a person she knew who said they had mentioned their legal case to Lorenzini outside of court.

When the case came before Lorenzini she said she could not recall if the person had spoken about their case, but Lorenzini decided to recuse herself anyway.

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Produce Seller Finds New Home In Charlotte Hall



Dale Dunston, Jr. at the new location of Southern Maryland Produce

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Since 2000 Dale Dunston, Jr. has been selling produce in Charlotte Hall, most recently at the old farmers market that is now being demolished piece meal after decades of operation.

“That was pretty devastating,” Dunston told The County Times of the removal of the iconic venue to make way for an eventual grocery store and other commercial amenities. “We knew it was coming eventually.”

But opportunities to continue the family business of raising and selling produce were still there.

The old St. Mary's Landing restaurant building, which had gone out of business and lay vacant, was available and Dunston and his wife bought it back in 2022.

“We pursued that knowing we'd need a place to go,” he said. “It all kind of fell into place.”

For the past four weeks Dunston, owner of Southern Maryland Produce, has been selling in the parking lot of the restaurant property.

The business has still been brisk, said Dunston.

“So far we haven't missed a beat,” he said.

“It's been just as good as the market was.” Dunston said he still has plans for the building behind his vegetable stands.

“We're going to work with an engineer to redesign it and make it our own,” Dunston said. “We'll have local meats and possibly a bakery.”

“It's got to be completely renovated.”

Their family farm in Mechanicsville provides the fresh vegetables and fruits that have been the stock and trade of the family business all these years.

They even grow flowers.

“We do raise about 8,000 mums for the fall,” Dunston said.

Starting the Southern Maryland Produce operation over again just across from its old venue was a foregone conclusion.

Dunston said he's been selling produce since he was 15 years old.

“Once I got out of school I made it a full-time thing,” Dunston said. “It's the only thing I've ever done.”

Southern Maryland Produce will be open during the summer from Wednesday through Sunday.

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Many Speak Out in Support of Tax Increase

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The auditorium at Great Mills High School was filled to near capacity the night of April 23 with supporters of public schools and teachers — easily noticed by their wearing of red to signify their “wear red for ed” stance on this year’s fiscal 2025 operating budget.

The boisterous crowd, made up of teachers’ union members and their supporters, brought signs and small metal cowbells — the sort teachers used generations ago to call attention in the classroom — to sound off their approval of comments made in favor of the increase to 3.2 percent the rate for the local income tax to raise the additional \$7 million to fund teacher raises and transportation costs.

“Thank you for taking the road less travelled,” said David Deaderick to the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County. “We must up our game.”

Deaderick said education nationwide had been underfunded for years and had led to a “serious weakness in Americas standing in the global economy.”

“We support this move because it addresses the common good,” Deaderick said as the first of many who spoke in support of the tax increase and the fiscal 2025 budget in general.

Civic activist Linda Thomas said she did not like the idea of having to raise the income tax rate, “but I’m keenly aware it’s an investment with a huge return.

“For years our teachers have been underpaid and under-supported,” Thomas said to thunderous applause from the red clad crowd in the auditorium.

There were only a few there who spoke out against the tax increase.

“I’m opposed to the tax increase,” said Joseph Gardner. “The more you raise taxes the more people are going to flee to places like Florida and Texas.”

Commissioner Mike Hewitt is the only commissioner to actively oppose the income tax increase, saying that it will hurt senior cit-



izens, many of whom are on a fixed income as well as those in a low-income bracket.

“I’m on a fixed income,” said Mark Pielmeier in opposition to the tax increase. “It effects people on fixed incomes the most.

“I beseech you to take every spending increase requested of you under consideration... many would require a ‘no.’”

School board candidate Charles Carrington called the increase in the income tax “a necessary evil given the circumstances” pushed onto the county by

the state’s Blueprint for Education, which, among other requirements, mandates a starting salary for teachers by 2026 of \$60,000.

Carrington implored commissioners, though, to find new ways to fund the school system outside of further tax increases as such methods were “not sustainable.”

“You’ll have to use your imaginations for that,” Carrington said.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith, speaking during an interview with local radio personalities T-Bone and Heather this week,

said that the commissioners’ willingness to provide an additional \$7 million for schools would prevent the shutting down of many specialty programs that students and parents had both come to depend on.

“We talked about if we weren’t funded, where would we cut,” Smith said, noting there was a rumor that the STEM program at Great Mills High School might be cut if the extra funding were not provided by the commissioners.

The general fund budget totals \$329,039,996 which is \$10,843,073 or 3.4% more than the current FY2024 budget, county public hearing documents show.

The sheriff’s office is also receiving a nearly 5 percent increase in its funding for personnel pay.

The county allocation for the school system is just over \$152 million in the current budget proposal.

“All those great programs we’ve had... they’ll all remain,” Smith said over the airwaves, given the budget passes with the \$7 million increase.

The income tax is not the only place residents will see their tax bill increase; while the commissioners are not raising the property tax rate, increased property valuations, mandated by the state, will ensure that property owners will see higher tax bills despite the property tax remaining the same.

Some property owners have seen their assessments increase by a whopping 25 percent or more in recent months, leaving many concerned about the bills they will face.

Many are relying on the homestead tax credit, which, if a homeowner is successfully enrolled in the program caps the property tax rate increase at 3 percent per year.

The overall property tax revenue increase is \$3.1 million or 2.4 percent over the fiscal 2024 approved budget.

The public comment period for the fiscal 2025 budget is still open and budget work sessions to finalize the budget will continue into May.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Hundreds of people attended Tuesday’s hearing, many of them dressed in red to show support for education funding. Photos by Tajae Perkins.



- Parents' Bill of Rights
- Students' Personal Safety from Violence, Bullying & Harassment, and the Influence of Substance Use
- Education with Age-Appropriate Boundaries
- Public Transparency & Accountability
- Oversight of Administration
- Term Limits of Board Members

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By Authority, Julia Guy, Treasurer

- **Parents' Bill of Rights**

The participation of parents in the education of their children must be a right rather than a privilege. The concept that “Educators Know Best” is condescending. I am in favor of adopting a policy that specifies the rights of parents, including appeals to an independent Ombudsman to arbitrate disputes, when necessary.

- **Students' Personal Safety**

The physical security of the schools differs from the personal safety of students. The means of ensuring personal safety is to have rigid standards and enforcement of discipline that motivates self-discipline. The consequences of misbehavior should discomfort both the offending students and their parents.

- **Age-Appropriate Education**

Compliance with state mandates, which expose children to subject matter that is age-inappropriate based on commonly accepted standards, must be as nominal as possible. Parent's objections must be honored.

- **Transparency & Accountability**

The decision-making by the board of education and the school administration must be open to public scrutiny without behind-the-scenes pre-determined outcomes. The same briefing materials provided to the board must be made available to the public.

- **Oversight of Administration**

The present relationship between the board of education and the school administration has the appearance of “the tail wagging the dog.” It cannot be assumed the school administration will always act in good faith in accordance with policies and regulations. There cannot be trust without verification.

- **Term Limits**

The members of the board of education should have the same limit of three consecutive terms in office as the county commissioners.

Hollywood Medical Building Set for Major Expansion



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county planning commission heard the case for expanding the Phillip J. Bean Medical Center in Hollywood, currently occupied and run by a MedStar/Shah Associates partnership, but decided to hold off on a final ruling on the concept site plan until their May 6 meeting.

The project under consideration is a two-story, nearly-54,000 square foot outpatient care center to be built on the 28-acre piece of property upon which the current medical center is situated.

The new building would be constructed next to the current facility which has operated for decades in Hollywood providing specialty medical services including laboratory and diagnostic radiology and ambulatory surgery.

The new facility would not be allowed any overnight patient capacity or any other dormitory style rooms, according to the county's allowable use classification in the residential mixed-use zone.

The project is big enough to require as a condition of potential approval the addition of 81 new parking spaces and more than 16,000 square feet of landscaping to mitigate construction impacts there, planning documents stated.

The total number of new parking spaces with the new development is proposed at 297.

Anthony Olekson, project engineer from the Calvert County-based firm of COA Barrett, said the project was an extension of the services already provided at the current facility.

"It's a good asset to continue to grow," Olekson said at the April 22 public hearing in Leonardtown.

The existing building is about 51,000 square feet in size, Olekson said, with approximately 240 parking spaces available.

Board members were concerned about the amount of traffic already at the site and how its flow would be affected with the new building.

The entrance to the facility is on southbound Route 235 with a right-in, right out

turn there.

But many people exiting the facility cross both lanes of southbound traffic to queue in the median strip intersection to take northbound Route 235.

Public works chief Jim Gotsch said the developer believed they could successfully get two cars to queue in the median intersection but the state would only allow for one.

"That's not going to happen," said Planning Commission Chair Howard Thompson of the developer's proposal.

Planning commission member Joe St. Clair scoffed at the developer's notion that if drivers who were uncomfortable queuing at the exit to the facility or at the median intersection to go northbound on Route 235, they should go south and make a U-turn at Airport View Drive.

"I just think that's ridiculous," St. Clair said, noting that many senior citizens, including him, used the Bean center for regular medical visits. "I'm really disappointed that there wasn't a traffic [study] person here and that the state [highway administration] shrugs this off."

"People have already been killed at this intersection," said planning commission member Lynn Delahay, noting Hollywood was a designated growth area. "If we don't address these small intersections now, it's going to be a really big mess."

Deputy County Attorney John Houser said there were findings in traffic studies of the proposed project that the intersections in question would remain at what the state calls a level of service "C" which is the level required by law.

The vote of the planning commission to continue the hearing to May was to allow for time to bring those who promulgated the traffic study to explain their study.

What data was available showed there are currently an average of 28,763 daily trips at the facility's entrance intersection with Route 235.

"The reason we're muddling this around is absence of information," said planning board member John Brown

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For more information, contact Sarah Miller

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“WE’RE GETTING HIT WITH INFLATION AND EVERYTHING THAT’S INSIDE THE BUILDING.”
 DPWT DIRECTOR JIM GOTSCH ON THE RISING COSTS OF A COUNTY CHILD CARE CENTER.



LOCAL 5
Major medical building expansion proposed



LOCAL 9
Campaign finance issue persists in judge race



ON THE COVER 7
Teachers, supporters say yes to income tax increase

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, APR 25 Partly Cloudy Hi: 56° Lo: 42°	FRI, APR 26 Sunny Hi: 62° Lo: 46°	SAT, APR 27 Cloudy Hi: 62° Lo: 53°	SUN, APR 28 Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 60°
MON, APR 29 Mostly Sunny Hi: 84° Lo: 63°	TUE, APR 30 PM Showers Hi: 84° Lo: 61°	WED, MAY 1 Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 58°	THU, MAY 2 Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 57°



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By authority Cathy Allen, Candidate; Bradford J. Allen, Treasurer



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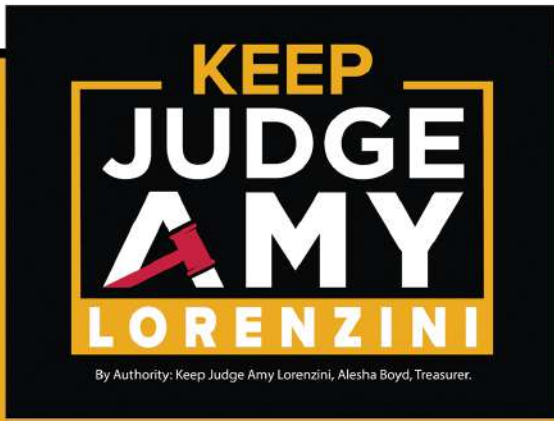
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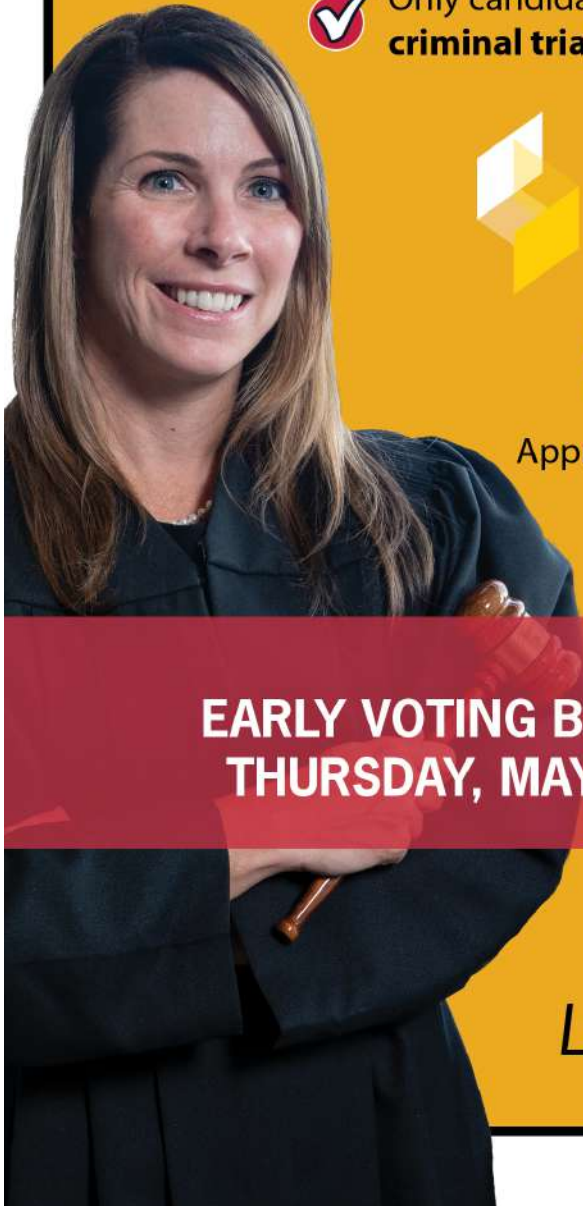


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I had the opportunity to serve on a jury where the presiding judge was Amy Lorenzini.

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Tim Wurmlinger, Leonardtown, MD
Came to St. Mary's in 1979 with McDonnell Douglas F-18

Judge Amy Lorenzini was the judge in a civil case I was the defendant in and some pieces were directed judgements from her and a final piece ended in jury trial. **Not all her decisions went how I wanted or would have liked.** She corrected me when I was sassy in the trial portion. She was also empathetic when I became overcome with emotion too and was patient when I helped the plaintiff's lawyer get his "evidence" against me on a hard drive for the jury so we could all eventually go home. It was the first (and hopefully only) time I had been sued. **I saw fairness, mindful execution of the law, command of her court room, and absolute poise and dedication to her calling.** In what was an absolute horrible experience for me (*and again Judge Lorenzini did not always decide on my side*) I saw a Judge that I am proud to have representing St. Marys County first hand. She has my vote!!

Aunna Cotton, Leonardtown, MD
10 year resident of St. Mary's County

Judge Lorenzini not only made an impact on my Girl Scouts, but the leaders as well.

Why does making an impact on the youth of our community really matter? Simple. They are the next generation. They will be the ones to vote our next leaders into or out of office and make a better tomorrow for their generation. They will also be the next to run for office. If they were to follow in her footsteps, we would be so lucky to have them take that place. She gave them COMMUNITY! The girl scout motto is, "to leave a place better than you found it." Judge Lorenzini has our vote!

Summer Webb, Great Mills, MD
29 year resident of St. Mary's County, Girl Scout Troop 10024

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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024

WWW.COUNTYTIMES.NET

**Expansion Proposed
for Bean Building**

**Candidates Debate
Campaign Finance**

**Child Care Facility
Faces Rising Costs**

**COMMISSIONERS
SEE RED**

Photo by Ceandra Scott