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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022

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COUNTDOWN TO ELECTION DAY

“Cancel” What I Disagree With

Last week, The County Times published endorsements for candidates in this year’s election. Locally, most candidates on the Democrat side of the ballot were not happy. As such, the Democrats running in the local elections in St. Mary’s County have decided to remove their advertisements from The County Times.

We admit, the endorsements were not favorable for Democrats, however, the essence of our concern was directed towards national and state public policy which we feel strongly is hurting our country, our families, our small businesses, and our community. We are not for or against Democrats or Republicans, we are for the United States of America. For the past two years, the Democrat controlled policies are damaging our country and our institutions.

This election is not about soccer fields and parks, this election is about safe soccer fields, safe parks, and safe communities. This election is not about education funding, this election is about what our children are being taught in schools. This election is not about alternative energy, this election is about being able to afford gas to go to work, oil and electric to heat our homes. This election is not about more drug recovery programs, this election is about stopping the flow of drugs across our open border and into our community.

The state of this nation is the deciding issue of this election. Whether its immigration, crime, gas and home heating oil prices, inflation, school system policy; it is simply too important to take risks.

When you run for office, you are representing the current values and policies of the party you belong to, unless you clearly state otherwise. Hundreds of candidates changed parties this election because they did not believe their party represents their values. Millions of voters have done the same thing.

Democrats in the past, Roy Dyson, John Bohanan, Jack Russell, to name a few, lost their elected offices because of the policies of President Barack Obama and Governor Martin O’Malley. They lost to a red wave as it is called.

Johnny Wood, a Democrat, was able to avoid the red wave, despite the backlash other Dem-

ocrats faced. Why? because Johnny Wood stood up for the majority of people in his community. He separated himself from those in his party, and those policies he knew his constituents did not support. He represented the people of his district, and he spoke up, as a leader of people, not party.

Over the past 16 years, The County Times has been the most honest and fair media in this community. We have reported the news without bias, we have kept opinion to opinion pages. We have given equal time and attention to both Democrats and Republicans.

Over the years, we have endorsed Democrats as well as Republicans, including Steny Hoyer, Roy Dyson, John Bohanan, Johnny Wood, Jack Russell, and others. The County Times is a proud and trusted community newspaper, we work hard every day to earn that place in our community.

During this election year, we gave candidates on both sides’ equal coverage, equal opportunity to answer questions, and equal opportunity to take advantage of our product. In fact, a Democrat, Delegate Brian Crosby was able to secure the most premium ad space available blocking any other candidates from that space.

We can make a good case as to why Brian Crosby should be re-elected, but we cannot make a good case for how national, and state public policy is beneficial to residents of St. Mary’s County. Crosby, good or bad, as in the case of Dyson and Bohanan before him, has failed to separate himself from the red wave.

Rather than show leadership and use space to say why The County Times endorsements were wrong, and to address the real concerns that our readers have going into this election, Crosby, like all the Democrats simply resorted to the “cancel” culture taking place today.

Open, honest, fair, and balanced discourse is the hallmark of good government. It is important that the Democrat party locally be a contending party at election time and beyond. But the party may need to reevaluate how to get there. We hope they do, because a one-party system is a threat to our Republic, at all levels.



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"We can resurrect that trail."

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith on the school's ability to track student internet activity on school laptops even when they circumvent a search history.



LOCAL 4
County faces 100 vacancies.



COMMUNITY 9
Flags for Heroes



ON THE COVER

St. Mary's residents coming out to vote early
Headline: St. Mary's Heads to the Polls Early

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU 11/3	68° /52°	Mostly sunny and pleasant	MON 11/7	75° /57°	Pleasant with clouds and sun
FRI 11/4	70° /58°	Mostly sunny and nice	TUE 11/8	66° /48°	Showers around; not as warm
SAT 11/5	75° /61°	Mostly sunny and warm	WED 11/9	69° /47°	Cloudy
SUN 11/6	75° /61°	A passing afternoon shower	THU 11/10	68° /42°	Cloudy

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Continued Vacancies Challenge County Government

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

There are about 100 vacancies in local government jobs, the county's chief human resources officer told the Commissioners of St. Marys' County this week and more financial incentives were needed to recruit and retain people in critical staff positions.

Catherine Pratson, head of the Department of Human Resources, said the vacancies mostly lie in the fields of emergency call service dispatchers in the 911 center, CDL drivers and people skilled in the trades such as plumbing and heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

Pratson offered several options to commissioners to increase incentives.

The first was to offer a \$1,500 bonus for new hires of 911 dispatchers, CDL drivers and the skilled trades, which would be retroactive to those hired from July 1 of this year onwards at a cost of \$30,000.

The second proposal was to make emergency medical services staff hired by the county to support volunteer rescue squads at and the Advanced Life Support unit eligible for the one-dollar increase that comes with working a

late shift from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. — also known as the night shift — at a cost of \$38,000.

The third brings back call back pay for hourly employees at an overall cost of \$25,600.

The fourth proposal was to a mid-year cost of living adjustment (COLA) for county employees at a cost of \$367,500; a full one percent COLA would cost double that amount.

Pratson also proposed a one-time retention bonus for currently-employed county workers of \$1,200 to be paid before Christmas; this would be for employees working an average of 30 hours per week and who have been with the county for at least one year, county documents showed.

Employees who accept the bonus must agree to serve at least one year with the county.

The estimated one-time expense for this proposal is \$952,800.

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve all of the options, though there was debate about whether to use American Rescue Act funding or county fiscal reserves.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Human resources head Catherine Pratson

Numbers Show Strong Turnout In Early Voting

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Local election officials say that the voter turnout for early voting over the past six days has been robust, rapidly outpacing the low numbers shown in the primary election.

"It's been pretty consistent," said St. Mary's County Board of Elections Director Wendy Adkins of the flow of voters coming to the three early voting stations. "There haven't been any lines but it's been a steady flow of people."

The first day of early voting brought a total of 1,062 county residents to the polls, according to state board of elections totals; the primary voting numbers for the first day showed that just 492 came out to the polls between all three voting stations.

The second day of early voting brought out even more residents with 1,205 voters.

After the first two days of early voting numbers dropped off but were still stronger than primary numbers when looking at final state reports.

For Oct. 29 and Oct. 30 645 and 617 voters came to the polls respectively, state reports showed; the primary numbers for the same days were 272 and 303 respectively.

By Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 numbers increased back to 911 and 1,031 residents coming out for early voting respectively.

The state reports show that 5,471 voters in total, or 7.26 percent of all St. Mary's registered voters, have come out for early voting for the first six days — there are a total of eight days allocated for early voting, which ends Nov. 3.

There are a total of 75,342 registered voters in St. Mary's County.

While the totals show that general election early voting rates are much higher than the primary, some county commissioners said this week during their regular business meeting that turnout was low.

Indeed, less than 10 percent of all St. Mary's County voters have come out to vote early; but those numbers do not include mail-in ballots.

So far 8,564 mail-in ballots have been sent to St. Mary's, with 4,750 of them being returned as of Nov. 1, according to state reports.

Of those returned 2,601 are from Democrats and 1,461 are from Republicans.

The early voting tallies show that more Republicans than Democrats are availing themselves of that opportunity by significant margins.

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New Animal Shelter Already Euthanizing



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Since opening officially on Sept. 12, the staff at the new Animal Adoption Center in California, have euthanized more than a dozen animals brought to them, according to county documents sent to the county's Animal Control Advisory Board.

From the opening of the facility to Oct. 12 there have been 17 animals euthanized, the latest reports show.

Almost half of them — eight — were feral while seven were too injured or medically incapacitated to survive on their own.

The remaining two animals exhibited severe aggression as the declared reason why they were euthanized, the report stated.

Since its inception, the new animal shelter was designed to be a low-kill to no-kill animal shelter, which is in contrast to the aging Tri-County Animal Shelter which has been criticized by animal rescue groups locally as having a high kill rate of animals housed there.

For the first month of the new facility's operations the staff there took in a total of 256 animals, the latest reports show, 63 of which were surrendered by their owners.

Those surrendered included 13 dogs, 47 cats, one pig and two rabbits.

Two dogs that had been adopted out of the new shelter were returned there, the report stated.

The county's animal control staff, which uses the facility as its new headquarters, also seized and brought in 10 dogs and 25 rabbits.

The facility also took in 25 stray dogs, 26 stray cats, one chicken and two rabbits.

Other rescue or shelter operations transferred in 25 dogs, 23 cats and one hamster, according to county documents.

There were 52 total adoptions and 29 animals were returned to their owners, while two animals were transferred to other animal rescue or shelter groups.

One animal died while in the care of staff at the facility.

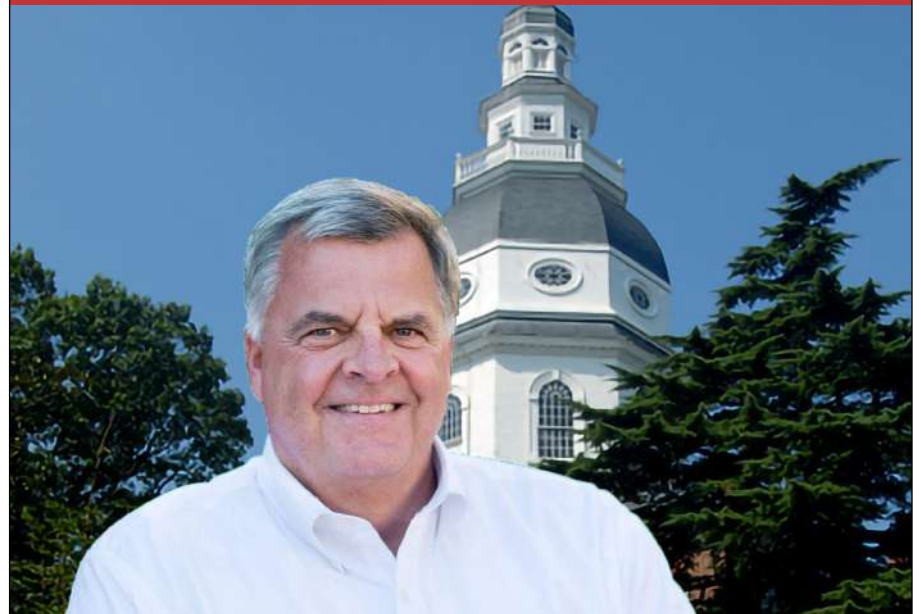
In one particular case, the St. Mary's facility took in six dogs in late September that had been seized as part of an animal case in Charles County; they had been staying in that county's new shelter since October of last year.

All of those dogs have since been adopted, according to the report, or are in the process of being adopted.

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Grant to Support Defense Work at Airport

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county is set to meet one of its key economic development goals soon, now that there are plans to bring a Department of Defense project to do business at the St. Mary's County regional airport, according to a key partner at the burgeoning facility.

Steve Bildman, one of the founders of AirTec, Inc., which now manages the growth at the county airport to include technology companies and aircraft maintenance activities, told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County of the recent development at their Nov. 1 meeting.

"We're bringing in a DOD activity out of Washington, D.C.," Bildman said. "We're going to be developing new technology at the St. Mary's County Airport."

While defense-related programs is nothing new to St. Mary's County its primary focus has always been on research, development, test and evaluation, Bildman said.

The new focus at the airport, which local officials had long hoped would come to the county-owned facility, with the new project, Bildman said, would be science and technology.

The project will involve integrating Starlink into an aircraft, Bildman said, and testing its functions and performance for DOD use.

Starlink is a system of orbiting satellites that is being developed to provide global internet service, particularly to remote or rural areas that may be more sparsely populated.

This kind of systems integration, Bildman said, would be a "gamechanger" for information systems.

"Right now using regular [satellite communications] we can only get about 296 [kilobytes per second] upload speed," Bildman said. "With Starlink we'll get a minimum of 10 megabytes per second."

In the first year of the project's operations, he said, the activity will bring 25 engineering and other high-technology jobs to the area, to include cybersecurity.

The news of the project came this week as the Department of Economic Development asked for com-

missioner approval for a \$1.25 million grant from the Maryland Economic Development Co. (MEDCO) to build a sensitive or classified information facility (SCIF) at one of the hangars at the airport to support the DOD work to be done there.

The commissioners approved the grant unanimously. Bildman said St. Mary's Airport was uniquely positioned in its resources to attract such opportunities.

"We're the only airport in Maryland that can do this," Bildman said.

"This will be a great addition to the assets already in the [airport innovation] district," said Chris Kaselemis, director of the Department of Economic Development.

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Overall Best Scarecrow

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SMCHD Closed for Gubernatorial Election Day & Veterans Day

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) will be closed Tuesday, November 8, 2022 for the Gubernatorial Election. The agency will also be closed on Friday, November 11, 2022 in recognition of Veterans Day. This includes the main office in Leonardtown, all satellite offices, and COVID-19 testing and vaccine operations. Normal operations will resume the following business day for both State holidays.

Visit smchd.org for more information on SMCHD locations and services.

November Is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Charles Beaver, one of the owners and general manager at Still Creek Vineyards in Avenue said he never smoked — he's 74 years old — and has worked outdoors all his life.

Two years ago, he was shocked to find out that he had developed lung cancer; a test of a melanoma on his skin led to doctors finding out about the other disease.

Fortunately, Beaver said, the early detection of the lung cancer led to early treatment and the removal of most of one of his lungs.

"I was able to avoid chemotherapy," Beaver said. "And the other parts of the lung left behind expanded to fill the cavity."

He still works at the vineyard and exercises and is doing well, he said.

His surprise diagnosis has led him to join what is known as the White Ribbon Project, designed to bring greater awareness of the public to the disease.

The awareness and education on the disease is important, he said, because of its insidious nature.

"If you have lungs, you can get lung cancer," Beaver said. "When I was diagnosed, I thought: 'I had never smoked, I had no symptoms.'"



Charles, Mary, Chris and Chuck Beaver

By the time people are diagnosed with the disease, after symptoms have begun to present, many times it is too late, he said.

"By the time you find it most people die within a year," Beaver said. "It's become known as a smoker's disease and it's not."


On Nov. 12, Beaver, and friends of his vineyard, will assemble white ribbons made from painted plywood and give them to willing businesses around the county to have their employees take pictures holding them.

Those pictures will then be posted by those businesses on social media to help raise awareness of the disease.

"That's what we need, is education and awareness," Beaver said.

For more information visit Still Creek Vineyard's Facebook page.

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Parents Question School Laptop Security

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

During the last two years — especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the St. Mary's County public school system was moving quickly to provide laptop computers to all of its students for remote learning and also to make sure students kept up with the best educational technology.

School officials said the computers would be protected from having access to prohibited web-based content such as pornography.

But one parent told the school board last week that the school's computer filters had failed.

Stephanie Barr, speaking at the Oct. 26 regular meeting of the school board, said that for almost the past 10 years she and her husband's efforts to filter out harmful content from the internet coming into their homes had been completely successful.

But somehow, one of her children — using their school-issued laptop — was able to circumvent all of the home internet protections and access on-line pornography, she said.

When she sought answers from the school system about what went wrong, she and her husband were told they were essentially on their own.

"We received an e-mail stating it was our responsibility as parents to block content while the child was in the home," Barr said. "That was never brought to our attention when these [laptop computers] were issued.

"I ignorantly trusted that the school system had the children's internet safety handled and filters in place."

When she contacted their internet service provider, Barr said she was told that, likewise, there was nothing the provider could do to help.

The only action the ISP could take, she said, was to block such content at the internet router itself, which she and her husband had already done.

On June 30 of last year the school system authorized a \$57,500 contract with Gaggle to provide digital management safety software; Barr said she contacted the vendor with her problem but was told that the "accounts were monitored at the school but not the device itself."

Apparently, Barr said, students can use their own personal internet accounts to circumvent the monitoring system.

The Gaggle software monitoring has been used to identify more than 230 instances of questionable or harmful content on student internet accounts such as references to self-harm or suicide but it does not prevent access to prohibited content.

The only way she found out about what her son had done, Barr said, was because her son had voluntarily given over his password for his personal internet accounts.

"We've put so much power in the students' hands and we've made it so difficult for parents to monitor everything."

She called upon the school system to find ways to ensure students couldn't log out of their school accounts on issued computers and use their personal ones.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith told The County Times that students have proved dedicated and ingenious in using system-issued laptops to access prohibited materials on-line.

Students are using a kind of website, Smith said, that hides or obscures their search histories so they can perform searches on prohibited subjects that would normally be blocked by content filters.

These sites can circumvent home-based networks, Smith said, but the school system's supervisor of information technology, Will Buckmaster, said that with every device there is a filter that checks websites against a list of approved content from the school system.

However, Buckmaster said, once a student leaves the

school system's network, they leave the protections of that system

What they do not leave, though, is the school system's ability to track which websites a student may visit using their school-issued computer.

The cloaking sites still leave some traces of searches which can allow information technology investigators to find and expose the sites, Buckmaster clarified.

"Wherever a student goes using that computer it still has a specific IP address," Buckmaster said

These cloaking sites are normally used for short periods of time and continually change once they are discovered and blocked by the school system.

It's a constant struggle, Buckmaster said, but the school system has dedicated firewalls in place to ensure such content cannot be accessed while on school-supported networks.

Smith said the computers could be modified to not be used away from the school system's network, but they would be useless at home.

"They'd be bricks," Smith said. "No matter how much time and energy you invest there may be a way to circumvent the software.

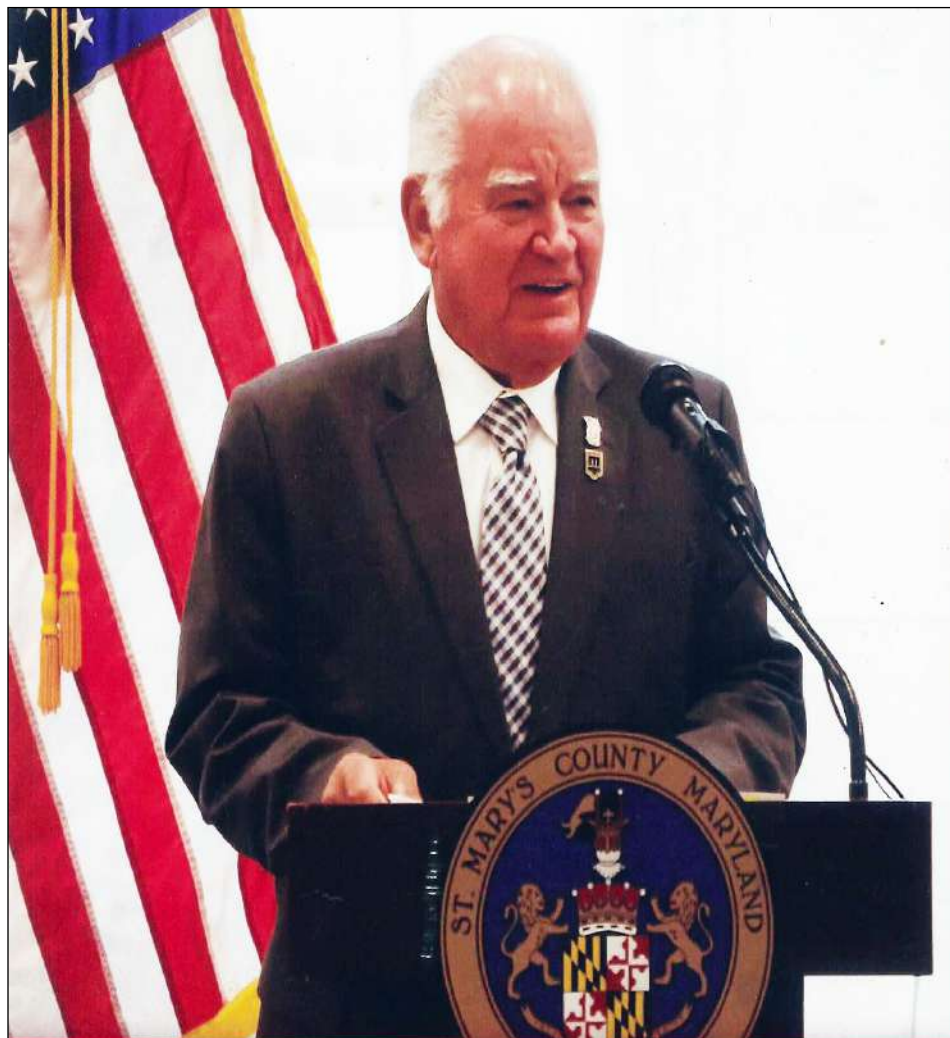
"But you [a student] cannot go anywhere on the internet and not leave a trail of breadcrumbs that we will be able to recover on a school system-issued device."

Smith said the prohibited content that the parent's child accessed was not found using the school system's network.

"If they're in our buildings and on our network, it won't work," Smith said, adding that students would not be successful in hiding their searches on other networks.

"We can resurrect that trail," Smith said.

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GUY

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Hilda Ann Trossbach Hall



Hilda Ann Trossbach Hall, 94, of Scotland, MD, passed away on October 22, 2022. Born on June 13, 1928 in Beachville, MD, she was the daughter of the late John Linwood Trossbach and the late Mary Adelaide

Norris Trossbach. Hilda is survived by her children Robert E. Hall (Darleen) of Hollywood, MD, Rhoda Hall (Jack) of Ridge, MD, her siblings George Trossbach of Scotland, MD, Juanita Smith of Ridge, MD, John L. "Bill" Trossbach (Frances Mae) of Drayden, MD, Norris "Buster" Trossbach (Hilda) of Scotland, MD, Marjorie Ridgell of Scotland MD, and Amelia Fenhagen (Benedict) of Scotland, MD, daughter-in-law Juanita Chaput of Lawton, OK, as well as four grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son Roland P. "Peezie" Chaput and her sister Adelaide "Addie" McBride.

Hilda was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduated from St. Michael's High School as the Valedictorian of Class of 1946. She was employed by the U.S. Post Office, retiring in 1989 as the Post Master of Park Hall, MD with 30 years of service. Hilda was a member of the NARFE Chapter 969.

The family will receive friends on

Thursday, November 3, 2022 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers at 7:30 PM in St. Michael's Catholic Church, Ridge, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, November 4, 2022 at 10:00 AM with Rev. Peter Giovannoni officiating. Interment will follow at the church cemetery.

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

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

Gerald (Jerry) Webster Lumpkins, Jr.



Gerald (Jerry) Webster Lumpkins, Jr. of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on Saturday, October 29, 2022 of lung cancer.

Jerry was born on December 2, 1950 to the late Gerald and Barbara Ann Lumpkins. He is survived by his siblings – Pete, Jack (Mary Lou), Sandy, Donnie, Bo (Robbie), Brenda (Pee Wee), Rick (Lynn), Gail, Bonnie, as well as a host of nieces and nephews. Jerry was predeceased by his sister Sheila and her husband Tom Guy, and great nephew Kenny Lake.

Jerry attended Holy Angels Catholic School where he also served as an altar boy. He went on to graduate from Chopticon High School. After graduation, Jerry

became a waterman for many years, and later worked in the fencing business for approximately 34 years. He worked for Clinton Fence and Massey Fence.

In his younger days, Jerry played baseball for Bailey's Express, Pierce and Gibson, Millers, and Captain Sam's. He loved hanging out with his teammates after the games, usually at Old Gum – where we teased him about having a bar stool with his name on it.

Jerry also enjoyed watching his favorite team – the New York Yankees play.

The family will receive friends on Friday, November 4, 2022 from 12:00-1:00PM at the Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD where a service will follow at 1:00PM with Deacon Joseph Lloyd officiating. Interment will follow at the Charles Memorial Gardens.

Serving as pallbearers will be Clint Lumpkins, Kevin Lake, Rob Baird, Stevie Long, Erich Bogie and Trevor Guy. Serving as honorary pallbearer will be his great niece Alyssa Lake, whom he adored.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

LCDR Gary C. Faller, USN (Ret.)



Gary Conrad Faller, age 69, of California, MD died on Oct. 27, 2022. While sitting in a tree stand on his wife's family's property in Pennsylvania, he suffered a heart attack.

Faller was born in Oil City, PA., on April 5, 1953, to Gayle Dockery Faller and Arthur Norbert Faller. He married Deborah Schmader on July 29, 1978, at Immaculate Conception Parish in Clarion, PA.

Faller was the Co-President of St. Mary's County Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace where volunteers build beds for kids ages 3-17 who don't have beds of their own.

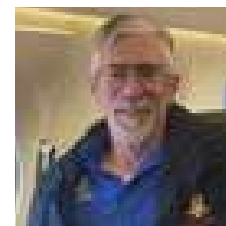
He is survived by loving wife Deborah and his two daughters: Andrea Atlas, her husband Darrin Atlas and their two children David and Drea of Leonardtown, MD; Heidi Medford, her husband LCDR Chris Medford and their children Hayden and Chase of Naples Italy, his siblings, Carol-lee Umstead, Daniel Faller, Greg Faller & Dolly of Rocky Mount, NC, and Michelle (Hans) Rohm of Wendell, NC; his in-laws Donna (Frank) Lebda of Stuart, FL; Diane (Gary) Rhoads of Mentor, OH; Cindy (Gerry) Gates of Jacksonville, FL; Susie (Cahill) Jones of Boise, ID, and Jeff (Sunny) Wells of Aurora, CO, as well as countless nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother-in-law, Butch Umstead, his in-laws Donald & Louise Schmader, his sister-in-law Christine Wells, and infant nephew, Kyle Gates.

Viewing will be held at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Solomons, MD beginning at 10:30 AM on Veterans' Day, Friday, November 11, 2022. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow. Inurnment will be at Our Lady Star of Sea Columbarium at a later date.

Arrangements were handled by Reinsel Funeral Home & Crematory, Oil City, PA and Brinsfield Funeral Homes & Crematory, Leonardtown, MD. His obituary can be found <https://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com/obits>.

Steven Glenn Himes



Steven Glenn Himes, 61 of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on October 02, 2022 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD with his lov-

ing family at his side.

He was born on August 14, 1961 in Key West, FL to the late Donald Leroy Himes and Virginia Ann Miller of Hollywood, MD.

On January 28, 1983, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and proudly served his country until his honorable discharge in May 1986 as a Staff Sergeant. On December 2, 2000, he married the love of his life, Sherry Himes in Leonardtown, MD. Together they celebrated over 21 wonderful years of marriage. He was employed as a Senior Mission Assurance Engineer with AXIENT. He had a strong work ethic and was superior in skill and knowledge, working on many NASA missions throughout his career including the Hubble and the James Webb Space Telescope. He received the Robert H. Goddard Quality and Process Improvement Award for his work on the James Webb Space Telescope. In earning this award it was noted that he provided exceptional leadership, dedication and innovation. He provided a "much less-risky method" and greatly improved method of pre-heating the wiring boards. He also served the community as a dedicated EMT/Paramedic (EMPT) for over 31 years. In 2018, while on a flight to Los Angeles to support the James Webb Space Telescope project, a woman onboard had a medical emergency. He suspected a third degree heart blockage. The medical kit onboard the flight had two of the three needed drugs but no cardiac monitor. He administered two of the medications and repeated that three times during the flight to the nearest airport. Due to his quick thinking, he was credited for saving this woman's life. Steve was very modest and said it wasn't a big deal, it was natural for him to want to help someone in distress. However to the woman and her family it was a life-saving big deal. Steve loved his job, his colleagues, and his community, but his greatest love was for his family, whom he loved to spend time with.

In addition to his wife, Sherry, Steve is also survived by his sons, Matthew Himes of Hollywood, MD, and Shawn Hayden (Hiroko) of Santee, CA; his grandchildren: Ashley Himes, Erica Hayden and Bradly Hayden; siblings: Susan Basse (Bryan Burchfield) of St. Augustine, FL, David Himes (Ebbly Parker) of St. Augustine, FL, Joan Himes of Hollywood, MD and Laura Caspar (Joseph) of Clements, MD; nieces and nephews: Logan Himes, Michael Patterson (Amie), David Himes Jr. and extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his father, Donald Leroy Himes.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or a charity of your choice in his memory. Family will receive friends on a date as yet to be determined at Steve's home for his Life Celebration.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

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Joshua Ostrow, Treasurer

ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER



Drug Arrest- On October 12, 2022, Cpl. Holdsworth arrested James Perry Bond, age 31 of no fixed address, in the 45000 block of Krystal Lane in Great Mills, for an outstanding warrant for Driving While Suspended. Located on Bond was a suspected CDS smoking device containing suspected cocaine residue. Bond was served the outstanding warrant and charged with CDS: Paraphernalia and CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana.



Drug Arrest- On October 13, 2022, Dep. Senatore responded to the 27600 block of Three Notch Road in Mechanicsville, for the reported disturbance. Contact was made with Gregory Allen Tippett, age 29 of Mechanicsville. Located in Tippett's pocket were three suspected Hydrocodone pills and one suspected Adderall pill. Tippett was arrested and charged with CDS: Not Marijuana.

Rogue and Vagabond- On October



20, 2022, Dep. Palmer responded to the 19000 block of King James Parkway in Lexington Park, for the individual attempting to enter vehicles. Investigation determined Martin NMN Bray, age 47 of Lexington Park, was observed covering his hands with a jacket and attempted to enter vehicles in the area. Further investigation determined Bray entered an unlocked vehicle and appeared to be checking the center console. Bray was located in the area by deputies and arrested. Bray was charged with Rogue and Vagabond.



Burglary/Assault- On October 22, 2022, Dep. Kril responded to the 21400 block of Rodine Way in Lexington Park, for the reported burglary. Investigation determined Nathan Scott Atzenhoffer, age 27 of Lexington Park, forced entry into the victim's residence, and pushed the victim to the ground. Atzenhoffer left the scene and returned a short time later and was arrested. Atzenhoffer was charged with Burglary 3rd and 4th Degree and Assault 2nd Degree.

Local Park Woman Gets 30 Months For Fraudulent Disability Benefits

U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis sentenced Angela Marie Farr, age 36, of Lexington Park, Maryland, yesterday to 30 months in federal prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release, for conspiracy to commit theft of government property and for theft of government property, in connection with a scheme to obtain fraudulently disability benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") and the Social Security Administration ("SSA"). Judge Xinis also ordered Farr to forfeit an amount equal to the proceeds obtained as a result of the fraud by paying a money judgment of \$475,751, and ordered Farr pay restitution in the full amount of the government's losses, which is at least \$1,010,702.

The sentence was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Erik L. Barron; Special Agent in Charge Kim R. Lampkins, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General (OIG), Mid-Atlantic Field Office; and Special Agent in Charge Michael McGill of the Social Security Administration - Office of Inspector General (SSA-OIG), Philadelphia Field Division.

According to her guilty plea, Farr organized a conspiracy in which she submitted false and fraudulent documents to the VA in support of her disability compensation claims, as well as for the disability claims for her then-husband, Michael Vincent Pace, and for her father, Individual 1. The fraudulent documents stated that Farr, Pace, and Individual 1 were homebound and required full-time assistance for basic tasks such as eating, bathing, and dressing. In fact, all three individuals lived active lives and did not require such assistance.

Farr served in the U.S. Navy from August 2, 2005 until April 19, 2007, when she was administratively discharged. In 2009, Farr filed a claim to the VA for disability compensation stating that she suffered post-traumatic stress disorder after being sexually assaulted while on duty three years earlier. At the same time, Farr also falsely claimed to the VA that she was seriously injured in a traffic accident when she was struck by a drunk driver while driving on duty in 2006. Farr claimed that she suffered from chronic neck and back pain as a result of the accident.

In support of these claims, Farr filed an entirely fabricated medical record allegedly from the Navy consisting of over 70 pages of documents purportedly authored by criminal investigators, psychologists, and physical therapists. Based on the injuries claimed and the forged supporting medical documentation, on October 6, 2007, the VA rated Farr 70 percent disabled.

In 2015, Farr sought additional compensation claiming that she suffered a traumatic brain injury and other grave health consequences as a result of the 2007 vehicle accident. Farr again submitted dozens of forged fraudulent medical documents in support of her claim, using the names of both real and fictitious physicians. The documents claimed that

Farr was paralyzed from the waist down, suffered multiple seizures daily, required round-the-clock care for basic functions such as toileting and showering, and claimed that she also suffered from an aneurysm, heart attack, and leukemia. Based on the fraudulent documentation, VA increased Farr's disability rating to 100 percent, and awarded Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) for her in-home nursing care requirements.

In approximately April 2016, Farr applied online for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits on the basis of the same disabilities she cited in her VA claims. In that application, Farr claimed that she was unable to work, despite the fact that she was working for the Department of Defense at the time she applied, but claimed she was forced to medically retire. The Social Security Administration awarded SSDI benefits to Farr on September 17, 2016.

Farr also conspired with and assisted Pace, a former member of the United States military, to exaggerate his existing condition using forged and fraudulent documents, resulting in an increased rating of 100%. Pace received the highest amount of disability compensation and SMC paid by the VA, in addition to a Caregiver Stipend he received in the amount exceeding \$2,500 monthly, for purportedly serving as Farr's caregiver, despite claiming to be completely disabled himself.

Farr also conspired with her mother, Mary Francis Biggs, age 65 of Lexington Park, Maryland, to exaggerate Individual 1's claims, which involved the submission of fraudulent and fictitious medical documents. As a result, the VA rated Individual 1 to be 100 percent disabled and awarded him SMC. Biggs and Farr also conspired to conceal from VA the fact that Individual 1 was working, and as part of a VA field interview on September 13, 2017, Biggs did not disclose the fact that Individual 1 was employed and completed a form stating that Individual 1 had no employment income. Biggs spent the fraudulently received disability compensation payments on daily living expenses, cruise vacations, and a kitchen renovation, even though she was aware that her husband was not entitled to the payments.

Farr received approximately \$440,085 in VA benefits and approximately \$35,666 in Social Security benefit payments, resulting in a loss to the United States of \$475,751 on Farr's claims alone. Pace received \$370,912 in VA benefits to which he was not entitled. Biggs and her husband received more than \$168,000 in VA benefits to which they were not entitled.

Pace previously pled guilty, and Biggs was convicted on August 15, 2022 after a jury trial, for conspiracy and for theft of government property in connection with the scheme. Biggs faces a maximum sentence of five years in federal prison for the conspiracy and a maximum of 10 years in federal prison for theft of government property. U.S. District Judge Xinis has scheduled sentencing for November 16, 2022.

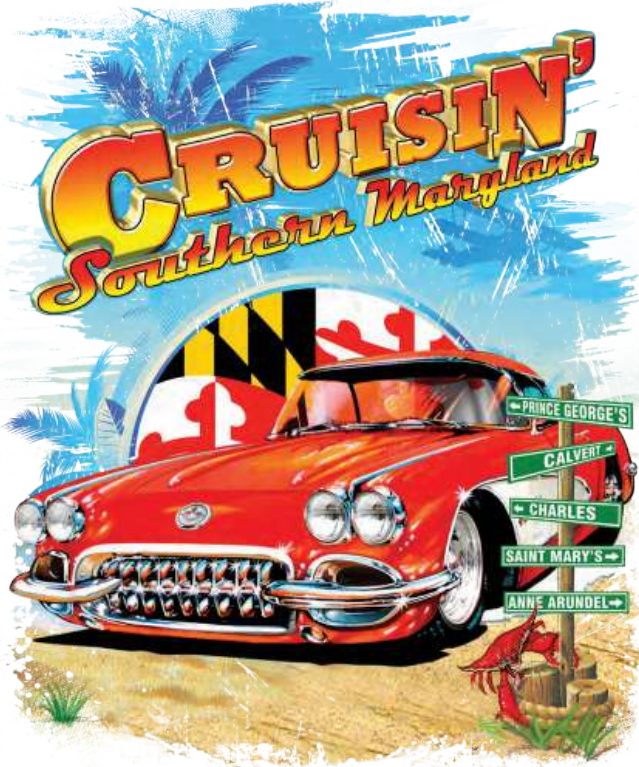
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SOMD 100 Mile Car Cruise & Show

Cruisin' Southern Maryland 100 Mile Car Cruise & Show. November 12, 2022 (rescheduled from October 1) All Vehicles invited, cruise through three Southern Maryland Counties. Begins at 9:00 am at the Golden Beach Park & Ride (37750 Golden Beach Rd. Charlotte Hall, MD 20622, two blocks from Maryland Route 5) and arrival at the last stop is estimated to be 2:30 pm at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Registration begins at 7:30 am. Maps and route info will be provided upon arrival. Optional Poker Run available for an additional \$10.00 per entry. Registration Fee is \$30.00 per Vehicle, which includes a free Cruisin' Southern Maryland Event T-Shirt for the first 150 vehicles. www.CruisinSOMD.com (Rain date November 13 weather permitting)



Registration begins at 7:30 am. Maps and route info will be provided upon arrival. Optional Poker Run available for an additional \$10.00 per entry. Registration Fee is \$30.00 per Vehicle, which includes a free Cruisin' Southern Maryland Event T-Shirt for the first

ANNUAL PUBLIC AUCTION

Consignment Sale in Oakville, MD

8:00 AM * Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022 * 8:00 AM

Hay, Farm Equipment, Furniture, Tools, Sporting Goods & Small Animals

Directions: Waldorf, Maryland take Rt. 5 South to Rt. 235 South to Friendship School Road turn right go 1 mile to Friendship Court turn right to 1st farm on right!

Hay, Rabbits, Ducks

Chickens & much more

New & Used Building Materials

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Tack & Horse Related Items

Misc Tack & Horse related Items . Selling a tractor trailer load of PA/NY hay.

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6' Tarter 3pt Tiller , 9' New Holland Haybine, Pequea PTO Hay Tedder , Engine Cart W/ 36hp 4Cylinder Wisconsin 4-1 Clutch Reduction , Misc. 3-Point and Horse Drawn Farm Equipment.

Lawn, Garden, Tools & Misc. Items

Assorted Stihl chain saws & grass trimmers, sprayers, portable air compressors, Riding lawn mowers & push mowers, roto tillers, wheelbarrows, toolboxes & hand tools, leaf blowers, welding supplies, electric drills & routers, snow blowers, transport chains, 12" Dewalt Chopsaw. 8' SnowPlow , Green house Stove.

Sporting Goods

Assorted sporting goods & used Bows by Zimmermans Archery, tree stands, bows, archery supplies, new fishing rods & reels, rain gear, safety vests, knives, tackle boxes, Muck boots, camo clothing, head lamps, binoculars, New & Used Crossbows.

Misc. Household Items, Furniture, Crafts, Antiques & Collectibles

Maytag ringer washers (Reconditioned), woodstoves, misc. furniture, lawn furniture, hand-painted crosscut saws & milk cans, dolls, toys, pots & pans, canners, cookers, etc., John Deere Toys and collectibles, a variety of old coins, and various sizes of Enterprise sausage stuffers .

Terms By: Stauffer Brothers, 41400 Friendship Court, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 9:30 AM in the Chesapeake Building located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown, Maryland to consider public input on updates to the County's Comprehensive Solid Waste Management and Recycling Plan.

The draft update can be viewed at: <http://go.boarddocs.com/md/stmarysco/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CJXJ3L4AF420>.

Those wishing to address the Commissioners may participate in-person, or by email, written correspondence, or prerecorded video submissions. The public hearing may be viewed on SMCG Channel 95 or the SMCG YouTube Channel.

In lieu of appearance, comments may be submitted via;

- Email: csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov
- U.S. Mail: PO Box 653 Leonardtown, MD 20650
- Submit a 3-minute video clip to publicmtgs@stmaryscountymd.gov no later than 5:00 PM, November 22, 2022.

All submissions will be considered by the Commissioners at the Public Hearing and/or seven (7) days following the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing Guidelines are subject to change.

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with special needs will be provided upon request. In order to meet these requirements, we respectfully ask for one week's prior notice. Please contact the County Commissioners Office at 301-475-4200, Ext. 1340. Proceedings are televised live and/or recorded for later broadcast on television. All content of these proceedings is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Photographic and electronic audio and visual broadcasting and recording devices are used during the Commissioner's meetings. These are public meetings and attendance at these meetings automatically grants St. Mary's County Government permission to broadcast your audio and visual image.

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
By: James M. Gotsch, P.E. Director

THE COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. at the Town office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD.

The purpose of the hearing will be to receive comments on Ordinance No. 213 - Chapter 9 - Code of Ethics of The Town of Leonardtown. An ordinance for the purpose of: amending Chapter 9 - Code of Ethics of the Town of Leonardtown to incorporate amendments enacted by the Maryland General Assembly pursuant to House Bill 363 - Chapter 252, Acts of 2021 and House Bill 1058 - Chapter 425, Acts of 2021.

Full text is available on-line at www.leonardtown.somd.com or at the Town Hall.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2022 to: leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov or mail to The Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

IN THE MATTER OF BILLY ANDRE ROBIN FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ANDRE ROBIN

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

Case No.: C-18-FM-22-000747
Notice (Adult)

The above Petitioner has filed a Petition for Change of Name from BILLY ANDRE ROBIN to ANDRE ROBIN. The petitioner is seeking a name change because: My given name was Andre Robin and I applied for a birth certificate at the age of 15 yrs old. Once I was identified by my parents names and date fo birth. There was no name listed.

Any person may file an objection to the Petition on or before the 12/14/2022. The objection must be supported by an affidavit (written statement confirmed by oath or affirmation) and served upon all parties (Md Rule 1-321). If no timely objection is filed, the court may enter a default judgement or grant the name change.

Debra J. Burch,
Clerk of Court for
St. Mary's County Maryland

**If you would like to place a
LEGAL NOTICE contact**
AlDaileyCountytimes@gmail.com

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Contributing Writers
Laura Joyce, Ron Guy, Shelby Opperman, Dave Spigler

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

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 St. Mary's 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 St. Mary's County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The St. Mary's County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



County Times

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NOVEMBER 28, 2021

TO JANUARY 2, 2022

12PM to 4PM daily

(Closed 12/24 & 12/25)

Info: Facebook.com/1836Light

301-994-1471

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DECEMBER 1, 2021

TO JANUARY 2, 2022

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(Closed 12/24 & 12/25)

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November 3rd



Friday, November Fourth

10 a.m. – 7 p.m. The Old Jail Museum & Visitor's Center will be open with extended hours for First Friday – facebook.com/theoldjailmuseum

10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Shepherd's Old Field Market specials throughout the Market - shepherdsoldfield.com

10 a.m.– 12 p.m. Board & Brush – Snowman Make & Take – boardandbrush.com/leonardtown

5 p.m. – 8 p.m. North End Gallery – Converging Forces Art Show Opening, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. – northendgallery.com

5 p.m. – 8 p.m. St. Mary's County Arts Council – Color & Light Art Show, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.– stmarysartscouncil.com

5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Port of Leonardtown Winery – Music provided by Shane Graham, Food provided by Chaptico Market Food Truck – facebook.com/portoftownwine

6 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. eliv8 – “November Twilight” First Friday cycling event - facebook.com/eliv8somd

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Hope and Healing Therapy and Wellness Center and Evolve Yoga & Wellness yoga and make-your-own aromatherapy products – facebook.com/evolveyogawellness

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Wine & Design - Kids Open Studio - facebook.com/wnd-stmaryscountymd

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Wine & Design - Open Studio for teens to adults - facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

7 p.m. Crazy for Ewe Yarn Store – Rowan Fall 2022 Knitting Patterns live demonstration – facebook.com/crazyforewe



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- ▶ Commit to the revitalization of Lexington Park.
- ▶ Lowering taxes, including the gas tax, so families have more money in their pockets.
- ▶ Support our small business owners by reducing red-tape, regulations and keeping them OPEN.

Preparing our Students. Empowering our Parents.

- ▶ Promote curriculum transparency, providing parents with control over their child's education.
- ▶ Prevent students from being trapped in failing schools by expanding school choice.
- ▶ Provide resources to ensure the retention of our most talented and capable educators.

AUTHORIZED BY DEB REY FOR MARYLAND, JUDITH GWYNN, TREASURER

**Leonardtwn Rotary's
Flags for Heroes Ceremony**

Leonardtwn Rotary's Club's Flags for Heroes ceremony will take place on Thursday, November 11 at 1:00 p.m. at College of Southern Maryland's Leonardtown Campus. This year's event follows the Annual Veterans' Day Parade in Leonardtown so that heroes, their sponsors, and members of the broader community may join in the celebration. In addition, Jonathon Shircliffe, a veteran who lives and works in St. Mary's County, will be present to receive Leonardtown Rotary's Flags for Heroes'

scholarship of a \$1,000 check to further his education at the College of Southern Maryland. His scholarship, along with other of the Club's charitable causes, are made possible with funds generated from the many individuals who sponsor U. S. flags posted in recognition of relatives, friends, veterans, and local and national heroes both past and present. Over 100 flags honoring heroes will be flown from November 5 – 19. For more information, contact RotaryFlags4Heroes@gmail.com

47th Annual Veterans Day Parade
Friday, November 11, 2022 at 10 a.m.

**Veterans, Dignitaries, Military Units,
Drill Teams, Marching Band, Floats,
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Parking and Shuttles:

Parking and free shuttle service provided at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds and the St. Mary's County Governmental Center.

Parade Route:

From St. Mary's Ryken High School, down Fenwick Street to Washington Street and through the Town Square in Historic Leonardtown Maryland.

Memorial Ceremony:

A memorial wreath-laying ceremony to honor our Veterans will be held in the Town Square following the parade.



Veterans Resource Day



ST. MARY'S COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF AGING & HUMAN SERVICES

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

Friday, November 4, 2022

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**University of Maryland at Southern Maryland
44219 Airport Road, California, MD**

Presentation:

Brain Injury Association of Maryland

10:30 a.m.

TBI/Combat-related brain injuries and PTSD: Understanding the Link

For more information, contact Sarah Miller

Phone: 301-475-4200, ext 1073

Email: sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov

Website: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/veterans/



**Lunch provided by Mission BBQ for attendees
at 12 p.m.!**

*Brought to you by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the
Department of Aging & Human Services*



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FINANCIAL FOCUS

AVOID BECOMING A 'BURDEN' ON GROWING CHILDREN

Here's an interesting statistic: Some 72% of retirees say one of their biggest fears is becoming a burden on their families, according to a 2021 survey by Age Wave and Edward Jones. Both before and during retirement, what steps can you take to avoid burdening your loved ones in the future?

Here are a few suggestions:

Build your retirement savings. The greater your financial resources, the less likely it becomes that you'd ever have to count on your grown children for financial support. You may have access to a 401(k) or similar retirement plan at work, so take advantage of it. Even with an employer-sponsored plan, you also may be eligible to contribute to an IRA. In addition to offering a variety of investment options, a 401(k) and IRA provide potential tax advantages. And once you do retire, be careful about how much you withdraw each year from your retirement plans and other investments.

Plan for health care costs. Once you are retired, health care costs will be a significant expense. You may have Medicare, but you'll also want to consider your need for supplemental health insurance to cover traditional medical costs. And you'll want to consider another potential health-related expense: long-term care. You may never need the services of a home health aide or a stay in a nursing home, but no one can predict the future. Medicare does not cover most costs for long-term care, which can be quite high. In 2021, the annual national median cost for a private room in a nursing home was over \$108,000, while the median cost for a full-time home health aide was nearly \$62,000, according to a survey by Genworth, an insurance company. You may want to consult with a financial professional on strategies for protecting yourself from these costs.

Create necessary legal documents. If something were to happen to you, and you didn't have the appropriate legal documents in place, your loved ones could be placed in a bind, both financially and emotionally. That's why it's a good idea to create documents such as a durable financial power of attorney, which lets you name someone to manage your finances if you became incapacitated, and a durable power of attorney for health care, which allows someone to make medical decisions on your behalf if you can't make them yourself. You'll want to work with a legal professional to develop the documents appropriate for your needs.

Evaluate your housing needs. As you enter retirement, you may want to evaluate your living situation. Could you downsize to a smaller home, or perhaps a condominium or apartment? Not only might you save money with such a move, but you could also end up relieving your grown children of the responsibilities and hassles involved in clearing out and selling your home should you become unable to do so yourself during the later years of your retirement.

By taking these measures, along with others, you can go a long way toward maintaining your independence and putting yourself in a place where you won't burden your grown children. And that's a good place to be.

*Article was contributed by David McDonough
Financial Advisor at Edward Jones
Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302
Leonardtown, MD 20650
301 997 1707*



Letters to the Editor

To The Editor:

Sending Deb Rey back to the legislature instead of re-electing Brian Crosby (District 29 B) would be like shooting ourselves in the foot! Deb was considered by both Democratic and Republican legislators an embarrassment to St. Mary's County—all mouth and stunt, no substance.

Delegate Brian Crosby, on the other hand, has made such a positive impact that, just a freshman, he has already become a major committee vice chair.

He is intelligent, open-minded, and rational.

On Tax cuts, Brian worked to provide \$300 million in tax relief by cutting sales taxes on *basic family necessities* such as baby supplies; dental, diabetic, and home medical devices; and infant car seats.

On Employment: Brian worked to create a state match for the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit which helps long-term unemployed persons find good jobs.

On **Education:** rather than getting bogged down into micro-managing our schools and blaming teachers for every problem in society, Brian supports the vision and the funding for education that will make opportunity to learn a priority for every child in any family regardless of their circumstances or zip codes

On State Tax Dollars for St. Mary's: On the Great Mills Road at Rte. 5 mess; the Johnson Bridge crisis; preparing our County for the next BRAC; the Higher Education Center; and \$250,000 support for our local food bank, Brian, working as a colleague with our Republican state senator, is bringing tax dollars home, not driving them away.

So, let's not trade Brian's effective voice in Annapolis for just a loud one. Let's return Brian Crosby to the House of Delegates, District 29-B.

Karl K Pence
Hollywood MD

Brandon Russell FOR our Future

St. Mary's County Native, Brandon Russell, is running to be our county commissioner for District 2, and what a talent he is! An excellent communicator and speaker, Brandon will listen to you and he will act in your best interests no matter your background or political party. He will study issues, explain any problems in advance, and be open about his positions.

Brandon is prepared and hard working. After graduating from Chopticon High School, he worked full time to pay his way through college, leading to today with 10 years of management experience. In his campaign he has traversed the County, met citizens, studied reports and budgets, delved into issues. He understands what will be best for the County going forward and he will listen to you.

One of Brandon's positions states that

education is a top funding priority. He believes that schools are an important part of our community, because schools provide resources and stability for the community. His education plan is to develop college/trade pipelines including PAX and contractor opportunities. He supports the implementation of important skills for life today, such as resume development and financial literacy, as well as the commitment to funding our Blueprint for Maryland to insure our students are best prepared for the future.

To see Brandon's entire plan H.E.L.P. (Health Care, Education, Land Use, Public Safety) visit <https://www.brandon4stmarys.com/> A vote for Brandon is a vote FOR the County and FOR our Future!

Jane Loughran

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor include your name & town of residence.
Email: DickMyers@countytimes.net

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, Nov 3, 2022

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

American Legion Post 221
21690 Colton Point Rd.
Avenue
8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00pm. Visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/American-Legion-Post-221-105239187962458/ or e-mail us at alpost221@aol.com. Call 301*848*9458 for more information. Tell them you saw the announcement on the SoMD Internet Calendar.

Fri, Nov 4, 2022

Veterans Resource Day

University of Maryland—Southern Maryland
44219 Airport Rd.
California
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be more than 20 organizations serving veterans on-site. Join the Brain Injury Association of Maryland at 10:30 a.m.

for a presentation on TBI/Combat-related brain injuries and PTSD. Lunch will be provided at 12 p.m. by Mission BBQ.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) will be on site all day to assist with claims processing.

This event is free and open to the public. Veterans, active service members, their friends, and their families are all welcome to attend Veterans Resource Day.

Do you want to skip the registration line? Register online at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/veterans/! Online registrants will be eligible for a special prize! Online registration closes at 12 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 3.

For more information, contact Sarah Miller, Community Programs & Outreach Division Manager, at 301-475-4200, ext. 1073, email sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Saturday, Nov. 5

HOLIDAY MARKET

Shop Small, Shop Local
Crafts, Home Décor, Clothing, Candles, Soaps, Meat, Snacks, Jewelry, and other Gifts!

Runs until December 17, 2022
Saturdays only from 9 am until 4 pm

29133 Thompson Corner Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659
www.facebook.com/TheBarnsatNewMarket

AUTUMN YARD SALE

8am-noon, rain or shine, to be held in the Church Hall

13723 Point Lookout Road in Ridge across the street and one block south of the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department.

The Yard Sale is sponsored by the First Friendship United Methodist Church Women of Faith to benefit local outreach programs such as Hospice, the Mission, Mike's Bikes, and several others.

BROWN BAG AUCTION for 7th District VRS Auxiliary

Holy Angels Parish Hall
21335 Colton Point Road
Doors open 11 am; auction begins at 1 p.m.

Tickets: \$1 each, 6 for \$5 or 25 for \$20. Over 300 items will be auctioned. Remember your address labels to put on tickets.

Food, drinks and homemade desserts will be available. There will be a 50/50 raffle and a Holiday "Fixin" Dinner Basket

Raffle.

For information, contact Bobbie at 301-769-3508 or 301-481-1510.

SILENT AUCTION & SALE

From 10 AM - 1:00 PM, St. Andrew's Episcopal

Church parish Hall
44078 St. Andrew's Church Rd.
California
Gift Baskets, Needlework, Crafts, Baked Goods & much more

Sun, Nov 6, 2022

Invasion! The War of 1812 Comes to Point Lookout

Point Lookout State Park
11175 Point Lookout Rd.
Scotland
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Costumed interpreters will represent the time when British forces invaded Point Lookout and St. Mary's County during the War of 1812. Interpreters will provide living history programs, exhibits and firing demonstration from both small arms and artillery of the period.



HOLIDAY MARKET

Shop Small, Shop Local

Crafts, Home Décor, Clothing, Candles, Soaps, Meat, Snacks, Jewelry, and other Gifts!

November 5, 2022 until December 17, 2022
Saturdays only from 9 am until 4 pm

29133 Thompson Corner Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

www.facebook.com/TheBarnsatNewMarket



the **BARNs**
at New Market

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.

Thursday, November 3

Sea Squirts

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

This month's theme is Leaves/Fall. Children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a take-away craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 22 - 40 minutes. Cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

Teen Gaming Thursday

Discord server! DISCORD Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way 4-5.m.

Teens! Join us the first Thursday of the month for gaming! We'll have a variety of games on offer like Among Us, Jackbox, and Codenames, If you haven't already signed up for our discord server, you can register to receive the invite link. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Pints and Private Eyes Book Discussion Zoom and Mully's Brewery, 141 Schooler Ln, Prince Frederick) The Woman in the Library by Sulari Gentill. 7-8 p.m.

Have you always longed to drink beer and talk detective books with a librarian? Pints and Private Eyes, a book group for fans of noir, detective and crime fiction. We meet at Mully's Brewery and via ZOOM on the first Thursday of the month The Woman in the Library is available both on Hoopla and Libby, as well as physically. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 14 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared cre-

ativity. For library resources on this topic, click here! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

New Direction's "Bell, Book & Candle"

Long Beach Community Center, 5845 Calvert Blvd., St. Leonard, 7 p.m.

New Direction Community Theater will present the classic Broadway comedy Bell, Book & Candle October 28-November 5. Tickets, which are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors, are available at www.ndctheater.org. Bell, Book and Candle centers on Gillian Holroyd, who is one of the few modern people who can actually cast spells and perform feats of supernaturalism. She can do that because she's actually a witch. She casts a spell over publisher Shepherd Henderson, partly to keep him away from a rival and partly because she is attracted to him. Will witchery or love triumph in the end?

Saturday, November 5

NAACP Freedom Fund Luncheon

St. John Vianney Catholic Church Paris Center, Vianney Room, 105 Vianney Lane, Prince Frederick, doors will open at 11:30 a.m, for the 12 p.m. event.

As the oldest, largest, and strongest civil rights organization in the Nation, NAACP continues to work for political, educational, social, and economic justice for all people. We do our work through nonviolent use of the Press, the Petition, the Ballot, and the Courts. Our NAACP Freedom fund helps support our efforts. This year's luncheon will cost \$ 60 per person and features Travis Mitchell, Senior Vice President and Content Officer for Maryland Public Television.. We invite the public to join us and help support Calvert County activities like the Juneteenth celebration, Lower Marlboro Freedom Day, Providing free rides aboard the Pride II Tall Ship and "Get Out

the Vote" efforts. Please go to our website CalvertNAACP.org for more details on payment or donations.

5K Walk/Run: Being a Healthier You

North Beach Pavilion, 9023 Bay Avenue, North Beach, 9 a.m.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Omega Pi Omega Chapter invites you to participate in a Family Fun Walk/run to encourage healthier living! This is a rain or shine event. Cost* (includes finishing medals & water bottles) Adults—18 and over \$31.25 /per person, Children—17 and under \$15.75 per person Cash Check or Money Order: Adults—18 and over \$30/per person; Children—17 and under \$15/per person Send checks or money orders made payable to Omega Pi Omega Chapter, P.O. Box 333, Huntingtown, MD 20639 All participants must sign a release and liability waiver that will provided onsite. All proceeds will be used for programs in Calvert County, MD For more information email: opowaysandmeans@gmail.com

Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More.

Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 12-3 p/m.

Want to learn Mahjongg? Hope to make your Scrabble skills killer? Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Dungeons & Dragons - TEENS

Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way 12:30-4 p.m.

Meet up the 1st Saturday of each month and have fun with D&D. Players of all levels and interest welcome. Please register. , 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

MakePlayLearn

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch, 3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach, 2-3 p.m.

Take building and creativity to a whole new level at the library. We provide the space, art supplies, and building toys. You bring the imagination! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

New Direction's "Bell, Book & Candle"

Long Beach Community Center, 5845 Calvert Blvd., St. Leonard, 7 p.m.

New Direction Community Theater will present the classic Broadway comedy Bell, Book & Candle October 28-November 5. Tickets, which are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors, are available at www.ndctheater.org. Bell, Book and Candle centers on Gillian Holroyd, who is one of the few modern people who can actually cast spells and perform feats of supernaturalism. She can do that because she's actually a witch. She casts a spell over publisher Shepherd Henderson, partly to keep him away from a rival and partly because she is attracted to him. Will witchery or love triumph in the end?

Sunday, November 6

"On-Watch" Memorial Service

"On Watch" statue at the end of Dowell Road in Dowell, 2 p.m.

Join us in thanking all our veterans for their service at the site of the Refreshments will be served on-site following the program.

Thomas Family and Friends Day Mt. Hope Community Center, 145 Dalrymple Road, Sunderland, 10 a.m.

Annual Thomas Family and Friends Day at Mt Hope United Methodist. Please join us in this celebration!

Southern Maryland

Online

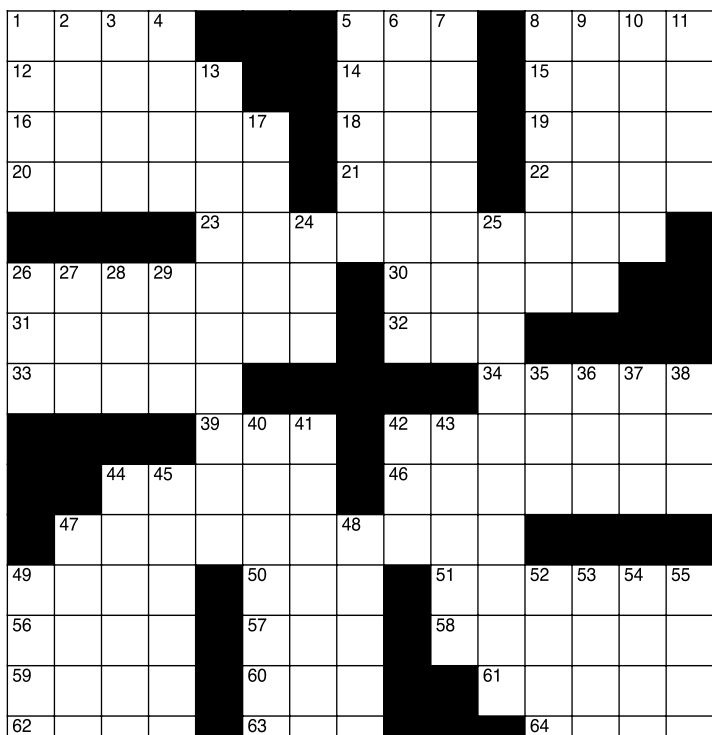
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GAMES & PUZZLES



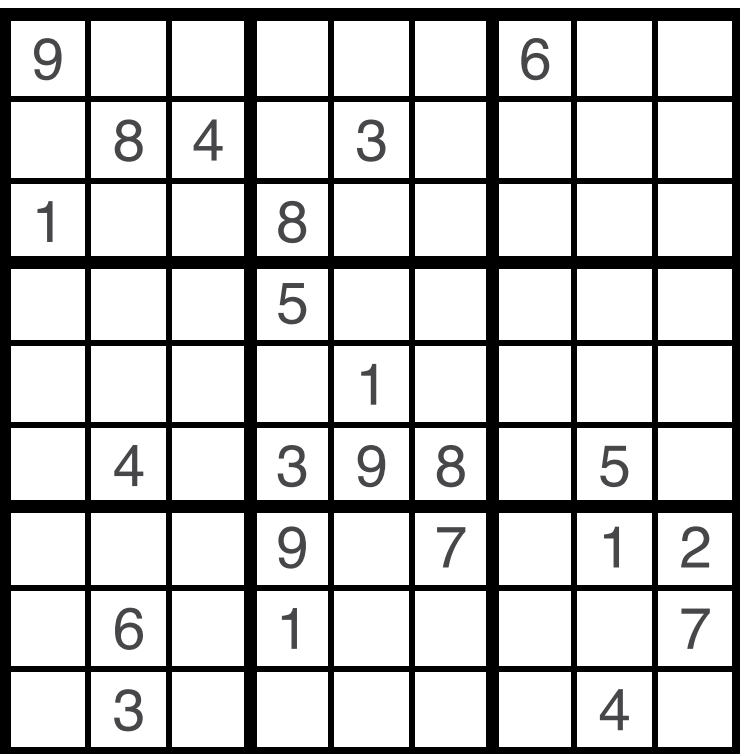
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Towards the mouth or oral region
- 5. A way to season
- 8. North-central Indian city
- 12. Emaciation
- 14. Actress de Armas
- 15. A way to score in basketball
- 16. Odd
- 18. Scripting languages on IBM machines
- 19. A right of local jurisdiction
- 20. Hard, colorless compound
- 21. Diving seabird
- 22. Wild goat of the mountains
- 23. Not shortened
- 26. Someone who learns from a teacher
- 30. Is inclined
- 31. Still asleep
- 32. Antidepressants (abbr.)
- 33. Town in Surrey, England
- 34. Indian music patterns
- 39. Birth control means
- 42. People tend to be on one
- 44. A way to keep meat moist
- 46. Home of the Crimson Tide
- 47. Pasta type
- 49. Late 1990s rapper
- 50. One circuit of a track
- 51. Surrounded by water
- 56. Late "Growing Pains" actor Thicke
- 57. Married couples say it
- 58. Drool
- 59. Sicilian city
- 60. Airline worker perk (abbr.)
- 61. Grayish-black mixture
- 62. Systems, doctrines, theories
- 63. Midway between east and southeast
- 64. Athletes who get paid

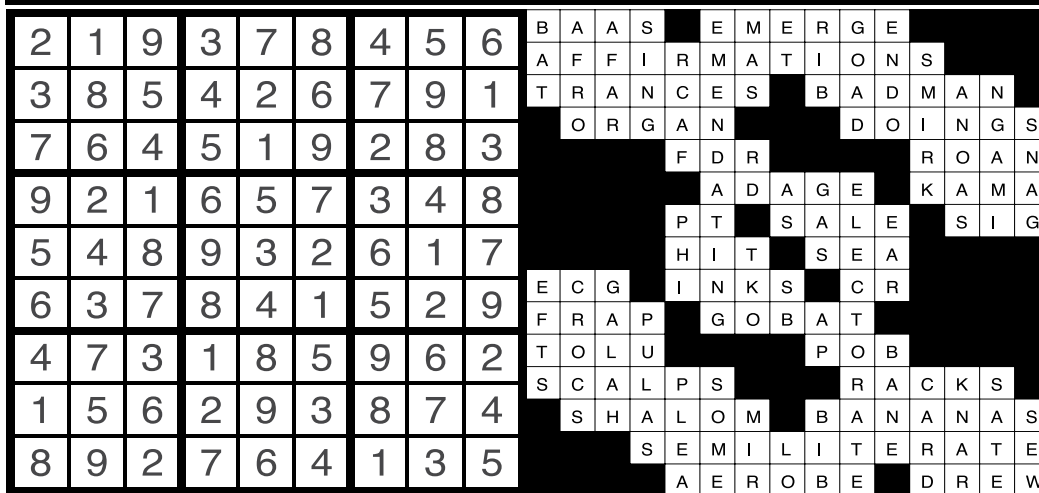
- 2. Hindu queen
- 3. Cain and ___
- 4. Hindu female deity
- 5. Islamic calendar month
- 6. Changes posture
- 7. More stubborn
- 8. Give work to
- 9. Round maps of the Earth
- 10. Gathered fallen leaves
- 11. Popular credit card
- 13. Separation of church and state
- 17. Founder of Sikhism
- 24. They ___
- 25. Where you find the milk
- 26. Institute legal proceedings against
- 27. The neural structure consisting of the brain and spinal cord
- 28. Expresses surprise
- 29. Have a debt to
- 35. Businessman
- 36. State on India's western coast
- 37. Practice of managing financial risks (abbr.)
- 38. Patty Hearst's captors
- 40. Put into service
- 41. 10-year periods
- 42. Crony
- 43. Surgical clamp
- 44. Leave unable to move due to lack of wind
- 45. Where rockers work
- 47. Valleys
- 48. Ancient lyric poem
- 49. Wise men
- 52. It lights a room
- 53. Assert
- 54. Fifth Roman Emperor
- 55. Ancient Greek city in Thrace

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Genus of owls



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CountyTimes

North Beach Councilwoman Challenges Incumbent Mayor

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

North Beach Councilwoman Elizabeth Lawton is challenging Mayor Michael Benton, seeking a second term, in the Nov. 8 election. The League of Women Voters of Calvert County held a candidates' forum Oct. 11 at the town hall. It was originally intended to also be on Zoom. That didn't happen due to technical difficulties. A tape of the meeting has been posted on the town website.

The following is a sample of the questions and answers edited for space.

As to why they are running, Benton said, "Four years ago, I decided to run for mayor after eight years sitting on town council because my family is here, my kids have grown up here. I love living in this town, and we have made such great strides in our amazing little town that I felt that I could bring more value to the town. As a mayor, over the last four years, you probably have seen me out and about a majority of weeks, either picking up trash, meeting residents, but

at the end of the day, my heart and my soul is in the town of North Beach."

Lawton said, "I decided to run for mayor after attending the summer conference for the Maryland Municipal League. There are so many changes in the state of Maryland, some of the policies and some of the things that are coming down the pipe that affect our government. After sitting on council, I knew that we were not prepared for that. We do wonderful things in this town, responsive to strategic planning for the future. Some of those things we are just not prepared."

Regarding parking issues, Lawton said, "Parking has been a problem in this town through several different administrations and always been kicked down the road to the next administration. Apparently, the buck's going to stop in this administration. I do not have all the answers, but I do know that one of my initiatives is to create a community advisory board so that we can explore the many things that are going to impact parking in this town, from a strategic plan standpoint. Our environment is going to one of those things. What needs to happen? The changing face of the waterfront is going to impact parking, and in the past, we've looked at different things that shows a huge parking structure, which is not going to work here. So we're really going to have to take a look at that, and we really need all the help from the community to make that decision."

Benton said, "Parking has been and has continued to be a challenge in areas throughout the town. When we look at the town in multiple sections, one of the areas that we see the most challenges is with are in our mixed-use sections, where we have businesses tied into residential. Those are the ones that are being impacted the most, especially when our summer season of 135 days of the large number of guests coming to our town. When it comes to the library, it was going to be ground level. And before that happened, we were able to get them to raise it, to put parking underneath and never does flood back to that section. But the point is, that took care of 36 parking spaces there. We were also able to get the county to leave us the ownership of the land in front of the property so we can keep that for the business parking along Bay Avenue. When it comes to the overall plan, we're going to have to come together as a community."

In response to a question about the right balance between rental and owner-occupied properties, long-term and short-term rentals, Benton said, "I think there's more to it than just long term, short term. There is full residential living also. I think the comp plan is something where we can address this challenge. Right now, we have a very small contingent of short-term rentals. You know them as Airbnbs, VRBOS, but really the big number is truly the long-term rentals, probably a little over 50 percent of our population, so during the comp plan, we will need and request, and we beg for community input to figure out what that balance is. It's not a cut and dry situation. It's not saying this street's going to have one rental, this is going to have a VRBOS. We and the comp plan can determine that, to pass that on to the planning and zoning to put this in

place that was right for the community."

Lawton said, "Right now I think the percentage is at 50 percent rentals to owner occupies. Short-term rentals or the vacation rentals do not make up a major part of that percentage. The major part of that percentage is made up by the other categories of owner-occupied. So, we would actually really need to take a look at that and how we're administering those. But again, we need to reach out to the community. We really need to get to that balance because the residents here reached out and told me they're very concerned about the values of their home."

The candidates were asked what their top two priorities would be as mayor. Lawton said, "Definitely community. Making sure that the community has a voice and have seamless communications. I think how we are going to do things; we have the answers out there. I'm always impressed at the talent that we have in hiding in this town. So, we need to invite them to the table to help us."

She added, "I'm a strategic planner and I'm also a problem solver. I will be looking at that comprehensive plan with some intention and setting for the future on what we need to do, not just every year signing off on it."

Benton said, "We can sit here and talk about how great a lot of things we've done over the last four years when it comes to flooding and stormwater management and addressing issues. But there's still a real concern about sea-level rises. We will never take our eyes off the prize when it comes to that, making that our priority because types of flooding in our town depend on the direction of the wind and the amount of rain per hour that we get. It's predictable depending on the weather person."

He added, "The second is that this is a community that we all live in. We need to make sure that we keep that community and what do we have to do to make that happen? It could be limiting the construction. It could be the rentals versus non-residential. What we need to do is what do we want to see in our comp plan is so important and we need to invest in that."

The Nov. 8 election also features the race for six council seats, with five incumbents and two challengers.

Incumbents are Gregory Dotson, Mickey Hummel and Paul Troncone, who were elected four years ago, and Lauren Kabler and Kenneth Wilcox, who were appointed since then.

The challengers are Mary Healey and Turkessa Thompson.

The forum for the council candidates can also be viewed on the town website.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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Tri County Livestock Auction

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the Month – Auction begins at 4 PM
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Stauffer Brothers Community Auction

Stauffer Farm - 41400 Friendship Court, Loveville, MD
Saturday, November 12, 2022 – 8 am

Auction Managed By: Stauffer Brothers. Auction Services Managed by R. Ridgely assisted by Sam Walters, Farrell Auction Service, & others.
Consignments accepted on-site week prior to auction.

Grocery Auction – Mother Catherine Academy

Mother Catherine Academy – Mechanicsville, MD
Thursday, November 17, 2022 – 6 pm (Doors Open at 5 pm)

Southern Maryland Farm & Country Christmas Auction

Westfield Farm Arena & Auction Barn
26689 Laurel Grove Road – Mechanicsville, MD
Saturday, December 10, 2022 – 9 am
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Witchcraft Arrives in Time for a Halloween Debut

The Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) welcomes the sailing yacht, Witchcraft, dockside under the Drum Point Lighthouse. This vessel comes as a generous gift to the Calvert Marine Museum Society (CMMS) by its most recent owner, Dave Butler of Pasadena, Maryland.

“Witchcraft represents the beginning of an exciting new chapter in our floating watercraft,” commented Mark Wilkins, Curator of Maritime History & CMM Boatwright. “She represents the zenith of the traditional yacht-builders art and was designed to race—so she is fast, stable and sea-kindly.”

The vision behind acquiring this vessel is to preserve the recreational maritime culture of the Chesapeake

Bay, provide educational programs for youth, and sailing opportunities for all. “This generous gift from Mr. Butler to the CMMS, will enable the museum to continue paying the gift forward to our community,” said Bonnie Barrett, Director of Development at Calvert Marine Museum.

Built in 1903 by well-known boatwrights George Lawley & Son Boat Yard in Boston, she launched as Witchcraft II, a racing yacht for original owner William Bowditch Rogers. She eventually made her way down to the Chesapeake Bay on a treacherous journey during WWII and, in 1970, began a 30-year restoration project after years of sailing the Chesapeake. In 2007, Butler reconnected with the Witchcraft after searching for her design plans in hopes to recreate a model of the vessel he once sailed. Butler and his brother, Bryan, enjoyed spending summers on the Chesapeake sailing with their father and were elated to find that she still existed. After purchasing the vessel in 2008, Butler aided in completing renovations and hired past owner Paul Itzel to captain the Witchcraft.

CMM is delighted to add this iconic sailing vessel and continue her presence on the Chesapeake Bay.



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POWELL
for *County*
Commissioner

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- Pursuing the building of attainable housing for all citizens of Calvert County including professionals, senior citizens, and families.
- Evaluating, monitoring and reevaluating County budgets to ensure funds are spent reasonably.
- Taking a look at Calvert County’s traffic conditions, with focus on safety and reasonable commute times for our citizens.
- Advocating and supporting our schools in retention and recruitment of educators and their support staff. Ensure the schools obtain what they need to provide our children the best education.

Mark S. LYNCH

for Register of Wills of Calvert County

As a resident of Calvert County for 18 years and 39 years as a practicing attorney specializing in estate administration and probate, Mark Lynch has the experience and commitment to the residents of Calvert County to bring fresh ideas to the Office of the Register of Wills.

PROPONENT:

ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) to reduce litigation and probate expense;

Public Outreach program “Where there’s a Will...There’s a Way” to reduce estimated 50% of Calvert County residents who have no estate plan;

Implement public access **On-Line Will Registry** to enable citizens to verify will safekeeping at Register of Wills;

Electronic probate administration to reduce overall costs of estate administration and improve efficiency.

Governmental Facebook Page for Register of Wills to promote the services of the office, publish information about Wills and Trusts, increase public awareness of the need for estate planning and publish “Meet the Register” educational town hall videos.

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BY AUTHORITY OF JOHN YOE - TREASURER

School Board Discusses Budget Priorities

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As Calvert County Board of Education and system administrators begin the process of building a budget for the next fiscal year, the school board at its Oct. 27 meeting talked about their budget priorities.

Member Dawn Balinski focused on the Kirwan Commission “blueprint” initiatives. She said, “I just thought I’d focus more on how we are going about managing the changes.”

She noted, “It is a given that questions on the mandated salary movements in the blueprint will dominate our next budget cycle. And there are many questions still outstanding, such as what staff beyond the classroom teacher would receive the 10 percent salary increase over 2019. Can staff who are not teachers, but who themselves have achieved national board certification qualify for the \$10,000 salary increase?”

She added, “With teachers being the sole focus of these major salary increases in the blueprint, what about all the other staff in the buildings who do great work for our students? What can we do for them?”

Balinski said, “I am all for elevating teachers to be on par with other professionals in the workforce. Our product,

which is educating children, is probably in my mind, the loftiest of endeavors that there is. Then I think about, if we don’t do this correctly, though, we could cause ourselves problems. And so, my main concern is that we as a school district just need to work very closely with our unions and our administrators to understand all the ramifications of each salary movement.”

Student member Maggie Rathgeb said, “To start, I have to include things that any Calvert County student would say in response to this question. So, better school lunches, more and improved classroom materials, and of course, guidance staff, specifically those focused on college counseling for our high schoolers.”

She added, “Outside of that, one thing that I had thought about was more books in languages other than English. English, specifically Spanish or other languages that are becoming more common in our county, could be added to our school libraries. We do definitely already have some, but I think more could help even more. Not only would it encourage students to get involved in foreign language pathways at their school and encourage them to expand their understanding of more languages, but it would also support our English learners and our students who may have

non-English speaking family members at home to get involved in their school communities and their library.”

Board member Pat Nutter said, “We live in a pretty dog gone violent world,” adding, “I think we should have a priority with professional counselors at the schools where we need them. I think it’s important to the students. It’s important to the educators.”

Member Antione White’s priorities were “mental health counselors, the arts and safety, with everything that’s going on in the schools every day. I’ve had conversations with Mr. Titus (safety director) and things like that, but the safety of the schools is definitely a high priority.”

Board Vice President Inez Claggett said, “My budget priority continues to be smaller classrooms, equity, equitable salaries for all employees. We as board members know that there are certain classes of employees within the school system whose salaries are not equitable. And I think it is incumbent upon us to work on that as a district. Even though coupled with the blueprint, it’s going to be very difficult. Equity should still be our focus, as well as mental health for our students. So, I would like to see us continue to work on the number of guidance counselors that we have in our schools to ensure that they’re not



Dawn Balinski

overburdened.”

Later in the meeting during public comments Calvert Education Association President Dona Ostenso agreed with Claggett about class size, saying studies show that it matters.

Also during public comment parent Patty Ward urged the board to take on tutors to help children who have fallen behind during the pandemic. She said she and other parents have had to hire expensive professional tutors because of the school system’s failure.

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- I am a member of the Probate/Fiduciary Subcommittee to the Maryland Court of Appeals Rules Committee, and a member of the Joint Committee with Estates and Trusts Section of Maryland State Bar.
- An advocate to keep people informed, I speak regularly to groups at the Library, Hospice, Senior Centers, Retirement communities, churches and other organizations.
- I am a member of Mt. Harmony Lower Marlboro United Methodist Church and serve on the Finance Committee.
- I love serving the people of Calvert County and I will continue to provide compassionate, professional, and courteous service with confidentiality to ALL.

NOV. 8

By authority: Martha W Grahame, Treasurer

Small Business Grants to be Offered

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Small Business Assistance Grant Fund is being established with \$600,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funding.

According to Director of Economic Development Julie Oberg, the new program "is focused on the growth of our current small business community. Applicants will be able to request up to the maximum grant amount of \$50,000. Allowable uses will include, but are not limited to:

- "Purchase of expanding and/or new inventory offerings;
- "Workforce training and development;
- "Capital Improvement Projects;
- "Hiring new employees;
- "Website development and/or improvements;
- "Business expansion costs;
- "Other costs associated with investing in the growth of the business."

Oberg told the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their Nov. 1 meeting, "Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the department has been a passthrough for various business grants through both federal and state funding. Once it was announced that the county would receive additional funding from ARPA, the department requested funds to create a grant to help the local business

community."

Oberg said small businesses are defined as ones with two to 100 employees. To be eligible for a grant, a business must have been in existence for at least two years.

"We're trying to do current businesses that have established track record," she said.

"So not really startups," concluded Commissioner President Buddy Hance.

Oberg said the program will be officially launched in early January and applications will be accepted from Jan. 3-31.

Hance said, "So the purpose of the presentation today is just to mainly make the public aware. It's really not a decision for us, it's just to make those businesses out there aware that there's an opportunity for some assistance."

Oberg said the lead time would allow businesses ample opportunity to prepare the information for the application.

"We're looking forward to getting this money out to our business community," Oberg said.

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Director of Economic Development Julie Oberg

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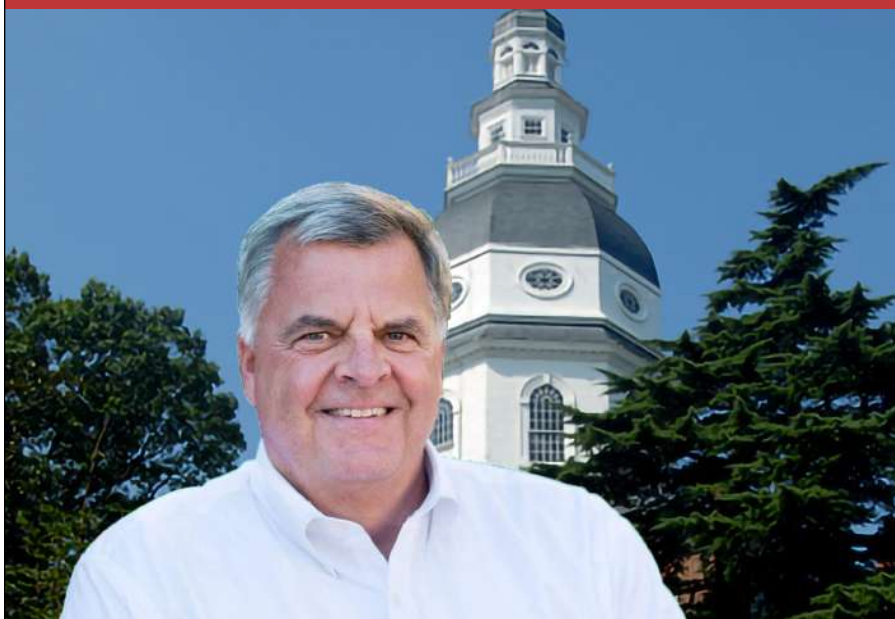
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AUTHORITY: THOMAS JARBOE, TREASURER

Early Voting Steady in Calvert

Around 10,000 Ballots Mailed Out

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Early voting in Calvert County for the general election has been steady, about on par with four years ago, according to the Calvert County Board of Elections Office in Prince Frederick.

According to Executive Administrative Aide Kristen Scott, when the three early polling places closed on Tuesday, Nov. 1, there had been 5,727 early vote ballots cast, of which 2,944 were Republican, 1,950 Democrat and 743 all others, including Unaffiliated.

Scott points out, however, that four years ago the numbers of mail-in ballots sent out was considerably lower. This year, around 10,000 mail-in ballots were sent out, Scott said, of which 5,737 had been received as of Nov. 1.

Unlike the primary, the elections board did conduct two early canvass counts of the mails-ins, on Oct. 19 and 21, and 2,539 ballots have been counted. That will make the counting after Nov. 8 somewhat easier.

Scott said there will be no more mail-in counting until after the Nov. 8 general election. The first is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 10 and another on Nov. 18.

All most as many mail-in ballots had been received as of Nov. 1 than during the entire primary election cycle, or

5,894 versus the 5,737.

When the counting concluded on July 29 for the July 19 primary, slightly more than 30 percent of Calvert County's registered voters had participated, either by early voting, on election day or by mail-in. In the primary 8,558 ballots were mailed out.

October 18 was the deadline to register and change party affiliation. There are now 67,781 persons registered in Calvert County, of which 27,912 are Republicans and 23,778 are Democrats. Those Unaffiliated or one of the other parties number 16,290.

November 3 is the final day for early voting with the polls at Fairview Library in Owings, the election office in Prince Frederick and Southern Community Center in Lusby closing at 8 p.m.

Polls are open on the Nov. 8 general election day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. For a listing of the 20 precinct polling places you can go on the election website at <https://calvertcountymd.gov/158/Polling-Places>

But meanwhile, so far so good, Scott said.

"It's been going very well. It's been steady,"

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Public Hearing Coming for Adequate Public Facilities

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Planning Commission has voted to schedule a joint public hearing with the county commissioners on the proposed expansion of the county's adequate public facilities regulations. The changes beef up regulations for roads and add other public facilities such as public water and sewer, and emergency services. Inadequate public facilities would be cause for a development project to be denied or delayed.

The changes are still a work in progress. The county commissioners ate still dissatisfied with the road provisions and staff are still grappling with how to handle recreation facilities.

But one of the planning commission members is concerned about the impact of the overall initiative to expand the public facilities ordinance. Commission member Dr. Richard Holler, who is a former county administrator, said at the Oct. 19 meeting, "I'm not opposed to the kinds of things we've heard tonight that make a lot of sense. But what worries me is, as recently as the 90's, we had a 12-percent commercial tax base here. We now have seven, and it is declining. That means that taxes are going to be higher for homeowners."

Holler added, "And also, the kind of businesses that are locating here are dif-

ferent. And I don't mean that hierarchically, but they are different in terms of the price of their products and that sort of thing. And I think what you all are doing is laudatory, but I think that should be looked at in terms of what further effect is this going have on the commercial tax base? Because if we do all of this and our primary result is that nobody comes here to the commercial area, or only those that are at the very bottom of the, of the heap, I think we've defeated what the citizens would expect from us."

In public comment, Bob Estes, a retired engineer, said regarding proposed changes for roads, "It's good that we're reducing the number of units to require a traffic study (from 400 to 250), but I worry that if you have one that's 200, another one that's 200, another that's 200, you're not requiring a traffic study, but now you're up to 600."

That was one of the concerns of the county commissioners. They are also worried that studies are only required to show impact on the nearest arterial road and don't consider the cumulative impact on Routes 2 and 4, or Route 231.

At an earlier meeting, Holler also opposed reducing the size of several town centers. A public hearing on those plans for Huntingtown, Prince Frederick, Solomons and Lusby is scheduled for Nov. 2.

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“We live in a pretty dog gone violent world.”

School Board member Pat Nutter on the need to prioritize counselors in schools.



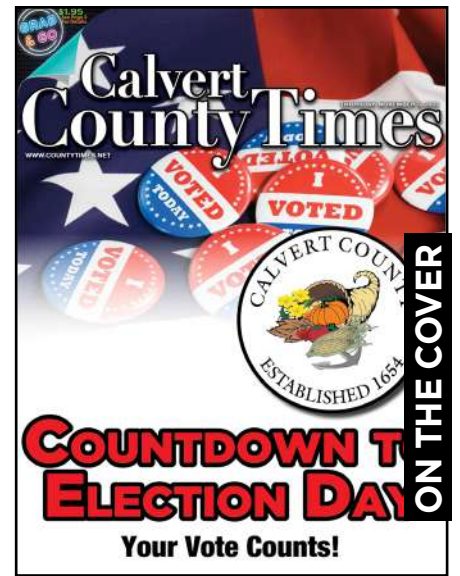
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Calvert schools readies its budget priorities

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COMMUNITY
New vessel arrives at Calvert Marine Museum

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Calvert goes to the early voting polls

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SAT 11/5	75° /61°	Mostly sunny and warm	WED 11/9	69° /47°	Cloudy
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A Message from State's Attorney Bob Harvey

On Saturday, October 15, 2022, I had the distinct honor of standing with Roberta Roper as we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Maryland Crime Victim's Resource Center (MCVRC). I currently serve on the Board of Directors of this organization.

Mrs. Roper is a nationally-known activist for the rights of crime victims. In 1982, following the brutal murder of her daughter, Stephanie, Mrs. Roper, along with her husband, Vince, created the MCVRC to provide support services for victims and to advocate for fundamental change in the way crime victims were being treated by the criminal justice system. As a result of their efforts, crime victims in Maryland have the statutory right to:

1. Be treated with dignity and respect.
2. Be notified of all court events relating to their case.
3. Be present in court for all such events.
4. Be informed of any plea agreement.
5. Be heard before sentencing.
6. Receive restitution from the offender.

As long as I am Calvert County State's Attorney, these rights will be strictly adhered to.

Thank you, Bob Harvey

Authority of Glenn A. Colevas, Treasurer
MCVRC does not endorse any political candidate

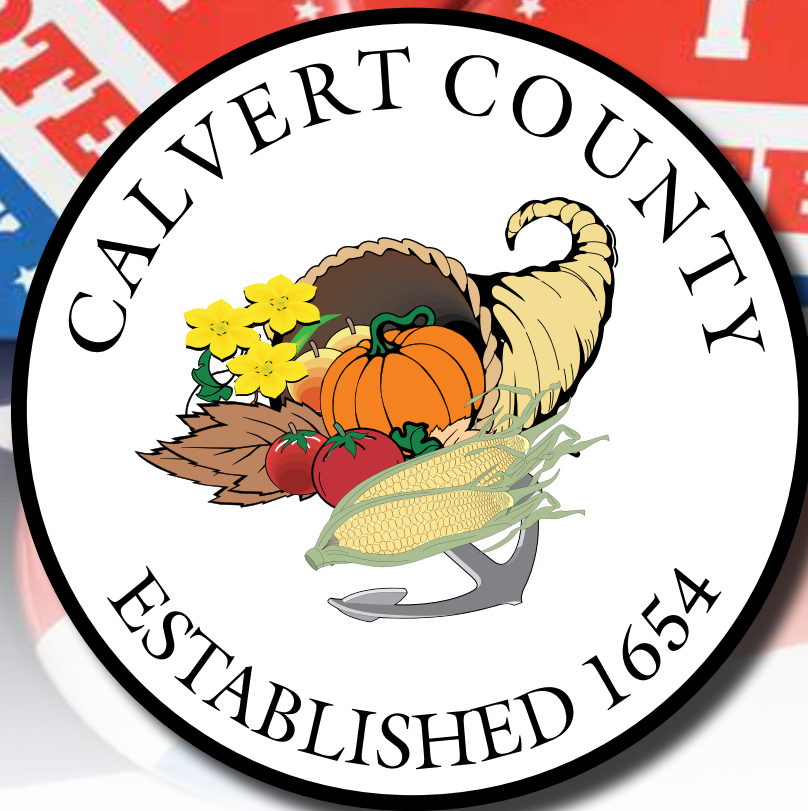
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