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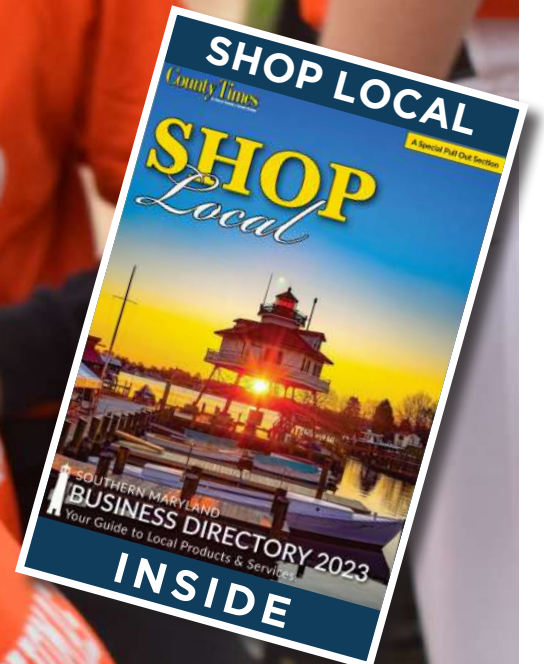
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LOCAL 3
SMECO proposed rate hike



LOCAL 7
Nearly 100 felines neutered, released



ON THE COVER
Parents are upset over possible fee hikes for youth softball and little league play

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, FEB 23 Mostly Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 55°	FRI, FEB 24 Partly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 33°	SAT, FEB 25 PM Showers Hi: 42° Lo: 36°	SUN, FEB 26 Partly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 38°
MON, FEB 27 Showers Hi: 49° Lo: 47°	TUE, FEB 28 Sunny Hi: 60° Lo: 37°	WED, MAR 1 Partly Cloudy Hi: 54° Lo: 44°	THU, MAR 2 AM Showers Hi: 56° Lo: 45°




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SMECO Seeks Another Rate Increase

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) is asking the Maryland Public Services Commission to authorize a rate increase that will boost the public utility's revenue stream by a projected \$15.75 million, according to filings at the state-level oversight agency.

"This proposed increase would result in an approximate 8 percent overall increase for the average customer-member," the SMECO case request reads. "Under existing rates, without the relief requested, SMECO would most certainly be at risk of failing to meet the requirements of its indenture as it works to provide the type of service that its customer-members deserve."

The utility argues in its case filings that it has incurred costs in stalling an advanced metering system which it wishes to recoup, also it seeks to collect revenue to make up for deferred rate collections, which stem from the last time SMECO increased its rates.

This is called bill stabilization adjustments, case filings explain.

SMECO received approval to increase its rates in January of last year resulting in the residential winter energy charge rising from 6.56 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to 8.33 cents per kWh.

The summer rate increased from 6.11 cents per kWh to 7.8 cents per kWh last year.

The 2022 rate increase caused great concern and consternation among rate payers here in St. Mary's.

A public hearing will be held in this case before a public utility law judge of the Public Service Commission of Maryland for the purpose of taking public comment on Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s request for authority to revise its rates and charges for electric service and to make certain rate design changes. The hearing is set for Tuesday, February 28 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at SMECO's Hughesville headquarters auditorium, 15035 Burnt Store Road in Hughesville.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

New Cell Tower Antennae Being Installed in Leonardtown



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

County Commissioner Eric Colvin confirmed this week that new antennae owned by Verizon were being installed on the cell tower that currently stands at the St. Mary's County Fair Grounds in Leonardtown.

"Ever notice the bad cell phone reception near Leonardtown High School and St Mary's County Fair," Colvin wrote in a social media post. "That will improve very soon. "Excited to see this happening."

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted to come to an agreement with Verizon late last year to make the improvements.

The agreement, which county commissioners unanimously approved at their

Oct. 18 meeting, allowed Verizon to install commercial cellular reception equipment on the tower owned by the fairgrounds at no cost to the telecommunication magnate, which means an abatement of lease payments for the next 12 years.

Some on the commissioner board questioned why the county would give up essentially \$250,000 in lease payments but information technology Director Bob Kelly said last year that the deal had to struck along those lines as Verizon had no firm plans to make the improvements.

"Verizon has a five-year plan and a 10-year plan," Kelly had said. "This location was not in their five-year plan."

The enhanced communication, and hence security, capability that would be afforded to the nearby cluster of Leonardtown middle and high schools as well as the Dr. James A. Forrest Technical Center as well as first responders and citizens at the fairgrounds outweighed the cost to the county, elected leaders determined.

After 12 years the agreement calls for payments to the St. Mary's County Fair Board of \$24,000 a year for use of the cell phone tower.

Kelly said that the agreement should provide even better service as it moves ahead year over year.

"It'll be even better coverage next year as the antennae won't be 15 feet off the ground but about 140 feet high," Kelly said in October.

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Fee Increases Rile Little League, Softball Parents

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

County recreation and parks department leadership are proposing hiking the participation fee for children to play in sports from \$7 to \$9.50 per child and parents have taken to social media to vent their anger.

Little League and youth softball parents are particularly displeased at the prospect; the president of the St. Mary's Little League (SMLL) R.J. Bean has started enough push-back on the proposal that Sen. Jack Bailey (R-Dist. 29) has become involved.

"We are simply disgusted that we don't have a voice like other sports in St. Mary's County," Bean wrote last week on Facebook. "They're looking to generate revenue from youth sport families, some of which are struggling to make ends meet, living paycheck to paycheck, by charging them more in per player fees next season."

This will result in \$14,000 in fees coming from SMLL going to the Department of Parks and Recreation, Bean said.

"There's not one single person in Rec & Park that can tell me where SMLL's \$14,000 is going each year, not one," Bean wrote. "The standard answer is, 'It's putting staff in parks.'"

"Really? Because I'm at [George B.] Cecil [Park] at least five days a week during the season and don't see anyone there."

Bean argued that despite the money parents pay into the little league and softball organizations the county has not kept up with the maintenance of the fields they use; the volunteers, instead, do that.

Kelly Haines, herself a little league coach with two children in the system, said the problem has been going on for years.

"Little League has been fighting for years to get basic maintenance done on fields and it never happens," Haines said. "Now they want to increase costs for the league even more, but can't provide insight to where the money is going."

In a letter to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, Bailey called the county's sports fields inadequate.

"I have also seen first-hand the conditions that many are reaching out about and agree with their assessment that St. Mary's County fields are clearly substandard to other counties in our region," Bailey wrote in his letter dated Feb. 16, one day after Bean released his social media post. "Who

is maintaining our fields?

"Far too often, I see parents and volunteers do much of the upkeep of the facilities."

Commissioner Eric Colvin admitted that in recent years that volunteers had been doing most of the maintenance on county sports fields; last year the commissioners allocated \$95,000 to field maintenance but that amount was stretched thin over the county with so many sports locations.

"The commissioners as a whole all support youth recreation," Colvin said. "We work hard to keep fees as low as possible."

The fees the county charges, Colvin said, were for paying for park attendants who cleaned bathroom facilities and dealt with parking and public safety concerns.

Use of the county parks had increased in recent years, Colvin said, but the county government could not keep pace with hiring attendants.

Moreover, the money from participation fees did not go to park maintenance, Colvin said.

"We need to evaluate as to whether what's going to park maintenance is adequate," Colvin said, noting that the budget process for fiscal 2024 would soon come to that issue.

Moreover, Colvin said, the fee increases may be needed in part to compensate employees being paid minimum wage as that was set to increase by state law to \$15 an hour.

As labor costs went up, Colvin said, the county would have to charge more to be able to pay more.

Last year the commissioner board had allocated \$60,000 in American Rescue Act funds for youth sports leagues but only two or three had applied for some of the funds; the county's little league did not apply, Colvin said.

Commissioner Mike Alderson said he wanted to find more answers about where the money was going that was collected as park fees.

He said he was told parks and recreation director Arthur Shepherd that \$1.5 million has been allocated for field improvements.

Alderson, who has been involved in youth sports leagues and is a strong supporter of them, said he sympathized with the complaints of parents.

"When I was with [North County youth soccer] we had our own issues with the



All photos courtesy of Ceandra Scott

county when it came to field maintenance and conditions," Alderson said. "I come from a place of understanding on that."

"We need to take a long, hard look at this."

Part of the problem, Alderson said, is that the county remains understaffed with many key job postings left unfilled in critical departments such as law enforcement and emergency services.

This made it even harder for the county

to find people willing to take lower-paying jobs to staff fields and maintain them on a seasonal basis.

"Everyone is short staffed right now," Alderson said.

Arthur Shepherd, parks and recreation director, did not return phone calls for comment.

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County Times

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Police Accountability Board Briefed on Possible Changes

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

It has been eight months since the formation of the county's Police Accountability Board (PAB) and Administrative Charging Committee (ACC), Assistant County Attorney John Houser told board members that much work remained to be done, particularly with how PABs and ACCs actually dispensed their duties.

"There are still lots of kinks and bumps in the road that need to be worked out," Houser said at the Feb. 16 meeting. "The thought was... we're about half-way through the [Maryland General Assembly] and that there might be changes, fixes, refinements afoot in the legislature.

"The reality is we're not getting many fixes, refinements or alterations to the way [PABs and ACCs] conduct their business."

The PAB hears citizen complaints and passes them on to local law enforcement for investigation; once the investigation into the police complaint is completed the ACC then recommends whether the officer should be administratively charged by the law enforcement agency.

But one bill in Annapolis, SB 285, would be a "radical overhaul" from

the powers currently afforded PABs if it passes into law, Houser said. "There's no power of the PAB to launch its own investigations," Houser said, noting that the PAB could only review the recommendations of the ACC. "There's no power of the PAB to revise those reports to subpoena, to call witnesses.

"If passed, SB 285 would allow a county to do that."

The bill would give county's the power to so empower their PAB, Houser said, to go concurrently with a law agency's own investigation.

It was unsure whether the bill would pass, Houser said, but it was the top legislative priority of the state American Civil Liberties Union and had a Baltimore senator as its sponsor.

"There have been questions raised elsewhere about this bill's workability," Houser said.

"Even if this gets out of the [Senate], they've got some real hard thinking to do on that one," said Nickolas Cromwell chair of the PAB, noting those powers would have to have a budget attached to them to allow independent investigations.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Investigation Underway Into Piney Point Woman's Death



Linda Gail Krebs

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is investigating the death of a woman in Piney Point who was found in the water the morning of Feb. 21.

The deceased, identified as 69-year-old Linda Gail Krebs, was found in the water at 9:18 a.m. Tuesday at the Piney Point Boat Ramp, said Jason Babcock, spokesman for the sheriff's office.

She had been reported missing from her waterfront home in Piney Point at about 8 a.m. that same day, Babcock told The County Times; the cause of her death has yet to be determined.

"It appears she fell off a pier in the backyard," Babcock said, adding that the current from the pier at the residence likely carried her body downstream to the boat ramp.

Krebs was clothed, Babcock said, when she was found and some personal effects of hers were also found in the water.

She was last seen the evening of Feb. 20, he said.

The local U.S. Coast Guard detachment took part in the search, as did local fire and EMS units, said Babcock, as did Maryland State Police Helicopter Trooper 7.

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Dozens of Cats Neutered, Released in St. Mary's



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Local feline-loving volunteers and county animal control staff were able to trap 90 stray and feral cats all throughout St. Mary's County Feb. 21 have them neutered and released back into their colonies the next day, representatives for Alley Cat Allies said this week.

Alice Burton, with Alley Cat Allies, told The County Times that 30 volunteers from rescue groups such as Last Chance Animal Rescue and Saint Mary's Animal Welfare League worked together to bring the cats in to Paw Prints Animal Hospital in Waldorf to receive not only neutering but other medical treatment as well.

Many cats received topical anti-flea treatments, Burton said, while one would have a damaged eye removed.

Alley Cat Allies was paying for it all, Burton said.

"They're really getting the royal treatment," Burton said of the cats. "We've been doing trap, neuter and release for about six years in St. Mary's."

"And we decided to have an event where

we could make a big dent."

The volunteers found cat colonies throughout the county including in some of the most populace areas like Lexington Park, Leonardtown and Mechanicsville.

After being trapped and taken for medical attention and neutering the felines would be taken back to the new Animal Adoption and Resource Center on FDR Boulevard in California to stay the night before being released Feb. 22 back to their outdoor homes, Burton said.

They would be fed from 3,600 pounds worth of cat food, she said

Other veterinary services include micro-chipping of the cats as well as vaccinations.

Along with benefiting the cats, Burton said, the project brought together at least seven local rescue organizations, some of whom had never worked together before.

"It's a big county," Burton said. "These volunteers really busted their butts to get this done."

"Some of these people never knew each other."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Miller Brothers Named Drag Illustrated "Promoter of the Year"

Congratulations to Jason & Chris Miller for being named Drag Illustrated's "Promoter of the Year". They are being recognized for their vision, organization and execution of the Haltech World Cup Finals presented by Weisco. The WCF is one of the largest independent drag racing events in the country and the 2022 event recorded Maryland International Raceway's first official sell-out in track history. Royce Miller, owner of MIR and proud dad to Jason and Chris stated, "It was wonderful to see Jason and Chris receive this recognition, the WCF is truly an amazing event. They have nurtured and guided this event for the last 26 years into the prestigious national and international event it has become".



Leonardtown Honors Local Legend in Commitment to Kindness

The upcoming Moll Dyer Day event is a three-day celebration of Leonardtown's most famous local legend. No other Leonardtown historical figure has captured hearts and attention like the legend of Moll Dyer.

An increasing number of guests visit the famed Moll Dyer Rock each year that bears her now fading handprint left that fateful night in 1698 – many leaving little trinkets and gifts by the rock where it sits at Tudor Hall Manor. The ongoing theme of this year's event is "Be Kind". The Town of Leonardtown invites the community to join in on this commitment to being kind by performing at least one random act of kindness in honor of Moll Dyer Day this week.

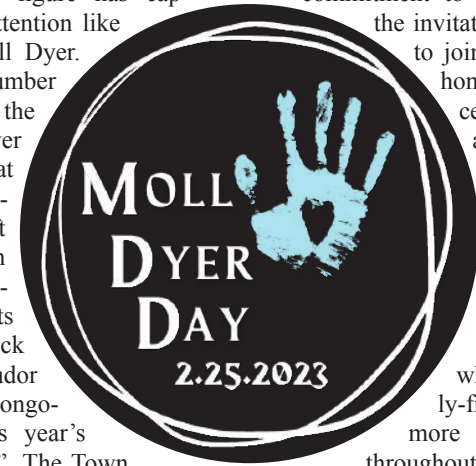
Leonardtown Mayor, Dan Burris, who officially proclaimed February 26th as Moll Dyer Day back in 2021 (to be honored annually on the last Saturday in the month of February), returns to the Opening Ceremony at Tudor Hall Manor where the original dedication was made two


years ago to commemorate the start of this year's Moll Dyer Day Weekend. Mayor Burris will also proclaim Leonardtown's commitment to kindness and extend

the invitation to the community to join in the movement in honor of Moll Dyer. The ceremony is set to begin at 11 a.m. on the lawn of Tudor Hall Manor, the home of the St. Mary's County Historical Society, at the site of the famed Moll Dyer Rock.

The three day event, which features family-friendly activities to more adult-oriented events throughout Leonardtown, will help raise funds and support for the Historical Society to aid the organization in continuing its mission of preserving the history and culture of St. Mary's County, Maryland including the care and maintenance of Leonardtown's most famous historic item, the Moll Dyer Rock.

To learn more about Moll Dyer Weekend including events and activities, where to stay and the hours for the Leonardtown Trolley visit: VisitLeonardtownMD.com/MollDyerDay or #Itownkindness.






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Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



Listening to, and Keeping, Memories



My oldest, and only remaining brother Bob (Bobby to me), stayed with us a few weeks ago. It was a last minute trip from Utah so he could attend our cousin Bobby's Celebration of Life service near Annapolis. Yes, we have a lot of Roberts and every variation of the name in our family. I missed his wife Kathy coming to join us for this. But was so glad to have my brother with us since our family is so very small now. Cousin Bobby was the last one of four brothers of my late mother's sister's children to pass away.

It was so nice to get some brother sister time with Bobby who is 14 years older than me. I was 4 years old when Bobby went off to West Virginia University to study Aerospace Engineering and enroll in Air Force ROTC, leading to a career in the Air Force retiring as a Lt. Col, then having a great career as a pilot for Alaska Airlines until their age limit was reached.

Now I had a wonderful father; he was a very calm and gentle person and the best father a person could have, but he was not one to push someone or make choices for them. My brother Bob always kind of took on the father role in a lot of respects. He has always been a driven, accomplished person and I know he has always wanted the best for his little sister. Little sister is so hard to say when I'm 61, but for some reason when my brother is here I suddenly turn back into a sullen teenager when we are together. I know that happens with parents and children too.

I have a gypsy soul, plus my aimless wandering mind, so you can imagine what my brother is up against when he has, and does, try to encourage me on focused paths in life. It just doesn't work. But I love my brother, he is my hero, and I did tell him that on his week long visit. We shared lots of wine, talk, memories, plus his Bourbon tastings with my husband.

We did get Bobby out for a delicious dinner at Rucci's in White Plains, one of our favorite restaurants with the old style white tablecloths and candles (photo from Rucci's). And we got our favorite funny waiter who could easily be a stand-up comedian.

Another fun night was a Monday night at Old Line Pub in Charlotte Hall where they have started opening from 4 to 9 on Mondays with live music from Ben Connelly from 6 to 9 pm. My brother made up a long list of songs for Ben to play while we had appetizers and a great dinner. Thanks Ben! I love the atmosphere in there and it was so much fun to watch my brother enjoying the music, dinner, and drinks. I am partial to the smoked Old Fashioned myself.

The best time with my brother actually came in the few hours before he had to leave for his flight. I brought out some of the family photo albums and let my brother talk about his growing up years in various places in Washington DC to the move to Clinton, and both homes there. I used my phone and recorded nearly three hours of Bobby reminiscing. It was wonderful and will now be something I and my sons, will treasure. During those few hours I wasn't the pesty little sister, but a sister who admires and loves her hero big brother.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com

9 Quilts of Valor Awarded



PAX Sound of Freedom is the southern Maryland unit of Quilts of Valor recognizing active duty personnel and veterans in St. Mary's and Charles Counties for their service to our country. On February 18th the unit had the distinct privilege of awarding nine Quilts of Valor, including one for a Pur-

ple Heart recipient, at Trinity Lutheran Church In Lexington Park, Maryland.

To date the Quilts of Valor Foundation has awarded 338,143 quilts nation wide. Their mission is to cover service member and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing quilts.

Our local group gathers on the second Saturday of each month at St. George's Catholic Church in Valley Lee for a "Sew In" where members create quilts and share fellowship. Presentations are held on the third Saturday of each month at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park. Special arrangements can be made for private presentations.

Community Shred & Medication Take Back Day

Do you have paper documents with personal information that you'd like to purge? Or do you have unused, unwanted, or expired medications in your cabinets? Dispose of them safely at the Community Shred & Medication Take Back Day!

This event will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2023, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Department of Aging & Human Services, located at 41780 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown. Shredding services, medication collection, and safe disposal of medical sharps will be offered, all free of charge!

This event is a cooperative effort between the St. Mary's County Depart-

ment of Aging & Human Services, St. Mary's County Health Department, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, and the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works & Transportation.

For more information on the event, contact Community Programs & Outreach Manager, Sarah Miller at sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov or (301) 475-4200, ext. 1073.

For information on safe disposal of medication and medical sharps such as needles, lancets, and syringes, please visit: smchd.org/disposal.



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In Remembrance

Ann Wescott, 86



Mary Ann (Howe) Wescott, 86, of Westbrook, Maine, died January 31, 2023 at Maine Medical Center, Portland, Maine. Ann was born September 20, 1936

in Oakley, Maryland, the oldest child of the late James "Louis" & Mary "Pauline" (Quade) Howe.

Ann married Richard C. "Dick" Wescott July 20, 1957 in Avenue, Maryland, while he was serving in the U S Navy, stationed at Patuxent River NAS, Maryland. They celebrated 52 years of marriage before his passing in 2009. She was predeceased by her two children, Mary Teresa Burnham (2000) and Michael David (2021). She is survived her grandchildren: Michael, Nate & Craig Burnham and Allison Lorete, seven great grandchildren, her daughter-in-law Jackie, her son-in-law Mike, her siblings: Margaret Tippet (Tommy), Jimmy (Pam), Jay (Linda) and Tommy, (all of Maryland).

Ann graduated from Margaret Brent High School in 1955. She worked at Duke's Restaurant in Leonardtown & the Hecht's Department Store in Washington DC. After marriage, the family moved back to Maine. She worked as a crossing guard for the city of Westbrook from Jan 1965 until Aug 2002. She was also a member of the Colonial Bowling Center morning bowling league in Westbrook.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Friday February 10, 2023, at 11AM at St. Hyacinth Catholic Church, 268 Brown Street, Westbrook. An hour of visitation was held at church prior to Mass. Pallbearers were: Mike, Michael, Nate & Craig Burnham, and Jimmy & Tommy Howe. Honorary pallbearers were: Allison Lorete & Jackie Wescott. Interment will be announced in the spring.

A Memorial mass will be held March 4, 2023 at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Compton, Maryland at 10 AM. Reception to follow in the parish hall.

Helen Ashley, 95



Helen Ogle Ashley was born on June 6, 1927, the daughter of Estel Woltz Ogle and Dorothy Gladys Sumpter Ogle in the town of Hillsville, Virginia and passed away peacefully on February 18, 2023 at the age of 95. She was the middle child of seven children and is survived by her siblings Mary Bremier, Gladys Ogle, and James Ogle. Her other beloved siblings

were Katherine Kempson, Milton Ogle, and Estel Ogle. She leaves behind three children, Roy David Ashley, Jr. and his wife Cyndi, Donna Tennis and her husband Joe and Teresa Krosnick, and grandchildren; Ryder Ashley, Amelia Ashley, Ava Tennis, Erin Tennis, Carl Krosnick and Laura Walker, and great-grandchildren; Graham Krosnick, Madison Walker, Braydon Walker, and Jordan Walker.

She had a lifelong love for children and loved all her nieces and nephews, their children, and grandchildren with all of her heart. She loved teaching and gently guiding her students toward the art of learning. She initially taught school in her early 20s in a one-room schoolhouse and continued into her 60s teaching kindergarten and, later, special-needs students. She had a quick wit and was well read. Her mind remained active and articulate until her last day.

Throughout her life she enjoyed playing piano, singing, painting, and drawing. She was an avid poet and author, and a book of her poetry is in the final stage of publication. She had a will to live that was remarkable. She loved every member of her family, friends, neighbors, and caregivers deeply. Her life was one to be celebrated and she will be missed.

All are welcome to her service at Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A. on Saturday morning, February 25, 2023; viewing 10:00 AM, service 11:00 AM at 41590 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650, phone 301-475-8500, with Methodist Pastor Matthew Tate officiating.

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

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

Molly Butler, 87



On February 20, 1935, it was snowing in Bushwood, MD when Mary Molly was born at home to the late Sherman Carter and Molly Shaw Broome.

Molly received her education through the St. Mary's County Public School System, she left school prior to graduating but subsequently returned to school and received her GED in July, 1981. Molly married her one true love Lawrence A. Butler, Sr. on January 28, 1951 at Holy Angels Catholic Church n Avenue, MD. Molly lived her entire life in St. Mary's County, Maryland and worked as a domestic worker throughout the county to include B&B Maintenance and PAX River Naval Base. Molly was most proud of having worked for the family of late Astronaut John Glenn

who lived in Town Creek. She often told us of how she knew John Glenn before he became famous. Her last job was with the Board of Education as a cafeteria worker at Dynard Elementary School. Molly was a long-standing member of the KSJ Sacred Heart Ladies Auxiliary #305 of Bushwood, MD. She enjoyed doing word search puzzles, watching tv game shows and cutting her grass in the summer. Molly was known for her pound cake and tuna macaroni salad. Her most treasured enjoyment was spending time with her family. Molly was a firm believer in always treating people the way you wanted to be treated and she lived her life accordingly. Molly faithfully attended Holy Angels Catholic Church until her health declined and she was no longer able to drive.

Molly entered into eternal rest on February 11, 2023 at her residence surrounded by her loved ones. In addition to her parents, Molly was preceded in death by her husband Lawrence A. Butler, Sr.; her son Lawrence A. Butler, Jr.; her brothers: Daniel Shaw and Benjamin Broome; her sisters: Elizabeth Shaw Barnes, Catherine Mason Matthews and Emily Deloatch; her daughter-in-law Shirley Biscoe Butler; mother-in-law Mary Elizabeth Armstrong; sisters-in-law: Doris Ann Armstrong and Grace Mary Raye.

Molly is survived by her children: Christine Watkins (Arthur); Ivy Maxine Wilson (Baron) and Carl Butler, Sr. (Deborah); eight grandchildren: Iman Butler; Inga Butler, Jessica Butler, Carmen Butler, Carl Butler II, Debriana Butler, Joshua Butler and Isaiah Butler; five great-grandchildren: Imari Poole, Jordon Butler, Cameron Edwards, Chloe Short and Camilla James, sister Dorothy Carter Fenwick and numerous nieces, nephews and loved ones. Molly will be greatly missed by all those that loved her. Her legacy will live on in her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends for Mary's Life Celebration on Thursday, March 2, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., followed by a prayer service at 7:00 p.m., at Holy Angels Catholic Church, 21340 Colton Point Road, Avenue, MD 20609. There will also be a visitation held on Friday, March 3, 2023 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 a.m.

Pallbearers will be Carl Butler Sr., James Grayton, Baron Wilson, Shamar Armstrong, Jermaine Short and Lawrence Williams.

The Butler Family would like to thank the Hospice of St. Mary's for the care and comfort they provided. Repast will be immediately following the graveside service at Holy Angels Church Hall.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A

Joyce Shook, 79



Joyce Ann Shook, 79, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on February 13, 2023 surrounded by her loving family in Callaway, MD. Born on February 18, 1943 in Way-

side, MD, she was the daughter of the late Maude E. Pilkerton and William F. Pilkerton. Joyce was the loving wife of the late James E. Shook, whom she married on January 23, 1965 at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church, Chaptico, MD, and who preceded her in death on November 18, 2006. Joyce is survived by her children James R. Shook (and his fiancé, Paula Ching) of Hollywood, MD, Sandra A. Radcliff (Gregory) of LaPlata, MD, her siblings Lawrence Pilkerton (Kit) of Leonardtown, MD, Anthony Pilkerton of Avenue, MD, Don Pilkerton (Gloria Jean of Avenue, MD, Mary Farr (Mike) of Mechanicsville, MD, Jay Pilkerton (Virginia) of Hollywood, MD, and Stanley Pilkerton (Tina) of King George, VA, as well as her grandchildren Candace Pruett (David) of Mt. Airy, MD and Amanda Joslin (Ty) of Elkridge, MD, and great-granddaughter Kylie Ann Pruett. She was preceded in death by her siblings Peggy Redman, William Pilkerton, and Leonard Pilkerton.

Joyce was born and raised in Southern Maryland and graduated from Margaret Brent High School in 1962. She moved to Washington, DC in 1965, living there with her husband and family until they moved back home to Mechanicsville, MD in 1974. She was a homemaker and loved listening to country music and going to dances, along with traveling and spending time with her family.

The family will receive friends on Monday, February 20, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 11:00 AM in Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church, Chaptico, MD, with Father Chip Luckett officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Lawrence Pilkerton, Anthony Pilkerton, Don Pilkerton, Jay Pilkerton, Stanley Pilkerton, and Mike Farr.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's or the Mechanicsville Vol. Rescue Squad.

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

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



St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, Feb 24

SMTMD Acoustic Open Mic

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

Come to Christ Church Parish Hall in Chaptico to enjoy some fine acoustic music performed by local talented singers and songwriters. Musicians of all skill levels are warmly invited to perform. The admission is \$7; performers are admitted free of charge. Contact Michael Smith smtmd-mike@gmail.com

in advance if you'd like to sign up to perform. Visit www.smtmd.org for more information.

Sat, Feb 25

Movie Night

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall
27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd.,
Mechanicsville

6 p.m.

Youth Group Invites You to a FREE Family Movie Night. LIFEMARK is a faith based drama about an 18 year old teenager, who has tried to hide the fact he's adopted until his biological parents try to contact him.

Snacks and Drinks will be available for purchase.

All proceeds will benefit the Mt. Zion UMC's Youth Group.
www.mtzionmech.org

Moll Dyer Day at Shepherd's Old Field Market (SOF Market)

Shepherd's Old Field Market
22725 Duke Street, Leonardtown
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 25th, for a spirited day of fun at the Town of Leonardtown's 2023 Moll Dyer Day festivities at Shepherd's Old Field Market!

Starting at 10 AM, use your sleuthing skills for the indoor Scavenger Hunt here at SOF Market! Participate by yourself or as a team to win great prizes!

Starting at 1 PM, head over to Brudergarten Beer Garden at Shepherd's Old Field Market for the 2023 Winter Games! Compete in games of skill and chance for bragging rights and fun prizes!

Our good friends, Jeanette Kenzi and The Dazzler Team, will be here to bring sparkly magic to your tresses, with their magical, dazzling hair tinsel! Contact Jeanette directly to book your appointment!

Grab your commemorative Moll Dyer t-shirt, created by our shop, Little Dorn Designs! For each shirt purchased, \$1 will be donated to the St. Mary's County Historical Society.

Coach Purse Bingo

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
27636 Mechanicsville Road
Mechanicsville
Noon to 4 p.m.

Hosted by Building Blocks of Faith Preschool. Presale tickets will go on sale Monday, February 13th for \$35. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$40 (admission includes 1 set of regular games).

*Raffle *Silent Auction *Extra games/specials available for purchase *Refreshments will be available for purchase

For more information or to purchase tickets contact Building Blocks of Faith at (301) 752-9802 or bbfschool@hotmail.com.

Texas Hold'Em @ HVRS

Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad
23469 Rescue Lane, Hollywood
6 p.m. to Midnight

\$85.00 buy-in for \$20k in chips. Rounds are 20 minutes each. Doors open at 5 pm, tournament starts at 6pm. BYOB, food and sodas will be available for purchase.

See www.hvrs.org for more info. Chance for 50/50 included in your buy-in. Tables deal their own cards, dealers are not provided. Late Entries permitted until 1st break, approx. 7 pm cut off. No rebuys allowed. Pull tabs for sale as well. **We will now have an ATM on site.**

****PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT IS AT THE RESCUE SQUAD, NOT THE FIRE HOUSE****

Anne Arundel County Young Farmers

Public Auction

Saturday
April 1, 2023
8 am

Auction Location:
241 Farmhouse Lane
Lothian, MD
(Rt. 408 & Farmhouse Lane)

Expected Consignments

May Include:

Farm Tractors
Equipment
Attachments
Tools
Lawn/Garden Items
Garage/Shop Items

Consignments accepted on site:

SAT March 25th - 10 am to 4 pm
WED & THURS March 29th & 30th - 3 pm to 7 pm
FRI March 31st - 9 am to 2 pm

Consignments NOT accepted may include: Used furniture, appliances, propane tanks, hazardous materials, tires, etc. NO JUNK. Farm-related vehicles & trailers must have a good MD Title (title must be in the name of consignor with NO liens). Auction staff reserves right to refuse any item.

For more information: Call 240-825-9509 or 240-486-6592

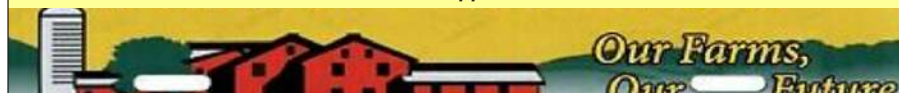
TERMS: Cash, Good Checks (with appropriate ID) & Credit Cards Accepted. (Additional 3.5% fee for credit card payments). Ten percent buyer's premium on all items up to a maximum of \$300 per item. MD Sales Tax where applicable.

NOTE: All purchased items are to be removed from the auction site day of auction (unless prior arrangements are made with one of the Arundel County Young Farmers Auction Committee members).

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



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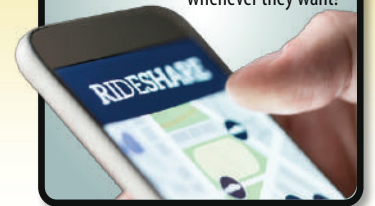
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SOUTHERN MARYLAND BUSINESS DIRECTORY 2023

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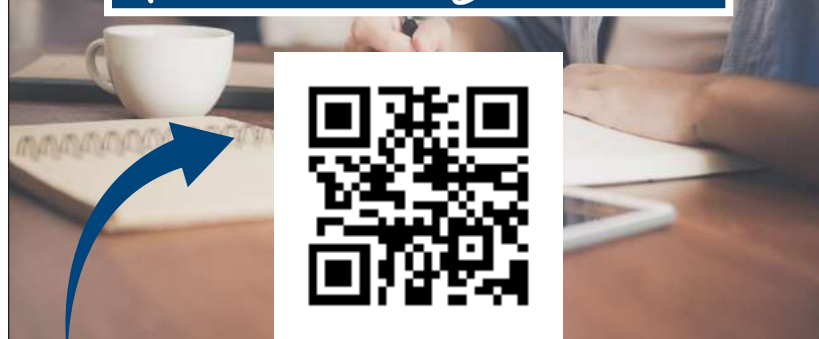
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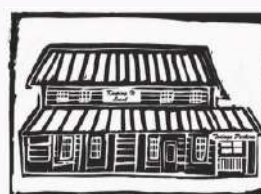
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**COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 4:15 p.m. at the Town Office, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown. The purpose of the hearing will be to present for public review and to receive public comment Resolution 2-23; the proposal to submit an application to the Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development for the re-designation of Leonardtown as an Arts & Entertainment District.

The Arts and Entertainment District will continue to provide the opportunity for property tax credits for arts related businesses, income tax subtraction for individual artists, and exemptions from the admissions and amusement tax for certain arts related businesses and individuals.

A copy of Resolution 2-23 is available for public review at the Leonardtown Town Office or at www.leonardtown.somd.com. The public is invited to attend and/or send written comments to be received by March 13, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, POB 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or to Leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
CASE NO: C-18-CV-21-000102**

Alan C. Wetter et al.,
c/o Lucas I. Dansie, Esq.
406 5th St. NW
Washington DC 20001
Plaintiffs

v.
The Estate of Bessie Wigglesworth
c/o Raymia Henderson, PR
14302 Hampshire Hall Ct.
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

and

St. Mary's County, Maryland,

and

all unknown owners of the property described below, their heirs, devisees and personal representatives and their or any of their heirs, devisees, executors, administrators, grantees, assigns, or successors in right, title and interest and any and all persons having or claiming to have an interest in the property described as:

*Unassigned, Lot 3 Block 5, Longview Beach and also known as A/C 07-014619
Defendants

RE-ISSUED ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property, sold by the Collector of Taxes for St. Mary's County to the Plaintiff:

***Unassigned, Lot 3 Block 5, Longview Beach and also known as A/C 07-014619.**

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid. It is therefore on this 31st day of January, 2023, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland:

ORDERED, that notice be given by insertion of a copy of this ORDER in some newspaper having a general circulation in St. Mary's County once a week for 3 successive weeks, warning all persons interested in the property to appear in this Court by the 3rd day of March, 2023 and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a Final Judgment will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

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

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Can you count on Social Security?

If you're getting closer to retirement, you might be thinking more about Social Security. Specifically, can you count on it to contribute part of the income you'll need as a retiree?

There's been an increase in alarming language surrounding the solvency of Social Security, but in reality, its prospects are not nearly as gloomy as you might have heard.

Here's the story: Under current law, Social Security is estimated to exhaust its trust funds by 2035, after which benefits could be cut by 20%, according to the 2022 Social Security Trustees report. However, the large cost of living adjustment (COLA) (8.7%) for 2023 could cause the trust funds to use up their resources sooner.

But this outlook may represent a worst-case scenario. For one thing, the cost of the 2023 COLA will be somewhat offset by higher taxes on workers contributing to Social Security. The maximum amount of earnings subject to the 6.2% Social Security tax jumped from \$147,000 in 2022 to \$160,200 in 2023. And in looking down the road, further increases in this earnings cap may also help reduce the gap in the trust funds. Increasing the payroll tax is another possibility for boosting funding to Social Security.

And here's a political reality: Social Security is a popular program and it's unlikely that any future Congress wants to be blamed for reducing benefits. Of course, there are no guarantees, but it seems fair to say that you can reasonably expect some benefits from Social Security when you retire.

But perhaps the bigger issue is just how much you should depend on Social Security for your retirement income. On average, Social Security benefits will provide about 30% of a beneficiary's preretirement earnings, according to the Social Security Administration. But the higher your earnings before you retire, the lower the percentage that will be replaced by Social Security.

Still, you'll want to maximize the benefits that are available to you — and that means deciding when to start taking Social Security. You can begin as early as 62, but your monthly payments could be as much as 30% lower than your normal (or "full") retirement age, which will likely be between 66 and 67.

Even if you were to wait until your full retirement age before collecting Social Security, you'll also need to draw on other sources of funding. So, while you are still working, it's a good idea to keep contributing to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

The amount you contribute should depend on your overall financial strategy and your financial needs, so, for example, you probably shouldn't put in so much into your retirement accounts that you feel significant stress in your monthly cash flow. But when you do get a chance to invest more in these accounts, such as when your salary goes up, you may want to take advantage of the opportunity.

Ultimately, you should be able to count on Social Security as part of your retirement income. You may want to consult with a financial professional to determine when taking Social Security makes the most sense for you and how you can also get the most from your other retirement accounts. You'll want a retirement income strategy that's built for the long run.

*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*



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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Feb 23

JobSource Mobile Career Center

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

Stop by to visit the JobSource Mobile Career Center for your job search needs! Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. This 38-foot mobile center features 11 computer workstations, smart board instructional technology, satellite internet access, exterior audio visual and broadcasting capabilities; state-of-the-art workforce applications and connectivity for wireless mobile device access. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Reading Buddies

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

Children that need some extra help with reading build confidence by reading with teens! With snacks, games, and reading incentives! A program for K-5 graders to practice reading in a relaxed and welcoming group space! Teens get to participate in a meaningful experience by encouraging children and helping them with their reading skills. They can also earn a service hour for school. No need to register, just email Jess if interested in being a Reading Buddy: jswain@calvertlibrary.info, 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Feb 24

On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Feb 25

Free Paper Shredding Events

Huntingtown High School
4125 Solomons Island Rd, Huntingtown
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, will host free paper shredding events for county residents and businesses. Shredding documents helps prevent identity theft by destroying confidential or sensitive information.

Proof of residency or business location is required. All paper must be removed from plastic bags and cardboard boxes prior to shredding. Paper clips and staples are acceptable. Binders and binder clips are not acceptable. Businesses are permitted up to five banker boxes of paper per business (or the equivalent volume of five banker boxes in alternate containers). There is no limit for residents. Certificates of destruction will be provided if requested.

Shredding events are held monthly. For information about other recycling events, contact the Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, at 410-326-0210 or visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Recycle.

Books in Bloom Demonstration Class

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
1-2:30 p.m.

Books in Bloom is a community event to make book inspired floral arrangements. Join one of Calvert Garden Club's demonstration classes to learn tips and tricks to floral design. This is a great opportunity for homeschoolers, clubs, scouts, or anyone who loves flowers an opportunity to make something to share with our community. There are no wrong designs! All are welcome!, 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, Feb 26

Ward Virts Concert Series

CSM Prince Frederick Campus
Building B, Multipurpose Room 104
3 p.m.

The Ward Virts Concert Series presents The Alexandria Vocal Artists. Ward Virts Sponsors for the 2022-2023 season are the Arts Council of Calvert County, Anne & George "Stovy" Brown, and Dr. and Mrs. Henry Virts. <https://www.csmd.edu/calendar/2023/02/ward-virts-feb-26.html>

Mon, Feb 27

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

VITA provides free federal and state tax preparation services for households whose total household income is \$57,000 or less. Tax services are provided by IRS-certified tax preparers. Tax service is for Charles', Prince George's, St Mary's and Calvert County residents. Visit the website or contact the library for details and limitations., 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://>

CalvertLibrary.info.

Grooving and Moving

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach
10-10:45 a.m.

Fans of Storytime will enjoy dancing, singing, and playing as they learn about music. Suggested for ages 2-5. This program features opportunities for children to explore music elements such as rhythm, tempo, and dynamics. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Black History Month Event

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
6-7:30 p.m.

This panel discussion will feature authors and historians, Tina Dunkley, Michael Kent and Donald Shomette. The focus will be on War of 1812, with further information shared about African American soldiers during the American Revolution and Civil War. Engage the panel with Q&A for deeper understanding and help plan future conversations to learn more. Short presentations will be followed by Q&A and an audience discussion of what further presentations/conversations we should have. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Monday Night Movie Musings

Calvert Library, Zoom, 7-8 p.m.

This month's movie is: "Road to Perdition". It is available on Kanopy through Calvert Library. Watch the movie prior to the Zoom event and join us for a lively discussion on Monday night. Please register to receive an emailed link to the Zoom event an hour before it begins. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Feb 28

Federal & State Contracting Workshop

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9:30-11a.m.

Considering getting certified as a Woman-Owned, Minority-Owned, or Veteran-Owned Business? Learn from a panel of business owners and subject matter experts that are currently certified. Hear how they are using certifications to increase business, learn tips and tricks for applying and lessons learned on contracting. Registration requested. Sponsored by the Department of Economic Development, CCMBBA, Calvert County Chamber, and Southern Maryland Minority Chamber

of Commerce. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

THE BASICS: School Readiness Series – Behavior

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
5:30-6:30 p.m.

BEHAVIOR- Staying emotionally present for your child increases their happiness, strengthens their emotional health, and builds self-control skills. Open to children birth-PreK and their families. Spots are limited! Snacks, take home materials, and door prizes provided for all registered families. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Books and Toys Book Discussion

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
8-9 p.m.

Before I Let Go by Kennedy Ryan: Book Discussion for adults, playtime for kids. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thu, Mar 2

Sea Squirts: Seahorses

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

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

Upcoming

Annmarie After Hours

Annemarie Sculpture Garden
Friday, March 3, 2023
5-7:00pm

Opening Reception for Vibe Check: A Teen Art Exhibit: Enjoy a special family-friendly opening in celebration of a new teen exhibit in the Kay Daugherty Gallery. Both galleries in the Arts Building will be open until 7 p.m., along with the sculpture garden and walking trails. Enjoy live music, tour the new exhibit, take a walk, and appreciate an evening of art and nature. Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/kids; 2 & under free; members free. Reservations are not required, just come. Details: www.annmariegarden.org

Calvert County to Host Community Resource Day

Calvert County will host a Community Resource Day for community members who need supportive services to connect with multiple services and resources in one day, at one place. The event will be held Friday, March 17, 2023, from 2 to 6 p.m. at Calvert Pines Senior Center, located at 450 W. Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick.

More than 50 local agencies, service organizations and local businesses will be there with free demonstrations, giveaways, advice and resources related to housing, utilities, jobs, transportation, food, clothing, medical/personal care, legal, and vital records. This is a family friendly event for all ages. Don't miss out on entertainment by DJ Swagg Money, martial arts demonstrations by Black Belt Academy, free savory dishes from Kelly's Kickin' Cuisine, and more.

Community Resource Day is brought to you by the Calvert County Department of Community Resources, LifeStyles of Maryland, Inc. and the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development. For more information, visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/CRday.

For more information about the event, please contact the Calvert County Department of Community Resources at community.resources@calvertcountymd.gov or call 410-535-1600, ext. 8803.

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov. Stay up to date with Calvert County Government on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd and YouTube at www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

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Planners Say St. Leonard is Next Town Center Zoning to be Updated



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Planning Commission has concurred with a staff recommendation to update the St. Leonard Town Center Master Plan next. But that will not happen until the updates of the Prince Frederick and Dunkirk town centers are completed.

The Prince Frederick Town Center update is now in its third year. The process was waylaid first by the pandemic and then by the county commissioners' decision to drastically shrink the size of the town center expansion.

The original staff idea was to update the Lusby and Solomons town center master plans next. About the Solomons plan, Long-range Planner Jenny Plummer-Welker told the planning commission on Feb. 15, "The planning commission recommended approval and the Board of County Commissioners adopted that updated plan in 2009. The next two oldest town center master plans are Dunkirk and Prince Frederick, and county staff are currently working on updating those master plans." She said St. Leonard's was updated in 2013 and then in the rewrite of the county's comprehensive plan in 2019.

Plummer-Welker explained, "However, the zoning hasn't been updated for the St. Leonard Town Center, so that's

one reason why we're recommending that St. Leonard would be the next town center to be updated. Since it was recently updated, I don't see that there's going to be change to that. The county's comprehensive plan, which was adopted in 2019 and recently amended in December 2022, retained the future expansion for St. Leonard, which was actually in the 2013 updated plan. So, with taking St. Leonard next, we can update the plan and then the zoning staff can follow with updating the zoning ordinance and then the zoning would be consistent with the master plan."

The comprehensive plan recommended expanding the town center to include the St. Leonard Elementary School parcel, Plummer-Welker told the planners last month, so the zoning ordinance changes could incorporate that. In answer to a question from commission member Steve Jones, she said she did confirm that site had central water service. (Jones is term limited and the Feb. 15 meeting was his last).

The planning commission unanimously agreed to put St. Leonard on the table for work once Prince Frederick and Dunkirk are completed. Chairperson Maria Buehler recused herself because she lives in St. Leonard and owns property there

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Property Owner Seeks Exit from Historic District Panel Advises Against Change

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A joint public hearing will be scheduled soon by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the planning commission on a request by the owner of property in Lusby that the Historic District designation on it be removed. The designation makes the property eligible for restoration grants but also limits its use.

The request by Harriet Millard is to remove the Historic District zoning from the property known as the Kent-Millard Heritage House Historic District, at 12531 Olivet Road in Lusby, that has been in her family since 1899. The property was designated a Calvert County Historic District by the BOCC in 2017 after petition by the property owner and approval by the Historic District Commission (HDC).

The HDC voted 6-0 to recommend denial of the change. Their report said, "The HDC found that Kent-Millard Heritage House Historic District property still meets the criteria under which it was designated as described in Resolution 26-18 which, in part, reads: 'The grounds around the house have been virtually undisturbed since the Kents purchased the property making it an intact archaeological record of an African American family that spans more than 120 years. The continuity of family ownership, the unchanged scale of the dwelling, and the potential information contained in the archaeological record on the property make this a significant and rare resource.'"

Millard, however, told the planning commission that the house on her property was demolished in 2020, upon approval of the HDC. She and other family members said any historic artifacts were in the house and were removed by family members before the house was demolished.

Millard said, "In 2011, the local planning

and zoning did an archeological research and assessment and investigation on the property and found low probability of archeological resources. In 2017, licensed and professional expert archeologists from State Highway Administration's Cultural Resources Protection Program came out and did a comprehensive archeological research and investigation on property and found nothing of significance. I have a letter from the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer, and she's also the director of Maryland Historical Trust. She says that my property was recorded as an archeological site and entered on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties to memorialize that archeological research has already been conducted on my property and nothing of significance was found. And that the purpose of the memorialization is so that duplicate archeological research efforts will not be done unnecessarily and that there will not be an unnecessary expenditure of valuable resources and time."

Millard told the planning commission at their Feb. 15 meeting that she intends to build a new house on her property.

Millard said the original property was 14 acres but some was taken by the state for the widening of Olivet Road. She said her property is now an acre-and-a-half and two other family members own parcels.

Historic Preservation Planner Christopher Sperling observed about the State Highway survey, "I believe it was done as part of the widening project, however, state highway's archeologist would not deviate and could not go onto private property without express permission."

It'll be up to the public hearing to sort out the issues and for the county commissioners to ultimately decide whether the request to lift the Historic District designation should be granted.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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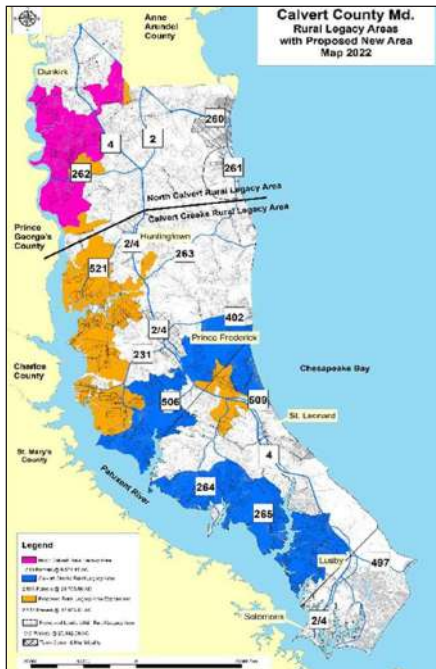
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Public Hearing Coming on Rural Legacy Expansion



The orange-colored area shows the expansion of the Rural Legacy program in Calvert County.

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A joint public hearing will be scheduled in the near future on a proposal to increase the amount of Rural Legacy lands designated in Calvert County.

Both the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and planning commission approved the public hearing after recent staff briefings.

Planning and Zoning Rural Planner Jennifer David explained to the planning commission at their Feb. 15 meeting, “The Rural Legacy Program is a State of Maryland land preservation easement program overseen by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and administered by the counties.” She said it:

- “Provides funding to preserve large, continuous tracts of land to enhance natural resource, agricultural, forestry and environmental protection;
- “Supports a sustainable land base for natural resource dependent industries;
- creates public-private partnerships between local land trusts and local government;
- protects working landscapes critical to the environment and local economies;
- “and targets the most ecologically valuable properties impacting local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.”

David said the county’s TDR (Transfer of Development Rights) Committee recommended expanding the Rural Legacy Program as a way to preserve agricultural land. There are currently two Rural Legacy areas in the county:

- The North Calvert Rural Legacy Area comprising 1,043 parcels with 9,554 acres
- The Calvert Creeks Rural Legacy Area, currently comprised of 2,898 parcels and it covers 23,705 acres

“Since the first comprehensive plan,” David said, “the county’s goals have been to preserve the rural landscape while creating vibrant town centers. The vision of the plan is a landscape dominated by forest and fields and town centers that are attractive, convenient, and interesting places to live, work, and shop. And a primary goal of that plan is to preserve the rural character, prime farmland, contiguous forests, and environmentally sensitive areas. The Rural Legacy program is an important tool to help reach comprehensive plan’s vision.”

David said, “The expansion focused on properties within the Priority Preservation Area, contiguous with the existing Rural Legacy areas. The proposed expansion received Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board approval on December 6th, 2021. Calvert County currently operates under a public/private partnership agreement with the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board to administer the Rural Legacy program. The Rural Legacy Area expansion proposal was included as part of the Fiscal Year ‘23 Rural

Legacy Program grant application submitted to DNR for review and approval on behalf of the county with BOCC approval. The Rural Legacy Area expansion proposal received approval from the Board of Public Works on October 8th, 2022.”

The North Calvert Rural Legacy Area expansion would include 269 parcels on 1,633 acres. And the proposed expansion in the Calvert Creeks Rural Legacy area would include 1,868 parcels covering 15,930 acres. “This proposed expansion will increase the Rural Legacy eligible area in Calvert County by more than 50 percent,” David said.

Of the Rural Legacy Program, she said, “It’s another tool in the toolbox. By increasing participation in state programs, this leverages state funds and provides additional opportunities for preservation. By expanding the Rural Legacy areas, more properties will become eligible to apply for Rural Legacy grant funding. And we want to note that currently the Rural Legacy areas do not encompass all of Calvert County’s priority preservation areas, which have historically been targeted as areas to limit development and the county’s preservation efforts for planning purposes.”

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Calvert County: A Creek Runs Through It



FOHC members Kyle Greene (and children), Ron Klauda, and Bob Estes; along with Greg Bowen, ACLT Executive Director, and Mary Hoover, SMCA coordinator, admire the new sign along the north-bound lanes

shed advocacy group known as the Friends of Hunting Creek (FOHC).

This signage, although a seemingly minor achievement, is no small accomplishment for the FOHC, who had been waiting for over nine months to see their beloved creek acknowledged. The request was submitted in early January 2022, with the hopes that highway signs would help raise awareness--if even subconsciously--for the ecological environs of our everyday commutes.

Despite Calvert County’s abundant wildlife and unique ecological diversity, it is surprisingly easy to live on the peninsula and remain largely detached from its astounding nature. With the County’s abundant wildlife and unique ecological diversity, it is surprisingly easy to live on the peninsula and remain largely detached from its astounding nature. With the County’s main road running through its center, many commuters drive back and forth each day without appreciating the intricate network of forests and streams interlaced among the plentiful strip malls and subdivisions. Just as highway signage denotes which town center you are entering or which neighborhood you are passing, should there not also be signs indicating the county’s significant environmental features? The FOHC believes that our natural environment deserves the same recognition as our built environment, and the installation of Hunting Creek signposts is just one of the many efforts the group has made to advocate on behalf of the watershed.

Since its formation in early 2020, the

FOHC has been active in the community, pursuing a range of stewardship tactics to promote the health of the watershed. Notably, the group has taken the initiative in monitoring stormwater management infrastructure in the area and reporting observed failings to the county. The FOHC has also been monitoring water quality in the watershed for the past couple of years and writing extensive reports on their findings. Furthermore, FOHC has testified at many planning commission meetings regarding the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan Update, and their strong testimonies on the environmental implications of the Phase II expansion may have contributed to its eradication from the plan.

Awareness is a necessary steppingstone for environmental change. By bringing environmental awareness to the county,

the planning commission, Hunting Creek residents, and now anyone who notices the new sign on route 2/4, the FOHC is helping to affect positive environmental change in Calvert. So, next time you find yourself passing this little green sign, remind yourself of the stream it signifies, and know that this stream is not only highly important to the FOHC who steward it, but also to all Calvert residents. Because even the most seemingly minor natural features of our landscape play a critical role in the larger, shared ecosystem that ultimately sustains us.

Interested in joining the FOHC or learning more about watershed stewardship in Calvert County? Visit acltweb.org or contact mary@acltweb.org.

Submitted article by By Mary Hoover and Ron Klauda

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A major Calvert County stream flows under Routes 2/4 just north of the Plum Point Road. intersection and then meanders west for about six miles to the Patuxent River. Hundreds of motorists cross this stream every day. Most may not even notice it. If they do, how many know its name?

The name of the stream is Hunting Creek. Until recently, this important Calvert stream went largely overlooked, as it lacked signage to denote its existence. This all changed in October 2022 when two Hunting Creek signs were installed by the Maryland State Highway Administration in response to a request from the water-

SMECO Seeks Another Rate Increase

By Guy Leonard
and Dick Myers
Staff Writers

The Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) is asking the Maryland Public Services Commission to authorize a rate increase that will boost the public utility's revenue stream by a projected \$15.75 million, according to filings at the state-level oversight agency.

"This proposed increase would result in an approximate 8 percent overall increase for the average customer-member," the SMECO case request reads. "Under existing rates, without the relief requested, SMECO would most certainly be at risk of failing to meet the requirements of its indenture as it works to provide the type of service that its customer-members deserve."

The utility argues in its case filings that it has incurred costs in stalling an advanced metering system which it wishes to recoup, also it seeks to collect revenue to make up for deferred rate collections, which stem from the last time SMECO increased its rates.

This is called bill stabilization adjustments, case filings explain.

SMECO received approval to increase

its rates in January of last year resulting in the residential winter energy charge rising from 6.56 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to 8.33 cents per kWh.

The summer rate increased from 6.11 cents per kWh to 7.8 cents per kWh last year.

The 2022 rate increase caused great concern and consternation among rate payers here in Calvert.

Calvert County Commissioner President Buddy Hance said he has not heard any comments about the latest increase. "SMECO does a good job. Like everything else they have to make sure they cover their costs," he told The Country Times.

A public hearing will be held in this case before a public utility law judge of the Public Service Commission of Maryland for the purpose of taking public comment on Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s request for authority to revise its rates and charges for electric service and to make certain rate design changes. The hearing is set for Tuesday, February 28 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at SMECO's Hughesville headquarters auditorium, 15035 Burnt Store Road in Hughesville.

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Owings Out as Veteran's Secretary

Green Bag Appointments Announced



Former Secretary of Veterans Affairs George Owings



Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Woods

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

George Owings of Calvert County is out as Maryland Veteran's Secretary under the new administration of Governor Wes Moore. Owings, a Democrat and former delegate, had served in the position for the last eight years under Republican Governor Larry Hogan and then before that under GOP Governor Bob Ehrlich.

Anthony Woods is listed on the department's website as acting secretary. He formerly served as "the Executive Director of the Quad Fellowship — a first-of-its-kind fellowship program designed to build ties among the next generation of scientists and technologists from Australia, India, Japan, and the United States," according to the website.

Meanwhile, Moore carries on a long-standing state tradition by having gubernatorial appointments transmitted to the state senate for confirmation in an aging green leather bag, hence known as the Green Bag appointments. According to a press release from the governor, "These appointments are a continuation of the Moore-Miller Administration's promise to create a historically inclusive and experienced state government."

"I made a commitment to Marylanders that we would create a government that looks like the state of Maryland, and I am thrilled to say that our Office of Appointments has followed through on that promise by presenting a group of nominees that is both representative of our state and incredibly qualified," said Governor Wes Moore. "These appointments represent an incredible shift toward inclusion in our state government, and I am so proud to have these dedicated public servants joining our

team to help create a Maryland where no one is left behind."

The list spans 307 appointments across 65 boards and highlights the Moore-Miller Administration's commitment to creating a "government that looks like the state of Maryland," according to the release. "These presented appointments reflect a new level of representativeness in state government," it says:

57 percent of the new Green Bag nominations represent women, currently 45 percent of members of the Green Bag Boards are women.

45 percent of the new Green Bag nominations represent people of color, currently 27 percent of members of the 65 Green Bag Boards are people of color.

27 percent of the new Green Bag nominations represent women of color, currently only 16 percent of members of the 65 Green Bag Boards are women of color.

The Green Bag appointment nominees include several from Calvert, Several new Calvert County Board of Elections members have been nominated. The nominees are Tricia Powell, Cassandra Okwumabua, Keith A. Lotridge, Anita W. Brown, and Barry Wood. Powell was an unsuccessful Democratic County commissioner candidate. Brown and Lotridge are currently on the board. Other current members are Ceferino A. Epps, Greg Veit, and Carolyn McHugh.

Other Calvert nominees include Mary E. Burke Ph.D. to the Rural Legacy Board Advisory Committee and Russell Butler to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Nominated for the Calvert County Board Of Electrical Examiners And Supervisors were Ludwig Baumann, Robert F. Heinrich and David L. Swann.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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CHRIS FRANJOLA is a writer and comedian who can currently be heard hosting his highly successful podcast, "Cover To Cover With Chris Franjola." He's a frequent contributor on Heather McDonald's wildly successful podcast, "Juicy Scoop." Chris was a regular panel guest on "Lights Out with David Spade" on Comedy Central and on Fox's gameshow "Punchline." Chris was also a writer and a regular performer on E!'s hit show "Chelsea Lately" for eight years. Together with the talented writing staff, Chris wrote more than 1,500 episodes while performing on the show. Before "Chelsea Lately," Chris wrote for other shows, including "Family Guy," the MTV Video Music Awards and the original "Chelsea Handler Show." He also starred on the critically acclaimed scripted comedy series "After Lately," which aired for three seasons on E!. He was the host of the "Sons of Anarchy" aftershow "Anarchy Afterword," airing live on FX.



MATT BERGMAN has been honing his comedy craft since he was in college pursuing a degree in criminal justice. After graduating, he realized he was afraid of criminals and decided stand-up comedy was the way to go. Bergman is easily relatable and versatile, a skillset that has opened the door to tv appearances on Gotham Comedy Live, Comedy Central Live and a Dry Bar Comedy Special. His recent album "Approbation Constante" was called "really tough to purchase" by his mother who still doesn't quite understand iTunes.



TIM D. MILLER is a master at engaging audiences and crafting a stand-up set that is a guaranteed good time for all. Tim's material is based on his life experience from Waco to the Army to the White House, trying to raise a daughter and his unique ability to find the funny in everyday life. Tim has appeared on TRU TV and in 2019 he performed at Comedy Central's Clusterfest. He is the producer and host of "Read the Room," a crowd work showcase.

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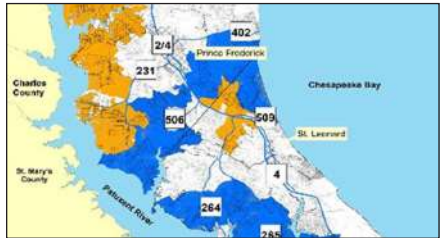


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Rural Legacy expansion planned



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SMECO prepares rate hike



LOCAL 4

George Owings out as veterans secretary

WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, FEB 23</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 78° Lo: 54°</p>	<p>FRI, FEB 24</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 56° Lo: 33°</p>	<p>SAT, FEB 25</p> <p>PM Showers Hi: 41° Lo: 36°</p>	<p>SUN, FEB 26</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 57° Lo: 37°</p>
<p>MON, FEB 27</p> <p>Rain Hi: 48° Lo: 45°</p>	<p>TUE, FEB 28</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 59° Lo: 37°</p>	<p>WED, MAR 1</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 52° Lo: 44°</p>	<p>THU, MAR 2</p> <p>AM Showers Hi: 55° Lo: 44°</p>

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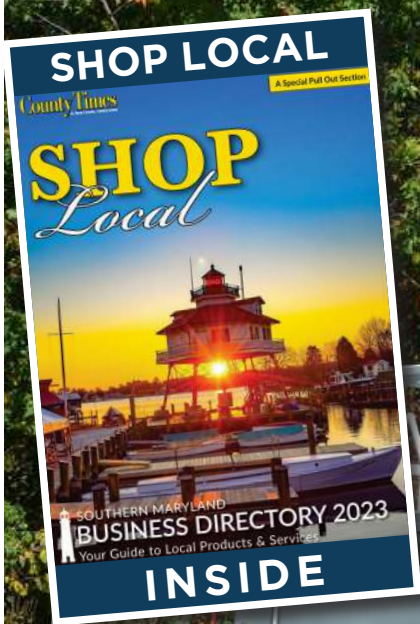


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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023

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Planning Another Rate Hike

