



The forgotten tragedy on the Potomac...

BLACK DIAMOND DISASTER



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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

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**Commissioners Hear Mixed
Response to Budget**

**Leonardtwn Approves
Apartment Building**

**Local Catholics Reflect
on Pope's Death**



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“YOU FELT LIKE YOU WANTED TO HUG HIM.”

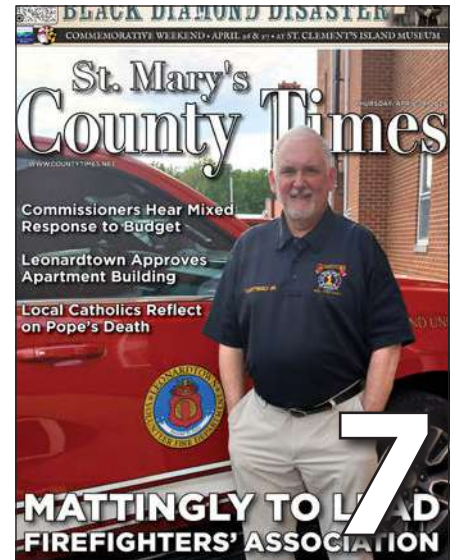
LAVERNE SCHAEFER, OF HOLLYWOOD, ON POPE FRANCIS



LOCAL 3
Commissioners hear from the public on budget



LOCAL 5
St. Mary's Catholics mourn Pope's passing



ON THE COVER
Thomas Mattingly, Jr. will take over the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, APR 24	FRI, APR 25	SAT, APR 26	SUN, APR 27
Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 54°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 63°	Scattered Storms Hi: 78° Lo: 49°	Sunny Hi: 70° Lo: 49°
MON, APR 28	TUE, APR 29	WED, APR 30	THU, MAY 1
Mostly Sunny Hi: 73° Lo: 55°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 82° Lo: 66°	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 86° Lo: 62°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 72° Lo: 59°

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Commissioners Hear Thanks, Threats at Budget Hearing

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Groups of all kinds and interests came out to speak at the annual budget hearing at Leonardtown High School April 22, in what has long been a ritual of needs and wants versus limited financial resources overseen by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

While some showed gratitude for the funding they received, others were far more strident about the funding they didn't get.

Enter the Education Association of St. Mary's County (EASMC), represented by its President Sarah Penrod who gave the county commissioners an ultimatum in return for their initial decision to fund the school system at the same level in fiscal 2026, which starts July 1, as the current fiscal year.

"Every year we are forced to come before you and justify the value of public education," said Penrod. "It's the people in the school system who shape the future of this county. Every year, we are told to wait, be patient, to understand the budget while county employees are funded without question."

Penrod said there was enough extra revenue in the county's budget to come up with a "fair budget" to fully fund the school system.

"We aren't just asking for money, we are demanding fairness," Penrod said passionately, noting the budget situation now for the school system would result in the



EASMC President Sarah Penrod

loss of advanced and enrichment programs for students.

The current general fund is \$348.8 million and includes the use of unassigned fund balance of \$11.5 million according to the county's fiscal 2026 budget documents.

The proposed budget is \$18.7 million more than the current fiscal 2025 budget.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County have signaled that they might be able to increase the local share of funding for schools in their fiscal 2026 budget

which currently calls for flat funding county schools at about \$134 million, the same amount as the current fiscal year of 2025.

"When we don't pay fairly, we lose talented educators," Penrod continued. "Every resignation or reduction in force is a loss for a child."

Penrod exclaimed: "Tonight, I'm not here to plead. I'm here to put you on notice."

"If this board will not step up, then we will step back."

Penrod said teachers in the union would only "work to rule," that is to the terms of

their contracts and no more, such as after school tutoring or extra help for students.

"We will do our jobs and not an inch more," said Penrod. "Because we've done enough for far too long without proper respect and support."

Austin Schultz, a St. Mary's County deputy and president of the FOP 7 Lodge, was openly grateful to commissioners for the funding allocated the sheriff's office in the proposed budget.

The recommended budget for the agency is \$72.9 million, or \$6.3 million more than the current fiscal 2025 budget allotment.

"This budget reflects a commitment to public safety not only by sustaining critical services but investing in the people who provide them," Schultz said. "These investments boost community trust."

Sheriff Steve Hall said the increase in funding for his agency and county employees overall was appropriate. "Those increases in salaries and benefits are making a difference," Hall said. "It's making us competitive, and it's making us attractive." The increases would ensure the future of being able to provide high quality services to residents, Hall said.

Commissioners are set to hold two more budget work sessions in May after this week's three-hour budget public hearing to determine any changes to the spending plan.

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- Face Painting
- Flower Sale
- Great Food



www.southernmdspringfestival.org

Southern Maryland Spring Festival is Presented by: Holy Face Church, Great Mills, MD

Ratings Agency Praises St. Mary's

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A major bond rating agency has praised the financial acumen of St. Mary's County, by giving the county's recent issuance of \$30 million in general obligation bonds a AAA rating, the highest possible.

The designation comes from Fitch's Ratings is a result of key factors in the county's demographic which lead to its overall strong economic outlook, the ratings agency said in a prepared statement.

"The county's 'strongest' demographic and economic level metrics, particularly its high median household income and low unemployment rate relative to the national benchmark, are the key drivers of the rating," Fitch's statement reads. "The county's financial resilience assessment of 'aaa' is supported by 'ample' budgetary flexibility, underpinned by broad revenue-raising

powers, and an expectation that unrestricted general fund reserves... will be maintained at least equal to or above 7.5 percent of spending."

But the statement came with a warning about how the county could maintain such a strong economic outlook; it was a familiar refrain about its greatest strength being its potential greatest weakness.

"These strengths are tempered by a 'weak' population trend and high economic concentration due to the presence of Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, which is the county's largest employer with approximately 25,000 employees," the Fitch's report reads.

At least one local leader was heartened by the news from the ratings agency.

"This is good news," said Commissioner Eric Colvin upon learning of the statement. "It is a sign of strong financial management."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Town Approves Apartment Project



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A concept site plan for a 22-unit apartment building project in the heart of Leonardtown's downtown area passed the scrutiny of the town's planning commission this week, but just barely.

The project would be situated at the intersection of Fenwick Street and Courthouse Drive and be luxury in nature; the entire building would be three stories tall and require the removal of several trees that had long stood in town.

There were also concerns over the town's sewage capacity being overburdened by the addition of the new apartments.

Planning commission member Doug Isleib was the lone vote against the project.

The other two members present at the April 21 meeting, Jean Moulds and Andrew Ponti, voted to approve the project but on the condition that a town ordinance which restricts certain sewer allotments be repealed any building permits could be issued.

A representative for the developer of the project said intensive grading of the site was planned including replanting of trees and other flora removed during the grading process.

Civil engineer Jay Hopson, who is working on the project, said the site would even include rain garden to deal with storm water management.

Town planner Michael Bailey reassured members of the planning board that the applicant would still have to have tree removals approved by the state's Critica' Area Commission because of their proximity to wetlands.

"To me the most critical issue is the trees," Isleib said. "I think you guys are planning to clear cut all but about four of those [trees] there between 24-and-40 inches in diameter] and replace them with plantings of one-to-two inches.

"I don't think that's good for Leonardtown."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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We proudly congratulate **Thomas A. Mattingly Jr.**
on his installment as
President of the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association.



SINCE 1928



Photos courtesy of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department

Mattingly Takes the Reins for SoMD Volunteer Fire Association

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association (SMVFA) advocates for the needs and interests of fire and EMS volunteers throughout the region, but it's been more than 30 years since anyone from Leonardtown has helmed the organization.

That's about to change.

Tommy Mattingly, Jr., currently a fire captain at Co. 1 in Leonardtown and a former chief there, is set to become president of the regional group at this weekend's convention being held in the county seat.

The association is made up of fire and rescue companies throughout St. Mary's, Calvert and Charles counties.

Mattingly, who has a lifetime of service in fire companies and county government in the Department of Emergency Services from which he retired in 2016, is eager to take on the challenge.

"It's taken years," Mattingly told The County Times. "It's something I've always looked forward to."

"It's a chance to lead and represent Southern Maryland volunteer fire and EMS as a whole."

Mattingly said he started working for the association in its Hall of Fame committee and it captured his interest to make a greater contribution.



Tommy Mattingly, Jr.

"It brought all my interests to go further up the chain," Mattingly said.

He has since served as the group's executive officer, treasurer and second and first vice president.

Mattingly said he is keen to take up critical work the association is doing and take it forward in the interest of emergency volunteers.

"We need to do a better job of recruitment and retention," Mattingly said. "We need to

get people dedicated to it."

"We've got a lot of good people already, but they can't do it alone."

All three counties have made moves towards hiring career personnel to fill gaps in service for volunteer rescue squads who lost a great many of their members during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But the pandemic only exacerbated a deeper problem, that of the diminishing level

of volunteerism regionally and nationwide.

Mattingly said he wants to find ways to bring that spirit back that so defined fire and rescue companies regionally.

"You've got to put the right face on the project," Mattingly said. "We need to do better getting out in front of our youth."

"We need to show them that it's important, that it's a brotherhood, that it's a sisterhood."

Recruiting among high school students was key to this, Mattingly said, since they were more likely to spread the word amongst their own age group.

Career personnel were essential to maintaining the health of the system, he said, but even they needed volunteer support.

"We need just as many firefighters as we need EMS personnel," Mattingly said. "You've got to get more people in there to do it."

The county's length of service awards program (LOSAP) is one way to ensure volunteers have incentives to enter and stay in volunteer service for a long period, but St. Mary's is already considering other rewards options to foster bringing back volunteers into the ranks.

"We've got to make them want to stay," Mattingly said.

It's not uncommon for volunteers to get training and then take their newfound skills

See **Mattingly**, page 9

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Mattingly

Continued from page 7

and take a paid opportunity elsewhere.

Mattingly also wants to make sure that emergency responders and their families get proper support if their loved one is injured or killed in the line of duty.

Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department lost one of their own in 2023 when Brice Trossbach responded to a housefire in Leonardtown and was killed when the floor caved into the home's basement, trapping him and two other firefighters.

Mattingly said it was important to learn the lessons from such tragedies.

"I think the biggest thing we learned is we need to do better regarding fire ground assessments," Mattingly said.

Firefighters and EMS workers "see a lot

of crazy stuff" in their line of work as well, Mattingly said, and it can traumatize them.

The caretakers needed to be taken care of as well, he said.

"Their mental health needs to be taken care of," Mattingly said.

Mattingly's term as president of the association will only last a year but he is confident the work he will focus on will continue as it's in the interest of all first responders.

In the meantime, the work of finding more volunteers goes on.

"It takes a lot of time and you have to be willing to dedicate to it," Mattingly said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Leonardtown VFD to Host SoMD Volunteer Fireman's Parade



2022 SMVFA parade in Lexington Park. Photo courtesy of Jeff McClane.

Leonardtown is the place to be on Sunday, April 27, 2025, as the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department proudly hosts the 79th Annual Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association (SMVFA) Convention & Parade!

This year's celebration is extra special as we honor one of our own — Lifetime Member and Past Chief, Thomas A. Mattingly Jr., who will be installed as President of the SMVFA. Come out and help us cheer on our hometown hero and experience the pride, tradition, and excitement of Southern Maryland's fire service community.

Parade Details

- Sunday, April 27, 2025
- Parade steps off at 12:00 PM
- Route: The parade begins at St. Mary's Ryken High School, heads down Fenwick Street, through Historic Leonardtown, to Lawrence Avenue, where it takes a right and passes the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department at 22733 Lawrence Ave. Bring your chairs, line the streets, and enjoy the show!

Convenient parking will be available at:

- Leonardtown Elementary School
- College of Southern Maryland

Road Closures & Traffic Restrictions

To ensure the safety of participants and spectators, the following road closures and

restrictions will be in effect Sunday, April 27, beginning at 11:00 AM until approximately 1:00 PM. The roads will reopen as the parade passes, however, if possible, avoid requiring access to these streets during this time.

Full road closures:

- Fenwick Street: Closed from Route 5 to Lawrence Avenue
- Lawrence Avenue: No turns permitted from Route 5; closed between Park Avenue and Shadrack Street
- Intersecting streets downtown will also be closed/limited access, including:
 - » Washington Street
 - » Pope Street
 - » All feeder streets along the parade route

Route 5 impacts:

- Northbound right lane closure at Lawrence Avenue — no right turns permitted
- Northbound and Southbound blocked at Fenwick Street intersection for safety and traffic control

No parking zones (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM):

- Around the Upper Square
- Along Fenwick Street

We appreciate your cooperation and encourage everyone to plan accordingly. Come early, stay late, and enjoy this cherished community tradition with us!

For updates and more information, call the Town of Leonardtown at 301-475-9791 or email aris.nazarova@leonardtownmd.gov

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Colvin Proposes Extra Budget Hearing

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The public hearing for the county's operating budget has come and gone as of April 22, but Commissioner Eric Colvin said this week that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County should make more opportunities for citizens to give their input on changes to the nearly \$350 million operating budget.

"We know that the budget still has a lot of work to do on it," Colvin said near the end of the April 22 business meeting in Leonardtown. "We have unallocated funds and we have unmet needs."

"This is probably, in my time... the least finished the budget has ever been."

There will be two more budget work sessions, Colvin said, on May 6 and May 13 to finalize the budget after citizens had their chance to comment on the spending plan this week.

"One of the things I've heard consistently from people on all sides of the political spectrum is they want to be able to provide input to us on what a final budget looks like, not on what this unfinished budget looks like," Colvin said.

Much was left unsettled in the county's fiscal 2026 budget plan, including where to put part or the whole of about \$15 million in extra funding.

The school board has already clamored for more funding as the commissioners



Commissioner Eric Colvin

made a preliminary decision weeks ago to flat-fund the public schools at the current fiscal 2025 rate into the next year.

Commissioners said the step was necessary due to the fact at the time that budget confusion and a \$3 billion deficit in Annapolis had yet to be solved, leaving commissioners uncertain as to what they would be left to pay for or not by the state, such as teacher pension funds.

"What I would propose... is that we throw in another public forum somehow after our final budget work session," Colvin said. "Maybe even delaying our next public forum out by a week to give people an opportunity after we've had our two budget work sessions to provide more comments."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

St. Mary's Catholics Mourn Pope's Passing

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Catholics in St. Mary's County were shocked to see that the pontiff, Pope Francis, had passed away over the weekend.

He was 88 years old.

"It was another big shock to find out the pope had passed," said Commissioner Mike Hewitt this week at the April 22 meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. "We just saw him giving his Easter blessings and it was really a tragic loss."

"He was a great man, a people's pope."

Hewitt is a parishioner at St. John's Catholic Church in Hollywood and is an usher there as well, he said.

The pope died April 21 in Vatican City after struggling with failing health, including a recent bout of pneumonia.

Born Jose Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1936, he was the first Latin American head of the Catholic Church.

He ascended to the papacy in 2013 when a papal conclave elected him to the position upon the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI.

Laverne Schaefer, a lifelong Catholic who lives in Hollywood, was saddened to see the pope die but was heartened by the legacy he left behind.

"I feel very moved by this pope because he was a pope for the people," Schaefer said. "I read his books... and they made me appreciate God's creation and that we



Pope Francis

should try to take care of it.

"He tried to see God in every person."

Francis was a pope who focused on caring for the poor in the developed world and the Third World, Schaefer said, and he made it a point to visit poorer countries with underrepresented populations.

"I think he's remarkable," she said. "I hope his successor carries on what he started."

Perhaps what she would remember most about Pope Francis was his ability to connect with people.

"You felt like you wanted to hug him," Schaefer said. "He sought out people."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

The forgotten tragedy on the Potomac...

BLACK DIAMOND DISASTER

COMMEMORATIVE WEEKEND • APRIL 26 & 27

An American Civil War Event

On April 23, 1865, eighty-seven lives were lost when the barge Black Diamond and the steamer Massachusetts collided near St. Clement's Island during the hunt for John Wilkes Booth. Learn more about this tragic event at a commemorative weekend at St. Clement's Island Museum.

All Weekend

- Free Admission to St. Clement's Island Museum
- Free Water Taxi rides to St. Clement's Island with free Blackistone Lighthouse tours
- Book signings with Karen Stone, author of the new book *Shipwreck on the Potomac: Disaster in Pursuit of Lincoln's Killer*

Saturday, April 26

- Traveling Magician Peter Wood will be on site at the museum between 2pm and 5pm demonstrating 19th century sleight of hand and other feats of magic. Later, he will present an interactive stage show from 7pm to 8pm at Potomac Gardens; this is a ticketed event: [PeterWoodPotomacGardens.eventbrite.com](https://www.peterwoodpotomacgardens.eventbrite.com)



Sunday, April 27

- Commemorative ceremony and wreath laying with remarks by Naval Air Station Patuxent River Base Commander and keynote address by "Clara Barton," as portrayed by award winning actress Mary Ann Jung.

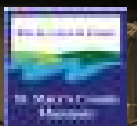


Reception to follow at 3pm.

- Civil War-era fiddle music by Sibling Rivalry Band before and after the ceremony.
- Dinner & a Cruise Series: The Civil War & the Potomac River, hosted by Karen Stone. Reservations required: bit.ly/DinnerCruise2025

For more information, visit the event posting at facebook.com/SCIMuseum or call 301-769-2222

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County Commissioners to Host Public Forum on May 6

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) will host a Public Forum on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the CSMC meeting room in the Chesapeake Building, located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown.

Public Forums allow residents to speak directly to the Commissioners on topics of their choosing. Residents may offer appreciation, questions, or suggestions in a mutually respectful format. Those wishing to speak at the forum will receive up to three minutes to address the Commissioners.

For those unable to attend in person, feedback can also be submitted to the CSMC via:

- Email to CSMC@stmaryscountymd.gov
- Mail to Commissioners of St. Mary's County, PO Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650

The CSMC are dedicated to ensuring equal access and participation for all residents. Individuals requiring accommodation for disabilities, special needs, or language support services are encouraged to contact the Public Information Office at (301) 475-4200

ext. 1340 at least three days in advance of the forum, so that arrangements can be made.

Public Forums are broadcast live on St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) TV Channel 95 and streamed online at [YouTube.com/@StMarysCoGov](https://www.youtube.com/@StMarysCoGov) for those wishing to watch remotely.

In addition to these Public Forums, the annual Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on April 22, 2025, at Leonardtown High School, focusing on the county's annual budget process. Visit <https://bit.ly/SMCG-FY26-Budget> to learn more about the budget, watch meeting videos, provide feedback, and more!

The Commissioners encourage all community members to take advantage of these opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions and contribute to the betterment of St. Mary's County. For more information on the CSMC, visit: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/csmc.

For more information on SMCG, please visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov or follow St. Mary's County Government on Facebook, X, and Instagram for regular updates.

Routine Maintenance Scheduled on Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge

Expect a Flagging Operation Sunday Morning, April 27

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration will perform routine maintenance on the MD 4 (Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge) at the Calvert County/Saint Mary's County line starting at 6 a.m. Sunday, April 27. All lanes will open to traffic no later than 2 p.m. that afternoon, weather permitting.

Maintenance crews will clean the drainage systems and the bridge deck (driving surface). Drivers can expect single-lane closures guided using a flagging operation. The State Highway Administration will use

flaggers and portable variable message signs to guide motorists safely through the work zone. In case of inclement weather, this work will be performed on Sunday, May 4.

Drivers are asked to slow down in the work zone for the safety of all drivers and the crews working to improve our roadways.

For a list of all major State Highway Administration projects, visit Project Portal or the homepage at roads.maryland.gov. For a look at real-time traffic conditions, go to md511.maryland.gov.



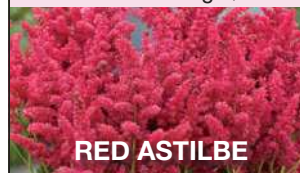
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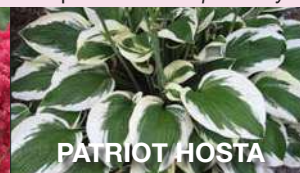
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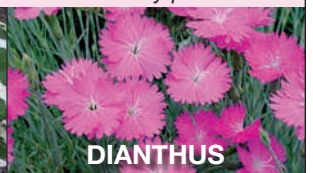
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Two Juveniles Charged as Adults in Lexington Park Shooting

Two juveniles have been arrested and charged as adults with attempted murder in connection with a shooting that occurred on March 5, 2025, in the 46000 block of Marshall Boulevard in Lexington Park.

During the incident, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to reports of gunfire at approximately 1 a.m. and located a male victim suffering from a gunshot wound to the face.

Following an investigation by the Criminal Investigations Division, detectives served District Court arrest warrants on April 17, 2025, at residences in Lexington Park.

A 14-year-old juvenile has been charged with the following:

- Attempted first-degree murder
- Attempted second-degree murder
- First-degree assault
- Second-degree assault
- Firearm use in a felony/violent crime
- Loaded handgun on person

- Handgun on person

A 17-year-old juvenile has been charged with:

- Attempted second-degree murder
- First-degree assault
- Second-degree assault
- Firearm use in a felony/violent crime
- Loaded handgun on person
- Handgun on person

Both juveniles were transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center pending bond hearings.

Law enforcement agencies are prohibited from publicly identifying a juvenile, even when charged as an adult, due to legal protections safeguarding the juvenile's identity throughout the judicial process.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Warren Forinash at 301-475-4200, ext. 8072, or by email at Warren.Forinash@stmaryscountymd.gov.

TOWN OF LEONARDTOWN

Wastewater Technician/Operator Trainee Opportunity Available

The Town of Leonardtown is accepting applications for the position of Wastewater Technician/Operator for a waterfront community with a growing population, currently 5,000 residents.

This position involves operations and maintenance work in the Town's newly expanded Wastewater Treatment facility, as well as, Water System and Public Works Department.

WWTP Operator 5A and Water 1 License preferred. A valid driver's license and availability for rotating on-call work evenings, weekends and holidays is required. Salary depending on experience. Full-time from \$59k/year for licensed individuals and from \$45k/yr for non-licensed individuals. Excellent benefits. Education opportunities provided.

Mail resume and salary requirements to:

Laschelle McKay
 Commissioners of Leonardtown
 PO Box 1
 Leonardtown, MD 20650

Or email to Leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov

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Identities Sought for Theft Suspects



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking to identify the individuals shown in these photos concerning two separate thefts.

In the first incident, On Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at around 3:45 a.m., a vehicle was reported stolen from a residence on Oregon Way in Lexington Park. The following morning, Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at around 7:50 a.m., the stolen vehicle was located unattended near Lexwood Drive, close to Great Mills High School. The individuals pictured were observed walking to and from the vehicle multiple times.

On Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at approximately 2:40 p.m., the two individuals pictured are suspected of stealing a Jetson Electric Bicycle parked outside an apartment on Indian Way in Lexington Park.

The suspects were last seen heading toward Lexwood Drive and/or Radford Lane with the stolen bicycle.

If you recognize these individuals, contact Deputy First Class Zachary Jerew at 301-475-4200, ext. 8154, or Zachary.Jerew@stmaryscountymd.gov, referencing case number 2025-018.

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

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

Sheriff's Office Investigating Commercial Burglaries

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is investigating a series of commercial burglaries in the 29000 block of Three Notch Road in Mechanicsville.

Early Thursday morning, deputies responded to a report of a burglary and, upon arrival, discovered that two additional businesses in the same strip mall had signs of forced entry. Damage to rear doors and evidence of break-ins were found at all three locations. Additionally, power meters for the affected businesses had been tampered with or damaged.

The Criminal Investigations Division has assumed the case, and anyone with

information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Taylore Nauman at 301-475-4200, ext. 8109, or by email at Taylore.Nauman@stmaryscountymd.gov.

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

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

Simple Police Reports Can Now Be Filed Online

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is introducing a new Digital Online Reporting System and encouraging community members to use it. This new tool allows residents to easily file certain reports online, helping the agency allocate resources and personnel better. By using the online system, community members can support more efficient operations and improved service from our office.

This service provides a fast and efficient

way for community members to report various incidents, including lower-priority incidents such as minor crashes, identity theft, and lost property. Community members can now report minor incidents online rather than visiting a district station in person or having an officer dispatched to them.

Please visit www.FirstSheriff.com to access these services. The Digital Online Reporting System link is on the website's front page.

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

PMA-265 Employees Honored with Prestigious Spanish Defense Award

Two U.S. Navy civilians from the F/A-18 and EA-18G Program Office (PMA-265) received the Spanish Air and Space Force's Excellence in Sustainment Award for Foreign Collaboration in Maintenance, becoming the only Americans honored with the distinction in the award's 17-year history.

John Smith, international programs manager, and Don Valentine, Canadian and Spanish F/A-18 Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program manager, were recognized for their outstanding work on PMA-265's F/A-18 FMS team, during a ceremony March 27 at Zaragoza Air Base in Spain.

The award commended Smith and Valentine for their "dedication, commitment, efficiency and permanent support" in managing FMS contracts within the Naval Aviation Enterprise for the F/A-18 program. The Spanish government also recognized them for their cooperation and coordination efforts, which directly contributed to increased operational availability of Spain's EF-18 aircraft. EF-18 is the Spanish designation for the F/A-18 Hornet.

Spain's Commander of the Logistics

Support Command presided over the ceremony, with opening remarks by the Spanish Secretary of State for Defense. The event drew senior military and defense officials from across the Spanish Ministry of Defense.

"This recognition reflects the deep trust and collaboration we've built with our international partners," said Capt. Michael Burks, PMA-265 program manager. "John and Don's work exemplifies the mission of PMA-265, delivering the right capability, at the right time, to support the United States' and our allies' national security goals."

The award comes as the Navy marks the 45th anniversary of the first FMS sale of the F/A-18 Hornet, a milestone that underscores the platform's enduring importance in global defense. PMA-265 continues to support and modernize the F/A-18 fleet through efforts like advanced radar integration, avionics upgrades, Service Life Modification and the Block III configuration – all designed to ensure the aircraft remains a formidable force in today's contested environments.

Through continued investment and international cooperation, the program office helps



PMA-265's John Smith (center right) and Don Valentine (center left) – pictured with Maj. Gen. Rafael Gómez Blanco, Director of Engineering, Spanish Air Force Logistics Command (right), and a Spanish industry partner representative (left) – received the Spanish Air and Space Force's Excellence in Sustainment Award for Foreign Collaboration in Maintenance in March. Smith and Valentine are the first Americans honored with this distinction in the award's 17-year history. Photo courtesy of Spanish Air & Space Force Public Affairs.

bolster allied air power around the world.

"Our partnerships are built on trust, performance and shared mission," Burks said. "Recognitions like this show that what we do behind the scenes truly matters on the global stage."

PMA-265 is responsible for supporting, sustaining and advancing the F/A-18A-D Hornet, F/A-18E/F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler aircraft, providing aviators with capabilities that enable mission success.

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Museums Offering **Free Admission to** **Military Members**



Through the Blue Stars Museum Program, the St. Mary's County Museum Division will offer free admission to museums and historic sites for actively serving members of the armed forces, as well as up to 5 family members, from Armed Forces Day (Saturday, May 17, 2025) until Labor Day (Monday, September 1, 2025).

Participating sites include the St. Clement's Island Museum and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum. The Old Jail Museum and Drayden African American Schoolhouse already offer free admission to all, and guests are encouraged to visit these sites as well. Please note that free admission does not apply to the water taxi at St. Clement's Island Museum, only regular museum admission. Click here for more information or call (301) 769-2222.

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and museums across America to offer free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve and their families each summer.

Blue Star free admission is available for those currently serving in the United States Military – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard (active duty and reservists), National Guardsman (regardless of status), U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Qualified members must show a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID

card for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum. The military ID holder can be either an active-duty service member or other dependent family member with the appropriate ID card. The active-duty member does not have to be present for family members to use the program. Spouses of deployed military are eligible for Blue Star Museums with appropriate identification.

In addition, on Armed Forces Day only, the museums will extend this free admission offer to retired veteran members of the military (others in party, including family, must pay regular admission). Note that retirees and veterans are only eligible for free admission on Armed Forces Day, as the Blue Star Museum program is only for active-duty personnel.

St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) delivers high quality public services, fosters opportunities for residents and businesses, and works to preserve the county's natural environment, rich heritage, and rural character.

For more information on hours of operation, programs, events, admission prices, and more, follow our museums on Facebook:

- St. Clement's Island Museum: [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum)
- Old Jail Museum & Visitor Center: [Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum)
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum: [Facebook.com/1836Light](https://www.facebook.com/1836Light)
- U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center: [Facebook.com/USCTCenter](https://www.facebook.com/USCTCenter)
- Drayden African American Schoolhouse: [Facebook.com/DraydenSchool](https://www.facebook.com/DraydenSchool)

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Another Way to Hunt Deer: Join the Search for Shed Antlers



A set of matching antlers from a Maryland white-tailed deer. Photo by Nick Stonesifer, Maryland DNR.

For those exploring Maryland's outdoors this spring, the time is right for some great treasure hunting for the off-white tines of antlers left behind on the leafbed covering the forest floor. Shed antlers appear more frequently this time of year as white-tailed and sika deer drop their antlers after the breeding season.

For hunters, families, and other outdoor enthusiasts alike, shed hunting is an enjoyable way to spend time outdoors between seasons. With success comes a rewarding prize, as shed antlers may be collected and possessed at any time without a permit. They also tell a lot about the area in which they are found, and about the deer from which they were cast. Chances are that areas with shed antlers are a popular corridor used by deer, whether it's a bedding area, travel route, or feeding site.

With a robust herd of roughly 200,000 deer in Maryland, the odds of any forested area holding deer and their antlers is high. The deer that shed these antlers are likely already forming its next set of antlers for the upcoming season.

Usually only one side of the rack can be located at a time, as both sides of the antlers do not drop simultaneously. However, finding pairs is not uncommon, especially if the hunter is familiar with the deer behavior in that neck of the woods. Urgency is important though, as other shed-collectors and small mammals will try to be first on the scene once they fall. The calcium and phosphorus that comprise the antlers also makes them valuable as a food source to squirrels and chipmunks.

An antlered white-tailed deer skull found in Maryland. Photo by Joshua Tabora/Maryland DNR.

While deer skulls can also be found while shed hunting, antlered skulls do require to be

checked in prior to removal. Confirmation numbers for antlered skulls found not due to hunter harvest can be obtained by checking in the antlered skull using the DNR licensing portal. Photo by Joshua Tabora, Maryland DNR

The sheds vary in many shapes and sizes, ranging from a single main-beam off a "spike" to a non-typical multi-tined example. Shed-antler hunters can look in many of Maryland's public lands. State parks and forests, wildlife management areas, natural environment areas, and natural resource management areas can hold these treasures. Antlers can be removed and kept for personal collecting, but gathering them for sale is not allowed.

Be advised, some public lands don't allow any kind of finds to be removed. Federal land generally prohibits taking shed antlers, including Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. Always check websites or call ahead to be sure you don't run afoul of the rules.

Reservations may be needed during spring turkey hunting season, which runs April 18 through May 23. Additional information about accessing an area and collecting antlers can be found by contacting a regional wildlife office.

If you are a first-timer or just have little knowledge of deer or antler shed hunting, don't fret. There are virtually no barriers to entry and time outdoors is always its own reward. Lace up a pair of hiking boots and get out to your nearest trailhead. Bring an open mind for nature's other wonders, and a camera too!

Article by Hunter Dortenzo, public information officer, Maryland Natural Resources Police.

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Jamie Raskin to Deliver 2025 Commencement Address at SMCM

U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-Md., 8th) will be the 2025 commencement speaker for St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM). The commencement ceremony will be held on the College's Townhouse Green on Saturday, May 10, starting at 10 a.m.

"A liberal arts education, regardless of the chosen academic major, should prepare every student for success across multiple careers during their lifetime. And, as an honors college, that educational experience should inspire in each of our students a high level of responsibility for humankind and the world in which they live. Congressman Raskin's life is the manifestation of all of this and represents an aspirational model for all our students," said St. Mary's College President Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD.

Raskin will be presented with an honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree and joins approximately 380 students getting a degree in the SMCM class of 2025 including the College's first-ever NCAA Division III national champion and one Fulbright semi-finalist.

Raskin is in his fifth term representing Maryland's 8th Congressional District in the House of Representatives. He is the Ranking Member on the House Committee on the Judiciary and was appointed to the Select Committee to Investigate the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

He began serving Marylanders as a three-term state senator from 2007 to 2016, rising to majority whip from 2012-2016. While in the Maryland Senate, Raskin earned a reputation for building coalitions in Annapolis to deliver a series of landmark legislative accomplishments, including marriage equality, abolition of the death penalty, passage of the first



Rep. Jamie Raskin

benefit corporation law in America and the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, Raskin was a professor of law at American University's Washington College of Law for over 25 years.

He has authored several books, including "We the Students: Supreme Court Cases for and About America's Students" and "Overruling Democracy: The Supreme Court vs. the American People," a Washington Post bestseller. Most recently, he penned the New York Times #1 best-seller "Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth and the Trials of American Democracy."

The 2025 commencement ceremony marks the final class Jordan will preside over as president of St. Mary's College. Jordan retires on June 30 after eleven years leading the National Public Honors College.

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Click on "Parish Dinner" to order and pay for your dinner by
Monday, April 28th, 2025.

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

Postal Worker from St. Mary's Wins \$50,000 Lottery Prize

A St. Mary's County man is the latest to win a Big Money top prize. He told officials that his \$50,000 ticket – delivered by his first-ever Lottery purchase – will likely be the last he'll ever buy. "What are the chances that I'll ever do this well again," the federal employee joked.

The Southern Maryland resident was shopping with his mother last week in Waldorf, the Shoppers grocery store, to be exact. "My Mom plays the Lottery, so when we walked past the vending machine she suggested that I finally try one." After she pointed out Big Money as a good choice, the pair returned to the car where Mom showed him the Lottery "ropes."

The moment he saw the match that made him \$50,000 richer the Lottery rookie was

hit by a wave of shock and emotion. "I can only describe it as an intense rush."

Big Money arrived in Lottery retailers in early February. This top-prize win is the \$5 scratch-off game's third to be claimed, leaving four in circulation. Ten \$5,000 second-tier prizes also remain available.

Shoppers, located at 1170 Smallwood Drive, also has reason to celebrate. Selling the top-prize ticket has earned the Charles County business a \$500 bonus from the Lottery.

As he left Lottery headquarters, our St. Mary's County winner admitted that we might in fact see him again. "Maybe I'll try a Mega Millions or Powerball ticket. Maybe the luck will still be with me."

Wanderings of an Aimless Mind



Flying Brownies Make for the Best Wedding

By Shelby Opperman
Contributing Writer



As is said, "It's nice to get away, but it is also nice to come back home". They forgot to add, except for the unpacking and all that laundry. We got back home last night from Florida for our niece Ashley's wedding that was held on Saturday. It was a beautiful small red barn wedding in Ocala with lots of beautifully strung fairy lights inside the barn for the rehearsal Friday and reception Saturday night, and also outside at the attached pavilion, and at the raised platform used for the altar on Saturday afternoon. The round tables were covered in long vertically crushed gold satin and one long Navy blue organza runner draped across each table. It had a beautiful effect under the fairy lights and the central chandelier. The barn venue was situated directly across from a very active train route in the front, and beautiful pastures in the back. The weather was great too, very hot but with low humidity the entire time we were in Florida. I'm so glad all was perfect for Ashley and Ryan's wedding.

The rehearsal the night before was pretty too, and my husband's sister Pam made lots of baked Ziti, lasagna, salad, homemade mac and cheese, and brownies to keep us well-fed for the evening. However, my husband and I missed the excitement at the end of the rehearsal since we left a little early. There was a fire across the field from the venue. A large privacy fence blocked part of the view, but we were told that the flames were higher than the trees. The bride's brother, our nephew Michael, saw it and took off in his Jeep Gladiator to make sure it wasn't a house on fire or any injured people there to help. In his haste, he didn't close the back of the jeep where the leftover trays of food from the rehearsal dinner had just been loaded. We heard later about the flying brownies when he took the turn out of the venue to get to the neighborhood. There were lots of jokes naturally about the flying brownies, especially how they looked after they were all crushed in the road (we were right next to a cow pasture after all, so you can just imagine some of the jokes). The extra tray of heavy ziti somehow managed to stay on the back of the truck.

It's a good thing Pam loves to cook and bake because there was another large tray of brownies which magically appeared at the lovely Easter dinner at nephew Michael and his wife Heather's home on Sunday. It was nice having a wedding, reunion of my husband's Florida relatives, and Easter all in a few short days. As you can guess, we ate way too much. I think it will be back to the Fig Newtons and tuna on crackers for me. What really got me (besides the brownies) were the mini cannoli's and mini chocolate covered cheesecake bites at the reception. Oh, and the carrot cake cheesecake and light fruit based cake on Easter. I had to have a slice of both of those naturally.

Unfortunately, my husband's older brother Paul and his family were unable to attend but believe me there were enough shenanigans with Robert's two older sisters and one younger sister (The bride's mother) all together – you can see them in the photo from the rehearsal night. I don't know how his sisters lived with him as a child. He can't go by a sister without making silly gestures behind them, or putting a finger in their ear, or just teasing mercilessly. But they all love each other, of that I'm sure. His family is just a fun family. If you are with them you know you will be laughing the entire evening. All the cousins are the same way; lots of teasing and laughing. If the wedding couple can keep all that love and laughter in their marriage, then I know they will be assured of a long, happy marriage.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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

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In Remembrance

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

Paul Herbert, 34



Paul Leo Herbert, 34, passed away suddenly on April 18, 2025 at his residence in Mechanicsville, Maryland.

A lifelong resident of St. Mary's County born on

October 31, 1990, he was the loving son of Edward Louis Herbert and Shirely Kay (nee: Townsend) Herbert.

Along with his parents, Paul is survived by his siblings, Cheryl Shaffier (Steven), Louis Herbert, Jr. (Krystal), Bobby Jake Herbert (Jenny Zelonis), Pamela Lyn Herbert (Lewis Oliver Jr), Shawn Michael Herbert (Kara Gray), fiancé Rebecca, numerous nieces and nephews, and his beloved dogs Oliver and Stink.

Family will receive friends for visitation on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Service will be held the following day, Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. with Reverend Joe Orlando officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Pall bearers will be Louis Herbert, Bobby Herbert, Shawn Herbert, Lewis Oliver Jr, Steven Shaffier, Lewis Oliver III, Louis Herbert III, Johnathan Gilroy.

Paul is remembered for being the life of the party and the biggest jokester. He also had two favorite phrases Yeah, yeah, yeah and Yeah baby. Paul was known for his kindness and contagious smile. So many people loved hearing Paul's wild funny crazy stories your story last week his story this week with his version. Paul started his career working with his brother Bobby and brother-in-law Steven working in carpentry. He then decided he wanted to follow in his Father's footsteps working at Aggerate Industries then to CA bean asphalt company where he was currently working, he enjoyed working with Johnathan and took pride in his job. Paul had a love for cross necklaces and was a die-hard red skin fan. Paul enjoyed fishing and hunting and listening to Jelly roll his favorite song was somebody save me. Paul enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and the love of his life Rebecca and his dog Oliver. Paul will be missed by so many he will always be carried on by his family and friends.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Jimmy Lathroum, 88



James "Jimmy" Spalding Lathroum Sr., 88, of Avenue, Maryland, passed away peacefully on April 17, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family.

Born on October 1, 1936, to Francis Violet Johnson and Leo Aloysius Lathroum in Leonardtown, MD. Born and raised in Southern Maryland, Jimmy was one of 11 children blessed with eight sisters and two brothers. He was a true jack of all trades with a work ethic unmatched. Early in his career, he was a skilled carpenter at Andrews Air Force Base, where he mastered the ability to build just about anything. Eventually, he found his lifelong calling as a Waterman (Lathroum's Seafood), a career he proudly held for over 60 years until retiring in 2021 at the age of 84.

If something needed fixing, Jimmy was your man with duct tape or body filler in hand, he could always make it work. He married the love of his life, Elizabeth "Vera" Veronica Trossbach, on June 9, 1956, in Ridge, MD. Together, they built a life rooted in love, family, and hard work. Jimmy built their family home in Avenue, MD, along with a second home next door for his mother both of which still stand today.

A true racing enthusiast, Jimmy was passionate about all things motorsports. NASCAR Sundays were sacred, and he never missed a race even rewatching them if he could. His heart was especially at the dirt track, where he loved cheering on his son Junior, grandson Jamie, great-grandson Austin, and grandson-in-law Darryl Hills. Even when he couldn't be there in person, he tuned in from home.

Jimmy loved deeply and lived fully. He had a story for every occasion and a twinkle in his eye that told you he had one more

coming. He will be remembered for his strength, his generosity, his work ethic, his humor, and the unwavering love he had for his family and friends.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his parents, Leo and Francis Lathroum; his sisters Estelle Farrell, Lillian Blackistone, Agnes Card, Theresa Knight, Catherine Burke, Helen Eckerd and Margaret Hall; his brothers Wallace Lathroum and Leo "Beanie" Lathroum; his beloved wife Elizabeth "Vera" Lathroum (Trossbach) and grandson Ray Harding, and Darryl Hills.

He is survived by his beloved sister Mary Kelly; his children James "Junior" Lathroum (Cindy), Nancy Lathroum (George), and Valerie Matthews (Ronnie); 19 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren. His legacy will continue to live on in each of them.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at 10:30 AM in Holy Angels Catholic Church Avenue, MD with Father Ryan Pineda officiating. Interment will follow in Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery, Bushwood, MD. Pallbearers will be Jamie Lathroum, David Harding, Travis Freeman, Corey Graves, Austin Lathroum and Trevor Hills. Honorary pallbearers are Tommy Howe, all of his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and Jager "Gator" as he would call him.

He was truly the hardest working man you'd ever meet and one we'll never forget.

In lieu of flowers we would like contributions to be made to St. Mary's County Watermen's Association.

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.



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For details and to place your notice of remembrance, call 301-373-4125 for assistance.

REMEMBRANCES
IN PRINT & ONLINE

County Times

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.

All years Cars, Trucks & Motorcycles are welcome. Top 70 and several other awards. First 100 receive dash plaques. Pre-registration \$15 by April 21. \$20 at gate. Spectators \$5 (under 12 free) Registration cut-off Noon. For information call Chuck 301-751-5602 or Rich 240-538-4266 east-coastdrifters.com (rain date May 2)



This film explores the history and impact of public libraries in shaping our lives. Join us for an engaging discussion about the incredible ways the library helps us learn, connect, and grow together. Lexington Park Library, Friday, May 2, 2 - 4 p.m. We are delighted to have the Literacy Council of St. Mary's County joining us to explore the connections between literacy, citizenship, critical thinking, and the role libraries play in providing access to diverse stories, perspectives, and educational resources. The film, *Free for All: The Public Library*, tells the story of the quiet revolutionaries who made a simple idea happen – to create a place where anyone can enter and encounter a universe of ideas, free of charge. From the pioneering women behind the “Free Library Movement” to today’s librarians who serve the public while navigating a world experiencing library closures and book bans, meet those who created a civic institution where everything is free and the doors are open to all. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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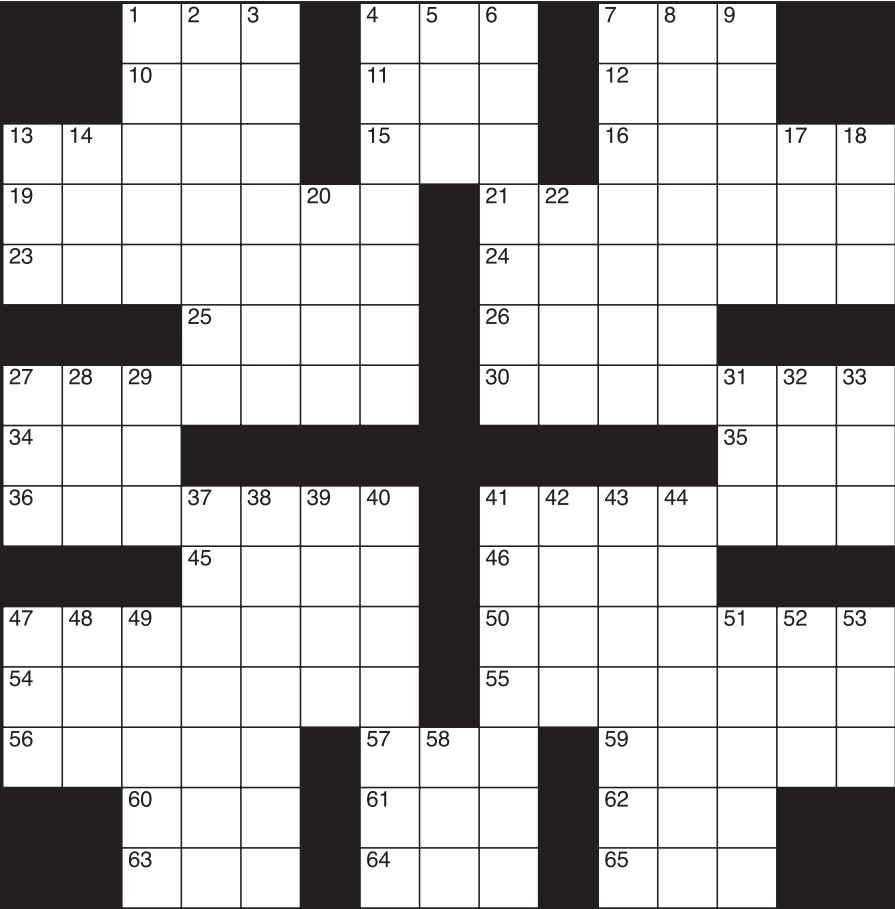
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Saturday 7 am to 4 pm • Sunday Closed

Closed for Lunch 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm



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- CLUES ACROSS
- CLUES DOWN
1. English TV station

4. It fuels cars

7. Where ships dock (abbr.)

10. Indigenous people of Thailand

11. Midway between northeast and east

12. Small Milky Way constellation

13. Fritz __, Austrian chemist

15. A Brit's grandmother

16. Colombian city

19. Visualize

21. Charged

23. People's assets

24. Informative books

25. Jeer

26. You can do it with your horn

27. Agents of your downfall

30. Central Uganda city

34. Supervises flying

35. Type of tree

36. Alfalfa

41. Dishwasher soap brand

45. Hall where military eats

46. Ancient Greek City

47. Speaks incessantly

50. Discuss again

54. Extreme greed

55. Adopt or support

56. Fantasy writer Russell

57. Seize

59. Early Mesoamerican civilization

60. Noted pet detective Ventura

61. Automobile

62. Georgia rockers

63. Color opposite green

64. Amount of time

65. Attempt
1. Sheep sound

2. Some can be emotional

3. Inflammation of colon lining

4. Origins

5. Comedienne Gasteyer

6. Perceived by the senses

7. A place to play ball

8. Occur before

9. Animal body parts

13. Thanksgiving dessert

14. Root mean square (abbr.)

17. 1960s teen idol Bobby

18. Promotional materials

20. One point east of northeast

22. Piers Anthony protagonist

27. Popular sports league

28. Cologne

29. Partner to cheese

31. Constrictor snake

32. Not good

33. Supplement with difficulty

37. Hug with fondness

38. Enforced again

39. Small amount of time (abbr.)

40. Substance

41. Anterior parts of the brain

42. Brews

43. Where ships load cargo

44. Holiday season singer

47. "___ humbug!"

48. Monetary unit of Macao

49. Popular children's book elephant

51. Glutinous

52. Function

53. Old world, new

58. Swiss river

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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.

Fri, Apr 25

Veteran Services Program

Southern Pines Senior Center
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Are you a veteran or close family member looking for assistance? The Calvert County Office on Aging is partnering with ServingTogether to provide support twice a month, every second Wednesday and fourth Friday. Walk-ins are encouraged. No appointment is necessary. Visit <https://servingtogetherproject.org/calvert> for more information.

Sat, Apr 26

Annual Plant Sale

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

Calvert Garden Club will be selling locally grown plants dug and potted by members of the club. In addition, plants from several local nurseries will be at the sale. A wide variety of plants, trees, and shrubs will be available for purchase including native and pollinator perennials and annuals, hanging baskets, vegetable plants, herbs, and house plants. Friendly knowledgeable club members will be available to answer questions including a display and information on pollinators. A raffle table, baked goods table, grilled concessions, and yard sale treasures will also be at the sale. Proceeds from the Plant Sale benefit community projects and Calvert Garden Club's Grant program. For additional information visit our website www.calvertgardenclub.com.

Humane Society Cleanup Day

2210 Dalrymple Rd., Sunderland
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Have you always wanted to help the Humane Society of Calvert County but are not in a position to foster or adopt? Now is your chance. Join us for cleanup day at our shelter; volunteer as a family or individual. Does your child need service learn-

ing hours? This is a great opportunity to get hours. Have young children? Bring a book and read to a shelter dog. We have tasks appropriate for all ages and abilities. Come for the part of the day or all day, we would love to have your help. All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

A Night on Broadway

Chesapeake Church
6201 Solomons Island Rd, Huntingtown
3 p.m.

COSMIC Symphony and The Newtowne Players are coming together for COSMIC's thrilling season finale concert. Features selections from Wicked, The Phantom of the Opera, Chicago, and much more! COSMIC is pleased to present this concert free of charge. No tickets required.

Celtic Festival of Southern Maryland

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum
10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Whether it be the music, food, dance or other Celtic attractions, there is something for everyone—we beckon you to join us as we celebrate the spirit of the 7 Celtic Nations in our 46th Annual Celtic Festival! Enjoy the sounds of internationally known Celtic Bands performing on multiple entertainment stages throughout the grounds, offering continuous music, dance and jam sessions throughout the day! Check out our Clan Row, where more than 50 clans and societies have information to share with you about your Celtic heritage! Watch Scottish/Irish country dance performances, listen to harp and Scottish fiddling all while storytellers weave tales alongside historical displays, craft demonstrations and living history reenactments. Stop by the Celtic Marketplace for a wide selection of traditional and non-traditional Celtic foods and gifts providing an old world atmosphere.

What's Up with Your Vote Panel Discussion

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Have you ever wondered about:

- How our voting process works behind

the scenes in Maryland?

- If your vote is truly secure?
- If ineligible voters are casting ballots in elections?
- If there are better ways to do things?

The Calvert Library and League of Women Voters of Calvert County invite you to join us to consider these and other voting-related issues. Avoid the partisan rumors and misinformation, and learn from panelists who know the system so that we can carry that knowledge to others. Please register on the Calvert Library website.

Fossil Field Experience

Calvert Marine Museum
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

Master Gardener Demo Garden Tour

Community Resources Building
10-11 a.m.

Come join Master Gardeners on a tour of the native plant Demonstration Garden. Learn about native plants that do well in challenging conditions as well as methods to help reduce storm water erosion. Walk-Ins are welcome!. 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

PTSD Support for Loved Ones

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
1-2 p.m.

Is your loved one dealing with PTSD and you aren't sure how to best support them or you find yourself wondering how you can support your mental and emotional health and theirs? Hear from Retired Colonel Dr. Elspeth Cameron Ritchie (Army) on how to best deal with these challenges. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, Apr 27

Fairy & Gnome Home Festival

Annmari Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Calling fairytale fans of all ages! Dress up in your favorite fantasy finery and join us for the most magical day of the year! Explore the Wondrous Woods, shop the enchanted marketplace, search for over 180 fairy houses, meet whimsical characters and wandering performers, make enchanting arts and crafts, engage in imaginative play, enjoy nature explorations, adorable animal encounters, unicorn rides, and more. Food and drink will be available.

Tue, Apr 29

Astronomy Night

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
7:45-8:45 p.m.

Come see what the night sky has to offer in the field behind Fairview. Learn about the equipment used to view the sky from the Astronomy Club of Southern Maryland. All ages welcome. Outdoor only event, weather permitting. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Upcoming

Homeless Service Board Community Resource Fair

College of Southern Maryland
Prince Frederick Campus
115 J. W. Williams Road
Friday, May 2, 1 a.m. to 3 p.m.

More than 50 local agencies and service providers will be there to help. Attendees can connect to resources related to housing, utilities, employment, family needs, veteran resources, transportation, food, medical and personal care, legal services and vital records. Attendees can also win giveaways. For transportation arrangements, call 301-609-9900, ext. 602.

Publisher Thomas McKay
Associate Publisher Eric McKay
General Manager
Al Dailey aldailey@countytimes.net
Advertising
Jen Stotler jen@countytimes.net
Staff Writers
Dick Myers dickmyers@countytimes.net
Guy Leonard guyleonard@countytimes.net
Contributing Writers
Tim Flaherty, Ron Guy, Ken Lamb,
Shelby Opperman, Dave Spigler

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

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



County Times

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What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending Category 1 site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their April 16 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick and Zoom/call-in, live stream.

1. CSPR-143116, 145 Adelina

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

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

3. CSPR-143186, CCIP Lot 37 – Flex Space, located at 5241 Cutter Court, Prince Frederick, Lot 37 in the Calvert County Industrial Park, zoned Light Industrial. Proposed development of 34,000-sf flex space comprised of fourteen tenant spaces with disturbed acreage of 2.75 acres. The amenities will utilize public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted August 28, 2024. Agent: COA Barrett.

4. SPR-143255, Armory Pavilion, located on the 4.86-acre parcel at 175 Armory Road in Prince Frederick, MD and is zoned Prince Frederick Town Center/New Town Sub-Area. The project consists of an approximately 13,500-sf commercial pavilion and the associated infrastructure such as designated parking areas, stormwater management systems, utility services, and other necessary site enhancements. The project proposes to utilize public water and sewer. The detailed site plan



COMING SOON

submittal was accepted December 18, 2024. Agent: COA Barrett.

5. CSPR-143253, Cal. Gateway Business Center, Lot12R (Town Center Place), located on the 4.04-acre parcel at 10380 Town Center Blvd. in Dunkirk, MD and is zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed development of two shell buildings containing 18,075 sf of proposed retail space and 15,835 sf of flex space with disturbed acreage of 2.52 acres. The project proposes to utilize private water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted January 22, 2025. Agent: Atwell Group.

6. CSPR-143260, Westside on Main, located on about 3.8-acres of combined parcels at 305 & 445 Main Street in Prince Frederick, MD and is zoned Town Center. The project consists of 66,680 sf of newly constructed townhomes and office building with disturbed acreage of 3.05 acres. The project proposes to utilize public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted January 22, 2025. Agent: COA Barrett.

7. CSPR-143276, Meadow Run Gun Range, located on the 11.86-acre parcel at 7625 Meadow Run Lane in Owings, MD and is zoned Light Industrial. The project consists of an approximately 61,000-sf indoor gun range with disturbed acreage of 10 acres. The project proposes to utilize private water and septic. The concept submittal was accepted February 26, 2025. Agent: COA Barrett.

No **major subdivisions** are currently under review for Planning Commission consideration.

Please check next month's agenda for any new additions to this list

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

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of April 7, 2025 – April 13, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,284 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 78
- Disorderly: 22
- Domestic: 33
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 38
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 948
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 29
- Traffic Complaints: 89
- Traffic Stops: 490
- 911 Hang Ups: 62
- ARRESTS: 49

Burglary: 25-28246 On April 7, 2025, Deputy Daily responded to the 12800 block of Bay Dr. in Lusby, for the report of a burglary that had already occurred. The complainant reported the front door of the residence had been kicked in resulting in damage to the door frame. Investigation revealed an unknown suspect(s) forced entry to the residence and damaged a chair and kitchen table. Numerous cans of alcoholic beverages were found. Personal items including photos and documents were thrown throughout the home. The estimated value of damaged property is \$1,100.

CDS Violation: 25-28630 On April 8, 2025, Deputy Robey responded to a suspicious vehicle at Sea Horse Beach in Lusby. Upon making contact with the driver, **David Edward Kroliczek**, 44 of St. Leonard, a vodka shooter was observed in the center console of the vehicle. Kroliczek admitted to drinking vodka while sitting in the vehicle. A series of Standard Field Sobriety Tests



David Edward Kroliczek

were administered and it was determined Kroliczek was unable to safely operate a motor vehicle. Kroliczek was then placed under arrest for driving while impaired by alcohol. A search of Kroliczek's person revealed a suspected crack pipe in his shoe. A search of the vehicle revealed suspected crack cocaine, a cut straw with suspected crack cocaine residue, a ball of copper strands, and three vodka shooters. Kroliczek was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with DWI, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

Property Destruction: 25-30231 On April 13, 2025, Master Deputy Burgraff responded to the 100 block of White Sands Drive in Lusby, for a report of property destruction. The complainant advised that an unknown suspect had egged the victim's residence. Upon arrival, several broken eggs were observed on the ground, along with dried egg splatter on the exterior of the home. One of the eggs also caused damage to a window screen. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$100.

Theft: 25-28325 On April 7, 2025, DFC Lewis responded to the Walgreens located at 355 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick, for the reported theft. The investigation revealed that two black males, both wearing face coverings, entered the store

and proceeded to the medicine aisle, where they began placing multiple nasal medications into a shopping bag. The suspects then exited the store, passing all points of sale without making payment. The total value of the stolen merchandise is estimated at \$1,086.66. The investigation is ongoing.



Marvin Charles Dickerson, Jr.

Theft: 25-29265 On April 10, 2025, DFC Plant responded to the Walgreens located at 355 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick, for a report of a suspicious person. The complainant

advised that a white male wearing a hoodie was seen placing items into his pockets at the nearby Wawa before walking into Walgreens. Upon arrival, DFC Plant located a male matching the description, identified as **Marvin Charles Dickerson, Jr.**, 41 of Prince Frederick. A Jack Link's meat stick was visibly protruding from Dickerson's pants pocket. He admitted to stealing the item, and store surveillance footage confirmed he had concealed four meat sticks and exited the store without paying. The total value of the stolen merchandise was \$13.11. Dickerson was taken into custody, transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, and charged with Theft: Less than \$100 and Trespassing: Private Property.

Theft: 25-29783 On April 12, 2025, DFC R. Jones responded to Calvert Marina located at 14485 Dowell Road in Solomons, for the

reported property destruction and theft. The complainant reported an unknown suspect(s) damaged one of the washing machines, vandalized the bathroom stalls and stole a heater from the men restroom. The estimated value of stolen property is \$50 and the estimated value of damaged property \$250.



Anthony Eugene Gross

Trespassing: 25-30358 On April 13, 2025, Deputy Tunnell responded to the Wawa located at 305 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick, for the reported trespassing. Upon arrival contact was made with **Anthony Eugene Gross**, 60 of Chesapeake Beach. Gross had been previously trespassed indefinitely from the property. Gross was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Trespassing Private Property.

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

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

Stolen Vehicle Pursuit Leads to Arrest

A Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) deputy, on Wednesday, April 16 at approximately 8:41 a.m., initiated a traffic stop on a reported stolen vehicle along Town Center Boulevard in Dunkirk. The driver initially complied before fleeing the scene northbound on Route 4 into Prince George's County.

Deputies pursued the vehicle and attempted a Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) maneuver, which was unsuccessful. During the pursuit, the driver intentionally rammed police vehicles.

The suspect continued onto Suitland Parkway where Calvert County sheriff's deputies were able to successfully box in the stolen truck in the area of Naylor Road.

The suspect then fled on foot from the crash site, climbing an embankment and entering a nearby housing complex in the 2800 block of Shipley Terrace SE.

With the assistance of the Metropolitan Police Department, the suspect identified as Alexander Wade Foote, 28, of no fixed address, was located and taken into custody. Foote is facing multiple charges including Fleeing and Eluding, Assault on a Police Officer, Reckless Endangerment, and several other traffic related offenses.

No injuries were reported during the incident. The investigation is ongoing.

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Iconic Broome's Island Restaurant for Sale

Property Contained Historic Oyster House

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The property that once was the home of the largest oyster packing house on the Patuxent River and later the site of a popular, iconic restaurant is now for sale. Stoney's Seafood House on Broomes Island, and an adjacent marina and event venue, is being listed for \$2,850,000 by Thomas McKay of McNelis & Associates REALTOR® on Solomons Island.

The description of the property on McKay's website says, "Waterfront Mixed-Use property overlooking the Patuxent River and Island Creek and just minutes off of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay. Consisting of three separate tax parcels and situated on over three acres, this property consists of a full-service restaurant and bar, outdoor tiki bar, event area with second kitchen, a 28-slip marina and two residential structures consisting of a B&B and two apartments. - Mixed-use, multiple potential income streams - large property with expansive water views - Proximity to affluent D.C. market."

According to Richard Dodds' *Islands in a River* (CMM Press, 2008) Stoney's was opened in 1988. It became famous for its humongous crab cakes and festive tiki bar over the creek. It was started by Phillip Stone and another partner, hence the name.

The business boomed to several other locations in Solomons, Prince Frederick and Hollywood.



Dobbs reported that the original building next to Stoney's was the second location for what became Warren Denton Seafood. Beginning in 1926, it became the largest oyster packing house on the Patuxent River. The business was owned by John H. Denton and J. Warren Denton. They formed Denton Brothers and then Warren Denton & Company in 1928 at the time that Ballard Rogers joined the Dentons.

Dobbs said that the original location of the Denton seafood house was on Island

Creek, and then they moved to the mouth of Island Creek.

John Denton left the partnership in 1928, and Charles W. Denton joined in 1943, then Ballard Rogers retired in 1959, leaving it a father and son team until Warren died in 1964, according to Dobbs.

Charles started a new partnership with his sister and mother, which was dissolved in 1970 when the company was incorporated, Dobbs research uncovered. Charles died in 1976, leaving it to his son Joseph until the

business was closed in 1982. It was then leased by Norman Dorrell, who reopened it as a seafood packing house called Warren Denton Seafood.

The business went bankrupt in 2001, and the property was sold to the restaurant owners in 2002.

Elise Martin, Maritime Coordinator at Calvert Marine Museum, assisted The County Times in research for this article.

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Planners Add Intersection Concerns to Town Center Master Plan

Revision Slated for May 20 Public Hearing

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Planning Commission has scheduled a May 20 public hearing on the update of the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan, which is now one chapter in an overall plan for all of the county's town centers. The time-consuming process began pre-pandemic, was slowed by it, and modified by decisions of the county commissioners.

The finalization of the public hearing draft came at the April 16 planning commission meeting after several minor changes and one major one.

New commission member David Bury, at his first meeting, said, "There was a suggestion (at the previous meeting) that the text mention four failing intersections within Prince Frederick, and the plan has now been modified to mention just one of them. If you look at the most recent applicable traffic impact analysis, which is the November 2024 Prince Frederick assisted living traffic impact analysis, it identifies actually four different failing intersections. That's Route 4/402, Route 4 at Commerce Lane, Route 4 at Third Street and Main Street at Church Street, outside the bounds

of that. But inside Prince Frederick also is another failing intersection, and that's Route 4/Stoakley Road. So, if you look at all five of those failing intersections, it's almost the full length of Prince Frederick Town Center from north to south."

Bury noted, "If I understand the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) correctly, any traffic impact study within those areas of Prince Frederick probably would come back also showing non-compliance with the APFO intersection quality level of service criteria. And so, what we have is a situation under the APFO that we've never had before, to my knowledge. In Calvert County, which is traffic congestion that now under APFO will restrict future commercial and residential development. Either the applicant would have to wait six years or there would be some recommendation to alleviate the traffic congestion."

So, Bury said, "It is my recommendation, because that's such a serious impact on the future of Prince Frederick, that the town center transportation chapter specifically state all five failing intersections, and the consequences under the APFO."

Director of Public Works JR Cosgrove asked, "Are you asking us to list in the master

plan all the current failing intersections and develop a plan on how development could proceed, even though the intersections are currently failing, to still meet the APFO?"

Bury said, "I'm not suggesting that county government develop a plan to mitigate that congestion (but) simply to acknowledge the APFO ramifications of that for future development. I think it'd be a good idea to study how to mitigate the conditions, because I think it's going to be hard under current state and county budgets. But I think it's important enough in a town center master plan to specifically note these constraints on future development."

Cosgrove said, "That would help. We certainly would be willing to entertain it. I know in the past, it's come up where the Maryland 2/4 and 402 intersection has shown up in previous cases, currently D or E or even failing at times. When you start putting the strain of just what it would take to fix that intersection on a randomly small development," adding, "Considering the ramification of how to improve that intersection, to me, the current APFO is a tall ask for a single developer. I think it's got to be looked at globally and maybe come up with a, I'm not saying the county necessar-



New Planning Commissioner David Bury

ily comes up with how to fix it, but a plan, maybe all the developers can participate in over a period of time."

The planning commission unanimously approved incorporating Bury's recommendation into the master plan revision that will go to the May 20 public hearing.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Child Pedestrian Accident Raises Concern in Chesapeake Beach

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

On April 3 a Beach Elementary School student was struck by a car on 14th Street in Chesapeake Beach. The child was not seriously injured, but the incident has raised concerns from the town and scrutiny from the state.

At the April 10 town council meeting, Maryland State Highway Administration District Engineer Kimberly Tran said, "Emails, Facebook posts, everything starts and questions start to get asked. Many times, when it especially involves a child, and not all the details are out yet, a lot of people are wondering what happened. I want to thank the mayor and the administrator for going out there and being able to observe and really helping everybody to understand the details of what occurred and let us get to the bottom of it relatively quickly."

Mayor Bruce Wahl said it was originally thought the mishap occurred on Old Bayside Road (Route 261) but it was quickly learned the motorist was waiting on Route 261 for traffic to pass in order to make a turn onto 14th St. and turned into the child.

Tran said, "The best part of the news is that it was relatively minor ultimately, and that the child is going to hopefully make a

full recovery. So that's the most important part. We got involved a little bit early on because there had been requests in the past for things like a crosswalk across Maryland 261, and I think that's what initially people thought might have happened, that child might have been trying to cross the road to get to school."

She said, "It wasn't necessarily crossing, but it opened the conversation again about some of the pedestrian safety needs in the area."

Tran added, "Over the years, as the area's developed, we've had requests in the area, especially as you go a little further south down the hill and the neighborhood that's across from the Brownies Beach. We've had requests along the corridor for things like a crosswalk. And this particular case up at the school, there is no sidewalk on the east side, and we do have a requirement to have a sidewalk connectivity before we could actually put a crosswalk in the area of the school. There are some opportunities to maybe get a group together to talk about options, if that's the route that we want to go. Ultimately, first step would have to be to get some type of sidewalk connectivity."

A state proposal to fund the sidewalk from the school to Chesapeake Village is on hold because the county school system

doesn't have walkers to the school, everyone is bused.

"Maybe a crossing guard or a type of actual school crossing may or may not be what is desired," Tran said.

Wahl said, "This has been really educational for me. It's sad that it happened because a child got hit by a car, but fortunately not hurt badly. But this has just kind of opened my eyes, and I know (Councilwoman) Laura (Blackwelder), you've got the issue of sidewalk down to Chesapeake Village, that's been on the books for a long, long time."

Such a sidewalk, Wahl said, has "geographical challenges. There are trees right there and steep cliffs right down to the road, so it's not going to be an easy thing to do." He noted there were about 200 homes in Chesapeake Village "that have no way to walk anywhere. And there is the crosswalk right near Brownie Beach, but that doesn't get you to the school."

Tran noted, "We do have an established school zone, and so it's 30 miles per hour through there. And the school zone has a pedestal pole with flashers. We call that a hazard identification beacon. So, it's basically a school flasher, and it says fines are double one flashing, so it's already 30 miles per hour there. And it says photo enforced. I

don't know if that is actively a speed camera. There is legislation that allows the speed camera within school zones."

Tran observed, "I don't have an updated speed study yet out there. We can work on that and see what is helpful in different times of the day. So, when it's flashing, are they complying with the 30, when it's not flashing, do the speeds go up? Hopefully, the flasher is drawing attention and that makes people comply to it more."

Regarding rumble strips, Tran said, "At night it's loud. So, homes that are right up along the road, a lot of times they don't like to have rumble strips right in their area. Just to the north in the Herrington Harbor area, where we put those in, we had a lot of complaints and we had to change those rumble strips, so they actually don't rumble, just visual."

Tran said regarding crosswalks, "As a traffic engineer, I'm not really comfortable with uncontrolled crosswalks and giving that responsibility."

Now the child who's never driven, they sort of can understand if there's a gap, do I have enough room to run across the road and make it? But they have no idea how long does it take this heavy SUV coming downhill in the rain to stop for me?"

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Town Investigates Waterpark Demolition, Rebuild

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Chesapeake Beach Town Council has awarded a contract to Paddock Pools to report on the next steps to proceed with the demolition of the town waterpark down to its foundation and building a new one. The work includes a cost estimate for the project.

Paddock VP Sales and Marketing Mark Hines said the results, including a budget, will be available in two to three months.

The unanimous decision on a motion by Councilwoman Laura Blackwelder, limits the expenditure to no more than \$60,000, the limit after which a request for proposals (RFP) has to be issued. Hines said he hoped his company, which built the original water park more than 30 years ago, would be awarded the contract to rebuild it. He hoped that could be done without the project going out to bid. He said a new water park could be ready by next season, although the time it takes to get permits would be a factor.

The decision came after presentations by Public Works Administrator Jay Berry and Hines.

Berry admitted he advised the previous board to close the park. "I'll tell you right now, I am the one that notified the mayor and staff, we have problems. It's no longer safe."

"I had a real fear this could fall and severely hurt someone, if not knock them out and drown them," he explained.

After showing the mayor and council slides of all the problems with the existing waterpark, Berry said, "I don't think there's any value in fixing any of that stuff we just looked at. You're throwing good money on top of bad money, is my opinion."

The previous council approved demolishing the waterpark and building a pool. But Berry now agrees with the concept of tearing the park down to its foundation and rebuilding it. He likened it to "say you have a house, concrete foundation, two story tall, wooden house. I went in with the (original) approach that we're going to rip out this wall, change that ceiling, rip up the carpet, new bathrooms, leaving kind of the wood structure. This approach is, we know the concrete foundation is good. Everything else we're ripping off and putting new, so I think it speaks to we're going to have another 30-year life."

Hines said, "This particular park is dear to me. It was quite an effort when we first built it. It was very, very successful. Made us very proud."

He said the company has built three waterparks in three years, including one set to open in Rockville next month.

"Waterparks have changed through the years," he noted. Of the original park build, he said, "It was exciting. We learned an awful lot."

In hindsight, he said, "We saw some things we could have done better. Right now, we're gathered a team together. We've been working with the town, back and forth, over 10, 15, maybe 20 years, seeing things deteriorate. What could be better. We saw your RFP (from the former board). We did not price the last RFP. We thought that maybe something could be done better for the town."

Hines explained they have selected as general contractor for the rebuild, Keller Brothers, who are building Northern Middle School.

Hines said, "Mainly what's happening is the pool's leaking. The pool itself is pretty stable, but we didn't know as much as we know today when we built this one. And the (then) mayor and I talked about things, different finishes, different ways to save money, different ways to spend money. And some of the ways we saved money came back to haunt us."

He added, "The broken pipes are leaking into the mechanical room. It's gushing off. It's trashing all the mechanical, eating all the steel. These are things that need to not be repeated."

"It can work. It needs to be done differently," he insisted.

His plan of action, he said, "Initially do a structural assessment of the existing filter building. The building itself looks pretty good, but I'm not real sure."

"Water's coming in the building. That's not good. How to fix it. Is it less expensive to fix it or just to put a new one up? Keller Brothers will play a big part in that," he added.

He said, "We'll get the team out there. We'll look at it. We'll crunch numbers. We're going to do some research on doing the decks. Jay pointed out that when they put the highway in, things changed. When you vibrate around here, just the piles can sink

or move and that's bad. So, we have to put a piling system in to support the surrounding infrastructure, that's not going to be damage the existing piles. Our concept is to strip the pool park down to the top of the existing foundations. Try to save the building if possible, if it's cheaper, and build up from there with new materials."

Councilwoman Kathleen Berault asked, "So I don't understand why we would not just move to have a new water park when we've already exceeded the lifecycle of the waterpark. It's 30 years, we're past 30 years and why would we put money into something that already seems to be obsolete?"

Hines said, "Parts of it are obsolete. Parts of it aren't. You are fortunate to have a waterpark right in the center of town. You're unfortunate to have it on a swamp. It's a rough piece of ground. It was a dredged spoil site. And it was a pretty big challenge for us. But if you want a waterpark and you want a contemporary waterpark that would be better than the one you had before, this could do that."

She then asked, "Is it possible that you could come to the conclusion that you can't repair enough of it to go forth?"

Hines said, "What we're trying to discover is enough so we can give the most economical price to build a new park to do that. We're trying to get rid of risk. Risk is, we'll do it for a hundred bucks and find out



Mark Hines of Paddock Pools

the pilings are no good and it's going to cost another 50 bucks."

He said they would avoid "steering you wrong, saying we can do this when we can't. So, we want to get rid of the unknown and the risk. And a big part of that is the foundation. That's a million-dollar foundation out there. At least."

Hines added, "It's in an ideal location. It's popular, it's functional, and it could be a real jewel for the town."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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“IT COULD BE A REAL JEWEL FOR THE TOWN.”

CONSULTANT MARK HINES ON A NEW WATERPARK FOR CHESAPEAKE BEACH



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LOCAL 4
 Town considers water park demolition, rebuild











LOCAL 5
 Hearing set for Prince Frederick Master Plan



ON THE COVER
 Stoney's of Broome's Island for sale

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, APR 24	FRI, APR 25	SAT, APR 26	SUN, APR 27
 Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 55°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 63°	 Scattered Storms Hi: 77° Lo: 49°	 Sunny Hi: 70° Lo: 50°
MON, APR 28	TUE, APR 29	WED, APR 30	THU, MAY 1
 Sunny Hi: 73° Lo: 56°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 81° Lo: 67°	 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 86° Lo: 62°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 70° Lo: 59°



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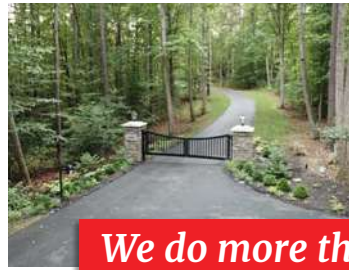
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