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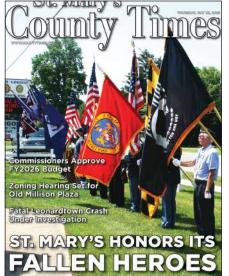
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ON THE COVER
St. Mary's observes Memorial Day

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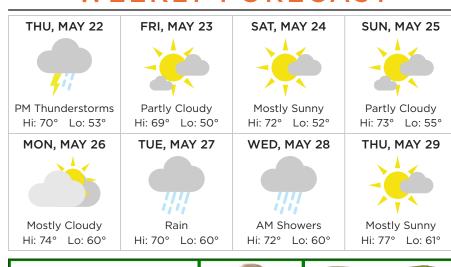
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Community-Based Learning Programs: Work with faculty to integrate community engagement into curriculum

Events: Host or facilitate workshops, seminars and events

MEET THE TEAM



Caroline King
Director



Kelsey Bush '94Community Affairs Liaison

Learn how you or your local organization can connect with St. Mary's College of Maryland.



Commissioners Approve FY 26 Budget

Includes Flat Income, Property Tax Rates



Commissioners of St. Mary's County

By Dick Myers Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) on Mau 20 approved a \$\$348,563,112 operating budget for the next fiscal year that includes flat income and property tax rates and elimination of the energy tax but does include some fee increases and an increase in the Leonardtown and Hollywood rescue taxes. The energy tax elimination resulted in a \$325,000 loss of revenue.

Chief Financial Officer Vanetta Van Cleave said revenues represented a four-percent increase. "There was a greater increase, but then we had to reduce that down a little, adjust it for the Maryland budgeted tax structure change."

She added, "Even though there is a significant portion of fund balance being used, we still will be maintaining that (required) 15-percent fund balance and reserve."

Van Cleve noted, "At the last budget session, the commissioners decided to allocate some funding for the state's attorney's office. And I wanted to provide feedback. The state's attorney's office did choose the position that they wanted to fund with that. And that is an Assistant State's Attorney 2."

Two weeks prior the CSMC did allocate an additional \$3.1 million to the school board to cover their negotiated agreements.

The budget approvals included a number of motions. When the time came to approve the overall budget, Commissioner Mike Hewitt voted against it. The final vote was 3-1. Commissioner President Randy Guy was not at the meeting and Commissioner Scott Ostrow attended the meeting remotely.

Hewitt said, "I thought that the budget wasn't haphazard, but it was kind of at the last moment. Things were coming out and not all commissioners knew about what was going on. And nobody likes surprises on the last day. So, you win some, lose some. At the end of the day, you move on.

"Let's just hope this budget meets the needs of the people. We're trying to meet their needs and that we can afford to provide the services we need to provide," Hewitt

Ostrow, although he voted in favor, said he supported Hewitt's reasoning.

Commissioner Eric Colvin praised the process and said he would have liked it to be a unanimous vote.

dickmyers@countytimes.net





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6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park This exclusive, elegant affair in the shadow of the lighthouse by the Potomac River features music from Higher Standards and wine from local wineries, seafood Hors d'oeuvres and dancing under the stars. Tickets: \$85 per person/\$160 per couple.



JUL1 FRI





Jazz in the Neighborhood Kick Off Concert fea. U.S. Navy Band: The Commodores

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at St. Clement's Island Museum

Kick off the 25th anniversary weekend with a FREE family-friendly concert featuring food trucks, vendors and more along the waterside museum lawn.

Artful Harmonies: A Plein Air Celebration

5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. (All Day) at St. Clement's Island Museum Attention artists: Bring your art materials and capture the vibrant energy of the festival's setup and the gorgeous riverside landscape. Fee: \$10/artist.

JUL SAT











CHELSEY GREEN

12 p.m. - 7 p.m. at St. Clement's Island Museum Grounds Enjoy live jazz performances by Casual Groove, Rebecca Jade, Andréa Lisa, and Chelsey Green, as well as a variety of seafood vendors and activities. Tickets: \$75 General Admission/\$95 VIP.

SUN





Jazz Brunch and Golf at Wicomico Shores

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Riverview Restaurant at Wicomico Shores Golf Course Enjoy a delicious jazz brunch with music from The Sweet Potatoes, then head out to the links for a round of golf (optional fee). Brunch Tickets: \$50 per person/\$90 per couple.

Jazz Cruises with Captain Phil and Sax Appeal

Departs from St. Clement's Island Museum dock

Music on board by Sax Appeal Duet. Tickets: \$85.00 per person/\$160 per couple. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Early Bird Jazz Cruise featuring pastries and mimosas.

1 p.m. – 3 p.m. **Seafood Jazz Cruise** featuring seafood or chicken option and wine.

4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Evening Casual Jazz Cruise featuring charcuterie and wine.



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MAJOR FESTIVAL PARTNERS

MetCom Aims to Free Up Sewer Plant Capacity

By Dick Myers Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission (MetCom) is working to free up some capacity at the Marlay-Taylor Wastewater Treatment Plant, which serves the Lexington Park Development District. Part of that capacity is reserved but not used by the Patuxent River Naval Air Station and St. Mary's College.

At a joint Commissioners of St. Mary's County and MetCom meeting on May 20, MetCom Executive Director George Erichsen explained, "Marley-Taylor basically is a treatment facility that's state of the art. It's got six-million gallons per day capacity. It's only flowing at about four-million gallons per day as we speak. This does not account for the reserve capacity."

He added, "The base has an agreement that requires us to reserve 1.2 million gallons a day of capacity. And for St. Mary's College it's about 300,000 gallons per day. That means those are EDUs (equivalent dwelling units) that are allocated but not flowing. From the Metro polytan Commission standpoint, we don't want to begin expanding long before the physical capacity is used up. So, you can see the dilemma. We're at a 90 plus percent capacity on paper, but we're only flowing at about 60 percent. The state doesn't require you to start doing capacity management plans and designs until you're at 80 (percent). The problem is we can't give away those EDUs that are reserved by agreement. So, we're in a little bit of a pickle, but we're still in pretty good shape.'

He said, "We also don't want Land Use and Growth Management (LUGM) allocating EDUs for development based on the physical availability of capacity, because a lot of times you forget about those 1977 agreements. Many of the board members don't recall St. Clement Shores. That's exactly what happened. There was a commitment to the local community there, the plant capacity was looked at, EDS were allocated to people outside of that community. And at one point in time, there were no EDUs left to give the community, which was the reason the plant was originally built. So that's why we're now in a predicament where we're expanding the plant and we're extending sewer to serve those areas.'

Erichsen said, "We have started the planning process because we don't want to wait until 2030 and find out we're at capacity. It's probably not a good idea. So, in 2027, we've got what's called a preliminary engineering report. And in 2031 we'll actually have the design begun. It may move up earlier."

He observed, "MetCom and the county have to work together to monitor capacity. The last thing we want to do in a development district that is there for growth by design, is to end up in a moratorium when we're trying to get people to develop and redevelop. That's not what the Metropolitan Commission wants to do. We want to get ahead of that.'

MetCom has begun discussions with the college and the Navy to see if they will give up some of their capacity. The college might be the easiest because they have publicly stated their growth plans wouldn't eat up all of their reserved capacity and they would be saving MetCom fees by freeing them up.

Erichsen said the Navy might be willing to free up some EDUs outside the base. But he said. "I think we have to understand, from a resiliency standpoint, the base is probably very reluctant to rescind EDUs. It puts them probably in a bad position. It's negotiated; it was there for a reason. We don't know if the Navy's ever going to expand or grow, whether functions there are going to change. So, I can understand their reluctancy. But that's a lot of EDUs to be holding onto, over 2.000 EFUs of capacity. I think their willingness to speak with us about shifting some of the EDUs from outside the gate that they're contractually obligated to provide into the basis reserve is a step in the right direction."

MetCom is an independent agency, but by state law the CSMC are required to review and approve their capital budget, which they did unanimously at the May 20 meeting.

During a report on the capital plan, the commissioners were told the joint project by MetCom and the Department of Public Works and Transportation to complete the Buck Hewitt Road to Pegg Road extension of FDR Boulevard would be done by next summer.

At the meeting there was also a report on the outreach for the comprehensive plan update which includes an online survey. LUGM is also attending fairs and festivals to explain the process.

County Commissioner Eric Colvin asked dickmyers@countytimes.net

MetCom Commissioner Dale Antosh to assist in getting participation from north county residents.

Antosh said, "Our biggest concern was that the people are not only heard, but their opinions and what they want up there is actually going to be done. Most people say, oh yeah, they're doing all these surveys, but are they really going to listen? A lot of people say you hire these consultants and they're sitting in a chair in Georgia or wherever they're from, planning out our community, our county, but they don't have to live here. That's the biggest comment that I've heard is that they're worried about somebody who doesn't live here is going to do our planning and telling us you have all this vacant land in the north, you should put townhouses, and the other things there. And that's not what the people in the north want."

Commissioner Mike Hewitt observed, "I think what we found with our last comp plan, which was quite a while ago, is like Mr. Antosh, what we want is to keep rural parts of our county rural. Yes. Rural preservation districts. Keep them rural. And where we have water and sewer available, you can do higher density because you can treat the effluent. provide the water. But we do want to keep our rural character. I know I've been to Mr. Antosh's neighborhood several times over the years, and the bottom line is they don't want increased development, and I don't think you can get it with your water and sewer."

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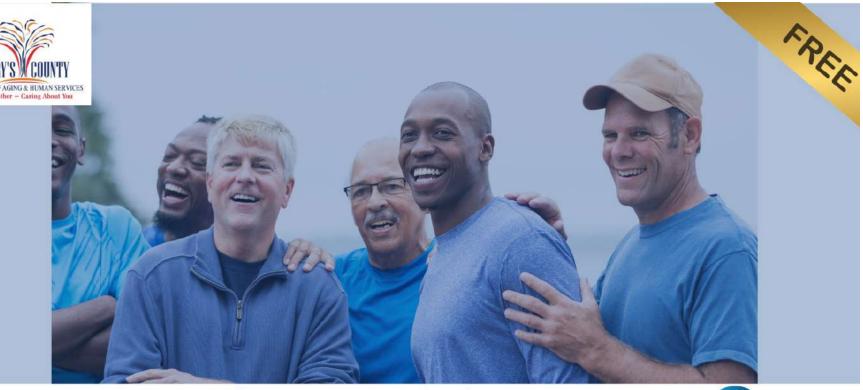


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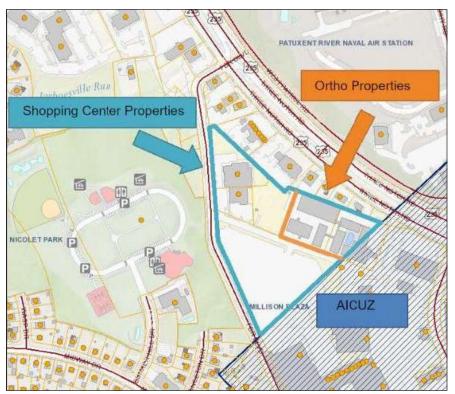


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Public Hearing Set for Rezoning of Former Millison Plaza

Proposed Plans Include Townhomes



By Dick Myers Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) will hold a June 24 public hearing on a proposed rezoning of a shopping center known as Pax River Village Center (formerly known as Millison Plaza) and adjoining property to further redevelop the center and create 91 town homes.

According to a memo from Director of the Department of Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM) Jessica Andritz, "This application involves four separate parcels of land located at 21822 and 21899 FDR Blvd., 0 and 21703 Great Mills Rd., and 21847 Three Notch Rd., which are part of the second phase of redevelopment of the Pax River Village Center. All four parcels are located in the Lexington Park Development District. Three of the four parcels (referred to as the "Shopping Center Property") are located within the Limited Commercial/ Industrial land use area (established by the Comprehensive Plan/Lexington Park Development District Master Plan) and are in the Limited Commercial Industrial (LCI) zoning district (as shown on the County's Official Zoning Map). The last parcel (referred to as the "Ortho Property") is located in the Medium Intensity Mixed Use land use area and is included within the Medium Intensity Mixed-Use zoning district.'

She wrote, "Applicant is seeking to change the land use designation to Mixed-Use High-Intensity, and the zoning designation to High-Intensity Mixed-Use (MXH)."

Developer's attorney Christopher Longmore wrote in a letter, "There is currently construction activity on the first phase of the redevelopment of Pax River Village Center, including the construction ola new full-service grocery store as well as additional food, service, and retail businesses. The existing buildings within Pax River Village Center are also being renovated and improved, as well as significant infrastructure improvements to make the center more vehicle and pedestrian friendly. Recently, a need for additional housing options has become a significant need within our community, and more specifically within the Lexington Park Development District."

Deputy Director of LUGM Courtney Jenkins said of the high-density district "The regulations for this district are to create areas of urban character that form a visually attractive and functional urban environment for people to live, work, eat, shop, enjoy, recreation and congregate."

She noted the planning commission on a 4-3 vote recommended approval of the rezoning.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt sad, "I think it's a good project because it's going to revitalize a part of our county that needs revitalized. And the other thing is for as long as I've been in this county, I can remember this area as being a large parking lot paved area. Now this will bring green space back, will it not?"

Jenkins responded, "That is correct."

Hewitt said, "That's a good thing. The other thing is it'll bring walkability for people who live in Lexington Park to be able to walk versus having to drive."

Jenkins noted that the Navy is opposed to any new development in the AICUZ (Air Installation Compatible Use Zone) and the rezoning is outside that, although there is some discussion about modifying the AICUZ. She predicted someone from the Navy would testify at the June 24 hearing.

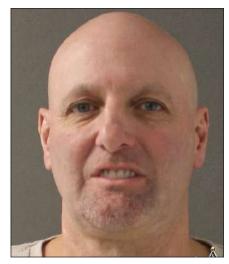
dickmyers@countytimes.net

Wanted Suspect Arrested Following Barricade Incident

At approximately 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 15 deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 48000 block of Spring Lake Drive in Lexington Park after a witness reported a suspicious vehicle parked at a residence where no one was believed to be home.

Deputies determined the residence was associated with Jeffrey Keith Reid, 57, of Lexington Park, who was wanted on an active arrest warrant for Escape Second Degree after removing his court-ordered ankle monitor. Reid was on pretrial release at the time for charges of Second-Degree Assault and Possession of a Dangerous Weapon with Intent to Injure.

Deputies from the Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Team and Hostage Negotiation Team issued multiple verbal commands for Reid to exit the residence but received no response. A barricade was declared, and the incident was contained to a single residence. Deputies notified nearby residents and advised them to either evacuate the area or remain sheltered in place for their safety. A search warrant was obtained, and deputies made entry into the home at



Jeffrey Keith Reid

approximately 2:30 p.m. Reid was located inside the residence, alone. He was placed under arrest without incident.

The suspect was transported by emergency medical services to a medical facility for evaluation before being transferred to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown.

Carbon Monoxide Death Investigation Underway



Photo by Ceandra Scott

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded early Saturday morning to assist fire and emergency medical services with evacuations in the 22000 block of Ventura Way in Lexington Park following reports of a gas leak and possible medical emergency.

At approximately 3:56 a.m., emergency medical personnel were dispatched for a male resident experiencing significant difficulty breathing. Upon arrival, crews detected high levels of carbon monoxide in the residence.

Two adult victims were located inside the residence. One victim was removed and transported to an area hospital. The second victim was found unresponsive and was evacuated from the home by EMS and deputies, who immediately initiated life-saving measures, including CPR. Despite continued efforts, the victim was pronounced deceased on the scene.

Police, Fire and EMS personnel were exposed to carbon monoxide, and several first responders were transported to nearby medical facilities for treatment and observation.

The incident remains under investigation by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

Anyone with any information about this incident is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Christopher Beyer at Christopher. Beyer@stmaryscountymd.gov or by phone at 301-475-4200, ext. 8004.

PROJECT Graduation GRASS OF 2025

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Congratulations to all the accomplished high school graduates for reaching this incredible milestone! Your hard work and determination is evident, and I am proud of you for your individual and collective achievements. As you gear up for your graduation ceremony, I want to extend an invitation to join us at this

year's St. Mary's County Project Graduation. It's a celebration designed just for you, where you can enjoy the festivities in a safe, substance-free environment surrounded by your friends.





Youth Traffic Safety Month Observed



In recognition of Youth Traffic Safety Month, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is reminding teen drivers and their families about the importance of safe driving practices. Law enforcement agencies nationwide are teaming up to educate young drivers and reduce the risk of accidents, especially as teens begin to drive independently.

According to recent statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2021, 2,116 drivers aged 15 to 20 were killed, and it's estimated that 203.256 were injured in motor vehicle accidents. Young drivers are substantially more likely to be involved in vehicle crashes than adult drivers. In 2021, drivers under the age of 21 made up 5.1 percent of licensed drivers; however, they made up 8.5 percent of drivers in fatal crashes and 12.6 percent of drivers in all crashes. Drivers 15-20 years of age have the highest involvement in fatal crashes of any age group.

"Driving safely is one of the most important skills a young person can have. As teens gain more independence behind the wheel, they must understand the importance of safe driving behaviors," said Sheriff Steve Hall. "It's critical that we, as law enforcement officers and parents, work together to educate and guide young drivers toward making smart, responsible choices so that safe driving becomes a lifelong skill—for their sake and the safety of everyone on the road."

"Too many young lives are lost each year to preventable car crashes," adds St. Mary's County Child Fatality Review Coordinator Ashley Milcetic. "As a community, we have the power and the responsibility to change that. Talking to your teens about safe driving, modeling good habits, and staying involved can make a difference. Let's work together to protect our children and make sure they have the future they deserve."

Key Tips for Teen Drivers:

Always Wear Your Seatbelt: Buckling up is one of the simplest ways to reduce the risk of injury in the event of an accident.

- · Avoid Distracted Driving: Texting, using apps, or talking on the phone while driving can significantly impair your ability to react to the road.
- Limit Passengers: Studies show that having teen passengers in the car increases the likelihood of a crash. Restrict the number of passengers, especially in the first months of driving.
- No Drinking and Driving: It's illegal for drivers under 21 to consume alcohol, and driving under the influence is a leading cause of crashes
- Follow the Speed Limit: Speeding reduces your ability to react quickly and increases the severity of any accident.

Parental Guidance:

Parents play a crucial role in setting the tone for their teen drivers. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office encourages parents to:

- Set clear rules for driving behavior.
- Have ongoing conversations with their teens about impaired and distracted driving dangers.
- Model safe driving behavior and lead by example.

Law Enforcement Efforts:

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office will step up enforcement efforts during Youth Traffic Safety Month, with increased patrols in areas with high teen driving activity. Deputies will specifically watch for speeding, distracted driving, and failure to wear seatbelts. They will also write citations, which could negatively affect your driving status and insurance. While that is never our goal, as you can see, the risks are too great.

For More Information:

If you have questions about teen driving safety or would like information about safe teen driving resources, please contact the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office or visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's website https://www. nhtsa.gov/road-safety/teen-driving.

Sheriff's Office Investigating Fatal Leonardtown Collision

imately 7:17 a.m., patrol deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to a serious motor vehicle collision with entrapment in the area of Point Lookout Road (MD Route 5) and St. Margarets Drive in Leonardtown.

Due to the severity of the crash, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Collision Reconstruction Unit was contacted and assumed the investigation.

Preliminary investigation determined that a 2017 Chevrolet Silverado, operated by Charles Latham, 48, of Lexington Park, was traveling northbound on Point Lookout Road when, for unknown reasons, the vehicle crossed the center line and struck

On Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at approx- a southbound 2011 Ford Econoline van head-on.

> Latham was transported by helicopter to a regional trauma center for treatment. The driver of the van was pronounced deceased at the scene. The decedent has been identified as Timothy Berry, 53 of Valley Lee, MD.

At this time, a medical emergency is believed to be a contributing factor in the

Anyone who witnessed the crash or events leading up to it and has not yet provided a statement is asked to contact Cpl. Rachael Owens at 301-475-4200, ext. 8108, or via email at rachael.owens@stmaryscountymd.gov

Multi-Vehicle Collision Under Investigation

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO) are investigating a collision that took place at around 4:20 p.m. Friday, May 16 in the 21000 block of Three Notch Road in Lexington Park. Upon arrival, deputies found four vehicles involved in a collision with one individual trapped.

Due to the severity of the crash, the SMCSO Collision Reconstruction Unit responded, and preliminary findings indicate that a white Ford F-150 traveling south on Three Notch Road, near the intersection of FDR Boulevard, struck the rear of a gray Hyundai Elantra, causing it to be pushed into a gray Honda Pilot. The F-150 continued through the intersection and collided with a silver Volkswagen Jetta. The crash resulted in two occupants of the Elantra being transported to trauma centers with injuries, one with life-threatening injuries.

Speed and driver error are believed to be contributing factors in the crash.

The collision remains under investigation. If you witnessed it or any of the events leading up to it, please contact Corporal Vincent Pontorno at 301-475-4200, ext. 2337, or by email at Vincent.Pontorno@ stmaryscountymd.gov.

Deputy and K-9 on PatrolFollows Completion of Handler Training

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office announces that Deputy Joseph Senatore recently completed a six-week K-9 handler training program.

Deputy Senatore recently returned to patrol duty with his K-9 partner, Karma—a 16-month-old Czech German Shepherd trained in narcotics detection and tracking.

The team was assigned to patrol last week and has already contributed to a successful arrest that led to the recovery of suspected crack cocaine and fentanyl pills.

'We are excited to welcome Deputy Senatore and K-9 Karma to the team,' said Captain Stephen Simonds, Patrol Community Services Commander. "Our K9 teams are a vital resource in keeping our communities safe, and we look forward to the continued success of this partnership."

K-9 Karma is one of several specialized service dogs that assist the Sheriff's Office in criminal investigations and public safety operations. These K-9 teams provide essential support in locating suspects, detecting illegal drugs, and tracking missing persons.



Deputy Joseph Senatore with K-9 Karma



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NAS Patuxent River Sets Noise Advisory



Communities surrounding Naval Air Station Patuxent River are advised that noisegenerating testing events are scheduled to take place through June 6 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

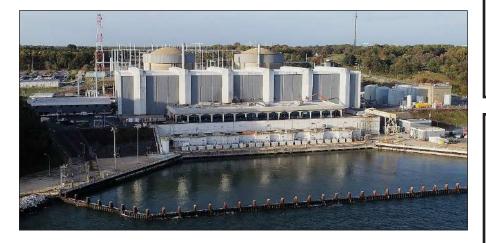
Pilots at NAS PAX will be conducting Field Carrier Landing Practices (FCLPs). FCLPs are simulated carrier landings conducted to prepare the pilot to land safely on an aircraft carrier, and consist of a series of touch-and-go maneuvers. Airspeed, altitude and power are all precisely choreographed in order for a pilot to approach the ship within an acceptable window to land on the deck

safely. FCLP training is essential for the precision and safety of our military service members and the success of their mission.

Residents may notice increased noise levels due to these operations.

As with all operations, NAS Patuxent River takes precautions to lessen the impact of testing activities on the community. For more information, call 1-866-819-9028. To view all current NAS PAX noise advisories please click the following link: https://www. cnic.navy.mil/PaxRiverNoise.

Calvert Cliffs Sirens to be Tested June 2



and notification sirens throughout St. Mary's, Calvert, and Dorchester counties on Monday, June 2 at noon.

This includes a three-minute activation of all sirens within the 10-mile area around Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant. All citizens should be aware of this scheduled testing and relay this information to friends, family, and neighbors.

The testing is conducted to check siren operation and increase public awareness

There will be a full-cycle test of the alert of the alert and notification siren system. If the sirens sound at any other time, residents should tune in to one of the local radio stations for information and instructions.

> Knowing what to do before, during, and after an emergency is a critical part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

> To learn more about how you can be prepared and stay informed, please visit: stmaryscountymd.gov/em

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization, C-SMMPO, will conduct a meeting at the Walter Francis Duke Terminal Conference Room, located at 44200 Airport Road, California, MD 20619 on **Thursday**, **June 12**, **2025**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of receiving public testimony, reviewing, and approving the MD 5 Great Mills Project FY 2025–2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Year 2026.

The Meeting ID is 430 427 6617, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4304276617?omn=83417090072.

This public hearing is required by law to allow all interested parties the opportunity to present evidence and public comment regarding the C-SMMPO documents. A decision will be made solely on evidence and testimony presented during the public hearing. Public meetings are open to the public. Members of the press may attend.

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before June, 9, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or Karly. Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov. All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization Council at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

An electronic copy of the UPWP and the TIP Amendment may be requested by contacting Karly Maltby by phone (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507, via e-mail: Karly. Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov, or by visiting https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/.

Public Hearing Guidelines are subject to change. For more information on viewing, listening to, or submitting comments via telephone or video clip, please call (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507.

All content of these proceedings is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Photographic and electronic audio and visual broadcasting and recording devices are used during the meetings. These are public meetings and attendance at these meetings automatically grants St. Mary's County Government permission to broadcast your audio and visual image. Any person requiring special arrangements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act shall notify the C-SMMPO no less than 72 hours prior to the date of the scheduled meeting so that necessary special arrangements can be made in order to facilitate participation.

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Ordinance No. 229

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 4:15 p.m. at the Town Office, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. The purpose of the hearing will be to present for public review and receive public comment regarding revisions to Chapter 78, Floodplain. Copies of the documents are available for public review at the Leonardtown Town Office or on the Town website at https://leonardtown.somd.com/ under the news section.

The public is invited to attend and/or send written comments to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650 to be received no later than June 9th, at 3:00 p.m. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

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Juneteenth Event Moves to New Venue



The Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC) will hold its 21st Annual Juneteenth Celebration on June 7 at a new location. The event will take place at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds in Leonardtown from noon to 6 p.n. This is free event and all are welcome.

Juneteenth, a National Holiday, commemorates the end of slavery in the U.S. and celebrates our rich, diverse cultural heritage. UCAC's event will open at noon with a presentation of the colors, official proclamations, special awards, and a living history performance by Ms. Story, Shemika Renee.

The event will continue through the afternoon with live music featuring Ni Dembaya African Dance and Drumming, St. Maries Choral Arts, SIXX and the System and Get2Gether bands Ms. Story will be featured in a 3:00 p.m. performance in Tolerance Hall, bringing to life women

There will be a variety of commercial and non-profit vendors, food trucks, and children's activities including crafts, face painting, balloon art, Superheroes, and horseback riding.

There is no admission charge and all are welcome to this family-friendly event. There will be bleachers but bring your lawn chairs if desired!

For more information, visit www. ucaconline.org also https://www.facebook. com/UCACSMC





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MEET GEORGIA

Hello, I'm Georgia, a 2-year-old cuddle connoisseur with a weakness for treats and chin scratches. I adore being loved on and I'll gladly trade purrs for snacks (a fair deal, really). My ideal home would be with just one or two chill cat friends-or, even better, a human who thinks I'm the center of the universe! Ready to spoil this sweet girl rotten? Meet me during adoption hours, Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm. To seemore of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or at https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/ animal-care-control/animal-care-center

MEET MAX

Max the 5-year-old Jack Russell Mix is looking for a comfy bed to sleep in and a human to call their own! Max has been doing great with many dogs of different sizes and personalities! He would do best in a home with no young kids. Max is a sweet guy, who takes sometime getting comfortable with you, once he trusts you it's all love after that. Are you interested in giving Max his Furever home? Go online and fill out an application at www.animalrelieffund.org, call 301-866-0303 or stop by Saturdays at

the Well Pet Clinic for adoption days between 11am-2pm!

Escape Reality at RenFest SoMD



Experience an enchanted weekend of entertainment, food, and fantasy for the whole family! Step into a world where fantasy and history intertwine, and imagination reigns supreme! RenFest Southern Maryland returns Memorial Day Weekend-Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25, 2025—with a whimsical two-day celebration of live entertainment, medieval merriment, and magical moments.

Open from 10 AM to 8 PM each day, the festival invites guests of all ages to escape reality and embrace the joy of play. With three stages of nonstop music, mischief, and magic, a bustling vendor village, and a mouthwatering selection of food fit for royalty, RenFest Southern Maryland promises an unforgettable experience for the whole kingdom.

Interactive Vendors & Demos include:

- Barony of Dun Carraig Swordplay, pelts, and the world of castle life
- Fairy Foto Booth Magical photo ops with Gingersnap the Fairy
- Freedom Palette Craftery Create a village banner with Adrianna
- HMS Metalsmith Demo Live metal-
- working artistry with Heather Liverman Pirate Carnival - Games, giggles, and a
- bit of pirate mischief (Some fees apply) Tales & Hooves Petting Zoo & Pony Rides – Farm fun and pony photo ops
- (Additional fees) Tarot Tent – Seek your fortune with a mystical reading (Additional fee) Mesmerizing Performers:
- Acrobellum A family of gravity-defying acrobats

- Brandon Kennedy Celtic tales and tunes from Leonardtown's own bard
- Chelsea Ihnacik Ethereal harp melodies (Sunday only)
- Gingersnap the Fairy Storytime and fairy dance parties
- Jesse McCarley Magical juggling mayhem Mad Witch - Dark harmonies and dar-
- ing headwear Merlin's Maidens - Bawdy banter and
- vocal bravado Rogues & Roses - Naughty songs and
- plenty of sass Shimmy Circus Sirens - Belly danc-
- ing enchantresses Siren Fire Dancers – A blazing spec-
- tacle of flame and finesse The Hooligans – The wildest band in
- the land
- Vertical Dance Co. Aerial artistry beyond belief

Tickets are available now at RenFestSOMD.com. Adult tickets are \$20 each day or \$30 for a two-day pass. Child (ages 6-12) tickets are \$15 each day or \$20 for a two-day pass. Children ages 5 and under are free with adult admission.

Whether you're a noble knight, a wandering minstrel, or a curious creature of the woods. RenFest Southern Maryland welcomes all to a weekend of fellowship and fun in a land where dreams come true. Join us-May 24th & 25th for a festival beyond time and realm. For tickets, schedules, and more, visit RenFestSOMD.com.

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Remembering 'a Fine Naval Officer'

By Dave Spigler Contributing Writer

Each Memorial Day, our grateful nation turns its attention to the many dedicated servicemen and women who honorably served to protect and defend our country as a member of one of our armed services. Many stories have been written about the American heroes whose deeds will "live in infamy." Yet each citizen that has agreed to put on a uniform has a story that should be told of his or her personal dedication and devotion to our fellow countrymen. These individuals live in all of our towns and cities and continue to do great things once their tour of duty is completed.

We were fortunate to have one of these special Americans reside here in Southern Maryland for many years until his recent passing. Captain Vince Merz, known to his shipmates as "VP" was a Naval Flight Officer well known aboard the Naval Air Station Patuxent River. He proudly served three tours within the Naval Air Test Center culminating with his final tour as Director of the Force Aircraft Test Directorate from 1984 until retiring in 1988.

Vince graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School in 1972 and became a P-3 aircraft project officer at "Force Warfare" [now VX-20] prior to assuming command of Patrol Squadron 22 at Barbers Point, Hawaii in 1979. He made a name for himself with his many contributions in the field of aviation test and evaluation and as a specialist in the Antisubmarine Warfare mission area.

During his 26 years of naval service, he

accumulated an excess of 5,500 flights hours in many types and models of patrol aircraft.

As a retiree, Vince soon became involved in many pursuits. Recognized as an Aviation Technical Specialist, he spent the next three decades as a Senior Executive with a defense contractor providing professional support at the Pax River complex. A lifetime member of the International Test and Evaluation Association, he also served on the Board of Directors for Hospice of St. Mary's and was an active member of the Rotary Club of Lexington Park until his passing in June 2023.

Of all his pursuits and activities, the one effort that brought him the most joy was his work with the youth and young men of St. Mary's County. He became a popular USSF-certified soccer referee for youth and adult leagues throughout Southern Maryland for over 20 years.

A friendly, engaging individual with a perpetual smile for everyone, Vince was well liked by all who came into contact with him. He loved to tell jokes and make you chuckle. He had a great gift of gab and, as a Master of Ceremonies, he could make an entire audiences laugh. He never met a stranger and never lost a friend. However, he did receive boos at times when mentioning his favorite baseball team, the darn NY Yankees.

Another of his pursuits which brought him great popularity were his Chevrolet Corvettes. which he tinkered with constantly. He was often seen on weekends in his "Vette" with the top-down driving around town and beeping his horn and waving to the many people he knew.

Unfortunately, Vince was forced to slow down once he was diagnosed with cancer and later lost a leg to this disease. It had a great impact working on his cars and forced an end to his refereeing career. He previously jogged almost every day in an effort to keep in shape to keep up with his young soccer players and was known to often run the "Gold Coast" at the Naval Air Station on his lunch hour.

Vince was a very intelligent Naval Officer with a well-rounded education. He grew up in Sterling, New York and earned a degree in Industrial Engineering from the General Motors Institute of Technology. He later earned advanced degrees at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA and at Salve Regina College in Rhode Island. Additionally, he received degrees from the Florida Institute of Technology and Strayer University. And he also was a graduate of Leadership Maryland in 2000.

He also found time to take formal military training at the Armed Forces Staff College and the College of Naval Warfare as well.

Vince married his wife Gail when he was a new Ensign finishing Flight School in Pensacola, FL in 1964. They were married for 59 years. Gail was Vince's biggest fan and has the heartiest of laughs whenever Vince did his "entertaining." Their three children, Laurie-Lee, Anne-Marie, and Vincent Paul survive him. Not only was Vince a great guy to know, he was also a wonderful father. People are convinced he probably tested most of his stories on them before going "public" with his talks

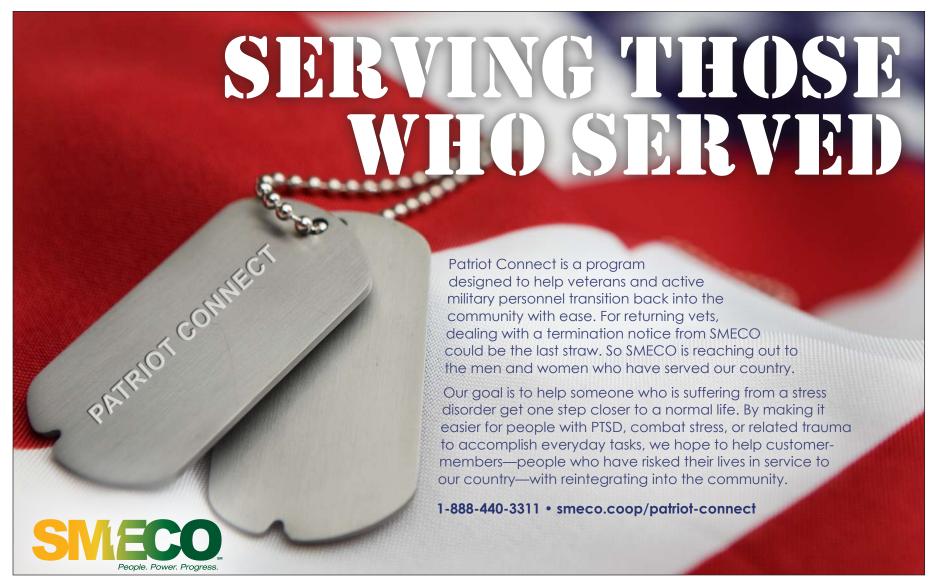


Captain Vince Merz

and speeches.

Captain Merz is remembered by all as a truly great person, and a warm and delightful friend. He set a great example for how a Navy man should conduct himself at all times whether in uniform or "civies," whether "on watch" or relaxing with friends or by just offering a hand whenever there is a need. His actions have provided many "shipmates" with great memories and life lessons. Although he is gone, he is not forgotten by the many men and women he inspired with his leadership skills, genuine interest in others, and friendly disposition.

On this Memorial Day weekend, he provides us with so many lasting memories.



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Sheriff Cox to Keynote Stars and Stripes Festival

Annual Event Held in Chesapeake Beach

By Dick Myers Staff Writer

Chesapeake Beach's annual Memorial Day weekend celebration returns this year on Saturday, May 24.

The day begins with a solum ceremony at Veteran's Memorial Park from 10 to 11 a.m.. Officially named after George W. Owings, III, the late delegate and Maryland Veteran's Secretary, it is dubbed this year as "Honoring Heroes and Celebrating Freedom."

The Northern High School JNROTC will present the colors and students from Beach Elementary School will recite the National

Master of Ceremonies for the event will be Dr. Brandon Temple, chair of the Calvert County Commission for Veterans and Military Families. Guest speakers will be North Beach Mayor Mike Benton and Calvert County Sheriff Ricky Cox.

Cox told The County Times he will talk about "as a kid, I always wanted to serve my country and always wanted to be a Marine. My family members have always been, dedicated to the country and the corps. As a child, I spent a lot of time at the America Legion Post 206 (in Chesapeake Beach). My grandfather was an Army veteran. And the times I spent there as a kid growing up and leading into high school and leading me to Parris Island, where I became a Marine. And the true pride that I had for my country leading up to that point. And ultimately, the time I had there. And learning leadership, learning the core values which I serve today as the sheriff. I also want to point out my two tours in Iraq that I served First Fast Company, the Third Platoon, United States Marine Corps. And just the values that I carry every day that I want to instill in our children, our youth, and what is going to carry on to the future of our country and our county."

Cox entered the Marines right out of high school through an early entry program, serving from 2000 to 2005. He was in the infantry and was selected for First Fast Company while at Camp Lejeune in infantry school. He was then stationed at Little Creek. Virginia. "Basically, we were trained on taking back embassies if they're overran or attacked. So that's where our primary mission was. And then when September 11th happened, we were put on standby, and we were ultimately deployed to Bahrain. And once we got to Bahrain, that's when the war in Iraq kicked off.'

"Cox explained, "We were the first ones on the ground when we raided the oil platforms out in the middle of the Persian Gulf, because in the first Desert Storm, Saddam caught them on fire. So, President Bush wanted us to secure those. We secured them before the war started. And, we got on these U-boats, and then we hit a shore that was used in World War II. The Coast Guard actually secured the two platforms, which is I think the first time

they were utilized, since the Vietnam War."

They then landed and pushed their way on ground to Baghdad. "I spent about a year doing that," he said. "And then we came back for about six months, trained up, and I went back again, and we were stationed in the basement of the Presidential palaces in the Green Zone. And we ran missions out of there, search and rescue missions, and we did a lot of convoys from Bagdad Airport to the Presidential Palace as well."

Cox was asked if he witnessed the death of any of his fellow soldiers. "Yes! It's something that you never want to witness or see."

Cox added, "You never want to see one of your fellow marines get injured. We would actually rescue different marine units there. And basically, you would see a lot of your marines not as if you were friends or served with, but you actually pulled them out."

They were all comrades, he noted. And he added, "I've lost two to suicide since I war over there as well."

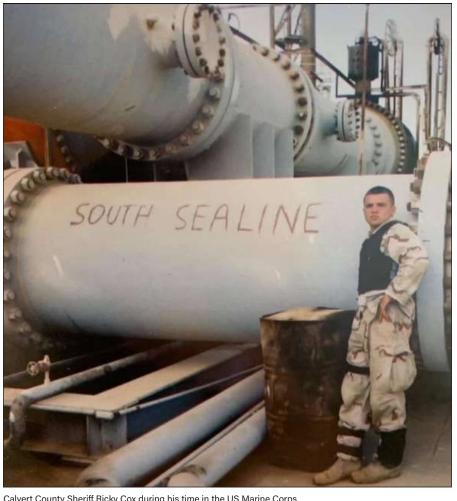
Cox was asked how his time on duty has helped him in his time as sheriff. He said, "At a very young age, at 19 years old, you learn really quickly a lot about leadership, but I played for coach Oliver, and I played for coach Jerry Franks, football, baseball, and they instilled a lot of leadership traits inside of you. But once you get to the Marine Corps, they really preached God Country, Corps, and leadership traits and what it takes to be a Marine. Once I was in Parris Island. I got a meritorious promotion to PFC right out of bootcamp." He credited the leadership skills he had learned back home with helping him succeed.

Cox said those traits he learned in the Marine Corps allow him to pass those skills along to his deputies, "how to lead from the front, putting others before yourself, that's what leadership is. Make sure your people are taken care of. Make sure they eat before you do. That's what I've always carried with me, and it seems to work. When somebody knows that you care more about them than yourself. I think you get a lot more out of people."

For Memorial Day, Cox said county residents should remember "the folks that didn't make it back home. I ask the people of Calvert County to remember the people who made our country free and made our country what it is, and to remember them and instill that in your kids and your neighbors. And remember what made our country the greatest country in the world is because of those people who served, laid down their life ultimately for our country.'

Following the ceremony at Veteran's Park, the community is invited to a "Family Fun Day" at Kellam's Field from noon to 2. It will feature free food from Trader's, live music from the Ryan Forrester Band, a rock climb, family activities, and ats and crafts.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Calvert County Sheriff Ricky Cox during his time in the US Marine Corps













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Great Mills Man to be Honored at Memorial Day Ceremony

The 58th annual Memorial Day ceremony at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens will take place on Monday, May 26 at 10 a.m. The ceremony will honor fallen service members with ties to Maryland and pay tribute to all members of the Armed Forces who have paid the highest price in defense of the United States of America.

Among those to be honored is Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew L. Eaves, U.S. Army, of Great Mills, who died January 29, 2025

The observance, which is open to the public, will take place at the Circle of the Immortals monument located on the grounds of the cemetery, 200 East Padonia Road, Timonium, Maryland.

Others to be honored are:

- Petty Officer Second Class Jack M. Brown, U.S. Navy, of Crofton, MD; died May 22, 2024.
- Lieutenant Colonel Mickey M. West, Jr., U.S. Army, of Aberdeen, MD; died June 4, 2024.
- Private First Class Charles M. Hyman, U.S. Army, of Baltimore, MD; died June 8, 2024.
- Staff Sergeant Sean A. Lange, U.S. Army, of New Market, MD; died August 25, 2024.
- Master Sergeant Justin S. Keirn, U.S. Air Force, of Bel Air, MD; died October 16, 2024.
- Senior Airman Gregory K. Riley, Jr., U.S. Air Force, of Aberdeen, MD; died November 17, 2024.
- Specialist William T. Brown III, U.S. Army, of Baltimore, MD; died December 17, 2024.
- Specialist Jacob W. Mullen, U.S. Army, of Fruitland, MD; died January 30, 2025.
- Staff Sergeant Jared A. Finnerty, U.S. Army, of Pasadena, MD; died February 16, 2025.

PFC Davon T. Moore, U.S. Army, of Owings Mills, MD, who died on April 4, 2025, will be honored at the 2026 Memorial Day ceremony.

Delivering memorial addresses will be:

 Congressman John A. Olszewski, Jr. A life-long Marylander, Congressman Olszewski serves as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from

- Maryland's 2nd congressional district.
- Major General Janeen L. Birckhead, The Adjutant General of the Maryland National Guard. MG Birckhead serves as an advisor to the Governor of Maryland and is responsible for leading a force of over 6300 soldiers, airmen, and federal and state employees. MG Birckhead most recently served as the Commander of the Maryland Army National Guard and as the Deputy Commandant for Reserve Affairs at the U.S. Army War College.
- U.S. Navy Commander (Ret.) Frank
 T. Goertner, Director for Federal
 and Veteran Affairs at University of
 Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of
 Business. Frank Goertner is a veteran
 naval aviator, foreign area officer, personnel chief and maritime strategist.

The ceremony emcee is Alan Walden, broadcast journalist, author and historian. Walden has been the voice of the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens for more than 30 years.

A tradition of the annual Memorial Day ceremony is to recognize a Maryland non-profit organization that supports our military members and underscores the significance of Memorial Day. This year the ceremony will honor the Warrior Music Foundation, an organization that works to serve "active duty military, veterans and their families by providing a venue for learning, healing and camaraderie using music." The foundation offers free music therapy and music lessons.

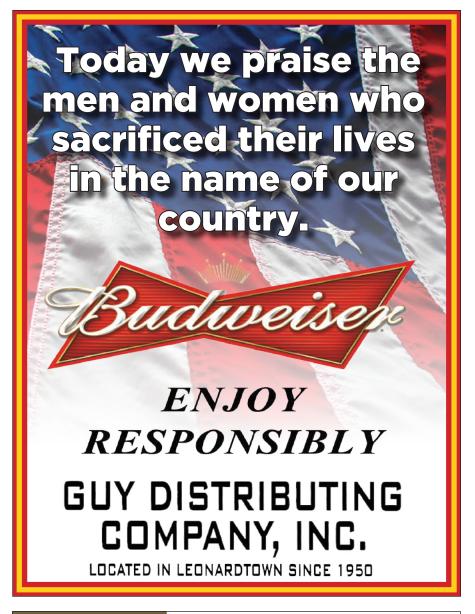
The Memorial Day observance, which is open to the public, will include a wreath placement, tributes to those lost, TAPS and a 21-gun salute. The United States flag will be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon, per Memorial Day protocol.

A Maryland Army National Guard UH-72 Lakota helicopter assigned to the 29th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade will be on site for the ceremony.

"It is our great honor to host the annual Memorial Day ceremony. Each year as we gather to honor and remember the service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice, our hearts are heavy but are also filled with gratitude as we pay our respects," said Jack Mitchell, President of Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens.

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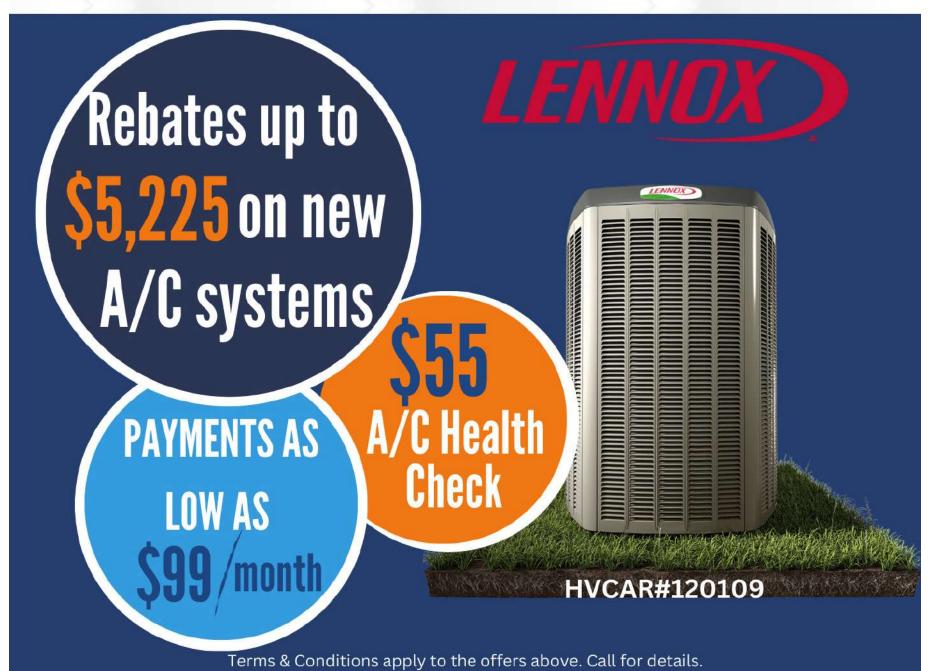
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Another Strawberry Festival in the Books

By Shelby Opperman Contributing Writer

We had such beautiful weather this past Sunday for this year's Strawberry Festival at Christ Church Parish Hall. It is always so nice to greet everyone, and it makes me smile when they say, "Are you the Queen?" And I normally respond, "Yes, I am, I am the Strawberry Queen." I mean how many times, if ever, do you get to say that in life? So much fun. And one of the best things is meeting readers of this column and seeing dear friends I don't see as often. Sorry if I get teary eyed sometimes, especially when the day



of the festival has finally arrived – I may be a little over tired and flustered by then, but I am also happy when I see you all. I so want everyone to have a good time and feel welcome and listen to the music of Folk Salad and The Bushmill Band and be entertained by the Southern Maryland Bootscooters. Thank you to the Greg Penk for arranging for the bands each year, and to the bands.

We naturally hope you got your fill of Mike's Bar-B-Que and Catering's food truck who have been with us about 31 years – thank you Katherine, PJ, and crew. And we hope you loved our church's many strawberry themed desserts. This year we had lots of food artisans/vendors come to make you even more tempted – thank you to all our crafters and vendors. I overheard one of our charity representatives say how hard it was to have their table be amongst all those local bakers. You know who you are:) Who can resist Calvert Kettle Corn too. We had wonderful crafters, vendors, and artisans this year inside and out. I thank you all.

Our hard-working church volunteers, our parish administrator, and our priest, Father Peter Ackerman all pull together to make each year fun and successful – love you all and thank you so much for all of your support and help. But the main purpose of the Strawberry Festival is to honor our late church matriarch, LaRue Redmond's vision and mission of helping local charities that mean a lot to our county or have helped parishioners in times of need. You already know how much the Clements Cuties Foundation, which raises funds to help local children with childhood cancers, means to my husband and me. ACTS: A Community That Cares has a warehouse full of medical equipment if you or a family member is in need. I've had to use it before, as did my late mother-in-law, and members of our church. Hospice is a wonderful caring organization that may be needed by us or a family member someday. I witnessed their compassion and care when I was with a friend at Hospice when her husband passed. Even though the Strawberry festival is over for this year, all these charities can use your support all year long.

This year I had two of our grandsons, Liam and Carson, my youngest son Ryan's two young boys to help me from Friday night through Sunday afternoon. They will know what hard manual labor is like for a long time, but I think its good for them. They did so much carting and lifting and selling chocolate-covered strawberries that I bet they appreciated going back to school Monday.

Thank you also to The County Times, Wayne's Signs, Food Lion in Leonardtown for help with the large dairy order, and John Curtis with Public Works County Recycling. And for the actual strawberries necessary for a Strawberry Festival, thanks to Mike Stauffer for Strawberry help. And also, to the Joel Stauffer family, Yoder's Produce at The Barns at New Market, Lyon Family Farm, and Southern Maryland Produce. Each of you helped me patchwork together the amount of strawberries needed for the festival. As always, thanks to my husband Robert who has to hear the word strawberry at least one million times from January through May, while in the midst of busy pool season.

To each new day' 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.

Samantha Wood, 37



Samantha Irene "Sam" Wood passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by loved ones, on May 13, 2025. She was born on February 1, 1988, in Leonardtown, MD.

Samantha is the beloved daughter of Bobby and Patty Wood and the devoted mother to Caleb Dittman.

She is survived by her siblings, Amanda Wathen (Steve), Lauren Wood (Daniel), and Rob Wood (Jordan).

Samantha was born and raised in St. Mary's County, MD. In 2006, she moved to Wills Point, Texas, but, after two years, homesickness brought her back to Maryland. She later moved to Gillette, Wyoming, in 2017, where she made many dear friends. In 2024, Samantha returned home to Abell, Maryland.

Despite facing significant health challenges from a young age, she never allowed her condition to define her. Samantha chose to focus on creating beautiful memories. Those who knew her often described her as a beacon of hope, someone who taught them the value of perseverance and the importance of cherishing each moment.

When Caleb was born, her world shifted

in a beautiful way. She immersed herself in motherhood with enthusiasm, finding joy in every moment spent with him. They loved to watch movies, go out for lunch, or shop together. She made every effort to ensure he felt loved and supported, even during her most challenging days.

Samantha's home was a reflection of her soul, filled with knick-knacks and meaningful decor. Samantha's favorite pastime was spending time with her family and friends, especially her nieces and nephews, who referred to her as Aunt Kiki, whom she treated as her own. She also enjoyed reading and watching her favorite movie, "The Nightmare Before Christmas", and brought touches of this classic into her life.

In addition to her parents, son, and siblings, Samantha is survived by her grandmother, Barbara Ann Wood, her nieces, Molly Houseman, Raelyn Wathen, and Josie Wood, her nephews, Carter Hahn and Ryan Wood, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents, Delegate Johnny Wood, Mary Margaret Wood, Charles "Bob" Wood, and her aunt, Catherine "Cathy" Bailey.

She will forever be remembered as a beautiful soul and the true definition of a warrior.

The family will receive friends and loved ones on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM, in the Mattingley-Gardiner

Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 10:30 AM, in Holy Angels Catholic Church, Avenue, MD. Interment will follow at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery, Bushwood, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Danny Stone, David Wood, Kenny Wood, Hayden Wynkoop, Steven Bailey, and Owen Muir. Serving as honorary pallbearers will be her beloved nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Samantha's honor to the 7th District Volunteer Rescue Squad and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

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

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

Bonnie Glaubitz, 77



Bonnie Jean Glaubitz, age 77, of Hollywood, Maryland, passed away peacefully on May 2, 2025, at St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown.

Born on New Year's Day in 1948 in Washington, D.C., Bonnie was the beloved daughter of Wright and Mabel Garland. She lived a life filled with love, laughter, and service to her community.

Bonnie dedicated more than two decades of her career to the Prince George's County Police Department, beginning in the early 1980s. She served with unwavering dedication, first as a 911 dispatcher and call taker, later in the Telephone Reporting Unit (TRU), and eventually as a trusted station clerk. She retired in 2005, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, professionalism, and commitment to public safety.

Bonnie was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and animal lover. She is preceded in death by her parents and her cherished fur babies—Gus (her shadow), Ruby, Masie, Brie, and Asa—each of whom held a special place in her heart.

She is survived by her loving husband of

35 years, Larry Glaubitz; her children: Deana Gunto, David (Tami) Payton, Dawn (Jeff) Labar, and Michael (Stephanie) Glaubitz; and her loyal fur baby, Scout. Bonnie was a proud grandmother to Christine Hennigan, Zachary Denardi, David Payton Jr., Marissa Payton, Callie Payton, Justin (Rachel) Labar, Gavin Glaubitz, Camden Glaubitz, and Hudson Glaubitz. Her legacy continues in her great-grandchildren: Adam Hennigan, Aaliyah Payton, Atreus Cromwell, Libby Labar, and Luke Labar.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. Visitation will be from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., followed by a prayer service at 4:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made in Bonnie's name to: Baltimore County Animal Services, 13800 Manor Road, Baldwin, MD, 21013 or Maryland SPCA, 3300 Falls Rd, Baltimore, MD 21211—honoring her lifelong love for animals.

Bonnie will be remembered for her warmth, strength, and the joy she brought to all who knew her.

Peggy Wade, 76



Peggy Ann Wade, 76, of Great Mills, Maryland passed away at her residence on May 9, 2025 surrounded by her loving family.

A life long resident of St. Mary's County,

she was born on June 14, 1948 and was the beloved daughter to the late Charles Henry Bennett, Sr. and Estelle (nee: Mills) Bennett.

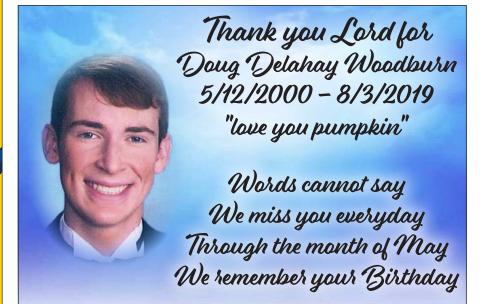
She was the wife of Bruce Augustus Wade whom she married in Leonardtown, Maryland on June 15, 1984.

A Chopticon High School graduate, she had a long career with St. Mary's County Public Schools. She retired after almost 30 years of dedicated service in 2015 as a Cafeteria Manager at Fairlead Academy having previously worked at Great Mills High school.



Gate admission \$10 | Kids 12 & under free

Food additional | Indoor seating available Sponsored by the Leonardtown Lions Club





Peggy was a foster parent for over 20 years and cared for over twenty children giving them a sense of safety and care just as she did her own children. She particularly enjoyed her role as grandmother to Danielle Young whom she affectionally called Bubba.

Peggy will be remembered as the reliable Avon lady, QVC 's biggest supporter, a diehard Washington Commander's fan, and frequent local shopper. Her closest friends knew if they entered Walmart, Weis, or Aldithat there was a good chance they would run into her.

She enjoyed planting flowers, hitting up the slots at Dover Downs or Atlantic City, and never missed her daily check ins with her closest friends, Linda Gough, Rhonda Savoy, Marylou Johnson, Libby Milburn, and Tina Maddox.

Peggy had many accomplishments throughout her life but her biggest and most proud of all were her children, Bonita Lawrence, Zelma Elam, April Wade, and Angel Wade. She will be truly missed by all who had the privilege to know her.

Along with her Husband, Bruce, her daughters, and granddaughter, she is also survived by her siblings, Shirley Butler (Ralph-deceased), Charles Henry Bennett, Jr., and James Bennett (Sharon). She was the godmother to the late Quinton Remied.

Family will receive friends on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 22375 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. with interment following in the church cemetery. A repass will be held in the church hall.

Pallbearers will be Michael Herbert, Brian Woodland, Thomas Johnson, Charles Washington, George Oliver and Tavon Scriber. Honorary Pallbearers are Walter Swales, Francis Evans, Gregory Jones and Michael Thomas.

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

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

Frances Francisco, 64

Frances Lorraine Francisco, age 64, of Hollywood, MD, passed away unexpectedly, yet peacefully, at home, on May 17, 2025. Born on November 27, 1960, in Leonardtown, MD, she was the daughter of Michael Stanislaus (Stanley) Abell, Sr. and Ollie Virginia (Forrest) Abell. A lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident, Frances was a graduate of St. John's Catholic School (Hollywood, MD) and later graduated from St. Mary's Academy (Leonardtown, MD) in

1979. After graduating from high school, Frances worked data entry at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD over the course of 11 years. It was during this time she met her beloved husband, James (Jim) Leroy Francisco, whom she married at St. John's Francis Regis Catholic Church (Hollywood, MD) on June 9, 1990. After celebrating almost two years of marriage, she welcomed her first child and discovered her true passion of being a stay-at-home mother.

Kind and gentle, Frances cared deeply about her family and took pride in being a loving wife and mother. Her pastimes included reading, listening to music, visiting family, and spending time with her two very- loved miniature dachshunds. Firm in her beliefs, Frances was a devout Catholic and her faith never wavered, even in the most difficult times. Frances' beliefs in the Catholic faith helped her battle and survive an aggressive form of breast cancer. Her positive mindset through her breast cancer treatments were a great inspiration to her family and a prime example of her strength. In most recent years, Frances loved spending time with her two grandchildren of whom she was extremely proud.

Frances was preceded in death by her father Stanley Abell, her mother Ollie Virginia Abell, and her sister Mary Abell-Riffe.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Jim Francisco, of Hollywood, MD, daughter, Shannon (Francisco) Van Wormer (Alan), of California, MD, son, James Tyler Francisco, of Hollywood, MD, granddaughter, Frances (Frankie) Van Wormer, grandson, Lucas Van Wormer, and two miniature dachshunds, Scarlett and Buckeye.

Frances will be forever loved and missed by her family.

The family will receive loved ones and friends on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited by Deacon Ammon Ripple at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 10:30 AM, in St. John's Francis Regis Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD, with Rev. Raymond Schmidt officiating. Interment will follow at St. John's Francis Regis Catholic Cemetery, Hollywood, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be James T. Francisco, Allan Abell, Michael S. Abell, Jr., Matt Abell, Alan Van Wormer, and Charles Francisco. Serving as honorary pallbearers will be Ray Cook and Eugene Forrest.

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

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

A Tribute to the Loved One Whose Memory Lives Forever in Your Heart Honor the memory of your cherished one by sharing the story of their life with friends, neighbors and associates in the community. For details and to place your notice of remembrance, call the County Times at 301-373-4125. REMEMBRANCES





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lary's Communit

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, May 23

SMTMD Open Mic

Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall 37497 Zach Fowler Rd, Chaptico 7-9:30 p.m.

Southern MD Traditional Music and Dance event. Acoustic musicians of all skill levels are welcome to perform their favorite tunes or enjoy a night out listening to some local talent. A keyboard can be made available by prior arrangement. Contact Chris Dudley in advance (ccdudley@rocketmail.com) to sign up as a performer. Doors open at 7 pm with performances beginning promptly at 7:30 PM. Admission is \$8; children 17 and under (when accompanied by a paying adult) and performers are admitted free of charge. Info: smtmd2@gmail.com

Bad Art Night

•

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center 13470 Dowell Road, Solomons 5-8 p.m.

Guests 21 and up are invited to be inspired by the works in our galleries, then undertake some unconventional and unorthodox art-making. We'll have all the supplies. you'll need to have at it. Finished artwork will be displayed for all and then cast your vote for "The Best of the Worst." Prizes will be awarded! It's a great night to let loose, get "creative", and have some fun!

A cash bar and lively music will add to the fun! No reservations required- just come!

Admission: \$7/person (Must be 21+); members FREE

Sat, May 24

Jordan Davis and Opener Dasha

Calvert Marine Museum 7 p.m.

Award-winning, multi-platinum singer-songwriter JORDAN DAVIS will perform LIVE at the Motto Mortgage Preferred and RE/MAX One Waterside Pavilion at the Calvert Marine Museum. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. with food and beverage vendors onsite. The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store close at 3 p.m. for concert preparations. Cost of tickets is \$70 - \$140 (all-in-pricing). Tickets are available online.

Sun, May 25

Dinner & A Cruise Series

St. Clement's Island Museum 3-7 p.n.

Only 20 seats are available per cruise. These are for ages 21+ only. Tickets are \$85 per person (\$160 per couple) and include the boat ride, dinner & drinks at Morris Point Restaurant and dessert at the end of the evening. For more information call 301-475-4200 Ext 1832 or email janet.cooper@ stmaryscountymd.gov.

Ongoing

Online Auction

Seventh District Firehouse 21660 Colton Pt. Rd., Avenue Thursday, May 22 at 6 p.m. to Saturday, May 24 at 1 p.m.

The Seventh District Volunteer Fire

Tthere will be a live preview on Facebook at 5 p.m. May 22. Bids are to be placed in comments. The highest bid at 1 p.n. wins. Winner will be notified on Facebook in comments. Winners can pick up items from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday May 24. All bids start at \$25 and increase \$5 increments.

Upcoming

House & Garden Pilgrimage

Begin tour at Historic St. Mary's City Visitor Center 18751 Hogaboom L., St. Mary's City May 31, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Experience springtime in Southern Maryland on this self-guided tour of four private and historic waterfront homes, two historic churches, a living museum of archeology and stops at the scenic campus of SMCM with inspiring landscapes and stunning floral designs. In addition to the house and garden tours there will be a special performance by the St. Peter Claver Men's Choir, wine tastings and Bourbon samplings scheduled at various tour stops throughout the day. Proceeds benefit The Society for the Preservation of St. Ignatius Church. Visit www.mhgp.org or www. stmaryscountygardenclub.com for complete information and/or tickets or contact Tour Chair, Beth Bonifant 301-861-6112,

Spaghetti Dinner

2nd District VFD & RS Social Hall 45245 Drayden Rd, Valley Lee May 31, 5 to 7 p.m.

Dine-in or carry out. Menu: spaghetti with meat sauce or no meat sauce, green beans, garden salad, garlic bread & dessert. Adults - \$15; children 6 to 12 - \$7; children 5 & under are free. For more information call: 301-904-1656

Hands-On Tractor Maintenance Workshop

Leonardtown June 3, 4-8 p.m.

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) hosts this event designed for farmers seeking practical skills to perform routine repairs, prevent breakdowns, and keep their tractors in optimal condition. Only 20 spots are available. Interested farmers are encouraged to reserve early. For more information, contact SMADC at info@smadc.com.

Indoor Yard Sale

Mt. Zion United Methodist Churc 27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd., Mechanicsville Sat, May 31; 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Food for purchase. For more information 301-884-4132

For the Love of Our Animals

Summerseat Farm Mechanicsville May 31, 11a.m.-2 p.m.

Join us in celebrating all the animals at Summerseat Farm. Sheep, goats, cows, pigs, rabbits, chickens, donkeys, a horse, and llamas too! Feeding the animals is a must but we will also have activities and games for the family. Make sure you get a scavenger hunt sheet at the gate!

This is a free community event, but donations are greatly appreciated. All monetary donations will directly benefit our animals. Suggested donation items are senior horse feed, mini pig feed, wet and dry cat food, rabbit feed, chicken feed, or items from our Amazon wish list.

http://www.summerseat.org/

Department Auxiliary will be having an Online Auction on their Facebook page.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Library Closed for Memorial Day

All locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day. All locations will be open regular business hours on Tuesday, May 27.

500 by 5 Celebration!

Join us as we celebrate our 500 by 5 program achievers! Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, May 27 from 10 -

11 a.m. Celebrate your child with us as we host a special storytime, get creative with crafts and coloring, and have a dance party! Register on www.stmalib.org.

BUG OUT! Sensory Play

Collaborative art, sensory play, fine motor and early learning activities to get kids playing. Dress for a mess! *There will be no live bugs at this event. Charlotte Hall Library on Wednesday, May 28 from 10 11 a.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

A Healthier You: **Tips to Get You Started**

Are you ready to get healthy and fit, but you don't know where to start? Our fitness and nutrition experts can set you on the right path with some basic exercises. nutrition tips, and a Q&A session. The crew from Method Gym in Leonardtown will be here to get you healthy and moving. Leonardtown Library on Friday, May 30, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Register on www. stmalib.org.

Color Our World - Adult Summer Reading Kickoff

Celebrate the beginning of summer • reading with a fun art project highlighting this year's theme of Color Our World! You can create a colorful window decoration, color some summer scenes, and participate in a community art project! Charlotte Hall Library on Tuesday, June 3 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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Care & Assistance, Boat Cleaning, Weeding Gardens, Gutter
Cleaning, Help around the house, Help getting back and forth to
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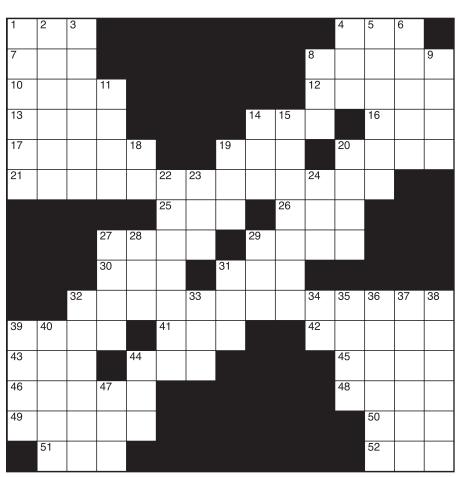












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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 4. British thermal unit
- 7. Afflict
- 8. Refrain from harming
- 10. Galls
- 12. Leg bone
- 13. Rhine distributary
- 14. Recipe measurement
- 16. Chap
- 17. Useful book
- 19. Mountain Time
- 20. Snakelike fishes
- 21. Places where people live
- 25. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
- 26. Periodical
- 27. A type of sense
- 29. A way to get possession of
- 30. Everyone has one
- 31. Body art
- 32. Mr. October
- 39. Abba ___, Israeli politician 41. Head movement
- 42. Jeweled headdress
- 43. VCR button
- 44. A way to change color
- 45. Basketball move
- 46. Upright stone slab
- 48. Forest-dwelling monkey
- 49. Pulsate steadily
- 50. Negative
- 51. Sino-Soviet bloc (abbr.)
- 52. Unit of work

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Island
- 2. Pittsburgh ballplayer
- 3. Chemical compound
- 4. Indicates density of data (abbr.)
- 5. Mesas
- 6. Wild, long-legged sheep
- 8. Engine additive
- 9. "CSI" actor George
- 11. Stony waste matter
- 14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- 15. Pores in a leaf's epidermis
- 18. Digraph
- 19. Married woman
- 20. Peripheral
- 22. Northern Italy city
- 23. Klutz
- 24. Type of tree
- 27. Witnessed
- 28. Popular breakfast food
- Mahal
- 31. BoSox legend Williams
- 32. Professional drivers
- 33. Atom or molecule type
- 34. The Constitution State
- 35. Chest to store clothes (Scottish)
- 36. Type of solution
- 37. Speaker
- 38. Specifying
- 39. Formerly (archaic)
- 40. Wiseman and Krom are two
- 44. The bill in a restaurant
- 47. Tennis shot

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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, May 23

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 servingtogetherproject.org/calvert for more information.

Pins and Needles

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

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

Bad Art Night

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center 13470 Dowell Road, Solomons 5-8 p.m.

Guests 21 and up are invited to be inspired by the works in our galleries, then undertake some unconventional and unorthodox art-making. We'll have all the supplies. you'll need to have at it. Finished artwork will be displayed for all and then cast your vote for "The Best of the Worst." Prizes will be awarded! It's a great night to let loose, get "creative", and have some fun!

A cash bar and lively music will add to the fun! No reservations required- just come!

Admission: \$7/person (Must be 21+); members FREE

Rooftop Car & Truck Show

Rooftop of the Rod N Reel parking garage by the Chesapeake Bay 4165 Mears Ave, Chesapeake Beach 7 to 8 p.m.

Sat, May 24

Jordan Davis and Opener Dasha

Calvert Marine Museum 7 p.m.

Award-winning, multi-platinum singer-songwriter JORDAN DAVIS will perform LIVE at the Motto Mortgage Preferred and RE/MAX One Waterside Pavilion at the Calvert Marine Museum. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. with food and beverage vendors onsite. The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store close at 3 p.m. for concert preparations. Cost of tickets is \$70 - \$140 (all-in-pricing). Tickets are available online.

Fossil Field Experience

Calvert Marine Museum 9 a.m.-noon

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

Mon, May 26

Wm. B. Tennison Holiday Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum 2 p.m.

Celebrate Memorial Day with a leisurely one-hour sightseeing cruise on the river aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*, a log-built bugeye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children, infant through 12 years.

Tue, May 27

Learn to Access Libby, Freegal & Kanopy

Calvert Library Southern Branch 13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons 3-4 p.m.

Learn how your library card can help you

access free digital content like TV, movies and music. Why pay for streaming and eBooks when your library offers them for free? This session will show you how to access a vast collection of eBooks, audiobooks, movies, TV shows and music using your library card. We'll guide you through setting up and using library-supported platforms, helping you start reading, watching, and listening in minutes. 410-326-5289. https://CalvertLibrary.info.

Job Seeker Resources

Calvert Library Prince Frederick 850 Costley Way 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

MD Labor Workforce Development Specialists, Veterans Services, Senior Community Service Employment, and Justice Involved program representatives, along with Health Department staff will be available in person) to meet with those seeking employment-related support and community service information. Walkins are welcome on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. https://CalvertLibrary.info.

Wed, May 28

Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

Calvert Library Prince Frederick 850 Costley Way 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. https://CalvertLibrary.info.

Changing Careers Workshop

Calvert Library Prince Frederick 850 Costley Way 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Learn how to navigate the process of changing your career path. Identify your strengths and transferable skills. Learn how to begin the career-change process efficiently and effectively. More job-seeker help is available on mwejobs.maryland.gov. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. https://CalvertLibrary.info.

Basics of Investments

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

Women's Commissioner Brandy Curtis Richards will lead this educational session that will introduce the basics—like how money can grow over time through interest, the difference between saving and investing, and simple concepts like stocks, bonds, and risk. This is an informal, informational talk—not financial advice—perfect for beginners looking to build financial confidence. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. https://CalvertLibrary.info.

On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch 4100 5th St., North Beach 1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-257-2411. https://CalvertLibrary.info

Upcoming

Juneteenth Community Celebration

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum 10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard June 14, 11a.m. to 5 p.m.

It'll be the 29th Annual NAACP Juneteenth Community Celebration. Similar to last year, we are anticipating thousands of visitors to this celebration. Questions should be directed to naacpcalvert@gmail.com.

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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.





P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of May 5, 2025 – May 11, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,384 calls for service throughout the community, including, but not limited to:

• Check Welfare / Mental Health: 54

• Disorderly: 17

Domestics: 17

• Motor Vehicle Crashes: 43

Patrol Checks / School Checks: 987

• Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 33

Traffic Complaints: 77

Traffic Stops: 651911 Hang Ups: 59

ARRESTS: 34



Angalo Cole Anastasi

CDS Violation: 25-38004 On May 7, 2025, Deputy Gadwill conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a traffic violation in the area of Bayside Road and Gordon Stinnett Ave. in Chesapeake Beach. Contact was

made with the vehicle's occupants, and an investigation revealed that the passenger initially provided a false name. The individual was later identified as Angalo Cole Anastasi, 30, of Chesapeake Beach, who was found to have an active warrant for his arrest. A search of Anastasi's person revealed a set of brass knuckles with triangular spikes, a hypodermic needle, and a burnt metal bottle cap containing suspected heroin residue. Anastasi was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Concealing a Dangerous Weapon, and Fraud- Per Identification to Avoid Prosecution.

Damaged Property: 25-37134 On May 5, 2025, DFC Lewis responded to the 200 block of Oakland Hall Road in Prince Frederick for a report of damaged property. The complainant advised that at approximately 9:16 a.m., an unknown projectile entered the residence through the rear living room window, shattering the glass and scattering it across the floor. A bullet was later discovered near the front door of the home. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$3,300.



Jagr Stan Croson

Disorderly
Conduct: 25-38036
On May 7, 2025,
Deputy Deinert
responded to Ledo's
Pizza, located
at 11777 H.G.
Trueman Road in
Lusby, for a report
of a disorderly subject. Upon arrival,

Deputy Deinert located a male sitting in the driver's seat of a running vehicle, with open beer cans scattered throughout the car and another in the cup holder. The individual was identified as **Jagr Stan Croson**, 23 of

Lusby, who admitted to consuming alcohol. A strong odor of alcohol was detected emanating from Croson's person. He was asked to perform a series of Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, which determined he was unable to safely operate a motor vehicle. During the encounter, Croson began yelling, causing a disturbance to nearby citizens and onlookers in the shopping center. He was subsequently taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. Croson was charged with Driving Under the Influence (DUI), Driving While Impaired (DWI), Public Intoxication, and Disorderly Conduct.

Theft: 25-37208 On May 5, 2025, DFC Lewis responded to the Weis located at 750 Prince Frederick Blvd. in Prince Frederick, for the reported theft. The complainant reported her Louis Vuitton wallet containing various credit cards was stolen from her vehicle while parked in the Prince Frederick area. Several fraudulent charges totaling \$2,745 were made. The suspect is described as black male wearing a grey zip-up hoodie, grey sweatpants, a red hat, and a blue surgical mask. The estimated value of stolen property is \$300.

Theft: 25-37891 On May 7, 2025, DFC Claggett responded to the MyEyeDr located at 10264 Southern Maryland Blvd. in Dunkirk, for the reported theft. The complainant reported an unknown suspect entered the store, stole five pairs of Burberry glasses, and fled the scene. The suspect is described as a black male with a limp, wearing a Nike jersey type shirt and black pants. The estimated value of stolen property is \$1,500.

Theft: 25-38247 On May 8, 2025, DFC Rzepkowski responded to Calvert County Sheriff's Office District 1 located at 10500 Southern Maryland Blvd. in Dunkirk for the reported theft. The complainant reported a Samsung Galaxy Note 9 with a black Otter box defender case was stolen from a vehicle parked outside the residence. The estimated value of stolen property is \$1150.

Theft: 25-38180 On May 8, 2025, DFC Dymond responded to the 1100 block of Gallahan Road in Prince Frederick, for the reported theft. The complainant advised sometime in the early morning hours, an unknown suspect gained access and rummaged thru two vehicles parked outside the residence. Personal items were strewn about in the victim's driveway. The suspect is described as a male wearing grey sweatpants, a grey hoodie, and white tennis shoes. The estimated value of stolen property is unknown at this time.

Theft: 25-38539 On May 9, 2025, Deputy MacWilliams responded to the 5300 block of Huntingtown Road in Huntingtown, for the reported theft. The complainant reported a car jack was stolen from the vehicle. The estimated value of stolen property is \$115.

Theft: 25-39329 On May 11, 2025, DFC Mister responded to the 1700 block of

Orwell Court in Prince Frederick, for a reported theft. The complainant reported a Mother's Day card and grocery bags containing gifts were stolen from the front of the residence. The estimated value of stolen property is unknown at this time.



Stephen Howard Jones

Weapons Violation: 25-38685 On May 9, 2025, Deputy Grabill conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of Rt. 2 and Rt. 260 in Owings after observing it traveling without registration plates. Upon

making contact with the driver, **Stephen Howard Jones**, 35, of Dunkirk, deputies detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from his person. Jones admitted to consuming alcohol prior to the stop. He was asked to perform a series of standardized field sobriety tests, which determined he was unable

to safely operate a motor vehicle. Jones was subsequently taken into custody. A search of his person incident to arrest revealed a loaded handgun concealed in his waistband. Jones was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), Driving Under the Influence (DUI), Handgun on Person While Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Reckless Driving, Negligent Driving, and additional traffic-related offenses.

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

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization, C-SMMPO, will conduct a meeting at the Walter Francis Duke Terminal Conference Room, located at 44200 Airport Road, California, MD 20619 on Thursday, June 12, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of receiving public testimony, reviewing, and approving the MD 5 Great Mills Project FY 2025–2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Year 2026.

The Meeting ID is 430 427 6617, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4304276617?omn=83417090072.

This public hearing is required by law to allow all interested parties the opportunity to present evidence and public comment regarding the C-SMMPO documents. A decision will be made solely on evidence and testimony presented during the public hearing. Public meetings are open to the public. Members of the press may attend.

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before June, 9, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or Karly. Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov. All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization Council at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

An electronic copy of the UPWP and the TIP Amendment may be requested by contacting Karly Maltby by phone (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507, via e-mail: Karly. Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov, or by visiting https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/.

Public Hearing Guidelines are subject to change. For more information on viewing, listening to, or submitting comments via telephone or video clip, please call (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507.

All content of these proceedings is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Photographic and electronic audio and visual broadcasting and recording devices are used during the meetings. These are public meetings and attendance at these meetings automatically grants St. Mary's County Government permission to broadcast your audio and visual image. Any person requiring special arrangements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act shall notify the C-SMMPO no less than 72 hours prior to the date of the scheduled meeting so that necessary special arrangements can be made in order to facilitate participation.

Legal Notice

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION Preliminary Decision to Grant Categorical Exclusion (CE #598)

Project Name/Number: St. Leonard Well, Water Station #2, and

Elevated Tank/DWBL-0931-05L

Project Applicant: Calvert County Board of Commissioners

Project Location/County: St. Leonard Road, St. Leonard MD/

Calvert County

Total Project Cost/State/Local/Loan: \$2,886,000/\$0/\$593,200/\$2,292,800

Project Description: The proposed project involves design and construction of a well, treatment system, water tower, water main, and all necessary appurtenances to address a water supply capacity deficiency in the existing St. Leonard area of Calvert County. The new well and water tower will meet the existing community water demand, improve system pressure, add redundancy to the existing water system, and provide residents with adequate and safe drinking water. In addition, the increased capacity will provide sufficient water to meet fire flow demands.

The Calvert County Board of Commissioners has applied for financial assistance from the Maryland Department of the Environment's State Revolving Loan Fund for the proposed project as described above. In accordance with requirements for complying with the State Environmental Review Procedures (SERP) under COMAR 26.03.11 for such assistance, a review has been performed by the Department on the applicant's request for a Categorical Exclusion from a comprehensive environmental review under SERP. The Department has determined that the proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to COMAR 26.03.11.04 because the project constitutes construction of water distribution system for existing communities. This determination is based on a careful review of the supporting documentation provided by the applicant and other documents available to the Department. In concert with this preliminary determination, the Department has also found the project to be consistent with the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy in accordance with Executive Order 01.01.1992.27, and Maryland's Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation Policy, in accordance with Executive Order 01.01.1998.04.

As a result of the above determination, the applicant will not need to prepare and/or finalize an Environmental Information Document, and the Department is prepared to approve the applicant's request for financial assistance without further environmental review.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with the above preliminary decision may be submitted for consideration by writing to:

Rajiv Chawla, Division Chief Region I Project Management Division Engineering and Capital Projects Program Maryland Department of the Environment 1800 Washington Boulevard Baltimore, Maryland 21230

After evaluating any comments received, the Department will make a final decision no sooner than 20 calendar days from the date of this notice. No administrative action will be taken with respect to this proposal during this timeframe.

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

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Severe Storm Causes Outages, Accidents



Roads were blocked due to fallen trees and power lines during the May 16 storm. Photo courtesy of CCSO.

By Dick Myers Staff Writer

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office reports that on the afternoon of Mau 16 "a line of severe storms brought a wave of destruction through our area, resulting in a rapid surge of emergency calls—ranging from auto accidents to trees into homes and roadways completely blocked by fallen debris."

The sheriff's office reports, "At one point, there were 55 active calls for service across our area."

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative reported that 2,827 customers lost power during the storm.

The sheriff's office thanks all of its partners who were involved during the storm and its aftermath. They also advise, "As we move through storm season, please stay indoors during severe weather, avoid downed power lines, and never attempt to drive through flooded or debris-covered roads. When in doubt—stay put and call for help."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Fatal Solomon Collision Under Investigation

On Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at approximately 8 a.m., deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau responded to a serious motor vehicle collision involving entrapment on southbound Solomons Island Road (Rt. 4) in the area of Creston Lane in Solomons.

Upon arrival, deputies located two vehicles involved in the crash and determined that a passenger in one of the vehicles was deceased. Due to the severity of the incident, the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Crash Reconstruction Unit responded to the scene and assumed the investigation. A preliminary investigation revealed that a 2005 white Lincoln Town Car, operated by Lewis Bert Michaud, 66 of Lusby, was traveling northbound and attempted to cross southbound Rt. 4 toward Creston Lane. At the same time, a 2021 GMC operated by Lindsay Rae Kreuter, 34 of Lothian, was traveling southbound on Rt. 4 approaching

Creston Lane.

According to statements from Kreuter, the Lincoln crossed into her path, and she was unable to avoid a collision. The GMC struck the Lincoln on the passenger side. The driver of the Lincoln, Michaud, was transported by ground to a local trauma center, where he is listed in stable condition. The passenger of the Lincoln was pronounced deceased at the scene; their identity is being withheld pending notification of next of kin. Kreuter was transported to CalvertHealth Medical Center with injuries reported as stable.

The cause of the collision remains under investigation. Master Deputy First Class Jeffrey Hardesty of the Crash Reconstruction Team is leading the investigation. Anyone who witnessed the crash or has information related to the incident is asked to contact Master DFC Hardesty at 410-535-2800 or via email at Jeffrey.Hardesty@calvertcount

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Oyster Stock Assessment Records Long-Term Increase

The population of Maryland's oysters has grown significantly in the past 20 years, according to the results of the latest benchmark stock assessment for the species.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science released the summary results of the stock assessment on Monday.

"Good news for oysters is good news for the Chesapeake Bay," DNR Secretary Josh Kurtz said. "This stock assessment shows that oysters have made important progress during the past two decades. That's a testament both to our continued investment in oyster restoration and our careful management of the oyster fishery. These findings will help guide management decisions during the next several years."

The stock assessment analyzed the status of the population of eastern oysters, the keystone species that also holds important economic and cultural value for the Chesapeake Bay region, from 2005 to 2024. After a low point in 2005, shortly after oysters had been decimated by disease, the mollusks have increased in the following two decades.

The stock assessment's summary results give insight into multiple aspects of the oyster population and oyster fishery, with the full report scheduled to be released by DNR in June. As overall oyster abundance increased in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay, researchers found positive population growth at many oyster restoration sanctuaries as well as decreased fishing pressure in harvest areas compared to the previous stock assessment completed in 2018.

Overall oyster abundance has increased. The stock assessment estimated that more than 12 billion oysters live in Maryland's waters of the Chesapeake Bay in 2024, including about 7.6 billion adult oysters and over 5 billion spat, or juvenile oysters. The assessment estimates there were only 2.4 billion adult oysters in 2005.

Mike Wilberg, a professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science who led the assessment, said the increase is likely driven by three main factors.

"The first one is that we have had some good spatsets," he said. "The second one is that natural mortality rates, or particularly disease, hasn't been as bad as it was in the 1980s and 1990s. And then the last one is that the department has maintained restrictions on harvesting that have allowed the oysters that are in some of these areas to continue to survive and reproduce and provide habitat and do all the things that we want them to do."

The 2025 stock assessment is the second major stock assessment conducted on the eastern oyster in Maryland. The state's Sustainable Oyster Population and Fishery Act of 2016 requires DNR and UMCES to conduct a benchmark stock assessment every six years, as well as update assessments in intervening years. Benchmark stock assessments take account of available data from multiple sources to arrive at mathematical models for the status of fishery.



Oysters sit in a bucket after being measured by Department of Natural Resources staff as part of the annual fall survey, a major data source for the stock assessment that found an increase in Maryland oysters. Photo by Joe Zimmermann, Maryland DNR.

A major source of data is DNR's fall oyster survey, which monitors the oyster population at sites across Maryland's waters of the Chesapeake Bay every year. In 2005, the survey began collecting additional data in order to acquire a measure of oyster density that can be expanded to estimate the number of oysters in larger areas of known oyster habitat throughout Maryland's portion of the Bay. That change in methodology is why the 2025 stock assessment focused on the years after 2005, Wilberg said.

The 2025 stock assessment also considered data from Maryland's Bay bottom survey, sonar surveys, plantings, patent tong surveys, harvest reports, peer-reviewed studies, and even the state's "Yates survey" that mapped oyster bars starting in 1906.

The latest stock assessment found a considerable increase in oyster abundance from the 2018 stock assessment, because of both continued growth of the population and improved methods to analyze the population, such as the additional dredge data, Wilberg said.

An independent peer review panel evaluated the 2025 stock assessment and approved of the methodology and findings.

The stock assessment analyzed oyster populations by specific oyster harvest reporting regions. In each region, it analyzed two important measures: oyster abundance and fishery pressure. In terms of abundance, there are three important benchmarks: 1) a long-term abundance target that represents the goal for oyster populations in the years ahead; 2) a cautionary level that indicates the need for vigilance in these areas; and 3) a lower limit below which oyster populations are depleted.

Results of the assessment indicate that one area was above the long-term abundance target, 24 areas were between the long-term target and cautionary levels, three were between cautionary levels and the lower limit, and seven were below the lower limit.

"The oyster population has been increasing across most of the Bay," Wilberg said.
"There are only a few areas where we have

had decreases over the last five years. That's a good sign from my perspective."

Wilberg also noted that, while most areas are not above long-term abundance targets, those goals "really are long-term."

"It may take decades or longer for the population to get back up to those levels," he said. "This is where we want the population to get to, but we're not there yet."

Chris Judy, director of DNR's Shellfish Division, said the progress on oyster abundance is encouraging, while ongoing and planned restoration work should help long-term efforts.

"Maryland has many large-scale projects underway and more to come," Judy said. "Most recently we developed and initiated the Eastern Bay project to restore oysters in that region for the three key oysters sectors together: sanctuaries, fishery, and aquaculture. With such commitments now and in the future, we look forward to more progress."

Decreased fishing pressure

Stock assessments help to determine fishing mortality reference points that help guide future management of a fishery. These reference points show the fraction of the population that can be harvested in an area while still achieving sustainability goals for the abundance of a species.

Looking at the 2023-2024 harvest data, the assessment found that 29 areas were below the target fishing mortality, meaning these areas were considered to have low fishing pressure. Two areas were between the target and threshold mortality reference points, and four were above the limit, meaning that oyster populations in those areas may not grow over time and could begin to decline.

While some areas are still seeing high fishing pressure, the results are an improvement over the 2018 stock assessment, which found that 19 areas were above the fishing mortality limit.

"This indicates that the fishery is in a better condition than it was when we did our last benchmark in 2018," Wilberg said. "Overall things are looking better, and a lot of the credit for that goes to DNR for chang-

ing aspects of management in response to the last stock assessment. I think those changes have been beneficial in helping to better achieve the targets."

The previous stock assessment quantified the abundance measure and harvest rate measure for oyster management, for each major harvest region, Judy said. With those figures as a framework and guide, the department has adjusted harvest rules in response.

The stock assessment does not directly analyze the large-scale oyster restoration sanctuaries, as these are monitored in a separate initiative, but it does provide insight into the status of these areas that have been a major focus for efforts to restore the oyster population in the Chesapeake Bay.

Large-scale restoration sanctuaries make up substantial portions of several harvest reporting regions, so the growth of oyster populations in those areas can largely be attributed to growth in the sanctuaries, Wilberg said.

At two sanctuaries, the stock assessment found a fivefold increase in oyster population since oyster restoration efforts began after 2010. In the Little Choptank sanctuary, an estimated 100 million adult oysters pre-restoration increased to 500 million, while a population of 40 million in the Harris Creek sanctuary in 2010 grew to 200 million after restoration was completed. In the Tred Avon River sanctuary, the population increased by about four times, from 40 million to 175 million.

"The three major restoration sanctuaries that are pretty much finished have all been really strong successes," Wilberg said. DNR and partner organizations have heavily planted oyster spat at these sanctuaries to boost their populations.

The effects of the two more recently completed large-scale sanctuaries, St. Marys River and Manokin River, on oyster abundance will likely take more time to become apparent.

These results come with caveats—the data does not define how much of the increase is due to direct restoration efforts (intensive spat plantings) compared to favorable environmental conditions, and the stock assessment can't determine how much population growth in sanctuaries is contributing to a Bay-wide increase in spatsets. But Wilberg said it does indicate that "overall they've been very successful in bringing oyster abundance back up" in the large-scale sanctuaries.

Eastern oysters declined to a fraction of their population in the Chesapeake Bay since the 1800s, due to historical overharvesting, disease-related mortality, habitat loss, and water degradation. About 75% of the oysters in the Bay died of disease mortality between 1999 and 2002.

"From such low points as this, oysters have made significant progress," Judy said.

DNR will propose its recommended harvest rules for the upcoming oyster season based on the results of the stock assessment, the fall survey data, and other considerations at the Oyster Advisory Commission meeting June 9.



REFERRAL PROCESS AND APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

A Social Worker is required to have the nursing facility resident complete the Minimum Data Set 3.0, Section Q (MDS 3.0). The completion and submission of this form to the Department of Health initiates the options counseling referral. Peer Counselors, Ombudsman and residents themselves can also submit a referral for options counseling. Options Counselors assist with the completion of the Waiver Application and will submit the application and other documentation to the Maryland Department of Health on the resident's behalf.

Referrals for options counseling can also be sent to mdh.mfp@maryland.gov.

All requested referrals will be processed within a 48-hour timeframe.



MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON

The Money Follows the Person (MFP) program provides Home and Community Based services information to Medicaid participants residing in a nursing facility. MFP Options Counselors provide information about available community resources and supports and present the benefits of the program. After the discussion, the resident will know their options and next steps to begin to safely transition back into the community. The resident must have an institutional level of care to be considered.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be eligible to participate in MFP Options Counseling individuals must:

- Meet a nursing facility level of care
- · Be eligible for Medicaid
- Be 18 years old or older and have resided in a nursing facility for at least 60 days.



Kellam's Question: Baseball Field or Tot Lot

Chesapeake Beach Mulls Park Revitalization

By Dick Myers Staff Writer

Competing interests could turn the revitalization of Chesapeake Beach's Kellam's Field into a controversial issue.

Council Vice President Jamey Shuls, chair of the Kellam's Field Revitalization Committee, told the town council at its May 15 meeting, "Everybody has an opinion about what this space should look like, and there is going to be zero (chance) where everybody is on the same page. So, some people like the dog park, some people hate it; some people like the walking path, some people hate it."

Shuls said the committee met, discussed various uses, and considered input from the previous town council. "We did our best to capture everybody's inputs," he said.

Shuls then presented what is likely to be the most controversial idea: "I know the baseball field is a point of contention, especially with two members on the council.

Jon (Evans) and Eric (Reinhardt), I know you're not for this. I'm from St. Louis, (I) absolutely love baseball. My son plays baseball on your team, and I love it. The challenge that I have is that this is something that we're putting forward for the town. Northern Calvert Little League has put out a message that there are not enough fields. And that's a fair statement because baseball is exploding in Calvert. There's like 700 I think kids this last year."



But he added, "The issue that I have is it's only during the spring that they would be able to leverage this. And it's only for two months out of the year. And the rest of the 10 months, it'd be an empty space. They just built Ward Park that has two new baseball fields. (At) Dunkirk (Park) kids have a ton of fields.

Shuls observed, "When you go to those areas, when we're not in baseball season, those fields are completely empty. Nobody uses them"

Shuls said, "If you look at Dunkirk, it's the park playground over there. That playground is jampacked with kids all day, every day. If you go down to Prince Frederick, Hallowing Point Park, that playground is jampacked with kids all day, every day. So, the idea there was we could transform that space (at Kellam's Field),...you'd be able to do it there."

Regarding fencing, Shuls said, "That is a hot topic as well. Do we not keep the fence? I will say the current sentiment is let's not make it look like a prison, but maybe we want to have some way to corral kids so they're not running into the streets."

Evans said, "I'd really like to see us find another spot for the playground. Obviously, if we can, I'd like to keep the ball field."

Shuls said, "We will take that back to the committee. Of all the space at Kellam's Field, which is very prime real estate. It's like beachfront property when it comes to

green space.'

He noted, "At the end of the day, we are elected officials that are operating under the public trust, and we can make changes to this plan if we have the majority to make changes to this plan."

Evans said, "I think we can get more use out of it in the fall as well if we coordinate with the Bucs (football team). It doesn't just have to be two months out of the year."

Regarding baseball, Shuls said, "They don't say that you'll have (be from) Chesapeake Beach or North Beach or anybody in even our zip code to be playing on that field. So, it could be anybody in the Northern Calvert League (that) would be using that field. So, I'm happy people are using it and getting some use out of it. But at the end of the day, we are now providing a resource more to the county than we are to our residents. And it is a prime location that we should be maximizing to ensure our residents have the amenities they need."

The previous town council voted to name the baseball field after then mayor Pat Mahoney.

Other uses under consideration for Kellam's Field are a pickleball court and a dog park.

The revitalization committee will survey town residents before finalizing their recommendation.

dickmyers@countytimes.net





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8

LOCAL NEWS COPS & COURTS CALENDAR

9



"EVERYBODY HAS AN OPINION ABOUT WHAT THIS SPACE SHOULD LOOK LIKE"

CHESAPEAKE BEACH COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT JAMEY SHULS ON THE **REVITALIZATION OF KELLAM'S FIELD**



Kellam's Field revitalization raises debate



LOCAL Severe storms cause widespread damage



ON THE COVER Calvert observes Memorial Day

WEEKLY FORECAST



PM Thunderstorms

Hi: 68° Lo: 53°

MON, MAY 26



Mostly Cloudy Hi: 73° Lo: 60°

FRI. MAY 23

Partly Cloudy Hi: 68° Lo: 52°



Rain Hi: 69° Lo: 62°





Mostly Sunny Hi: 71° Lo: 52°



WED, MAY 28 THU, MAY 29



AM Showers Hi: 74° Lo: 61°



SUN, MAY 25

Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 61°

Southern Maryland

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Monthly Support Groups & Wellness Workshops

- Stroke Wellness Group
- Parkinson's Wellness Workshop
- Diabetes Wellness Workshops (In-Person & Virtual)
- General Cancer Support Group
- Breast Cancer Support Group
 - Caregivers Support Group
- Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery Program Wellness Workshops

Visit our website to learn more and see when our groups meet!

CalvertHealthMedicine.org/Support-Groups





