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“THERE’S NO GOOD REASON FOR THIS.”

COMMISSIONER ERIC COLVIN ON GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN



LOCAL 5
Navy watchdog explains their role



LOCAL 7
Sheriff's Office seeks help in 2023 disappearance



ON THE COVER
On its 250th anniversary, the U.S. Navy has deep roots in St. Mary's county

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 23	FRI, OCT 24	SAT, OCT 25	SUN, OCT 26
Sunny Hi: 65° Lo: 41°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 62° Lo: 41°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 60° Lo: 43°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 59° Lo: 47°
MON, OCT 27	TUE, OCT 28	WED, OCT 29	THU, OCT 30
Cloudy Hi: 57° Lo: 49°	Showers Hi: 56° Lo: 51°	Showers Hi: 61° Lo: 47°	Showers Hi: 62° Lo: 43°



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Commissioners React to Ongoing Government Shutdown

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

"We're on top of the shutdown to understand those impacts. And it's getting more severe every day," Southern Maryland Navy Alliance President Dr. Dale Moore told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on Oct. 21 as the shutdown became the second longest in history.

After the alliance briefing, all five of the county commissioners took time to talk about it. And on the suggestion of Commissioner Eric Colvin, they will send a caustic letter to Maryland's two U.S. senators, Chris Van Hollen and Angela Alsobrooks, along with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Colvin said, "My understanding, it's now entering to be the second longest shutdown in US history. And we don't want to see it be the longest. And it's purely political. There's no good reason for this."

He added, "And there're impacts locally, and the impacts are going to increase locally. More and more people are furloughed. People who don't work on the base may not understand that there's different groups. And we had a good overview from the Navy Alliance today, but the NAWC (Naval Air Warfare Center) group on the base is Navy Working Capital. And that means their money is not appropriated from Congress, it's appropriated to other departments in the DOD and then sent to the NAWC. So, they don't really get furloughed right away, but when they run out of money, then they have to stop working. And the rumors out there are that the furlough is coming for a lot of NAWC employees. And that's not a good thing."

Colvin insisted, "There's just no good reason for this and it's really frustrating. So, I've had conversations with some of the other commissioners individually. I would propose that we send a letter to our senators, to Senator Van Hollen, to Senator Alsobrooks and Senator Schumer, so that he has awareness."

"I just know that as elected officials, we need people to push information up to us. And when we've had conversations with our partners at state and federal level, they always say push information up to them."

Colvin's motion included the following letter:

"Dear Senator,

"We're writing on behalf of the residents of St. Mary's County and the entire nation to ask that you break this stalemate, cross partisan lines and vote to approve a clean continuing resolution to fund the government and pay the hardworking Americans who are still doing critical work."

"Our proximity to Washington, DC and the presence of Patuxent River Naval Air

Station in St. Mary's County means that we have many residents who are furloughed or soon will be furloughed and are going without paychecks in spite of the fact that many are still doing vital national security work. The government shutdown has now reached the point of being the second longest shutdown in our nation's history and is being driven purely by politics. We are asking you to overcome the politics of the day and cross party lines and reopen our government."

"The impacts of the shutdown are far reaching and not fully known yet, but families are being impacted. We do not want to see the impacts on our residents worsen as elected officials. We know that sometimes hard choices must be made. We all choose to serve our citizens because we want to help make our communities better places to live, work, and raise a family."

"This choice is easy. Keep the government operating and ensure our people are being paid for the great work that they do."

The four commissioners in attendance agreed to sign the letter. Commissioner Mike Hewitt was not at the meeting, but Colvin said he would give him the opportunity to sign it.

Colvin added, "There's not much we can do from the local level. We can't offer loans like the state did, even though they're a small amount and you have to repay it relatively quickly. But we don't have the funds to do that. We have to keep county government operating. We can't employ people who are furloughed. We can advocate up the chain. Not that our voices are going to be heard any louder than anyone else's, but we can advocate. That is something that we can do. That's something we should do."

Commissioner President Randy Guy said, "I agree with you Commissioner Colvin one hundred percent. That was very good."

Guy added, "Reaching across the aisle, I keep hearing that all the time, but somebody's not reaching very well. And we need to move on with this because this is going to hurt us locally considerably."

Commissioner Scott Ostrow said, "I hope to see everybody out and around the county as always, especially during economic development week. Get out, support our local businesses. It's tough right now with the government shutdown and things going on. People are really being careful with the money that they're spending. But if it's possible, get out and support those local businesses who right now are really suffering because they're not getting that lunch traffic from the base and they're not getting any of what they need, especially our restaurants and a lot of our local stores. So, if you can get out, even if it's an inexpensive meal, get out there, support our local restaurants and businesses as much as we can because we

all have to help each other through this."

He added, "It's really a complete failure of our government that is a political football that they're just kicking around. There's absolutely no excuse for it. I know Commissioner Colvin has said many times they need to do their jobs and balance the budget and put forth a real budget we're required to every year. We can't get away with some continuing resolution or any of this. Our government should be required to do that as well. So, I'm very disappointed to see that our government is just really not doing their jobs, and they need to."

St. Mary's County's soup kitchen, St. Mary's Caring, is seeing the impact of the shutdown. Commissioner Mike Alderson said, "Last weekend I went to the St. Mary's Caring, fundraising brunch that they had down in Great Mills."

He said, "It's good to see so many people come out in support of St. Mary's Caring. It's great to hear of a couple of new partnerships they have. The Department of Social Services has moved their office into that building that is large enough to accommodate them. Their office that was on Great Mills Road is now at the soup kitchen location."

Alderson observed, "It makes it a lot easier for the folks in the county who need those services to be able to come to one location and receive the services they need and the guidance that they need to help them get themselves back on track."

He added, "I was very excited to be there when Dr. Mimi Novello from MedStar announced a new partnership with St. Mary's Caring, where they're going to have a small office there, where they're going to hold classes, things like one burner cooking, health classes, trying to get people on track with the primary care physicians to help them control any kind of conditions they have, be it heart disease, diabetes, or something like that, to get them on a path to wellness that is easily manageable and provide partnership and guidance for them."

Alderson said he suggested financial literacy classes, especially in these tough times.

He said, "The 10 percent you get off at your purchases at Target for applying for their credit card really sort of doesn't pan out 90 days later when you're paying 39.9 percent on that same credit card. That's where a lot of people get in trouble."

Alderson relayed, "Going along with financial literacy, the 1.4-trillion-pound gorilla in the room that affects a huge portion of Maryland and especially Southern Maryland, is this federal government shutdown. I am one of the exempted employees, so I get to pay for my privilege of driving to DC four days a week so I can work for free for now. Eventually I'll get paid but eventually doesn't pay my bills. Now, thankfully,



Commissioner Eric Colvin

several years ago I decided that I was going to go ahead and make myself as financially literate as possible. And I did the whole emergency fund and everything. I strongly suggest everybody try to get up a three-to-six-month emergency fund. It takes a while and you have to sacrifice, give up going out to dinner a couple times a month if you have to put that money aside and put it in high yield savings account, and it's there when you definitely need it."

He added, "Something that has been coming from the government shutdown shows... the woeful absence of civics, how government actually operates. Yes, the Republicans have the majority in the House and in the Senate, and then at the White House. But in order to pass the CR (continuing resolution) they need 60 votes. There are 53 votes out there for the Republicans. So, when everybody gets on Facebook or has their arguments about the Republican shutdown, Schumer shutdown, there's enough blame to go around to everybody. But people need to know civics and how things operate between the three branches and how many votes are needed for a CR to get this through."

He noted, "Our senators from the state of Maryland who represent some of the largest population of federal workers in the nation, should go ahead and look for what's best for their constituents and not what's best for their party. Because at the end of the day, they answer to the people and not to the DNC. The same goes for the Republicans too."

He added, "If you want to cut government, save spending, that's fantastic. Do not do it where government employees are being held hostage to temper tantrums and grandstanding. That's going on in the well of the Senate now."

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Southern Maryland Navy Alliance Safeguards County's Economic Engine

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Leadership of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance, which is a watchdog for the Navy's presence in St. Mary's County, briefed the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on Oct. 21 on their role and mission and activities on base.

Alliance President Dr. Dale Moore and Executive Vice President Jim Bolin made the presentation.

Moore said of their top priority, "We have a vehicle called the FAXX, which has completed source selection as far as I understand it, and ready for award. It's been held up at OSD (Office of Secretary of Defense) in particular. There's a lot of work going on on the Hill to try to make sure that that announcement comes out. That is our number one priority in the Navy Alliance to get that across the goal line, the tush push, so to speak."

He added, "It's highly political, but it's the future of Naval Aviation to take those technologies to the next level. And you're looking at collaborative combat aircraft to go along with that, which are unmanned. And you're seeing an unmanned spike going through the roof with autonomy and with our smart building and all that. It all fits in very nicely."

Moore talked about "the holistic nature of this region and how we are positioned to try to drive it forward so that community can thrive. That's the bottom line. The major economic driver is the base. NAWC-AD (Naval Air Warfare Center-Aircraft Division) add \$4.5 billion a year. NAVAIR (Naval Air Systems Command) headquarters is \$60 billion a year. The state doesn't realize that, and we've been trying to wave that flag and tell them, because we're kind of out of sight, out of mind right down here."



Navy Alliance President Dr. Dale Moore and Executive Vice President Jim Bolin with Sen. Chris Van Hollen (center) on Capital Hill.

When they do outreach, Moore said, "We have a powerful argument. We have the best of all worlds. We've got quality of life, quality of professional activities, it just really couldn't be better. But we're trying to get that word out to attract the talent that we need, develop the talent that we need, working closely with the economic development community and everybody basically in that community."

Moore explained, "We've upgraded our mission statement a little bit. We're a non-profit organization, 501-C (4). So, we do hire a lobbyist to help us," adding, "we're trying to increase the awareness, foster collaborations and partnerships in the region, working closely across the academic institutions as well."

He explained, "We advocate for policy, programs, and fiscal resources. We have our eyes and ears out for those things that can impact Maryland positively and negatively. And so, it's really about our networks and

more importantly, the relationships that we develop over time with the representatives, their staffers inside the gate, their leadership, et cetera."

Moore noted, "The benefit of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance is that we really do protect and promote St. Mary's County's number one economic engine. Jim and I both have decades of experience inside the gate, both military and civilian."

He said Sen. Chris Van Hollen secured \$3 million in funds for Southern Maryland 2030 Workforce Initiative "that was executed largely to the Patuxent Partnership."

He said over the last three years "We've had 181 450-hour apprenticeships that we've sponsored. We've had 128 college interns with eight professional development seminars each year. And over 2,000 what we call Spark Event high school participants across the three counties to make sure that our students at high school understand those professional opportunities that they

can migrate toward and keep them here."

The 100-member organization, he said, has a very strategic board. "We have two former admirals. We have three former senior executive service representatives that are three-star equivalent. And we have two former commanding officers of the base."

He explained, "We work as kind of the nexus of the ecosystem, so to speak, to make sure that there's consensus and synergy and coordination and partnerships and activities going forward."

Their current agenda, Moore said, includes "tracking the DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) impacts, which is potentially significant." There're also tracking the impacts of the government shutdown (see separate story)

"We're on top of the Reconciliation Act," he said, "understanding that the National Defense Authorization Act, we had a fair amount of influence there. We have some people that are on the House Armed Services Committee. We work closely with our staffers. We build questions for them. We build narrative for them. We make sure they are informed."

"The big takeaway you may or may not have heard is in ship building, trying to get us backed up on game in ship building, but ships are expensive. So, we're trying to highlight the aviation side of the Navy as best we can."

The alliance president observed, "I would tell you that there are big muscle movements going on that may or may not have the due diligence to enable good decisions. So, we are really ear-to-the-tracks, basically on those kinds of issues to make sure that we're protected down here and taking advantage of any opportunities that go forward."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Public Hearing Set for Revised Transportation Plan

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County will hold a public hearing on Nov. 18 at 9:15 a.m. on the first update to the county's Transportation Plan in almost 20 years.

Acting Director of the Department of Public Works & Transportation Donald Mills told the commissioners on Oct. 21, "We started the project as an update in 2021, and we were still kind of in the restrictions with COVID and all. So, we gathered citizen input via online surveys, and we used the previous transportation plan, the 2006 plan, and we used input from our 311 citizen system. So, we took that data and we compiled it, and draft plan was created."

"We presented that plan to the Transportation Advisory Committee. They decided that they wanted to try to create a task force to focus on the information. The Transportation advisory Committee final-

ized their review in 2023. And they recommended that we present it to the Planning Commission for their review. So, we scheduled a meeting in September of 2024 at the planning commission. The planning commission made their review and asked that the critical lane volume level of service be added to the intersections that were listed in the plan. We made those revisions. That was very minor in nature, but we made those revisions and presented again to the planning commission with those minor changes in May of 25, and they recommended that we present it to you all."

Mills said the plan was available of Board Docs from the May planning commission meeting and a page would be created on the county website.

Commissioner Mike Alderson had a few observations. He said he reviewed the 2006 transportation plan. "I'm just bringing this up, so if people do decide to go look at this, you need to go look at page 30. About half-

way down, there's a line item to construct a second span of the Thomas Johnson Bridge. It was medium priority, and the price tag on that was \$131 million."

He observed, "We are close to a billion now I understand and what we've been told by United Bridge Partners when they came down."

Alderson noted, "The transit facility upgrade talks about putting shelters in the near future. I know since I've been on this board that's been Commissioner Hewitt's drum to beat to make sure we had for real shelters for folks. And I just want to get a good update on that for people, especially now that we're seeing increased ridership on the STS system."

Alderson also mentioned "an item I brought up with MDOT (Maryland Department of Transportation) when they came down for the traveling roadshow. I had spoken about a couple times about having a user activated red light at the trail crossing

on Route 5."

He added, "The ball's in their (the state's) court. But I would like to see if we can get a little more push behind that because I did receive a complaint Friday afternoon about a guy and a friend of his were trying to cross there and the lights were flashing yellow. People get desensitized to the yellow flash and lights. They entered a crosswalk. Traffic did not yield to them while they were in the crosswalk. The guy who was driving the car pulled over, jumped out of his car, and was going to have a little road rage incident with the pedestrians."

He said, "I've talked about having some kind of user activated red light where those lights go from flashing yellow to flashing red to wake people up a little, maybe we'll see. The traffic that I see going up and down the road to DC every day, it may or may not help, but just a couple things to put on the radar."

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Firearm Recovered in Traffic Stop

Deputies from the Criminal Investigations Division of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office recovered a loaded unserialized firearm and arrested a suspect following a traffic stop on Friday, Oct. 17.

While conducting proactive enforcement in the 21000 block of Colton Point Road in Avenue, Detectives observed a subject known to be prohibited from possessing firearms due to his age, in possession of a suspected firearm.

Detectives requested members from the patrol unit to assist. Ultimately, a traffic stop was initiated on a gold sports utility vehicle on the 22000 block of Duke Street in Leonardtown. During the traffic stop, a search of the vehicle and occupants was initiated, and Omari Lee Miles, 18, of California, Maryland, a passenger in the vehicle, was found in possession of a loaded Polymer 80 9mm handgun with an extended 40-round magazine.

Miles was taken into custody and charged with multiple firearm-related offenses, including:

- Wearing a handgun on his person
- Wearing a loaded handgun on his person
- Wearing a handgun in a vehicle on public roads
- Wearing a loaded handgun in a vehicle



Omari Lee Miles

- on public roads
- Unlawfully possessing an unserialized firearm
- Possession of a regulated firearm while under the age of 21

Miles was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center and is currently being held without bond.

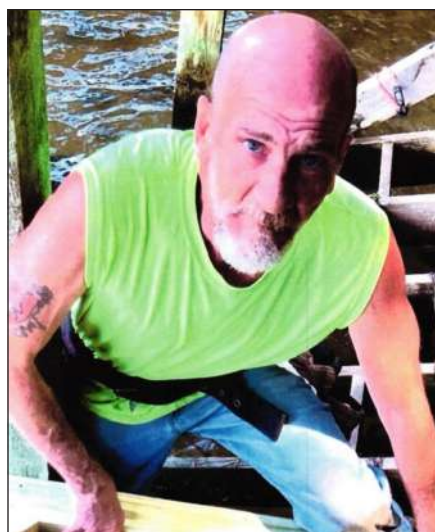
Press release from SMCSO

Help Sought on Anniversary of Disappearance

Upon the second anniversary of Daniel Lewis Edwards' disappearance, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is renewing its call for the public's assistance in locating him. Edwards was last seen on October 20, 2023, leaving a job site in the Town Creek neighborhood of California. Investigators hope that someone with new or previously undisclosed information will come forward to help advance the case.

Edwards, a 56-year-old white male, stands 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs approximately 170 pounds. He was born in September 1967. His family reported him missing after they were unable to contact him, and detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division have since identified suspicious circumstances surrounding his disappearance.

Anyone with information about Daniel Edwards' whereabouts or details related to the case is asked to contact Detective Andrew Burgess at 301-475-4200, ext. 8041, or by email at Andrew.Burgess@stmaryscountymd.gov. Tips can also be provided anonymously. Tipsters can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or text Crime Solvers at 274637. In the message block, type "Tip239" and select



Daniel Lewis Edwards

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Kolarik Files for Commissioner President

Greg Kolarik, a resident for over thirty one years and dedicated advocate for St. Mary's County, announces his candidacy for Commissioner President in the upcoming election. With a vision rooted in preserving the county's values, promoting responsible development, and ensuring a prosperous future for all residents, Kolarik is committed to making St. Mary's a better place to live, work, raise a family, and retire. "I'm running for Commissioner President because I believe St. Mary's County deserves a leader who understands the everyday struggles of its people," Kolarik said. "As a Countian, I want to create a county that reflects our values — a place where hardworking families can thrive, and our community's future remains strong, sustainable, and authentic."

Kolarik is committed to fostering growth that benefits the residents of St. Mary's County, not outside developers. He opposes large multi-family housing projects that risk changing the character of the community and supports responsible, single-family development that aligns with local salaries and needs. Kolarik will ensure that new development complements the county's agricultural and waterman culture, while safeguarding St. Mary's identity by rejecting divisive politics. He will also prioritize the preservation of local culture, heritage, and responsible tourism, creating a welcoming and viable environment for future generations.

A firm believer in transparency and accountability, Kolarik will fight to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. He opposes new or increased taxes, advocating instead for the efficient use of existing resources. He will focus on maintaining and improving existing county infrastructure, such as streets, bridges, and public works, and ensure that government departments are accountable to the people. Kolarik is committed to cutting waste by reducing outsourcing and eliminating unnecessary projects. He will also address critical issues in local schools by conducting audits to ensure that facilities are properly maintained and up to standard for students and staff alike.

Kolarik's leadership will be centered on listening to the people of St. Mary's County. Through town halls and direct engagement,



Dr. Kraig Melville

he will ensure that residents' voices are heard in every decision. He is focused on cleaning up communities, restoring single-family home neighborhoods, and improving public services to enhance quality of life with a focus on "customer service". This includes ensuring that local non-profits provide genuine, community-driven services. Kolarik is also committed to preserving the county's parks and historical sites.

Greg Kolarik's campaign is grounded in the belief that St. Mary's County should remain a place where families and communities come first. He is focused on pragmatic solutions that promote responsible growth, transparency, and empowerment. Kolarik is dedicated to creating a St. Mary's County that works for everyone — from local families to the businesses and workers that make it thrive.

Greg Kolarik is a thirty one year resident of St. Mary's County, a dedicated family man, and a passionate advocate for local communities. His campaign is based on the belief that St. Mary's County deserves a leader who is focused on maintaining its unique character while providing a prosperous future for its people. Greg is looking to ensure that St. Mary's County stays "County". He is committed to ensuring that the voice of every resident is heard and respected.

Press release

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Jurisdictional Medical Director Chosen

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County announce Dr. Kraig Melville, MD, BMSc, FACEP, FAAEM, as the new Jurisdictional Medical Director for St. Mary's County. The Jurisdictional Medical Director provides medical oversight for the county's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Operational Program, ensuring the highest standards of patient care, safety, and clinical quality.

In this role, Dr. Melville will advise on EMS protocols, training, operations, and quality improvement initiatives across the county's emergency response system.

"On behalf of the commissioners, I would like to welcome Dr. Melville as our new Jurisdictional Medical Director," said Commissioner President Randy Guy. "His extensive experience will further strengthen local emergency medical services and support the dedicated EMS professionals who serve on the front lines every day."

Dr. Melville trained in Emergency Medicine at the University of Cincinnati. He has practiced as an Emergency Medicine physician for more than three decades and chaired two emergency departments. His professional interests span EMS, cardiology, toxicology, and pediatrics. Over the course of his career, Dr. Melville has authored several professional publications and demonstrated a commitment to improving patient outcomes through clinician training.

"I'm honored to join this talented group of EMS professionals," said Dr. Melville.



Dr. Kraig Melville

"Together, we'll continue advancing emergency care and making a real difference for the people of St. Mary's County."

Dr. Melville resides in Anne Arundel County with his wife, also an Emergency Medicine physician, along with their two daughters, two dogs, and four cats. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, fishing, exploring National Parks, and watching football.

Dr. Melville will assume the role of Jurisdictional Medical Director for St. Mary's County effective Oct. 27.

Press release from St. Mary's County

Local Residents Participate in Nationwide Protests



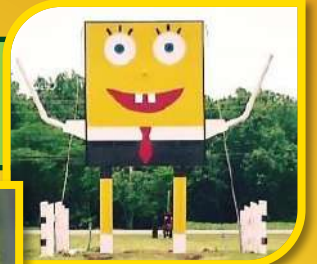
Crowds gathered along Rt. 235 between Wildewood Blvd. and Miramar Way on Oct. 18. The demonstration was part of the nationwide No Kings movement protesting the Trump administration. Photo by Ceandra Scott.

Final Weekend of 2025! Bowles Farms Corn Maze

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Final Weekend of 2025!

What's Happening this Weekend:

Wear Your Halloween Costumes (Sat., Oct. 25): Kids in costume receive \$1 off general admission. Plus, we'll have goodie bags available while supplies last!

Classic Car Show (New Date! Sun., Oct. 26, 10am-2pm): Southern Knights Rod & Custom Car Group will have a display of classic cars. Cost is only admission to the grounds.



**Fall Season runs through
Sunday, October 26th**

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MEET HEGGIE

Heggie is a handsome boy with a silky white coat. He's a little reserved at first but quickly warms up into a loving, loyal companion. Visit www.animalrelieffund.org or stop by the Well Pet Clinic in Lexington Park during adoption days—Saturdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.—to meet him!



Breast Cancer Walk Unites Community, Reduces Shame



By Vada Mercer
Contributing Writer

The 3rd annual Ace's Angels Breast Cancer Awareness Walk and Pink Soiree will celebrate those in the community who have been affected by breast cancer during their event on Oct. 25 at the Leonardtown Wharf.

The event will feature guest speakers, vendors, live entertainment, and a kid's zone. Registration is required to participate, and every ticket comes with a t-shirt and bib.

Proceeds will fund Ace's Angels' mission to "provide financial support, education and emotional assistance to breast cancer patients and their families."

One hope of the walk is to reduce the shame individuals feel regarding illness. Lots of people in this community feel shame for their illness and are afraid to ask for help, founder Karen Thomas said. By bringing people together and giving them a space to share their stories, Ace's Angels hopes to make seeking support less intimidating.

Thomas was inspired to start the organization after losing her mother to breast cancer in 1997. Her mother, a social worker who often helped people in their neighborhood, died at age 50. Admiring her mother's charity, Thomas began to work with people in the community impacted by breast cancer—both those diagnosed and their loved ones.

Before creating Ace's Angels, Thomas participated in breast cancer walks from 2009 to 2016 with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, a national organization dedicated to finding a cure.

Wanting to expand her local impact, she started the nonprofit Ace's Angels. The organization connects with individuals through a referral process, either from the patients themselves or friends who reach out on their behalf. "A friend had asked me, what was my address? I thought she was coming by to see me... All of a sudden, I get a knock on the door. There was Ace's Angels. They were talking to me, and Karen's giving big old hugs, saying she's sorry, that Ace of Angels is there for me," said Anita Knighten, who

currently has stage two negative breast cancer. "She hands me an envelope. I'm thinking it's a card... there was a little bit of funds to help me get by. I was shocked."

Knighten said the organization made sure she was never alone. Thomas kept in contact with her through her journey, seeing if she needed a member of Ace's Angels to drive her to her next doctor's appointment, and checking in with her after it. "I'm so grateful for them, because without them, I don't know. They helped me out a lot. I was getting ready to be depressed, and then Karen talks to me and tells me everything's all right," Knighten said. "She sends little spiritual things about breast cancer... I just wish there was more out here than her to help a lot, because she's just one group."

Knighten has attended every Ace's Angels walk, but her treatments weakened her bones, and she recently had a knee replacement. When she worried she couldn't participate this year, Thomas offered to drive her in a buggy so she could still be part of the event.

Through fundraisers like the walk, Thomas hopes to expand how Ace's Angels helps the community. One of her goals is to find a way to reduce co-pay for those she assists. Thomas also wants to see more celebration and visibility for breast cancer awareness in everyday spaces. October is breast cancer awareness months, and Thomas said she's seen less and less people celebrating.

Additionally, she doesn't want breast cancer to be forgotten after October. Ace's Angels advocates for accessibility to mammograms and encourages women to get screened regularly. "If something doesn't feel right, get a mammogram," Thomas said. "People are afraid it hurts, I get them all the time, I just got one. They don't hurt."

One message Thomas hopes will reach the community is that Ace's Angels is open to anyone affected by breast cancer, regardless of background. As a Black woman, Thomas said she's aware some people mistakenly assume her group only serves Black women. "That's not the case," she said. "Cancer doesn't see race, cancer doesn't see color. We are here for everyone."

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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind



The Great Halloween Shopping Quest

By Shelby Opperman
Contributing Writer

Every year I hear the same thing from my husband; "I am not going to buy another thing for Halloween this year". And then suddenly, my husband says, "Let's go Halloween shopping for The Halloween Trails".

We have been wanting a 12 ft skeleton for years. A few weeks ago, we gazed longingly at the towering skeleton at Home Depot. Then we contemplated where in the world we would store it and realized that must be why so many people leave the 12 footers up year round and dress them for each season. They must be too much of a hassle to take apart and to find a storage space for the big guy. Naturally Rubbermaid has a storage container for the large skeletons right next to where they are sold. Good marketing plan for sure. The only problem is that the storage containers are as big as a hot tub. I was visualizing the container sitting on our pool deck, which would probably be fine because everyone would think that it really was a hot tub. All I know is that the 12 foot skeleton will not fit in the Halloween shed which is already filled to the brim. Though occasionally, we do wistfully think about going back and getting that behemoth. It would look nice riding in the bed of the pickup truck on the way home (if they would let us buy a floor model). Just thinking about putting it together seems overwhelming when you are standing in front of it in the store. Never fear, we didn't leave Home Depot emptyhanded on that trip. We came home with a large skeleton with a pumpkin head that pops up. It scared us pretty good in the store.

Lowe's was not left out in our Halloween quest. Today we had to get a few items from the Lowe's in California because Robert has a project in mind with lots of skeleton parts. It requires a pallet structure, and lots of lights. I am not sure what exactly he is planning on putting together even when he tries to explain it, but I do nod my head at all the appropriate times – just like he does to me. He found a bunch of skeleton parts at Michaels so he can patchwork his parts together like Dr. Oppenstein ... I mean Dr. Frankenstein. Oh no, I see high electric voltage use in our future.

As for me, I feel like we are ahead of the game because I have pattied up 65 hamburgers (for this Saturday's pre set-up and also for Halloween night) and we have about 10 large bags of candy and the requisite 2 bags of candy corn in the basement refrigerator. The reason I buy that much candy is because my husband will find it and eat half of it before Halloween – I am really worried about the bag of Reece's Pumpkin shaped candy bars. That will most likely be the sacrificial bag for this year. EDIT: I checked, and it is half gone already! The garage fridge's freezer is filled with large tubs of rainbow sherbet (I've been saying "sherbert" my whole life until someone corrected me online) and a leftover tub of frozen party punch from last year (and apparently the last tub of party punch on the planet). The garage fridge part has half of the 2 liter ginger ales that I need for the punch. Back to the sherbet issue, just wondering if it should be pronounced sher-bay then?

The frozen party punch quest is driving me batty. I have been to five grocery stores so far with no luck finding any tubs for this year. I have even asked two store managers if they might be able to special order a few for me. No luck. I called Mayfield Dairy who makes it, and they said the closest store that carries the party punch is a Food Lion in Hayes, Virginia near Yorktown. I'm desperate, but not that desperate. At this point, I'm thinking that I could drop a bunch of frozen popsicles in the punch for the Halloween Trails and it would be fine. I'm sure that just using the sherbet and ginger ale would be okay, but I like the traditional way I have made it for the last 20 years. And all the kids and parents love it this way. It's the start of their long night of Halloween sugar overload. Those poor parents: I remember those days.

Well, I think we are done with creature shopping for Halloween, but there is still a week and a half to go, so don't be surprised if you see a skinny, bony 12 foot structure out in our yard soon for Halloween...and Thanksgiving, and Christmas, and Easter...

To each new day's adventure, Shelby.

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



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250 Years Later, Navy Has Deep Roots Within NAS Pax River, NAVAIR

By Rob Perry
Staff Writer, Naval Air Systems Command

October marks the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Navy—a milestone that honors centuries of courage, resilience and innovation. From the American Revolution through World War II to modern day conflicts in the Middle East, America's sea power has remained dominant to not only secure and support the country's allies and interests both near and far but also serve as a conflict deterrent. From the earliest ships that defended America's shores to today's cutting-edge aircraft and unmanned systems, the Navy's story is one of progress and dedication to protecting the nation's freedom.

Prior to the onset of the American Revolution, the original 13 colonies had no real naval force other than an abundance of merchant vessels that were engaged in domestic and foreign trade, according to Naval History and Heritage Command. The colonies' merchant service had vast experience with the open sea and with warfare, which included British naval expeditions against Cartagena, Spain and Nova Scotia during the nine years of war with France (1754–1763). Thus, the importance of naval power was recognized early in the conflict. The Department of the Navy was officially established on Oct. 13, 1775, by the Continental Congress, it also established



A Marine Corps MQ-9A Reaper undergoes anechoic chamber testing Feb. 24 at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md. (U.S. Navy photo)

the U.S. Marine Corps on Nov. 10, 1775.

"From the ramparts of the Revolution, to the trenches of the Atlantic, to the islands of the Pacific and beaches of foreign shores, a global force for good was born, one that for 250 years would sail in the defense of our homeland, protect our national security interests and preserve our way of life," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Daryl Caudle during his remarks Oct. 12 at the Navy 250th Commemoration at its birthplace in Philadelphia. "So, tonight, let us remember that our Navy is more than the sum of ships, platforms and munitions: It is the product of our battle-hardened sailors

who are forged by the seas."

The first naval base was established in 1854 in Vallejo, California, and remained a source of shipbuilding, support and repair into the 1990s. The first naval air station was established in January 1914 in Pensacola, Florida, marking the addition of aircraft to the Navy's arsenal. Few bases embody the Navy's legacy more than Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, (NAS Pax River) and Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR).

Known as the "place where the future of naval aviation takes flight," NAS Pax River has been central to the Navy's mission for more than 80 years. Established in 1943

during World War II, the base became the Navy's premier test site for aircraft, weapon systems and aviation technology. Here, test pilots, engineers and sailors work together to ensure that every aircraft that takes to the skies is safe, effective and battle-ready.

Over the decades, NAS Pax River has been the proving ground for some of the Navy's most iconic aircraft—the F-4 Phantom, F-14 Tomcat and F/A-18 Hornet all underwent rigorous testing here. Today, NAS Pax River continues its role at the cutting edge, advancing next-generation platforms like the F-35 Lightning II, unmanned aircraft and systems that connect naval aviation into a seamless combat force.

"The Navy has always been at the forefront of innovation during its 250 years, and I'm proud to be at Pax as we celebrate this milestone, because of Pax River's place in that rich history of innovation," said Capt. Mark Zematis, NAS Pax River commanding officer. "Since its founding in 1943, Pax River has been breaking barriers in naval aviation and continues to do so every day. From our nation's first experiments with jet and rotary aircraft, to the foundation of naval test flight education, this is where that innovation takes flight. And our dedicated personnel continue to make their mark on that history every day here."

Continued on page 5

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Continued from page 3



As part of test protocol, Aaron Williams, with Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23 maintenance department, siphons a sample of the 100-percent alternative biofuel during ground test Aug. 30 at Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division's Aircraft Test and Evaluation Facility. (U.S. Navy photos by Dan Owens)



U.S. Marines with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 461, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW), transport an F-35B Lightning II near Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, Aug. 27, 2025. The F-35, known as BF-1, was the first F-35 to perform a vertical landing and was transported to Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina, for use as a permanent static display. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Bryan Giraldo)

The Formation of NAVAIR

In 1966, the Navy established NAVAIR to consolidate and streamline the management of its aviation programs. Headquartered at NAS Pax River, NAVAIR became the brain and backbone of naval aviation—responsible for research, design, testing, acquisition and sustainment. Every Navy and Marine Corps aircraft in the fleet has a connection to NAVAIR, from its earliest blueprints to the support that keeps it flying on deployment.

NAVAIR houses numerous program offices, program executive offices, Naval Air Warfare Centers and Fleet Readiness Centers, each dedicated to specific duties including development, support, repair and testing of naval technology. Through NAVAIR, NAS Pax River has become a hub of innovation, not just for the Navy, but for the entire Department of Defense. Thousands of military and civilian professionals work side by side, pushing the boundaries of technology while never losing sight of the ultimate mission: keeping sailors and Marines safe and ready.

As the Navy marks its 250th anniversary, the story of Patuxent River and NAVAIR serves as a reminder of how deeply innovation and service are woven into the Navy's identity. From wooden ships to supersonic jets, from hand-drawn schematics to digital twin technology, every advancement reflects the same commitment to excellence that has defined the Navy since its beginning.

"As we celebrate the Navy's 250th anniversary, we honor not just our history, but the people and partnerships that continue to shape

our future," said NAVAIR Commander, Vice Adm. John Dougherty. "NAVAIR and NAS Patuxent River stand as pillars of innovation and service—where cutting-edge technology meets unwavering commitment to the warfighter. I'm proud of the thousands of professionals here who carry forward a legacy built on excellence, and I'm confident that the next 250 years will be defined by the same spirit of ingenuity and dedication."

With new challenges on the horizon—cyber warfare, autonomous systems and next-generation weapons—NAS Pax River and NAVAIR continue to stand at the forefront, ensuring the Navy remains always ready, always strong.

A Shared Pride

For Southern Maryland, the Navy's 250th birthday is not just a national celebration, but a local one. Generations of families have lived, worked and served at NAS Pax River. Today, the base directly employs approximately 25,000 military, civilian and contractor personnel, making it the largest employer in St. Mary's County and a cornerstone of the regional economy. The roar of engines overhead, the hum of innovation in labs and hangars, and the shared sense of duty have shaped the region's identity.

On this milestone birthday, the Navy, NAS Pax River and NAVAIR together tell a story of perseverance, ingenuity and honor. It's a story still being written, one that will inspire the next generation of sailors, engineers and patriots for the next 250 years.

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Ways to Celebrate: Honor America's Maritime Legacy

America is a proud maritime nation. Since before our Nation's founding, the Navy has sailed across the globe to defend freedom and uphold our values. Beginning January 2025, the Navy marks its 250th birthday with a vibrant two-year celebration featuring commemorative events, multinational exercises, and meaningful community engagements.

This milestone is more than a tribute—it's an opportunity for all of us to come together and recognize the Navy's vital role in protecting our national security, supporting our Allies and partners, and sustaining America's prosperity worldwide.

Get involved! Here's how you can celebrate the Navy's 250th birthday and connect with your community:

- **Share Your Navy Story:** Do you or someone you know have a connection to the Navy? Share your story on social media using the hashtag #Navy250. Whether it's a family member's service, a memorable visit to a Navy ship, or your own experience, your story can inspire others to reflect on the Navy's impact.
- **Engage with Navy Personnel:** Reach out to local Navy installations or Reserve units to invite Sailors to speak at schools, community centers, or civic organizations. Hearing directly from those who serve can foster a deeper understanding

of the Navy's mission and values.

- **Attend a Commemorative Event:** Check the Navy's official calendar for events happening near you. From ship tours to air shows, there are plenty of opportunities to experience the Navy's capabilities and connect with its sailors. You can also visit a Navy Museum near you!
- **Fly the Flag:** Display the American flag or the Navy flag proudly at your home, business, or community center. It's a simple yet powerful way to show your support and celebrate the Navy's enduring legacy.
- **Wear Commemorative Merch:** Purchase official Navy 250 merchandise through NEXCOM and wear your Navy pride wherever you go. From commemorative shirts and hats to mugs and collectibles, it's a great way to support the celebration and share in the spirit of 250 years of service.
- **Get Creative:** Download official Navy 250 coloring pages and share them with friends, family, classrooms, or community groups. It's a fun and educational way for all ages to get involved in the celebration—perfect for schools, events, or a rainy day at home!
- **Follow and Share on Social Media:** Stay connected with the Navy's 250th

celebration by following official Navy social media channels. Share posts, videos, and updates to spread the word and inspire others to get involved. Together, we can make the Navy's 250th birthday a celebration to remember. Let's honor the past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future of America's maritime legacy.

Join us on social media! Use the hashtag #Navy250 to share how you're commemorating or use one of our 250 logos on your social media profiles!

Join the celebration with these digital challenges:

- **Then and Now:** Share your Navy journey by posting a side-by-side "then and now" photo. Whether you're a veteran, current sailor, or Navy family member, post a photo and share your story!
- **Veteran and generational legacy:** Celebrate service across generations. Post stories or photos of family members who have served, from WWII to today. Highlight your family's Navy legacy or share how your own Navy journey began.
- **Birthday shout out:** Wish the Navy a Happy 250th! Record a short video or snap a photo with your message, and tag @USNavy with #Navy250.
- **Navy Careers:** Shine a light on a



Navy job that inspires you. Share how a specific job or role contributes to the Navy's mission of protecting freedom and prosperity.

- **Navy Education:** Got a cool Navy history fact? Share it! Use social media to educate and inspire others about the Navy's impact over the last 250 years.
- **Plank Challenge:** Feeling strong? Try holding a plank for 2 minutes and 50 seconds in honor of the Navy's 250th birthday—and challenge your friends to do the same!

Press release from U.S. Navy

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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.

Jeanne Rothwell, 78



Jeanne Marie Rothwell, 78, of Mechanicsville, MD went home to be with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on October 13, 2025. She was born on July 5, 1947

in Washington, D.C. to the late Daniel and Louise Breakiron.

Growing up in Hyattsville, MD, Jeanne was an active member of Job's Daughter, going on to be crowned Honored Queen. After graduating from Northwestern HS in 1965, she went to Strayer College which propelled her into her 36 year career with the Department of Justice, retiring in October, 2002.

On May 11, 2002, Jeanne married the love of her life, Thomas Michael Rothwell. They went on to spend 23+ years enjoying life with travel, fishing, cooking and singing together. They selflessly and faithfully utilized their God-given musical talents in service to both the Methodist church and community with singing in the choir, quartets and duets.

Jeanne was a proud Christian American. Growing up in the Methodist church, she practiced her faith throughout her lifetime beginning with Ager Road United Methodist Church of Hyattsville, MD, then with First United Methodist Church of Laurel, MD, Overlea Chapel UMC, Baltimore, MD, Solomon's Island Methodist Church; then spending her final 13 years with Hollywood United Methodist Church.

Jeanne demonstrated her Christian spirit and patriotism with much kindness and generosity. She proudly supported the My Solider and Wounded Warrior projects for many decades. She was a devout volunteer most of her life, and more actively after retirement. She volunteered many years with The Caring Collection of Annapolis, MD, 12 years with Hospice of St. Mary's, and most recently she founded the Heart F.E.L.T. charity with Hollywood United Methodist Church which provides weekly, non-perishable food donations to underprivileged students of Hollywood Elementary School.

Jeanne is survived by her husband, Thomas; sons, Richard and Daniel Bishop; two beloved granddaughters, Madison and Emma Bishop; sister, Frances Hall, niece Catherine Ghannam, nephew Roger Hall, Jr. and many extended family members. She was preceded in death by her parents, Daniel and Louise Breakiron, and her brother-in-law, William Roger Hall.

Family will receive friends for Jeanne's life celebration on Thursday, October 23, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with Prayers by Pastor Matthew Tate at 6:00 p.m., Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Rd., Leonardtown, MD. The Service of Death and Resurrection will be at Hollywood United Methodist Church, 24422 Mervell Dean Rd., Hollywood, MD at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 24, 2025.

Serving as pallbearers will be Richard Bishop, Daniel Bishop, Roger Hall, Jr.,

Adam Ghannam, Dean Roberts, John Rothwell, and honorary pallbearer, Abdullah Ghannam.

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

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

Charles Norris, 90



Charles Joseph Norris, 90, of Hollywood, MD, passed away on October 20, 2025 at his home. Born on June 28, 1935 in Hollywood, MD, he was the loving son

of the late Mary Catherine Abell Norris and William Richley Norris. Charles was the loving husband of Mary Louise (Lou) Norris whom he married on February 9, 1957 in Leonardtown, MD. He is survived by his son Glenn Alan Norris (Bonnie) of Hollywood, MD, two grandchildren Glenda Marie Gray (Charles) of Avenue, MD, and Angela "Angie" (Mike) Norris Johnson, of Avenue, MD, eleven great-grandchildren Michael, Todd, (Alley), Nathaniel, Zakary, Talia, Renee, Elijah, Cora, Willow, Laci Rae and Cory Joseph, and one great-great grandchild Hayven Anthony Watts. Siblings Catherine Delores Wheeler of Hollywood, MD, John Abell Norris of Hollywood, MD, and Elizabeth Jean Guy of Hollywood, MD. He was preceded in death by his siblings William richly Norris, Robert Bernard Norris, Sr., Philip Norbert Norris, and George Franklin Norris.

Charles was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD, resident and graduate of St. John's School. He was a heavy equipment operator for the Maryland State Highway Administration for 30 years, retiring in 1992. Charles was a hard-working tobacco farmer. He cherished making precious memories both on and off the tobacco field with family and friends. Charles always enjoyed making people laugh and telling jokes. With Charles and Glenn Alan, you never knew what adventures they were going to get into. Charles always made certain that his wife, Mary Lou was well taken care of, even by bringing her half of the whole coconut cake when she asked for just a small piece.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, October 26, 2025 from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM with prayers recited at 4:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, October 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM in St. John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD with Father Ryan Braam officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Pallbearers will be Michael Watts, Todd Watts, Cory Johnson, Steven Norris, Ricky Guy, and Mike Johnson. Honorary Pallbearers will be Laci Rae Johnson, Hayven Anthony Watts, Michael Dean, Andrew Dean and Chris Dean.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625 Leonardtown, MD.

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.

Thelma Cusic, 91



Thelma Pickell Cusic, 91, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away on October 12, 2025 at her home. Born on July 20, 1934 in Quarryville, PA, she was the daughter of

the late Blanche Myers Kreider Pickell and Carl Winfield Pickell. Thelma was the loving wife of 55 years to the late Joseph Lawrence "Boots" Cusic whom she married on May 20, 1967 in St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Compton, MD. Thelma is survived by her nephew Scott Brady Pickell of Leonardtown, MD, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her siblings Arlene Pickell Tennison, and Leigh Kreider Pickell.

She was a resident of St. Mary's County, MD since 1945, and moved to Compton, MD in 1967.

Thelma graduated from Margaret Brent High School in 1952. She went to work at

First National Bank for 10 years, furthermore she was hired at Tri-County Federal Savings and Loan Bank in Leonardtown, MD. She worked as a bank manager from 1962, retiring in 1994.

Thelma enjoyed gardening, fishing, social events, and bowling. She enjoyed taking trips to her favorite place Lancaster County, PA. Most of all she enjoyed her family and friends.

Thelma was a wonderful, kind, and dear soul to everyone she met. She will be forever in our hearts.

The family will receive friends on Friday, October 17, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. Where a Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 AM in the funeral home chapel with Pastor Chris Owens officiating. Interment will follow in First Saints Community Methodist Cemetery, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Scott B. Pickell, Ken Cusic, Kyle Cusic, Bobby Spalding, and Dale Spalding.

Contributions may be made to the Leonardtown Vol. Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 299, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

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

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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Friday, Oct. 24

Bad Art Night

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
4:30-6:30 p.m.

An outrageous evening of unconventional art-making just for adults! Guests are invited to create "bad art," with supplies provided, then vote for "The Best of the Worst." Prizes, lively music, and a cash bar round out the fun. Annmarie Wine Bar, Mully's Brewery, and Bowl 29 will be on site for refreshments. Admission: \$7/person (21+); members free. No reservations required.

SMTMD Open Mic

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

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 p.m. Admission is \$8; children 17 and under (when accompanied by a paying

adult) and performers are admitted free of charge. Info: smtmd2@gmail.com
www.smtmd.org/new-events/

Saturday, Oct. 25

Free Document Shredding Event

St. Andrews Landfill
44837 St. Andrews Church Road
8 a.m. – noon.

It's time to clean out your filing cabinets and desks to get rid of confidential, private, or other important personal documents that you no longer need to keep! Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) will host their 18th annual Community Shredding Event to give residents the opportunity to have their confidential, private, and important documents destroyed by a professional shredding service at no cost. Please limit the number of boxes you bring to 3 standard bankers' boxes (10"H x 12"W x 15" D) per person. For more information, please call DPW&T at (301) 475-4200, ext. 3550.

Cook & Wells Families Benefit

Ridge Volunteer Fire Department

13820 Point Lookout Road, Ridge
2-10 p.m.

Community, family & friends are hosting this benefit. \$20 per person / \$40 per family. Featured events: silent auction, 50 / 50, and raffles; kids entertainment area (2- 6 p.m.). BYOB (ID check at door); food, baked goods, and soda / water available for purchase. Music by: DJ Wild Wes (MC); Shawn & Mike Duo (2-6 p.m.); Riley Allen Music (6-8 p.m.). Donations & questions – contact Jessica 240-925-7114. 100 percent of the donations will go to the Cook & Wells families.

Truck or Treat in the Village

28120 Old Flora Road, Mechanicsville
5:30-8 p.m.

The Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad is thrilled to invite you to this community celebration that promises a safe, fun, and family-friendly environment for children to enjoy.

Activities include: Trunk-or-Treating & candy galore; games & contests; hayrides; face painting; raffles & bake sale; plus, food trucks will be on site serving up delicious options available for purchase. Bring your costumes, your sweet tooth, and the whole family. co29.org

Sunday, Oct. 26

Quarter Auction

Father Andrew White School
22850 Leonardtown
1-3 p.m.

A fun afternoon event for the whole family! The Fun Bunch & Friendz Quarter Auction Team present prizes for all ages benefiting the FAW Destination Imagination teams. Auction, 50/50 raffle, brown bag raffle baskets, and concessions available. Visit the Fun Bunch & Friendz FB page at Quarter Auctions in SOMD to learn more about this event, including a list of participating sponsors.

Monday, Oct. 27

Republican Women of St Mary's County

The Pax River Ale House
46590 Corporate Dr., Lexington Park
11 a.m.

Starting at 11:30 with social time beginning at 11 AM. Our speaker will be Tim Jarboe. Any questions please call Kim 443-668-2883.

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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, Oct 24

Calvert County 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.

Bad Art Night

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
4:30-6:30 p.m.

An outrageous evening of unconventional art-making just for adults! Guests are invited to create "bad art," with supplies provided, then vote for "The Best of the Worst." Prizes, lively music, and a cash bar round out the fun. Annmarie Wine Bar, Mully's Brewery, and Bowl 29 will be on site for refreshments. Admission: \$7/person (21+); members free. No reservations required.

Sat, Oct 25

Open House & Fall Fundraiser

Pets with Disabilities
635 Clay Hammond Rd., Prince Frederick
Noon to 4 p.m.

Raffles, entertainment, food & drink, trail walks! Meet our adoptable dogs and our former pups that have gone to their furever home. Admission is free! Families and friendly spayed and neutered dogs welcome! 443.624.9270; petswithdisabilities.org

Drug Take Back Day

Southern Community Center
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby
Northeast Community Center
4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave., Chesapeake Beach
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the

Residents are encouraged to safely dispose of unused or expired medications by dropping them off at either location. Medications should be in their original packaging to allow for easy disposal. Law enforcement officers and volunteers from the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse (CAASA) and Calvert County Behavioral Health will be on hand to assist with collection and provide resource information.

For those unable to participate on Oct. 25, three 24/7 medication drop boxes are available year-round at the following locations:
Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), 30 Church St., Prince Frederick
Maryland State Police, Barrack U, 210 Main St. Prince Frederick
CCSO Dunkirk Station, 10500 Southern Maryland Blvd., Dunkirk
For more information, contact CAASA at 410-535-3733.

Sun, Oct 26

SOMD Reviving the Community Fair—Festival in the Park

3255 Kings Landing Rd., Huntingtown
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

2nd Annual festival at Kings Landing Park. Resource fair, music festival, guest speakers, kids activities, food trucks, and small businesses. Free to participate as a resource and free to attend. Bring the whole family.

ACLT Halloween Hike

1985 Scientists Cliffs Road
Port Republic
6-7:30 p.m.

Hike guided by Master Naturalists. The group will hike the Ridge, North/South, and Cemetery Lane trails. To register: form.jotform.com/250224156558153

Mon, Oct 27

Overcoming Challenges to Succeed

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center, this is an interactive workshop for learning about challenges/barriers that may interfere with navigating a successful career plan. Don't miss this free class. Registration closes the Thursday before the event. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Proven Program to Prevent or Delay Diabetes

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Take charge of your health! Join our free, fun and supportive year-long diabetes prevention program for those at risk of diabetes or looking to lose weight. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mindfulness Series: Meditation with Allie

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Discover the power of presence with Mindfulness Meditation led by Allie. Begin with gentle guidance into mindfulness, sink into a soothing meditation, and close with space for reflection. Allie's warm, insightful approach invites you to find clarity, deepen self-awareness, and embrace moments of stillness and transformation. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Oct 28

Astronomy Night

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

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

CalvertLibrary.info.

OMOB Book Discussion

Calvert Library
Online via Teams
8-9 p.m.

The whole state is being asked to read and discuss this book as the One Maryland One Book initiative. Hybrid in form, and even more expansive in what it has to say, *Kin: Rooted in Hope* is a book created by, and about, a Black family and its generations. Poet and children's author Carole Boston Weatherford and her son, artist Jeffery Boston Weatherford, collaborated on this book that gives voice to their earliest enslaved ancestors back to the founding of Maryland. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Oct 29

Job Seeker Resources

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

MD Labor Workforce—Veterans Services will be available (in person) to meet with those seeking employment-related support and community service information. This event focuses on Veteran's Services! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Bilingual Conversation Hour: Spanish-English

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

Come join us for a fun hour of bilingual conversation! We will get to practice our English and Spanish Conversation Skills! It will be a time for community members to help each other out with their language needs! Did you take Spanish in HS or College and are a little rusty? Is your family from Latin America and you aren't as fluent as you'd like? 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

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

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

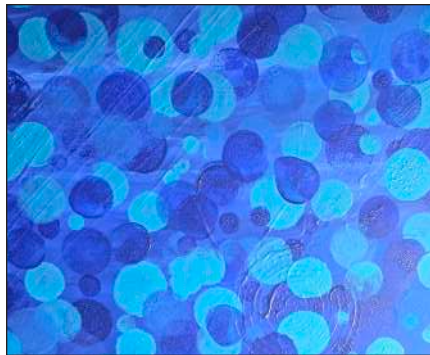
To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the County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



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

ArtWorks Features Monochromatic



By Corrita Meyers



By Seth Fenton

Monochromatic—a color scheme that is based on a single color, or hue. The other colors within the color scheme are all light and dark variations of that hue. Tricky, right? We all have a favorite, but could you narrow it down to only one? Warm and fiery... or cool and calming?

ArtWorks at 7th features Monochromatic Oct. 30—Nov. 30. Each wall of the show will be filled with different subjects, all brought to life through the artists' favorite single-color palettes, like Seth Fenton's wood burning and Corrita Meyers's blue hued abstract.

This month's guest artist is Carol Tisone. Carol's passion for Glass-on-Glass (GOG) mosaics was sparked after attending a GOG mosaic workshop in 2019. Using a little stash of stained glass, she began experimenting with a variety of designs and techniques as she developed her own style of GOG mosaic. She began with unframed glass, moved to using old and new frames to compliment the subject, tried her hand at old window frames and most recently with concrete outdoor items.

Her themes and subjects reflect her own

as well as the Bay area interests (crabs, mermaids, Jellyfish) or are inspired by the amazing stained glass she has continued to collect from glass stores far and wide.

Please join us and meet the artists at the opening reception on Saturday, Nov. 1, 1-4 p.m. for refreshments and lite fare. Hope to see you there!

Money spent locally stays in the local economy and continues to strengthen the economic base of the entire community. Small local businesses make indispensable contributions to communities and neighborhoods. Supporting local artists allows them the opportunity to continue to serve their communities. You will often see members of Artworks@7th supporting local charities and organizations by participating in art shows, teaching workshops, and donating items for fundraisers.

ArtWorks@7th is located at 8905 Chesapeake Avenue (near 2nd street) in North Beach. Our hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Press Release from ArtWorks at 7th

Animal Shelter Announces Halloween Promotion

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter will hold an October adoption promotion, "Ghouls Just Wanna Have Homes," through Friday, Oct. 31. During this timeframe, adopters can draw a prize from a "spooky cauldron" to win a waived adoption fee, a half-off adoption fee or treat bag filled with candy.

Animals of all ages are available for adoption, including dogs, cats, rabbits, roosters, pigs and more. Adoptions include spay or neuter surgery, microchipping, age-appropriate vaccinations and a starter care package to help pets transition into their new homes. Standard adoption protocols still apply.

All potential adopters will go through the shelter's usual screening process to ensure each animal is placed in a safe, loving and appropriate home.

The shelter is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To schedule an intake appointment, call 410-535-7387. The shelter is located at 5055 Hallowing Point Road in Prince Frederick.

Follow the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter on Instagram at @calvertcountyanimalshelter and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyAnimalShelter.



For more information about adopting from the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter and to view adoptable pets, visit www.calvert-countyanimalshelter.com.

Press release from Calvert County Government



Letters to the Editor

Thanks from the Fair Board

The Calvert County Fair Board would like to publicly thank everyone who helped to make our recent fair the success that it was. It takes a lot of people lending much support to hold a successful event and we feel fortunate that so many helped to support the 2025 Calvert County Fair.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who gave so generously of their time and talents; the businesses, organizations, and individuals who took ads in the Fair Book or brochure, helped to sponsor events, trophies, plaques, and awards or set up booths; the wonderful staff of Calvert County Parks and Recreation and Calvert County Office on Aging that helped with Senior Citizen and Special Needs Day; the Career and Technology Academy for allowing students from Food Production, under the instruction of Karl Hille, to assist with the preparation and serving the bag lunch for our seniors and special needs persons; to Steve Weems for his help in Judging and participating in the Pie Eating Contest for the 3rd year; the local contractors who generously provided equipment and supplies; the many judges who shared their expertise; the local newspapers for their coverage; the local fire and rescue departments; the deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and the troopers from the Maryland State Police who were on call; Lt. Jason Dean who was in charge of security at the Fair and 1st Sgt. Gary Shrawder for working out the traffic plan for Youth Day and county road staff for helping make the plan work; the Joy Riders who assisted with the parking; the Calvert County Board of Education; the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners and special thanks to Commissioners Buddy Hance and Todd Ireland for presenting the Citation to Miss Tranquility and Lord Calvert at the contest on Sept 21; Miss Tranquility Katelyn Jackson and her court and Lord Calvert, Daelin Rice and his court, who were official greeters at the gate; Reverend Jenn Taber Osterfeld for the Invocation and Blessing of the Fair at the official Opening

Ceremony, Amelia Osterfeld for singing the National Anthem, and Everode Johnson and crew for providing horses and riders in the parade.

We would like to thank the John Brady family for coordinating the Poultry Building. We would also like to thank those for overseeing the Livestock Barns and thank Debbie Jones, James Bateman, and Robert Lee Trossbach for their help in the Livestock Barns during the Fair, the 4-H livestock members; and Jim Bateman and Hatcher's Supply for the manure pit. Thanks to Patricia Hopkins from the Calvert County 4-H program for her help before and during the Fair in the Youth and 4-H Building; Calvert Career Academy's FFA for judging the egg entries and helping with the Farmer for a Day exhibit; and to the ARC of Southern Maryland for help with youth judging. Thanks to the Calvert County Farm Bureau, the Chesapeake Garden Club and the Southern Maryland Bee Association for their displays and help in working in the Farm and Garden Building. Thanks also to the local talent groups and individuals who performed free of charge; the Exhibitors on Youth Day, those who set up food or commercial booths; the College of Southern Maryland for the use of their parking lot, and to patrons who brought cans and dry or boxed foods to the Fair on Wednesday night and on Youth Day for donation to a local food pantry.

We would like to thank all those who prayed that we would have good weather at the Fair this year and their prayers were answered with the exception of Saturday of the Fair.

In addition, we would like to thank those who proudly brought their exhibits, for without exhibits, we wouldn't have a county fair. Last, but certainly, not least, we thank all of those who came and joined in the fun. We hope to see you back again next year!

*Larry Titus, President
Calvert County Fair Board*

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of October 6, 2025 – October 12, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,310 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 59
- Disorderly: 15
- Domestic: 31
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 53
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 935
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 28
- Traffic Complaints: 83
- Traffic Stops: 374
- 911 Hang Ups: 45
- ARRESTS: 33



Anthony Tion Conklin

CDS Violation: 25-83871 On October 9, 2025, Deputy Angell initiated a traffic stop after observing a vehicle veer off the roadway, strike a curb, and begin traveling on the sidewalk of Bayside

Road in Chesapeake Beach. Upon making contact with the driver, **Anthony Tion Conklin**, 27, of Clinton, a strong odor of marijuana was detected emanating from the vehicle. Investigation revealed that Conklin was driving on a suspended license and had expired vehicle registration. Conklin admitted to consuming alcohol earlier in the evening and submitted to standardized field

sobriety testing. He was subsequently determined to be under the influence and placed under arrest. A search of the vehicle incident to arrest revealed 15 open Club Tails Cocktail bottles. Conklin was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where a secondary search of his person by correctional deputies uncovered a folded check containing multiple pills. Conklin was charged with CDS Possession – Not Cannabis, CDS Possession of Paraphernalia, Possession of CDS while Confined, CDS Opiate Without a Prescription, DUI, Negligent Driving, Reckless Driving, and several other traffic-related offenses.



Tammy Carolyn Gaich

CDS Violation: 25-84506 On October 11, 2025, DFC Huy conducted a traffic stop on Skinners Turn Road in Owings after observing a vehicle strike a curb and cross the white fog line several times.

Upon making contact with the driver, identified as **Tammy Carolyn Gaich**, 35 of Dunkirk, deputies detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from her person. Gaich submitted to standardized field sobriety testing to determine her ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. At the conclusion of the tests, she was placed under arrest for driving under the influence. A search inci-

dent to arrest revealed two empty wine bottles, an open vodka bottle, and a reusable water bottle containing an unknown alcoholic beverage. Deputies also located a pill bottle containing 76 pills suspected to be Adderall, 49 of which Gaich did not have a prescription for. Gaich was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with DWI, DUI, CDS: Possession – Not Cannabis, and Open Container.

Theft: 25-83749 On October 8, 2025, DFC Rzepkowski responded to Calvert County Sheriff's Office District 1 Station located at 10500 Southern Maryland Blvd in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant reported an unknown suspect(s) stole the victim's temporary registration plate and racked up several toll fees. The estimated value of stolen property is \$100.

Theft: 25-84140 On October 9, 2025, DFC Fleenor responded to the Calvert County District 3 office located at 11780 HG Trueman Road in Lusby, for the report of a theft. The complainant stated the rear registration plate had been stolen from his vehicle. The estimated value of stolen property is \$50.

Theft: 25-84024 On October 9, 2025, Deputy Pope responded to Bright Time Dental, located at 10113 Ward Road in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant stated that between 7:30 a.m. and 2:18 p.m., an unknown suspect removed the

front registration plate from a vehicle parked behind the office. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$15.



Patrick Lee Brown

Trespassing: 25-84981 On October 12, 2025, Deputy Campbell responded to the Wawa at 305 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick for a report of harassment. Upon investigation, **Patrick Lee Brown**, 61, of Huntingtown, was found to be trespassing. Brown had previously been trespassing from the establishment and was currently on probation. He was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

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

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

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Hall Aquatic Center to Close for Construction

HVAC System, Roof, Lighting to be Replaced

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The county's Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center in Prince Frederick will be closed for six months beginning next May for a major renovation that includes new HVAC system, roof, and lighting. The closure has raised concern about options from the people who use the indoor facility.

Director of Parks and Recreation Bob Branham, in a memo to the commissioners, wrote, "The Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center requires replacement of its aging HVAC systems and the installation of a new Thermoplastic Polyolefin (TPO) roofing system. These upgrades are necessary to maintain the safety, efficiency, and long-term viability of the county's primary aquatic facility."

He went on to say, "Calvert County is utilizing the Sourcewell Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Contract No. MD R4-GC-030425-CCE with Centennial Contractors Enterprises Inc. to complete this project. Centennial has provided a final detailed scope of work and proposal, dated Aug. 27, 2025, for the replacement of the HVAC systems and TPO roofing. The proposal includes all required mechanical, electrical, roofing, and scaffolding work. Work Order No. 143818 establishes a firm, fixed price and includes liquidated damages of \$500 per day for delays beyond the agreed schedule. The total cost of the project is \$5,809,450. Funds are budgeted and available for this project within the Capital Improvement Plan CIP-000105: Hall Aquatic Center HVAC/Roof Replacement."

Branham said, "Without these upgrades,



Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center

the center faces potential closures, safety concerns, and loss of public trust, with each shutdown averaging \$21,000 per week in lost revenue. Proactive replacement will preserve the facility's integrity, reduce future costs, improve energy efficiency, and ensure compliance with safety and health standards."

Branham said, "Since opening its doors back in 2010, the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center has made a splash in our community. We continuously welcome swimmers, athletes, families, and friends for 15 incredible years of fitness, fun and connection. This facility, like many parks and recreation amenities, has been a gathering place for our community. Like any well-used and well-loved facility, it's now time for some much-needed TLC to ensure it continues serving Calvert County residents for decades to come." He said, "The Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center renovation will focus heavily on core infrastructure renewal. This is the HVAC system, roof structure, and lighting systems, which are each undergoing full replacement to bring the facility

up to modern standards. The new HVAC system will provide improved air handling and humidity control, addressing both comfort and corrosion prevention. Currently, the facility's HVAC system is operating at less than 50 percent of the required capacity to adequately heat and cool the facility. This is most notably felt during periods of intense heat and cold. But issues are also being shared daily based on the warm days and cool nights of the fall season here currently. Many of the people in this room have frequently heard from county residents and user groups about the ongoing heating and cooling issues in the aquatic center.

"Notably, last spring, a swim meet had to be canceled because the current HVAC system was unable to properly cool the facility to meet required thresholds. More recently this fall errors in the control system, faulty equipment and incorrectly operating sensors sent temperatures inside the facility soaring."

"The roof replacement," he said, "will strengthen the building envelope, improve insulation, and ensure long-term resilience

against environmental elements. The current roof structure cannot function as it was originally intended. When the facility was designed, the roof panels were configured to provide additional ventilation via moving panels that could be opened and closed. Due to mechanical issues, parts no longer being available, the overall age of the roofing material and the roofing slope, ongoing repairs for these features was just deemed unjustifiable."

The department plans to use Kings Landing and Cove Point outdoor pools as the backup for the time when the aquatic center is closed. Both of those pools will open on May 1 instead of Memorial Day and remain open through September to accommodate the swim clubs, such as 160-member Calvert Aquatic Club.

The commissioners were told every effort would be made to accommodate all the users, but not everyone will get what they feel they need. Some programs, such as the therapeutic program, may have to be cancelled next summer.

The commissioners, having heard complaints from the swim club, pressed the parks and recreation representatives on making sure that arrangements are made to accommodate everyone possible. It was also suggested that the department contact the pool at Naval Air Station Patuxent River to see if times might be available.

The commissioners did unanimously approve the contract for the aquatic center work. Branham said there is a large lead time for ordering materials, so that has commenced so everything is ready when construction begins.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Economic Development Hosts Farm Tour

Local and state officials explored Calvert County's agricultural landscape during the annual Calvert Farm Tour, hosted by the Calvert County Department of Economic Development on Wednesday, Oct. 22. The 2025 tour, themed "Agriculture's Impact on the Economy," brought together policymakers, local producers and agricultural partners to highlight the evolving landscape of Calvert's farming industry.

This year's tour focused on the northern end of the county, with stops in Owings and Dunkirk. Participants visited Wilson Dowell Farms, Freedom Hill Horse Rescue, Sassafras Farms and Swann Farms.

Participants included Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Kevin Atticks, Commissioner President Earl "Buddy" Hance, Commissioner Vice President Todd Ireland, Commissioner Mark C. Cox Sr., Commissioner Catherine M. Grasso and County Administrator Linda Turner.

Representatives from the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, Maryland Farm Bureau, Calvert Farm Bureau and other local resource partners, organizations and businesses also attended.

"Each year, the Farm Tour offers a unique opportunity to connect with the people and

businesses driving Calvert County's agricultural economy," Economic Development Director Julie Oberg said. "This year's focus highlights the diversity of our farms and their critical role in sustaining both our economy and community."

As part of the tour, Atticks hosted a roundtable discussion with local producers at Sassafras Farms. The tour featured visits to agricultural businesses throughout northern Calvert County, including:

- Wilson Dowell Farms (wilsondowellfarms.com): A fourth-generation, 320-acre family farm rooted in the Dowell-Leavitt legacy, where the name honors their grandfather, Wilson Dowell Jr. Originally a tobacco farm, it has transitioned over the decades into a sustainable, pasture-based livestock operation. Under the leadership of Judy Leavitt—and later her son Jason and his wife, Kristen—the farm has shifted to raising grass-fed beef and pasture-raised pork through rotational grazing and regenerative practices. Established as Wilson Dowell Farms LLC in 2010, the farm sells meat directly to consumers and participates in local agricultural education and events.
- Freedom Hill Horse Rescue (fhhr.org):

A nonprofit rescue founded in 2004 by Melody Trecartin to rescue foals from the pregnant mares' urine (PMU) and nurse mare industries. Freedom Hill has expanded to rehabilitate and rehome abused, neglected, abandoned and owner-surrender horses. The rescue has helped more than 470 horses and is verified by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries. Operated by volunteers and donors, the organization provides community education and equine-assisted services. As a certified Maryland Horse Discovery Center, it offers equine-assisted learning programs where rehabilitated horses help youth and families build life skills through hands-on, ground-based activities.

- Sassafras Farms (sffarmsmd.com): A diversified farm that began operations in 1962, covering approximately 226 acres across two locations, and is owned by the Smart family. Chad and Curk Smart became a fully registered Black Angus cattle operation in 2010, with an emphasis on natural, high-quality beef through advanced breeding techniques. In 2015, the farm expanded by establishing its registered

Black Angus herd, and in 2021 it added registered Berkshire pigs, chosen for their marbling, tenderness and flavor. Sassafras Farms sells locally grown, hormone-and antibiotic-free beef and pork at its Dunkirk location.

- Swann Farms (swannfarms.com): A sixth-generation family farm established in the 1850s along the Patuxent River. Originally focused on tobacco and grain crops, the farm shifted in the 1990s to growing fruits and vegetables, including sweet corn, peaches, berries and tomatoes. Today, the farm operates a wholesale produce business serving local grocery stores, restaurants and roadside stands across Southern Maryland and features 20 acres of pick-your-own produce along with seasonal agritourism experiences like sunflower and pumpkin picking. Recognized for its conservation practices and community involvement, the Swann family was inducted into Maryland's Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2016.

For more information about Calvert County agriculture, visit www.CalvertAg.com.

Press release from Calvert County Government



CALVERT COUNTY INFORMATION & EVENTS

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and are subject to change. Watch here: [YouTube](#) | [Meetings on Demand](#) | [Comcast channel 99 or 1070 HD](#)

Board of County Commissioners Meeting

Next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025, 10 a.m.
Commissioners' Hearing Room, 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick

Boards and Commissions Meetings

Meetings are held via Teams unless otherwise noted.
Meeting IDs and passwords are available at [calvertcountymd.gov](#).

Environmental Commission

Oct. 27, 2025, 6-8 p.m.



UPCOMING COUNTY EVENTS



Calvert County will participate in **National Drug Take Back Day** on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Southern Community Center, located at 20 Appeal Lane in Lusby, and the Northeast Community Center, located at 4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave. in Chesapeake Beach.



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Whether you're looking for local events and activities, community resources or the top five things happening in county government, there's a newsletter for you:

Calvert Business Bulletin – News and updates from Economic Development

Calvert Currents – Updates from the County Commissioners

Caregiver Connections – Resources from the Office on Aging

Fresh Finds – Agricultural events and updates

Planning Perspective – News from Planning & Zoning

The Connection – Senior events and activities

Tidings – Local events and things to do

Veterans Affairs Commission – Veteran news and updates



For upcoming events, news, newsletters and more, visit:

calvertcountymd.gov/CountyTimes



Ghouls Just Wanna Have Homes

Adoption Promo - Oct. 21-31

There will be a spooky cauldron for the adopters to pull from - it will be waived fee, half off or a trick or treat bag of candy!

Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter
calvertcountymd.gov/CountyTimes.



Walktober is a month-long event focusing on promoting physical activity, particularly walking and raising awareness about pedestrian safety and health.

Wednesday, Oct. 29
Halloween Week:
Wear a costume

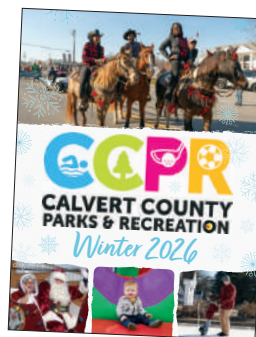


Noon walks:

- Ward Farm Park playground
- Hallowing Point Park pavilion
- Solomons Town Center Park pavilion
- King Memorial Park pavilion
- CalvertHealth Medical Center
- Annex parking lot

5 p.m. walks:

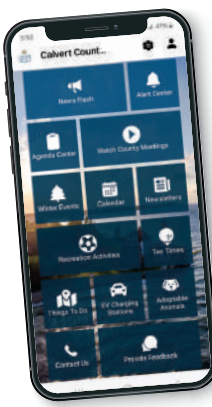
- Ward Farm Park playground,
- Hallowing Point Park pavilion
- Solomons Town Center pavilion
- North Beach boardwalk entrance
- Solomons Medical Center parking lot



Big change, same great guide!

Beginning with the Winter 2026 issue, activity guides won't be mailed to homes — but you can still grab a printed copy at all Calvert County community centers and libraries. Swing by, flip through and start planning your next adventure!

Your feedback is always welcome and you can find the latest activity guide anytime at calvertcountymd.gov/CountyTimes.



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Town Council Approves New Water Park Plan

Contract to be \$18.56 Million; to Open in 2027

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It's a big project for a small town. After almost a year of deliberation, the Town Council of Chesapeake Beach is moving ahead with building a new water park to replace the existing aging one at a cost of \$18.56 million.

Funding for the project will come from "reserve funds, grants and financing," according to Town Administrator Dr. Samelia Okpodu.

The motion at the Oct. 16 town meeting that set everything in motion said, "The Council authorizes Town staff to prepare and negotiate a Design/Build contract with Scheibel Contracting and Paddock Pools to replace the existing Water park with a maximum not to exceed price of \$18,568,560.00 (total price with alternates.) Town Council further authorizes the mayor to execute the contract upon approval of the form of contract by the Town Attorney."

Mayor Bruce Wahl told The County Times that the contract had already been agreed to with Scheibel Contracting although it has not yet been signed.

Wahl said Scheibel would act as the general contractor with Paddock Pools as a subcontractor. Paddock built the original water park and the town wanted to have them involved because of their institutional knowledge.

It is not clear whether the details of the contract will be brought back to the council before the contract is signed by the mayor.

The goal is to have the park ready for opening in 2027, a year later than the mayor's original goal.

The decision is a major pivot from plans of the previous council to demolish the water park and replace it with a community swimming pool.

Wahl said that the decision was allowed under the recently amended town code to "waive the procurement requirements for the Water Park Rebuild project. This waiver and authorization is supported by the following findings.

"Number one, the public interest is served. The public has expressed a desire for the water park to reopen in a design similar to the existing facility. This rebuild is aligned with the will of the electorate and the priority of the newly elected town council. Engaging the original builder expedites the process and reduces costs, thereby serving the public interest.

"Number two, competitive procurement is not advantageous. The Public Works director has investigated the feasibility of the rebuild and consulted with multiple vendors, including the original builder. Based on this investigation, it is determined that a competitive procurement process would not be expected to yield a more advantageous contract due to the complexity of the site-specific nature of the project.

"And number three, justification for vendor selection: Paddock Pools, as the original builder, has unique technical knowledge of the structure and its historical issues. Their

expertise enables a targeted rebuild that minimizes unnecessary demolition and allows for infrastructure reuse, recycling, significant savings, and long-term durability.

Five of the six council members supported the motion, with Councilman Eric Reinhardt the lone member not going along with the majority.

Reinhardt said, "It's cut and dry. It's either going to pass or fail and we move on really quickly."

But Reinhardt added, "I still would like to sever the approval of the authorization to negotiate from the authorization to execute." An attempt to do so failed for lack of a second.

Earlier in the meeting several people spoke in support of the new water park. Shirl Henley said of the water park, "It's been a bright spot in our community for all the years that I've been here and even before. And I'm hoping that it's going to be a bright spot for years and years afterward."

Henley said, "Everything is expensive now. We have to live with that, but if you look around, we do not have a lot of amenities for people in the town, especially young people (and) older people. The water park is something that we can all use."

Nadine Jarrett said, "I've worked at the water park for about 20 years. I've been around young people for a very long time, and the water park was a very integral part of our young people's lives here, and I'm hoping that that will continue to be that way. We did more than just have employees. We have some of

them here now that worked from the time they were 14 years old, and they've worked their way up and they became responsible adults. They worked in an environment where they were taught what they needed to do to work out in the public. They learned how to work with people. They formed skills that they wouldn't have gotten anywhere else. And they've been missing that. That's something that we have been missing."

She observed, "We've been missing the time when the kids would have a place to go in the summertime. And beaches around here are closed everywhere. Nobody can go to a public beach anymore. You have to pay to go to beaches. The kids need a place to be."

Jarrett added, "Even businesses in the area suffered because the water park has been closed. It's been a great impact on this whole area. (at) the water park, families could come there with their kids. They didn't have to drive somewhere else. They could do it right here in our town. And that's what makes our town so special. And we've missed all of that. People came from everywhere. When working over there, people said...they were from Pennsylvania. Heard about your water park. I wanted to be there. So, I'm hoping that you'll move forward and make it possible again for young people to be employed, to have a place where they can grow up and enjoy being here right in their own town and enjoying those things because they've missed that."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Supplemental Budget Adds Almost \$3 Million

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved a supplemental budget for the fiscal year that ended June 30. The budget adds almost \$3 million in expenses offset by an upward readjustment in anticipated income tax revenue.

The approval came at a public hearing at which only one speaker, Joseph Cormier of Owings, testified.

Before the hearing "Deputy director of Budget Mary Andes read a memo to the commissioners that said, "On June 10, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget, which appropriated \$385,978,812 for General Fund operating expenses."

She added, "Over the past month, the Department of Finance & Budget has worked with county departments to identify items that were either underfunded or unfunded in the FY 2026 adopted budget. The following items have been classified as critical needs and support the case for a supplemental budget:

1. Snow & Ice Removal — The Department of Public Works — Highway Maintenance requires an additional \$255,000 to supplement the existing \$55,000 appropriation for snow and ice removal. These funds are needed to retain private contractors for winter storm response. Without this

funding, the department will be unable to secure contractor availability during snow or ice events.

2. House Bill 352 — Teacher Retirement Pension Pursuant to House Bill 352, Calvert County is required to contribute \$1,650,000 to the Maryland Teacher Retirement Pension System in FY 2026. This is a mandated payment established by the State and must be met in full.
3. Prudent Rx Program — In FY 2026, the BOCC approved the implementation of Prudent Rx, a benefit that covers specialty medications not included under the standard prescription plan. Based on projected participation, Finance & Budget recommends an initial allocation of \$75,000. Actual expenditures will be reviewed and refined for FY 2027.
4. Mosquito Control — The Department of Public Works Mosquito Control program requires \$45,500 to continue operations through FY 2026. This request addresses a funding shortfall and ensures uninterrupted service to citizens. Finance & Budget will coordinate with Public Works to ensure adequate recurring funding beginning in FY 2027.
5. Animal Control — Department of Public Safety requires \$17,500 to complete the lighting package installation for an Animal Services vehicle purchased in FY 2025. Without this, the vehicle cannot be placed into service.

The department does not have sufficient funds within its FY 2026 operating budget to absorb this cost.

6. Detention Center — Wellpath. The detention center requires an additional \$750,000 to cover contractual increases in inmate healthcare services provided by Wellpath.

7. Public Safety Master Plan — The Department of Public Safety requires \$200,000 to fund the development of their new Master Plan.

Total cost of the seven items is \$2,993,000.

Regarding using income tax revenue to cover the expenditures, Andes said, "Calvert County has historically adopted conservative revenue estimates to safeguard against year-end shortfalls. Based on recent performance, a revenue increase of \$2,993,000 is both reasonable and sustainable. Even with this adjustment, revenue estimates remain conservative and will not create a deficit."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "So, the last couple years we've had some pretty tight budgets, so we've been cutting and holding everybody to a pretty tight string."

Hance noted, for example, "Last year, I believe...we had one of the snowiest winters we've had in quite a while. So, we were prepared that we might have to make a budget adjustment to cover that additional expenditure which we have no control over."

He added, "The House bill for the Teacher Retirement Pension, that's an item that the

state pushed down on us. At the time of our budget adoption, we didn't know what that was. So, we have to come in and make this adjustment based on that push down cost, which is probably going to happen again this coming year."

He went through the rest of the items providing justification.

Sheriff Ricky Cox said inflation is the issue for the Wellpath program for "the cost of the care and security and protection of the inmates that are at our detention center. Just for one example, the one contract was paying registered nurses \$13 an hour. Any nurse that goes through school realizes that's a downfall for them."

Andes said, "All of these items we unfortunately could not prepare for when projecting the FY 26 budget. So, this really is the best fiscally responsible way to do it. We're using FY '26 funds to pay for FY '26 services."

Commissioner Catherine Grasso said, "Just before people get up and talk about how horrible we are at budgeting, I just want the public to understand that a budget is just a projection. And you base it on historical information. You base it on the information that they had at the time you developed that budget. And when you're cutting budgets, like we've been cutting budgets the last couple years, we anticipate things like this. But we're trying to hold our departments on as close a shoestring as we can."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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“THE KIDS NEED A PLACE TO BE.”

NADINE JARRETT ON THE CHESAPEAKE BEACH WATERPARK



LOCAL 6
Hall Aquatic Center to close for six months



COMMUNITY 8
Gallery announces latest show



ON THE COVER
Technology advances contribute to breast cancer screening and treatment

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 23	FRI, OCT 24	SAT, OCT 25	SUN, OCT 26
Mostly Sunny Hi: 64° Lo: 42°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 61° Lo: 41°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 60° Lo: 43°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 59° Lo: 47°
MON, OCT 27	TUE, OCT 28	WED, OCT 29	THU, OCT 30
Cloudy Hi: 55° Lo: 48°	Showers Hi: 55° Lo: 51°	Showers Hi: 60° Lo: 47°	Showers Hi: 62° Lo: 43°



LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS
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**Supplemental Budget
Adds Almost \$3M**

**Aquatic Center to
Close for Renovation**

**Animal Shelter Holds
Halloween Promotion**

**PLAN APPROVED FOR
NEW WATER PARK**