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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

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**Commissioners Oppose
Turn Lane Conversion**

**Public Rallies for
School Social Workers**

**Spring Events
Calendar Inside**



STUDENT STABBED AT GREAT MILLS HIGH

Photo by Ceandra Scott

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“IN THE HISTORY OF BAD IDEAS,
THIS IS THE WORST IDEA EVER.”

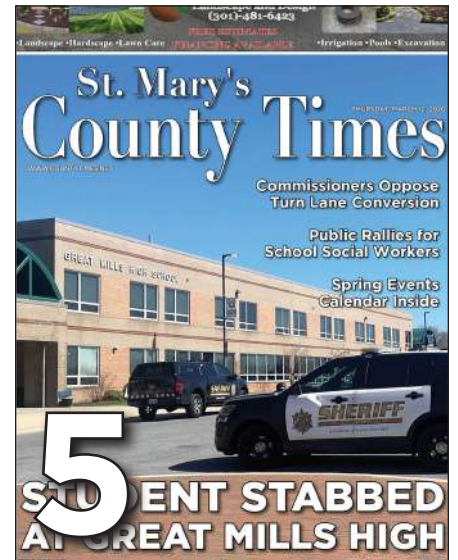
COMMISSIONER SCOTT OSTROW ON PROPOSED TURN-LANE CONVERSION



LOCAL 7
Commissioners share transportation priorities



LOCAL 7
Speakers oppose cutting social workers from school budget



ON THE COVER
Student altercation ends in stabbing at Great Mills High School

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAR 12 Rain to Snow Hi: 61° Lo: 33°	FRI, MAR 13 Partly Cloudy Hi: 56° Lo: 45°	SAT, MAR 14 Partly Cloudy Hi: 60° Lo: 44°	SUN, MAR 15 Partly Cloudy Hi: 62° Lo: 55°
MON, MAR 16 Thundershowers Hi: 66° Lo: 31°	TUE, MAR 17 Partly Cloudy Hi: 40° Lo: 24°	WED, MAR 18 Partly Cloudy Hi: 40° Lo: 32°	THU, MAR 19 Partly Cloudy Hi: 51° Lo: 38°



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Commissioner Races Feature Challenges

Two Seats Open Due to Term Limits

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

With Commissioner President Randy Guy and Commissioner Mike Hewitt both completing their third terms, under county law they are ineligible for re-election, opening up those two positions for a scramble in the 2026 primary election in June.

As the deadline for filing passed, Democrat AnnMarie Abell had filed for commissioner president along with Republicans Roy H. Alvey, Tom Jarboe and Greg Kolarik. Jarboe is a former commissioner.

With Art Shepherd dropping out of Hewitt's 2nd Commissioner District race, that left Brandon Russell as the sole Democratic candidate and former commissioner president Thomas F. McKay and former sheriff's candidate Tom Phelan to face each other in the Republican primary.

In Commissioner District 1 Democrats Sheila Milburn and Wendy Smith Rice-Morton will challenge each other for the right to face the sole Republican, incumbent Eric Colvin.

In Commissioner District 3, there are three unopposed candidates in the primary, incumbent Mike Alderson, Jr., who is unaffiliated, Democrat Joshua Kyte and Republican John O'Connor, a former commissioner.

In the 4th Commissioner District, incumbent Scott Octrow faces a challenge in the



Incumbent commissioners running for re-election: l to r, Eric Colvin, Mike Alderson, Jr. and Scott Ostrow

GOP primary from Dawn Zimmerman. Democrat Ryan B. Daniels has no primary opposition.

With the county legislative delegation's sole Democrat Brian Crosby not seeking re-election in District 29B, it remains to be seen if the seat will remain blue with Adrienne M. Mathis and Kris McDonald running or flip red with unopposed Republican candidate BJ Hall.

In northern St. Mary's, District 29A GOP incumbent Matt Morgon is not opposed in the primary and Democrat Jennifer Lynn Clancy is waiting in the wings to challenge

in November.

In the District 29C seat, split between middle St. Mary's and lower Calvert, incumbent Todd Morgan will face James McQueen in the primary. McQueen lives in Calvert. Morgan lives in St. Mary's.

In that district, here's a full slate of Democrats running: J. W. Abney, Mike Fechtmann, Eric F. Immler, and Shaara Watts.

On the Senate side in District 29, incumbent Jack Bailey has no GOP challenger, nor does Chuck Borges on the Democratic side.

In the school board race, Bailey's wife Karin is not seeking re-election for the

District 3 seat and Kim D. Summers is the only candidate who filed.

For the District 1 seat, incumbent Dorothy Andrews is being challenged by Liz Cooper.

Republican Sheriff Steve Hall will be challenged by Democrat Carl Sturgis in November.

Treasurer Christy Kelly, State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling, Clerk of the Circuit Court Debbie Mills Burch and Register of Wills Phyllis A. Superior are all unopposed. They are all Republican.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Maryland

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A non-partisan afternoon meet and greet and petition drive.

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Alderson For BOCC, Patricia Norris, Treasurer

They Said Yes!

Congratulations to the happy couples who applied for marriage licenses in St. Mary's County during the month of February. Best wishes to all!

Roshaiya Armani Thomas, 24, Lexington Park, MD
Joseph Gynell Thomas, 30, Lexington Park, MD

Deana Marie Zelaya, 50, Mechanicsville, MD
Douglas Evan Welch, 52, Mechanicsville, MD

Kevin Douglas Reuther, 25, Lusby, MD
Lily Martin Winsted, 28, Lexington Park, MD

Treesha Latoya Dove, 43, Lexington Park, MD
Keith Richard Scriber, 43, Hollywood, MD

David Michael Jenkins, 28, Huntingtown, MD
Jenna Marie Madden, 28, Lexington Park, MD

Clarissa Alice Wiederhoeft, 28, California, MD
Samuel Louis Williams, 28, California, MD

Becca Pearl Hall, 24, Lusby, MD
Denary David Kraus, 21, Lusby, MD

Kara Leigh Fleming, 26, Mechanicsville, MD
Bailey Evan Johnson, 23, Mechanicsville, MD

Cooper Christian Rice, 28, Leonardtown, MD
Soren Briar Stelari, 33, Leonardtown, MD

Carlie Mae Pilkerton, 21, Mechanicsville, MD
Clayton Barrett Mitchell, 22, Canton, OH

Angela Marie Mezzacapo, 31, Lexington Park, MD
Steven Ray Combs, 25, Lexington Park, MD

Crystal Lynn Simpson, 43, Pomfret, MD
Matthew Anthony Heard, 43, Waldorf, MD

Paige Elizabeth Trumpower, 20, Lexington Park, MD
Sebastian Neme, 21, Lexington Park, MD

Amber Jean Miller, 32, Mechanicsville, MD
Richard Dwight Rice, 3rd, 33, Mechanicsville, MD

Samantha Ann Richards, 28, Louisburg, NC
Nicholas Anthony Gallo, 27, Louisburg, NC

Sara Jean Norris, 32, Mechanicsville, MD
Tyler Louis Burch, 34, Mechanicsville, MD

Tyler James Moore Shotwell, 28, California, MD
Brooke Lynn Simpson, 27, California, MD

Hayley Elizabeth Golden, 23, Lexington Park, MD
Isaiah James Simpkins, 23, Lexington Park, MD

Crystal Marie Miller, 42, Mechanicsville, MD
Joseph Paul Crile, Sr., 42, Mechanicsville, MD

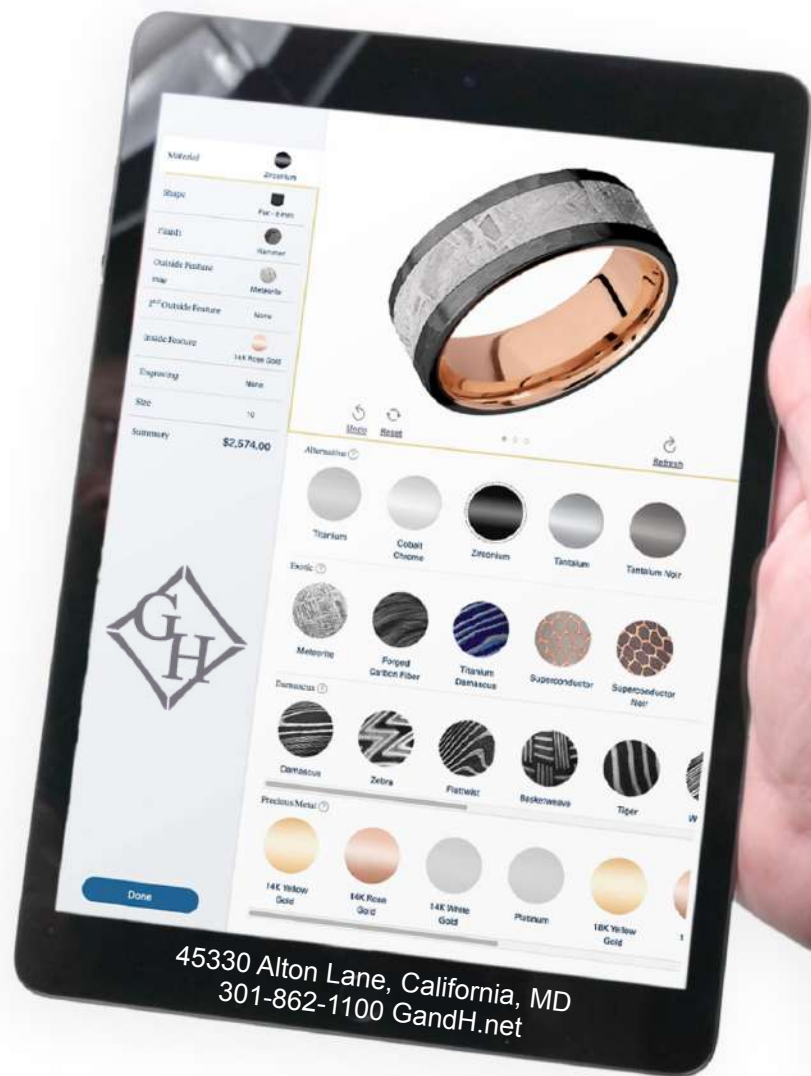
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School Board Vote Expected on Redistricting Proposal Shelves Shift for Indian Bridge Road Students

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Board of Education is expected at their March 11 meeting (after press deadline) to vote on a redistricting plan that will shift some students who would have gone to Leonardtown High School (LHS) to Chopticon High School (CHS). The plan will grandfather students already attending LHS.

The plan will also review the declining enrolment of the school system and if that persists they will move toward closing White March Elementary School in two years, causing a ripple effect down the county on elementary school boundaries.

But according to a proposal espoused by school board Chair Karin Bailey, the board will abandon the superintendent's plan

to move students who live along Indian Bridge Road from LHS to Great Mills High School (GMHS).

During an earlier public hearing, parents complained the plan would have shifted their children from the county's highest performing high school to the lowest. They said they chose to buy their home there based on the fact that it was in the LHS school district and that a change would devalue their property.

Bailey at the board's March 4 meeting, observing the number of new developments planned for the GMHS district, asked, "What is the potential impact on Great Mills High School for those developments that are coming online in the southern part of the county? Because if I look at this table, if we do the redistricting, the way that it's proposed, and I understand the reason that

it was done, that takes Great Mills up to 104 percent. And then if we have additional students coming in based on the developments, we're going to bump them up even more."

She said there was very little chance for development in the northern end of the county, where she lives.

Of the largest project Stewart's Grant, with more than 1,000 homes phased in over 10 years, Director of Capital Planning Kimberly Howe said, "They're looking at four to six months before they get their final approval. Their first phase is probably about two to four years out for full development of that."

Bailey said, "So my thought would be, and when we went into this from the very beginning, has always been to reduce the size of Leonardtown High School, knowing that Chopticon had capacity and Great

Mills was kind of hanging out there at the perfect level."

She added, "I understand what Canon Design (the consultant) did, and I understand why we added the rest of Indian Bridge Road based on the transportation... (what) we consider doing is just if we go back to moving the students that were identified from that Hollywood area to Chopticon, that gets Chopticon to 106 percent... with the anticipation that we were going to have development in the southern part of the county coming forward."

The plan is to continue to move Woodland Acres students from LHS to GMHS because the entrance to the development changed.

The rest of the board agreed with Bailey to shelve the Indian Bridge move.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Stabbing at Great Mills High School Under Investigation



Police response to Great Mills High School following Tuesday's stabbing. Photo by Ceandra Scott.

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office are investigating a stabbing that occurred Tuesday, March 10 at Great Mills High School.

At approximately 12:15 p.m., School Resource Officer Corporal Gerard Muschette requested an ambulance for a 19-year-old male suffering from a single stab wound to the torso. The victim was flown from the scene to an area hospital with injuries that appear to be non-life-threatening.

An immediate investigation was initiated, and a 17-year-old male suspect was taken into custody without incident. The student was charged as an adult with assault, first- and second-degree, and possession of a folding pocketknife on school grounds.

Law enforcement agencies are prohibited from publicly identifying juveniles due to legal protections that safeguard their identities throughout the judicial process.

Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division have assumed the case. Anyone who has not yet given a statement

is asked to contact Detective Helen Deitrich at 301-475-4200, ext. 8066, or by email at Helen.Deitrich@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Tipsters can also submit tips anonymously:

- Text 847411: start your message with "SMCSO", add a space, and then your tip.
- Online: Submit a tip through the Sheriff's Office website at www.FirstSheriff.com/tips.
- App: Send a tip directly through the SMCSO app. Download the free app from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.
- Phone: For those who prefer to make a phone call, tips can also be shared through the Crime Solvers line at 301-475-3333.

With Crime Solvers, you never have to give your name. You may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.

Press release from SMCSO

School System, Principal Respond to Student Stabbing

The St. Mary's County Public School system published the following statement regarding the stabbing that occurred at Great Mills High School (GMHS) on Tuesday, March 10 (see adjacent story):

"This afternoon, an incident involving two students occurred in a boy's bathroom at Great Mills High School. The altercation ended with one student walking out of the bathroom with a visible injury. He was escorted by several other students to the nurse's office, where it was confirmed that he had been stabbed in the lower chest, just beneath his pectoral muscle. The victim stated that he was stabbed with a knife and identified the individual responsible.

"The school was placed in a secure hold while the matter was being investigated. The suspect was located and taken into custody by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, and the weapon was recovered. The hold was released once it was confirmed by the St. Mary's Sheriff's Office that it was safe to do so.

"Emergency services were called at 12:15 PM, and out of an abundance of caution, EMTs decided to airlift the student to Children's Hospital for further medical care. Medevac landed on the baseball field at 12:53 PM, and the student's guardian was present during this process.

"The situation is being investigated by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office with assistance from Great Mills High School Administration and Safety and Security personnel. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department has issued alerts and updates on its social media sites throughout the investigation. Links to those sites can be found on their Media Page. Families of GMHS students were sent a letter by Principal Dothard informing them

of the incident and summarizing supports available for students tomorrow."

In addition, the County Times received a copy of the following letter, reportedly sent by Principal Beejay Dothard to the families of GMHS students:

"Dear parents and guardians,
"At 12:15 today, a student approached our School Resource Officer, Corporal Muschette, with a visible injury. The student stated he had been stabbed during a fight in the bathroom. The suspect was identified, and the school was placed in lockdown. The victim was taken to the nurse's office for evaluation. Responding EMTs determined the injury to be a non-life-threatening and called for the student to be medivaced out.

"The suspect was identified and taken into custody as additional sheriff's deputies arrived to assist with the investigation. The weapon has also been located and is in police custody.

"The St. Mary's County Sheriff's office is leading the investigation, and Great Mills High School Administration and Safety and Security personnel are cooperating fully. Out of respect for student privacy and the ongoing investigation we are unable to share additional identifying details at this time. Please be assured that appropriate actions are being taken in accordance with school district policies and local law enforcement.

"Counseling and support services are available for any students who may need assistance processing this event. We encourage families to speak with their children and remind them to report any safety concerns to a trusted adult or school staff member.

"We remain committed to maintaining a safe and secure learning environment for all members of our school community."

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Commissioners Oppose Turn Lane Conversion

Annual Letter Lists Road Priorities

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

"In the history of bad ideas, this is the worst idea ever. Period! Ever!"

Commissioner Vice President Scott Ostrow was referring to the proposal by State Highway Administration (SHA) to take away the turn lanes on southbound Route 235 between Chancellor's Run Road and Great Mills Road and convert them into pedestrian and bike lanes. The state is holding an informational meeting on the proposal tonight, March 12 (see separate story, page 10).

The commissioners feel so strongly about it that they are going to include the opposition in their road priority letter to the state that normally includes only positive requests.

Commissioner Eric Colvin said, "I'd like to see the letter, and it would be kind of a change from the norm, we've always in this letter asking for stuff, but I think I would really like to see a section in opposition to that proposed plan to remove the southbound turn lane on 235 that I believe you're very familiar with. It just doesn't make sense. I know it's being done for pedestrian safety, but it would in my mind cause more accidents in the morning commute and make things worse."

The commissioners in recent years have given up asking for a new Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge as a priority, realizing the state isn't going to do anything due to the bulging price tag. "The Thomas Johnson Bridge 2/4 has been our number one priority from 2002 through 2021. Not that it wasn't important in 2021 going forward, but it's just not something that we believe the state is going to find the funding for, especially now while we're watching projects get their funding moved up to Baltimore for the Francis Scott Keybridge replacement," said Director of Public Works and Transportation John Norris.

Instead, they are seeking improvements to the bridge access road.

"There's no pony of a bridge this year for us," said Commissioner Mike Alderson. "We'll keep asking for this. Probably I think 23 years in a row asking for a new bridge. And we're not going to get one. But we're going to get a lane taken away on 235, which is just awesome."

Alderson added, "If you think anybody on this board would think about taking away a lane on 235, then it's not hard to go ahead and send us an email and we'll set you straight."

This year's priorities were presented by Norris on March 10. He said a traffic light on Route 235 at the terminus if FDR Boulevard



Director of Public Works and Transportation John Norris

is now a priority. A new hotel has just been constructed there.

Norris said, "We are asking that that be a signaled intersection to be able to control the traffic and better direct traffic around the intersection of Route 4 and 235 that becomes so congested."

This year's priorities, according to Norris, are:

- Number one is the Route 4 merge Lane extension to South Patuxent Beach Drive.
- Number two is the shared use lane from Wildwood Parkway down to old St. Andrews Church Road.
- Number three is the feasibility study on Route 5 from 245 to Moll Dyer Road.
- Number four is the 235/FDR Boulevard intersection improvements.
- And number five is the Route 5/Willows Road intersection.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt said, "We're not getting much State Highway help down here. I guess this is a pretty lengthy list and I think to go beyond much what you have here is wishful thinking."

But Ostrow pressed for converting the right turn out of the Walmart parking lot into a full intersection to allow for better access to Town Creek.

And Alderson pressed for shoulder improvements to Route 236. "Everybody knows, MIR just got sanctioned as an NHRA track and their first big event will be in May of this year. And that will be a national event. TV trucks and everything ought to be down here. And a lot of carriers use that road. And it's also going to be right in the heart of Amish going back and forth to the Barns at New Market."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Speakers Urge Restoration of School Social Workers

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

One portion of the proposed superintendent's budget for St. Mary's County Public Schools has proven extremely controversial. That would eliminate 10 of the 13 school social workers because their grant funded positions are set to expire.

During a Feb. 18 public comment session at their regular board meeting, speaker after speaker, close to two dozen in all, stepped to the microphone to oppose the cuts.

Ironically, at the March 4 school board meeting, the board issued a proclamation in honor of school social workers (week of March 2-6), which led Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith to observe, "We have had lots of discussion about the incredible and invaluable work that you do with children. And certainly, the board heard resoundingly from the community at the public hearing.

"So please know that you are recognized. And at the end of all of this year, I do believe we have been reinforced with our funding partners that money needs to go to children and where they need it most. So, I do look forward to working with all of you as we go through always a fairly contentious budget cycle. And when we know what we have in hand, we'll make sure that we are making the very best decisions for kids and for those who care for kids. And you are at the center of that."

Throughout the forum, speaker after speaker noted, "It's essential student safety, mental wellbeing and student learning should never be grant dependent," or "Grants expire. Student mental health needs do not."

At the public hearing, Roman Rodriguez, a junior in Great Mills High School, said, "I'm sincerely asking for you to find the funding to retain our social workers. Such a significant reduction of mental health resources to teens and tweens will inevitably lead to increased rates of suicide. Suicide is among the five leading causes of death in American teenagers.

"Suicide is a serious issue many students struggle with. Social workers such as mental health counselors help students make better decisions and deter them from suicide. By firing them, you'll leave some students feeling as if they have no one they can talk to.

"Not every student has emotionally available parents or guardians, and not all students feel comfortable and safe discussing their problems with their parents.

"Many students look towards trained professionals, people who understand how to maintain a safe space and effectively communicate with students about their issues. Taking this away from students will lead them to think that no soul in the world cares about their struggles and students will



School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith

believe suicide is the only or the most effective solution to their problems.

"I have known students who are unable to get access to mental health resources they desperately need, and I fear for their lives. They have no hope. They can't seem to find the light at the end of the tunnel, and they exhibit suicidal thoughts and tendencies. I hope I never have to hear that they did it. I hope I still get to see them the next day. I hope they survive high school."

Julie Chamberlain Huber, a first-grade teacher at Banneker Elementary School, said, "This isn't a minor adjustment. It's the loss of a critical layer of support that our students depend on every single day in my classroom. I've seen what happens when social workers are available and engaged. I've watched students learn to regulate emotions, rebuild trust, and develop the social-emotional skills that make academic learning possible."

A student said, "Mental health services in schools are not a nice extra, they're life-saving. I'm here today to speak as a suicide attempt survivor. I attempted suicide my freshman year of high school and I was hospitalized for a week afterwards. I'm only here today because there were mental health resources available to me during one of the darkest periods of my life. I know firsthand what it's like to be a teenager who is struggling silently and desperately needed somebody trained to notice, listen, and intervene. Cutting school social work support from 13 to three for an entire county is outrageous and it is dangerous."

Her mother observed, "My daughter is alive today. And the most important, she's not only living, she's thriving because of the mental health professionals that have been embedded into our schools. Those positions do not simply help her remain a student. They helped her remain whole."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Westfield Farm, 26689 Laurel Grove Rd. Mechanicsville, MD






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Hearing Held on Excise Tax Expansion

Would Extend Tax to Town of Leonardtown

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The bulk of those who spoke at a March 10 public hearing oppose a proposal by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to extend the excise tax paid for new residential and commercial construction to the town of Leonardtown.

Commissioners Eric Colvin and Michael Alderson, Jr. opposed going to public hearing on the proposal advanced by Commissioner Mike Hewitt.

County Attorney Buffy Giddens said, "On June 30th, 2022, we had an impact fee that sunset due to the passage of legislation in Annapolis that proceeded that sunset. And that legislation said that on July 1st, 2023, St. Mary's County would have the authority to impose a building excise tax, in essence, to replace the building impact fee. And that was to give a greater flexibility with being able to support public facilities that were created by new development. So, with that policy background in mind, the excise tax was, drafted. And so, these amendments are to clarify the scope of that tax, which is to reflect that it does include municipalities."

Leonardtown opposed the proposal in a

letter from their attorney, which suggested the county needed state legislative approval to move forward with the tax expansion.

Town Mayor Dan Burris said, "We look forward to working with you. We are always glad to work with you. In the past, when the county needed our water and sewer, we expanded our plant, and hooked Leonardtown High School, Leonardtown Middle School, and went up to Banneker. They're actually on our system now. If we hadn't done that, we wouldn't have had to expand our plant again, which we're in the process of doing."

Chris Hill, past president of the Southern Maryland Association of Realtors and the immediate past president for the Maryland Association of Realtors, said, "We're concerned about the proposal to expand span the county excise tax within municipalities. This expansion represents a second tax increase on your residents after this board voted three to two to raise the excise tax during its creation in 2023. Leonardtown residents and home buyers already contribute significantly towards infrastructure through existing local fees and taxes, which is infrastructure utilized by all county residents that patronize the town."

Former county commissioner president

and current Commissioner District 2 candidate Thomas McKay said he increased town-county cooperation by meeting regularly with the mayor, and that is how a number of projects were completed, such as Leonardtown Wharf and Port of Leonardtown Winery, among others.

Eric Golden, president and CEO of Cedar Lane, Senior Living Community in Leonardtown, said the tax would impact their expansion plans.

He said, "Senior affordable housing is fundamentally different from market rate development. These projects operate on fixed rents and extremely tight margins, and rents are capped. Funding sources are limited, and costs are carefully balanced years in advance. There is no way to absorb that cost. We can't raise rents to make it work. In many cases, that tax alone is enough to make a project financially unfeasible, meaning it never gets built."

He added, "It is also important to recognize that senior housing does not create the same demand on county services that other development types do. Seniors do not impact school enrollment. They generate significantly less traffic and place minimal strain on infrastructure. Excise taxes are typ-



Leonardtown Mayor Dan Burris

ically justified as a way to offset growth-related costs, but senior housing simply does not create those costs in the same way."

The commissioners are keeping the record open until March 17 before making a decision.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Lexington Park Man Convicted of First-Degree Murder

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Zahlir Daylin Gantt, 23, of Lexington Park, was convicted of first-degree murder for his role in the fatal shooting of a 23-year-old victim that occurred on February 26, 2024.

After a four-day bench trial in the St. Mary's County Circuit Court, Gantt was convicted of the following offenses:

- First-degree murder (maximum penalty of life in prison);
- Second-degree murder (maximum penalty of 40 years in prison);
- Conspiracy to commit first-degree murder (maximum penalty of life in prison);
- Use of firearm in the commission of a crime of violence (maximum penalty of 20 years in prison); and
- Regulated firearm illegal possession by a disqualified person (maximum penalty of 5 years in prison).

"This verdict delivers accountability and shows that prosecutors and investigators will continue to stand together in seeking justice for victims and their families. I would like to thank the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office's crime analysts and technicians, who worked tirelessly to accumulate and analyze the voluminous amount of evidence in this case," said Sterling. "Our community deserves safety. Our office's commitment to prosecuting violent crime remains steadfast, especially when it results in the precious loss of life."



Zahlir Daylin Gantt

Gantt will continue to be held without bond pending a sentencing hearing where he faces a maximum penalty of life plus 65 years in prison.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Alena Mosier prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Detective Warren Forinash of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

The Honorable Joseph Stanalonis presided over the case.

Press release from SMCSO

Hollywood Man Charged with Possession of Child Pornography

Following an investigation into an alleged child pornography complaint, detectives from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division served an arrest warrant on Terry Joe Hahn, 44, of Hollywood, Maryland, on Monday, March 9, 2026.

On Feb. 22, deputies responded after receiving a tip about the possible existence of pornographic images of children on Hahn's phone. Through a forensic investigation, detectives determined that multiple pornographic images of juveniles of varying ages were located on the device.

Hahn was taken into custody without incident and charged with two counts of possession of child pornography.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Detective Allison Mattera at 301-475-4200, ext. 8124, or by email at Allison.Mattera@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Tipsters can also submit tips anonymously:

- Text 847411: start your message with "SMCSO", add a space, and then your tip.
- Online: Submit a tip through the Sheriff's Office website at www.FirstSheriff.com/tips.
- App: Send a tip directly through the SMCSO app. Download the free app



Terry Joe Hahn

from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.

- Phone: For those who prefer to make a phone call, tips can also be shared through the Crime Solvers line at 301-475-3333.

With Crime Solvers, you never have to give your name. You may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.

Press release from SMCSO

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Boneless Tenderloins
Or Chicken Breast
2.19 lb.



Butcher's Best
Cook's Corned
Beef Brisket
5.98 lb.



2-Lb.
SnowFloss
Kraut
2.48



2.98 lb.
USDA Inspected, Boneless
Center Cut
Pork Chops



73% Lean, Fresh
Family Pack
Ground Beef
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USDA Inspected, Boneless
Country Style
Pork Ribs
2.48 lb.



Butcher's Best
Boneless
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5.98 lb.



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Boneless
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12.98 lb.



Sugardale
Sliced Bacon
3.98



Delicious!
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Snapper
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4-Oz.
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5.98 Ea.



16 To 20-Ct.
Texas Gulf
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Wine of the Month



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State to Present MD 235 Turn-Lane Proposal

Follow-Up Workshop to Gather More Community Input

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA) will host a second public informational workshop, 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 12, to present proposed concepts and gather more community input on ideas to improve pedestrian access and safety along MD 235 (Three Notch Road) in St. Mary's County. The workshop will be held at Great Mills High School, 21130 Great Mills Road, Great Mills.

SHA has identified the MD 235 corridor between MD 237 (Chancellors Run Road) and MD 246 (Great Mills Road) for safety improvements as part of its Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, which focuses on areas of need and prioritizes corridors for pedestrian and bicycle safety projects.

(Editor's Note: The plan would convert the traveled turn lane into a pedestrian lane. See separate story on county reaction)

At the last informational workshop held in January 2025, the SHA project team solicited feedback through conversation and comment cards. Members of the public could also submit comments online via the MD 235 Project Portal page. The team considered this input to create concepts that include upgrades to support safe pedestrian and bicyclist movements, traffic calming and corridor-wide safety improvements.

At the follow-up workshop, the project team members will be available to discuss details of the concept proposals. There will be no formal presentation. Attendees may arrive at any time during the workshop to view displays, ask questions and provide feedback. Materials will also be posted on the Project Portal page.

Those requiring assistance to participate in the workshop, such as those seeking an

interpreter for hearing/speech difficulties or assistance with the English language, may email SHATitleVI@mdot.maryland.gov in advance of the event. Please indicate the desired language in the subject line. Maryland Relay Service can assist teletype users at 7-1-1.

Questions about the informational workshop or general inquiries may be directed to Project Manager Joseph Gentile at Jgentile@mdot.maryland.gov or Community Relations Manager Holly Pearl at Hpearl@mdot.maryland.gov.

This project is consistent with the Maryland Department of Transportation's Serious About Safety initiative, a department-wide commitment to advance improvements that drive safety goals and save lives. Working with community residents, officials and other stakeholders, SHA is developing strategies to enhance safety for all roadway users along these corridors by increasing safety and mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The Pedestrian Safety Action Plan is a key component of the Maryland Department of Transportation's Complete Streets Policy, which prioritizes safe, reliable, equitable and sustainable travel across all modes to make roads safer and connect Marylanders to jobs, education and economic opportunity. Projects under the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan also support Maryland's Vision Zero goal, which seeks to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries on state roadways by 2030.

For a list of all major State Highway Administration projects, news and travel information, visit roads.maryland.gov.

Press release from SHA

New K-9 Team Hits the Road

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce that Deputy Jordan Wagner and his K-9 partner Groot recently completed a six-week K-9 handler training program. This intensive, multi-week training includes classroom instruction and hands-on skills exercises designed to build a cohesive team between the handler and the dog.

Groot is a two-year-old Czech Shepherd trained in narcotics detection, tracking, and evidence/article searches. Czech Shepherds are known for their intelligence and generally have a protective and loyal temperament, making them excellent dogs for police work.

Following the successful completion of the training, Deputy Wagner and Groot are now on patrol duty.

"Deputy Wagner and Groot represent a significant addition, and the first of planned expansions, to our K-9 program," said Sheriff Steve Hall. "Their training and professionalism strengthen our capabilities and enhance our ability to proactively combat crime, remove dangerous drugs from our



Deputy Jordan Wagner and his K-9 partner Groot

streets, and support public safety."

K-9 Groot is one of several specialized service dogs that assist the Sheriff's Office in criminal investigations and public safety operations, providing essential support in locating suspects and evidence, detecting illegal drugs, and tracking people.

Press release from SMCSO

Community Invited to Submit Land Use Designation Requests

Part of St. Mary's 2050 Planning Process

St. Mary's County residents who wish to request a change to their property's proposed land use designation as part of the St. Mary's 2050 Comprehensive Plan update may now submit a formal request through St. Mary's County Government's Department of Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM).

The St. Mary's 2050 Comprehensive Plan will serve as the County's long-range planning document, guiding land use decisions through 2050 and helping ensure our community grows responsibly while preserving our rural character, natural resources, and quality of life. Over the past year, the community has been invited to share their thoughts and ideas about the future of St. Mary's County as part of this planning process.

In February 2026, the County released the draft St. Mary's 2050 Plan, which is now available for public review and comment.

A key component of the plan is the Land Use Map, which identifies where growth, redevelopment, and preservation are anticipated throughout the county. The draft St. Mary's 2050 Plan proposes simplifying land use classifications from 23 categories to nine.

Community members can review the proposed land use designation for their property on the County website at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/GIS:

1. Click Interactive County Map, to open the GIS Map
2. Locate your property (enter the address in the search bar)
3. In the Map Layers box, scroll down to find the Zoning and Other Regulatory section
4. Click the arrow next to Zoning and Other Regulatory to expand this section
5. Scroll down and select Land Use (Proposed 2050)
6. Click the Legend (list icon on the right) to view each of the land use

categories and associated color codes

If a property owner believes a different designation is more appropriate, they may submit a request for consideration, using the form available at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/LUDrequest. In general, a property's Land Use designation could be changed if the requested designation is consistent with the Land Use designation of surrounding properties.

Requests must be submitted by 5 p.m. on March 31, 2026. Residents may submit requests in person, by mail, or via email.

Please note that a land use designation guides long-term planning but does not change a property's zoning. Any requests for future zoning changes will be considered through a separate process, at a later time.

Additionally, properties within the Lexington Park Development District are not currently eligible for land use designation change requests.

For more information or assistance, please contact the Department of Land Use & Growth Management at (301) 475-4200, ext. 1500 or via email to StMarys2050@stmaryscountymd.gov. Community members are also welcome to stop by LUGM to speak with a member of our team! Hours and location information is available at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/LUGM.

About St. Mary's 2050

St. Mary's 2050: Charting Our Tomorrow is an update to the County's Comprehensive Plan and will guide future land use and development decisions while supporting economic vitality, environmental stewardship, and quality of life. Continued engagement is a key component of creating a plan that reflects a shared vision for St. Mary's County's future.

Press release from St. Mary's County Government

LEONARDTOWN WHARF PARK REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Ice Cream, Snack, and Non-Alcoholic Drink Vendor, 2026 Summer Season

The Commissioners of Leonardtown are accepting proposals from qualified vendors to provide ice cream, snacks, and non-alcoholic drink sales for the 2026 summer season at Leonardtown Wharf Public Park in Leonardtown, MD.

Should you be interested in submitting a proposal, please contact the Town office or visit www.leonardtownmd.com under the Government tab to access the proposal. You will need to submit, in duplicate, a proposal, including all required forms and documents, to the address below on or before the end of the business day of 3:00 p.m., March 21, 2026. The award of the contract is expected at the April 15, 2026 meeting.

Beth Sandberg, Procurement Manager
Commissioners of Leonardtown
POB 1, 22670 Washington Street
Leonardtown, MD 20650

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

Sotterley Offers Hands-On Spring Break Activities



Historic Sotterley, the Southern Maryland Folklife Center, St. Mary's County Public Library, and local author Nocola Williams are teaming up to offer a full week of low-cost, family friendly Spring Break programs designed to keep children active, curious, and learning while school's out.

From March 30 through April 3, families can enjoy a different hands on activity each day, exploring the ways early Marylanders used natural resources available to them to survive and thrive.

All programs run from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and require advance registration.

Tuesday through Friday, programs are \$5 per attendee per day. Monday's program is free, thanks to St. Mary's County Public Library and a generous anonymous donor. Parents or guardians must purchase a ticket and remain with their children for the duration of each program.

Activities are recommended for ages 3 and up.

Schedule of Events

- **Monday – Pollinator Party!:** Kick off the week with a celebration of pollinators! Children will meet a local author and beekeeper for a reading of *Bugzee and the Bees*, a story that introduces young readers to the important role pollinators play in our environment. After the story, students will rotate through hands-on learning stations. Campers will explore how pollination works, discover how bees see the world, practice the famous waggle dance, and plant pollinator-friendly seeds to take home. Along the way, they'll learn why pollinators are so

important to Southern Maryland's ecosystems and how even kids can help protect them. Join local author and educator, Nocola Williams, the team from the St. Mary's County Mobile Library, and educator Dorothy Birch for a fun filled day of exploration and hands on learning opportunities.

- **Tuesday – Wild Food, Wild Fiber, Wild Medicine:** We will explore the woods and fields of Historic Sotterley, learning to identify the plants and fungi that were used by Native, colonist, and enslaved peoples as food, fiber, and medicine!
- **Wednesday – Gardening for Good Health:** We will explore, pot up, and take home the plants that the women of olden times grew in their gardens and used as medicine for their families!
- **Thursday – A Wild Year in Maryland:** We will create a calendar of natural happenings, month by month, in this part of Maryland, when early people could harvest wild plants and catch wild animals, how they knew when to plant various seeds, and all of the secret cues that nature gives us all year!
- **Friday – Dyeing from Nature:** Experience natural dyeing techniques used before commercial dyes existed. Participants will use plants and other natural materials to dye their own take-home bandana.

For registration links and additional details, please visit www.sotterley.org/events

Press Release from Historic Sotterley

Submissions Open for Buy Local Guide

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is now accepting applications for the 2026 edition of the "So Maryland, So Good" Buy Local Guide.

This consumer directory connects residents with fresh, locally raised, harvested, and produced goods across the region.

Expanded Scope for 2026

For the upcoming season, SMADC is broadening the guide's focus to better represent the diverse agricultural landscape of Southern Maryland.

Who Can Apply?

Listings are free and open to farms and producers in the five-county Southern Maryland region: Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties. Eligible categories include:

- Farms & CSAs: Farm stands, stores, and CSAs offering produce, meats, dairy, honey, cottage foods, and fiber.
- Farmers Markets: Markets in Southern Maryland and those in the greater MD/DC/VA area that host at least one Southern Maryland farm vendor.
- Craft Beverages: Wineries, breweries, and distilleries using locally grown grapes, grains, honey, or fruits.
- Seafood & Aquaculture: Producers

of locally raised or harvested oysters, crabs, and finfish.

- Specialty Producers: Apiaries and creators of value-added farm products.

The 2026 Guide will also feature vendors accepting federal nutrition program benefits and participants in the Maryland Market Money (MMM) matching program, enhancing local food accessibility for the community.

Submission Details

Farmers and producers must submit their information by March 25, 2026, to be included in the guide.

- How to Apply: Visit the SMADC website and locate the Application Form under the 'News/Events' section.
- Cost: Free for all eligible local farms and markets.
- Publication: The digital guide will be released in early-mid Spring 2026 on the 'Get Our Guides' page at SMADC.com.

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is dedicated to supporting the region's agricultural economy by promoting local farms, protecting farmland, and ensuring a sustainable future for Maryland's farmers and consumers.

Press Release from SMADC

Pets of the Week



sponsored by:



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Temporarily located inside Well Pet Clinic
21800 N Shangri La Dr, Unit 16 • Lexington Park
Call/Text: 240-431-7834

MEET THEO

Hello, I'm Theo, a handsome, 10 month old Siamese mix. I rock a pair of brilliant blue eyes that miss absolutely nothing. I've previously thrived in a catio setting with other cats, happily bird watching, sunbathing, and keeping the peace with polite feline manners. I enjoy companionship but I also appreciate my personal recharge time. Important note: since I really value my "alone" time and personal space, I would do best in an adult only home without kids where I can relax and recharge peacefully.

If you're looking for a handsome, independent boy who would love a catio and a calm environment, I'm ready to meet you!

Adoption hours: Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm. To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



MEET JAXX

Jaxx is a 2.5-year-old Pit Bull Terrier who has been waiting far too long, and we truly don't understand why. He's sweet, affectionate, eager to learn, and has that perfect mix of playful energy and snuggly charm. If you've ever wanted a dog who can make you laugh, keep you company, and love you endlessly, Jaxx is your guy. If you are interested in meeting with Jaxx or learning more about him please contact Animal Relief Fund (ARF) at 301-866-0303 or visit www.animalrelieffund.org

EXPLORE Leonardtown



A Most Egg-Ceptional Scavenger Hunt

Leonardtown

March 30, 2026 to April 4, 2026

Use clues to hop around town and find the special Leonardtown eggs.

VisitLeonardtownMd.com

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stmarysmd.com/recreate/oldjail



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Two Great Locations!

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Tue–Sat 10am–5 pm | Sunday 11am–5pm

The Sweet Little Shop | The Shops at Parkers Creek
2990 Parker's Creek Road | Port Republic
Fri–Sat 10am–5pm | Sunday 9am–2pm

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Noli's is a true Italian restaurant in Leonardtown that strives to give our customers a real Sicilian experience. All of the recipes are ones passed down from generations. The founder's parents are from Sicily & Rome, so we pride ourselves in only using ingredients that were found in old world Italy. Noli's consistently receives comments from our customers: "This is real New York Pizza," or "This took me back to Sicily."

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Archbishop of Washington Visits St. Michael's



Cardinal Robert McElroy, archbishop of Washington, celebrates Mass at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Ridge on Sunday alongside Father Keith Burney, pastor, and Father Tom Robertson, priest secretary to the archbishop. Photo by Marcia Hart.

By Marcia Hart
Contributing Writer

Parishioners at St. Michael's Catholic Church gathered Sunday evening to welcome Cardinal Robert McElroy, archbishop of Washington, as part of his pastoral visit to Southern Maryland.

"It is wonderful to be here," McElroy said. "I have begun visiting parishes across the archdiocese, and I thought where better to start than where the colonists first began here in St. Mary's County."

During his visit, McElroy toured St. Michael's School to learn more about the parish's commitment to Catholic education.

"It was an honor to welcome Cardinal McElroy to our school community," said Mary VanRyswick, principal of St. Michael's School. "His visit affirmed the importance of faith-centered education and the strong connection between our parish and school."

Before Mass, parishioners gathered at the Knights of Columbus Hall for a reception in his honor. The event offered families, volunteers and parish leaders an opportunity to welcome the archbishop and share in fellowship.

In his homily, McElroy reflected on the relationship between the cross and the resurrection.

"There is a very interesting anomaly in our faith," he said. "The symbol of the Christian faith is the cross, yet the most important moment for us is the resurrec-

tion. The resurrection is the conviction of our hope that Christ has triumphed over death and leads us onward in our lives of pilgrimage."

McElroy said Christ's suffering reveals the depth of God's personal love for humanity.

"God's love is not distant or generic," he said. "It is intimate and personal."

He also reminded the faithful that Christ's Passion allows believers to turn to a God who understands human suffering.

"When we pray in moments of suffering, we are not praying to a God of remoteness," he said. "We are praying to a God who knows what suffering is and who stands beside us."

Following Mass, parish leaders thanked volunteers who helped organize the reception and liturgy, including members of the choir, altar servers, lectors and parish ministries.

Father Keith Burney, pastor of St. Michael's Parish, said the visit was a meaningful moment for the community.

"It was a blessing for our parish community to welcome Cardinal McElroy during this Lenten season," Burney said. "His visit reminds us that we are part of something larger than ourselves, a Church rooted in faith, history and the shared journey toward Christ."

McElroy's visit is part of a broader effort to meet parish communities across the archdiocese and strengthen connections with Catholics throughout the region.

Holy Angels Catholic Church

SPRING Drive-Thru Dinner

SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2026
11:00 AM – SOLD OUT

THERE WILL BE A CAKE TABLE WITH A SELECTION OF DELICIOUS HOME-BAKED CAKES FOR SALE

COST: \$30.00

MENU:
Fried Oysters, Steamed Spiced Shrimp, Fried Chicken, Parsley Potatoes, Homemade Cole Slaw, Old-Fashioned Green Beans, Pickled Beets, and a Roll

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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EMAIL HOLY01ANGELS@AOL.COM

SoMD

A Special Pull Out Section

Spring Events



Spring Scavenger Hunt

March 21 & April 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Historic St. Mary's City
18751 Hogaboom Ln., St. Mary's City
Admission: Included with museum admission

Celebrate spring break at Historic St. Mary's City with a self-guided Springtime Scavenger Hunt. Pick up a scavenger hunt booklet at the Visitor Center upon check-in and explore the landscape as you search for signs of spring across the museum grounds.

Fishing & Outdoor Adventure Fair

March 21 & 22.
St. Mary's County Fairground
42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown
Admission: \$5 cash only, kids 12 and under are free

Fishing and outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy this family-friendly event! Learn from local captains at various seminars and browse vendors for all your gear needs including rods/reels, lures, umbrellas, tackle, outdoor sports gear, outdoor-inspired art, and more. Kids can enjoy a casting contest and adults can enter for door prizes. Food and drinks

will be available for purchase.

This year's event also includes a Maryland Boater Safety Course hosted by America's Boating Club. The class begins Saturday at 9 a.m., with the exam and certification session scheduled for Sunday at 9 a.m. Participants can register by calling 240-718-8286 or by emailing uspowersquadron-somd@gmail.com.

Ghost Frame Tours

March 21, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Historic St. Mary's City
47414 Old State House Rd., St. Mary's City
Admission: \$5

You see them as you drive into Historic St. Mary's City — tall wooden outlines standing in open fields. But what are they? Join a guided walking tour to explore our iconic "Ghost Frames," which mark the locations of 17th-century buildings uncovered through archaeology. Discover who lived and worked here and the stories hidden beneath the ground of Maryland's first capital. \$5 per participant. Space is limited. Registration is required upon admission purchase.

Changing Landscapes Tours

March 21 & 28, 1 p.m.
Historic St. Mary's City
47414 Old State House Rd., St. Mary's City
Admission: \$5

Explore recent discoveries at St. Mary's Fort and sites reflecting more than 8,000 years of Native presence. This guided tour introduces the interactions between Indigenous communities and European settlers in the 1600s and highlights how the landscape continues to reveal new stories.

Please be prepared to walk over uneven terrain, including an active excavation site. \$5 per participant (ages 6 and under free) for all tours. Space is limited. Registration required upon admission purchase.

Cherry Blossom Festival

March 21, 12-4 p.m.
Lexington Manor Passive Park
21675 South Coral Dr., Lexington Park
Admission: Free

Celebrate the start of spring at this free family event held at St. Mary's County's premiere arts park, featuring a variety of local vendors, food trucks, community organiza-

tions, activities and entertainment options. Lexington Manor Passive Park is home to dozens of cherry blossom trees growing throughout the 80-acre park.

George Plater: St. Mary's Forgotten Patriot

March 26, 7:30-9 p.m.
Daugherty-Palmer Commons at
St. Mary's College of Maryland
47720 College Dr., St. Mary's City
Admission: Free; registration is recommended

In March 2026, the 250th Year of American Independence, encounter the story of a modest man from St. Mary's County whose history deserves telling. This is part of Historically Speaking, presented in collaboration with the Center for the Study of Democracy at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

George Plater was born and raised at Sotterley Plantation. A senior official in the British administration, Plater chose to support the cause for independence. He represented Maryland in the Continental Congress from 1778 to 1780 and briefly

Continued on page 3

VENDORS WANTED!

MAY 2ND



Help us kick off summer at Leonardtown First Friday!

All Weekend Long

PARTICIPATE AS A VENDOR!

Antiques, Collectables, Vintage, Unique Finds, One of a Kind, and More

FOR MORE INFO OR TO APPLY TO BE A VENDOR GO TO VISITLEONARDTOWNMD.COM/VINTAGEVIBES

GET MORE INFO & TICKETS AT RENFESTSOMD.COM!



In 1776, history was made when Marylanders repelled the British army on St. George Island.

A Southern Maryland Revolutionary War Family Event

REBELS & REDCOATS

FREE!

APRIL 11 – 12, 2026
10 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and St. George Island

44720 Lighthouse Road, Piney Point, MD 20674 • 301-994-1471

Rebels & Redcoats: A Southern Maryland Revolutionary War Family Event honors America's Semiquincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation.

Interact with the members of The First Maryland Regiment, costumed history reenactors who will be staging an encampment demonstrating Colonial era drilling, weapons, cooking, living quarters, music and more.

This event/program is part of the Southern Maryland 250th Semiquincentennial, Maryland 250th, and America 250th celebrations, commemorating Southern Maryland's contributions to our nation's founding.



www.museums.stmarys.com

Start planning your trip at VisitStMarysMD.com/SOMD250

ALL AGES!! FOOD, FUN, VENDORS, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND MORE!

BOTH DAYS

- Military Drills in camp
- Narrated Boat Tour (ticket required)
- Story Time with Leonardtown Library
- Musket and cannon firing demonstrations from the beach
- 18th century brewing and other demonstrations
- 18th century music by David & Ginger Hildebrand
- Distaff cooking in Military camps | Period vendors
- Modern Exhibitors and Food trucks
- Games and other 18th century activities
- MPT Video Excerpts from The American Revolution by Ken Burns
- Continuous bus service from parking lot to both event sites
- Meet Lord Dunmore
- Cannon firing demonstrations from shipboard
- Exhibit of 18th century objects found on St. George Island

SATURDAY ONLY

- 18th century music by Music of the Regiment
- 18th century Tavern Night (ticket required)

SUNDAY ONLY

- DAR Marker dedication

Items in **BLUE** take place at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
 Items in **YELLOW** take place on St. George Island
 Items in **WHITE** take place on both sites



SOUTHERN MARYLAND
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



Visit **ST. MARY'S MD**



SCAN FOR FULL EVENT INFO!



This event is made possible by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area.

bit.ly/Rebels2026

Continued from page 1

served as Maryland's sixth Governor.

In this 250th year of American Independence, this is the story of a modest man from St. Mary's County who history largely overlooked.

David Brown spent over thirty years in the Foreign Service and taught at John Hopkins' Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies and was a Trustee at Historic Sotterley.

OtterMania!

March 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Calvert Marine Museum
14200 Solomons Island Rd., Solomons

Help us celebrate our favorite museum mammal – the North American river otter! Learn otterly terrific facts at learning stations throughout the museum and make an otter craft. Join our otter mascot outside at the Corbin Nature Pavilion to learn his favorite dance, "The Swim". Don't forget to visit Calvert and Chessie Grace along the way! All activities included with museum admission. Admission applies; members are FREE.

43rd Annual Easter Egg Festival

March 28, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown
Admission: Egg hunt tickets \$7 per child, free general admission

Be sure to join us each year for a family friendly event at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds that includes age appropriate egg hunts, visits with the Easter Bunny and Ms. Cottontail, a variety of craft vendors, arts and crafts activities, food trucks, entertainment and so much more!

Easter Extravaganza

March 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Town Market
22675 Washington St., Leonardtown
Admission: Free; \$7 per child for Easter egg hunt

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P) is excited to host the 43rd Annual Easter Egg Festival at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds on Saturday, March 28, 2026. This rain or shine event is open to the entire community. The event features egg hunts for kids, live entertainment, free arts and crafts activities, face painting, delicious local food options, shopping from area vendors, and appearances by the Easter Bunny himself.

Children up to age 12 can participate in the festival's famous age-appropriate egg hunts. Each hunt features approximately 1,000 eggs, with special eggs containing prizes! Egg hunt tickets are \$7 per child and will be available for online purchase beginning Monday, March 2, at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Easter. General admission to the Easter Egg Festival is free.

Spring Fling

March 29, 12:30-3 p.m.
Hallowing Point Park
4755 Hallowing Point Rd., Prince Frederick

Celebrate the season at our Spring Fling, a free community event filled with fun for

all ages. Enjoy games and activities, face painting, photos with the Easter Bunny, local vendors, food trucks and plenty of springtime surprises. Bring your friends and family and join us for this fun-filled day! Hosted by Calvert County Parks & Recreation (CCPR).

Spring Break Breakfast with the Animals

March 31, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Godiah Spray Tobacco Plantation
47755 Old Cove Rd., Lexington Park
Admission: \$15 / \$10 members. Ages 2 and under are free.

Start your day at Historic St. Mary's City with a behind-the-scenes look at life on the tobacco plantation. Join plantation staff to help feed the animals, learn about their care, and enjoy a guided morning tour of the site as the museum wakes up for the day. Space is limited. Preregistration with full payment required.

Spring Fling Market

April 4, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Road, Solomons

Spring is here! Celebrate the season at the Spring Fling Market, where shoppers will find everything needed to fill Easter baskets and prepare for the holiday, from small batch treats to unique handmade gifts. This festive market features a wide selection of handmade, homemade, and home-grown items, all made with care by local artists and vendors. Food trucks will be on site. Admission to the market area is free. Market is pet-friendly (must be leashed and friendly); no smoking or vaping permitted. Learn more at www.annmariegarden.org.

Rebels & Redcoats: A Southern Maryland Revolutionary War Event

April 11 & 12
Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park, & St. George's Island
Admission: Free

Commemorate the American War for Independence as it happened in St. Mary's County, home of the only Revolutionary War battle to occur in Maryland! Find exhibits and displays related to our local 18th century history, food trucks, educational and period programming, kids and family activities, reenactors, period encampment, military demonstrations and much more.

This event is part of the Southern Maryland Semiquincentennial, Maryland's 250th and America 250th celebrations! It commemorates Southern Maryland's contributions to our nation's founding.

Rebels & Redcoats Tavern Night

April 11, 5-8 p.m.
Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park
Admission: \$27.66

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday the Colonial Way. Step back into an 18th-century tavern and raise a glass to revolution! Join us for Rebels & Redcoats Tavern Night, an immersive evening of music, merriment, and mischief as we celebrate America's

Continued on page 4

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

BATTLE BY THE BAY
TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL

ST. MARY'S COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS • LEONARDTOWN, MD

PRESENTED BY

APRIL 11TH

ADULTS \$20
KIDS 5-12 \$10
UNDER 5 FREE

RAIN DATE
APRIL 12TH

GATES OPEN AT 3PM PULL BEGINS AT 5PM

NEW CLASS!
SUPER MODIFIED 2WD TRUCKS

NEW CLASS!
6300 MODIFIED STREET TRUCKS

10,500 HOT FARM TRACTORS

8000 PRO STOCK TRACTORS

STREET DIESEL TRUCKS

SEMI TRUCKS

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JOHN DEERE

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Continued from page 21

250th birthday the way our founders would have—at the tavern. Whether you side with the Crown or the Cause, this unforgettable night blends history, humor, and hearty cheer in true tavern style.

Battle by the Bay Truck & Tractor Pull

April 11, 3-10 p.m.

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds

42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown

Admission: Adults \$20, Kids \$10, 5 and under free

Battle By The Bay Truck & Tractor Pull returns to Leonardtown on April 11, 2026 at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds. Gates open at 3 pm and competition starts at 5 pm.

Get ready for a full night of horsepower, dirt flying, and engines pushed to the limit. The Showdown in Leonardtown is back and bigger than ever, featuring fan favorites and exciting new classes.

New this year:

- Super Modified 2WD Trucks
 - 6300 Modified Street Trucks
- Returning classes:
- Street Diesel Pick-Ups
 - Semi-Trucks
 - 8000 Pro Stock Tractors
 - Altered Farm Tractors
 - 10,500 Hot Farm Tractors

These competitors will be battling it out down the track for bragging rights and big pulls in front of a packed Southern Maryland crowd. Mark your calendar, tag your crew, and make plans now. This is one of the biggest motorsports events in the region and you won't want to miss it.

Tickets on my for sale at the gate. ATM on-site. Rain date: April 12th 12pm

Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival

April 18, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

North Beach Boardwalk

Bay Ave., North Beach

Admission: \$10/person or \$20/family

If you love birds, wildlife, and nature, or just want to learn more, please come out and be a part of this wonderful Festival for a great cause. It is an event for the entire family and people of all ages. See a live raptor up close, enjoy vendors on the boardwalk, meet Oscar the Osprey and get a selfie, and move through the child-focused nature activity stations, take part in the lecture series. We can't wait to see you!

*This is a public and governmental place where photos may be taken by the event or the Town of North Beach. Your attendance provides permission for your photo to be taken.

This festival was created by the citizens of the Mid-Atlantic region to celebrate our charismatic Ospreys, to educate the public, agencies, and owners of structures to foster an attitude of co-existence and conservation awareness throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its estuaries.

Proceeds from the Festival go to non-profit organizations who have a vested interest in protecting and conserving Ospreys, Bald Eagles, other wildlife, and natural areas. The support and collaboration of our local government, statewide conservation and wildlife rehabilitation agencies, local and international businesses, and military community share our goals and mission: education, conservation and celebration of our beautiful sur-

roundings, and nature, and wildlife.

Fairy & Gnome Home Festival

April 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Road, Solomons

Admission: \$12/person in advance (\$17 @ gate, if not sold out) Kids 2 & under free; Members free

It's fairy and gnome season at Annmarie! Families are invited to enjoy a magical day of nature play while traveling through the fantasy realms of Annmarie Garden, discovering an enchanting variety of activities along the way. Guests can meet fairy friends, search for hidden gnome homes, visit roaming performers and musicians, create crafts, ride a unicorn, and explore the garden's natural spaces. This immersive, imagination-filled event offers an over-the-top day of creative fun for families. Food and drink vendors will be on site.

Spring Book Sale: Friends of the St. Mary's County Library

April 24-26

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds,
42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown

Admission: Free

Love books AND love supporting libraries? Come to the Friends of the St. Mary's County Library's annual book sale April 24-26, 2026, for thousands of gently used fiction, non-fiction, children's and rare books. Puzzles, games, DVDs and CDs as well. Hours vary: Friday, April 24, is from noon to 8 p.m. and is for FOL members only - become a member for early pickings! Saturday, April 25, (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Sunday, April 26, (noon to 4 p.m.) are open to the public. Sunday is also "Bargain Bag Day." Plenty of free parking. Cash, checks and credit cards accepted.

Plant Swap

April 25, 9:30-11 a.m.

Historic St. Mary's City

47414 Old State House Rd., St. Mary's City

Admission: Free

Calling all plant lovers! Join us for a community plant swap at Historic St. Mary's City. Bring cuttings, houseplants, transplants, seeds, pots, tools, or any other plant-related items you'd like to share and trade with fellow garden enthusiasts. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just getting started, this is a fun way to grow your collection and connect with others who love plants. Rain or shine.

Southern Maryland Celtic Festival

April 25, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
10515 Mackall Rd., Saint Leonard

Admission: \$25 presale, \$30 gate; children 6-12 \$5; children 5 and under free with adult

On the banks of the Patuxent River at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in Southern Maryland, the sound of bagpipes fills the air during the 47th Annual Celtic Festival. Guests can enjoy music, food, dance and other Celtic attractions celebrating the spirit of the seven Celtic nations. Internationally known Celtic bands perform on multiple stages throughout the grounds with continuous music, dance and jam sessions. Clan Row features more than 50 clans

and societies sharing information about Celtic heritage. Visitors can watch Scottish and Irish country dance performances, listen to harp and Scottish fiddling, and hear storytellers alongside historical displays, craft demonstrations and living history reenactments. The Celtic Marketplace offers traditional and nontraditional Celtic foods and gifts. Celtic kids' activities and all-day competitions take place throughout the park, including pipers, drummers, pipe bands, Highland dancers, Highland athletics and rugby games. The event is rain or shine. Credit sales only; no cash is accepted at the gate.

Spring Fling Car Show

April 26, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Leonardtown Square

22670 Washington St., Leonardtown

Admission: \$5 spectator fee; proceeds benefit Hospice of St. Mary's and other non-profits

St. Mary's Rod & Classic Car Club presents its Spring Fling Car Show! Spend the day admiring hot rods, vintage cars, and antique vehicles in the center of Downtown Leonardtown. Dash plaques will be awarded to the first 250 registered cars, trucks, or motorcycles, while trophies will be given to the top 60 and 15 specialized honors. There will be a selection of food and drinks, music, door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, shopping, and Annual Running of the Balls, among other activities.

The Black Diamond Disaster: An American Civil War Event

April 26, 2-4 p.m.

St. Clement's Island Museum

38370 Point Breeze Rd., Coltons Point

Head to St. Clement's Island Museum for a wreath-laying in commemoration of a forgotten tragedy of the American Civil War - the Black Diamond Disaster. On April 23, 1865, eighty-seven (87) lives were lost when the barge Black Diamond and the steamer Massachusetts collided in the Potomac River near St. Clement's Island during the hunt for John Wilkes Booth.

Southern Maryland Spring Festival

April 30-May 3

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds

42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown

Admission: Adults \$6, kids \$3, under 6 free

The Southern Maryland Spring Festival promises activities for every age. Highlights include carnival rides from Snyder's Attractions, children's games, live performances—including a world-renowned magician—mouthwatering food and sweets, lemonade slushies, hayrides, face painting, artisan crafts, chainsaw carver artist Joe Wenal, a flower sale, pull tabs, raffles, and one of the largest indoor yard sales in the county. Special events include a Car Show and a Tractor Pull.

Holy Face Church in Great Mills, MD is the proud sponsor of the Southern Maryland Spring Festival.

Solomons Maritime Festival

May 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Calvert Marine Museum

14200 Solomons Island Rd., Solomons

Admission: Free

Event includes the Antique Boat and Marine Engine Show which features exhibits from collectors of antique and classic boats, and vintage marine outboard and inboard engines. Learn how to make traditional stuffed ham, watch demonstrations on how to make crab cakes, clean soft crabs, shuck oysters like the pros, enjoy local music, see Chesapeake Bay retrievers in action, watch model boats skim the waters of the boat basin, and talk with traditional crafts people as they demonstrate their skills. Free 30-minute cruises on the Wm. B. Tension. For the kids, there will be toy boat building and more.

MarylandFest

May 2, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Historic St. Mary's City

47418 Old State House Rd., St. Mary's City

Admission: \$5

Focusing on all things Maryland, MarylandFest will have children's activities and crafts, live music, beer, food, and wine vendors, a sports zone, and craft vendors.

MarylandFest replaces the former Beerfest, but this year's event will be bigger and better than ever, with the added bonus of celebrating Maryland spring in the beautiful outdoors.

Dress in your favorite red, yellow, and black. Come for the food, stay for the fun, and celebrate the spirit of Maryland at this unforgettable event!

Mother's Day Market

May 9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Road, Solomons

Celebrate Mother's Day weekend with a relaxed morning of browsing and shopping at Annmarie. This special market features a curated selection of vendors offering hand-made, homemade, and homegrown goods, from jewelry and art to specialty foods and pantry favorites. It's an ideal place to find thoughtful gifts for the mothers in your life or simply enjoy a peaceful outing together. Food trucks will be on site. Admission to the market area is free. Market is pet-friendly (must be leashed and friendly); no smoking or vaping permitted. Learn more at www.annmariegarden.org.

RenFest Southern Maryland

May 23 & 24

Brüdergarten

22725 Duke St., Leonardtown

Admission: \$15-\$30 per day, \$25-\$50 for both days

RenFest Southern Maryland, the region's premier renaissance faire where fantasy, history, and humor transcend both time and realm, welcoming all people and creatures to escape reality and celebrate play.

This year, we're celebrating the mischief, morality, and mayhem of the Adventures of Robin Hood. Don your most fantastical frock, or come as you are, and enjoy 4 stages of live entertainment, over 50 unique vendors, clever craft cocktails, specialty local brews, and a feast of food options fit for royal palates and tiny peasants alike. Kings and queens, noble knights, saucy wenches, and a wizard or two wander the kingdom bringing laughter, sword play and mystical mischief all throughout the land!

A View From The BLEACHERS



The Arena

By Ronald N. Guy, Jr.
Contributing Writer

Lindsey Vonn and Tiger Woods are together again. What's that? Come on, dude. This isn't that type of column. I've hardly mastered my own relationships, so commentary on anyone else's, past or present, would be a disservice to the subjects and to you, my most appreciated reader. But yeah, Vonn and Woods. Hold that thought.

Given my vintage, I root for aging athletes, even those who play for teams I despise – Cowboys, Eagles, Phillies, Penguins, Chiefs, Dodgers, etc. Give a jersey to a player who is challenging Father Time and attempting to rewrite what is possible at advancing ages, and I'm hooked. So, tip of the cap to LeBron James, Tom Brady, Venus Williams, Jimmy Connors, Diana Taurasi and Darrell Green.

Broadening the aperture, it's easy to pull for athletes who have had serious injury temporarily claim or permanently threaten their superpower. Every season, of every sport, produces torn ACLs, Tommy John elbow surgeries, shredded rotator cuffs, broken bones, herniated discs and ruptured Achilles tendons. The last twelve months or so have claimed Micah Parsons, JuJu Watkins, Tyrese Haliburton, Jason Tatum, Fred Warner, Patrick Mahomes, Tyreek Hill, Mystics first round pick Georgia Amoore and dozens more. One false step, one unfortunate pivot, an awkward throw or an unanticipated collision and that's it: An entire offseason of training, months of wild dreams of glory ends with an elite athlete on the ground, writhing in pain. A stunned crowd falls silent. A fanbase sulks. A player struggles to process the pain, the sudden inability to perform and the haunting uncertainty of the future.

Surgical reports are issued, authentic or contrived social media positivity is blasted out and then said athlete mostly disappears. For months. Or a year. Or more. Reduced to physical and mental rubble, the return to action is long, arduous, scary and lonely. But most do return, a tribute to modern medicine, the human spirit and the competitive fire burning in these athletes, the same blaze that pushed them to the pinnacle of their professions.

As for the aforementioned Vonn and Woods, both are an orthopedist's dream. Woods has had several back surgeries, a torn ACL and Achilles and a mangled leg from a car accident. Vonn's list of injuries includes multiple ACL tears, a broken ankle and arm, and a partial knee replacement. And yet, even at ages 50 (Woods) and 41 (Vonn), they both entered 2026 pushing their battered bodies, challenging the limitations of age and craving competition.

Vonn story ended in disaster: another torn ACL in a fall nine days before the Olympics and then a catastrophic crash at the Milano Cortina Games that nearly led to a lower leg amputation. As for Woods, he's recovering from lumbar disc replacement and is seeking a return to golf – not to his local course for a casual 18, but a return to the PGA Tour.

Some keyboard jockeys have opined that Vonn made a mistake with her Olympic endeavor and that Woods should spare us this battered, 50-year-old version of himself. Fair. It is challenging to understand the motivation that pushed Vonn to take such a risk. Similarly, even if Woods returns to professional golf, he will in all likelihood be a shell of himself and risk further damage to his various rebuilt body parts. The whisper around both is "why?". Why would they do this? With nothing to prove, the risks seem to outweigh the gain. And yet, despite age, injury and threats to legacy, they push on.

I'm glad Vonn went for it and that Woods refuses to capitulate to his ailments. There is something special about observing fellow humans overcome adversity, refuse perceived limitations and transcend fear...to continue doing what they love during the one life they have on this planet (probably). Among sports' many contributions to life's instruction manual, this is one of the most substantial. A president said it best. In Teddy Roosevelt's "Man in the Arena" he lauded the competitor's strength, the daring of the dreamer and the brave pursuers of prodigious deeds wrought with risk, while sneering at sideline critics and the "...timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

FINANCIAL FOCUS®

How outdated beneficiary choices can derail your plans

When you open a retirement account or buy a life insurance policy, you're asked to name a beneficiary. It might seem like just another form to fill out, but this simple step can affect your family's future.

Many people don't give beneficiary designations much thought after signing the initial paperwork. It may have been years ago, and life has moved on. But this might surprise you: These designations can override what's in your will or living trust. That means your retirement accounts and insurance proceeds could end up going to someone you didn't intend, creating what professionals call an accidental inheritance.

Life changes quickly. You might get married, divorced or remarried. You might have children or stepchildren. A loved one might pass away. You may decide to give to your favorite charity. Any of these events could mean it's time to update your beneficiaries.

The rules can get complicated. For example, after a divorce, some (but not all) states have laws that automatically revoke your beneficiary designations for IRAs, bank accounts and insurance policies. But no matter where you live in the U.S., the designations for 401(k) plans and pensions stay in place until you change them. In community property states, couples must split 50-50 the assets they acquired during marriage, adding another layer of complexity.

There are other considerations, too. It's a good idea to name a primary and a contingent beneficiary. If your primary beneficiary dies before you do, the contingent beneficiary receives your assets. Without this backup plan, your carefully considered wishes could go awry.

Naming minor children as direct beneficiaries isn't usually a good idea. Children can't legally receive and control assets until they become adults, so a court would have to get involved and appoint a guardian for managing the money. Instead, you might set up a trust or name a custodian to oversee the funds until your children are mature enough to handle them responsibly.

For family members with special needs, you'll want to be especially careful as about choosing your beneficiary. Some choices may jeopardize their eligibility to receive government benefits such as government disability payments or Medicaid. An estate attorney can help you make important beneficiary decisions.

One major benefit of proper beneficiary designations is that they can help your loved ones avoid probate, a time-consuming and potentially expensive legal process.

For these reasons and others, it's important to review your beneficiary designations regularly, especially after major life events. Contact your retirement account administrator or insurance company to update any outdated information.

A financial advisor can help you understand how your beneficiary choices fit into your financial strategy and ensure your assets go where you want them to go. It may also make sense to work with a legal professional who can help you ensure your beneficiary designations align with your plans for transferring your estate assets.

Don't leave these important decisions to chance. Taking time now to review and update your beneficiaries can help give you a sense of security and protect the people you love.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

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

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.

Andy Mechling, 74



Andrew "Andy" David Mechling, 74, of Tall Timbers, Maryland, passed away on February 28, 2026, doing what he loved.

Born on October 23, 1951, in Peekskill, New York, Andy was the beloved son of COL Eugene B. Mechling, Jr. (USAF) and Harriet Ann Tuller. Growing up within a military family, Andy relocated several times during his childhood. He started his primary education in England, and ultimately graduated from Yorktown High School in Arlington, VA, with numerous moves in between. He was a very active, curious and adventurous child, and found an outlet as an Explorer Scout, which propelled him into becoming an Eagle Scout while in high school. As a scout, he developed a love for camping, hiking, and exploring. Andy enjoyed building fires (learning fire safety, as a result). Andy once had a near death experience as a youngster in Pensacola by exploding M-80s underwater while watching closely in snorkeling gear. He expected the underwater explosion to be visible in slow-motion, just as he had seen in his favorite tv show at the time, "Sea Hunt." He informed us, however, that was not case. Andy spent much of his youth building model rockets and airplanes, setting the foundation for building and flying his three experimental aircraft in the future. Andy was extremely proud of the Mechling heritage, especially of his forefathers military history extending all the way back to the Civil War. Andy's grandfather, father and uncle were all military pilots. He was a member of the Order of Daedalians, of which his Grampy was a founding member.

As a 1973 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Andy proudly served his country as a fighter pilot (callsign "Panda") in both the United States Marine Corps and the United States Navy over the course of his storied career. While earning his Wings of Gold in the Marine Corps, he earned a Master's Degree in Aeronautical Systems from the University of West Florida, in further pursuit of excellence in the field of aviation. After fulfilling his Marine Corps commitment in the summer of 1979, Andy was lured away from active duty to fly for American Airlines, flying 727's out of Washington, D.C.. During the fall of '79, Andy developed a renewed longing for the days of tactical flying, and re-commissioned into the U.S. Navy where he flew the F-14 as a Tomcatter with VF-31 in Oceana, VA.

His military flying experience provided Andy a unique opportunity to accrue many flight hours (and traps) in the RF-4B Phantom, F-14 Tomcat, F/A-18 Hornet, T-45 Goshawk and numerous other American and foreign aircraft. In 1983, Andy was competitively selected to serve as the United States' representative at Empire Test Pilot School in Boscombe Down, England (accruing flight experience in more than 20 different air-

craft). After ETPS, Andy received orders to Strike Air Test Directorate at Patuxent River to join the Carrier Suitability Branch. At Strike, he was the Operations Officer and performed Automatic Carrier Landing Systems (ACLS) certification for the F-14A on all but one aircraft carrier due to the birth of his second child. During the height of the Space Shuttle Program in the 1980s, Andy was a finalist for the Astronaut Program at NASA. However, Andy ultimately did not continue to pursue this dream to ensure he could better support his family.

Andy finished the remainder of his military flying career as a Naval Test Pilot. Andy's final tour of duty afforded him and his family a return to Annapolis, MD for him to teach Aerospace Engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy. His military career took him and his family all over the globe, with stations in England, Atsugi, Japan, St. Louis, MO, Pensacola, FL, Virginia Beach, VA, along with a number of temporary duty assignments to Egypt (delivering new production F-18s overseas to the Kuwaitis in support of the Gulf War) and various other locations. In 1995, Andy retired at the rank of Commander with honors, and numerous military commendations. Andy's decorations included the Joint Service Commendation Medal; Meritorious Unit Commendation; Navy Commendation Medal; National Defense Service Medal (2 awards); Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Overseas Service Ribbon; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (2 awards); Expert Pistol; Expert Rifle.

Upon his retirement from the Navy, Andy found work with RAIL Company as the flight clearance facilitator on the F/A-18E/F program. The following year, Andy found himself as a test pilot for Gulfstream Aerospace in Savannah, Georgia, testing Gulfstream 5 business jets as the company worked through FAA certifications. In 1998, Andy received a call from Information Spectrum to return to work again on the F/A-18E/F program. From there, Andy served as the Compatibility Manager of the CH-53K program's Joint Ship Helicopter Integration Process for General Dynamics. Eventually, Andy transitioned to work for the Department of the Navy as a government civilian, performing various roles at Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) in Patuxent River, MD, serving as the Assistant Program Manager for Test & Evaluation for the F/A-18, and E/A-18G programs, before retiring from government service in 2015.

On December 30, 1980, Andy met the love of his life and future wife, Jacklyn "Chicklet" Mills of Hollywood, MD. After 6 whole days of marriage, Andy shoved off on a 6 and ½ month Indian Ocean cruise aboard the USS John F. Kennedy. In 1983, 9 months after he returned, Andy's first child, Andy Jr. was born while stationed overseas in England. Two years later their first daughter, Emily, was born at Naval Air Station Patuxent River. Five years after that, Andy and Jacky were blessed with their second daughter and final child, Laura, while stationed in St. Louis, MO.

Andy will be remembered most for his humbleness, quiet strength, sharp mind,

sense of humor, deep loyalty, and the steady love and encouragement he provided to his family. Whether serving his country, advancing his profession, or simply spending time with those he cherished most (which was everybody he met), he lived with purpose and integrity. Andy possessed exhausting levels of energy, and a relentless enthusiasm for his hobbies and interests. Andy kept busy by building and flying real or model aircraft, traveling, racing go-karts, water skiing, snow skiing, hiking (no trail left untraveled), biking, sailing/boating, golfing, reading (5 books at a time), crabbing/fishing, dancing, attending concerts and plays, listening to music, playing ice hockey/lacrosse, attending sporting (GO NAVY!) and racing events, hot-tubbing, and playing with his grandchildren. Andy was an active member of numerous organizations to include the St. Anne's Anglican Catholic Church in Charlotte Hall, MD, USNA Alumni Association (Greater Southern Maryland Chapter), The Quiet Birdmen, various aviation groups (EAA, SETP, and Tailhook), and other hobby related organizations and associations. You name it, Andy gave it a go and was always eager to bring friends and family alongside for the adventure.

Andy saw the world through youthful eyes and was incredibly encouraging and supportive of the interests of those around him. He never passed a child's lemonade stand without patronizing it. He lived each day to its fullest, never pushing to tomorrow what could be accomplished today. He was awestruck by the magnificence of God's creation, whether it was a scenic landscape, the peak colors of Fall, a beautiful piece of music, or one of God's creatures. He often reminded Jacky he was the "Luckiest Guy in the World" and regularly felt compelled to tell those around him how blessed he was with his family. He was his family's greatest role model, cheerleader, and Hero on all levels.

Andy tended to his relationships like he maintained his aircraft, with tremendous care, precision, understanding and love. He left his loves ones with feelings of "no-regrets," and enormous amounts of gratitude.

He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Jacky, and their three children: Andrew David Mechling Jr. (Kelly) of Mount Vernon, VA, Emily Gene Souza (David) of California, MD, and Laura Ann Mechling - Jensen (Mark) of Hamilton, NY. As a grandfather, Andy was a proud "Top Pop" to Josephine (10), Hike (8), Luke (7), Helen (4), and Rye (3), each of whom brought immense joy to his life. Andy is also survived by his loving sister, Gene Mechling of Reston, VA, as well as many cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

Family will receive friends and loved ones for a Memorial Service on Friday, March 27, 2026, at 11am at the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum in Lexington Park, MD. Interment will be private on a later date at the USNA.

Andy's legacy of service, love, and dedication will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made

to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, <https://dogood.t2t.org/>, Wounded Warrior Project, <https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/>, Fisher House Foundation, <https://fisherhouse.org/>, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, <https://www.stjude.org/>.

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

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

Liz Kelly, 91



Elizabeth Viola "Liz" Kelly, 91, of Hollywood, MD, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on February 27, 1935, in St. Mary's County, Maryland, Liz was the daughter of the late Charles Arthur Thompson and Viola Reed Thompson. She received her education through the St. Mary's County school system and spent her life rooted in the community she loved.

Liz began her working years at a local drug store and later at Thompson's as a cook. She eventually started her long career with A & P (Super Fresh) in 1968, where she worked as a cashier for 30 years. Known for her warm smile and friendly personality, she greeted countless customers over the years before retiring in 1998.

On August 10, 1957, Liz married the love of her life, Joseph "Bill" Kelly. Together they shared 60 wonderful years of marriage and raised five children, building a life centered on love, faith, and family.

Liz enjoyed many hobbies throughout her life. She loved cooking for her family, sewing, crocheting, and bowling. Later in life, she enjoyed relaxing at home watching her favorite westerns. After her retirement, Liz also enjoyed traveling with her son and staying active through line dancing, bowling, and exercise classes.

Liz is survived by her four daughters, A. Yvonne Thompson (Francis M.), Norma J. Kelly, Lynne A. Kelly and Jacqueline F. Kelly-Bankins (Francis); her grandchildren, Shayna L. Martin, Anna N. Powers, Wayne A. Powers (Joey), and Kenyan A. Mather; her great-grandchildren, Jeremiah E. Martin, Wayne A. Powers III, and Kaia S. Powers; and a host of nieces, nephews, and special friends who will cherish her memory.

In addition to her parents, Liz was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Joseph "Bill" Kelly, and her son, Joseph Eric Kelly.

Family will receive friends on Friday, March 13, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by Father Raymond Schmidt at 10:00 a.m. at St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church, 43950 St. Johns Road, Hollywood, MD 20636. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625,

In Remembrance

Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

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

Shaun Hamill, 62



It is with great sadness that the family of Shaun Dean Hamill announces his passing on February 9th, 2026, in Bradenton, Florida, after a brief health episode. Shaun was born June 16th, 1963 to Dean and Daphne Hamill. Shaun's siblings Allan (Beth) Hamill, Robin Hamill, Francis (Stacy) "Sam" Cage, Darryl Cage and Marsha Watson (Pat). His grandchildren were Annalyse Hamill, Alyssa (Don) Robbins, Alec Hamill, Christopher (Ronda) Paul, Aaron Cage, Samantha (Pat) Amman, Molly Cage, Jenna Watson and Miranda Watson. He also had eight great Nieces and Nephews.

Shaun was a graduate of Chopticon High School and was very active in the marching band. For the past 20 years, Shaun had owned or co-owned his two businesses, most recently "E-bikes and More" of Ellenton Florida and Ocean City, Maryland

Those who know Shaun will recall that he was often at the center of any gathering. He was always upbeat and positive and quick to smile, even though his health declined in recent years. He was a beloved brother, uncle and friend and fiercely devoted to all he loved. Shaun loved boating, visiting with friends and family, and firing up the grill, but he was happiest on the water fishing with friends.

As an organ donor, it is no surprise to those who know him that his last act of kindness will benefit the lives of people he never will know. Shaun will be greatly missed by many, for years to come.

Rita Thompson-Bond, 63



Rita Marilyn Thompson-Bond, 63, of Mechanicsville, Maryland, peacefully transitioned to her eternal rest on Monday, March 2, 2026. Loving wife of Julius Bond. She leaves to cherish her memory two brothers, nine sisters, and a host of relatives and friends.

Visitation will take place on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at Immaculate Conception Church, 28297 Old Village Road, Mechanicsville, Maryland 20659 from 9:00 a.m. until Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m.

Interment St. Mary's Queen of Peace Cemetery, 38888 Dr. Johnson Road, Mechanicsville, Maryland 20659.

Services Entrusted to Adams Funeral Home, P.a. 20605 Aquasco Road Aquasco,

Maryland 20608 Adams@adamsfuneral-homemd.com 301-579-6043

Robbie Trossbach, 84



Robert Bennett "Robbie" Trossbach Sr., 84, of Bushwood, Maryland, passed away on March 6, 2026.

Born on December 1, 1941, in Dameron,

Maryland, Robbie was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and was married to the love of his life, Mary Elizabeth Trossbach, for 53 years. She preceded him in death on February 5, 2014. His pride and joy was his dog, Sissy.

A proud farmer, he raised many farm animals including sheep, ponies, cattle, and hogs, and spent many years growing tobacco. His hard work, love for the land, and commitment to his way of life were a testament to the strong agricultural traditions of "The County."

Robbie enjoyed many of the local traditions that make the county special. In his spare time, he loved hunting, fishing, attending Beagle field trials, going to auctions, and spending time at the dirt track. He was also an avid fan of NASCAR and especially enjoyed cheering for his favorite driver, Bill Elliott.

Above all, Robbie was a loving and devoted husband and father. He cherished his family and took great pride in the life he built and the values he passed down. He will be remembered for his hardworking spirit, his love of the outdoors, and his dedication to family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Eugene Trossbach and Lillian Trossbach; his wife, Mary Elizabeth Trossbach; his siblings, Lucille Sivak, Ida Lacey, Gregory Trossbach, Vera Lathroum, and Eugene Trossbach; his son-in-law, Ray Currie; his granddaughter, Kristal Ryce; and his great-grandson, John Ryce III.

Robbie is survived by his siblings, Philip Trossbach, Danny Trossbach, and Dicky Trossbach; his children, Barbara Currie, Betty Ryce (Jimmy), Bobby Trossbach (Celeste), and Ronnie Trossbach (Becky); his grandchildren, Ray Currie (Christy), Robin Lape (Victoria), Debbie Cusick (John), JD Ryce (Megan), Teresa Ryce (Johnny), Tina Metcalf (Steve), Jenn Russell (Lee), and Josh Trossbach (Lorrie); and his great-grandchildren, Evan Currie, Ava Currie, Jaxon Cusick, Bailee Cusick, Trey Ryce, Landon Ryce, Briana Ryce, Izzy Metcalf, Emmett Metcalf, Kinley Jones, Kodi Metcalf, Caden Sweeney, Chloe Russell, Cole Russell, EJ Trossbach, R. Bennett Trossbach, and Agnes Trossbach.

Family will receive friends on Monday, March 16, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown, Maryland, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 10:00 AM at Sacred Heart Church in Bushwood, Maryland.

Pallbearers will be Ray Currie, Josh

Trossbach, JD Ryce, Caden Sweeney, Evan Currie, and Johnny Ryce II. Honorary pallbearers will be his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the 7th District Fire Department, 7th District Rescue Squad, Hospice, or ACTS.

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

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

Jerry Butler, 60



Ralph Jerome Butler of Lexington Park, Maryland departed his earthly home on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at home. Ralph, affectionately known as

"Jerry" was born on January 28, 1966, in Leonardtown, Maryland to Ralph Ignatius Butler, Jr. and Shirley Bennett Butler. He met Jacqueline (Jackie) Barnes, the love of his life in 1988. Jerry and Jackie were married on June 20, 1992. Together they had one son, Ja'Ron Malik Butler, who became their new love.

Jerry was educated in the St. Mary's County Public School system. He graduated from Leonardtown High School in the class of 1984. After high school Jerry worked various jobs before finding his true passion. Influenced by his two brothers Michael and Timothy, he became a Corrections Corporal at the St. Mary's County Detention Center. He loved his job and was a Corporal there for more than 23 years. He retired in March of 2022 but returned as a Civilian Security Specialist in June of 2022. Yes, 3 months later. He loved his work family and they loved him. They knew him as the humble man who was very selfless and only interested in putting the spotlight on the people who needed help.

Jerry touched the hearts of all he encountered. He was a righteous God-fearing man, spending time studying scripture with his family who he adored. Jerry's quiet helping spirit allowed him to touch many lives. If you needed it and he could provide it, consider it done. Jerry talked with his son Ja'Ron every day on his way home from work. They shared some deep conversations while in transit from work to home. Discussions were very inspirational for both

as they helped each other mentally, physically, and spiritually.

His mom loved when he would come to help with the gardening and watch soap operas. *Beyond the Gates* was the favorite, his brothers Michael and Timothy would join them. He liked to eat oatmeal pies, rice and bread pudding with raisins, and Wawa's coffee and donuts. What a happy man he was when he had General Tso's Chicken, Famous Dave's anything, and Ledo's meat lover's calzones. Jerry, a die-hard Dallas Cowboys fan, was quite the avid gamer, with all his winnings from bingo, scratch offs, lottery tickets, slot machines (wheel of fortune), craps, horseshoes and cornhole. Whenever he won, he would come home and say, "We going to Sizzlers!"

Jerry spent time cutting grass on his John Deer mower; meticulously making sure all lines went a certain way. He watched reruns of the *Sanford and Son* and *Martin* TV shows and loved watching the movie *Friday* again and again with his son. A man filled with love.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Jackie, his son Ja'Ron, bonus daughter Cassandra Barnes, his mother Shirley Butler, his sisters, Donna M. Walker, Eleanor Q. Briscoe (Kevin), and Gail Maddox (Roy); brothers, Timothy I. Butler (Lucia), Michael W. Butler (Stephanie), and Kenneth Banks (Melissa), Arthurette Bowman who was like a second mother to him, mothers-in-law, Joyce Barnes, Theresa Johnson, Florine Somerville, in-laws, Jermaine Barnes (Rebecca), Jewel Wheatley (Kevin), Kneec Blackwell (James), Thomas Somerville (Leah), Sean Yates, his god children Sergio Kentish, Leticia Kentish, Roy Person, Jasmine Bowman, Chantel Thomas, and Ayden Green. Also survived by his best friends Kenneth Bowman, Sergio Kentish, Louis Jones, John Hill, Sr., Charlene Thomas, Bernadette Jones, and Marie Berry, special sons Devin Montgomery and Anthony Whigan, and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and associates.

Jerry is preceded in death by his father, Ralph I. Butler, Jr., his brother Joseph Carroll Butler, grandparents Ralph I. Butler, Sr. (Eleanor), and Charles H. Bennett, Sr. (Estelle), Aunt Peggy Wade, Uncle Joseph C. Swales, godmothers Mary Davis (Grandma Peaches), sister-in-law Katina Yates, nieces Donesha Chew, and Jady Barnes, and best friend David T. Thomas.

He is now resting easy with the Lord, still loved, still missed, and always dear to us.

A Tribute to the Loved One Whose Memory Lives On Forever in Your Heart

Honor the memory of your cherished one by sharing the story of their life with friends, neighbors and associates here in the community.

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



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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.

Fri, Mar 13

Singer Songwriter Showcase

St. Mary's County Elks Lodge #2092
22649 FDR Blvd., California
7-10 p.m.

Singer Songwriter Showcase featuring:

- Karlee Ryce: Deep-rooted in Southern Maryland, she started her musical journey at the age of 8 and is continuing more than 10 years later. She sings an array of music from musical theatre, country & is part of the worship team at a local church!
- Joe Cox: Joe Cox is an up-and-coming country singer from La Plata, MD. He is a 2025 La Plata High School graduate who is currently attending the University of Maryland. You can catch him all over Southern Maryland, playing shows at places such as Hunt's Tavern, Mully's Brewery, O'Gannigans, and more!
- Miggs: MIGGS is one of country music's rising, electrifying performers. An Air Force veteran turned country artist, with millions of streams, he's known for high-energy shows & fan favorites like: "PARTY RIDE," "Never Far Away," and "Your Country Song."
- Wes Ryce: The Ryce name has been pumping music through the veins of Southern Maryland for decades.

Following in his parents' footsteps, Wes Ryce has been entertaining for over 20 years.

Purchase Tickets at www.clover.com/online-ordering/elks-lodge-2092-california

Sat, Mar 14

Pi Day in the Park

Port of Leonardtown Winery Park
2-4 p.m.

Pi Day in the Park is a fun, hands-on celebration hosted in partnership with the Mobile Library! Families are invited to enjoy circle-themed activities, creative crafts, and playful learning experiences inspired by the magic of Pi. Bring your curiosity, enjoy the outdoors, and join us for a lighthearted day of math, creativity, and community in the park. For more information, visit: www.visitleonardtownmd.com/events or call 301-475-9791 or email aris.molina@leonardtownmd.gov

SMTMD Contra Dance

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

The evening starts at 7 pm with a half hour beginner's dance workshop followed by live music performed by the SOMD Open

Band and dancing from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Check the website calendar for the lineup of dances and callers. Admission: \$8 for members; \$12 for non-SMTMD members; children 17 and under (when accompanied by a paying adult) and band members are free. See website for rescheduled or canceled events. Info: smtmd2@gmail.com, www.smtmd.org/new-events/

Sun, Mar 15

Breakfast with Easter Bunny

2nd District VFD & RS Social Hall
45245 Drayden Rd, Valley Lee
8-11 a.m.

Menu: scrambled eggs, home fried potatoes, pancakes, French toast, sausage links, ham, bacon, creamed chipped beef, sausage gravy, spiced applesauce, grits & biscuits, assorted juices, milk and coffee. Adults \$14.00; children 6 to 12 \$7.00; children 5 & under are free. For more information call 240-925-2512 (c)

Thu, Mar 12

Annie

Great Mills High School
7 p.m.

Great Mills High School's Lighthouse Productions presents Annie. With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charms everyone's hearts. You don't want to miss this classical musical

Ongoing

The Mad Ones (Musical)

The Newtowne Players
21744 South Coral Dr., Lexington Park
8 p.m.

Mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be saved... Samantha Brown balances on the edge of her future, car keys in hand. As she sits in the driver's seat, she faces a choice: will she follow in her mother's footsteps, or take the dare of her impetuous best friend and chart a new path? This contemporary and compelling score immerses audiences in the complex inner life of a young woman on the brink of change.

Show times: Thursday-Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 3 p.m.

Buy Tickets: www.simplenetix.com/e/the-mad-ones-tickets-228777

Adults \$20; special discount groups \$17; children 6-11 \$15; under 5 free (not recommended for young children).

Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Letters to the Author

Have you ever wanted to tell your favorite author just how much you love their books? Drop by the Lexington Park Library on Friday, March 13 from 2 - 3 p.m. to write a letter to them! Design your own card or postcard and learn how to address an envelope. Supplies will be provided. Registration is recommended for this event. This event was designed with preschoolers, elementary schoolers, tween, and teens in mind. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Book Arts:

Make a Reading Journal

Learn a traditional bookbinding technique as you sew and customize a reading journal that reflects your personality. Walk-in's welcome. Registration recommended for text and email reminders! If you enjoy this

event, be on the lookout for our upcoming "DIY: Pockets for Journals" program and the "Advanced Book Arts" workshop to further enhance your bookmaking skills and personalize your journaling experience! Lexington Park Library on Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Make Your Own Merch: Buttons

Want to showcase your love for your fandom? This series will show you how to make your own fan merch for whatever it is you love! This session will be about designing and making pinback buttons. Charlotte Hall Library on Thursday, March 19 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Saturday Movie Screening

Enjoy a cozy afternoon movie, relax, and chat! After the show, there will be a brief discussion to share thoughts and con-

nect. There will be something new and fresh to explore each month. Check out movies you've never seen, or share some love for one of your favorites! Popcorn will be provided. All movies will be rated PG-13 and under. Charlotte Hall Library on Saturday, March 21 from 2 - 4 p.m. Intended for tweens and teens. Register on www.stmalib.org.

World Poetry Day: Blackout Poetry

We will be making blackout poetry by using existing text to create new pieces! All materials will be provided. Writers of all experience are invited to attend. Registration will give you a reminder email but is not required to attend, walk-ins are welcome! Lexington Park Library on Saturday, March 21 - 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Transplanting: The Roots to Success

Eager to start your spring planting? Master Gardeners will teach you the proper methods for transplanting seedlings into the garden or containers, whether you winter sow them yourself in milk jugs, grow them indoors or buy from nurseries. A colorful presentation will be followed by a hands-on chance to transplant seedlings into pots you can take home. This program is made possible with support from the Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden and the University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs. This workshop may qualify for continuing education hours for Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists. Lexington Park Library on Sunday, March 22 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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, Mar 13

On Pins and Needles

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

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

Sat, Mar 14

Valentine Maker's Market: Defrosted Edition

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Originally scheduled for February, but postponed due to icy conditions, yje market returns, celebrating handmade art and love in all forms – no matter the season. Shoppers can browse a wide range of products, including small-batch chocolates, jewelry, leather goods, pottery, clothing, and more, from both indoor and outdoor vendors, all featuring homemade, handmade, or homegrown items crafted with care. Food trucks will be on site. Admission to the market area is free. Well-behaved pets on short leashes are welcome outside. Learn more at www.annmariegarden.org.

St. Patrick's Day 'Leprechaun Hunt'

American Chestnut Land Trust
676 Double Oak Rd., Prince Frederick
10 a.m.-3p.m.

Optional hike around Griffin Trail. www.acltweb.org/events

Ham & Cabbage Dinner

Waters Memorial UMC
5400 Mackall road, St Leonard
4-6 p.m.

Ham & Cabbage Dinner, included carrots, potatoes, rolls, and dessert—adults \$20, children donation. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap

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

Bring your gently used puzzles and exchange them for new-to-you challenges. It's a fun, eco-friendly way to refresh your collection and connect with fellow puzzle enthusiasts. In partnership with Calvert Co. Puzzle Swap. Registration is not required but will let us know who is interested in other puzzling events! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Bilingual Conversation Hour: Spanish-English

Calvert Library Prince Frederick

850 Costley Way
6:30-7:30 p.m.

30 minutes in English and 30-minutes in Spanish! 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! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Book Discussion

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

Fast-paced, thrilling, and emotional, "Atmosphere" is Taylor Jenkins Reid at her best: transporting readers to iconic times and places, creating complex protagonists, and telling a passionate and soaring story about the transformative power of love—this time among the stars, 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Mar 17

SEEDCO- Maryland Health Connection

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Got health coverage? SEEDCO can help you get it! Maryland Health Connection offers no-cost and low-cost health insurance. All plans include doctor visits, hospitalization, emergency visits, preventative care, prescriptions, mental health and maternity coverage. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tech Help Drop-in Hour

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
2-3 p.m.

Learn how to troubleshoot and fix your tech problems! Need help with your devices? Drop-in to Calvert Library's open tech hours! We are pleased to offer personalized assistance with basic tech requests, computer and internet basics, e-Readers, Libby, Microsoft Office or Google apps, personal devices and more! 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Social on the Spectrum: Neurodivergent Peer Support Group

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

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with peers about the joys and struggles of being a neurodivergent or autistic adult, or those exploring their identities on the spectrum. We welcome everyone 18+ regardless of ability or diagnostic status. This is a peer-led group, not therapy, and is not intended to diagnose or as medical advice. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

CalvertLibrary.info.

Teen Night - Silent Book Club, Teen Edition

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

Bring or choose a good book and enjoy some quiet reading time. We'll have tea and cookies for a cozy snack, then share a discussion about the book you read. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Mar 18

Hospice of Chesapeake Fundraiser Wine Dinner

Hook & Vine Kitchen and Bar
4114 7th St., North Beach
6-9 p.m.

Join us for an elegant evening of wine, cuisine, music and community—all supporting Hospice of Chesapeake.

Enjoy a five-course dinner hosted by Monica (DMV Distributors), beginning with a welcome pour of Gambino Prosecco, with bourbon tastings by Dylan (Southern Glazers) and beer tastings by Emily (Bozick). There also will be live music by John Luskey and raffles all night.

Menu & Pairings

- Shrimp Crostini with herbed fromage blanc & arugula—Gambino Prosecco
- Red Pepper & Tomato Velouté with crème fraîche—Château Moya Bordeaux
- Arugula, Pear & Toasted Walnut Salad, Manchego & prosciutto crisp—Château Gaby Canon-Fronsac
- Pork Bourguignon, potato purée & roasted carrots—Château du Parc Saint-Émilion Grand Cru
- Lemon-Vanilla Pots de Crème—Château Augustine Bordeaux Blanc

Tickets \$200. 50 percent of every ticket benefits Hospice of Chesapeake.

Seats are limited. Make your reservations. Call 443-964-5488

Job Seeker Resources

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
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 Veterans Services, but all jobseekers are welcome to attend. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fairview Book Discussion

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings & Zoom
2-3:30 p.m.

Join us online or in person to discuss "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon. A GMA Book Club Pick, "The Frozen River" is "a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day. Register in advance to receive the Zoom link via email if you wish to attend virtually. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Dungeons & Dragons – ADULT

Calvert Library (Zoom/Roll20)
6-8:30 p.m.

Come have fun with D&D, a role playing game for adults of all experience levels. Please register for this event. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Bilingual Conversation Hour: Spanish-English

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

30 minutes in English and 30 minutes in Spanish! 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! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

On Pins and Needles

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

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

Upcoming

artLab After Hours: The Great Puppet Challenge

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
Friday, March 20, 5-8 p.m.

18+ Only. Can't wait for the next Bad Art Night? Then join us to . In celebrate the Main Gallery exhibit, Climate Affect Collective: Puppets with a Purpose. Guests are invited to raid artLAB's collection of recycled materials and design their own puppet masterpiece, whether thought-provoking, hilarious, wildly unhinged, or unexpectedly poetic. Prizes will be awarded for Best, Wildest, and Most Creative creations. College students receive free admission with a valid student ID. Live music, a cash bar, and a food truck will round out the evening. Standard admission is \$7 per person; AMG Members are free; no reservations required. Learn more at www.annmariegarden.org

Fur-Leaf Clover Adoption Event Set



A few of the animals currently available for adoption. Clockwise from top left are Rockey, Seahawk, Malie Marie, and Theodore.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by bringing home your own lucky charm. The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter is offering \$17 adoptions for all cats and dogs to qualified adopters during their Fur-Leaf Clover Adoption Event, from Tuesday, March 10, through Tuesday, March 17.

Whether you're a longtime pet owner or a first-time adopter, the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter is dedicated to making the adoption process a joyful and rewarding experience. Find your lucky fur-leaf clover by visiting the shelter Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information on the adoption pro-

cess, visit www.CalvertCountyAnimalShelter.com/Adoption.

To schedule an intake appointment, call 410-535-7387. The shelter is located at 5055 Hallowing Point Road in Prince Frederick.

For more information about adopting from the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter visit www.CalvertCountyAnimalShelter.com. Visit the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter on Instagram at @calvertcountyanimalshelter and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyAnimalShelter.

Press Release from Calvert County Government

Grenis Presented 'You Make a Difference' Award

During the March 2nd Patuxent Republican Club meeting Lisa Grenis, vice president of the Calvert County Board of Education was presented the "You Make a Difference" award.

From Lisa, "The progress in Calvert County Public Schools has been a team effort. It's exciting to see things moving in a positive direction that puts students first."

Thus Lisa's motto "It's about the Kids."

She has been the leadership for eliminating cell phones in school, no 'hoodies' and they have hired a new excellent School Superintendent. She has been instrumental in implementing common sense policies for the benefit of our children and driving excellence in Education. The proof of her efforts are reflected in the improvement of the reading and math test scores of the students. She brought up Maryland directing the schools to do 'this and that,' all without the dollars to do so (unfunded mandates). The bottom line is our school board is pushing things in the right directions. But as Lisa said, this has been a four-year effort.



Stu Paul (retired Navy Captain) awarding Lisa Grenis a substantial donation to her re-election campaign.

Press Release from Patuxent Republican Club

Submissions Open for Buy Local Guide

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is now accepting applications for the 2026 edition of the "So Maryland, So Good" Buy Local Guide.

This consumer directory connects residents with fresh, locally raised, harvested, and produced goods across the region.

Expanded Scope for 2026

For the upcoming season, SMADC is broadening the guide's focus to better represent the diverse agricultural landscape of Southern Maryland.

Who Can Apply?

Listings are free and open to farms and producers in the five-county Southern Maryland region: Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties. Eligible categories include:

- Farms & CSAs: Farm stands, stores, and CSAs offering produce, meats, dairy, honey, cottage foods, and fiber.
- Farmers Markets: Markets in Southern Maryland and those in the greater MD/DC/VA area that host at least one Southern Maryland farm vendor.
- Craft Beverages: Wineries, breweries, and distilleries using locally grown grapes, grains, honey, or fruits.
- Seafood & Aquaculture: Producers

of locally raised or harvested oysters, crabs, and finfish.

- Specialty Producers: Apiaries and creators of value-added farm products.

The 2026 Guide will also feature vendors accepting federal nutrition program benefits and participants in the Maryland Market Money (MMM) matching program, enhancing local food accessibility for the community.

Submission Details

Farmers and producers must submit their information by March 25, 2026, to be included in the guide.

- How to Apply: Visit the SMADC website and locate the Application Form under the 'News/Events' section.
- Cost: Free for all eligible local farms and markets.
- Publication: The digital guide will be released in early-mid Spring 2026 on the 'Get Our Guides' page at SMADC.com.

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is dedicated to supporting the region's agricultural economy by promoting local farms, protecting farmland, and ensuring a sustainable future for Maryland's farmers and consumers.

Press Release from SMADC

Vendors Sought for Farmers Markets

Buying local is easy with an abundance of fresh food from Calvert County's farmers, agribusinesses and watermen. Patrons can find local produce, meat, bedding plants (vegetables and herbs) and a cornucopia of other offerings.

The Calvert County Farmers Market Association is seeking vendors for its Prince Frederick and Dunkirk markets this season. These are "producers-only" markets, meaning all vegetables, fruits, herbs, tree nuts, meats, flowers, plants and other products sold at the markets must be grown or produced by a local farmer or vendor.

For those interested in becoming a vendor at the markets, visit www.CalvertAg.com/FarmersMarketVendor. Applications can be submitted throughout the farmers market season.

For more information on Calvert County's agricultural community and

other updates, visit www.CalvertAg.com or contact the Calvert County Department of Economic Development at 410-535-4583 or email info@choosecalvert.com.

Farmers Market Association markets will be held on the following schedule:

- **Tuesdays** in Prince Frederick at CalvertHealth Medical Center back parking lot, 130 Hospital Road, from 2-5:30 p.m. April 28 through Nov. 24.
- **Thursdays** in Dunkirk at the entrance of Dunkirk District Park, 10750 Southern Maryland Blvd., from 2:30-5:30 p.m. May 21 through Sept. 3.
- **Saturdays** in North Beach at the North Beach Senior Center parking lot, 9010 Chesapeake Ave., from 8-11:30 a.m. April 18 through Oct. 31.

Press release from Calvert County Government

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of February 16, 2026 – February 22, 2026, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,333 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 51
- Disorderly: 12
- Domestic: 23
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 48
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 1213
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 32
- Traffic Complaints: 75
- Traffic Stops: 319
- 911 Hang-Ups: 57
- ARRESTS: 42



Kесе Eman Lyles

Burglary: 26-15520 On February 16, 2026, at approximately 3:24 p.m., DFC Grierson responded to the 12000 block of Susan Lane in Lusby for a reported burglary in progress.

The complainant reported that an unknown male forcibly entered the residence without consent and ran down a hallway while acting erratically. Cpl. Shrawder located and detained the suspect, identified as **Kесе Eman Lyles**, 44, of Great Mills. A search incident to arrest revealed a burnt glass pipe containing a copper/brass mesh filter, consistent with CDS paraphernalia. Lyles was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Burglary – 4th Degree, Trespassing on Private Property, and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Brandon McNeil Robinson

CDS Violation: 26-15374 On February 16, 2026, at approximately 1:12 a.m., DFC Hill responded to the Prince Frederick Post Office, located at 35 Duke Street in Prince Frederick, for a report of individuals inside the lobby after hours. Upon arrival, DFC Hill observed two individuals

sleeping in the lobby. The individuals were identified as **Matthew Leo Greening**, 37, of no fixed address, and **Brandon McNeil Robinson**, 19, of no fixed address. Further investigation revealed that both individuals had previously been trespassed indefinitely from the property. A search incident to arrest revealed that Greening was in possession of a glass smoking device containing cocaine residue. Greening and Robinson were transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. Both were charged with Trespassing on Public Agency Property After Hours. Greening was additionally charged with CDS: Possession – Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Eric Steven Straughan

Disorderly Conduct: 26-16021 On February 17, 2026, at approximately 10:33 p.m., deputies responded to the 3400 block of King Drive in Dunkirk, for the report of a disorderly subject following a disturbance at a residence. Upon arrival, deputies learned that a physical altercation had occurred during a party where alcohol was being consumed. During the investigation, deputies made contact with **Eric Steven Straughan**, 18, of Huntingtown, who was observed displaying signs of intoxication and detected the odor of marijuana emitting from his person. Straughan became disorderly, yelling profanities and threats in the residential neighborhood and attempting to push past deputies after being given multiple lawful commands to stop. Due to his intoxicated state and continued disruptive behavior, he was placed under arrest. Straughan resisted by tensing up and attempting to pull away before being secured in handcuffs. A search incident to arrest revealed suspected marijuana, marijuana vape devices, and alcohol in his possession. Straughan was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Disorderly Conduct, Intoxicated Endangerment, Resisting/Interfering with Arrest, and Failure to Obey a Reasonable/Lawful Order.

to provide his driver's license and vehicle registration and became argumentative and non-compliant. Due to officer safety concerns and the driver's continued refusal to obey lawful commands, he was ordered multiple times to exit the vehicle. The driver refused and resisted attempts to exit the vehicle. The driver was ultimately removed from the vehicle and placed in handcuffs after continuing to disregard lawful commands and making movements toward his waistband area. The driver was identified as **Syve Armon Ashton Stenson**, 32, of Huntingtown. Stenson was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Failure to Obey a Lawful Order and Obstructing and Hindering.



Syve Armon Ashton Stenson

Obstructing Justice: 26-17080 On February 20, 2026, at approximately 3:18 p.m., DFC Crum initiated a traffic stop along Rt. 4 and Auto Drive and Prince Frederick, for a seatbelt violation. The driver refused

to provide his driver's license and vehicle registration and became argumentative and non-compliant. Due to officer safety concerns and the driver's continued refusal to obey lawful commands, he was ordered multiple times to exit the vehicle. The driver refused and resisted attempts to exit the vehicle. The driver was ultimately removed from the vehicle and placed in handcuffs after continuing to disregard lawful commands and making movements toward his waistband area. The driver was identified as **Syve Armon Ashton Stenson**, 32, of Huntingtown. Stenson was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Failure to Obey a Lawful Order and Obstructing and Hindering.

On February 18, 2026, Master Deputy Locke responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office District 1 office located at 10500 Southern Maryland Blvd in Dunkirk, for a reported theft. The complainant advised that while stopped at a traffic light on Hospital Road in Prince Frederick, an unknown suspect approached the victim's vehicle. During a verbal argument regarding traffic lanes, the suspect allegedly flicked a lit cigarette onto the victim, made threats, and reached inside the vehicle and stole the victim's Apple iPhone. The suspect then fled the scene. Shortly afterward, deputies received a crash notification from the stolen iPhone, which indicated the device had been thrown from the suspect's vehicle. A separate citizen also called to report a traffic complaint/road rage incident that corroborated the victim's account. The incident was further observed on nearby traffic cameras. Cpl. Evans later located the victim's phone and returned it undamaged. The investigation is ongoing.

Theft: 26-17134 On February 20, 2026, DFC Lee responded to the 3800 block of 5th Street in North Beach, for the reported theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect(s) stole the victim's registration plate. The estimated value of stolen property is \$100.



Bradley Shane Krolczyk

Trespassing: 26-15718 On February 17, 2026, at approximately 5:40 a.m., DFC Grierson responded to the 12900 block of Pine Lane in Lusby for a reported burglary in progress. The complainant advised that

an unknown male suspect opened a secured screen door and began banging on the front door of the residence. The homeowner confronted the suspect, later identified as **Bradley Shane Krolczyk**, 53, of Lusby, who then ran back to a vehicle parked in front of the residence. The responding deputy recognized Krolczyk from a prior encounter on February 16. After repeatedly banging on the front door, Krolczyk allegedly attempted to enter two vehicles parked on the property. Deputies determined there was no evidence he had permission or authority to enter the residence or either vehicle. A search of Krolczyk's person incident to arrest revealed CDS paraphernalia. Deputies also detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from his person. Krolczyk was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with: Rogue and Vagabond, Intoxicated Endangerment, Intoxicated Public Disturbance, Disorderly Conduct, and 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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Fisher Introduces Legislation on County Non-Disclosure

Would Affect Agreements with Private Entities

Maryland Delegate Mark Fisher (R-27C) has introduced House Bill 1332 in the 2026 Maryland General Assembly session. The bill would prohibit the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) from entering into non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) or confidentiality agreements with private entities.

The proposed legislation responds to recent public concerns regarding government transparency, particularly in connection with discussions about potential large-scale developments, such as data centers, in Calvert County. These projects can involve significant impacts on local energy infrastructure, utility rates, grid capacity, property values, and community quality of life.

During a December 2025 joint meeting with Calvert County's state legislative delegation, Commissioner Earl "Buddy" Hance confirmed that the BOCC had entered into an NDA with a private company. When Delegate Fisher asked directly if such an agreement existed with a 'Data Center', Commissioner Hance said it was not with a Data Center.

At the March 3, 2026, BOCC meeting, a representative from Amazon Web Services (AWS) addressed the board regarding the company's interest in potentially developing a data center in Calvert County. AWS has stated that no formal plans, permits, or agreements have been finalized.

"Major developments like data centers

can affect every resident in Calvert County through increased energy demands and other infrastructure needs," said Delegate Fisher. "The public has a right to transparency from their elected officials, especially on issues with such broad implications. NDAs between county commissioners and private entities undermine public trust and limit residents' ability to provide meaningful input. This bill would promote accountability and ensure that decisions affecting the entire community are made openly."

Data centers typically require substantial electricity and water resources, which can strain local utilities and potentially influence rates for residents and businesses. Many Calvert County residents have expressed concerns and called for full public disclosure and engagement before any such projects advance.

House Bill 1332, titled "Calvert County – County Commissioners – Prohibited Agreements," would make any NDA or confidentiality agreement entered into in violation of the prohibition void and unenforceable as contrary to public policy. The bill is assigned to the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee.

For more information on House Bill 1332 or to schedule an interview, contact Delegate Mark Fisher's office at mark.fisher@house.state.md.us or (410) 841-3231.

Press Release from Del. Mark Fisher

Sheriff's Office Announces 'Deputy of the Year'

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office hosted its annual Awards Ceremony, recognizing the outstanding achievements of our correctional deputies, sworn deputies, civilian staff, and valued community partners who work tirelessly to keep Calvert County safe.

We are excited to share the award recipients and event photos in the coming days, but first, we would like to shine a spotlight on a very special honoree.

Please join us in congratulating our 2025 Deputy of the Year, Deputy First Class Richard McCourt Jr.

DFC McCourt has demonstrated exceptional performance, strong leadership, and an unwavering commitment to the mission and values of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office throughout the past year. His professionalism, dedication to service, and positive impact on both his fellow deputies and the community make him truly deserving of this recognition.

Congratulations, DFC McCourt, and thank you for your continued service to the citizens of Calvert County.



Deputy of the Year Deputy First Class Richard McCourt Jr. with Sheriff Ricky Cox

Press Release from CCSO

County Prepares State Road Wish List

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again. Time for the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to let the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) know what the county's top road priorities are. It's a wish list that often falls short due to state budget constraints.

The commissioners always list a new Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge, although the \$1 billion price tag makes it unlikely the state will make anything other than minor moves towards the project.

St. Mary's County, recognizing that budget dilemma, has removed the bridge from their priority list in favor of work on the bridge access road.

Transportation Planner Jessica Gaetano told the commissioners, "What we have done in the past is to just garner support for that as well (what St. Mary's does), even though it's not in our county. It's obviously some step to what needs to take place for feasibility studies."

Director of Planning and Zoning Jason Brinkley told the BOCC in a memo, "In the previous cycle, MDOT introduced a pilot prioritization process with no funding available for surface transportation capacity-enhancing projects. For the upcoming CTP (Consolidates Transportation Plan) priority letter process, local jurisdictions are requested to submit traditional signed priority letters and enter requests through a new online portal. MDOT is requiring counties to categorize project requests using only key terms which they have predefined."

Brinkley and Gaetano presented this year's plan to the commissioners on March 10.

Brinkley noted, "At this point, SHA does a really good job of having a paving schedule. They do any sort of repainting and resurfacing on a schedule and they're very good at letting us know what that is unless we have something that we've identified as a problem. So, at this point, we did not identify anything for new capacity and capacity expansion."

Last year's number one priority, which was Maryland 2/4 Solomons Island Road, remains the same. He said, "We're looking to upgrade and widen to a six-lane divided highway from Fox Run Boulevard, up to Auto Drive. That would be considered for Phases 3A and 3B."

Another priority, Gaetano said, "There has been mention of a roundabout at Maryland 260, which Chesapeake Beach Road, and the vicinity it's right where 260 and Route 2 in Owings. So, we're proposing that."

She observed, "The safety projects on 231 are already funded, so we're not going to be submitting that at this time."

Commissioner Catherine Grasso pressed for a crosswalk in Dunkirk between the park and shopping center. She was told that is in a design phase.

"They are going to do that. Yes!"

Grasso said she would keep pushing until the project moves to the construction phase. "I want to really push to move this forward. It's very, very necessary," she said.

County Administrator Linda Turner said, "We're in the process of scheduling a meeting with SHA as well, so we will ensure that the priorities are on the list."

The following is the Consolidated Transportation Program Transportation Priorities for Fiscal Years 2027-2032 organized by "Key terms:

State of good repair projects: The purpose of these projects is to improve the condition or operations of an existing asset without adding new capacity, such as travel lanes. Examples include bridge rehabilitation or replacement, pavement rehabilitation, incident responses and variable message signs.

- No projects identified at this time.

New capacity and capacity expansion: The purpose of these projects is to improve the ability of the transportation system to move people and goods. Examples include widening a road, building a new road, a new transit station and a new transit line.

- MD 2/4 (Solomons Island Road)

- upgrade and widen MD 2/4 to a six-lane divided highway in Prince Frederick, Phases 3A and 3B. o North of Fox Run Boulevard to Auto Drive

- Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge replacement Feasibility study: Takes a project from a concept to 10-15% design, including basic concept development, purpose and need, alternatives development, preliminary scope definition and cost estimates, etc. Once complete, the project is ready for project scoring under project prioritization.

- MD 260 (Chesapeake Beach Road) roundabout feasibility in vicinity of 136 E. Chesapeake Beach Road, Owings

Safety: A project whose primary purpose is to reduce or prevent crashes but that does not add or expand the capacity of roads or transit. Examples include roadway realignment, installation of rumble strips and guardrail.

- No projects identified at this time.

Bike/pedestrian or complete streets: A project to provide accommodations and improve safety for bicyclists or pedestrians. Examples include new sidewalks, installation of cycle-tracks and road diets with bike lanes.

- MD 765 (Main Street) sidewalk extensions o Between Old Field Road and Calvert Towne Road

- MD 402 (Dares Beach Road) bike lane and sidewalk installation from MD 2/4 to Calvert High School.

Transit-oriented development: A project to support or help the construction of new residential, commercial and institutional development near a rail or bus rapid transit station.

- No projects identified at this time.

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Planners to Consider Data Center Restrictions

Hart, Hance Debate Economic Need

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Correction: In our March 5 edition, we ran a story under a headline that said the commissioners have enacted a two-year moratorium on data centers. A more accurate headline would say: "Commissioners Explore Two-Year Data Center Moratorium." There is a process to follow before any moratorium is imposed, which includes a public hearing. The commissioners will be following that process before any moratorium can begin. The County Times apologizes for the inaccurate headline.

The Calvert County Planning Commission will be asked to weigh in on county staff proposals to control the possibility of data centers in the county. Planning Director Jason Brinkley presented the proposed zoning ordinance text amendments at the county commissioners March 10 meeting. The proposals piggyback onto Commissioner Buddy Hance's suggested controls on data centers.

Data centers are unquestionably the hottest of hot topics in the county in this early spring of 2026, with a proposal on the table presented by Commissioner Mike Hart for the county to investigate a two-year moratorium on data centers.

"The big basis why I made the moratorium motion last week (is) we can't begin

to know what we don't know."

The argument weighs environmental concerns with possible economic benefits. Hance and Hart weighed in on the argument in terms of whether the county needed that economic benefit.

At the March 10 meeting Hart said, "Going back to when Dominion (LNG plant) was done, there probably was an air of desperation. The county was bleeding \$8 million a year. There had been no steps or Colas for five years. When I got here, teachers, county employee officers, no raises, no steps for five years. And they were taking \$8 million a year out of fund balance."

But he observed, "We're not in that place financially. We're in a much better place than that group was. So, I don't feel desperate and I don't feel pushed or pressured."

"I just don't think our back's against the wall."

But Hance said, "Commissioner Hart certainly has been through some worse financial times than I've been through, but in the last several years we have been using fund balance. We didn't buy any vehicles trying to balance the budget. We haven't done things that need to be done because we haven't had the financial resources. So, I think that my perspective is a little different than his."

Hance said, "I think we're getting to that point where he talks about where they were in such bad shape that they had to do drastic

things. I'm just concerned about the future path. And here in Calvert we have limited opportunities for economic development, based on what the citizens demand, based on our geographic issues. I don't think anybody has any intention sitting on this board of giving up our heritage or environmental issues that we have. And if they can't meet those conditions, then they're not going to be welcome.

"I don't want anybody to think that we're just selling out for the sake of money. I think that what we tried to do is take a position of at least look at and see what that looks like."

Commissioner Catherine Grasso said it's up to the citizens. "I continue to be confused and it's going to take a lot of convincing for me to go with this," she said, adding, "I don't want to step into something that the public doesn't want, or the public says, go with it. And we don't have good information to make the right decisions. The environmental impact is paramount. The water, the electricity, there are so many moving targets to a data center."

The commissioners seemed to like what the planning staff call Option 3, which requires a third-party review of water system proposals.

Brinkley explained it as a "water services plan requirement. The conditions are as follows: water use by data centers shall be focused on efficiency, sustainability, and

mitigation of negative impacts on public utility systems and rate payers. This shall be demonstrated in a water services plan to be reviewed and approved by the Department of Planning zoning in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and the Health Department were applicable.

"The water services plan shall be prepared by a professional engineer licensed in the state of Maryland. The water services plan shall be updated and reapproved prior to any material expansion or operational change that increases projected average daily cooling water demand by more than 10 percent over the approved plan. The water services plan should describe how water will be used for cooling operations and impacts of not using water for cooling in summer conditions."

Brinkley said there are over 500 data center projects being considered in the country. "These data centers that are being built, every one of them is somewhat unique in how they're addressing water usage and cooling."

He observed, "We're not the only community dealing with this. In fact, multiple counties in Maryland are considering similar conditions than what we have either already adopted in last year's zoning ordinance or are considering here today."

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Incumbent Commissioners Face Challengers

Local Slates Fill as Filing Deadline Passes



Incumbent commissioners from left: Earl F. "Buddy" Hance, Catherine M. Grasso, Todd Ireland (President), Mike Hart and Mark C. Cox Sr. (Vice President)

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As the filing deadline passed for the June primary election, all five current commissioners filed for re-election and here's a full slate of opponents.

Current Commissioner President Todd Ireland and former president Earl "Buddy" Hance occupy the current at-large seats. GOP primary opponents are Jason Scaggs, Patti Stueckler and Barbara J. Warner. Democratic candidates are Alexes N. Jones, Judy Pedersen and Antoine S. White, a former school board member.

In the first Commissioner District, incumbent Mike Hart will face Jennifer L. Brown and Patrick E. Flaherty. Flaherty has run previously. He recently pointed out that Hart, who is seeking a fourth term, originally promised he would only serve for two.

In the 1st Commissioner District Ethan Cox is the only Democrat in the race.

District 2 incumbent Mark Cox will face Kenneth B. Lee in the GOP primary. No Democrats have filed.

In the 3rd Commissioner District Incumbent Catherine Grasso will go against Kelly D. McConkey, a former commissioner and school board member. Michael Bennett is the sole Democrat in the race.

In the races for Annapolis legislative posts, District 27B, which also includes parts of Prince George's County, has former Delegate Rachel Jones going against the incumbent Jeffrie Long for the Democratic primary. Republican Dan L. Thomas also filed.

In 27C, incumbent Mark Fisher has no GOP opposition. Democrats in the race are Jennifer M. Davidson and Rocío Mercado

Garcia.

In 29C, which encompasses lower Calvert and middle St. Mary's, Incumbent Todd Morgan will be challenged by Calvert Planning Commission member James McQueen in the Republican primary.

The full slate of Democratic candidates includes J. W. Abney, Mike Fechtmann, Eric Immler and Shaara Watts.

On the Senate side, in District 27, with Michael Jackson now Superintendent of the Maryland State Police, his appointed replacement Kevin Harris will face Jasin Fowler in the Democratic primary, while Republican Al Larson is unopposed.

In District 29 incumbent Jack Bailey is not opposed in the GOP primary and Chuck Borges is the only Democratic candidate.

For the two school board at-large positions, incumbents Lisa Grenis and Jan Post (*current president) will face former Calvert Education Association President Dona Cox Ostenson and Anne Jones in the non-partisan election. All four candidates will advance to the general election. In November.

Sheriff Ricky Cox and State's Attorney Bob Harvey have no opposition.

Long time Register of Wills Margaret Phipps will face Alexis Jones in the Democratic primary. Republican Mark Lynch has also filed.

Newly appointed Treasurer Amanda N. Dolina will have a challenge from former county commissioner Steve Weems in the Republican primary.

With long-time Clerk of the Circuit Court Kathy Smith not seeking re-election, Republican Jourdan Sturdivant is the only candidate.

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“I DON'T FEEL DESPERATE AND I DON'T FEEL PUSHED OR PRESSURED.”

COMMISSIONER MIKE HART ON DATA CENTER DECISIONS



LOCAL 4
Planners to consider data center restrictions



LOCAL 6
County shares transportation priorities



ON THE COVER 3
COMMISSIONERS FACE ELECTION CHALLENGES
All five commissioners face challengers in re-election bids

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAR 12 Rain to Snow Hi: 59° Lo: 32°	FRI, MAR 13 Partly Cloudy Hi: 55° Lo: 44°	SAT, MAR 14 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 43°	SUN, MAR 15 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 61° Lo: 54°
MON, MAR 16 Rain/Thunder Hi: 64° Lo: 30°	TUE, MAR 17 Partly Cloudy Hi: 39° Lo: 24°	WED, MAR 18 Partly Cloudy Hi: 40° Lo: 31°	THU, MAR 19 Partly Cloudy Hi: 50° Lo: 37°

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Calvert County Times

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