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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

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**Current LHS Students
Will Not Be Moved**

**Commissioners Split
on Excise Tax Change**

**School Board Celebrates
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“BEST WORK SESSION EVER!”

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR KARIN BAILEY ON NEWS OF BUDGET FULL FUNDING



LOCAL 5
School board presents final redistricting plan



COMMUNITY 11
Annual Easter Egg festival this weekend



ON THE COVER 3
One doctor's journey from Jordan to St. Mary's

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAR 26 Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 62°	FRI, MAR 27 PM Rain Hi: 65° Lo: 36°	SAT, MAR 28 Sunny Hi: 49° Lo: 34°	SUN, MAR 29 Sunny Hi: 58° Lo: 45°
MON, MAR 30 Partly Cloudy Hi: 68° Lo: 50°	TUE, MAR 31 Partly Cloudy Hi: 69° Lo: 58°	WED, APR 1 Partly Cloudy Hi: 82° Lo: 61°	THU, APR 2 Partly Cloudy Hi: 81° Lo: 54°



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Dr. Day: A Long Passionate Journey for One

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It's a day to show love for your doctor(s). March 31 is celebrated as Doctor's Day and in St. Mary's County doctors come in a shapes and sizes. They are general practitioners (family doctors) or they can practice in highly specialized areas. The county has been fortunate in recent years to attract many of those specialists.

One of them is Dr. Moutasem Aljundi, an interventional radiologist at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital.

He does procedures such as:

- Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)
- Enlarged Prostate
- Pelvic Congestion Syndrome
- Pulmonary Embolism

Dr. Aljundi said, "We use different material like titanium coils and sclerotic material to lower risk. The treatment generally would require either no stay at the hospital or minimal stay. Maybe one night or maximum two. Patients would be going back to their normal activity within few days after the procedure. And the risks of the procedure are less than other lines of services."

He added, "We have a women's health service where we do a procedure called embolization. We use similar techniques to what we do for the prostate, but that's guided at the uterus fibroids. For women who have fibroids, we basically block the blood supply to the fibroids and let them shrink it from the inside, (eliminating) the need to go in and remove the part of the uterus or the whole

uterus to fix the problem."

He explained, "This is a procedure where you get it done, leave that day."

He noted, "We do treat life-threatening (in) the emergency department."

He said they treat what is called deep vein thrombosis, "which happens for various reasons where one the veins clots, breaks up, normally it would move through the bloodstream. And in the presiding lung, that is a life-threatening condition because it blocks the blood supply from the lung. We go in the neck or the groin, and we guide a catheter device through the heart. We basically do a manual for the clot. We get the clot out, then we filter the clot from the blood to return the blood to the patient. And this way we open up that part of the lungs."

He observed, "A lot of times for patients, we do a lot of procedures."

Dr. Aljundi came to the United States from Aman, Jordan originally. "In my medical school I decided to pursue training in surgery. So, I started surgical training in Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore."

In Jordan "normally you get into medical school straight away and in Jordan after high school. So, there is no college degree, so the medical school is a little bit different. The system is kind of a British system as compared to the American system. So, the American system for medical school you have to obtain a bachelor's degree, and a college degree of four years. And then you apply to medical school. The British or English system is you basically apply to medical school straight away, when I was 18 years old. I graduated

when I was 24, 25 years old. You have to get your equivalent license for the United States medical system. It's called ME, it's kind of pre that you apply for that you're eligible to practice medicine in the United States."

At Johns Hopkins, he said, "I trained for two years in general surgery. Then I decided that I wanted to pursue training in interventional radiology because I didn't have much experience with interventional radiology as part of my medical school. But when I got exposed to it, when I was in surgical training in the first couple of years, I basically fell in love with a specialty. So, I switched careers into interventional radiology, and then I moved to Georgetown University Hospital, where I trained for five years."

He added, "Part of the training is you have to be also trained in the diagnostic radiology, meaning, the part where you actually... double in on diagnostic and interventional radiology."

He said interventional radiology has always been part of the radiology department at MedStar St. Mary's.

As to why he got into the medical profession back in Jordan, he said, "I always had a passion to treat people and to take care of people. I've always been interested in healing body physiology. That always has fascinated me, and that's probably what guided me to do what I'm doing now. It's not only medicine, but this kind of medicine, because what I do is very dependent on how the systems in the body work together and they interact with each other and function in one system can affect a different system. So that is something



Dr. Moutasem Aljundi

that has always fascinated me as a kid."

He added, "I've always been watching videos on basically surgical procedures and how they're done. And I've always thought of the human body. Doctors who perform surgeries on human beings are more like human engineers if you want to think of it that way. I don't know if that's an appropriate way to put it. But basically the human body is probably the most sophisticated machine that is out there. And it's always been interesting to me to know how the human body works and how our organs, as tiny as they are, have many functions and we, as much as we know about them, we don't know much. And there's still a lot to know about. So that has always kept me excited about knowing more about it. And that's when I decided to medical school."

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- 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
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- Meet Lord Dunmore
- Cannon firing demonstrations from shipboard
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 Items in **WHITE** take place on both sites



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School Board Finalizes Redistricting

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It's official. The St. Mary's County Board of Education has finalized a redistricting plan after a process that was often contentious.

In the end, the board overrode recommendations by the Cannon Group, the consultant hired to guide them through the process. They allowed students currently at Leonardtown High School (LHS) to stay there, they allowed students along Indian Bridge Road to continue to go to LHS, and they did not close White Marsh Elementary School, at least for now.

Declining enrollment and LHS overcrowding were two drivers that prompted the school board to embark on the challenging process. So, the board will revisit that enrollment trend and if it is continuing in two years they could decide to close the small White Marsh school in need of an expensive renovation.

The decision at the board's March 18 meeting does not for the next school year involve any redistricting of elementary or middle school students. But because no northern elementary or middle school could absorb all of the White Marsh students, closing it would have a ripple effect that would cascade down through the middle of the county.

During the process, the board heard significant public comment on the three major issues they ultimately handled.

One last minute decision at the March 18 meeting involved transportation of redistricted high school students. The board



voted to provide double transportation to areas where existing LHS students live alongside 8th graders transferred from LHS to Chopticon (CHS). There is the hope that as the existing LHS students age and can drive their own cars and transport other students, that the transportation issue will go away. Meanwhile the double routes will cost the school system an extra \$260,000 a year.

The plan calls for existing 7th graders to be affected in the following year and then existing 6th and 5th graders in subsequent years.

Director of Capital Planning Kimberly Howe outlined the areas to be affected by the move of students from LHS to CHS: "Northbound MD 235, Three Notch Road from the intersection of Mervill Dean Road and Airport View Road to the intersection of Sotterley Road, including all auxiliary roads, drives, courts, and lanes.

"The section also includes north side of MD 245, Hollywood Road from the inter-

section of MD 235, Three Notch Road, and including Barnsby Lane and all auxiliary roads, drives, courts, and lanes.

"And finally, for this section, the northbound and southbound MD 235, Three Notch Road from the intersection of South Sandgates Road to MD 245, Hollywood Road, including all auxiliary roads, drives, courts, lanes, including Macintosh Road from Clover Hill Road to Burke Mill Road."

Students in Woodland Acres would be transferred from LHS to Great Mills High School (GMHS) because their entrance has been changed to the GMHS district.

Letters announcing the changes will now go out to parents and guardians.

Long-time school board member Mary Washington said, "This was a long and arduous process. It was difficult, it was emotional, it was heart wrenching. It is one of the most difficult things that the Board of Education will ever do."

Board Chair Karin Bailey said, "I would like to just thank everyone, from the Cannon Group, to everyone who spoke, to everyone who wrote letters, to all of the work that was done within the school system to continually address every, I'm going to use the word 'issue,' but, that came up as we went through this whole process.

"So, it was a very aggressive timeline based on when we started to where we are, because we are obligated under law to notify the students by a certain date as to where they will be redistricted to.

"So, I do appreciate it and I will just say from my standpoint, and I think the feeling on the board, is that every single comment, letter, side conversation, whether it be in the grocery store, at the ballfield, was all taken to heart and into account in the decisions that were made."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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- Financial Assistance Programs, and more

School Board Grateful for Full Funding News

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The news called for a party. Whether one happened or not, the St. Mary's County Board of Education, teachers and other staffers, and students could give an early sigh of relief upon hearing the news that at least for now they are getting the local funding they have asked from the county commissioners. They were expected to finalize the proposed budget on March 31.

That tentative commissioner support means an added \$8.4 million in the next fiscal year and the fully funding of their negotiated agreements, which are at the end of the third-straight time for four-year contracts.

Deputy Superintendent of Fiscal and Supporting Services Tammy McCourt delivered the news at the March 18 school board meeting. "We submitted a request to the county commissioners in the amount of \$145.8 million, which represents an increased request of \$8.4 million. And we're very pleased to announce that at this time that county commissioners are fully in support of that and will be bringing that forward to public hearing. So that allows us to fully fund the negotiated agreement."

She did deliver a few caveats. "We're continuing to monitor fuel costs, utility costs, health insurance costs, as well as what's happening at the state level. Last week was a bit of a rollercoaster. The Department of Legislative Services had submitted a recommendation to the Budget and Taxation Committee to cap the special education per pupil allocation to a 5 percent growth that would have impacted us by a million dollars and pre-K, to cap the increase over two

years to reduce that increase over the two-year span. That would've impacted us by about \$700,000. Neither one of those were supported in the Senate."

School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said, "I'm very heartened by where we are in the process at this time. To be in March and to hear that in particular was led by Commissioner Hewitt, that they're going to fully fund the negotiated agreement, which is ultimately what we are seeking every single year, and then fully fund the request as it was submitted, that's really wonderful."

He added, "It's quite a relief to be here and know that we do have support from our county commissioner group to fully fund the negotiated agreement and fully fund our request that we sent over. That's certainly something that I think will lift a bit of weight off of our staff because they can predict where they'll be salary-wise next year. And that's why we have a four-year negotiated agreement."

Board Vice Chair Cathy Allen said about the successive four-year agreements, "I think that is an absolutely remarkable feat. But it also gives some certainty not just to our employees, but also to the commissioners to understand what the bill is going to be."

Board member Dorothy Andrews said, "I think it also brings calmness for the kids, and that's what's important for their learning environment. Very settled! The teachers are calmer, they have assurance. It just helps the flow. And that's important for learning."

"Best work session ever," quipped Board Chair Karin Bailey, underscoring the euphoria.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Noise Advisory for March 30-April 10



Communities surrounding Naval Air Station Patuxent River are advised that noise-generating testing events are scheduled to take place March 30 to April 10, 2026 from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Pilots at NAS PAX will be conducting Field Carrier Landing Practices (FCLPs). FCLPs are simulated carrier landings conducted to prepare the pilot to land safely on an aircraft carrier. The practices con-

sist of series of touch-and-go maneuvers, "bounces." Residents may notice increased noise levels due to these operations.

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

Commissioners Approve Excise Tax Change on Split Vote

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) have officially voted to extend the excise tax charged for new construction to the Town of Leonardtown. Town officials had formally opposed the move and the amendments passed on a split 3-2 vote, with Commissioners Eric Colvin and Mike Alderson opposing.

The public hearing was held on March 10. County Attorney Buffy Giddens gave a synopsis of the proposal before the March 25 vote. At the public hearing there were a number of speakers against the ordinance and no one spoke in favor. She said, "In 2021, the Maryland General Assembly enacted House Bill 528, which repealed the prior impact fee structure and expressly authorized commissioners to impose a countywide building excise tax, that the authority was codified in local government Article 2807 and made applicable to the municipalities and countywide through Section 4-11C2. The proposed amendments to the excise tax, generally speaking, are one, to clarify that the excise tax does apply in municipalities located within the county. And two, it changes the time of collection of the tax from when the building permit is issued to when an occupancy permit is issued."

"Some of the things it does not do, it doesn't change the rate of the tax, it doesn't change the allocation formulas, it doesn't expand the policy scope and it does not impose new categories of taxation."

Commissioner President Randy Guy said, "We're changing just one thing. It was an administrative error. We made this excise tax up. We just specifically said those permits issued by St. Mary's County; we did not include the town of Leonardtown. That's the only thing that says to me. It's just an administrative error or changes (it so) that any permit produced in St. Mary's County pays an excise tax. That's all."

But Colvin, whose brother is on the town council, said, "I believe Leonardtown has said that they're not planning to collect the excise tax. If this ordinance does pass and they choose not to collect it, is the county prepared to take them to court? Because that's not something I would support doing. I believe they're working to collect the school portion of it but not looking to collect the remainder of it. Is that a path that we are looking to go down?"

Giddens said a decision would be made in executive session if the town went that route.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt, who spearheaded the change, quickly moved adoption of the change. Commissioner Hewitt is the Commissioner for the 2nd District which includes the residents of Leonardtown. According to Town Officials there was no communication when the original action was being taken in 2023 and the State

Delegation have stated that the authority given to the County Commissioners by the State was not meant to include the Town. The Commissioners had previously reached out to the Delegation to change the authority to include the Town in the tax, knowing that it did not include the town as written, and the Delegation was not interested in taking a new tax forward.

Colvin said, "I think this is the wrong method. I think we should be working to cooperate with our municipality, not impose on our municipality." According to Town Officials, the only meeting with any of the Commissioners prior to them bringing this ordinance forward on their own authority, was a meeting scheduled with Mike Hewitt and the Mayor and Town Administrator to discuss the Comprehensive Plan Update in which Hewitt showed up with 3 attorneys in tow and tried to deride the Mayor and Administrator into agreeing to collect the County's excise tax.

Commissioner Colvin went on to say, "And I was thinking about the excise tax as a whole, the concept of it. And it's difficult because we're charging \$6,697 for a residence, but the homeowner doesn't pay that directly. The builder pays that. So, it gets built into the cost of the home. So therefore, our average residents who get a 30-year mortgage at 6 percent are going to end up paying more interest on the cost of the excise tax than they actually pay for the excise tax. They're going to end up paying \$14,454.68 in order to have covered the excise tax."

Commissioner Scott Ostrow said, "This is about fairness. I can't tell somebody in California or Great Mills or Lexington Park that you have to pay this fee for your trying to build your first house. You have to pay this fee. But somebody in Leonardtown who's building a \$700,000 house, well, they don't have to. This is about fairness, and it is about equity. I can't look my constituents in the face and tell them; these people don't have to pay." Commissioner Ostrow went on to say that the Town should waive their property taxes if they didn't want their residents double taxed. Town Administrator, Laschelle McKay stated in an interview that "The idea that the Town should waive its property tax, that is used to provide its residents services that they are entitled to and paying for, so that the County Commissioners can put the Excise Tax into the General Fund to fund any project they see fit is ridiculous!"

Commissioner Eric Colvin added, "Commissioner, you can tell your other constituents, Leonardtown residents are your constituents too," adding, "They are also paying higher taxes that the residents of Lexington Park and California are not paying."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

'No Kings' Rally Set for Leonardtown



Protesters at a No Kings demonstration on Oct. 18, 2025, along Rt. 235 in California. Photo by Ceandra Scott.

On March 28th, local St. Mary's County residents will come together with millions of Americans across the country in a nationwide day of nonviolent protest at the third No Kings National Day of Action. There are over 3,000 events nationwide.

In St. Mary's County, protesters will gather at 2pm on the corner of Rt. 5 and Hollywood Rd. until 4pm. Together we will rise up, take to the streets, and say it loud: no thrones, no crown, no kings. Join us.

"This is bigger than political disagreement. We're bringing together local residents from all walks of life who recognize that this administration has defied our courts, killed American citizens, disappeared people off the streets, started wars and slashed our services—all while orchestrating a massive giveaway to their billionaire allies. We're not going to stand by and watch it happen—we're pushing back." said Andy Wilson, St. Mary's County MD Indivisible Organizer.

No Kings is a mass, nonviolent movement that has already mobilized millions – from over five million participants on June 14, 2025 to over 7 million people joining 2,700+

events across all 50 states and the District of Columbia on October 18, 2025 – and is growing as communities unite to reject authoritarian power grabs and defend dignity and freedom.

Other groups organizing the No Kings non-violent protests across the country include ACLU, American Federation of Teachers, Common Defense, 50501, Human Rights Campaign, Indivisible, League of Conservation Voters, MoveOn, National Nurses United, Public Citizen, SEIU, among others. A full list of partners can be seen at www.nokings.org/partners.

For a full list of participating cities, event details, and spokespeople available for interviews, visit www.NoKings.org or contact smcmdindivisible@gmail.com

All No Kings events adhere to a shared commitment to nonviolent protest and community safety. Organizers are trained in de-escalation, every local event has a safety lead, and organizers are coordinating closely with local partners to ensure powerful, non-violent local actions.

Press release

Legal Notice

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: FY2027 RECOMMENDED BUDGET Ordinance No. 232

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will hold a public hearing on Monday April 13, 2026 at 4:15 p.m. at the Town office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. **The purpose of the hearing will be to receive comments on the Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2027.** Copies of the recommended budget will be available on April 1, 2026 online at <http://leonardtown.somd.com> or at the Town Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The public is invited to attend or send written comments by 3:00 p.m. on April 13, 2026 to:

leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov

or

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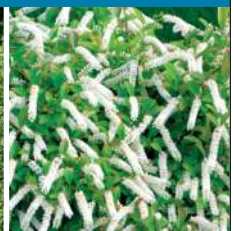
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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

PMA-226 Returns Historic Helicopter to Service

Strengthens International Alliance



An iconic VH-3A Sea King returns to the skies after a modernization by Adversary and Specialized Aircraft Program Office (PMA-226) and industry partners. Now, this historic aircraft is ready to continue its service with the Egyptian Air Force, strengthening a decades-long alliance.

In a powerful demonstration of its commitment to international partners, the Adversary and Specialized Aircraft Program Office (PMA-226) has successfully returned a historically significant VH-3A Sea King to the skies for the Egyptian Air Force. The project, completed in February, modernizes a key aviation asset and reinforces a strategic partnership built on decades of cooperation.

The effort, managed by the PMA-226 H-3 Integrated Product Team in partnership with NAVAIR's Security Cooperation Office and industry partner Clayton International, successfully merged a legacy airframe with modern technology.

"This milestone is a testament to the teamwork and dedication of our program office, contracting teams, and industry partners," said Capt. Jason Pettitt, PMA-226 program manager. "Together, we've delivered a modernized aircraft that strengthens our partnership with the Egyptian Air Force and highlights the value of collaboration with our allies."

The aircraft itself, BuNo 150615, has a

rich history. It was originally delivered to the U.S. Marine Corps to support presidential missions for John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Richard Nixon. Its role pivoted from executive transport to diplomatic symbol during Nixon's 1974 visit to Egypt, when he gifted the helicopter to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat as a gesture of goodwill.

The recent refurbishment included installing a revitalized electrical backbone and a modern "glass panel" avionics suite, alongside upgraded communication and navigation systems. On Feb. 2, the Egyptian Air Force conducted an Acceptance Check Flight, validating the aircraft's renewed performance.

"The Egyptian Air Force's active involvement and commitment to quality were key to the success of this program," Pettitt added.

Following the final installation of a custom VIP interior, the aircraft will be prepared for transport back to Egypt, where it will resume service as a flying symbol of an enduring partnership.

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50.99



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43rd Annual Easter Egg Festival Saturday



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 will be held from 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. and is open to the entire community.

This Southern Maryland spring staple will feature 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 are available for online purchase at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Easter. General

admission to the Easter Egg Festival is free.

Net proceeds from the Easter Egg Festival support the R&P Scholarship Fund, providing qualified children and teens with the opportunity to participate in an R&P program at an up to 50% prorated amount of the registration fee.

Festival information can be found at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Easter. Residents with questions may contact R&P by email at RPinfo@stmaryscountymd.gov or by calling the Main Office at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1800.

Stay up to date with all R&P events and happenings on social media! Follow R&P at: www.instagram.com/StMarysRecAndParks and www.facebook.com/StMarysMDRecreation.

Press release fom St. Mary's County Government

Pianist Offers Two Free Events

PianoTalk and Full Length Recital at SMCM

Lovers of piano music in the St. Mary's College of MD community have two big free events to look forward to in the coming days. Musician-in-Residence Brian Ganz will offer a free PianoTalk on Tuesday, March 31 at 11:20 a.m., and his only full length evening recital on Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m. The PianoTalk, entitled "Chopin's Six Miniatures," will be held in the Recital Hall of the Dodge Performing Arts Center. The April 2 recital will be held in the Concert Hall, and will feature a free full preview of his upcoming performance at the Music Center at Strathmore on April 11, entitled "Extreme Chopin: The Finale." For more information call (240) 895-4498.

"This is an exciting week for lovers of Chopin's music!" pianist Ganz said. "On the Tuesday PianoTalk I will play and discuss six short works of the Romantic Master, including the short but passionate waltz that was discovered in the Morgan library and announced to the world in 2024. These are rarely heard gems and it will be great fun to introduce them to Chopin lovers in our community. Then two days later, on April 2 at 7pm, I will play my only full length evening recital of the semester, in the concert hall. This will be the complete program of the final concert in my 16-year journey

through the complete works of Chopin. It is the culmination of my lifelong dream to play his complete works."

Ganz is nearing completion of his quest to perform all of Fryderyk Chopin's 240 works, begun in January of 2011. "Chopin's music is the language of my soul, and I have dreamed since childhood of someday performing all of his works," said Ganz, who is widely regarded as one of the leading pianists of his generation. He is expected to be the first to perform every piece of music Chopin ever wrote.

Ganz has appeared as soloist with such orchestras as the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the National Philharmonic, the Baltimore and the National Symphonies, the City of London Sinfonia, and L'Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo. He has performed in many of the world's major concert halls and has played under the baton of such conductors as Leonard Slatkin, Mstislav Rostropovich, Pinchas Zukerman, Jerzy Semkow and Yoel Levi. A critic for *La Libre Belgique* wrote of Ganz's work: "We don't have the words to speak of this fabulous musician who lives his public into a state of intense joy."

Submitted article

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Hi, I'm Brock "Big Boy" Barnwell. I'm part rooster. Part bodybuilder and full time gentleman. I start every morning with a crow that sounds suspiciously like a motivational speech. Chest out. Feathers fluffed. Legs like tiny drumsticks carved from pure determination. I don't strut. I power-strut!

When the hens walk by, I soften my gaze, offer a polite cluck, and pretend I was not just flexing by the feed bucket.

I believe in three things: Protein. Posture. Proper courtship etiquette. If your flock is missing a swolo suitor with manners, I'm ready to bench-press my way into their hearts. Meet me during 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

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Ease the squeeze on your retirement income plan

Rising prices may not dominate headlines the way they did a year or two ago, but if you're retired, you're probably still feeling them. Even when overall inflation cools, the costliest expenses — like health care, utilities, insurance and property taxes — tend to rise faster than broad inflation numbers suggest. That creates a squeeze that can make you question whether your income plan is built to last.

Fortunately, you often can adjust without drastic cuts that affect your lifestyle. Start by understanding where the pressure comes from and how to build more flexibility into your plan.

Inflation hits retirees differently.

You've likely noticed your grocery bill, prescription drug costs and heating expenses haven't returned to "normal." Even small increases compound over time and can chip away at your buying power.

If your income plan was created years ago, it may assume lower inflation or relatively stable price increases over time. Recent years have shown that's not always the case.

Why some income plans feel strained.

Any plan relying on fixed withdrawals or rigid budgets can feel tight when living costs rise. If you're drawing from investments, you may hesitate to increase your withdrawals because of market volatility. And if you depend on fixed income sources like Social Security or a pension, yearly cost-of-living increases may not keep pace with your expenses. You might live 25 to 35 years in retirement, giving small annual cost increases decades to add up.

What you can do without sacrificing stability.

A few adjustments can help you stay ahead of rising costs and maintain your financial confidence.

First, review your withdrawal strategy. Ask your financial advisor about flexible approaches that increase income when markets and portfolios perform well and pull back during tougher times. This protects your long-term plan with room to respond to rising prices.

Next, rebalance your portfolio. You may uncover opportunities to shift toward investments with more consistent income or better tax efficiency. Sometimes a small tweak can generate extra cash flow without increasing overall risk.

Finally, look at your income sources. You may be less affected by rising costs if you delay taking Social Security, work a part-time job, add inflation-protected bonds or create predictable lifetime income with annuities, if they're appropriate for your situation.

Don't overlook health care.

Health care costs often grow faster than general inflation. Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket expenses can rise annually, and the need for long-term care remains a big financial uncertainty for retirees. Building health care-specific inflation into your plan now can help prevent surprises later. Any savings you have in a health savings account can help you cover health care costs. And many pharmaceutical companies offer financial assistance programs to help pay for costlier medications.

Stay flexible and informed.

Today's retirements look different from those of even a decade ago. The key is staying flexible, reviewing your plan regularly and making small adjustments before pressure builds. A financial advisor can help you find the right approach to navigating rising costs without disrupting the life you've worked hard to build.

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

A View From The BLEACHERS



Logistics

By Ronald N. Guy, Jr.
Contributing Writer

On Selection Sunday, just hours after the last conference tournaments end, dozens of schools anxiously anticipate the unveiling of March's annual college basketball madness. A few teams can confidently predict their destination. Others, with plenty of resume blemishes, balance frayed nerves in hope of a ticket to anywhere. The majority know they'll get an invite, but have no clue where they are headed.

Within an hour, the bracket is set and 68 teams know their fate, opponent and destination. For the players, receiving a dance ticket and learning who they will face is all that matters. Same goes for fans. Goodness knows I've watched dozens of Selection Sundays waiting to see "Maryland" and their opponent appear. The location was only relevant because it influenced the potential game time and whether an urgent leave request from work would be required.

Eight teams are immediately ordered to Dayton, Ohio for the "First Four" games on the Tuesday and Wednesday nights following Selection Sunday. Win and it's on to the next location and the main bracket; lose and it's a quick return home and a season's abrupt end. To kick off this year's tournament, Texas won its First Four game against N.C. State by two points. Two days later, the Longhorns upset six seed BYU... in Portland, Oregon.

Portland. That caught my attention. The Texas team, firmly on the bubble, was likely huddled around a television on Sunday praying for an invitation. They got it, then had two days to get to Dayton and prepare for the Wolfpack. They did and they won. Then they had two days to get from Dayton to Portland to play BYU. They did and they won - again. Two days after that, but mercifully in the same location, they beat Gonzaga in front of a partisan pacific northwest crowd.

To recount, that's three cities - Austin, Dayton and Portland - and three opponents - N.C. State, BYU and Gonzaga - in less than a week. Revisiting those three aspects of Selection Sunday - fate (in the dance or not), opponent and destination - perhaps the latter deserves more consideration, in context to March Madness and our integrated world. The specifics of the Texas men's basketball team's journey are unique to this team and this year's tournament, but it is repeated in some form or fashion each year and with every participant. Including the women's tournament, 136 teams get slapped on a bracket and teams, families and fans scramble to get somewhere... fast.

Random stuff shows up frequently on my porch. Some of it I've order, most of it I haven't - thus is life with a family equipped with smart phones. Judging from the well-worn path by various delivery trucks around my cul-de-sac, my neighbors are living a similar logistical dream. Regular encounters with box trucks literally everywhere I go indicates my tiny neighborhood is similar to most others. Beyond personal stuff, walk into any convenience store, in any corner of this grand land, and there's an inventory expectation: sodas, coffee, snacks and various grades of gasoline in ample supply (if not stably priced). The same mentality applies to grocery stores, delis and consumer staple super-centers. And in the vast majority of situations, the stuff we need is available when and where we want it.

The world's logistical network is so good that its ever-presence renders it criminally underappreciated. COVID shook things and recent world events could do so again, but the efficient movement of people and goods to all places is an assumed magic of everyday life. So, when enjoying that easily acquired Coke and candy bar off of a random interstate exit or busting into Amazon's latest delivery, it's worth a pause and a humble tip of the cap to the countries, equipment, ingenuity and people that made it possible.

As for Texas, the win over BYU left them four days to get to San Jose, California to play Purdue in the Sweet Sixteen. The bet is they arrived seamlessly via a quickly booked flight, moved into an accommodating hotel and have been practicing on a perfectly prepared court - all outcomes owed to the logistical wizardry of an interconnected and interdependent world.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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.

Jennie Page, 78



We honor the life of Jennie Sue Page, 78, of Hollywood, MD, who passed away March 22, 2026. Born on May 19, 1947, in Maryville, Tennessee, she was the daughter of the

late Jay and Nellie Newman.

Jennie lived a life defined above all by her love for Jesus and her love for her family and friends. She dedicated her retirement years to being a doting mother, grandmother and great-grandmother surrounded by loved ones on her family farm. She graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1969. High school sweethearts, Jay and Jennie Page, were married March 29, 1969. Upon moving to Maryland, Jennie taught music at local elementary schools. She then spent the majority of her career working for the Department on Aging, providing exceptional support and care to seniors with a passion for those she worked with. Jennie, along with Jay, were partners in starting Leonardtown Baptist Church, where she served in many roles, such as pianist, organist, choir director, and youth group leader. She was a faithful servant to her Savior, family and community.

Jennie is survived by her husband, Jay Page; son, John Page (June); daughter, Jennifer Kreller (Joey); ten grandchildren, Christopher Plummer (Torrey), Amanda Plummer, Michael Page, Caroline Kreller, Abel Kreller, Crystal Valdez (Anthony), Amber Thorne (Steven), Anthony Castro, Nicole Maddox (Xavier), and Carmen Castro; twelve great-grandchildren, John Plummer, Arthur Plummer, Wednesday Shoer, Carter Hiben, Jaiden Hiben, Tripp Valdez, Olliana Valdez, August Thorne, Jordyn Giles, Damien Castro, Takoda Maddox, and Aniyah Maddox; brother Jerry Newman (Faye) and

many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents Jay and Nellie Newman; In-laws Chuck and Betty Page; niece, Kim Mann, and her youngest son Jason Page who passed at almost 4 years old and whom she now joyously rejoins.

The family will receive friends on Friday, March 27, 2026, from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM in the Leonardtown Baptist Church, Leonardtown, MD. Where a Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 AM. Interment will follow in Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Medstar St. Mary's Hospital Cancer Center and Infusion Services at: 25500 Point Lookout Road Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

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

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

Howard Krauth, 89



Howard Charles Krauth, Jr., 89, passed away peacefully at Hospice in Callaway, MD, on February 19, 2026, after a brief illness, with his family by his side in his final moments. Born April 17, 1936, in New York, NY, "Howie" built a life rooted in hard work and service.

He was trained as an architect at Pratt Institute and spent his career working for the City of New York and later at Singer Kearfott / GEC-Marconi.

He met Claudia in 1958, as coworkers at Seaporcel Metals in Long Island City. They married on May 5, 1962 in St. Albans, NY beginning a family that would anchor every

chapter of his life. Claudia was his constant, his rock, and his greatest support.

In 1972, he and his family moved to a home on Fayson Lakes, where he spent over 25 years renovating the house largely by hand. A natural fixer and builder, he was often found working on cars or lending his skills wherever they were needed. He volunteered within the community in many capacities, but especially enjoyed roles that supported children, including ongoing involvement with the swim team and helping at Labor Day races. He also loved sailing on the lake, surrounded by a fleet of Dusters handcrafted by members of the regatta club including his young son, Howie, III.

He often took his children into New York City to visit family, where they delighted in traditions like the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the tree lighting at Rockefeller Center, which instilled a love of the city to his children, and now his granddaughter Emma.

When he wasn't working or volunteering, you could find him on the golf course, usually lingering happily at the 19th hole. He was always planning the next golf trip with his son, Howie, III.

That love of golf ultimately brought him and his wife to Pawleys Island where they retired in 1999 off the 14th hole of Tradition Golf Club for nearly 20 years. There were countless rounds played, years spent in the

men's club, and time devoted to organizing pairings, a role that required matching grown men together and which he took very seriously. He continued his volunteer work there as well, helping with buildings and grounds in both his community and his church.

He is survived by his loyal, devoted, and loving wife of 63 years, Claudia, who supported him in everything; his son, Howard III, and daughter-in-law, Ashley; his daughter, Merrie Beth; and his beloved grandchildren, Tyler, Emma, and Adelaide. The oldest of three brothers, he is survived by his youngest brother Albert. He was welcomed to heaven by his parents, Emma and Howard Sr., his brother Roger, dear friend Jack Niederer, Cousin Fred, and countless golf buddies.

A memorial mass will be held at a future date. In honor of his hard work and love of golf, donations may be made to the Evans Scholars Foundation, supporting hardworking caddies in their pursuit of a college education.

He would often quote Peggy Lee, asking, "Is that all there is?"

Yes. And it's wonderful.

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

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

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



County Times
ST. MARY'S • CALVERT

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

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 27

HomeSpun CoffeeHouse Open Mic

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

Acoustic musicians of all skill levels are welcome to perform their favorite tunes or enjoy a night out listening to some local talent. Contact Chris Dudley in advance (ccdudley@rocketmail.com) to sign up as a performer. Doors open at 7 pm with performances beginning promptly at 7:30 PM. Admission is \$8; children 17 and under (when accompanied by a paying adult) and performers are admitted free of charge. *See website for rescheduled or canceled events. Info: smtmd2@gmail.com, www.smtmd.org/new-events/

Sat, Mar 28

The Something to Wear Sale

7th District Volunteer Rescue Squad
Auxiliary
21506 Colton Point Road, Avenue
8 a.m. to 12 noon

Fill a 13-gallon bag for \$10.00. No pre-sales and no early birds. New with tags and gently worn clothing for ladies, men, girls, boys and infants.

Touch-a-Truck Festival

Little Flower School
Great Mills
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

This exciting, hands-on event gives children and families the opportunity to get up

close and personal with an impressive lineup of trucks and heavy equipment, all in one place. s open at 10 a.m., and the event runs until 2 p.m. Admission is just \$5 per person, making it an affordable outing for the whole family. Attendees can explore a wide variety of vehicles and equipment on display, from fire trucks and construction machinery to utility and emergency vehicles, with hands-on access to climb in, honk horns and interact with operators and owners. Beyond the trucks, guests will enjoy food, local vendors, a bounce house, hay ride and fun activities for all ages. More Info: littleflowercatholic.org/touch-a-truck-event

Easter Egg Festival

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P) is hosting the 43rd Annual Easter Egg Festival. and is open to the entire community. This Southern Maryland spring staple 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 and Mrs. Cottontail. 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 are available for advance online purchase at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Easter. Egg hunt tickets can also be purchased at the gate on the day of the event, beginning at 11 a.m.

Indoor Yard Sale

Knights of Columbus Hall

16441 Three Notch Rd, Ridge
8 a.m.-12 Noon.

Benefits the Belles of Council 2065. Tables for rent \$20, contact Linda Biscoe, 301-872-5140, no clothes, shoes or furniture.

Donations will be accepted on Thur 3/26, Fri 3/27 from 3-6PM at KOC Hall.

Sun, Mar 29

Spring Craft Show

24801 Three Notch Rd., Hollywood
10 A.M.-3 P.M.

Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department. Free admission & free parking.

Bake sale & 50/50 raffle. Stuffed ham, food & beverages available for purchase: cash or check. ATM on site. For more information contact craftshow@hvfd7.com

Fundraiser Night FOR Ridge Volunteer Fire Department

Hacienda Los Guayabos
19661 Three Notch Rd., Lexington Park
12 Noon-9:30 P.M.

Support Ridge VFD Auxiliary—come in to eat and let them know you're there to support the Ridge VFD.

Spring KIDS Bingo

Ridge Volunteer Fire Department
13820 Point Lookout Road
1-4 P.M.

Doors open at 12pm, Bingo starts at 1pm. Age 5 to 16 yrs old can play. Please let the kids play- parents supervise.

The Auxiliary will have food available for purchase: hot dogs, pizza & nachos, veggies, water and sodas

Stuffed Ham Marker Ceremony & Reception

St. Clement's Island Museum
2-4 P.M.

St. Mary's County has been designated as the official birthplace of stuffed ham, and a marker will be erected and dedicated to this honor!

The marker will be installed on the grounds of the St. Clement's Island Museum with a small ceremony beginning at 2:00 p.m. The marker was created as part of the Pomeroy Foundation's "Hungry for History" program and credits St. Mary's County with the creation of the dish in the early 1700s.

Immediately following the ceremony, a reception will be held next door at The Potomac Gardens and will include samples of a variety of locally made stuffed ham. For additional details, please contact karen.stone@stmaryscountymd.gov.

The general public is welcome to attend!

Thu, Apr 2

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

21690 Colton Point Rd, Avenue
7 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. E-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301*481*6625 for more information.

★ ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Rock Painting

A little bit of mess = a lot of fun! Enjoy sensory play by finger painting on real river rocks, or practice fine motor skills with brushes. Take your art home with you or donate your creation to help decorate the Library's outside space! All supplies will be provided, but feel free to find and bring your own rocks! Charlotte Hall Library on Tuesday, March 31. Preschool Session from 10 - 11 a.m., Elementary Session from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., and Tween/Teen Session from 3 - 4 p.m. Register each child that will be participating. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Working Collaboratively with AI

Join Community Mediation of St. Mary's County for a community conversation about AI. We know that people have different comfort levels about the use of AI. How can we as a community talk together about the benefits and risks of using AI? How do we navigate this new tool while remaining true to our values? We'll talk together about how each of us can shape the narrative about using AI in school, the workplace, and at home. Lexington Park Library on Tuesday, March 31 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. No registration.

Songwriting Made Easy (for kids!)

Explore the basics of songwriting, covering topic, rhyme, form, and recording with music educator Nathan Earley. We'll work together to create a finished song by the end of the session. Participants are welcome to bring any instrument they have experience with, or we can learn a quick instrument on the fly! Lexington Park Library on Friday, April 3 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Registration required on www.stmalib.org Please use the Add More People button when registering to register every child who will be participating.

Cyanotype Printing

Cyanotype printing is the art of printing using sunlight! This historical technique is a way to make a photograph without a camera by laying objects on your canvas and letting the sun activate the chemicals in the paint to reveal your masterpieces! This program may be messy, so please wear clothing you don't mind getting dirty. Leonardtown Library on Friday, April 3 from 2 - 3 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

SoMD April Events

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.

Spring Scavenger Hunt

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.

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 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.

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

Third Annual Otter Trot 5K

April 18, 8 a.m.
Calvert Marine Museum
14200 Solomons Island Rd., Solomons
Admission: \$35-\$45 registration

Whether you're sprinting, strolling, or just really into otters, this timed race is for you. Proceeds from the 2026 Otter Trot 5K will support the Calvert Marine Museum. Event will be held rain or shine. Strollers are welcome. Dogs are permitted as long as they are leashed and cleaned-up after.

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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!

Earth Day 5K Run/Hike

April 19, 9 a.m.
 American Chestnut Land Trust
 676 Double Oak Rd., Prince Frederick

Parkers Creek Loop at North Side Trailhead

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, nonfiction, 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.

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of March 2, 2026 – March 8, 2026, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,123 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 48
- Disorderly: 19
- Domestic: 33
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 47
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 992
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 29
- Traffic Complaints: 45
- Traffic Stops: 292
- 911 Hang-Ups: 41
- ARRESTS: 37



Lavonte Lewis Grimes

Theft: 26-20393

On March 2, 2026, at approximately 1:01 p.m., DFC A. Plant responded to Walmart in Prince Frederick for a reported theft. Investigation revealed a heavy-

set black male, approximately 30-40 years old, wearing black pants, tennis shoes, and a hoodie, had stolen a phone and fled the store. DFC Plant observed an individual matching the description near Main Street and made contact with the suspect, identified as **Lavonte Lewis Grimes**, 30, of Hyattsville. During the investigation, Grimes became non-compliant and fled on foot. Officers issued verbal commands to stop, and he was quickly apprehended. During the arrest, Grimes removed a phone from his pocket and dropped it on the ground. The device was identified as the stolen property, valued at \$210.94. Grimes was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with Theft (\$100 to under \$1,500 – shoplifting), Obstructing and Hindering, and Second-Degree Assault.



Evan Michael Franklin

Trespassing:

26-20566 On March 3, 2026, at approximately 5:33 a.m., Deputy H. Jones responded to the WaWa located at 305 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick for a welfare check.

Upon arrival, deputies located **Evan Michael Franklin**, 27, of no fixed address, asleep in the bathroom. Investigation revealed that Franklin had previously been issued a trespass notice for the property. He was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

Burglary: 26-20563 On March 3, 2026, F/Sgt. Denton responded to the 1600 block of M.I. Bowen Road in Prince Frederick for a reported burglary and theft of multiple off-road vehicles. The investigation revealed that unknown suspect(s) gained entry to a pole barn on the property by break-

ing a window. The suspect(s) stole three four-wheelers: a red Honda, a yellow 2000 Honda 400EX, and a gray 2024 Yamaha 449cc. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$10,500. Damage to the exterior door is estimated at approximately \$900. This incident remains under investigation.



Corey Antonio Paul

Weapons

Violation:

26-21141 On March 4, 2026, Deputy McIntosh conducted a traffic stop on an unregistered vehicle at the intersection of Ward Road and Southern Maryland Blvd. in Dunkirk. During the investigation, it was determined that **Corey Antonio Paul**, 36, of Washington, D.C., was in possession of a loaded black Canik TP9SFX handgun within arm's reach. Paul was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. Paul was charged with Illegal Possession of a Regulated Firearm, Handgun on Person, Handgun in a Vehicle, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Loaded Handgun in a Vehicle, Loaded Handgun on Person, and Illegal Possession of Ammunition.



Roger Luther Vermes

Theft: 26-21789

On March 6, 2026, DFC Hendrickson responded to the area of 80 Central Drive in Prince Frederick for a reported theft. Investigation determined that **Roger Luther Vermes**, 68, of no fixed address, had stolen food from Outback Steakhouse. Vermes was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with Theft: Less than \$100.

Trespassing: 26-22216

On March 8, 2026, at approximately 9:15 a.m., DFC Parks observed an individual lying in the lawn at 481 Main Street in Prince Frederick. The individual was identified as **Matthew Leo Greening**, 37, of no fixed address. Greening had previously been trespassed from the property. Greening was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

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

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

Attorney General: No Charges in Fatal Police-Involved Crash

Attorney General Anthony G. Brown on March 23 announced his decision not to seek charges in the Friday, Dec. 12, 2025, fatal police-involved collision that occurred in Prince Frederick.

On Friday, Dec. 12, 2025, at approximately 12:30 a.m., Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputy Ryan Campbell was parked in a marked patrol cruiser when he observed a Nissan sedan with a broken brake light passing by. The deputy pulled onto the roadway and followed the Nissan. When Deputy Campbell approached the area of N. Prince Frederick Boulevard and Chapline Place Road, he activated his emergency equipment to attempt to stop the Nissan for a traffic violation. The driver of the Nissan, later identified as Savon Samuel, did not stop and continued driving. Deputy Campbell initiated a pursuit. Approximately one mile after the attempted traffic stop, the Nissan entered the intersection of Stoakley Road and Solomons Island Road N., where it struck a Honda sedan driven by an adult woman, identified as Servon Gatewood. A Kia SUV was also struck in the crash. Deputy Campbell's vehicle did not collide with any other vehicles during the incident.

Samuel was taken into custody at the scene. Deputies immediately rendered aid to Gatewood and the occupants of the Kia until emergency medical services arrived. All individuals involved in the crash were transported to area hospitals for treatment. Samuel and the occupants of the Kia were treated for non-life-threatening injuries. Gatewood was pronounced dead at the hospital.

The Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division (IID) began investigating the fatal police-involved collision on Friday, December 12, 2025, and concluded its investigation on March 16, 2026. After completing its investigation and evaluating all the available evidence, the Office of the Attorney General has determined that the subject officer did not commit a crime under Maryland law. Accordingly, the Attorney General has declined to prosecute the subject officer in this case.

A copy of the IID's detailed investigative findings and analysis of relevant legal issues can be found in its declination report.

Press release from MD Attorney General's Office

Lusby Man Sentenced for Sex Crimes Against a Child

On March 23, 2026, Ronald Truman Wathen, 71, of Lusby, received an active sentence of 25 years in prison for the crimes of second degree rape and sex abuse of a minor. The sentence was handed down by Calvert County Circuit Court Judge Mark S. Chandlee.

Evidence revealed that Wathen, in August of 2025, engaged in illicit sexual relations with a child under the age of 13. Maryland law provides that a person convicted of such an act must serve a minimum sentence of 15 years in prison without the

possibility of parole. Given his age, it is likely that Wathen will spend the rest of his life in prison.

Calvert State's Attorney Robert Harvey would like to commend Detective Christopher Murphy of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and Senior Assistant State's Attorney Rebecca N. Cordero for their outstanding work on this case.

Press release from Calvert County State's Attorney

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Public Hearing Held on Staff Budget

Hart Presses for Turf Fields for High Schools

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As the public hearing was held March 24 on the county's Staff Recommended Budget, there was a ready admission that it was just the start of a several month process leading to the county commissioners' final budget decision for the next fiscal year.

For instance, as Commissioner Buddy Hance observed, the proposal lacks information on the school board's additional request, on the sheriff's final request and on COLA and Step increases for county employees.

But the budget does establish a baseline. And it drew comments at the hearing about cuts to the library budget, a request for accelerating the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center and a call for turf fields at the county's four high schools.

Even though the commissioners haven't started to officially put their stamp on the budget, Commissioner Mike Hart also used the occasion to make a full court press for turf fields (to mix metaphors).

At the hearing, Patuxent High School football coach Steve Crouse said, "I'm here today to speak for the kids who can't speak for themselves and the coaches who need a voice in this. For 25 years, I've watched Calvert County athletics prowess and excellence and unbelievable achievement happen on a daily basis and with a

lot of apathy regarding the upkeep of the stadiums and the athletic facilities. It's just been done over and over again; 1200 students approximately play sports in Calvert County. And that's just the high schools. That's not including all the 8, 9, 10-year-olds out there."

Crouse said, "I estimate \$5.4 million leaves this county every year for travel ball from 10-year-olds to 18-year-olds — \$5.4 million!

"And it gets tougher for us when we look at the jurisdictions around us. St. Mary's County has 10 turf fields that they've given to their community. Charles County has three. (In) PG County now all the public schools have turf fields. Anne Arundel County, all the public schools have two turf fields."

He said, "We talked about the Blueprint and I heard people talking about how the Eastern Shore is going to have trouble funding the Blueprint. I was at the Eastern Shore scouting in Snow Hill this fall. They have a turf field."

At the hearing and in the workshop earlier in the day Hart pressed the argument that the county and not the school board should foot the bill for the turf fields. At the hearing he said, "I also believe our athletic directors are professionals as well. And for 11 years that I've been here, I've heard them speak to that. I've heard the coaches speak to that enhancement and I've talked to even

the past two superintendents before that. I believe arts and athletics are part of education. I think you need the whole package. I think there's things that you can learn in arts and athletics that may be not a classroom and vice versa."

Superintendent Dr. Marcus Newsome, who presented his budget, responded to Hart: "Thank you for your kind comments and for your support for our schools and for our athletic programs. I will certainly take your request back to our board of education and I'm sure they will deliberate on your recommendation."

Commissioner Buddy Hance also noted that almost 100 students were turned away from the Career and Technology Center and urged the school board to pursue an expansion.

Newsome said he would also take that request back to the school board.

Chief Financial Officer Melina Brookshire explained, "Our expenditures are aligned with our highest community priorities. You'll see that 16 percent of our overall budget is focused on public safety. To ensure timely responses and high service levels, we are adding seven new positions here, including a recruiter and six additional school resource officers. With these additions, all Calvert County Government schools will now have a dedicated SRO on site.

"We are also funding the first year of a

new lease program for our sheriff's office, adding 52 vital vehicles to their fleet.

"This budget includes resources to strengthen coordination across departments, improving how we plan, share information, and deliver services. We are enhancing internal communication to ensure consistent messaging and alignment among leadership, which supports more effective decision making. The budget also prioritizes meaningful public engagement, expanding opportunities for residents to stay informed."

She said, "The 12 million in prior year fund balance is an important part of this plan because it represents the county's own direct investment and critical capital projects similar to making a down payment when purchasing a home. This commitment allows us to put local resources forward today to address major infrastructure needs responsibly. We use FY 27 revenues to support FY 27 operating expenses, and we absolutely do not recommend using fund balance for routine expenditures. The use of prior year fund balance is limited to a transfer for capital projects, ensuring the county continues to invest in major infrastructure needs today rather than pushing those difficult funding decisions to future years."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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- ✓ Provide a patient and family perspective on policies, programs and initiatives
- ✓ Collaborate with clinical and non-clinical teams throughout the hospital

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Planning Commission Reviews Data Center Restrictions

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As Calvert County residents continue to try to get their heads around the possibility of a data center in the county, possibly on the land that also contains the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, staff continue working on regulations to control them. At their March 18 meeting, the planning commission was shared their current thinking.

According to Deputy Director of Zoning Rachel O'Shea, in a memo to the commission, "At the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regular Jan. 28 meeting staff was directed to draft additional conditions for data centers as a text amendment. Staff presented a draft text amendment on Feb. 10 and was directed by the BOCC to come back with additional options for further discussion. Staff returned to the BOCC to present options for consideration on Mar. 10 and was directed to request Planning Commission (PC) feedback."

The planning commission members will email comments to staff by April 2. Staff will compile comments and return to the commission in April for decision to forward to the BOCC.

O'Shea said, "The current set of conditions for the data center use include the data center shall be set back 200 feet from all property lines and 400 feet from any lot or parcel with an active residential building permit, except for adjacent properties under common ownership. Primary building facades shall include at least two of the following treatments, recesses in the building facade to avoid a continuous unbroken plane or changes in building material pattern, texture of color, or accent materials.

"Any noise generated by the data center, including any accessory mechanical equipment, must comply with Chapter 80 of the Noise Control Ordinance of the Calvert County Code."

Commission member David Bury then interrupted to ask: "I know just looking at social media that there is a lot of public concern about the overall approval process for data centers. So, I wonder if I can ask, planning and zoning, and perhaps the county attorney for clarification about what the planning Commission's role is in approving a data center project, if a serious project proposal goes forward."

Director of Planning and Zoning Jason Brinkley responded, "The approval process is the same as it would be for any other large project. It has to go through site plan and subdivision approval, if a subdivision is required, and then at the concept or right after the concept phase going into detailed site plan, it would come before you guys under detailed site plan for review."

He added, "Prior to coming to planning commission, any applicant wanting to do this would have to host a public meeting in the election district where the project is being proposed.

And they have to do that at least 30 days before the meeting here."

Brinkley said the public meeting scheduled by Amazon for March 28 would not count because no plan has yet been submitted.

O'Shea said the proposed conditions include "no groundwater well shall be drilled or used to supply water for cooling or humidification. Water used 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 water services plan to be reviewed and approved by the Department of Planning and Zoning in consultation with the Department of Public Works and the Health Department where applicable. The water services plan shall be prepared by professional engineered license 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 months for conditions on peak power use efficiency and power demand.

"If a data center is designed to operate without the use of water for cooling, excluding domestic plumbing use, the applicant may satisfy this requirement by submitting a sealed certification to that effect in lieu of a full water services plan."

She added, "The water services plan shall include at a minimum estimated average and peak daily water demand and annual demand, including demand for cooling, estimated annual hours of evaporation if applicable, identification of all proposed water supply sources and wastewater disposal methods, and a letter of available capacity from the applicable wastewater providers or agencies, evaluation of feasible non potable water sources, which shall be used to the maximum extent practical, a description of the proposed cooling systems and specific measures to minimize potable water use.

"Cooling systems serving the data center may utilize water evaporation for heat

rejection, provided such systems are highly-efficient systems. Inefficient evaporative systems such as continuous cooling towers or once-through cooling are prohibited and proposed metering and annual reporting sufficient to measure total water use and cooling related water use.

"The applicant/owner shall be responsible for the full cost of design, permitting, construction, and inspection of all on site and all site public infrastructure improvements required by statute or regulation in order to serve the data center, including but not limited to water, wastewater, stormwater, and roadway improvement as reported in the county Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance."

Another condition: "All stationary diesel generators serving the data center server rooms, including emergency standby generators, shall be certified to meet us EPA tier four final emission standards or equivalent emissions performance, where such certification is available for the applicable engine size and class and shall comply with all Maryland Department of the Environment air quality permitting requirements."

Brinkley said of the proposal, "As far the drafting, we did look at several other counties. We're not unique in having these discussions about data centers. There're hundreds of these being proposed across the United States. So, we really did a deep dive in looking at what other jurisdictions are doing, especially when it comes to water. There're a couple of counties in Virginia that we heavily copied. I'm not going to say we took it line for line, but (that) we relied on them may not be any surprise."

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Planners Recommend Town Center Plans

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

After years of staff time and multiple public hearings by both the county commissioners and planning commission, the update of the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan is once again in the commissioners' court. The planning commission, after a March 18 hearing, sent the latest version of the plan back to the commissioners with a favorable report.

The planning commission, after another public hearing at which no one spoke, has also given a favorable report to the update of the Dunkirk Town Center Master Plan after staff made several revisions.

As to the Prince Frederick Plan, Long-Range Planner Tay Harris said at the public hearing, "On July 16th, 2025. The planning commission determined that Chapter 2 is consistent with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. On September 30th, 2025, December 2nd, 2025, and January 13th, 2026, the Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing and two public hearing continuances to discuss the build-out status of Symphony Woods and CalvertTowne subdivisions mitigation

language associated with adequate public facilities for roads, the approval time for incorporating Employment Center Zone parcels into the town center, the development potential of employment center zone parcels, definitions and permitted uses in the Town Center and Employment Center districts. And (they) remanded Chapter 2, to the planning commission to consider consistency with the comprehensive plan.

"On February 18th, 2026, planning and zoning staff requested feedback from the planning commission on the alternative Prince Frederick Town Center proposed district map. The map proposes rezoning employment center zone parcels for inclusion in the town center and changing the designation from Suburban Traditional to Edge Commercial. The intent of the Edge Commercial District is to allow uses that minimize impacts to infrastructure and environment and other ecologically valued natural resources land while remaining consistent with the intent of town centers."

The revised plan also includes language calling for protection of the Mill Creek Watershed.

At the public hearing, environmentalist

Bob Estess spoke to that. He said, "Right now it's heavily, heavily damaged and there are ways to restore it such that the water, instead of going into an area that just keeps on eroding and eroding, there are things we can do to raise that up so that it goes into a wetland. And we all know how valuable wetlands are. They're not just swamps like everybody used to think, but it's a great way to get rid of excess pollutants as I think you all know and the wildlife also seem to like it."

Regarding Dunkirk, Harris said, "On November 19th, 2025, the Department of Planning and Zoning presented to the planning commission the revised chapters one and three of the Master Plan of Town Centers on December 17th, 2025, the planning commission discussed proposed revisions based on public, departmental and agency comments and directed staff to hold a public hearing on February 18th, 2026. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the draft chapter and discussed comments received from December 2025, through the beginning of February 2026.

"At the public hearing...the planning commission requested staff to report on the Dunkirk Park and Ride's capacity to accom-

modate additional computer bus routes to Annapolis, Greenbelt, New Carrollton, and College Park. This is a recommendation in the plan, and I'd like to note that the county is encouraging MTA (Maryland Transportation Authority) to establish the routes for which MTA currently has not committed. The planning commission also asked staff to verify the build out status of the MTA Park and Ride, confirm its ownership status, is it owned by the county or state, and describe the process for review by the county."

She explained, "The MTA Park and Ride is built out to capacity. It is state owned and county maintained. The county reviews any proposed renovations or modifications to the site during the grading permit approval and state and county design and construction requirements are generally the same."

The only planning commissioner to vote against recommending the plans to the county commissioners was Chris Gadway. He did not explain his vote, although earlier had said he opposes any increase in town center limits.

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Major Data Center Campus Proposed in Lusby

Would Be on Dominion Park Site; Park Would Still Be Built



Plan for the proposed Appeal Digital Park



New proposal for Dominion Energy Regional Park

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Carly Simon's "Anticipation" may have set the tune for the feelings of Calvert County citizens about data centers. Rumors and some informed actual hints have circulated about data centers coming to the county (most notably at Calvert Cliffs), but there was never anything official.

That all changed on Tuesday, March 24 when Natelli Holdings unveiled a proposal to buy the county's Dominion Park, spending \$30 million developing it and locating four 200,000-square-foot data centers on the property. The data center will use non-potable water from the adjacent Solomons Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The project has many regulatory hurdles to overcome and could be derailed if Commissioner Mike Hart's proposal for a two-year moratorium prevails on April 6. Company Vice President Tommy Natelli said the moratorium was a game changer.

The proposal drew immediate public comment, largely opposed, at the commissioner meeting, although some union tradespeople spoke in support of the opportunity for local employment.

Economic Development Director Julie Oberg set the stage by saying, "Projects like this can bring significant capital investment, expand the commercial tax base, and diversify local revenue streams without causing the level of daily traffic associated with many other industrial uses like warehouses, logistic centers, and manufacturing facilities, which are all allowed under the existing zoning. Data centers operate differently. Once construction is complete, they typically require fewer onsite employees and generate minimal daily traffic or deliveries. As a result, they can provide jobs and tax revenue while creating less day-to-day con-

gestion and strain on transportation infrastructure than many other industrial uses already permitted today. At the same time, they also raise important questions around land use, energy demand, water usage, environmental stewardship, and compatibility with the community priorities."

She then introduced Natelli, who said, "We are a Maryland based, family-owned and operated company. I am third generation. Along with my brothers and I, we work with my father and our team to deliver complex infrastructure ready master plan developments with an emphasis on thoughtful planning, architectural integrity, and long-term community value that allows us to deliver projects with sustainability that have design excellence. Our operations span across the Mid-Atlantic, Southeast and Texas. We are here before you today to propose a project involving the county owned land at 1475, 1485, and 1495 Solomons Island Road. The site is also formally known as the Dominion Laydown offsite area.

"We do want to acknowledge that this site was selected to be the county's Dominion Energy Regional Park. And in consideration of this request, Natelli Holdings will offer to purchase a property located in District One, and with that be required to design and construct the regional park with a secured \$30 million commitment. We will secure that if we move forward at the time of closing with a construction bond that the county will hold. The construction for the park, we anticipate would start no later than 12 months after the closing of the county property. And the regional park shall include all practical components from the original Dominion Energy Regional Park Master Plan."

Natelli explained, "Our interest began in Southern Maryland and specifically Calvert County back in the fall of 2024. Our firm, along with our consultants, began looking

at sites across Calvert to see if there are any viable opportunities to site data centers. During due diligence, we looked at a few locations primarily to figure out if there was power availability, meaning proximity to high voltage transmission lines, a source where we could use water responsibly for any cooling needs, and a site that had minimal environmental impacts as well as appropriate zoning in place."

He added, "The site is located adjacent to other heavy industrial zone property and uses."

Natelli explained, "What we are proposing is a 300-megawatt campus on 133 acres of the county-owned property. The campus itself would consist of four data center buildings, conceptually accessory structures, a switch station, and a substation. As currently laid out, the closest residence to the data hall is a thousand feet from the building. All these building heights are less than 75 feet as per code, and the average building square footage would be 220,000 square feet. These would be considered two-story. This site is well located on the Route 4 corridor, as well as the transmission lines run directly through the site, which can give us direct access to the power that's needed. The current layout of the site, which was used by Dominion during the expansion of the Cove point LNG as a lay down and material storage site, gives us great opportunity to reuse the existing disturbed areas, storm water management and other infrastructure that was already on the site. Our site plan stays generally within the limits of the disturbed area and very little, if any, clearing would be needed to move forward.

"This is also a great location to site a data center because of the adjacent uses to it. You have the Solomons Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Appeal Landfill, the Appeal Convenience Center. You have the sheriff's

training gun range, and across from Route 4 you have the Patuxent Business Park and other business industries."

He said, "The county only really realizes the income taxes from the local workforce, but once you get to the operational phase, the real property, personal property, and as well as the income add up to a significant value. One thing I would like to point out is that personal property as it depreciates over time, typically four years with data centers, you can see that the value from year one to year four has a big swing. I believe PILOTs (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) not for incentive purposes, but as a fiscal tool for planning for the county, is a good tool to use. So that way you can have a set rate based on the information you have, to plan out for future years. And it also will not affect your Blueprint funding."

Regarding energy and concerns about rising electric costs, Natelli said, "We are connecting to the grid. So, we will be entering into an interconnection agreement with SMECO. And in conversations with SMECO, they do have an obligation to serve our use just as they have an obligation to serve a church, to strip mall, a single-family home, any use. The one thing about large load customers with the utility operator is we are required to pay for our interconnection. We're required to pay for any upgrades to the transmission...so they can direct the electricity towards our site. So, all upgrades, all infrastructure improvements are on the data center user."

In fact, he said they would pay for all required infrastructure.

The company plans a public information session sometime in the next two weeks.

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“THIS IS ALSO A GREAT LOCATION... BECAUSE OF THE ADJACENT USES TO IT.”

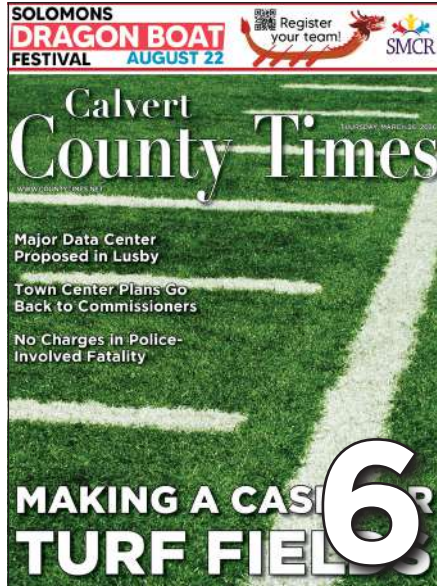
TOMMY NATELLI ON HIS COMPANY'S PROPOSED DATA CENTER CAMPUS



LOCAL 4
Planning commission considers data center restrictions



LOCAL 4
Latest town center plans go back to commissioners with positive remarks



ON THE COVER
Coach, commissioner press for high school turf fields

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAR 26 Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 62°	FRI, MAR 27 PM Rain Hi: 65° Lo: 36°	SAT, MAR 28 Partly Cloudy Hi: 48° Lo: 34°	SUN, MAR 29 Sunny Hi: 57° Lo: 45°
MON, MAR 30 Partly Cloudy Hi: 66° Lo: 50°	TUE, MAR 31 Partly Cloudy Hi: 68° Lo: 58°	WED, APR 1 Partly Cloudy Hi: 81° Lo: 60°	THU, APR 2 Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 53°



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Proposed in Lusby**

**Town Center Plans Go
Back to Commissioners**

**No Charges in Police-
Involved Fatality**

**MAKING A CASE FOR
TURF FIELDS**