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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

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Photo by St. Mary's College of Maryland

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“MEN OF FEW WORDS ARE GOOD MEN.”

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WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, APR 23	FRI, APR 24	SAT, APR 25	SUN, APR 26
 Mostly Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 57°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 54°	 Cloudy Hi: 65° Lo: 48°	 AM Showers Hi: 59° Lo: 47°
MON, APR 27	TUE, APR 28	WED, APR 29	THU, APR 30
 Partly Cloudy Hi: 67° Lo: 51°	 Rain Hi: 67° Lo: 53°	 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 72° Lo: 54°	 Showers Hi: 67° Lo: 54°



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Budget Hearing Features Praise, Requests

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

With the proposal to fully fund the education budget and the prospect of the same for the sheriff's office, the annual hearing on the recommended St. Mary's County budget was considerably less contentious than usual on April 21 at Chopticon High School. Many of the dozen and a half speakers praised the budget, although there were still requests for additional funding for St. Mary's Advanced Life Support, the animal shelter, and the libraries.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. J. Scott Smith tersely summed up their pleasure: "Shakespeare said it best in Hamlet: 'Men of few words are good men.' And so, with that, I just say thank you very much gentlemen. Thank you."

Education Association of St. Mary's County President Sarah Pentod also thanked the commissioners but observed, as did several others, that more work needs to be done.

She read from a letter signed by educators: "Your commitment to supporting our schools does not go unnoticed. At the same time, we believe it is important to acknowledge that a budget request is by necessity a constrained document. It reflects what the school system determines is achievable within known fiscal limitations, not always what is truly needed to fully support our students and staff."

"Fully funding a school system in the truest sense goes beyond meeting the requested number. It means ensuring that every classroom is appropriately staffed, that class sizes remain manageable, and that educators and support staff are compensated in a way that allows schools to attract and retain high quality professionals."

Sheriff Steve Hall said with last year's budget "we were very excited because that funding we were hoping for was going to help bridge the gap with the serious vacancies that we were in encompassing and dealing with. I'm so happy to report to you tonight that our vacancy gaps have significantly decreased. And I cannot emphasize how critical your support was in making that happen, in filling the vacancies and people making the choice to become members of our blue here in St. Mary's County."

"This year's request was done very intentionally. We put a lot of thought into it, because we want to build on that positive movement and the momentum that we're seeing."

Regarding the Advanced Life Support unit, Elizabeth Carroll, the unit's financial officer, asked for restoration of their additional \$65,000 request.

She said, "We are experiencing a significant increase in operating costs and will no longer be able to meet those costs with our current allotment amount, which has

not changed since fiscal year 23. Our operating costs are funded solely through the allotment from the county, which is separate from the Department of Emergency Services funding." She and several other speakers noted they were prohibited from fundraising.

Dianne Harris, president of Feral Car Rescue of Southern Maryland, as did several other speakers, requested making the animal shelter's part-time veterinarian a full-time position.

She said, "I'm grateful that you provided us with this shelter, but I can really, really see that we need a full-time vet there. And I think the figures are that it will cost \$95,000 in benefits and extra money to get a full-time vet at the shelter." She said the addition would save the considerable money now being paid for other vets to provide the service.

Michael Blackwell, director of the library system, asked for more funding for books.

Prior to the hearing, Chief Financial Officer Vanetta Van Cleave said, "There's been a significant amount of uncertainty during this budget cycle from the state budget concerns, how much of the burden would be pushed down to counties and what effect would One Big Beautiful Bill act have on county revenues? There were federal actions and their effects on employment and the economy. So, it continues to be a challenging process to ensure the risks are recognized and planned."

She added, "We are projecting an increase (in revenues) from \$336.4 million to \$360.1 million, or 23.7 million, equaling a 7 percent increase. The commissioner+ have also approved \$16.9 million in use of fund balance."

"Some items that were taken into consideration in the projection of revenues include growth of income tax from the tax rate change and the effect of (tax changes) on income tax revenue. As you know, the tax increase from 3.0 to 3.2 percent was in effect this full year. However, some of the increase may be offset by the effect of the (federal) deduction increases included in the OBBA," Van Cleave said.

"The property tax rate will remain unchanged, and the county population is estimated to have a slight increase while the median income in St. Mary's County has continued to rise according to the latest data in 2024 and remains well above the national median. In addition, the property tax base continues to rise, but slightly less than the increase last year, which may reflect a leveling out of post COVID real estate market trends. The county is not proposing any increase in property or income tax rates for the coming year," she added.

dickmyers@cpuntytimes.net

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Commissioners Award Multi-Million-Dollar Bids

For Sheriff's Support Building, Southampton

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County have awarded bids for two long-standing, multi-million-dollar projects. At their April 21 meeting, the commissioners awarded a \$2,958,558 contract for Phase 1 of the Southampton neighborhood revitalization and a \$13,689,999 contract for the sheriff's office support services building.

The bid by Doyle Construction Company for the sheriff's office support services building also includes site preparation for the new sheriff's office headquarters that will be behind the existing sheriff's office headquarters.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt wanted to know why the contract included site work for the new headquarters. County Public Works and Transportation Director John Norris said, "There are some utilities that are coming in from Route 245 that we'll be passing through the sheriff's office headquarters location. So, you wouldn't want to necessarily disturb those as you're coming back in."

Norris said of the location of the new building, "This is going to be in the far corner by where the current sheriff's office is," adding, "It's raw field; it's a farm field today in the back corner where the sheriff's office is."

According to information in the bid, "The St. Mary's County Government (County) Department of Public Works & Transportation is soliciting bids to establish a Lump Sum Contract to provide construction services for the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Support Services Facility (Project), located at 23172 Leonard Hall Dr., Leonardtown, MD 20650. Work consists of site development for the entire Sheriff's Office compound and construction of a one-story 20,611 square foot Support Services Building."

Although the winning bidder is from out of county, the commissioners were pleased



Director of Public Works and Transportation John Norris

that the Southampton project winning bidder, Great Mills Trading Post, is local. The total project cost will be almost \$8 million, because the Metropolitan Commission has a multi-million-dollar water and sewer project in the community in addition to the other revitalization work.

According to background information submitted with the agenda, "Lot 1 consists of road construction (streets and sidewalks) and will be funded by the County under Project #HW2001. The St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission (MetCom) will utilize the unit prices established through this solicitation to award a separate contract for Lot 2A (water line), Lot 2B (sewer), and Lot 3 (water line extension).

"This coordinated approach allows all infrastructure improvements to be performed concurrently by a single general contractor, minimizing disruption to residents and improving overall project efficiency."

Procurement Officer Brandon Hayden presented the two bids to the commissioners for their approval.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Sell it - Buy it at Auction

Spring Auction Changes for this Year

In lieu of our Spring Auction at Westfield Farm (typically held the Saturday before Mother's Day), we are moving the fun & excitement "off-site" and hosting two special community auctions with a different, but similar focus. These auctions combine the best of our grocery and flower auctions offering locally-grown flowers; variety of meats (provided by the Russell Brothers' Farm) and grocery items.

St. Michael's School Variety Auction
Saturday, May 2, 2026 – 5 pm (Doors open at 4 pm)
Ridge VFD – Ridge, MD
(Proceeds to support St. Michael's School)

Hughesville VFD Variety Auction
Saturday, May 9, 2026 – 5 pm (Doors open at 4 pm)
Hughesville VFD – Hughesville, MD
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Flowers: Hanging Baskets – Combo Planters – Bedding Plants; **Meats:** Hamburger – Steaks – Pork Chops – Sausage – Bacon – Scrapple – Chicken; **Grocery/Snack Items:** Dry Goods – Canned Goods – Baked Goods – Variety of Chips/Snacks – Jellies & Jams and More (may have some lawn/garden furniture/items).

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St. Mary's College Inaugurates Eighth President

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

St. Mary's College of Maryland, inaugurated Rhonda Phillips, Ph.D., FAICP, as its eighth president on Friday, April 17 during a formal investiture, marking new leadership at the National Public Honors College.

Dr. Phillips, in her inaugural address, touted the college's people, purpose and place.

The ceremony, held at the Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center, included Provost Katherine Gantz presenting the presidential medallion to Dr. Phillips, symbolizing the formal transfer of leadership and the start of the college's next chapter.

Dr. Phillips recognized the place. "This was the birthplace of our state right here where we are. And I hope all of you will have the opportunity to explore this historically important place where we are co-located with the Living History and Archeology Museum of Historic St. Mary's City and Trinity Church, located here since 1672."

Dr. Phillips recognized the people -- the faculty and staff. "I'm in awe of and energized by your accomplishments and your dedication."

And the students -- "Everything we do and every action we take begins and ends with intention of ensuring excellence for our students."

She noted, "In my first months on campus, I spent time listening and hearing ideas and challenges and opportunities across campus and the community to better understand

what defines this institution and what has helped endear it to those who call it home."

She observed, "One thing that became clear to me over and over again is that the strength of this institution is rooted in our people and in their shared commitment to our mission that was so clear. So today is not simply a celebration, it is also a commitment. A commitment to build on the work of those who came before us. A commitment to one another, to respect and value our differences while working towards our goals and a commitment to the future where we are called to shape it together."

The new president said, "We stand among institutions that affirm the enduring value of the liberal arts, not as an abstract ideal, but as a practical foundation for how students think and lead and contribute to our rapidly changing world. At its best, a liberal arts and science education prepares students for careers' complexity and change. It equips them to ask meaningful questions, connect knowledge across disciplines, and navigate a world that demands both adaptability and judgment."

Dr. Phillips observed, "Situated along the Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of St. Mary's River, hence our name, St. Mary's College of Maryland, this historic campus is not simply where we are, it is who we are. Here place shapes the educational experiences from its historical roots as the birthplace of religious freedom before our nation was founded to archeological sites with active digs that you can go and observe."

Interim Secretary of the Maryland Higher

Education Commission Elena Quiroz-Livanis called St. Mary's "a model for post-secondary education in our great state. It is a place where the St. Mary's way, a commitment to diversity, equity, and social responsibility is not just a slogan, but a lived experience for every learner, faculty and staff member. The St. Mary's Way is rooted in the history of this great city. That continuity is carried forward by leaders who recognize both the responsibility to preserve what matters and the discipline to build what comes next."

Keynote speaker Congressman Steny Hoyer, who has been a member of the college's board of trustees for 30 years, said, "The board made its selection because we see in you the experience, the skills and personal qualities required to remodel St. Mary's College for an uncertain tomorrow."

According to the college, Dr. Phillips "is a nationally recognized leader in community and economic development and a strong advocate for the role of higher education in shaping vibrant, resilient communities."

"She previously served as president of Chatham University in Pittsburgh and as founding dean of the John Martinson Honors College at Purdue University. She has also held faculty and leadership roles at Arizona State University and the University of Southern Mississippi, where she began her academic career."

"A three-time Fulbright recipient, Phillips is a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners and the American Council on Education. She earned her Ph.D.



New SMCM president Dr. Rhonda Phillips. Photo by St. Mary's College of Maryland.

in City and Regional Planning and an M.S. in Economics from the Georgia Institute of Technology, becoming the first woman to earn that doctorate.

"Phillips is the author of more than 30 books, including the newly released third edition of her work on community development, reflecting her focus on place-based leadership and institutional impact."

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Governor Moore Spends a Day in St. Mary's

Governor Wes Moore today kicked off his statewide "Delivering for Maryland" tour on April 20 in St. Mary's County, beginning a multi-stop tour across Maryland to highlight the progress, and significant state investments secured during the first three years of the Moore-Miller Administration. The tour, which launched in Maryland's first county, focused on the administration's commitment to creating economic opportunity and ensuring no one is left behind.

Throughout the day, the Governor engaged with veterans, college students, and small business owners—showcasing how strategic state investments are yielding tangible results for communities across Maryland.

"The 'Delivering for Maryland' tour is about visiting the communities where our policies are making a real, tangible difference in people's lives," said Gov. Moore. "We chose to start here in St. Mary's because it reflects the grit and the promise of our entire state. From the improved care being provided to our veterans at Charlotte Hall to the historic investments we are making in the next generation of leaders at St. Mary's College and the revitalization of our main streets, we are showing what happens when we work together to move Maryland forward."

The tour began at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Maryland's only state-operated veterans facility, where Governor Moore met with residents and joined them for a morning game of bingo. The visit marked a celebration of the facility's remarkable turnaround under the Moore-Miller Administration, rising from a 1-star to a 4-star overall rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The milestone follows the governor's decisive action in March 2023 to terminate a decades-long contract with a previous operator following reports of neglect. Since then, an emergency contract with PruittHealth and heightened state oversight have strengthened clinical care and resident outcomes, earning the facility a 5-star staffing rating for its workforce stability and commitment to high-quality care.

"Federal Team Maryland's top priority is securing investments that support our communities," said Senator Chris Van Hollen. "We're proud to work together with the governor and local leaders to bring critical funds to St. Mary's County, including to grow educational opportunity, strengthen local infrastructure, support our veterans, and much more. I'm glad to see these investments at work in St. Mary's County and will keep fighting to deliver federal dollars to our state."

"Team Maryland is working together to deliver for our entire state—from federal and state investments to fighting for legislation that lowers the cost of housing, protects our veterans, spurs economic opportunity, and ensures communities in Maryland can remain safe," said Senator Angela Alsobrooks. "St. Mary's County is critical to our national defense—being home to Naval Air Station Patuxent River, as well as being home to top-tier education and thriving communities. I am so glad Governor Moore could launch his 'Delivering for Maryland' tour in St. Mary's County, and I remain committed to joining him on his promise to deliver for Maryland."

"Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is a critical

outpost for veterans' health care in Southern Maryland," said Congressman Steny H. Hoyer. "Today, Governor Moore and I witnessed the profound impact of our collective action to deliver on our promise to veterans care. I've been proud to work with our state leaders over the years to help Charlotte Hall Veterans Home evolve to meet the changing needs of Fifth District veterans. The Moore-Miller Administration's leadership in strengthening critical health care services for veterans has made a significant difference at Charlotte Hall and for our veterans across the state. Team Maryland remains committed to ensuring that Marylanders who bravely served our nation in uniform receive the quality of care they deserve."

"Charlotte Hall Veterans Home represents what's possible when we focus on accountability, quality, and doing right by our veterans. This transformation—from one star to four—is the result of strong partnership, dedicated staff, and a clear commitment to improvement," said Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families Secretary Ed Rothstein. "We are grateful to the Moore-Miller Administration for their leadership and decisive action to ensure Maryland veterans receive the care, dignity, and respect they have earned."

Following his visit with Maryland veterans, Governor Moore traveled south to St. Mary's College of Maryland for a tour of the historic waterfront campus. As the State's Public Honors College and as a top-five public liberal arts institution nationally, St. Mary's College remains a priority for the administration's higher education strategy.

During the visit, the Governor highlighted a \$2 million increase in operational funding provided in the FY 2027 budget, bringing the college's total operating budget to \$92.9 million. Additionally, the administration is providing more than \$3.2 million in capital funding this year to address infrastructure needs and support the renovation of Montgomery Hall, which will resolve long-standing space deficits for the arts and English departments. The governor concluded his time on campus at the Great Room Dining Hall, where he spoke with students about their priorities and the future of the state.

"We are so proud to welcome Governor Moore and his team to St. Mary's College," said St. Mary's College of Maryland President Rhonda Phillips. "It's been almost a decade since a Governor visited the state's public honors college, and we're grateful for Governor Moore's dedication to highlighting the progress we've made through sustained partnership and state investment in our students, programs, and facilities right here in Maryland's first capital city."

The tour concluded in Leonardtown, where Governor Moore joined local leaders for a walking tour of the historic downtown. Under the Moore-Miller Administration, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development designated Leonardtown as a Main Street Maryland community in 2023, and has invested more than \$911,000 into the corridor through 13 different grants to support local revitalization.

The governor visited several grant recipients during his tour, including Rucci's Italian Kitchen & Grille and the historic Rex Theatre, which utilized facade improvement



Gov. Moore greets a resident of Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home.



Gov. Moore speaks with students at St. Mary's College of Maryland



Gov. Moore tours Leonardtown with Mayor Dan Burris and Town Administrator Laschelle McKay

grants to restore its landmark marquis. He also stopped at the Duke Building, a 1920s-era structure recently renovated with support from Project Restore 2.0 and multiple facade grants to preserve its historic character while housing new local businesses like The Social Coffeehouse.

"Leonardtown is pleased to welcome Governor Wes Moore to our 'Most Exceptional Place!'" said Leonardtown Mayor Dan Burris. "A strong partnership with the State of Maryland has been key to continuing our efforts of economic vitality for our downtown. Strengthening our businesses and increasing the quality of life for our residents and visitors is our number one priority. Programs like Main Street and the Façade Improvement Program for small businesses are important tools in that effort."

"We're honored to welcome Governor Moore to St. Mary's County—the Mother County of Maryland," said Commissioners of St. Mary's County President James "Randy" Guy. "Starting this tour here, where our state's story first began, is fitting, and we appreciate the opportunity to highlight some

of the people, places, and partnerships that make our community special."

"We are grateful for the state's important support to Rucci's Italian Kitchen & Grille, these grants allowed us to make crucial improvements that helped elevate the view of our building and have made our business stronger and more successful," said Rucci's Italian Kitchen & Grille Owner Mynor Hernandez. "Having the governor's visit today confirms his commitment to continued partnership by funding the preservation of our historic main street, his administration is helping to protect the unique character that makes Leonardtown special."

"These grants were a wonderful investment in our future, allowing us to make crucial improvements that have made our business stronger and more successful," said New View Fiber Works Owner Misti Dayton. "We were thrilled to help welcome Governor Moore to New View Fiber Works today, and we're grateful for his recognition and investment into the town we all love."

Press release from Office of Gov. Wes Moore

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California Man Charged After Reported Assault

On April 14, at around 1:14 a.m., deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence in St. Inigoes for a reported assault.

Upon arrival, the victim reported that following an argument, a male subject allegedly pointed a firearm at him.

Following an investigation, the suspect was identified as Jordan Charles Danford, 26, of California. Danford was taken into custody, and deputies recovered an unserialized polymer 9mm semi-automatic handgun and a fully loaded magazine containing 25 rounds of ammunition.

The suspect was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center and charged with six offenses, including first-degree assault, use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence, unlawful possession of an unserialized firearm, possession of a regulated firearm while prohibited due to an out-of-state protective order, possession of ammunition while prohibited, and use of a high-capacity magazine in the commission of a felony.



Jordan Charles Danford

Following a District Court appearance, Danford was released on personal recognizance pending trial.

Press Release from SMCSO

Mechanicsville House Fire Under Investigation

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating a fire that caused damage to a home in Mechanicsville on April 16.

The fire was reported by a neighbor at 5:23 p.m. at 40506 Medleys Lane.

Damage to the single-family residence was estimated at \$75,000 to the structure and \$25,000 to the contents.

The Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department responded, and it took 40 volunteers 20 minutes to bring the blaze under control.

According to the fire marshal's office, "The cause of the fire, which originated in the attic, remains under investigation at this time. The single occupant was not injured and is being assisted by the American Red Cross."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

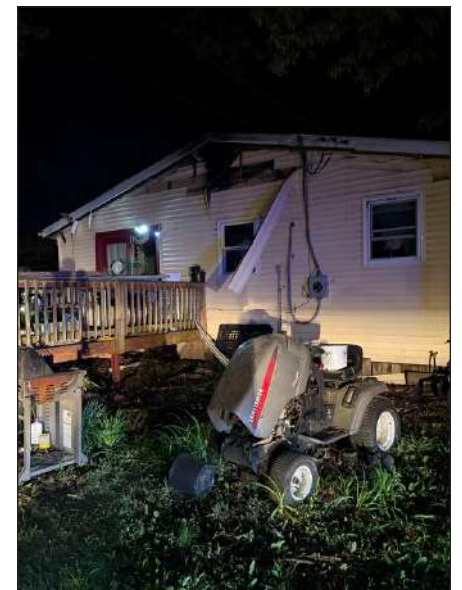


Photo courtesy of the MD State Fire Marshal's Office



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 <p>750mL. Straight Or Bulleit 10 Year 95 Rye Whiskey 49.99</p>	 <p>1.75L. Old Forester 86 Proof 39.99</p>	 <p>750mL. All Flavors Jim Beam Whiskey 16.99</p>	 <p>1.75 Liter Tito's Vodka 29.99</p>	 <p>750mL. Silver Or Reposado Camarena Tequila 10% OFF</p>
 <p>750mL. Tulchan Gin 38.99</p>	 <p>1.75L. Silver Or Calypso Gold Rum 9.99</p>	 <p>750mL. NYAK Peach Brandy 25.99</p>	 <p>750mL. Aperol Aperitivo Liqueur 25.99</p>	 <p>750mL. Port Charlotte Scotch Whiskey Heavily Peated Islay Malt 74.99</p>
 <p>750mL. Suntory Toki Black Edition 42.99</p>	 <p>750mL. Benton Lane Pinot Noir 16.99</p>	 <p>750mL. Chateau D' Esclands Whispering Angel Rose 19.99</p>	 <p>750mL. Smith & Hook Proprietary Red Blend 16.99</p>	 <p>750mL. Greenwing Cabernet Sauvignon 15.99</p>
 <p>750mL. Franciscan Estate Sauvignon Blanc 10.49</p>	 <p>750mL. Selected Belaire Wines 10% OFF</p>	 <p>750mL. Cline Family Cellars Chardonnay 11.99</p>	 <p>Wine of the Month 750mL. All Flavors Tocco Divino Wines 9.99</p>	
 <p>750mL. Josh Cellars Reserve Zinfandel 15.99</p>	 <p>750mL. Leacocks Rainwater Madeira 14.99</p>	 <p>750mL. Pieropan Soave Classico 16.49</p>	 <p>1.5L. Selected Arbor Mist 6.99</p>	

WED 22	THURS 23	FRI 24	SAT 25	SUN 26	MON 27	TUES 28
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

CASE NO: C-18-CV-26-000278

Steven Gingery, Jr.
c/o Cornerstone Law, LLC
Plaintiff

vs.

Jacqueline R. Mitchell

Mill Point Improvement Association, Inc.

St. Mary's County, Maryland
s/o County Attorney

State of Maryland
s/o Attorney General

All persons having or claiming to have an interest in the property situate and lying in **St. Mary's County** and known as **SUNSET DR (LOTS 2 & 3)**

Unknown Owner of the property described as follows: Property Tax ID **04-001702** on the Tax Roll of **St. Mary's County**, the unknown owner's heirs, devisees, and personal representatives and their or any of their heirs, devisees, executors, administrators, grantees, assigns, or successors in right, title and interest in the property.

*Defendants***ORDER OF PUBLICATION**

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property (hereafter the "Property") described below in the State of Maryland, sold by the Collector of Taxes for St. Mary's County and the State of Maryland to the Plaintiff in this proceeding:

Sunset Dr (Lots 2 & 3), Chaptico, MD 20621
LOTS NUMBER 2 AND 3, IN BLOCK LETTERED "J", OF MILL POINT SHORES, ACCORDING TO A PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK C.B.G. NO. 1, FOLIO 35, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND; 04-001702
Deed Reference: 02893/627

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid although more than six (6) months (or nine months if the Property was listed as a Principal Residence by the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation on the date of the sale) from the date of sale have expired.

It is thereupon this 31st day of March, 2026, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary County, **ORDERED**, that notice be given by the insertion of a copy of this Order in some newspaper having general circulation in St. Mary's County once a week for three successive weeks on or before the 31st day of May, 2026, warning all persons interested in the Property listed above to appear in this Court by the 31st day of May, 2026, and redeem the Property described above and answer the Complaint or thereafter a Final Judgment will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the Property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

Debra J. Burch
Circuit Court of Maryland for St. Mary's County

**COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Leonardtown Mayor and Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 11, 2026 at 4:30 pm at the Town Hall, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD to hear comments on Case No. 43-25, Lot 11, Phase 8, Singletree Subdivision, for a 3,600-squarefoot, two-story quad duplex with associated parking and infrastructure, for concept approval by the Town Council.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 3:00 p.m. on May 11, 2026, to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodation will be provided for people with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

**New Members Sought for
Boards & Commissions**

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County are seeking applications from residents who are interested in serving on a local Board, Committee, or Commission. Volunteering to serve as a member of these groups is an excellent way to meet new people while contributing to the successful operation and development of our community!

Visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/boards for board descriptions and to complete the online application. All applications must include a resume and be submitted by May 15.

Current vacancies:

- Agriculture Seafood & Forestry Board
- Airport Advisory Board
- Animal Control Advisory Board
- Commission for People with Disabilities
- Commission for Women
- Commission on the Environment
- Human Relations Commission
- Local Management Board

- Police Accountability Board
- Social Services Board

Please note the following additional vacancies have special requirements:

- Building Code Board of Appeals – must have experience in the building field.
- Historic Preservation Commission – must have disciplines of architecture, architectural history, history or archeology.
- Metropolitan Commission – must reside in the 1st district.
- Plumbing Fuel Gas Board – must be a licensed plumber.

Interested residents can complete the online application at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/boards or call Diane Gleissner at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1707 for more information.

Press Release from SMCG**Letters to the Editor****Regulations and Spending**

There is a growing frustration among residents and small business owners in our county, and it deserves serious attention. Many feel that our own local government—intended to support and strengthen the community—is instead undermining it through inconsistent and often burdensome regulations and tax dollar spending.

While rules are necessary to maintain order and safety, the current approach appears unevenly applied, leaving those rooted here at a huge disadvantage.

Small, locally-owned businesses are facing increasing hurdles just to operate, expand, or even stay afloat. Permits, fees, and compliance requirements have become so complex that they discourage entrepreneurship rather than foster it.

Meanwhile, outside developers seem able to navigate around these same restrictions through loopholes, variances, or expedited processes that are rarely accessible to local stakeholders. This imbalance not only breeds resentment, but also reshapes the character of our community in ways that many residents never asked for.

Overdevelopment is another pressing concern. Growth in itself is not the problem—thoughtful, well-planned growth can benefit everyone. However, when development outpaces infrastructure, ignores com-

munity input, or prioritizes short-term gains over long-term sustainability, the results can be damaging. Traffic increases, local charm erodes, and long-standing businesses are pushed out in favor of larger, less personal enterprises. At its core, this issue is about fairness and vision, families and community.

A county should not make it harder for its own residents to succeed while simultaneously opening the door for outside interests to reshape it without the same level of scrutiny.

Local government must reevaluate its policies to ensure they are transparent, consistent, and supportive of those who live and work here. As a taxpayer, it is especially frustrating to feel as though the very system we fund is working against us. Residents should not feel like they are financing policies that weaken their own opportunities and diminish the community they have invested in. That disconnect only deepens the lack of trust between citizens and those in charge.

If we want a thriving, balanced community, we need leadership that prioritizes its people—not policies that unintentionally work against them. It is time to simplify regulations, close loopholes, and create an environment where local businesses can compete and grow on equal footing.

*Angie Wathen***COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN
Fair Summary of Ordinance No. 232**

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Leonardtown have passed, and the Mayor has approved, Ordinance No. 232, an Ordinance Adopting the Budget and Setting the Real Property Tax Rate and Service Charge Rates for Fiscal Year 2027. The real property tax rate shall remain the same as the prior year at \$.1203 per \$100 of assessed valuation for the tax year beginning July 1, 2026. Full text of the ordinance may be obtained at the Town Office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD or online on the Town's website at www.leonardtown.somd.com.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

Mattingly Reflects on His Year as Firemen's Association President

Leonardtwn Resident Hands Over Reins of Organization This Weekend



Tommy Mattingly Jr. rides on the back of a fire truck during the 2025 Firemen's Parade in Leonardtown. Photo by Ron Bailey, provided by Thomas A. Mattingly Jr.

By Tim Flaherty
Contributing Writer

Tommy Mattingly Jr. wraps up his term as the President of the Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association (SMVFA) this weekend as the group holds its annual convention in Solomons. To hear Mattingly speak of it, his term as an officer of SMVFA has been very gratifying.

"Anything I can do, or have done, in regard to helping firefighters and their families with line-of-duty injuries, or line-of-duty deaths," he said. "Making sure those efforts are very big to help the firefighters and their families in their time of need, that's the most satisfying thing I've worked on."

Mattingly, who has been a member of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) for nearly 42 years, is hardly going away. He will continue to be a trustee of the Maryland State Firefighters Association, as well as being active with the National Fallen Firefighters Association. "As I get older," he explained, "that's kind of my thing to transition to. It is very near and dear to my heart." He also recently returned to a leadership position within the LVFD, recently accepting a request to serve as a deputy chief.

Previously, Mattingly has been Leonardtown's chief in 1998, and 2010 through 2013. He was the department's president from 2016 through 2018. He is a family legacy at the LVFD, as his father, Tommy Mattingly Sr., is a longtime member, and a former chief and president.

The SMVFA also advocates for the 41 Southern Maryland volunteer fire and rescue companies on issues at the state and national level, weighing in on rules and mandates that affect the tri-county region. "And another thing," Mattingly adds, "is being an advocate for fire prevention and safety, and enhancing our training and equipment; things we need to have on the street to do

our jobs the safest way possible."

Serving as an officer in the SMVFA is actually a three-year commitment, as an electee first serves one year as a second vice president, then another year as a first vice president. Terms run April to April. This weekend in Solomons, John Pardoe of the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department will be sworn in as the 2026-2027 President.

"I'm excited for John Pardoe," said Mattingly, "He's a really good guy and he has a good department backing him. I hope he gets to experience the excitement leading up to what I had going in as president. I had a wonderful group of people that helped me pull the (2025) convention together. My local community really stepped up and helped us out with donations to make it happen."

Last year's convention was hosted by the Leonardtown fire volunteers, and the accompanying firemen's parade wound through the streets of the ancient county seat. "It was probably one of the largest parades that we've had in a very long time," Mattingly recounted. "It blew me away. It reminded me of when I was a kid and parades lasted two-and-a-half hours. Seeing the streets of Leonardtown lined with families and kids to watch a firemen's parade. It was pretty special."

This year's convention in Solomons runs this Saturday and Sunday, with the big parade scheduled to start around noon on the second day. The parade will begin from the marshalling point at the Tiki Bar and will travel north on Solomons Island Road S to a terminus at the Calvert Marine Museum. Solomons Island Road S is expected to be closed to vehicular traffic for about two hours beginning at 11:45 a.m.

"You do it for the citizens you serve," Mattingly said as he reflected on the fire and rescue services. "You do it for your family, and you do it for your brothers and sisters at the firehouse."

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Meet me today! Adoption hours are 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

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Any questions, contact teri.dimsey@leonardtwnmd.gov

Deadline to register as a Candidate for Council Member for the 2026 Election for the Town of Leonardtown ended on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

Candidates who registered for the 2026 Election for three (3) Council Member positions are:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Heather Earhart | (Incumbent) |
| Rodney Flowers | |
| Ken Held | |
| Christy Hollander | (Incumbent) |
| Mary Maday Slade | (Incumbent) |

LEONARDTOWN ELECTION INFORMATION

Election of three (3) Council Members of the Town of Leonardtown will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026

The polls shall be open at the Town Office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, Maryland, between the hours of 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm, on said date, for voting.

Deadline for submitting a completed application for an Absentee Ballot is due by Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at the Town Office by 4:30 pm.

Deadline for Obtaining Emergency Ballot is Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Voting Qualifications

Deadline for voter registration is Friday, April 17, 2026

Visit the Board of Elections office at 23250 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650, Monday through Friday, between the normal business hours of 8:00 am through 4:30 pm or call 301-475-4200 ext. 1625 or <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/SupervisorOfElections>

To qualify to vote in a Town Election one must be registered. Must be a resident who lives within the Town of Leonardtown's municipal boundaries for a period of at least thirty (30) days preceding the election.

To obtain forms or for any questions

Teri Dimsey at 301-475-9791 / teri.dimsey@leonardtwnmd.gov
Forms online at <https://leonardtwn.somd.com> or
email: leonardtwn.commissioners@leonardtwnmd.gov



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LEXBA.org/MarketDays

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A View From The BLEACHERS



Three Syllable Words

By Ronald N. Guy, Jr.
Contributing Writer

Parenthood offers a rolling scroll of precious memories. The journey begins with a line on a stick and a trained professional's confirmation that a bun is indeed in the oven. Months later, the birth and the first time you share the news with loved ones. Next, you're in the driver's seat with a rear-facing car seat in the rearview mirror, which contains the most precious cargo imaginable; the most nerve-wracking drive of your life follows.

After that, everything accelerates. First smiles. First words. First steps. The first night mom and dad get three hours of uninterrupted sleep. Then months (or years) later, you actually sleep until the alarm goes off. Other milestones race by. Potty usage. The first day of school. Sports. Dance recitals. School plays. Band concerts. Sleepovers. Driving lessons. Graduations. SAT exams. College.

There are also "The Lasts", as my wife and I call them. They happen with no ceremonies, photos or videos. Lasts are unpredictable, which is, frankly, the universe doing our souls a solid. A few that come to mind: the last time you pick them up and hold them in your arms, use the highchair, hold their hands in public, search in desperation for a pacifier, read them a bedtime story, help with math homework or take them to school.

It all takes roughly 18 of the hardest and most glorious years imaginable. But it's more like a blink of an eye, for those who know.

There's one obscure milestone I remember for reasons only a mental health practitioner could help me sort out: the first three-syllable word. There are so many memories with my little ones. Why the three syllable word? No explanation. My daughter's story: I was at my parents' house. The word: trapezoid. More like twap-pa-zoid. Maybe it was actually her first three-syllable word or maybe it wasn't. But it was definitely the first I heard.

The memory is less clear with son, but I do remember a voicemail he left with a carefully enunciated and extremely important three-syllable word. I was at work. Cell phone vibrates – wife's number. Voice mail notification pops up. I check it, expecting a request to pick up something critical we've run out of on the way home (#theparentlife). Instead, there's a little voice on the other end, hoping I had had a good day at work and wondering if I was going to come home to watch "Oh-Vetch-Kin" that evening.

Like so many things in life these days, it feels like I received that voicemail a couple years ago. My son was probably around three years old when he left it. He's 19 now and Alexander Ovechkin just completed his twenty-first and maybe final NHL season with the Capitals. Reality is impossible to comprehend sometimes.

This introduces the obvious question: Was this Ovechkin's last (season)? The crumb trail of evidence offers a 50/50 split. Ovechkin has hinted at wanting to return. He was productive this season, scoring 32 goals and somehow managing to play all 82 games at age 40, but he has certainly slowed down. There are also two awkward issues in play: Ovechkin is no longer under contract and the Caps are definitely trying to inject youth and speed into the roster – Ovi is neither young nor fast at this point. What he is, however, is one of the greatest players in NHL history, the greatest player in Caps history and a Mount Rushmore D.C. athlete. If he wants to come back, the Caps will make it work.

Like those lasts of parenthood, though, there's no certainty as to when Ovechkin, the great oak of Caps hockey, will definitively hang up the skates. Maybe he already has. Or maybe another year is in the offing. Even if there is, any game could be his finale – this is an uncomfortable truth of breakable bodies playing violent sports. Wherever we are in this grand "Great 8 experience", an end is inevitable. But parenthood teaches us this: It will leave behind many warm memories of announcers calling out "Ovechkin", Caps fans' favorite three syllable word, seconds after a puck is buried in the net.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Emergency funds offer breathing room

Everyone needs an emergency fund. Financial experts recommend it, and we've all experienced surprise expenses: a costly car repair, a broken water heater or unexpected medical bills. Despite our best intentions, building a financial cushion can feel impossible. After rent or mortgage, groceries, utilities and everyday expenses, it seems there's nothing left to save.

If this sounds familiar, you're not alone. Many Americans struggle to maintain emergency savings. But building those savings doesn't necessarily require massive lifestyle changes or windfalls. With a strategic approach and realistic milestones, you can create the financial safety net you need.

Start small and build momentum.

Traditional advice suggests saving three to six months of total expenses. It's excellent goal but can feel overwhelming when you're starting from zero.

Instead, begin with a more achievable target, such as \$500 or a full month's worth of expenses. The key is to get started and contribute consistently.

Even a few hundred dollars can provide meaningful protection and help you avoid relying on credit cards or high-interest loans. This initial milestone can cover many medium-sized emergencies. Once you reach the first milestone, work toward one and a half to two months of expenses, then the full three to six months.

Find money you didn't know you had.

Building your emergency fund doesn't always require cutting expenses. If you're employed, set up automatic transfers from your paycheck into a separate savings account. Cancel subscriptions you rarely use, shop around for better insurance rates and take advantage of sales whenever you can.

Consider saving windfalls like tax refunds, work bonuses or birthday money. If your budgeted expenses come in lower than expected — perhaps your health care costs or home maintenance needs were less than anticipated this month — save the difference in your emergency fund.

Have a dedicated account for your fund.

Keep your emergency savings in a separate account from your regular checking, so you're less tempted to use the money for non-emergencies. Choose an account that's easily accessible and without penalties and, while you shouldn't invest emergency money in stocks or bonds, look for an account that earns interest.

Balance competing priorities.

Building an emergency fund is important, but it shouldn't come at the expense of other crucial financial goals. If you're carrying high-interest debt or missing out on your employer's retirement contribution matches, address those priorities first, while still building your emergency savings.

Ultimately, you'll want to balance your emergency fund with other goals. To determine an emergency savings target, consider your personal risk for unexpected expenses, your job security and family circumstances. You may need three to six months' worth of savings, or possibly some other amount. If this step feels overwhelming, ask a financial advisor to help you come up with a suitable plan.

The path to financial security requires progress rather than perfection. Begin where you are, use what you have and take one small step at a time. That first \$500 might feel modest, but it represents the freedom to handle whatever life throws your way.

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

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

In Remembrance

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

Paula Kidwell, 61



Paula Ellen Hancock Kidwell, 61, of Hughesville, MD, died on April 14, 2026, surrounded by her loving husband and children after a courageous battle with cancer. Paula was born on December 11, 1964, to Joseph F. "Freddie" and Lorraine Burch Hancock in Leonardtown, MD. She was the loving wife of Charles L. Kidwell, whom she married on November 14, 1998.

Paula attended St. Mary's Academy and was a member of the first graduating class of St. Mary's Ryken High School in 1982. She began her career straight out of high school as a civil servant for the Naval Air Facility Washington at Andrews Air Force Base in Prince George's County, MD. While there, she worked in the Comptroller Department before being promoted to Executive Secretary for the Commanding Officer. In her role, "Miss Paula" was the backbone of the front office and was well respected by everyone who came in contact with her. It was not uncommon for visiting admirals to walk past the CO and XO to greet her before they would speak to the officers. Although she was recruited for several promotional job opportunities at the Pentagon, she declined in order to be available for her family, always putting their needs first. She served under 20 different Commanding Officers before retiring in 2023, at which time they officially named her office "The Kidwell Office" in her honor. She was the recipient of the Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award and the Secretary of the Navy Career Service Award for 41 years of faithful service to the Navy and the United States Government.

Paula was a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and aunt. Her loving heart knew no bounds, always putting others' needs before her own. Her kindness, tenderness, and grace brought sunshine to everyone she met.

Her hobbies included visiting and spending time with her family and taking Sunday drives with her husband. She treasured family vacations at the beach and visits with her children and grandchildren. She was so very proud to watch her grandchildren participate in various sports and activities, and she enjoyed video calls with them when she was unable to attend in person. She was also an avid birdwatcher. Her yard was filled with bird feeders and nesting houses. She enjoyed watching the birds outside her windows and sitting on her porch listening to their beautiful songs. She was especially fond of the bluebirds.

Paula is survived by her loving hus-

band and soulmate of 27 years, Charlie Kidwell; her mother, Lorraine Burch Hancock of Compton, MD; her daughter, Christina Finegan and her husband, John, of Phillipsburg, NJ; her son, Alex McLean and his wife, Dominika, of Wesley Chapel, FL; and her grandchildren, Ellie Finegan, Jack Finegan, Henry Finegan, and Lochlan McLean. She is also survived by her siblings, Mary K. Peterson of Piney Point, MD; Ricky Hancock of Loveville, MD; Susan Hall of Chaptico, MD; Julie Guy of California, MD; and Jack Hancock of Callaway, MD; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, all of whom she loved dearly.

She was preceded in death by her father, Freddie Hancock, and nieces Heather Hancock and Kerri Hancock.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with prayers at 7:00 p.m. A funeral service will be celebrated at the funeral home on Friday, April 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. by Reverend Peter M. Antoci. Interment will follow at St. Mary's Episcopal Church Cemetery in Aquasco, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be BJ Peterson, Christopher Hall, Jason Guy, PJ Kidwell, Jason Kidwell, and Kyle LaMond.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice of the Chesapeake, <https://www.hospicechesapeake.org/giving/donate-now/>, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, <https://www.stjude.org/>.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, Maryland.

Timmy Scaggs, 63



Timothy Jude Scaggs, beloved and loving brother of Linda and Susan passed away peacefully at Hospice on March 26, 2026, at the age of 63.

Born on May 18, 1963, Tim was the beloved son of Mary Lou Scaggs who passed away on July 14, 2010, and Willie Frank Scaggs who passed away on April 16, 1995, and grew up with his sisters Linda and Susan. Susan passed away in 2021 while living in Florida with her husband Ernest Messick.

Timmy leaves behind three nephews, Chris Messick, Bill Messick, and Andy Messick and their family. He also leaves behind several cousins especially John and Pam Koday and Jerry and Susan Ciango.

Timmy, also known as "Bluesman" to many, loved playing his harmonica and

entertaining friends at cookouts, parties, and bars. He was also a dedicated Minnesota Vikings fan since he was four years old. Timmy and his dad watched the Vikings play since 1995.

Tim was known for his warm humor, kind heart, and original but caring nature. He had a unique ability to bring smiles to those around him, always ready with a joke or a kind word. His generosity and compassion were felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Timmy leaves behind many cherished friends.

Timmy will be remembered not only for the life he lived but for the love he gave, the laughter he shared, and the legacy he leaves behind. His memory will forever be cherished in the hearts of his family and friends. Rest in peace, dear Tim; you will be profoundly missed but never forgotten.

A service to honor and celebrate Timmy's life will be held on April 13, 2026, at 12:30 - 1:30pm at Mattingly Funeral Home. Burial at Memorial Gardens at 2pm.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at St. Mary's Hospital and Hospice of St. Mary's County for their care and support. Their dedication and compassion made a significant difference in Timmy's final days.

Mary Macy, 74



Mary Katherine Macy, 74, passed away peacefully on April 15, 2026, on her birthday. She was born on April 15, 1952, in Brainerd, Minnesota, and lived a life defined

by love, kindness, and joy.

Mary spent her early years growing up in Pico Rivera, California, where she formed many memories and friendships. She later made her home in Alexandria, Virginia, where she raised her family.

She is lovingly remembered by her daughter, Katherine (Macy) Dzuba, and her son, Patrick Macy. Mary was a proud grandmother to Parker, Alexandria, Mason, and Charlotte, who brought immense joy to her life. She is also survived by her brothers, Jeffery Jewell, Steven Jewell, and Vince Jewell, and her sister, Kathleen (Jewell) Roche.

Mary was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Steven Macy, and her parents, Wayne and Lorna Jewell.

Known for her warm heart and gentle spirit, Mary spread kindness everywhere she went and was rarely seen without a smile. Her compassion extended beyond people to all animals, reflecting her deep love for every living creature. She touched countless lives with her generosity and will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the St. Mary's County Church of Jesus Christ, California, MD. Where a Funeral Service will follow at 11:00 AM with Chaplain Charlie Wharton officiating. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to your local humane society in Mary's honor, continuing her legacy of love and care for animals.

Mary's memory will live on in the hearts of her family and friends, forever cherished and never forgotten.

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.

Delorne Goldbloom, 79

Delorne Alan Goldbloom, A.K.A. "Goldy" or "Dee" 79, of Valley Lee, MD, passed away on April 10, 2026, at is home, with his loving companion, Janis Lee Adams, by his side. Born on December 23, 1946, in Rush City, MN, he was the son of the late Edward Andrew Goldbloom and the late Gladys Louise Burda. In addition to his significant other, Delorne is survived by his children, Loni Jo Heal of Orlando, FL, Tory June Goldbloom of Orlando, FL, and Joey Koehler of Portland, OR, his siblings, David Goldbloom and Daniel Goldbloom, both of North Branch, MN, and his grandchildren, Joshua, Zachary, and Victoria Heal, Maddison, and Mason Newland, and Christian Logue, Great-Grandchildren; Micah, Loxley Mae-Lu, Dawson and another expected next month. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Doreen Goldbloom and Darrell Goldbloom.

Delorne graduated from North Branch High School in 1967 and earned his Associate of Arts in 1981 from Charles County Community College. He served in the United States Navy for four years, from January 1964 to January 1968, during which time he was stationed in Keflavik, Iceland, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Most recently Delorne retired from the Department of Defense on April 3, 2003, after 40 years of dedicated service.

He was a member of the FOP, he enjoyed boating and fishing in his spare time. Delorne was also a gifted musician who loved to play the guitar and sing, he sang like Willie Nelson. Most of all, he loved and cherished Janis, Poppy, his beautiful family, and his amazing community. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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

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

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

For details and to place your notice of remembrance, email aldailey@countytimes.net

REMEMBRANCES
IN PRINT & ONLINE

County Times
ST. MARY'S - CALVERT

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, Apr 24

SMTMD Spring Concert

Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall
37497 Zach Fowler Rd., Chaptico
7 p.m.

The musical partnership between Alasdair Fraser, long regarded as Scotland's premier fiddle ambassador, and the sizzingly-talented Californian cellist Natalie Haas may not seem an obvious one, but the duo's dazzling teamwork and driving rhythms has helped reconstruct and revive the Scottish tradition of playing dance music on violin and cello. Doors open at 7 pm and the concert begins at 7:30 pm. Complimentary refreshments will be offered. Admission is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, and children under 17 when accompanied by a paying adult are free. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. See the website for more details. Info: smtmd2@gmail.com, www.smtmd.org/#/concert/

Sat, Apr 25

Community Shred & Medication Take Back

Department of Aging & Human Services
41780 Baldrige St, Leonardtown

9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Shredding services, medication collection, and safe disposal of medical sharps will be offered, free of charge! Materials accepted include all types of paper except for newspapers and magazines. The shredder can handle simple staples, paper clips, spiral notebooks, and thin metal prongs; however, it cannot accept 3 ring binders. Please limit the number of boxes you bring to four standard banker's boxes (10"H x 12"W x 15"D) per person, or the equivalent volume in alternate containers, so we can serve as many participants as possible.

'Walk in the Park' 5K Fun Run/Walk

St. Francis Xavier Church
8 a.m. until 12 p.m.

9th Annual event to benefit the Newtowne Manor House Preservation/Restoration Fund. Run/walk participants' group start is at 8:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$20 which includes a custom tee shirt. To celebrate Earth Day, flowering dogwood seedlings will be given away to the 1st 100 participants. For more information visit www.stfrancisxavierchurch.org or contact Sarah Matisick at 301-47-7416.

Garden Guild Plant Sale

Historic Sotterley

44300 Sotterley Ln, Hollywood
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Here is your chance to buy plants lovingly nurtured by the Sotterley gardeners. Have questions? Members of the Garden Guild will be on hand with the answers and to share advice. The funds raised by this all-volunteer group of gardening enthusiasts are used to maintain the beautiful Colonial Revival Garden.

Dig! St. Mary's Fort Excavation Experience

Historic St. Mary's City
18751 Hogaboom Ln, St Mary's City
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what it is like to work on an archaeological site? Have you ever considered what stories artifacts can tell us about people who lived in the past? Are you willing to get your hands a little dirty? Then join us for this unique hands-on excavation program at the St. Mary's Fort site! You will spend the day digging and screening alongside our HSMC archaeologists to learn about the archaeological process and to help us uncover history.

\$95 / \$85 HSMC members / \$75 1634 Society members. Registration: tinyurl.com/hsmcdig

Earth Day Celebration

Summerseat Farm
26655 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and engage with local environmental organizations, explore unique vendor crafts, and enjoy a variety of interactive activities. Take part in a guided nature walk or relax on the lawn while listening to live music and savoring local food offerings.

Sun, Apr 26

Spring Book Sale

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown
12 Noon- 4 p.m.

The Friends of the St. Mary's County Library presents its annual GIANT Spring Book Sale featuring thousands of gently used books for adults, young adults and children. Cash, checks and credit cards accepted. FOL memberships available at the door or in advance at folstmalib.wildapricot.org. Don't miss this chance to stock your bookshelves and support your local library!

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Calvert Community Calendar

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Thu, Apr 23

Business and Career Ready Training: Banking, Accounting, Insurance & Legal Series

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

Calvert Library partners with CCMBA to support small businesses. Learn about accountants versus CPAs, tax implications and insurance protection. You may also be interested in: Banking and Finance recorded on YouTube. For questions and additional information about content, email info@ccmba.org or call 443-532-4531. Your registration information will be shared with partners. You are not required to register to attend but registering with an email address or cell phone will allow you to receive reminders. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

The Lost Trees of Willow Ave. with Author Mike Tidwell

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

Join us for an evening with author Mike Tidwell as he discusses his book, *The Lost Trees of Willow Avenue*. "Mike Tidwell is an excellent reporter whose hyperlocal focus shines light on how the climate crisis shapes the lives of ordinary individuals. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Apr 24

Veteran Services Program

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

Are you a veteran or close family member looking for assistance? *ServingTogether* will be on hand to provide support for Calvert County service members, veterans and military families. Walk-ins are encouraged. No appointment is necessary. Write dwilliams@everymind.org for more information. To learn more about *ServingTogether*, visit everymind.org/servingtogether.

Sat, Apr 25

Tabletop Titans – ADULT

Calvert Library Prince Frederick

850 Costley Way
1-4 p.m.

Live out your very own regency drama! For adults of all experience levels. Please register for this event. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Annual Plant Sale

Christ Church
3100 Broomes Island Rd., Port Republic
9 a.m.-12 Noon

Rain or Shine—Calvert Garden Club will be selling locally grown plants dug and potted by members of the club, "from our garden to yours." In addition, plants from several local nurseries will be at the sale. A wide variety of plants, trees, and shrubs will be available for purchase including native and pollinator perennials and annuals, hanging baskets, vegetable plants, herbs, and house plants. A raffle table, bake table, grilled concessions, and yard sale treasures will also be at the sale. Proceeds from the Plant Sale benefit community projects and Calvert Garden Club's Grant program. For additional information visit our website www.calvertgardenclub.com. Find us on Facebook!

Naptown Vinyl Record Market

Mully's Brewery
141 Schooner Lane, Prince Frederick
12 Noon-5 p.m.

Features vendors selling quality vinyl records, CDs, cassettes and music merchandise. Come dig the crates for that treasured record. DJ's Spinning Vinyl all day. FREE Event! All are welcome! Info: email VinylMeltdown333@gmail.com IG @vinylmeltdown333

Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction

St. Paul UMC
11000 HG Trueman Rd., Lusby
5-7 p.m.

Dinner tickets \$15 adult/ \$8 Child/ \$30 (family of 4). Tickets can be prepaid or purchased at the door. Auction Bids close @ 7 p.m.. All welcome. stpaulumc-lusby.org/

Designer Purse Bingo

Elks Lodge #2620
1015 Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick
6 p.m.; doors open at 5 p.m.

Including Kate Spade, Tory Birch, Coach, Marc Jacobs, Michael Kors, Burberry and

Longchamp. Admission \$40 includes 15 regular BINGO games. Special games and jackpot games also available for purchase. Food available for purchase or bring your own snacks. Purchase tickets online at humanesocietyofcalvertcounty.org Benefit Humane Society of Calvert County.

Sun, Apr 26

Spring Fling at the Museum

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Calvert Marine Museum is pleased to participate in the Solomons Co-op Spring Fling, a community celebration welcoming the return of the spring season. As part of the day's activities, the museum will offer a seasonal drop-in craft from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., inviting families and visitors to enjoy a hands-on creative experience during the festivities. Craft included with museum admission.

Mon, Apr 27

Mindfulness Series: Meditation

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

Discover the power of presence with a Sound Bath Meditation led by LJ of Dusk and Willow Designs in North Beach. The combination of meditation, sounds, and vibrations produced by different instruments such as crystal bowls, drums, chimes, and other instruments allows your mind to enter a meditative and relaxed state that will instill ultimate peace and relaxation to your body, mind, and spirit. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Apr 28

League of Women Voters Information Table

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
1-3 p.m.

Get registered to vote! A representative of the League of Women Voters will be available to help you with registration. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Kindergarten Gear Up

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
2-3 p.m.

Join us for an 7-week program designed to help prepare kids and their caregivers to start school in the upcoming year. Through instruction and play, kids will learn social and academic skills while caregivers will learn how to better support their children. This program is intended for children not receiving formal childcare. Registration is required, and it is asked that you attend all sessions. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Writers by the Bay

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

All writers and would-be writers are welcome to come for critique & camaraderie. If you're new to writing or looking to rekindle your writing habits, this monthly in-person writers' group will help you explore creative writing. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Apr 29

Job Seeker Resources

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

MD Labor Workforce—Veterans Services will be available in person to meet with those seeking employment-related support and community service information. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mind over Money

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

An informal discussion on ways we rethink our relationships with money. Register to receive a link to participate an hour before the event or to let us know you'll attend in person. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

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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.

ArtWorks Features Solar Convergence

During May Artworks@7th features Solar Convergence, the works of Corrita Myers.

Solar Convergence is a solo exhibition of original abstract works by Myers that explores the sun as a source of power, beauty, and renewal.

Drawing from the cosmos and the human spirit, Myers weaves together astronomical wonder, the quiet strength of women who turn their faces toward the light, and the luminous richness of gold, inviting viewers into a radiant dialogue between the celestial and the deeply personal.

Also, this month our guest artist is Rachel Clites. Rachel studied Art and Theater at the University of Maryland in College Park on a Creative and Performing Arts Scholarship endowed by the Jim Henson Foundation. She likes to elevate the modern pop-culture images and mundane images that surround us to create something beautiful. Something that “time cannot harm,” as Oscar Wilde put it.

Rachel is a Mixed Media Modern Artist who works in a wide variety of mediums from found objects to digital art.

Please join us at Artworks@7th Gallery on May 2, from 1 - 4, for our opening reception. Mingle with the artists and enjoy both art and light refreshments. Bring your friends and family. Hope to see you there!

Money spent locally stays in the local economy and continues to strengthen the economic base of the entire community.



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

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

Press release from ArtWorks@7th

Calvert Teacher Selected for National Fellowship

Calvert County Public Schools is pleased to announce that Dr. Melaney Sanchez, a teacher librarian at Mount Harmony Elementary, has been selected as a delegate to the *We the Teachers: Preparing the Next Generation Through History & Civics* national fellowship program at William & Mary.

Led by W&M's Strategic Cultural Partnerships division and undertaken in partnership with the National Council for History Education (NCHE), the program is funded by a \$2.89 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education — the largest such award to a Virginia institution of higher learning under the American History and Civics Education National Activities program.

Timed to the nation's 250th anniversary, *We the Teachers* reinforces the university's national reputation for developing civic leadership and will equip teachers with evidence-based pedagogy to create stronger learning outcomes for students across the country.

“Welcoming 100 teachers from across the nation to the Historic Triangle is a remarkable opportunity,” said Mark Hofer, executive director of Strategic Cultural Partnerships and professor in the W&M School of Education. “These teacher-leaders will explore America's founding where it happened — walking the same ground as the founders, grappling with the same questions — and prepare them to lead this work back in their home states.”

Sanchez is among 100 teacher delegates selected from all fifty states to attend the Congress of Educators, a four-day residential institute taking place in July 2026 across the Historic Triangle of Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown.

“This intensive professional development experience will change teachers,” Hofer said, “and through them, how their students understand who we are as a nation — and who we will become.”

“The National Council for History Education's mission is to champion history education and uplift history education professionals,” said Jessica Ellison, executive director of NCHE. “This *We the Teachers* program does exactly that! We can't wait to convene these educators from across the country to learn with and from one another.”

Hosted at W&M and partner cultural institutions, the Congress will immerse delegates in primary source analysis, historical inquiry, civil dialogue, and evidence-based argumentation — connecting America's founding principles to classroom-ready practice.

Fellows will return to their schools equipped with professional video record-



Dr. Melaney Sanchez

ings, facilitator guides, and classroom resources to launch local professional learning communities. The initiative aims to establish at least 100 such communities nationwide, each engaging 15 or more educators.

Delegates also receive early access to free, on-demand microcourses and digital credentials through the “Educating for the 250th” microcredential pathway, built on LilyPD, an innovative teacher professional development platform designed by Strategic Cultural Partnerships and launched for public beta in Spring 2026.

“LilyPD is how *We the Teachers* reaches the teacher who couldn't come to Williamsburg,” said Hofer. “It's the infrastructure that turns a fellowship into a movement.”

Dr. Sanchez explained, “My approach to teaching civics and American history is intentional, purposeful, and rooted in the belief that students must see themselves as active participants in our democracy. At Mount Harmony, students proudly and enthusiastically recite the phrase, ‘History shapes us—how will we shape history’ because American history is not confined to a unit of study; it is woven into lessons, conversations, and the very fabric of our school culture. This fellowship will provide a strong network of educators from across the nation who will enable me to polish my skills, strategies, and goals. This opportunity is not simply an honor. It is an investment in the future for our children.”

Dr. Marcus Newsome, CCPS Superintendent of Schools, shared, “Dr. Sanchez exemplifies the caliber of educator we strive to develop and support in Calvert County Public Schools. Her selection to the *We the Teachers* fellowship highlights the importance of investing in educators who lead thoughtful, evidence-based civic learning.”

Press release from CCPS

Calvert County Prescription Medication

Take-Back Day

Saturday, April 25, 2026
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

No questions asked!

- Remove unused and expired medications from your home.
- Keep prescription medications from being abused.
- Prevention, treatment and recovery information will be available.
- Detera medication drug disposal packets will be available free of charge for county residents. The packets allow medications to be deactivated and thrown in your household trash. Limit of three packets per family, while supplies last.

Drop Off Locations:

Northeast Community Center

4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave., Chesapeake Beach

Southern Community Center

20 Appal Lane, Lusby

24/7 Prescription Drug Drop Boxes located at:

Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO)

30 Church Street, Prince Frederick

CCSO District 1 Location

10500 Southern Maryland Boulevard, Dunkirk

Maryland State Police, Barrack "U"

210 Main Street, Prince Frederick

Sponsored by the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse, Inc., Maryland State Police, Barrack "U", Calvert County Sheriff's Office and the Calvert County Health Department.

For more information, call 410-535-3733.



CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of April 6, 2026 – April 12, 2026, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,345 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 51
- Disorderly: 17
- Domestics: 12
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 46
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 1053
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 26
- Traffic Complaints: 89
- Traffic Stops: 462
- 911 Hang Ups: 50
- ARRESTS: 47



Gerald Calvin Creek

CDS Violation: 26-33245 On April 12, 2026, at approximately 2:13 a.m., Deputy McIntosh initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for a traffic violation along Solomons Island Road near

Skinner's Turn in Owings. DFC Jones and his K9 partner Bane responded to the scene and conducted a free-air sniff of the vehicle, which resulted in a positive alert for controlled dangerous substances. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed one yellow capsule containing approximately one gram of suspected crack cocaine. **Gerald Calvin Creek**, 64, of Sunderland, was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. He was charged with CDS: Possession – Not Cannabis.



Kevin Andre Alleyne

CDS Violation: 26-33351 On April 12, 2026, Cpl. Plant conducted a traffic stop for a moving violation in the area of Main Street and Vianney Lane in Prince Frederick. During the stop, M/

DFC Idol and his K9 partner, Benji, responded to the scene and conducted a free-air sniff of the vehicle. K9 Benji positively alerted to the

odor of controlled dangerous substances. A subsequent search of the vehicle resulted in the recovery of three metal push rods. A search of the passenger yielded two glass smoking devices containing suspected cocaine residue. **Kevin Andre Alleyne**, 33, of Prince Frederick, was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. He was charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

Theft: 26-31509 On April 7, 2026, at approximately 6:50 a.m., Deputy Robey responded to the area of Rousby Hall Road and HG Trueman Road in Lusby for a reported theft. The complainant advised that an unknown black male with a beard, wearing jeans, a gray hoodie, and a blue hat with stars, stole a bottle of Peach Paul Masson liquor from the Exxon located at 11805 HG Trueman Road. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$30.

Theft: 26-31693 On April 7, 2026, Deputy R. Contic responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, located at 30 Church Street in Prince Frederick, for a reported theft. The complainant reported that an unknown suspect stole the front and rear license plates from the victim's vehicle while it was parked at 874 Keith Lane in Owings. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$50.

Theft: 26-31341 On April 10, 2026, Deputy McIntosh responded to the 3800 block of Bonnie Court in Chesapeake Beach, for a reported theft. The complainant advised an unknown suspect(s) stole a silver Werner 32 ft. ladder from the victim's vehicle. The estimated value of stolen property is \$500.

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

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

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Prince Frederick Garden Center 1700 Solomon's Island Rd, Prince Frederick, MD
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Environmental Commission Explains Data Center Moratorium Request

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

When the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted against a two-year data center moratorium, in a 3-2 vote, they had in their possession a letter from their environmental commission calling for such a moratorium.

The majority of the commissioners opted for zoning text amendments to control data centers. As the Calvert County Planning Commission is working on those amendments, they met on April 15 with the environmental commission to discuss that advisory body's recommendations.

Environmental Commission Chair Abby Ybarra said, "Our recommendations were sent directly to the Board of County Commissioners with two pages of what we felt were the core issues that we moved to recommend a moratorium. And we also resent that back to the Board of Commissioners with citations and citations of where our information was gathered from. So, we raised some critical issues, and then we had some call to action items that we could help facilitate the moratorium."

Planning Commission member David Buey asked, "The big objection that I heard from the three county commissioners who voted against the moratorium was they raised the point that one of the data center companies actually submits a formal site plan, and that we may not have enough details to actually accomplish a full environmental review. So, I'm not taking a position on that. I'm interested in thoughts about what would be gained by doing a full environmental review in the absent of those site plan details?"

Environmental Commission member Dr. Janette Wysocki responded, "There were very comprehensive studies done of the Calvert Cliff site in 2011. And significant environmental impacts were identified. So, the site where the AWS (Amazon Web Services) facility is proposed to be is exactly on top of the land that was previously studied and previously had environmental impacts identified. AWS does have a plan, and they presented that plan at the open house.

"So, if they've gotten to that level of detail, then they should be able to do an environmental impact study.

"The Natelli site is conceptual. They don't have an end user identified. So that plan is pretty much up in the air. However, we are in a unique ecosystem where we are. So going to visit other data centers and other locations doesn't really give you the same information as what we would have here."

Dr. Wysocki added, "So there are wetlands that are in the proposed AWS site. It's forested, it's got several types of forest delineations within it. And so, if you are proposing that should be rezoned from farm and forest district to heavy industrial, what impacts is that going to have, because those are headwaters for the St. Leonard Creek, which drains into the Patuxent. There're wetlands, there's wildlife that are in there that are going to be impacted.

"So as far as the environmental conditions there, you can do a study without a site plan because that's a very critical ecosystem. It's very narrow, it's five miles across at that site. So, impacts would go in both directions."

She noted, "You can study the noise. So, there are homes within that area. Infrasound is a critical piece, and the Natelli experts so they don't test for Infrasound because they're not required to, but it will have

significant impacts on our region and the Chesapeake and the Patuxent because Infrasound isn't stopped by walls. So, it will keep going, it will move through anything. It's a very, very long wavelength. So, we need to protect our ecosystem, and you can do those studies now."

Regarding wetland on the AWS site, Dr. Wysocki said, "There's a bridge proposed over Johns Creek that has a beaver population. So, you're taking away everything that cleans that ecosystem, and then that will introduce additional sediments, runoff, et cetera, into John's Creek, into St. Leonard Creek, into Patuxent River."

After the discussion by the two commissions, the public was allowed to speak and they did so for more than an hour, with the majority opposed to data centers or at least in favor of the moratorium. Several union representatives did speak in support, saying it would provide jobs close to home.

The planning commission discussion of text amendments was delayed a week (to April 21) because the joint meeting ran too long (see separate story).

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Planners Approve More Data Center Restrictions

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

After hearing concerns about data centers from the Calvert County Environmental Commission on April 15, the Calvert County Planning Commission added several significant requirements to the proposed zoning ordinance text amendments being drafted by staff. The amendments came at the commission's April 21 meeting and were proposed by commission members Chris Gadway and David Bury.

Gadway said, "Originally it was 200 feet setback with a 400 foot to a residential setback is what was originally proposed in the text that was presented to us. The draft text memo, we'll call it. I'd like to call for minimum of 1,200-foot setback. I can gladly go higher if anybody else wants to go higher. And a minimum of a 400-foot vegetative buffer.

"I would like to add on that I did not include in my comments that a 45 dBA at the property line shall not be exceeded." The

original proposal was 70 dBA,

Bury noted, "Certainly I support the 1,200-foot setback. On the issue of noise, I had submitted a lengthy comment and since that time some other citizens have also submitted further information on noise. So, I'd like to somewhat amend my suggestion for a noise ordinance. What's clear is that the current county noise ordinance does not really respond to data center noise. The industrial noise limits right now in the county ordinance are 75 dBA day and night, 70 dBA for noise, and that's just entirely too high. And so, what Commissioner Gadway suggests as 45 dBA as residential property lines, during the night, 55 in the day, might be considered."

But he added, "The big issue is low frequency tonal noise, and low frequency is defined below 300 hertz. We would recommend that emissions be limited to 40 dBC, which is a different way of measuring, uh, decibels, that treats low frequency noise. And it's important that those low frequency noise limits be measured with a special, much more precise, sound meter that has

the resolution to look at very narrow frequency ranges."

Gadway expressed frustration at the process. "I'm not a scientist. We had seven scientists and/or highly educated people on the environment here last week. They had as many questions as possible, if not more, than we did. I believe that if we establish, or if the county establishes restrictions and criteria, that if somebody wants to come in here and do it bad enough, they're going to have an engineer design it to where it's going to fit the criteria," adding "This is not about the text amendment here, but it's about the entire process. When this text amendment first came out, the entire county has been inundated with information. The Board of County Commissioners scientific community that they approved to be on the environmental commission made recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. If the commissioners would've taken that recommendation, we wouldn't even be talking about this text amendment right now."

Gadway expressed concern that the data

centers would try to circumvent any text amendments using the grandfathering argument. But Planning Director Jason Brinkley said state law prohibited any such circumventing until the shovels were in the ground.

Bury also added additional Text amendment suggestions, including restricting "data center generator testing to weekdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. that further mitigates the possibility of the public being annoyed by noise."

His second proposal is that data centers "prepare a construction traffic management plan. Just recalling what happened with the LNG plant with all the truck noise."

He also proposed that the data center companies have a demolition plan in case the facility is abandoned,

The planning commission unanimously approved all of the suggestions for incorporation into text amendments. All of the restrictions have to go to the county commissioners for approval.

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Veteran Solomons Firefighter Assumes Helm of Regional Association

Annual Convention, Parade This Weekend

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Solomons will be hopping this weekend as the annual Southern Maryland Volunteer Firemen's Association (SMVFA) convention pulls into town.

There of course will be the annual parade and games, the memorial for those who have passed away, and a scrumptious dinner. Amid all of that collective celebrating will be the quiet culmination of more than 50 years with the department by John D. Pardoe Jr., who will be sworn in as the association's new president for the next year.

He said, "In our association, we have 41 companies with one more coming." The job involves meeting quarterly and a lot of travel. In the organization, rising presidents serve two terms as vice president to get acclimated to the role.

The county native went to school at the old Solomons Elementary where Calvert Marine Museum is now. Then he went to Calvert Middle and graduated from Calvert High.

Forty years ago, he started a career as a professional firefighter at Patuxent River Naval Air Station and is now retired.

"It was something new to me because I

had never dealt with aircraft. So, I met some great people. A lot I worked with when I started there. We golf together, go on golf trips together. So, I'd do it all over again."

Harkening back 52 years, he said, "My friends were hanging out there and I thought that was a good thing, to hang out with my friends. And afterwards I started my career and started out as an officer."

The volunteer service wasn't too much of a family tradition, although he did have an uncle and cousin involved and his mother helped out with the auxiliary. "I felt like I was doing something really well. Really good," he realized after joining. He started his career with a bang, running 79 calls in his rookie year.

"I had a mentor," Pardoe said. "He went through the ranks of president and asked me, before you give up your career, I want you go for (SMVFA) president. I worked up, but I didn't want to do it until I was ready. I retired; I was ready to move up. So, in my 50th year I got nominated to be the second vice president and then first vice president and this year president."

Pardoe has seen the evolution of the Solomons department, the county's busiest. "I started at the old firehouse down where the

sushi place is, that was our firehouse. And we built a new firehouse. We moved up there and I'm on the committee for the new firehouse to move again." The county has them slated for construction in FY '29 on a new piece of land north of the existing location.

It's definitely needed he said.

"We're running that many calls. We've got so much equipment they have to stay outside. We don't have the adequate sleeping spaces for the members. It's just outdated."

Regarding the future of volunteerism, noting the paid EMTs already in the Solomons firehouse, he said, "Times have changed to where now both parents have to work to survive with, so they don't have the time to spend volunteering."

In his retirement from the base, he works several days a week at Chesapeake Hills golf course "just to keep going. And, volunteering keeps me pretty busy."

He'll be especially busy over the next year in his role as president of SMVFA.

The public is invited to this weekend's events in Solomons. Here's what's happening:

Event Highlights:

- Date: April 25-26, 2026
- Location: Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department at 13150 HG Trueman Road, Solomons, MD.
- Incoming President, John D. Pardoe Jr.

Memorial Service:

- Date: April 25th, 2026.
- Time: 1 pm
- Location: Patuxent High School at 12485 Southern Connector Blvd, Lusby, MD.

Meeting, Dinner & Awards:

- Date: April 25, 2026
- Location: Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department at 13150 HG Trueman Road, Solomons, MD.
- Time: Following Memorial Service

Parade:

- Date: April 26th, 2026, at Noon.
- Registration will take place at the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department at 13150 HG Trueman Road, Solomons, MD.
- Registration Time: Starts at 8 am and Closes at 10 am SHARP.
- Parade Route: Beginning at the Tiki Bar located at 85 Charles Street, Solomons, MD.
- Spectator Gathering: Along Solomons Island Road on the Island.
- End of the Parade: Route: Calvert Marine Museum.
- Post Parade Festivities: Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department at 13150 HG Trueman Road, Solomons, MD.

For the parade, motorists should expect substantial vehicular and pedestrian traffic in and around the island. The parade is



John D. Pardoe Jr.

scheduled to begin at 12:00 PM and conclude at approximately 2:00 PM.

Traffic Pattern Details:

- Normal traffic flow will continue on Solomons Island until approximately 12:00 PM.
 - At approximately 12:00 PM, ALL access onto Solomons Island as well as access onto MD Rt. 4 on Solomons Island will be closed to vehicular traffic to allow the parade to begin and proceed northbound off the island, beginning in the area of The Tiki Bar.
 - Access to the Solomons boat ramp will remain open via the southbound MD Rt. 4 access ramp.
- Once the parade begins:
- ALL southbound traffic on H.G. Trueman Road in the area of Roy Rogers will be turned around and directed northbound onto MD Rt. 4.
 - ALL traffic exiting from the boat ramp or from beneath the Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge will be required to turn left ONLY and proceed northbound off Solomons Island until the parade reaches this intersection. At that time access to MD Rt. 4 will be intermittent.
 - ALL traffic from Lore Rd and car wash/urgent care will be required to turn right ONLY and proceed northbound off Solomons Island.
 - Access to urgent care/car wash can be made via Roy Roger's entrance.
 - Exit ramp from northbound MD Rt. 4 onto Solomons Island will be closed during the parade.

Motorists are strongly encouraged to arrive early, avoid the area, or plan alternate routes and allow for additional travel time during this event.

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“THIS IS NOT ABOUT THE TEXT AMENDMENT HERE, BUT IT’S ABOUT THE ENTIRE PROCESS.”

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER CHRIS GADWAY ABOUT DATA CENTERS



LOCAL 4
Planning commission approves stricter requirements for data centers



COMMUNITY 7
Calvert teacher selected for national fellowship



ON THE COVER
Solomons firefighter named president of regional association

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, APR 23 Mostly Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 57°	FRI, APR 24 Partly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 54°	SAT, APR 25 Cloudy Hi: 64° Lo: 48°	SUN, APR 26 AM Showers Hi: 58° Lo: 47°
MON, APR 27 Partly Cloudy Hi: 66° Lo: 51°	TUE, APR 28 Showers Hi: 66° Lo: 53°	WED, APR 29 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 72° Lo: 54°	THU, APR 30 Showers Hi: 66° Lo: 54°



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