INSIDE

Major developer eyeing Calvert?

Dominion gets park name

Kids get their own play space

Small Business, Big Challenges
Are Major Developers Eyeing Calvert?
New Citizens Group Claims They Are

By Dick Myers
Editor

The citizens group that has filed a petition for judicial review against Calvert County over adoption of the comprehensive plan update says a major developer is poised to enter Calvert County once the zoning is in place to implement the plan and accommodate their desires.

Calvert Citizens United (CCU) filed the petition in Calvert County Circuit Court asking that the entire comprehensive plan update says a major developer is poised to enter Calvert County once the zoning is in place to implement the plan and accommodate their desires.

In another recent post, CCU President Myra Gowans called the majority vote by Commissioners Mike Hart, Kelly McConkey and Tim Hutchins a “diabolical citizen betrayal.” She claims county officials have been working behind the scenes with local developers to advance the desires of the major developers.

Gowans has regularly attended meetings of the Small Business Interest Group (SBIG) headed by developer Anthony Williams. She said Planning and Zoning Director Mark Willis and Deputy Director Mary Beth Cook have also attended those meetings. Gowans wrote that county staffers “sat in rapt attention, furiously taking notes and memorializing SBIG demands directed by local builders/developers and a few other members from county real estate offices.”

The citizens group cites as an example of the Peterson Group’s interest in Calvert County the posting on their website of several potential plans for Armory Square in Prince Frederick— one residential and the other with office buildings. Both had a major grocery store.

Gowans wrote, “The just passed 20-year comprehensive plan eliminates our quaint town centers, extends boundaries and allows major residential build-out through installation of central sewer systems. In Dunkirk, Huntingtown and Lusby, 12 to 20 units per acre may be built. National developers will construct high-rises and mid-rises on top of high-density commercial-retail through the magic of central sewer.”

The organization is seeking additional financial support for their effort to Calvert Citizens United, P.O. Box 1018, Huntingtown, MD 20639 or https://www.paypal.me/calcitizensunited
dickmyers@countytimes.net
Dominion Gets Park Naming Rights

By Dick Myers
Editor

What's in a name. Offsite Area A is hardly compelling. How does Dominion Energy Regional Park sound? That's the name voted on by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their Dec. 3 meeting for the new regional park in Lusby. It will be on property dubbed Offsite Area A by Dominion Energy when they were using it as a staging area for construction of their Liquefied Natural Gas facility which is now operational.

After no longer needing that 100 acres off Routes 2/4, they donated it to the county for a park. They have also agreed to pony up "$4,000,000 towards the development of recreational resources," according to Parks and Recreation Director Shannon Nazzal.

A letter from Dominion Energy VP for LNG Operations asked something in return – the naming of the park after Dominion Energy.

Nazzal, in a memo to the BOCC, wrote, “On September 11, 2019, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) recommended that in lieu of naming the park, Dominion consider the dedication and naming of an indoor structure funded by Dominion.

“The survey completed in May 2019 included ideas from the community on what they would like to name the new Regional Park. Top names included Lusby (101 responses), Calvert (82 responses), Patuxent (64 responses), Dominion (55 responses), Southern (41 responses), Chesapeake (31 responses). Other responses were under 10 votes. Staff held that Patuxent would not be a choice, there is already a Patuxent River Park.”

Commissioner Mike Hart noted that the site would give Lusby its first “full park” and this was important to the area. He also noted the survey results but said that Dominion’s donation warranted the naming.

Commissioner Buddy Hance agreed. “It’s very generous of Dominion. They didn’t have to donate it.”

The BOCC also acted regarding another park – Kellam’s Field in the Town of Chesapeake Beach. The commissioners were told that the town, per a 2002 development agreement for an area known as Parcel F, “maintains all areas of the property at the town’s sole expense. This lease will end on May 16, 2022.” The town, in a letter dated Oct. 21, requested that the property be turned back over to the town. The BOCC agreed with the town’s request as long as the property continued to be used for recreation. If that ceased to happen, the property would revert to the county.

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Three Projects Removed from Bond Request
Golf Clubhouse to be Paid with Cash

By Dick Myers
Editor

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will be requesting approximately an additional $45 million in bonding authority when they meet next week with the county’s legislative delegation.

That decision by the BOCC at their Dec. 3 meeting came after three projects were removed from the bonding authority request that originally was $52.4 million.

Director of Finance & Budget Tim Hayden reported to the commissioners: “The preliminary results of the fiscal year ending 06/30/2019 indicate a surplus of almost $4 million.” Hayden said those monies could be used for “pay-go” to reduce the needs for bonding by that amount. He also said $10 million had already been budgeted from the general fund to pay for capital projects.

After much discussion the BOCC, on a 4-1 vote, agreed to remove the proposed $3.1 million new clubhouse at Chesapeake Hills Golf and Country Club from bonding and use those budget savings to pay for it instead. Commissioner Steve Weems made the motion to not use bonds for the clubhouse.

The commissioners also removed two projects from the capital budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (which starts July 1, 2020). They are a culvert replacement at Dunleigh Court and the Lusby Parkway extension. Commissioner Mike Hart argued for removal of the Lusby project as it wasn’t a pressing need.

The two projects reduce the capital budget by just under $2 million.

The bond authority also includes monies for several water and sewer projects.

Projects that survived the cuts and which will be presented to the legislators, are:

- Beach Elementary
- Twin Beaches Library
- Stafford Road intersection improvements
- Fire and Rescue apparatus replacement.
- St. Leonard VFD&RS facility replacement.

All of the projects have monies set aside for them in the next year’s budget, although most will take several years to complete. The bonding authority covers those multiple years although the bonds won’t have to be let all at once.

The additional request still leaves the county well under the approved “Debt Affordability Model” of 9.5 percent bonding to the total budget. It will rise to 7.5 percent in 2025 under the current six-year capital plan which will be reviewed in several weeks by the BOCC.
Kids Enjoying Themselves in the Imaginarium Play Area.

By Dick Myers
Editor

Imagine a place where kids could play on imaginative equipment, in a safe environment – and all indoors. That’s what a 6,000-square-foot space in Solomons has been transformed into. It’s called Imaginarium. It’s been open since Nov. 9 to rave reviews from parents and kids alike.

One child didn’t want to leave. He said, according to the store’s director Lenae King, “I want to live here.” He would be living in a room filled with a pirate ship, and numerous other playhouses.

The Imaginarium’s website calls it “Southern Maryland’s first modern indoor play space dreamed of and designed by a local teacher! Enjoy a 6,000-square-foot, hands-on, interactive, and drop-in play-based center for children aged 1-10. While at Imaginarium, let your imagination run wild as you become an artist in our Creation Station craft area, an architect in our Build It zone, a firefighter or train conductor in our Tiny Town, or a Pirate or Princess on our large custom-built Pirate Ship and Castle playground. When you’re finished playing and need a rest, come on over to our Sensory Reading Nook, find a comfy seat, grab a fidget or a book, and relax for a bit.”

King is that former teacher. She ran a special education program for a few years in Calvert County “Then I had my second child and decided to stay home for a little bit.” After a while she started her own special education tutoring business called Magnificent Minds Learning Center.

Her father Tim Franey invested in her new business. “He just kind of goes along with my crazy ideas,” she quipped.

She explained, “We started looking at other avenues of ways to make an income but also make an impact in the community and still stick with my love of working with kids. So, we came up with this idea of doing something indoors but providing a play area for kids that was unplugged because so many kids these days are on their tablets or computers or video games, which is okay in moderation. I’m really a firm supporter of having kids use their imaginations and play and learn through play.”

She fell in love with the pirate ship, which became their anchor and then other pieces of equipment fell into place. “Those kind of came after the fact after thinking about what other ways our kids could use imagination,” she said. Her husband Jim supervised the construction.

They have all-day passes and free play where kids can do whatever they chose under parental supervision. “It’s been really awesome to see parents also interacting with their kids. We’ve seen a lot of parents side-by-side with their kids. We’ve seen them in the art area doing arts and crafts together or engaging with their children in the imaginative play in the different playhouses. Some of the parents of kids who are a little bit older tend to hang back a little, cause the kids are playing with another group of kids.”

They are getting customers from all over Southern Maryland, including as far away as Charles County. “We’ve had an overall overwhelmingly positive reaction from parents coming in. A lot of people thank us on their way out and say this is something that we really needed and that their kids loved it.”

For Christmas Santa is coming on December 14th and 15th. “It’s a special event, so we’re doing small groups of kids, so it’s not an overwhelmingly long line to wait; 12 kids at a time will get to come in and see Santa and get their picture taken.”

The new business has a motto for the kids to rave to heart: “Play, Create, Inspire and Imagine!”

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General Services Director to Retire

Calvert County General Services Director Wilson Freeland announced his plan to retire following 10 years of dedicated service as director of general services and 37 years of public service. Freeland’s retirement will take effect on Dec. 6, 2019.

“I have had the distinguished pleasure to work with Wilson Freeland my entire 32-year career with Calvert County Government,” said County Administrator Terry Shannon. “Wilson has a calm, rational-thinking demeanor and a wealth of knowledge about the county’s facilities, properties and people. He will be greatly missed. I wish him the best in a long, happy, healthy retirement.”

Freeland’s leadership of the Department of General Services has led to major improvements to several county-owned facilities. Notably, he oversaw the completion of the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center; renovations to the Calvert Marine Museum, the Solomons boat ramp and Calvert County Circuit Courthouse; creation of the Child Advocacy Center facility; and the design and construction of the Prince Frederick Volunteer Rescue Squad facility. Freeland also oversaw the acquisition of several properties for future public use.

Freeland began his career with Calvert County Government in 1982 with mosquito control, where he quickly worked up to a supervisory position. He was promoted to buildings and grounds division chief in 2003 and promoted again to general services director in 2009.

Press Release from Calvert County Government
Underwater Grasses Show Resilience Despite Record Rainfall

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources reports that Chesapeake Bay underwater grass abundance fared better than expected in 2018, despite extreme rainfall causing a spike in nutrients and sediments. An estimated 50,015 acres of underwater grasses were mapped in Maryland’s portion of the Chesapeake Bay.

Baywide, about 91,559 acres of underwater grasses were mapped in 2018. However, more than 20% of the region was not fully mapped in 2018 because of highly turbid water, weather, and security restrictions near military facilities—meaning the actual acreage could be significantly higher.

In 2017, a record-breaking 62,357 acres were recorded in Maryland, and about 105,000 acres were recorded baywide. Since 2012, Maryland has seen a net gain of more than 25,500 acres of underwater grasses and has achieved 63% of the state’s 2025 restoration goal.

Except for the upper Western Shore, the record rainfall throughout 2018 led to higher levels of nutrients and sediments and poorer water clarity in many of Maryland’s waterways. The prolonged muddy waters caused by these nutrients and sediments led to substantial declines in underwater grasses throughout large portions of the Potomac and Patuxent rivers. However, grasses expanded in the Bush, Patapsco, and Magothy rivers where nutrient and sediment inputs were not as excessive.

“The resilience of Maryland’s underwater grasses shows that our commitment to improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay is working and with continued efforts, we are well on our way to achieving our 2025 goal of 79,800 acres,” Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio said.

Despite the slight decline in statewide underwater grass abundance, all or part of eight Maryland rivers surpassed their restoration goals. These included the Northeast River at 105%; the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal at 236%; and the tidal fresh portion of the Chester River at 47,057% (the percentage of the goal attained is so high due to a very small segment restoration goal); the middle Chester River at 282%; the western branch of the Patuxent River at 146%; the upper Gunpowder River at 157%; the Bush River at 104%; the upper portion of the Big Annemussex River at 161%; and Fishing Bay at 102%. An additional four river segments in Maryland reached 75% or more of their restoration goals.

Underwater grasses respond quickly to improvements in water quality conditions, making them a critical indicator of restoration progress. Less nutrient and sediment pollution leads to improved water clarity, which in turn, allows for increased underwater grass growth. Also known as submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), underwater grasses are a critically important bay habitat that removes nutrients and sediment from the water column, reduce shoreline erosion, provide nursery habitat and protection for species like the blue crab and large mouth bass, and support and sustain migrating waterfowl.

“Last summer’s record rainfall – and the accompanying runoff and turbidity – put stress on our underwater grasses, but the previous five years of expansion helped the vast majority of the grass beds survive,” said Maryland Natural Resources biologist Brooke Landry, who chairs the SAV workgroup for the Chesapeake Bay Program.

The lower Eastern Shore received significantly less rainfall compared to other regions of the state and water clarity was within range of previous years. As a result, the lower Eastern Shore tributaries, including the Big Annemussex, Magokin, and lower Poconosoke rivers and Tangier Sound, saw increased underwater grass abundance in 2018.

The annual aerial survey was conducted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science between May and October 2018 and covered 111 flight lines. The aerial imagery is used to identify the amount and location of underwater grasses in the Chesapeake Bay and tidal tributaries.

Additional aerial and satellite imagery was used to augment the imagery in portions of the Bay that could not be mapped.

Press Release from MD DNR
Calvert County Sheriff’s Office Crime Blotter

During the week of November 18 – November 24 deputes of the Calvert County Sheriff’s Office responded to 1,388 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 19-67622
On November 20, 2019, Corporal Carter responded to Ottawa Drive in Lusby for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised that sometime between 5:30pm on November 19th and 5:30pm on November 20th, an unknown suspect(s) keyed their Harley motorcycle while it was parked in the back yard. The estimated value of damaged property is $3,000.

Damaged Property: 19-68047
On November 22, 2019, Deputy Durner responded to Tomahawk Trail in Lusby for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised that sometime between 7:00pm and 7:30pm on November 21st, an unknown suspect(s) shot a BB-gun at their house, putting a hole through the outer window pane. The estimated value of damaged property is $600.

Damaged Property: 19-68244
On November 23, 2019, Deputy Aranda responded to Maplewood Drive in Dunkirk for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised that sometime between 3:30pm and 6:00pm on November 23rd, and unknown suspect(s) engraved words into the driver’s side doors of their vehicle. The estimated value of damaged property is $500.

Theft: 19-67528
On November 20, 2019, Deputy Wilson responded to Monnett Court in Prince Frederick for the report of a theft. The complainant advised that sometime between 8:00pm on November 19th and 6:00am on November 20th, an unknown suspect(s) entered their vehicle and stole cash from the center console. The value of stolen property is $100.

Theft: 19-67967
On November 22, 2019, Deputy Barger responded to Spot Thrift Shop in St. Leonard for the report of a theft. The complainant advised that an unknown suspect(s) left the store with two backpacks and various clothing items without paying. The value of stolen property is $100.

Arrests:
On November 19, 2019, Corporal Harms was conducting a traffic stop in the area of Catalina Drive and Golden West Way in Lusby when he observed a male operating a bike in the middle of the roadway. After completing the traffic stop, Corporal Harms attempted to make contact with the male on the bike, Robert Allen Demarr (34). Demarr got off the bike and removed it from the travel lane and began to walk down Catalina Drive. Demarr quickly began to flee down Catalina Drive. Demarr was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS Possession of Marijuana over 10 Grams as well a traffic citations.

On November 22, 2019, Deputy Callison responded to the Calvert County Detention Center for the report of a CDS violation. Upon arrival, Deput Callison was advised that Correctional Deputy Hotchkiss located half of a pill, suspected to be Alprazolam, in a brown paper bag containing other medications belonging to Brittany Ann Vega (26). Vega was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana, and CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute in a Place of Confinement.

On November 23, 2019, Deputy Anderson was assisting Maryland State Police in transporting Thomas Dashay Gary Jr. (23) to the Calvert County Detention Center when he heard Gary spit in the vehicle. Upon arrival, Deputy Anderson observed Thomas’ saliva on the right rear window as well as on the right rear floorboard of the patrol vehicle. Thomas was charged with Malicious Destruction of Property Valued <$1,000.
Safe Nights Program Opens for the Season

Calvert County’s annual Safe Nights program providing winter shelter for the homeless is now open for the 2019-2020 season. Safe Nights provides winter protection for Calvert County’s homeless by offering shelter in a clean and safe environment. Host shelters provide a warm bed and breakfast, a bag lunch and dinner. Shelter hours are 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., seven days a week and the program is offered through March 29, 2020.

To qualify, individuals must:
- Be homeless
- Show identification
- Show proof of Calvert County residency
- Be ambulatory and capable of self-care
- Be older than 18, unless accompanied by a parent

Press Release from Calvert County Government

Giant Food Donates to Calvert Meals on Wheels

Calvert Meals on Wheels Inc will receive a $1 donation for every $2.50 Community Bag sold in October at the Giant Food store located at 10790 Town Center Blvd., Dunkirk MD. Shown are (l-r) Deborah Gwynn, Giant Food; Shirl Hendley, Calvert Meals on Wheels; and Cynthia Popola-Forigione, Giant Food.

Press Release from Calvert County Government

Annual Parks and Recreation Pass Available

Give the gift of recreation to your loved ones this holiday season with the new Parks & Recreation annual pass. The pass allows Calvert County residents the opportunity to take advantage of more parks and recreation facilities at a discounted rate.

The pass gives citizens one-year access to the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center, Cove Point and Kings Landing pools, Breezy Point Beach and Flag Ponds Nature Park. Pass holders also receive a 5% discount at Chesapeake Hills Golf Course, on facility rentals, water fitness classes, sports registration, recreation programs, events, camping, concessions and more.

Cost for a family pass is $650 for up to five people. An individual pass or additional family pass member is $400. Pass holders will save over $300 purchasing the combined pass versus individual annual passes to county recreation facilities and parks. Contact Parks & Recreation at 410-535-1600, ext. 2649 or at parksandrecreation@calvertcountymd.gov for more information or to purchase the annual pass.

Press Release from Calvert County Government

Christmas Sale

Lowest prices of the year on Lionel trains

Over 20 “Ready to Run” sets to choose from

All Engines
Up to 40% off MSRP

Rolling Stock
Up to 50% off MSRP

All Accessories
Up to 60% off MSRP

Hundreds of Accessories

Over 1000 different pieces of rolling stock & hundreds of engines & accessories

200+ different 0-gauge engines to expand layouts • tracks • transformers • digital operating sets

Wed - Fri 9am-5pm • Sat 9am-3pm • Sun-Tues closed

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The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Calvert County celebrated its one year anniversary on July 31, 2019.

The CAC provides a coordinated response and a safe environment for children who have been abused or may have witnessed a violent incident. The CAC advocates on the children’s behalf to reduce trauma and to provide resources needed to help them begin the healing process. Since the CAC has opened, the organization has conducted over 80 interviews of child victims. Numerous arrests have been made as a result of these interviews.

The CAC is a collaboration of the Calvert County State’s Attorney’s Office, the Calvert County Sheriff’s Office, Maryland State Police, Calvert County Department of Social Services, and the Calvert County Health Department Crisis Intervention Center.

The CAC Board of Directors would like to extend a thank you to everyone that has worked to make the first year a success.

Press Release from CAC

Chesapeake Biological Lab Receives Donation
To Support Research, Graduate Students

The JES Avanti Foundation has made donations to the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL) to support field and laboratory work. “We are pleased to support CBL and their important work,” said Foundation president James Sanders. “Much of their work aligns with our mission in support of wildlife conservation, ecology and natural resource management.”

CBL Assistant Professor Dr. Ryan Woodland accepted a donation in support of research on Hawksbill turtles and an internship program. Dr. Hali Kilbourne accepted a donation for her research on coral. “We are honored by the generosity of the JES Avanti Foundation,” said Dr. Woodland.

Maryland is unique to have a public university devoted entirely to scientific discovery and education of the environment. With locations across the state, from the Appalachian Laboratory in Frostburg to the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons to the Horn Point Laboratory in Cambridge to the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology in Baltimore, UMCES researchers study multiple ecosystems and provide expertise in blue crab management, studies on striped bass, menhaden and sturgeon, dredge material management, the reduction of introduced species and understanding energy sources and their impacts. By collaborating with colleagues and providing institutional support to policymakers, UMCES scientists and graduate students are rising to the challenge of understanding the regional effects of climate change and charting a path to a more sustainable future.

Press Release from CBL

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Small Businesses, Big Challenges
Fighting to Compete with Online

By Dick Myers
Editor

Small Business Saturday has come and gone but those small businesses are there for us every day of the year, providing the goods and services communities like Calvert County need to thrive and in turn supporting the good causes that all communities need to survive.

According to American Express, the founder of Small Business Saturday, “Every time you pick up a coffee at your local café, grab lunch at the mom-and-pop shop, or buy a new bag from a local store, you’re making an impact in your community. In fact, for every dollar spent at a small business in the U.S., approximately 67 cents stays in the local community.”

The Small Business Association estimates there are more than 30 million small businesses, defined as those with fewer than 500 employees.

The 2018 Small Business Saturday Insights Survey showed that 94 percent of consumers appreciate what small businesses can do for the local community and 91 percent believe that it is more important than ever to shop or patronize local small business. On slow days many small businesses wonder where all those people are.

The truth of the matter is that many of those small business supporters are shopping at what has proven to be the double-whammy competitive challenge for the nation’s small businesses – big box stores and online.

Like all her small business colleagues, Mary Beth Gates, owner of Pepper’s Pet Pantry in Solomons, continues to struggle to survive amidst that competition.

Of the internet, she said, “It’s absolutely my biggest challenge. I understand the convenience. I do, but I also understand that it’s hard to run a business when people stop coming and buying from me. People have asked me why I don’t start a delivery service. Well, there’s a lot of reasons I won’t and a lot of it is financial. But I just see a lot of people that are just sitting at their computers ordering things instead of coming out and getting greeted. We have people that will come in here and pick our brains about foods and then just walk out the door and chances are good they’re going home and typing it into Chewy or Amazon.”

“I just think it’s a convenience. Somebody sits there and they hit a button and they hit another button and all of a sudden, it’s being shipped to their house. They come home and it’s sitting on their front doorstep.”

They do make some deliveries “to some of our elderly customers. We deliver it to the boats, to the marinas.

Ironically, Gates business started on the internet. “I started this business in Southern California in 2002 as baking organic dog biscuits for a little dog that came into my life from the desert. Pepper was a little mixed breed. “She was very sweet; she kind of changed my life because I had never had a dog before.”

What happened was “she was being chased by some kids with a remote-control car coming up the street. So, I called her into my garage because I thought that they were not being very nice to her. And the rest is history.”

Pepper lived a good long life, long enough to see Gates open her first brick-and-mortar store in Solomons in a strip shopping center south of her current location behind the CVS in Solomons Town Center. She now has a store cat named Cheyenne.

But before moving to Calvert with her husband’s transfer to Patuxent River Naval Air Station, the dog biscuit business had evolved intro selling on the internet “purses with dog pictures on them,” which I call dorky dog purses.

She explained, “I was carrying a purse that had a dog on it and people kept trying to buy the purse from me. So, I thought, well, there’s a market for this. And I went to a place in Los Angeles and found all these purses and that was on the internet for several years.”

She observed though, “Even when I started on the internet, it was a lot different than it is now. It’s overwhelming now. The products that you can get on the internet that weren’t around back then.” Her idea for the handbags, which was unique then, now proliferates online.

When she moved to the area, she started operating out of a consignment shop in the Wildwood Shopping Center in St. Mary’s County called Sassafras Hill. After a couple of years there, in 2007, she said, “I realized that I liked working with the public and that encouraged me to open a store.”

Over time she has adapted, at her original and current location, to keep up with the competition from the big box stores in the area. She said, “I’m selling a lot more foods and I have a lot more space as well. But I had really built my clientele up. To this day we still have a lot of people that have been coming to us all these years.”

She added, “I also have a lot more freedom here. When I was next to the veterinarian down there, they dictated to the landlord what I could carry and what I could not because they didn’t want me competing with them.”

One of the big changes with the new location was the adding of dog washing space for the customers. “I was on an internet group with some other people that had dog washes. So, I had a lot of information available to me. The dog wash has been very successful.”

Small pet stores across the country are closing because of the big box stores, she said. “They get pricing that I can never get because they buy in such huge quantities. People often comment that I’m more expensive than some of the big box stores. But then I get just as many comments that I’m cheaper. I don’t know. I don’t go in those stores.”

She explained, though, “We have frequent buyer programs for almost every single food we carry. We often have coupons and do everything we can to keep people coming back. But sometimes the big box store is just more convenient.”

She also observed, “There are some products I would say that I carry that you’re not going to find in some of the other stores, especially some American made products that I special order. However, as the pet industry has changed so much since I started, you can buy so much of the stuff I sell now in the grocery store that was never available before.”

“Food keeps people coming back regularly,” she said, but she added some manufacturers who swore they would never supply grocery stores or big boxes are now doing so. She was asked if there was anything the county or government in general could do to help small businesses. She answered, “You can’t tell people how to spend their money. The bottom line is, the government can try to interfere all they want, but you can’t tell people where to go.”

Gates is a perfect example of a small business committed to giving back to the community. She regularly provides space in her store for rescue groups to hold adoption events. Her next one is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 14, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The rescue groups in turn have been supportive of the store, sending out emails encouraging their members to support her as she has supported them.

She said, “People have no idea how generous I really am. I don’t feel the need to brag about it.” When encouraged to do so, she added, “I do support a lot of rescues with private donations. We collect food, we collect our ripped bags and they always go to the rescues. I support the Spot Thrift Shop (in St. Leonard) who provide money for spaying and neutering and helping dogs that need surgery.”

So, she is concerned about the survival of small businesses. “It’s going to go away. Small mom and pop shops like me will not be around in five years. You know, there are exceptions like with dog groomers, liquor stores, but businesses like mine and little gift shops and things like that, I predict that there won’t be any around in five years and people are going to say, well, why? You know, I used to have 12 people on my payroll. Same store hours, I currently have seven. All my people that work for me live in Calvert County. They all shop in Calvert County. None of them shop on the internet that I know of.”

“But it’s getting harder and harder to stay in business.”

dickmyers@countytimes.net
The Calvert County Times

Find upcoming events at ChooseCalvert.com.

Solomons has many great reasons for you to join us for a Saturday in 2020. Events such as the 2 Taste of Solomons on Saturday, March 21st & September 26th, Saturday, 4th of July Fireworks, and Christmas Walk, Saturday, December 5th. Make a weekend of it and relax at one of our hotels or bed & breakfasts. Enjoy our restaurants on the waterfront serving fresh local seafood. Check out our art galleries, shops, and museums. Catch local music concerts or have drinks at one of our bars.

For further details visit our website; http://www.choosecalvert.com

Saturdays in Solomons
All our events fall on a Saturday in 2020!
Solomons has many great reasons for you to join us for a Saturday in 2020.
Events such as the 2 Taste of Solomons on Saturday, March 21st & September 26th, Saturday, 4th of July Fireworks, and Christmas Walk, Saturday, December 5th.

Make a weekend of it and relax at one of our hotels or bed & breakfasts. Enjoy our restaurants on the waterfront serving fresh local seafood. Check out our art galleries, shops, and museums. Catch local music concerts or have drinks at one of our bars.

For further details visit our website; http://www.choosecalvert.com

2. Ammari’s Sculpture Garden & Arts Center - 15470 Dowell Rd, Dowell. Garden in Lights - Nov 29 - Jan 1 2020 (6:00-9:00 nightly) 12th Annual Ornament Show & Sale - Till Jan 1 2020, When Darkness Falls: Night Explorations - Till - Jan 29 2020, 1st Responder Appreciation Night - Dec 4, 2019 (6:00-9:00 pm), Wine & Lights Night - Dec. 12, (6:30 pm-8:30 pm) www.ammariagearden.org
4. Sail Solomons - 245 C St, Solomons. Organizer of the Lighted Boat Parade
5. Safs Harbor Restaurant - 245 C St, Solomons. Yachting Center.
6. Our Lady Star of the Sea Church & School - 14400 Solomons Island Road, Solomons. Live music 5pm - 7pm, Open house.
8. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices McNelis Group Properties - 14488 Solomons Island Rd, Solomons. 5:30pm Hailing of fresh popcorn and warm beverages. www.mcnelisgroup.com
9. Southern Maryland Sailing Association - 14490 Solomons Island Rd, Sat, 5pm - 9pm. Open House and Kid’s Boat Building. Refreshments and free sailboats to kids age 12 and under. Kids build and color boats, then sail them in our sailing pool www.smssa.com
11. Harmon House - Equinox - 14560 Solomons Island Rd, Solomons
13. UMCES Chesapeake Biological Laboratory - Visitors Center, 200 Ferren Ave, Solomons. Hot chocolate, light snacks, and a great view of the lighted boat parade. Open Thursday only from 9:30am - 8:00pm. https://www.umces.edu/cbl
14. Calvert County Department of Economic Development - 205 Main St, Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Bring the whole family for activities & fun during Solomons Christmas Walk!

December 7 | 6 - 9 PM
(410) 326-2042 CALVERTMARINEMUSEUM.COM

Visit Solomons...

...stay a while

Address: 14618 Solomons Island Rd S, Solomons, MD 20688
Phone 410-326-8469

Open for breakfast and dinner, the Garden Grille & Bar boasts a variety of delicious offering available to enjoy in the restaurant area or for room service.

Our beautiful Calvert Ballroom includes up to 3600 square foot of divisible space making it the perfect place for your wedding, reception, rehearsal, or brunch. Ask about our catering menu!

Visit Solomons…

GUESTROOMS Each of our 100 guestrooms feature a refrigerator, microwave, and Keurig, plus an HDTV, and either one king or two queen beds; suites and whirlpool rooms available also.

AMENITIES The Hilton Garden Inn has an indoor pool and seasonal outdoor pool, complimentary WIFI, 24 hour business center, self service laundry, fitness center, and more.

Call the sales director and mention this ad for a discount!

13100 Dowell Road | Dowell, MD 20629
410-326-0303 | solomons.HGI.com

The Calvert County Times
Thursday, December 5, 2019

Bring the whole family for activities & fun during Solomons Christmas Walk!

December 7 | 6 - 9 PM
(410) 326-2042 CALVERTMARINEMUSEUM.COM

Celebrating Solomons 35th Christmas Walk

Christmas Walk Program 2019
See whole program on our website
www.solomonsmaryland.com/events/signature-events/solomons-christmas-walk/

Christmas Walk - Stroll through our streets lit with luminaries as you enjoy the sights and the sounds of the season. Enjoy our Solomons Riverwalk festooned with special Christmas lights and our decorated Christmas Tree. Visit with Santa, watch a beautifully decorated lighted Christmas boat parade! It's open house at many of our businesses.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
12:00pm ~ Decorating of Community Tree in Solomons Gazebo – Bring your craft bauble.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
5:00pm onwards Patuxent High School Jazz Band performing Christmas Music at Solomons Riverwalk
6:30pm to 8:30pm ~ Santa delivered to Solomons gazebo by SVRFD. Tree Lighting Ceremony with Santa. Children visit with Santa till 8:30pm
6:30pm approx. ~ Lighted Boat Parade starts at Back Creek & is at the Riverwalk by 7pm.

Solomons Business Association would sincerely like to thank the following: County Times Newspapers - Calvert & St Mary's Editions | Barefoot Graphics | Calvert County Economic Development | Chesapeake Bounty | Kingfisher's Restaurant | Boy Scout Troop 427 | Early Bird Home Services | Solomons Volunteer Rescue Fire Department | Jeff Carlson & Saul Solomons, Solomons Island Yacht Club, Solomons Yachting Center, Patuxent River Sail & Power Squadron, Zehnder's Yachting Center, and all our volunteers without whom this would not be possible, especially our Santa, Rich Harris.

Christmas Walk Organized by Solomons Business Association
ALL monies received go to cover our July 4TH FIREWORKS!
CHRISTMAS STUFFED HAMS FOR SALE NOW!
Order Your Stuffed Hams by December 19th

By the Pound, Half or Whole Hams Available!

LOCATED IN OLD DOWNTOWN LEXINGTON
PARK OUTSIDE BASE GATE 2 PAY NAS
MON. - FRI. 6 A.M. - 8 P.M.
SAT. 7 A.M. - 2 P.M. • SUN. 8 A.M. - 2 P.M.
301-862-3544

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE UNTIL 2 P.M.

GIVE THE GIFT OF PIZZA THIS HOLIDAY

41565 PARK AVENUE • LEONARDTOWN • MD 20650

Coffee • Espresso • Smoothies • Breakfast • Lunch
Happy Hour • Craft Cocktails • Small Plates
41658 Fenwick St. • Leonardtown • MD • 301-475-2400
The Chaney Enterprises Foundation Fund awarded the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) $25,000 in scholarships for students who want to enter the workforce as pre-apprentices or earn a certified Commercial Driver’s License (CDL). To support this effort, a CSM Chaney Enterprises Workforce Pathway Program has been established that will map out the student’s course of study upon completion of their apprenticeship to help guide their career path and employment possibilities.

“Your efforts are well-placed and our community is well-served by your commitment to student success, our communities and the region’s economic development,” shared Chaney Enterprises Director Bill Childs when presenting the check to CSM leadership at the Regional Hughesville Campus, Center for Trades and Energy Training. “CSM has done a fine job of serving the students in the Southern Maryland region.”

Childs also praised CSM’s Center for Transportation for “opening up a whole new world” for the region with its outstanding transportation curriculum. CSM recently reported that the need for truck drivers with Commercial Driver’s Licenses (CDL) in Southern Maryland and beyond is loud and clear at the CSM. Enrollment is steady, but more than that, employers are knocking on the doors of CSM students.

“Our transportation center would not have happened without our long history with Chaney Enterprises and their incredible generosity,” offered CSM President Dr. Maureen Murphy at the July check presentation. “We remain grateful for our partnership.”

“The average person in Charles County earned $38,000 in 2017;” Childs said. “And the average salary of an employee at Chaney is about $72,900 – that’s about 80 percent above the local average. We are able to offer that competitive salary because of the education CSM provides to our employees. A solid education is the backbone of our success.”

To help focus students as they begin their coursework at CSM, the college’s 92 programs were placed within six program clusters earlier this year. Called ‘Guided Pathways,’ this approach helps simplify the process for students to identify the credit or non-credit program that’s right for them by grouping similar programs.

The six pathways include: art and humanities; business and information systems; education and public service; health; science, technology, engineering and math; and, trades, transportation and energy.

To learn more about CTET and the various pathways and certificates available for skilled trades, or additional information, call 301-539-4733 or 301-539-4370. To learn more about the scholarships, contact the CSM Foundation at 301-934-7649.

Press Release from CSM
Fun & Games

CLUES ACROSS
1. Egyptian bull-god
2. Superhero group
3. Small, rich sponge cake
4. Power to perceive
5. Israel's first permanent UN delegate
6. Everything
7. Afflicted
8. Language spoken in Chad
9. Pioneering MC Kool Moe __
10. Jewish spiritual leader
11. Veterans offensive
12. Netanyahu's predecessor
13. Popular (slang)
14. Himalayas
15. Computer memory
16. Where golfers begin achieving
17. Expression of sorrow
18. Adult
19. Type of degree
20. A hand has one
21. Female reproductive cells
22. North and South are two
23. Body part
24. Succeed in
25. Everything
26. Computer memory
27. Scottish island
28. Midway between north and northeast
29. Quiet and rather dull
30. Adjusted
31. Vietnamese offensive
32. Nazi architect
33. Acknowledgment
34. Evergreen tree
35. What engaged couples
36. Barbie's friend
37. Commercials
38. Cash dispenser
39. Necessary for
40. Showed up
41. Transferred to
42. Type of milk
43. Superhero group
44. Verandas
45. Photographers
46. Behind the stern of a ship
47. Supernatural force
48. Plant genus
49. Israeli politician
50. Type of sword
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. "Luther" actor Idris
54. Annoyingly talkative
55. "Sin City" actress
56. Everything
57. Afflicted
58. Criticize
59. Language spoken in Chad
60. Pioneering MC Kool Moe __
61. Spiritual leader
62. Keyboard key
63. Tooth caregiver
64. Cheek
3. Large, predatory lizard
4. River in Romania
5. Biased
6. Parties
7. TV's used to need one
8. Philly football player
9. Recognized ethnic group of China
10. Gradually disappear
11. Reagan's Deputy AG
12. Large, dark antelope
13. Negative
14. Mother of Hermes
15. Summer and Winter Olympics gold medal winner
16. In shape
17. Oh my goodness!
18. People of Guinea or Sierra Leone
19. Takes the energy out of
20. A form of "to be"
21. Supporters
22. Estranges
23. Body part
24. Succeed in
25. Everything
26. Computer memory
27. Impartiality
28. Midway between north and northeast
29. Quiet and rather dull
30. Adjusted
31. Vietnamese offensive
32. Nazi architect
33. Acknowledgment
34. Evergreen tree
35. What engaged couples
36. Barbie's friend
37. Commercials
38. Cash dispenser
39. Necessary for
40. Showed up
41. Insecticide
42. Type of milk
43. Superhero group
44. Verandas
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47. Supernatural force
48. Plant genus
49. Israeli politician
50. Type of sword
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. "Luther" actor Idris
54. Annoyingly talkative
55. "Sin City" actress
56. Everything
57. Afflicted
58. Criticize
59. Language spoken in Chad
60. Pioneering MC Kool Moe __
61. Spiritual leader
62. Keyboard key
63. Tooth caregiver
64. Cheek

CLUES DOWN
1. Type of degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, predatory lizard
4. River in Romania
5. Biased
6. Parties
7. TV's used to need one
8. Philly football player
9. Recognized ethnic group of China
10. Gradually disappear
11. Reagan's Deputy AG
12. Large, dark antelope
13. Negative
14. Mother of Hermes
15. Summer and Winter Olympics gold medal winner
16. In shape
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61. Spiritual leader
62. Keyboard key
63. Tooth caregiver
64. Cheek

What's the Difference?
There are four things different between Picture A & Picture B. Can you find them all?

A
B

Pet of the Week
Meet Tobias

Tobias has been anxiously awaiting that joyous ride to his new forever home! He loves attention and being petted. Honestly, we are not sure why this handsome guy is still here! Anyone would be lucky to have Tobias at their side! If you’re interested in adopting Tobias, stop by today and meet with him! As Pet of the Week his adoption fee has been waived for all qualified adopters!

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter is located at 5055 Hallowing Point Road in Prince Frederick. We are open for adoptions Tuesday through Saturday. For more information about this week’s Pet of the Week or any of our other adoptable pets please check out our website www.calvertcountyanimalshelter.com or give us a call at 410-535-PETS (7387). Please follow us on our Facebook page @Calvert County Animal Shelter & Instagram @CalvertCountyAnimalShelter.
CSM’s Ruble Named President of Athletic Alliance

The College of Southern Maryland’s Executive Director of Student Life and Athletics Michelle Ruble has been named the president of the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA). Ruble has played a pivotal role in putting CSM’s athletes and athletic programs at the top of the leader boards in the region, state and beyond – since joining the CSM team 18 years ago.

Ruble said she is thrilled and honored to accept the appointment as NATYCAA. Established in 1987, NATYCAA is the only professional organization that represents all two year institutions of higher education in the United States.

“It will certainly be an honor to lead this organization and assist in the collaborative efforts at all levels,” said Ruble, in a recent NATYCAA press release. “This network provides so many opportunities to develop in our field, and I look forward to learning more about leadership and athletics business from my distinguished predecessors and colleagues. The NATYCAA Officers and Executive Committee remain dedicated to providing professional development for athletics directors at two-year colleges.”

This is a dynamic organization,” Ruble added. “NATYCAA shares information and learns about whatever is emerging in our business, from mental health to athletic training to Title IV to leadership skills. Our roundtables for best practices and shared ideas is really enlightening and powerful. As is any additional networking among the colleges, this experience is highly beneficial.”

According to the release, Ruble replaced 2018-19 President Doug Spiwak, director of athletics at Harper College, who will transition to immediate past president. Serving alongside Ruble are: 1st Vice President Joe Jennum, director of athletics, Mt. San Antonio College; 2nd Vice President Rob Chaney, director of athletics, Tallahassee Community College; and Vice President Kevin Salisbury, interim director of athletics at the Community College of Rhode Island; Secretary Tammy Davis, director of athletics, Western Texas College; and Treasurer Gary Broadhurst, director of athletics, Mohawk Valley Community College.

Before her NATYCAA appointment, Ruble served in leadership positions in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), chairing various committees and was named Women’s 2nd Vice President in July 2014. She was named the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Under Armour Director of the Year in 2015; Maryland Junior College Athletic Conference (MDJUCO) Athletic Director of the Year in 2003; and MDJUCO Conference Sportsman of the Year in 2008 and 2012.

Woman of Steel

Taking on these leadership roles has been a natural fit for Ruble. However, there are many things about Ruble’s path through life that were not always clear in the moment. For instance, when she first graduated college in 1989, her first job was at a sheet metal business. “My father had worked there and they needed office help over a winter break from college,” Ruble said. “So when I graduated, I went back expecting to work there a short time to help them out. I ended up working there 12 years.”

During that time, though, she was also playing on a nationally ranked USAV women’s travel volleyball team. She said that one of her teammates was also the CSM volleyball coach at the time, and she recruited Ruble to help with summer camps at the college. That first summer camp led to coaching the team in the evenings while working full time at the sheet metal business during the day. Coaching led to Ruble working full time at CSM in January 2001 – first as athletic coordinator, then as athletic director and then executive director of Student Life and Athletics.

In her role as executive director of Student Life and Athletics, Ruble – a longtime resident of Southern Maryland – oversees CSM’s cocurricular and extracurricular programming by supporting and promoting student clubs, student government, athletics and student leadership development programs and activities. She has also been active with state, regional and several national organizations as part of her commitment to advance CSM students.

“Michelle is a leader who leads by example,” said CSM Assistant Athletic Director Sarah Williams. “What I mean by that is, over the nine years I have been assistant athletic director, I have been able to watch how she leads and communicates with our coaches and athletes. She creates a positive athletic culture in our programs because she truly cares.”

Williams said Ruble takes the time to understand every sport the college offers, and gets to know the coaches and athletes, as well. “She dedicates time to giving back to our local high school athletic programs and takes time out of her schedule to meet with student athletes to talk about what they want to do or accomplish after their time here at CSM,” Williams said.

Ruble shared that all of her many professional titles, her most important title is that of ‘mom.’ Her daughter Devin was on the La Plata High School volleyball and softball teams that made huge strides in the state, becoming a major competitor in Maryland athletics. Ruble’s son, Brock, just signed to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the 2019 NFL Draft.

Press Release from CSM

Five Seahawks Capture All-CAC Honors

Balogun Named Offensive Player of the Year

The St. Mary’s College of Maryland men’s soccer team matched a program-record for the fourth-straight year with five All-Capital Athletic Conference selections, the league announced today (Nov. 8). The Seahawks picked up four first-team selections for the third consecutive year. In addition, Khalid Balogun was named the CAC Offensive Player of the Year.

Seniors Balogun, Anoi Hindle, Josh McBrobie, and junior Roshawn Panton all gained a spot on the first team while senior Andrew Kalinoski picked up a second-team award.

Balogun closes out his impressive Seahawks career as a four-time all-conference pick, earning first-team awards each of the last three seasons. In addition, Balogun was named the Rookie of the Year in 2016 to go along with his Offensive Player of the Year award that he earned this season. The 6-4 forward led the team and the CAC in points with 36, and goals with 16. Lastly, the Bowie, Maryland native was named the CAC Offensive Player of the Week three times this season.

Hindle had an excellent season from the midfield position and earned his first-ever all-conference award. The Huntingtown, Maryland native tallied two goals and two assists for a total of six points this year. Additionally, Hindle recorded game-winning goals against Bridewater and Southern Virginia.

McRobie captured his second consecutive first-team selection with his performance this season. The 6-0 forward was second in the conference with 10 goals and 26 points. The Crofton, Maryland native led the Seahawks with six assists, which was good for second in the CAC.

McRobie was named the CAC Offensive Player of the Week on Oct. 7 and tallied two-game winning goals this year.

Panton proved to be a dangerous scoring threat once again and was selected to his second-straight All-CAC First Team. The 5-7 forward notched 10 goals and two assists for a total of 22 points. His total in points was third on the team and third in the CAC, while his mark in goals was second on the team and the conference. The Bowie, Maryland native was also named the CAC Offensive Player of the Week on Oct. 28.

Kalinoski was a pivotal piece to a stout defensive unit for the Seahawks and earned his second consecutive Second Team selection. The Seahawk defense only allowed 1.42 goals per game and surrendered just 29 goals all year under Kalinoski’s leadership. The Lusby, Maryland native also contributed on the offensive end with one goal.

The Seahawks finished their 2019 campaign with a 12-6-2 (5-4-1 CAC) overall record and earned the third seed in the 2019 CAC Tournament.

Press Release from SMC
In Remembrance

Edward Jeffrey Clark

Edward Jeffrey Clark, 68, of Huntingtown, MD passed away on December 2, 2019 in Baltimore, MD.

Visitation will be Friday, December 6, 2019, 10-11 a.m. at Christ Church-Port Republic, 3100 Brooms Island Road, Port Republic, MD 20676. Funeral service will follow at 11 a.m. at the church.

Funeral arrangements were made by Rausch Funeral Home.

Laura King Marchand

Laura King Marchand passed away on December 1, 2019, as was 93. Laura was born in Prince Frederick, Maryland on August 29, 1926 to the late Ethel and James King. She was preceded in death by her husband James Marchand in 1976, and her granddaughter Cheri Anne Tarr in 1994, as well as her seven brothers and sisters: Anne V. Roming, Milton O. King, James J. King, Ethel B. Bowen, Robert L. King, Lillian C. Wilhelm, and Hellen I. Weber. After graduating from high school Laura moved to Baltimore to live with her sister and found her first job as a Teletype Operator for Western Union during WW II. During Laura’s lifetime she worked as the Acting Editor of the Calvert Journal Gazette and for many years she was the Office Manager at Climatemakers of Maryland, until her retirement in 1991.

Laura was always very active member of her community and her church, which was St. Paul’s Episcopal, where she was a member of the Altar Guild and the choir. Laura was also always up for the task and the hard work of the church’s annual Christmas Bazaar. During later years, Laura became a volunteer at Calvert Memorial Hospital, where she worked in their gift shop. She loved this job and adored the other volunteers with whom she worked. She volunteered there faithfully every week for years until she could no longer drive and had to unwillingly give up her position. Laura is survived by her daughter Marilyn Tarr, son-in-law Buddy Tarr, granddaughter Tonya Aguilar and husband Will Aguilar, three great-granddaughters, Kaitlyn, Hannah and Paige, one great-grandson Dominic and many nieces and nephews. Laura’s favorite pastime was being with her family, spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, watching them grow up and being very active in their lives.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 25 Church Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

Funeral arrangements were made by Rausch Funeral Home.

Mary Virginia McGovern

Mary Virginia McGovern, 91, of Huntingtown passed away November 30, 2019 at her residence surrounded by her family. She was born January 29, 1928 in Baltimore to Howard S. and Gladys M. (Barnes) Hamann. Virginia was raised in Baltimore. She married John “Jack” McGovern on July 13, 1946 and they lived in Forestville for many years before moving to Neelel Estate in Huntingtown. She was a school teacher at Mt. Calvary in Forestville. Virginia was active in the community, she was a member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church and in her spare time she enjoyed baking pound cakes and chocolate chip cookies, crocheting, making blankets, traveling, and drinking margaritas on the rocks with salt.


Visitation will be on Saturday, December 7, 2019, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Emmanuel United, Methodist Church, P.O. Box 484, Huntingtown, MD 20639. Funeral service will follow at 1 p.m. at the church.

Burial will be at Southern Memorial Gardens, 10155 Ward Road, Dunkirk, MD 20754.

Memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel UM Church PO Box 484, Huntingtown, MD 20639, 410-535-3177; Link: http://eumchuntingtown.org Funeral arrangements were made by Rausch Funeral Home.

Helen V. Hardy

Helen V. Hardy, 95, of Clinton, MD passed this life on November 28, 2019 at the Assisted Living in Dunkirk, MD after a long struggle with Alzheimer’s. Helen was born in Yorkville, Ohio on July 11, 1924 the daughter of Chester and Alexandra Kosikowski. She graduated from Yorkville High School in 1941 and came to Washington D.C. to pursue a career with the Government. She worked for the IRS, Govt. Printing Office and after 38 years retired from the Treasury Dept.

She married George E. Hardy in 1945 and had 4 children. In 1960 she moved to Clinton, MD where she resided until 2009. Helen loved her family immensely and was proud of all their talents and accomplishments. She will be most remembered for her unconditional love and support of her family, her many acts of kindness, her words of advice and her faith.

The one thing she loved so much was being able to polka dance, and Blobs Park was a place she spent many happy hours dancing.

Helen is survived by her 3 children Kathleen Cooke of Chesapeake Beach, MD, George Hardy (Peggy) of Clifton, VA, and Stephanie Hynes of Prince Frederick, MD. Grandchildren Michele Walker, Pamela Corrdean, John Cooke, Kimberly Marr, Eric Hynes, Ashley and Heidi Allahiari, Michael Hynes, Autumn Beyer, April Peterson; great-grandchildren Claudia Killерlane, Jessica and Michael Wise, Madaly, Mary, and Samuel Beyer, Bryce Peterson, Elias, Emma, and Alexander Marr; great-great-grandchild L. J. Nocente, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband George, son Robert J., parents Chester and Alexandria Kosikowski, sisters Florence Devault and Vivian Moore, brothers Thomas and Morris Kosikowski, and great-granddaughter Erica Killerlane.

The family would like to thank all of the staff at Calvert Hospice and Yellowbank Assisted Living, who provided excellent care for her during her final days.

Mass of Christian Burial will be Thursday, December 5, 2019, 10 a.m. at St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, 8816 Chesapeake Avenue, North Beach, MD 20714.

Burial will be at Resurrection Cemetery, 8000 Woodward Road, Clinton, MD 20735.

Memorial contributions may be made to Alzheimer’s Association, National Capital Area Chapter, 8188 Greensboro
Phyllis Marian Skinner Johnson, 95, passed away on November 25, 2019. A Calvert County native, Phyllis was born on March 21, 1924 in Port Republic. Phyllis graduated from Calvert County High School in 1941 at the age of 17. She received a Maryland State Senatorial Scholarship and attended the University of Maryland and graduated in 1944 with a BA degree in English and a Biological Science Minor. She started teaching English at Bladensburg High School, in Prince George’s County in the Fall of 1944. She married a fellow teacher, Albert Johnson in 1953 and they lived in Prince George’s County. A daughter, Allyn Jaye, was born in 1957 and a son, Philip Skinner was born in 1960. Phyllis received her MA Degree in Secondary School Counseling in 1966 from The George Washington University. She was a school counselor in a number of Prince George’s County high schools for almost twenty years, and she retired from Parkdale High School in 1979. When she retired, she returned to Calvert County to resume some of the farming activities that she had grown to enjoy and respect as a child. She enjoyed raising a large vegetable garden, cutting many acres of grass on her riding lawnmowers, tending to 20 head of beef cattle, growing crops (corn and hay) and spending time with family. At the age of 80, Phyllis wrote and published her first book, Calvet’s Gold. She continued writing and published three more books. Phyllis has always been an advocate for the environment. She loved Calvert County and through the years, she tried to call attention to and prevent the abuse of good farmland by utilities, some state agencies, and developers. In the 1970’s, she co-chaired The Concerned Citizens Association of Mutual that fought utilities and preserved farmland. Her efforts continued through her retired years with writing many letters to the editors of various newspapers, gathering signatures on petitions, writing letters to agencies and public officials, speaking at public forums and organizing citizen groups.

Phyllis is survived by her children Allyson Sigler and Philip Johnson, her grandchildren, Jessica Sigler Berens and John Muelbe Sigler, and her great-granddaughter, Isla James Berens. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews that she helped through the years and loved dearly. Phyllis was preceded in death by her siblings, Mildred Dorsey Maguire, Doris Elizabeth McCool, Robert Edward Skinner, Charles William Skinner and her parents Jessie Marian Dorsey Skinner and Charles Wesley Skinner. Much love and gratitude is sent to The Hermitage, assisted living in Dowell, Maryland where Phyllis lived for the last two and a half years of her life.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any memorial contributions be made to Christ Church, Port Republic. 3100 Broomes Island Road, Port Republic, MD 20676.

Funeral arrangements were made by Rausch Funeral Home.

Shirley Ann Dixon

Shirley Ann Dixon, 82 of Prince Frederick Maryland passed away November 24, 2019. She was the youngest daughter of Clarence Andrew Lee and Martha Mabel Sembower Lee. She was born May 21, 1937. She was preceded in death by her parents Clarence and Mabel Lee, husband George Dixon, and her sisters Margaret Hancock Stallard and Marian Moreland. She is survived by a daughter, stepdaughter, Brenda Weddind; granddaughter, Ashley Wright; great-granddaughter, Persephony Bates; granddaughter, LeAlyson Wright; great-granddaughter, Annabella Hobbs; step-grandson and nieces, and her companion, Anthony Bresk, along with other family and friends.

She was born in Garrett County, Maryland, then the family moved to Coral Hills, Maryland, where she was raised. Some of her jobs were with Hot Shoppes Cafeteria, Montgomery Ward furniture sales, an instructor for Wendy Ward Modeling and she worked a short time as a real estate broker. In 1976 she married George Dixon. They moved from Clinton Maryland to Prince Frederick Maryland.

She became a lifetime member of the Solomons Island Yacht Club, where George was the commodore and she was the first lady. She enjoyed the friendship and fun with the Yacht Club members. She was proud of her relationship with the members. She was actively involved with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary formerly Solomons Flotilla 23-2 District 5SR. She worked hard and enjoyed life. She loved entertaining which always displayed her flair and elegance. She enjoyed music, playing the piano, singing with family and friends, crocheting, painting and flower gardening. Some of her most enjoyable times were sitting in the swing watching the ducks, geese, and swans. She loved feeding her wild birds even in the middle of a snowfall. She will be missed.

Visitation will be Friday, December 6, 2019, 10-11 a.m. at Rausch Funeral Home–Lusby, 20 American Lane, Lusby, MD 20657. A Celebration of Life will follow at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. In-Limitation will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to Calvert Hospice, P.O. Box 838 Prince Frederick, MD 20678; 410-535-0892; Link: https://calvertshospice.org/

Merle Harris Smith

Merle Harris Smith, 93, of Dowell, MD and formerly of Asheville, NC passed away on November 26, 2019 at the Burnette Calvert Hospice House.

Born November 28, 1926 in Asheville, NC, she was the daughter of the late Benjamin Moses Harris and DeLena Bell (Lacus) Harris.

Merle married James Ray “Smitty” Smith on January 21, 1950 at Full Gospel Church, Prince Frederick, MD. She was an avid quilter, and enjoyed crossword & challenging jigsaw puzzles and Christian/gospel music. She retired from the Archdiocese of Washington and Sears/Kmart Corporation.

Merle is survived by her children, Bill E. Phillips (Elaine), Will E. Carswell (Lorna) and Ray W. Smith (Sharon); seven grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband James Ray “Smitty” Smith, five brothers and four sisters.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.rauschfuneralhomes.com.
**UPCOMING**

**Saturday, December 7th**

**Neverland Christmas Carol**
Long Beach Community Center; 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
From the moment Peter Pan eavesdrops at the Darling’s nursery window and overhears Mrs. Darling reading “A Christmas Carol” to her children, Christmas becomes more spirited than ever before! Come along on this grand holiday adventure as Wendy and her brothers accompany Peter back to Neverland to share the story of Scrooge and teach the Lost Boys the traditions of Christmas. But if you think this sounds like a merry little celebration, well, to paraphrase Ebenezer, “bah humbug!” For while the ever-jealous Tinkerbell sulks at Wendy’s presence, wicked Captain Hook and his zany band of pirates concoct an evil scheme to sabotage the children’s festivities. Now, it’s up to Peter Pan, the Lost Boys, the Darlings, and a comical, Dickens-inspired reenactment to show Hook the error of his ways and ultimately save Christmas in Neverland.
For tickets, visit www.ndctheater.org

**Sunday, December 8th**

**Festival of Lessons & Carols**
Our Lady Star of the Sea Church; 4 p.m.
Rooted in the century-old English choral tradition of A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King’s College, Cambridge, SMYOC’s Festival is an interfaith adaptation of the tradition, an inclusive community celebration of the season in music and the written word. Beginning in daylight and ending after sunset, the service unfolds in the singularly beautiful sanctuary of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church at the Solomons waterfront. Free Admission; donations welcomed. Please email info@smyc.org for more details. www.smyoc.org

**Monday, December 9th**

**Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla Meeting**
Solomons Volunteer Fire Department Hall; 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Please join the United States Coast Guard Flotilla 23-02 in our monthly meeting discussing recreational boating safety, boating education and other topics of a nautical theme. Prospective members are always welcome to stop in and see what we are all about.

**Tuesday, December 10th**

**Sons of the American Legion Meeting**
American Legion Stallings-Williams Post 206; 7 p.m.
The Sons of the American Legion will hold its monthly meeting in the upper-level hall of the post. All members are urged to attend and make their voices heard. For more information, call Commander Ward at 410-610-7217 or visit http://www.MD-post206.org.

**Wednesday, December 11th**

**Children’s Christmas Bingo**
North Beach Fire Department Hall; Chesapeake Beach; 4 p.m.
The North Beach Volunteer Fire Department’s Auxiliary will be sponsoring bingo for children of all ages. Doors will open at 3 p.m. and bingo will begin at 4. Food and refreshments will be provided at an additional cost and no outside food is permitted. Admission is $10.00 per person. Ho! Ho! Hope to see you there!

**Thursday, December 12th**

**Holiday Glasses**
North Beach Fire Department Hall, Chesapeake Beach; 6 p.m.
This paint party is sponsored by the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department’s Auxiliary. There will be door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, painting, food, drinks, and lots of fun! The cost is $40 per person in which a portion of the proceeds will go to the Auxiliary. You will be painting with Debbie Powell, who’s bringing all of the painting supplies for your Awesome picture (on a set of glasses)! Post email (ttbydebbie@comcast.net) with who’s painting to save your spot and she will send you an invoice for payment. You can also pay her at: PayPal.me/ttbydebbie. Please put in notes which location and which painting. She can also be texted at 443-532-6944 or find her on Facebook at ‘Painting with the Powell’s’. No coupons are available for this event. Come join in on the fun!
**Thursday, December 5**

**Book Discussion - (Lotus Cafe)** 6:30-8:00pm. Recurring monthly book discussion held at Lotus Cafe. This month is “A Place for Us,” by Fatima Farheen Mirza. Calvert Library Southern Branch, 13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons, 410-326-5289.

**Friday, December 6**

On Pins & Needles. 1:00-4:00pm. Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting, or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

**JobSource Mobile Career Center**. 1:00-4:00pm. Stop by to visit the JobSource Mobile Career Center for your job search needs! Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. No registration. Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch, 3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach, 410-257-2411.

**Saturday, December 7**

On the Go - American Holiday Festival at Constitution Hall. 6:00-10:30pm. Deck the halls! Kick-off the holiday season with the American Holiday Festival concert performed by the talented musicians of The U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own.” This 90-minute performance at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, DC includes music by The U.S. Army Orchestra, Herald Trumpets, and Army Band vocalists. Charter bus leaves from the Sunderland Park N Ride promptly at 6pm and returns around 10:30pm. $20 bus fee must be paid in cash or check when registering at any Calvert Library. Registration begins Nov. 4. Sorry, no refunds. Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

**Monday, December 9**

Holiday Concert - Sing-along. 7:00-8:30pm. It’s a holiday tradition—Visit the library for a concert and sing-along! Very popular vocalists Emily Bowen Mudd, Nathan Bowen, Jennifer Cooper and Bob Mirza. Calvert Library Southern Branch, 13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons, 410-326-5289.

**Tuesday, December 10**

Flying Needles. 6:00-9:00pm. Knitting, crocheting and portable crafting group open to anyone wanting to join in and share talents, crafting time or learn a new skill. No registration. Calvert Library Southern Branch, 13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons, 410-326-5289.

**Wednesday, December 11**

**DLLR Veteran Assistance.** 9:00-12:30pm. Representative from DLLR Disabled Veteran Outreach Program will be available from 9-11 am to meet with veterans seeking employment. Registration encouraged, but not required. Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

**Tweenterrarium Workshop!** 6:30-8:00pm. Come and put together a glass jar terrarium kit as a gift for a friend, family member, or yourself. We will even make a few polymer clay mushrooms to add. Your recipient will just need to add plants! Please register. Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

**Memoirs & Creative Writing Workshop.** 2:00-3:30pm. Join author and editor Elisavietta Ritchie as she encourages the art of creative memoir writing. Bring 6 double-spaced copies of your work, 500-800 words, to discuss and share with the group. Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

**Song Circle/Jam Session.** 6:30-8:30pm. Singer-musicians trading songs, taking turns in choosing and leading a group of musicians. It’s a sing-along with space for learning from each other and trying new things. A range of playing abilities and experience can be expected. Public is welcome to public is welcome to participate or just observe. Please register. Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

**Thursday, December 12**

Calvert Conversations. 10:00-11:00am. “Meet Up” at Mt. Olive United Methodist Church, 10 Fairground Road, Prince Frederick. Learn the fascinating history of this church. Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch at Mt. Olive United Methodist Church, 10 Fairground Road, Prince Frederick, 410-257-2411.

**Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support.** 7:00-8:30pm. Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Jeanette Findley & JC Hooker. Please register. Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

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**Calvert Pines Senior Center**

Join us and create a festive Crab Shell Ornament for a loved one or to hang on your tree, Monday, December 9, 9:30 a.m. Pre-register by Dec. 6.

**North Beach Senior Center**

All seniors are welcome to join the Fall Into Reading Book Club. The group will have its first meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 11 a.m. Dress in your best Hawaiian style attire for our Luau Christmas Party, Friday, December 13, 11 a.m. Enjoy the musical delights of the 2-4-U Band.

**Southern Pines Senior Center**

Join in on our Open Jam Music Session, Wednesday, December 11, 1 p.m. Enjoy some of your favorite Holiday Tunes. Enjoy our Christmas lunch and dessert as we listen to holiday music by JustUs2, Friday, December 13, 11 a.m. Must pre-register for lunch.

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**Eating Together Menu**

**Monday, Dec. 9**

Egg Salad Sandwich, Lettuce & Tomato, Tossed Salad w/Dressing, Banana

**Tuesday, Dec. 10**

Beef Tips in gravy over Buttered Egg Noodles, Honey Glazed Carrots, Dinner Roll, Citrus Fruit Cup

**Wednesday, Dec. 11**

Lemon Baked Fish, Minestrone

**Soup**

Soup w/Beans, Seasoned Greens, Rice Pilaf, Mandarin Oranges

**Thursday, Dec. 12**

Oven Fried Chicken, Spinach, Wax Beans, Dinner Roll, Rice Pudding w/Raisins

**Friday, Dec. 13**

Honey Mustard Pork Loin, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Stewed Tomatoes, Cauliflower, Dinner Roll, Pear Crisp

Lunches are served to seniors, aged 60-plus, and their spouses through Title XIC of the Older Americans Act. Suggested donation is $3. To make or cancel a reservation call: Calvert Pines Senior Center at 410-535-4606, North Beach Senior Center at 410-257-2419, or Southern Pines Senior Center at 410-386-2748. Lunches are subject to change.
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