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# Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022

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A man with a beard, wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt, is speaking at a wooden podium. He is holding a black microphone in his left hand and has his right hand resting on the podium. In the background, a whiteboard is visible with some handwritten text, including ".com" and "153-00". A sign with the word "ADVANCEMENT" is partially visible on the left. The overall scene appears to be a formal presentation or press conference.

**TOWNSEL'S PLAYBOOK  
HAS BIG PRICE TAG**

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“Ninety-nine percent of those cases will be covered by your health insurance.”  
 County Commissioner President Earl “Buddy” Hance on the new billing system for ambulance services



**LOCAL**  
County aids hospice house



Dr. Andre Townsel and Theresa Jackson, teacher at Northern High School

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU 11/17 49° /28° Periods of sun	MON 11/21 49° /33° Plenty of sunshine
FRI 11/18 50° /30° Sunny much of the time	TUE 11/22 53° /36° Sunny and warmer
SAT 11/19 48° /27° Partly sunny and chilly	WED 11/23 57° /43° Plenty of sunshine
SUN 11/20 44° /26° Sunshine, but chilly	THU 11/24 62° /48° A little afternoon rain

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# School System 'Playbook' Draws Praise, Criticism

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Education in September approved a \$344,000 contract to initiate "The Playbook – School Days with Eric Thomas," who is a motivational speaker. School Superintendent Dr. Andrae Townsel touted the program which is intended for students in the four high schools in need of additional intervention.

Townsel is most recently from a school system in Michigan. Thomas as part of his program took five students from Lansing, MI to the Superbowl.

The program was approved by the school board with little comment and without bid. The decision has drawn a concerned letter from the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

On Nov. 9 they wrote to Dr. Townsel that they had received numerous complaints about spending money "for 50 students to attend the 2023 Super Bowl in Arizona."

They wrote, "We are certain you can understand that this notably large and unbudgeted expense is concerning to the BOCC, particularly when the expense is not being utilized for instruction. As the caretaker of taxpayer funds, we must express our concern regarding the use of public education funds for such an elaborate trip. Further, it is alarming that Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) can do so in the middle of a budget year."

At the Nov. 10 school board meeting, parent Rick Teard chastised the board for approving the expenditure with little comment or explanation. He said, "I think I'm one of the few people that's in the middle on this. I see positives. I also see some negatives."

He added, "When you have a lot of unknowns, people make assumptions and that's what's happening. A lot of assumptions are being made because they don't really know."

Regarding the September decision, he said, "There was only one person asking questions. I have so many questions. Why weren't more people asking questions about this? I hate to say it looked like just a (rubber) stamp."

He added, "You guys had all the information beforehand. So, you knew a lot more than everybody else who's watching from the outside. But that was never conveyed to the parents. We didn't get it. The taxpayers didn't really get it."

Dr. Townsel defended the decision at the meeting. He said, "It does sound bad the way it's presented, the way it's being promoted, and that's not what it is. I want to be clear about it. Calver County Public Schools utilizes a multi-tiered approach to instruction, which includes focusing on academic, social, and emotional wellbeing and behavior. The Playbook program is one of those resources that is being utilized to all of the Calvert County high schools to promote student achievement and help close the learning loss gaps of students who need additional support."

He said, "It is a multilayered literacy and leadership program that would take place throughout the 2023 school year, beginning in November through May. The \$344,000 fees include the cost of the following: in-person motivational speaker series. one held at each high school, totaling over 5,000 students; recording of the kickoff so that students and staff who missed to view it; one in-person staff session for all high school administrators, teachers, and counselors; in person, one-and-a-half-hour sessions for families of the focus student group; four in-person, three-hour sessions for the focus student groups and monthly coaching sessions at each high school for each of the focus group students. The fee covers the Playbook program, speaker, instructor, instructional materials and resources, students' study homework planners, and in-person meeting meals."

He explained, "The visit to the Super Bowl is only offered to students participating in the program who make significant achievement gains. Additionally, that incentive is provided by the vendor at zero cost to the district. That's just a cherry on top of young people that are achieving at high levels."

Board member Pat Nutter, who missed the September meeting at which the vote was taken, is opposed to the idea. "Sometimes it seems like my job is to offend people. I think that's what people think. We've spent

\$344,000 for a motivational speaker. I have no idea who this person is. Educators are great motivators. Parents are great motivators. Sheriff's Department motivates with 'Just Say No' programs. Some people motivate themselves. How this person is worth \$344,000, which could have gone to schoolteachers, counselors, service people, it's beyond me."

Board member Dawn Balinski defended the Playbook program. "We've been spending money targeting certain groups forever. It's been a standard practice. Our priority has been to help every single student graduate fully career or college ready," she said, including special education and gifted and talented students.

Balinski added, "The Playbook is one of our efforts to try new approaches to helping these students. It's a different approach, something that we're not used to seeing or doing, but I have to say, I think different is what is needed here as a school system."

Balinski said she attended sessions at Huntingtown High School and for staff and parents of targeted students and all she saw was positive feedback.

Townsel clarified some of the misunderstandings about the program when he met with the BOCC on Nov. 15. Commissioner President Buddy Hance and Commissioner Steve Weems also met with the superintendent on Nov. 11 and Hance said they came away from the meeting feeling better about the program.

[dickmyers@countytimes.net](mailto:dickmyers@countytimes.net)



Superintendent Dr. Andrae Townsel

# Mail-in Votes Propel Phipps to a 12th Term

## Register of Wills Has Served 45 Years



By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Calvert County Register of Wills Margaret Phipps will be serving her 12th term after capturing the overwhelming amount of write-in votes cast to overcome an election night deficit over Republican challenger Mark Lynch, an attorney.

Phipps was first elected in November of 1978 after serving a year as the appointed Register of Wills, for a total of 45 years in the office. She's the longest serving Register of Wills currently in office.

Phipps garnered 75 percent of the 7,800 mail-ins counted to lead Lynch by 2,454 votes after the mail-in count was concluded on Tuesday, Nov. 15. That was a 53.4 to 46.4 percent margin of victory.

"I am truly very thankful for the support the voters gave me," said the always gracious Phipps.

Phipps during the election touted her personal touch in the office, which often includes attending funerals and meeting with the families in what she describes as one of the most traumatic times in their lives. Lynch ran on a campaign of modernizing the office, although Phipps said she had already led a state-wide effort to do that.

Even though that personal contact could over time translate into voter support in elections, that's not why she does it she says. "I have always had the desire

to help people."

The mail-in count did not appreciably affect any of the other Calvert races in which the local vote majority was otherwise in the GOP camp.

The Calvert County Board of Elections reports there are still 769 provisional ballots to be counted on Nov. 17 and 50 mail-ins had been received that will be counted on Nov. 18.

Overall, as of Wednesday, Nov. 16, there were 36,124 ballots cast for governor, the most of any races. That represents a 53.2 percent turnout of the 67,781 registered voters.

Next month a new majority commissioner board will take office. Mark Cox, Catherine Grasso and Todd Ireland will be joining incumbents Buddy Hance and Mike Hart.

And when the Maryland General Assembly session convenes in January, two newcomers will be joining the Calvert County Delegation. Jeffrie Long bested Del. Rachel Jones in the Democratic primary and was unopposed in the general election. Todd Morgan won the seat now held by Del. Jerry Clark, who did not seek re-election. The delegations two senators, Jack Bailey and Michal Jackson will be returning, as will Del. Mark Fisher.

And Calvert will have a new sheriff. Ricky Cox will replace Mike Evans, who is retiring.

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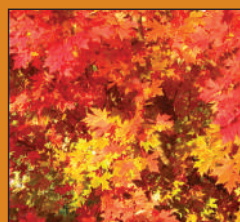
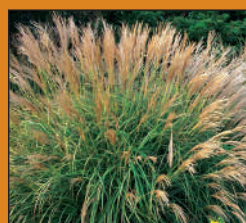
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# County to Begin Charging for Emergency Services Insurance Companies to be Billed

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved a program that will allow costs to be recovered for emergency medical services. Commissioner President Buddy Hance explained at the Nov. 15 BOCC meeting, "There's going to be a bill charged for certain medical services that are provided by our EMS companies in the county. Ninety-nine percent of those cases will be covered by your health insurance."

The commissioners signed off on a Memorandum of Understanding that had been signed by all of the fire, rescue and EMS companies except Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department, Prince Frederick Volunteer Rescue Squad and Calvert Advanced Life Support (CALS).

Public Safety Director Jacqueline Vaughan explained, "On December 22, 2015, each fire, rescue and emergency medical services (EMS) department was sent correspondence from the BOCC stating no department would be permitted to pursue payment to emergency medical service providers or any

cost recovery for emergency medical services without written permission from the BOCC, as this would be discussed in the near future when supplemental career emergency medical service staffing was implemented."

That staffing has been initiated. Vaughn went on to say, "In July 2020, volunteer fire-rescue-EMS representatives were provided a list of questions from various BOCC members concerning emergency medical services billing. On February 2, 2021, volunteer fire-rescue-EMS representatives met with the BOCC to discuss the emergency medical services cost recovery questions."

Commissioner Chris Gadway, who worked on the project, said, "I am extremely happy and delighted to know that with the way that this is being built out, it is going to help recover some of the tax dollars to our citizens to where hopefully there won't be a direct impact to the citizens to buy additional ambulances and stretchers and EMS supplies and stuff like that to where we can start getting some of that money back from the insurance companies in order to help out. We have great volunteer services, we have paid services in the county, and without all of that, none of



this will work."

Calvert is one of the last counties in the state to initiate a cost recovery program.

Under the theory that it takes money to make money, later in the meeting the commissioners approved the hiring of a full-time accountant who will have handling of the new cost recovery program as one of their responsibilities.

Director of Finance and Budget Sharon Strand told the BOCC, "It is anticipated that the cost to administer this Cost Recovery Program will be insignificant relative to the incoming

receipts, but the program requires more than current staffing levels can support. In fact, only five percent of the net revenue is allocated to administration of the program."

Cost for the new position is \$82,810 plus benefits of \$45,546, totaling \$128,356. The impact for this fiscal year will be \$74,874 (7 months).

She said the funding source for the current fiscal year would be higher than budgeted interest income.

[dickmyers@countytimes.net](mailto:dickmyers@countytimes.net)

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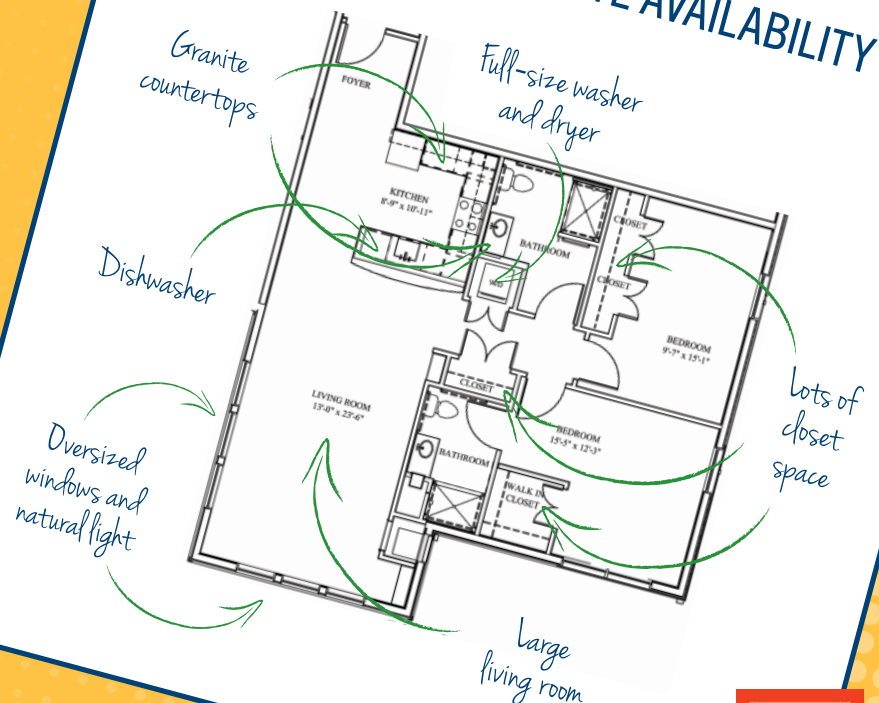
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# School Board Considers Virtual Snow Make-up Days

## Would Use Days Set Aside for Spring Break

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Education is considering taking advantage of a new program that allows snow days to be made up virtually. The Maryland State Board of Education is allowing school systems to make up to eight days virtually, but only up to three of those days can use asynchronous learning.

Director of System and Instructional Performance Jacquelyn Jacobs explained to the school board at their Nov. 10 meeting, “Synchronous learning is that remote learning that happens in real time with interactions between the teacher and students that occurs in a virtual classroom setting, such as Teams. Asynchronous learning occurs online or offline without real time interaction or instruction by an educator.”

The school system provides laptops to all students grades 3-12, but not pre-K-2, so they are unable to ensure synchronous learning to all students in a virtual setting. So, the proposal is to provide a mix of synchronous and asynchronous learning on up to three snow (or other inclement weather) make-up days, the first three days of spring break, April 3-5, 2023. Jacobs said that those three days are already on the school calendar as potential in-person make-up days.

Regarding the state virtual option, Jacobs said, “As school systems consider this pathway, they must develop a plan that addresses equitable virtual instruction that is accessible to all students. Considerations include ensuring access to devices and Wi-Fi and the plan must not negatively impact any employee’s pay, nor should it negatively impact any student’s grade.”

Jacobs explained, “Previously, when Calvert County Public Schools has had inclement weather, these days have been either added to the end of the school year or taken from a previously indicated day off for students such as spring break. Calvert County Public Schools plans to leverage this virtual day opportunity to alleviate the impact of the inclement weather days on the instructional program.”

If the days are needed, she said, “Students, parents, and staff would be notified via school messenger at least three weeks prior

when one or more of these days would be used as a make-up day due to inclement weather. If we have inclement weather that would happen late in the season, we would provide that notification as soon as possible. A third notification would occur on or before March 31st, which is the day before. Those April days would happen where students in grades three through 12 would be directed to take home their system issued devices and students in pre-kindergarten through grade two would be provided an instructional packet. Instructional materials and assignments would be posted on our learning management system, which is Schoology, for students to access and submit work during this time. Students in pre-kindergarten through grade two, in addition to having it posted on Schoology, would receive a packet provided on March 31st.”

Jacobs was asked by board member Inez Claggett why the actual snow or inclement weather day wasn’t used instead for virtual learning.

Jacobs replied, “So, we had a lot of conversations about that and the impact of our decision of looking at the make-up days was really based on if schools were to close tomorrow for inclement weather, we would not necessarily be able to provide our students in pre-kindergarten through grade two that packet before they left, nor would we be able to verify that all students had their devices going home with them before that inclement weather hit. If there was that opportunity where we knew well in advance and we could get them what they needed before they left, that could be an option, but we weren’t able to work through necessarily the logistics of what that would look like so that all students would be prepared and have what they need to be able to participate.”

The proposal will be disseminated for comment before the board finalizes their decision. They will then have to send that decision to the state for final approval.

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## Legal Notice:

### TOWN OF CHESAPEAKE BEACH PUBLIC NOTICE

The Mayor and Town Council will hold a public hearing on the following Ordinances at the November 17, 2022 Town Council Meeting beginning at 6:45 p.m.

Ordinance O-22-12, an ordinance of the Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland amending Chapter 290 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Ordinance O-22-13, an ordinance of the Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland amending the Town of Chesapeake Beach Zoning Map.

The complete Ordinances may be viewed upon request to [shumm@chesapeakebeachmd.gov](mailto:shumm@chesapeakebeachmd.gov) Monday-Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

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# What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their Nov. 16 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick.

1) SPR-2018-286, **Calvert Gateway**, Lot 4R, located at 10825 Town Center Boulevard, Dunkirk, on a 4.3-acre lot, zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed 15,890-square-foot building for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. This project is on private water and sewer. The submittal was accepted December 19, 2018. Agent: Bay Engineering

2) CSPR-138331, **Barstow Convenience Center**, located at 340 Stafford Road, Prince Frederick on three separate parcels consisting of 83.07 acres, Zoned RCD/EC. The project proposes replacement of the existing recycling center with a new facility that includes improved customer parking, vehicular circulation and separating public vehicles from County vehicles. Site utilities will be connected to services currently supplying the existing maintenance building. The submittal was accepted June 23, 2021. Agent: WBCM

3) CSPR-138320, **Calvert Gateway**, Lot 11, Retail Building, located at 10375 Town Center Boulevard, Dunkirk on 2.66 acres, Zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed 10,395-square-foot building for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. This project is on private water and sewer. The submittal was accepted July 28, 2021. Agent: Bay Engineering

4) CSPR-142742, **Magnolia Ridge**, located at the corner of Dares Beach Road and Fox Run Boulevard, Prince Frederick on 31.20 acres, Zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District. Proposed 96 multi-family apartment units and 164 townhouse units with associated site improvements. This project is on public water and sewer. The submittal was accepted October 28, 2021. Agent: Barrett & Associates

5) CSPR-142795, **Calvert Gateway**, Lot 12R, Retail Building 'A', located at 10380 Town Center Boulevard, Dunkirk, on a 4.04-acre lot, zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed 15,493-square-foot building for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. This project is on private water and sewer. The submittal was accepted February 23, 2022. Agent: Bay Engineering

6) CSPR-142807, **STR Gymnastics & Dance**, located at 655 Skinners Turn Road, Owings, on multiple lots totaling 1.9 acres, zoned light industrial (I-1), using private water and sewer. Proposed 10,800-square-foot building for holding classes in gymnastics (7,400sf) and dance (3,400sf). The submitted plan indicates a possible address change due to dual road frontage. The submittal was accepted March 23, 2022. Agent: Wilkerson & Associates

7) CSPR-142755, **Armory Towns**, located at 46 Armory Road, Prince Frederick, on two lots totaling 0.85 acres, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, Old Town Transition District, using public water and sewer. Proposed nine two-story townhomes totaling approximately 7,560 square feet. The submittal was accepted April 27, 2022. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates

8) CSPR-142828, **Magnolia Ridge West**, located at Armory Road and Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, on multiple parcels totaling 24.497 acres, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District. Proposed approximately 91,000 square feet creating 79

townhomes. This project is on public water and sewer. The submittal was accepted April 27, 2022. Agent:

Barrett & Associates

9) CSPR-142842, **Sunset Terrace Condominiums**, Mixed Use, located at 14474 & 14478 South Solomons Island Road, Solomons, on two lots totaling .42 acres, zoned Solomons Town Center. Proposed 19,191-square-foot, three-story building for mixed use: 1,000-square-foot commercial retail space and 18,191-square-foot for eight condominiums with parking and site improvements. This project is on public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted July 27, 2022. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates

10) CSPR-142856, **Solomons Condominiums**, located at 14516 & 14518 South Solomons Island Road, Solomons, on two lots totaling .67 acres, zoned Solomons Town Center. Proposed 34,483-square-foot, four-story building for mixed use: 2,450-square-foot commercial retail space and 32,033 square foot for 13 multi-family condominiums with parking and site improvements. This project is in the Critical Area and on public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted July 27, 2022. Agent: Barrett & Associates

11) CSPR-142881, **Prince Frederick Town Center South, Shopping Plaza**, located on South Solomons Island Road, Prince Frederick, on 115-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Forest District. This project will have private water but will utilize public sewer. Proposed 75,099 square foot of disturbance for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. The concept submittal was accepted September 28, 2022. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates

12) CSPR-142871, **Calvert Hills - Phase II**, located on Calvert Hills Road, Prince Frederick on a 2.33-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Village. This project is proposed for 35 apartment units, served by public water & sewer, to complete the development that started with Calvert Hills - Phase I. The concept submittal was accepted October 26, 2022. Agent: Bay Engineering.

13) CSPR-142896, **Dunkirk Business Center - Lot 3, Flex Space**, located on Keith Lane, Owings on a 1.15-acre parcel, zoned I-1 Light Industrial. Proposed 9,750' one-story building for flex space. The project will have private water and septic. The concept submittal was accepted October 26, 2022. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates

The following Major Subdivision Proposed Project List for Upcoming Review was also submitted at the same meeting.

1) SD-138200, **Wyatt's Ridge**, Lots 1-24, located on Skinners Turn Road in Owings. 24 lots proposed on one parcel, consisting of 100.368 acres. Zoned RCD, Tier III. As this project is in Tier III, a public hearing is required prior to preliminary approval. Submittal accepted December 16, 2020. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates

2) SD-142751, **Armory Square**, Lots 1 & 2, located between North Solomons Island Road and Armory Road, Prince Frederick. Two commercial lots proposed on two parcels, consisting of 12.95 acres. Zoned



Prince Frederick Town Center – Newtown District, Tier I. Submittal accepted December 16, 2020. Agent: Barrett & Associates

3) CSD-2020-090, **Bowen's Pride** Section II, Lots 1-12, located on N. Solomons Island Road in Huntingtown, within one-mile buffer of Prince Frederick Town Center. 12 lots proposed on one parcel, consisting of 34.32 acres. Zoned RCD/FFD, Tier III. As this project is in Tier III, a public hearing is required prior to preliminary approval. Submittal accepted December 16, 2020. Agent: Barrett & Associates

4) SD-142770, **Lusby Villas**, Lot 1, located on Lusby Parkway in Lusby. One commercial lot proposed on one parcel consisting of 24.87 acres, Zoned Lusby Town Center, Village Residential Office District, Tier I. Submittal accepted January 26, 2022. Agent: Barrett & Associates

5) CSD-2021-201, **Saint Pierre Estates**, located at 80 Toye Lane, Prince Frederick, on a 10.27-acre parcel, zoned Residential District and entirely within one mile of the Prince Frederick Town Center. A Private Right-of-Way is proposed for five lots. This submittal was accepted November 17, 2021. Agent: Wilkerson and Associates, Inc.

6) CSD-2022-109, **Armory Towns**, located at 46 Armory Road, Prince Frederick, on two lots totaling 0.85 acres, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, Old Town Transition District, using public water and sewer. Proposed nine two-story townhomes totaling approximately 7,560 square feet. The submittal was accepted April 27, 2022. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates

7) CSD-2022-113, **Magnolia Ridge**, located on Fox Run Boulevard, Prince Frederick, on a 31.29-acre parcel, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District and will be served by public water & sewer. Proposed 164 Townhouse Units and 96 Apartments with a density of 8.3 units per acre. The project proposes 3.04 acres of recreation area and 12.58 acres of open space. This submittal was accepted October 26, 2022. Agent: Barrett & Associates.

Information provided by Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning.

## Grey Beard Stump Grinding



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## CALVERT'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of October 31 – November 6, 2022, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,484 calls for service throughout the community.

### Damaged Property: 22-63240

On October 31, 2022, Deputy Krueger responded to the 8500 block of E Street in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised that sometime between 9 p.m. on Oct. 30 and 8:30 a.m. on Oct. 31, an unknown suspect (s) stabbed two tires on the victim's vehicle, leaving the tires flat. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$300.00.

### Damaged Property: 22-63989

On November 3, 2022, Deputy Huy responded to the 3200 block of Dalrymple Road in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of property destruction. Contact was made with the complainant who advised an unknown suspect (s) caused damage to a window in the rear of the residence. The victim discovered the window pane shattered. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$50.

### Damaged Property: 22-64126

On November 4, 2022, Deputy Daily responded to Aerospace Dynamics located at 10020 Southern Maryland Blvd. in Dunkirk, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised sometime between 5 p.m. on Oct. 28 and 10 a.m. on Nov. 4, an unknown suspect attempted to pry open a door to the business. The estimated value of damaged property is \$500.00.

### Theft: 22-63343

On October 31, 2022, DFC Grierson responded to the 7800 block of Eagle View Drive in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised on the night of Oct. 30, two handicap placards were stolen from two separate vehicles in the driveway of the residence. The total value of stolen property is \$50.00.

### Theft: 22-63252

On October 31, 2022, DFC Kwitowski responded to the 200 block of Shore Acres Way in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The victim advised several Amazon packages were stolen from the residence. The total value of the stolen property is \$732.48.

### ARRESTS

On November 1, 2022, Deputy Hudson responded to Safeway located at 80 W Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, for a disorderly subject. The complainant advised **Marvin Wayne Thomas**, 56 of Prince Frederick, was walking around the store being disorderly, refusing to leave. Thomas had been previously trespassed from the establishment. Thomas was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

On November 2, 2022, Deputy Strong conducted a traffic stop along NB Rt. 4 in the area of Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, for a vehicle swerving all over the roadway nearly striking other vehicles and guardrails. Upon making contact with the driver and sole occupant, **Brian Keith Aicher**, 57 of Mechanicsville, deputies detected a

strong odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle and observed burnt copper wire in the center console. A probable cause search revealed crack cocaine and drug paraphernalia. Aicher was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Reckless Driving, and other traffic-related charges.

On November 2, 2022, Deputy Sylvester responded to the 7-Eleven located at 15 Solomons Island Rd N. in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a male suspect identified as **David Peter Lambert**, 51 of Prince Frederick, entered the store and placed two packs of cigarettes and a lighter on the counter along with telling everyone in line he would pay for their items. Lambert opened a pack of cigarettes and left the property without paying for the mentioned merchandise. Lambert was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Theft: Less than \$100 and Trespassing: Private Property.

On November 3, 2022, Deputy Dymond responded to the Holiday Inn Hotel located at 355 Merrimac Court in Prince Frederick, for the report of trespassing. The complainant advised **David Peter Lambert**, 51 of Prince Frederick, had entered the hotel and was hanging around the lobby area. Lambert had been indefinitely trespassed from the property prior. During an inventory search of Mr. Lambert prior to transport, a large phone from the Holiday Inn with room 316 on the label was found. Lambert was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Theft: \$100 to under \$1500 and Trespassing: Private Property. While at the Detention Center, Correctional Deputies heard a loud audible bang from the holding cell where Lambert was standing on his bunk punching the light in his cell which caused the cover to break and fall off. Lambert was also charged with Malicious Destruction of Property Less than \$1000.00.

On November 4, 2022, Calvert deputies initiated a traffic stop in the area of Rt. 4 and Broomes Island Road in Port Republic, following a traffic complaint. The driver, **Jamal Morris Stills**, 35 of Lusby, was identified as a convicted felon without a valid driver's license. Investigation revealed a loaded 9mm Polymer80 handgun, a loaded magazine, and marijuana were located inside the vehicle. Stills is prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition. Stills was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Handgun in a Vehicle, Loaded Handgun in a Vehicle, Firearm Possession with Felony Conviction, Illegal Possession of Ammunition, Illegal Possession of a Regulated Firearm and CDS: Possession of Firearms.

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

## Lusby Man Sentenced for Murder

Travis Benjamin Ridgely, 35, of Lusby was sentenced on Nov. 14 for the first-degree premeditated murder of Selena Noel Persinger. The sentence, imposed by Judge Mark Chandlee of the Calvert County Circuit Court was life imprisonment suspended to 35 years of active incarceration.

Ridgely will not be eligible for parole until he has served at least 20 years of his sentence. The sentence cannot be modified without the consent of the state.

Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Harvey wishes to commend Deputy States Attorney Timothy J. Maher and Assistant State's Attorney Rebecca N. Cordero for their work on this case. The plea and sentence were agreed to after extensive consultation with the victim's family in order to achieve justice for the victim and bring finality to the legal proceedings. Family members were



present in court at Ridgely's sentencing and provided victim impact testimony to Judge Chandlee.

*Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney*

## Reduced Sentence in Murder Conviction Denied

Ancil Tony Hamrick, convicted in 2001 of a brutal Calvert County murder, has lost his bid to have his sentence reduced. Hamrick had argued that his sentence was illegal because his convictions for first-degree murder and burglary should have been treated as the same offense.

On November 9, 2022, Judge Mark Chandlee of the Calvert County Circuit Court disagreed, ruling that "the sentence entered was legal."

Hamrick was convicted by a jury in 2001 of the murder of Darlene Turney. Evidence showed that he broke into Turney's home and attempted to strangle her. When that failed, Hamrick obtained a knife and stabbed the victim to death.

Judge Chandlee's ruling means that Hamrick's sentence will remain at life imprisonment for murder plus 20 additional years for burglary. Hamrick is currently serving his sentence at the Jessup Correctional Institute.



The State was represented in this proceeding by Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Harvey. Hamrick was represented by attorney Elizabeth Franzoso.

*Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney.*

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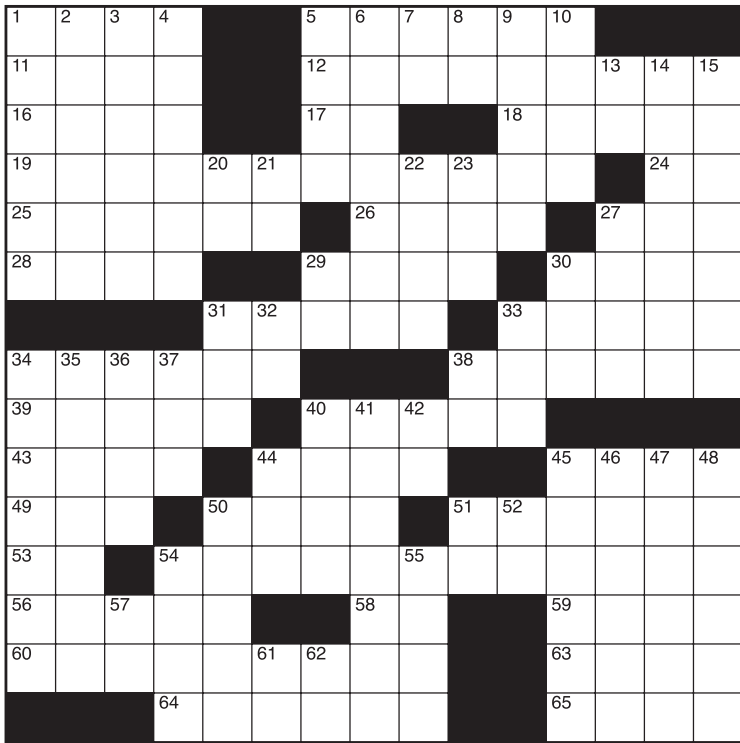
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<b>Owings</b> 8325 Mt. Harmony Lane 410-257-6181	<b>Port Republic</b> 4405 Broomes Island Rd. 410-586-0520	<b>Lusby</b> 20 American Lane 410-326-9400
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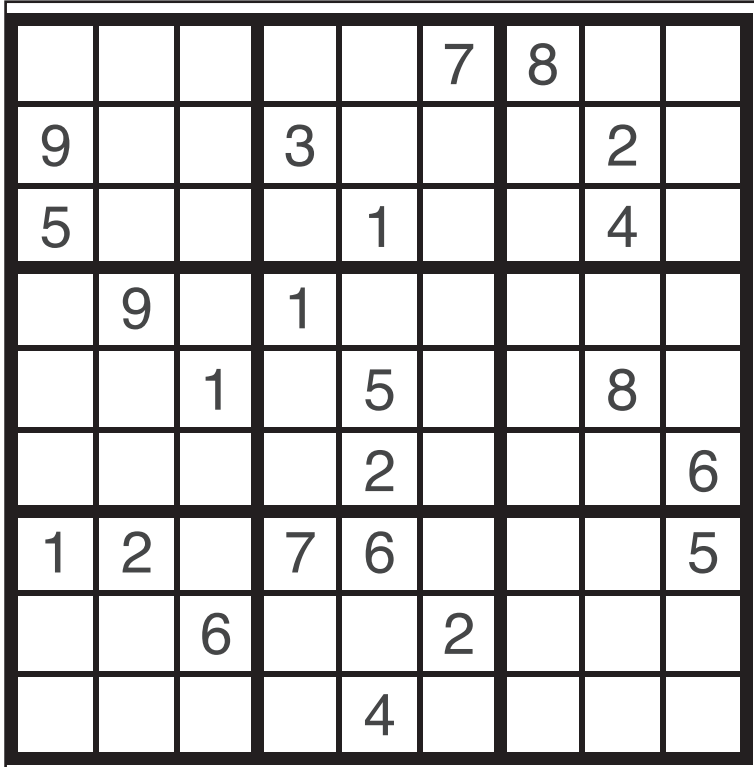
# GAMES & PUZZLES



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Clip a small piece
- 5. Enter forcibly
- 11. Southwestern Native American tribe
- 12. Helps you smell better
- 16. Sun or solar disk
- 17. Low frequency
- 18. Former Houston football player
- 19. Federal crime
- 24. Home to Boston (abbr.)
- 25. Approval
- 26. Those who fight an establishment (abbr.)
- 27. \_\_\_ student, learns healing
- 28. Indian groomer of horses
- 29. Line where two pieces meet
- 30. One might be brief
- 31. Type of sword
- 33. Knife for fruits or vegetables
- 34. Stinkhorns
- 38. Stroke
- 39. Industrial process for producing ammonia
- 40. Sir \_\_\_ Newton
- 43. Wild goat
- 44. Muslim ruler
- 45. Scottish ancestor
- 49. Hat
- 50. Horse mackerel
- 51. Alcoholic accompaniment
- 53. Tech department
- 54. Manifesting approval
- 56. Upper bract of grass
- 58. Of I
- 59. Large wading bird
- 60. Military prisons
- 63. Famed American cartoonist
- 64. Rise
- 65. Greek God of war and courage

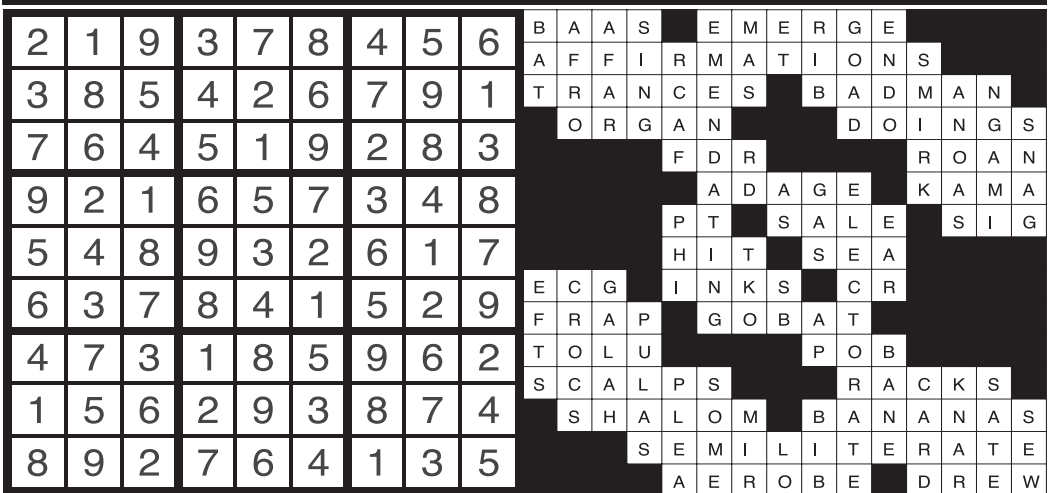
- 6. Sports official
- 7. Water purification process (abbr.)
- 8. University of Dayton
- 9. Indo-Malaysian evergreens
- 10. High schoolers' math course
- 13. Yankovic is a weird one
- 14. Adversaries
- 15. Merchandisers
- 20. Radioactive metal (abbr.)
- 21. Atomic #52
- 22. The back
- 23. One-time computer giant
- 27. Female of a horse
- 29. Football's big game (abbr.)
- 30. Vehicle
- 31. Single Lens Reflex
- 32. It's becoming more prevalent
- 33. Political action committee
- 34. Makes lightbulbs
- 35. Natural home of an animal
- 36. In bed
- 37. Superman villain
- 38. The Golden State
- 40. One who leads prayers in a mosque
- 41. They accompany a leader
- 42. Atomic #18
- 44. Electronic countermeasures
- 45. The appearance of something
- 46. Connecting line on a map
- 47. Deep red color
- 48. Secret affairs
- 50. Drenches
- 51. Contains music
- 52. Expression of surprise
- 54. Intestinal pouches
- 55. Where birds are born
- 57. \_\_\_ and behold
- 61. Cools your home
- 62. The First State
- 55. Ancient Greek city in Thrace



**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Genus of owls
- 1. Sewing needles
- 2. Functionary
- 3. Induces vomiting
- 4. The finger farthest from the thumb
- 5. Not moving

**LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**



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# Calvert Community Calendar

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

## Thursday, November 17

### Little Minnows: Leaves/ Fall

Calvert Marine Museum, 10:15 & 11:15 a.m.

This month's theme is Leaves/Fall. For preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult. Join us for story time and a take-away craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Cost is free with museum admission. For more information visit: Little Minnows | Calvert Marine Museum, MD - Official Website

### Color Scavenger Hunt on Take A Hike Day

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch, at Sunrise Gardens, Bay Avenue & 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, North Beach, 10:30-11:15a.m.

Let's get outside! Celebrate Take a Hike Day with Calvert Library and CCPR at Sunrise Garden in North Beach. We will read stories, get our bodies moving with songs and rhymes, then take in the beautiful scenery with a color scavenger hunt. Recommended for children and their grown ups. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### S.T.E.A.M. PUNKS

Calvert Library Southern Branch, 13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons, 6-7 p.m.

Question, Discover and Explore! Experience new technology and techniques as we adventure with science, engineering, math and the arts! This month we're going old school, learning about and experimenting with classic printmaking techniques! Come prepared to get a little inky! For engravers in grades 2 to 7. Registration required, 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### TACOS Teen Advisory Council of Students

In Person at Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way and via Discord Server, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Teens! Calvert Library needs you! We want the library to be a safe space where teens can hang out and freely access books and information. TACOS meets from September to May to help us with our events and services planning. Join us on the third Thursday! You can receive one Service Learning hour for each meeting attended. Email Tori for more information, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Friday, November 18

### On Pins & Needles

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

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. For library resources on this topic, click here, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Writers by the Bay

Calvert Library, online, 7-9 p.m.

Looking for a writers' group? All writers and would-be writers are welcome to come for critique & camaraderie. Please register by the day before the event in order to receive the link the evening of the event. For library resources on writing, go to <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

## Saturday, November 19

### Free Paper Shredding Events

The Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, will host free paper shredding events for county residents and businesses to help prevent identity theft by destroying confidential or sensitive documents.

The following shred events will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine:

Saturday, Nov. 19 at Huntingtown High School located at 4125 Solomons Island Road in Huntingtown

Saturday, Dec. 17 at Appeal Landfill located at 401 Sweetwater Road in Lusby

Proof of residency or business location is required. All paper must be removed from plastic bags and cardboard boxes prior to shredding. Paper clips and staples are acceptable. Binders and binder clips are not acceptable.

Businesses are allowed up to five banker boxes of paper per business (or the equivalent volume of five banker boxes in alternate containers). There is no limit for residents. Certificates of destruction will be provided if requested.

### CBTC Fall Craft Fair

Church by the Chesapeake, 3255 Broomes Island Rd., Port Republic, 9-11 a.m.

Join us for a great day of shopping for handmade crafts from local artisans. Concessions and baked goods (including gluten & dairy-free) will be available for purchase. Crafters: Please go to [www.churchbythechesapeake.org/craft-fair](http://www.churchbythechesapeake.org/craft-fair) for information on participating in this year's event. This is for handmade crafters only.

### Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More.

Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 12-3 p.m.

Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Holiday Photos with Horses & Holiday Market

### Freedom Hill Horse Rescue, 7940 N. Flint Hill Rd., Owings, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Come celebrate the Holiday season with the FHHR horses! Shop for everyone on your Christmas list at the Holiday Market. The Market is FREE for entry and includes local artisans, crafters, and more!

For \$25, you and your whole family can have a 15-minute professional photography shoot with your favorite FHHR horse Photos with Santa are available for \$5.

### Dungeons & Dragons - TEENS

Calvert Library, 2-5 p.m.

Meet up the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month and have fun with D&D. Players of all levels and interest welcome.

<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### MakePlayLearn

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch, 3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach, 2-3 p.m.

Take building and creativity to a whole new level at the library. We provide the space, art supplies, and building toys. You bring the imagination. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Monday, November 21

### Mechanical Mondays

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

Become a scientist and explore topics related to STEAM on the first and third Monday of each month! Build, code, count, and create with different activities each session. Registration required. Intended for scientists in grades K-2, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Reading Buddies

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch, 3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

At this event, elementary aged children will do fun activities and read aloud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating. Please email Anneliese at [atrainier@calvertlibrary.info](mailto:atrainier@calvertlibrary.info) for more information at least a week before the event. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Wednesday, November 23

### Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

## UPCOMING

### Museum Store Sunday & Monday

Calvert Marine Museum, Sunday & Monday, Nov. 27 & 28, -10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Museum Store is again proud to participate in Museum Store Sunday, a global annual shopping event where patrons can shop for uniquely curated gifts while supporting the mission and fundraising efforts of local museums. On these days, CMM members will draw for a chance to enjoy 25-40 percent off their entire purchase. One lucky member may even get their entire purchase for FREE! Non-members will receive a 20 percent discount all day. Some exclusions apply, see store for details.

# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Sat, Nov 19, 2022

### Thanksgiving 5K, Prediction 5K, & Fun Walk

18751 Hogaboom Lane  
St. Mary's City  
9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

A timed 5K Running/Walking Race, a Prediction 5K Running/Walking race, and a Fun Walk on a flat road course through St. Mary's City. The event starts at 9am, please arrive no later than 8:30am.

Registration link:  
[www.active.com/st-mary-s-city-md/running/distance-running-races/thanksgiving-5k-prediction-5k-and-fun-walk-2022](http://www.active.com/st-mary-s-city-md/running/distance-running-races/thanksgiving-5k-prediction-5k-and-fun-walk-2022)

100% of the proceeds will be donated to Special Olympics, St. Mary's County.

### So. Md. Decorative Painters Meeting & Paint-In

Charlotte Hall Library  
37600 New Market Rd  
Charlotte Hall  
9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Doors open at 9:00 AM for setup.

A business meeting will start at 10:00, followed by a Vera painting project, "Glittery Ornaments" led by Vera.

Guests are always welcome and should contact us for supply and project info if you'd like to paint on the date of your visit.

We also offer this class the same day on zoom if you're not able to get out but would still like to participate in this event.

You can visit our website at [www.smdpaint.org/Calendar.html](http://www.smdpaint.org/Calendar.html). It does need updated at the current time. Any questions contact Garnett Joy @ 301-452-7099 or email [garnettjoy@gmail.com](mailto:garnettjoy@gmail.com).

## Sun, Nov 20, 2022

### Farmers Market at Aero Park

AeroPark -St. Mary's County Airport Terminal  
44200 Airport Rd  
California  
9a.m. to 1p.m.

Local Meats-Honey-Baked Goods-Eggs-Seasonal Produce-Mushrooms-Local Hard Cider-Bourbon and Beer-Fresh Breads-Olive Oils-Take Home Pizza-Artisan Goat Shop-Ice Cream and Stuffed Ham (Guarantee availability by pre-ordering 301 373 2714

## Sat, Nov 26, 2022

### LVRSA 1st Annual Christmas Yard Sale

Leonardtown Rescue Squad Building  
Lawrence Avenue  
Leonardtown  
7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Items featured will be: Christmas Items—Crafts—Yard Sale Items—Baked Goods—Fudge—Etc. Tables for \$15.00/ Contact Arlene Fenwick at 301-247-0394. Drop Off Donations accepted at the Rescue Squad Bldg on Friday 25 November from 9AM to 4PM. NO CLOTHES PLEASE!

## Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022

### Mechanicsville Vol. Fire Dept. Auxiliary's 38th Annual Holiday Bazaar

28165 Hill's Club Road  
Mechanicsville  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Holiday Shopping with over 75 vendors, all under one roof! Social Hall and Engine Bays full of homemade crafts, jewelry, gifts, toys and more! Free admission and great food for purchase. Santa may even make an appearance!

## Ongoing

### HOLIDAY MARKET

Shop Small, Shop Local  
Crafts, Home Décor, Clothing, Candles, Soaps, Meat, Snacks, Jewelry, and other Gifts!

### Through December 17, 2022

Saturdays only from 9 am until 4 pm

29133 Thompson Corner Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

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# LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS

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# St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

## Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 1658

Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 1080

Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 3101

Visit [www.stmarysmd.com/aging](http://www.stmarysmd.com/aging) for the most up-to date information

## November 17-23, 2022

Unless otherwise specified all activities are available to Senior Activity Center participants ages 50+. Please call your local Senior Activity Center for more information.

### Evening Fitness Classes

Garvey Senior Activity Center has evening fitness classes Tuesday through Thursday. Currently there is Yoga on Tuesday nights at 5:30 p.m., Enhance Fitness on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., and Zumba on Thursday nights at 5:30 p.m. Cardio-Lite will be offered on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Try your first class for free! Please call 301-475-4200, ext. 1080, for additional information.

### Santa's Workshop- Elves Needed

We are still looking for help with making door prizes for the End of Year Bingo at the Loffler Senior Activity Center. If you have sewing skills, use a glue gun, or can work with acrylic paints, please contact Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com

### Basket Weaving: Snowman

Experienced basket artisan, Pam King, will guide you on a winter-themed project on Friday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Northern Senior Activity Center. We are sure you will enjoy for its ingenuity and creativity. Display this basket at home or gift it to a loved one. Cost is \$30 required in advance at time of registration. These projects are designed for those with a beginner to intermediate skill level -- reasonable hand dexterity is needed if you are trying this for the first time. To sign up for this event, click the "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs" button at [www.stmarysmd.com/aging](http://www.stmarysmd.com/aging). Accommodations can be made for those requiring registration assistance by leaving a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

### Holiday Bazaar (OPEN TO PUBLIC)

The possibilities to shop are varied with products made and sold by local merchants and artists at the Northern Senior Activity Center on Friday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Invite your family & friends to shop

with you. Get your gifts, stocking stuffers and shop for family, neighbors, and friends. A variety of items are available, such as, but not limited to, LuLaRoe, Paparazzi jewelry, crochet, ceramics, cross-stitch, and handcrafted wreaths. This event is open to the public. No registration needed.

### Loffler Book Club News

In November read *Tapestry* by Beth Duke, then meet at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Friday, Dec. 2, at 2 p.m. Contact Sheila.Graziano@stmarysmd.com for more information.

### The Elephant in the Room with Melinda Ruppert, LCPC – Grief Program

We all know someone who is grieving. At times, it can be challenging to be there for them. Grief can sometimes feel like the "elephant in the room." Everyone knows it's there, but nobody wants to acknowledge it. Friday, Dec. 2, from 1-2:30 p.m. at Northern Senior Activity Center, Mechanicsville-based grief counselor, Melinda Ruppert, LCPC, will provide a better understanding of how to support someone experiencing loss. Melinda encourages everyone to bring questions or share ideas for an interactive discussion. Take advantage of this free advice from a professional! To sign up for this event, click the "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs" button at [www.stmarysmd.com/aging](http://www.stmarysmd.com/aging). Accommodations can be made for those requiring registration assistance by leaving a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

### Sing Out Loud

The Loffler Sunshine Singers will be singing at the annual St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services Christmas Party on Friday, Dec. 9, at

the Loffler Senior Activity Center. If you are a lover of singing and would like to share your voice with our growing chorus, stop in at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Thursdays at 10 a.m. If you have questions, contact Sheila.graziano@stmaryscountymd.gov.

### Dungeons & Dragons at Garvey

Are you a fan of storytelling? Have you ever wanted to be a character in Lord of the Rings? Are you looking for something new to try out? Have you been playing D&D since the 70s and want a new group to adventure with? This might be just the thing for you! Join Sarah Miller, Community Programs & Outreach Manager, at the Garvey Senior Activity Center at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12, to learn about D&D and play a series of one-shot campaigns!

For more information, contact Sarah Miller at 301-475-4200, ext. 1073, or Sarah.Miller@stmarysmd.com.

### Christmas Wreath Making with Sunnyside Florals

Want to get in the Christmas spirit? Let's make a wreath! Join us on Thursday, December 15, from 1-2:30 p.m. at Northern Senior Activity Center. Shelley Russell of Sunnyside Florals will demonstrate how to create a custom wreath using a 24-inch artificial base with fresh greenery, berries, pods, and dried flowers, with finishing bow. All supplies are provided (in cost) and prepped. Instruction is provided with participant responsible for assembly. To register and pay the \$60 fee, click the "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs" button at [www.stmarysmd.com/aging](http://www.stmarysmd.com/aging). Accommodations can be made for those requiring registration assistance by leaving a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

# Southern Maryland

# Online

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[www.somd.com](http://www.somd.com)

# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## IS A ROTH IRA CONVERSION RIGHT FOR YOU?

Depending on your situation, it might be appropriate to make some year-end financial moves. But there's one in particular that may allow you to take advantage of the current investment climate while providing potential benefits far into the future.

This move is called a Roth IRA conversion — the process of converting all or a portion of a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. Traditional IRAs are often funded with pre-tax dollars, so contributions can lower your taxable income, and earnings can grow tax deferred. A Roth IRA, however, is funded with after-tax dollars, so you get no immediate tax deduction, but earnings and contributions can be withdrawn federally tax free, as long as you meet several requirements, including holding your account for five years and not taking withdrawals until you're at least 59½.

If you're attracted to the prospect of tax-free withdrawals in retirement, you might consider converting some or all of your traditional IRA dollars to a Roth IRA. Yet, there's one major issue to address: taxes. Any deductible contributions to your traditional IRA, and the earnings generated by these contributions, will be fully taxable the year of the conversion. If you've invested in your traditional IRA for many years, this tax bill could be considerable.

But if you were interested in converting some of your traditional IRA funds to a Roth in 2022, you might have one advantage, tax-wise — and that's the state of the financial markets. As you are no doubt aware, it's been a rough year for stocks, so the value of some of the investments in your traditional IRA may have

fallen, perhaps substantially. If you were to convert these assets to a Roth IRA, your tax bill might be quite a bit lower than it would have been last year amid the lengthy bull market.

Still, lower taxes aren't the same as no taxes. Ideally, you probably don't want to take money out of the IRA itself to pay the taxes, since this might reduce some of the benefits. So, if you don't have another source from which you can draw, you may find that a conversion might not make as much sense.

However, you could lower this tax bill by making smaller conversions over several years. And you might ultimately find this strategy worthwhile, because moving from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA can offer some advantages. For one thing, since qualifying Roth IRA withdrawals won't be counted as income, they won't cause additional taxation of your Social Security benefits or bump up your Medicare premiums. (If you wait until retirement before making the conversion, the conversion itself could have these effects, at least for the years in which it takes place.)

Also, with a traditional IRA, you typically must start taking withdrawals once you reach 72, but a Roth IRA doesn't have this requirement. So, if you don't need all your Roth IRA funds to support your retirement lifestyle, you can pass the remainder, tax free, to your beneficiaries. Consequently, a Roth IRA can play an important role in your estate planning.

Whatever the benefits of a Roth IRA, it's essential that you consult with your tax advisor before making a conversion decision. It's a big move — so you'll want to be sure it's right for you.

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

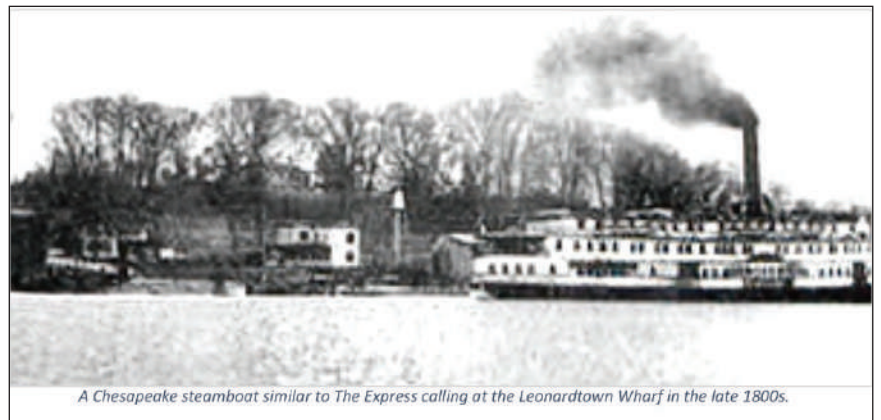


**St. Mary's**  
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*The Way We Were...*

HISTORY AND STORIES OF ST MARY'S COUNTY FROM LONG AGO TO JUST YESTERDAY

## A TALE OF THE EXPRESS



A Chesapeake steamboat similar to *The Express* calling at the Leonardtown Wharf in the late 1800s.

Some years ago, Mrs. Jane Bradford and friends compiled a booklet entitled "Just Like Old Friends". The slim volume contained stories and recollection of old Countians. Here is one taken from an interview with Mrs. Beth McCoy about one of the steamships that plied the waters between Baltimore and Southern Maryland.

It was October 22, 1878, when *The Express* left Baltimore harbor at about 5:00 in the afternoon. The steamboat went down the Chesapeake Bay as usual. As it headed south, a sudden storm came up and the water began to get rough. The Captain held his course and kept going.

As *The Express* approached Point Lookout, the storm worsened. Figuring, perhaps, that the gale would lessen on its leeward side, the Captain chanced going around the Point — but he didn't make it. *The Express* was not strong enough for the rough seas it was facing. It foundered and began sinking. It would turn out that the only survivors were the Captain and a few members of the crew.

One story that arose from the ship's demise concerned a mother, a Mrs. Talton, and her six-year-old son.

"We're going down! Save the women and children! Hurry men, hurry. We're going down fast," somebody yelled!

A huge wave swept them [the passengers] all overboard including Mrs. Talton and her son.

"Hey lady, hold on," someone was heard to call out. "I'll try to save you and your little boy."

"Please hurry, my son is getting colder! Watch out for the wave! No! Please don't go under. Dear God, we'll never make it."

The only sounds to be heard were the waves hitting the remains of the shattered vessel. Suddenly, there was a scream — a small child's cry for help. But no one heard it as the next wave took him under.

A few days later, an Eastern Shore oysterman out on the bay noticed a woman's body floating in the water. He thought his friends were playing a trick on him but as he drew closer, he noticed that the body was real.

The oysterman picked-up the lifeless body and put it into his boat. As he did, a small Catholic medallion fell from the woman's bodice. Seeing it, he took her body to a manor in St. Mary's County where he knew Catholics lived. The manor turned out to be her home. A few days later, her son's body was found at Cedar Pont.

Each time he heard a steamboat whistle, Mr. Talton practically went crazy. He believed that they only way his wife and son were returned to their home was because they were watched over by God.

The great distance between the locations where the bodies were found was indication of the ferocity of the storm. Mother and son were buried together, there to rest in eternity.

You can learn more about steamships that plied the Chesapeake and the Potomac at the St. Mary's County Historical Society in Leonardtown.

# Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



## JOURNEY TO RELAXATION



Our 21st anniversary week is starting out really nice. We left home Tuesday for the Outerbanks; though this time not staying at a friend's wonderful, old beach house on the ocean. This time we are staying at the Sanderling Resort in Duck, North Carolina which is located on a very thin strip of land with the ocean on one side and the Currituck Sound on the other side. My husband's only requirements for this trip were: find a one stop resort with a restaurant, bar, and Spa. Check, check, and check.

Sanderling is a massive, sprawling hotel with various buildings on both sides of the road, plus an entire section of large rental vacation homes. The resort was built in 1985 by a Texan turned North Carolinian, named Mr. Slick. I kind of got a chuckle out of that with parts of Texas known for oil fields. I was surprised that it was built 37 years ago, because it is kept up really well.

One of the restaurants on site is called The Lifesaving Station and was an actual Lifesaving station on Duck. We had some appetizers and drinks last night which was fine after a day of driving. We had a table right next to the fireplace, very cozy and just what we needed after a cool, drizzly day. The other restaurant, Kimball's, an upscale, gourmet restaurant, is closed in the off season. We're not sure where we will have our anniversary dinner yet for Thursday, but it looks like Duck has plenty of really nice restaurants that stay open all year, since so many people live here year round.

It was beautiful driving into Duck last night, with all the businesses and restaurants glowing with warm lights and strings of party lights everywhere. We recognized a few places we have eaten before and may have to visit again, like The Sunset Grille. I need to try a Duck donut, everyone talks about Duck Donuts.

And they have a Life Is Good store I'd like to visit; they have the comfiest T-shirts.

We were pleasantly surprised to see the sun and the slightest hint of blue skies when we awoke this morning. My husband and I went out to the balcony (this suite has two separate doors for the balcony, a living room, and two bathrooms! Yay, off season prices) and snapped the prerequisite photos, and were shocked to see a surfer with the top of his wet suit down, and surfboard under his arm coming back from the ocean. Made me shiver just looking at him. But the waves were pretty good.

After we fixed our morning cup of hotel room coffee with powdered cream and not enough sugar we walked out to the beach. I watched as my husband visibly relaxed. The ocean, well The Outerbanks, is his happy place. That little walk to the ocean may be the only thing he does today, because I scheduled him an 80 minute massage across the street at the Spa building. He may not even be able to walk back after that, but that's fine. This year, so far, has been a new journey for us in many ways, and all I want for him his to relax, enjoy, and feel rejuvenated.

I'm getting a little rejuvenation myself tomorrow with a mani-pedi and the wonderful Dazzle Dry polish that only resorts seem to carry. I may even get in the indoor pool while he is having his massage...well, a girl has to get some pampering too right? No matter what, we will enjoy these few days away, and then be ready for new adventures – something we treasure more now than ever. Hope you have an adventure-filled weekend and the happiest Thanksgiving ever next week. There are truly things to be grateful for every day.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby. Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com

## THE TACKLE BOX FISHING REPORT

By Ken Lamb  
Contributing Writer

Our Indian Summer stole away on Saturday night and it doesn't look like it will come back. Seasonal temperatures are our future with overnights flirting with freezes.

The last of shore fishing for rockfish and perch is at hand with falling temperatures and clearing water. Stripers do visit the shallows all year, but their forays are mostly limited to night time hours.

Rockfish schools of huge proportions are in the mouth of the Patuxent from Little Cove Point to Cedar Point. Those lucky to have live spot are locating the fish on their sonar equipment and drifting the live bait. The results are excellent. Live eels will work and are still available at some bait shops. Cast netters can get peanut bunker in the creeks where they are now in abundance, and use them for bait on live line rigs. These tiny alewives are candy to rockfish, but are much more fragile than spot. Most spot are coming from watermen specializing in their catch and the supply is about exhausted until they return next year.

Trollers and jiggers have ample opportunity to catch rockfish in bay, Patuxent and Potomac. Most everyone is doing well on the day or tide that the fish decide to bite. As the water cools the fish can get picky about feeding. If you find them in the mood, all you have to do is get a lure in the water. If they choose to go lockjaw, you have to wait for another day or tide.

Perch will now retreat to the deep in the rivers. They will bite on their schedule for bottom fishermen using bloodworms, squid or shrimp, in the 30-to-40-foot edges. Jiggers using shad darts or small metal jigs tipped with bait can get dinner most everyday.

Catfish are prevalent in the upper regions of the rivers and are eager to hit lures and bait.



Gary O'Connor and family show their 10.5 inch white perch caught in the Potomac River.

## Sell it - Buy it at Auction

### Tri County Livestock Auction

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the Month – Auction begins at 4 PM  
Located Off MD Rt. 6 West – Charlotte Hall, MD

### Multi-Family, Indoor Yard Sale

(Held Rain or Shine)

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 – 8 AM

Westfield Farm Arena - 26689 Laurel Grove Rd – Mechanicsville, MD

### Southern Maryland

## Farm & Country Christmas Auction

Westfield Farm Arena & Auction Barn  
26689 Laurel Grove Road – Mechanicsville, MD

Saturday, December 10, 2022 – 9 am

Auction Preview on Friday Evening

Live, Handcrafted Evergreen Wreaths & Centerpieces; Poinsettias; Handcrafted Quilts; Crafts & Furniture; Locally-Made Outdoor Poly Furniture; Custom-Made Maryland-Themed Benches & other items by local craftsmen (some being sold to benefit Leonardtown Vol. Rescue Squad Aux.); New Tools/Items; Apples; Custom Painted Signs by Donnie Poe; Framed Prints by M. L Troutman; New Tack (Buckets, Lead Ropes, Grooming Items); & More.

Consignments of new, quality furniture, crafts/items now being accepted.

A local community auction that showcases & supports our local craftsmen & producers. Thank you for supporting our local community!

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 22725 DUKE STREET, LEONARDTOWN, MD  
**HOLIDAY HOURS**  
 MONDAY - SATURDAY: 10 AM - 7 PM  
 SUNDAY: 11 AM - 5 PM

**S O F MARKET**

Holiday hours begin  
 Friday, Nov. 25th

**Market Merchant**  
**VISITING VENDORS SUNDAY**  
 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH  
 11 AM - 5 PM

**OMI CREATIONS**



**Open**  
**Thursday - Sunday**  
 10:00am - 5:00pm  
 other days  
 by appointment.

Studio and Workshop **240-434-5255**

JINGLE AND MINGLE 11/27/2022 9:00AM-5:00PM  
 UGLY SWEATER DAY 12/11/2022 9:00AM 5:00PM

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Crafters and antique vendors wanted to join the Hillside Family of vendors



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Mon-Tues	Closed
Wed-Fri	10am-5pm
Sat	8am-5pm
SUN	10am-2pm

Facebook: Hillside Farmers Market  
 Email: hillsidefarmersmarketbushwood@gmail.com

22975 Colton's Point Rd Bushwood Md 20618

# Christmas Open House



**The Apple Basket**

**Saturday & Sunday**  
**November 19th & 20th**

Christmas Home Decor | Fine Jewelry | Vera Bradley  
 Simply Southern | Hobo Leather Goods | Local Wines  
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Open 7 Days A Week  
 10am - 6pm!

AppleBasketStore.com | 301-884-8118  
 27056 Mt. Zion Church Rd | Mechanicsville MD



# Sheriff Cameron Reflects on Long Career

Tim Cameron joined the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office as a deputy on July 3, 1980. Hired under Sheriff Joseph Lee Somerville Sr., the Sheriff's Office then had 29 deputies and an operating budget of less than \$1 million.

Cameron, 63, is now finishing his historic fourth consecutive term as St. Mary's County Sheriff, today an agency with 152 deputies budgeted and an annual operating budget of \$58.9 million.

Sheriff Cameron recently took time to reflect on the changes he has seen over the past 40 years in law enforcement and over the course of his four terms serving here in St. Mary's County.

The Sheriff fondly recalls his first cruiser as a deputy – a 1977 Plymouth Fury. It was a fast car, but it also had braking issues, he said. Police cruisers had radios, which had to be turned all the way up when a deputy was away from the vehicle to continue to hear calls. Soon deputies were outfitted with portable radios they could carry on their person.

Starting in 2012, St. Mary's County government rolled out a new 800 MHz communications system, which included installing new radio transmission towers across the county, to greatly improve coverage for portable radios worn by emergency first responders.

"That was a revolution when we went to the 800 MHz system," Sheriff Cameron said.

Deputy sheriffs are now outfitted with mobile data browsers in their police cruisers, displaying the active calls on the county's automated dispatch system. "We have great technology that works all of the time," he said.

Sheriff Cameron served in each division of the Sheriff's Office over his career and said the Special Operations Division was his favorite to serve in.

Cameron briefly retired from the Sheriff's Office and was appointed as the St. Mary's County Director of Public Safety in November 2005 where he served until he ran successfully for Sheriff in the 2006 election.

"Every term was distinctly different," Sheriff Cameron said.

The Sheriff still recalls a high-profile kidnapping at a local bank in California. "That's a case for the ages," he said.

In the summer of 2008, the culprits began watching the daily activities of the bank manager of the California PNC Bank. On Sept. 24, 2008, Quinita Ennis, Joseph Frederick Brown and William Johnson drove to the bank manager's home, wearing masks and camouflage clothing along with a 9 mm rifle. The kidnapers took the manager and her two young children and drove them to the bank in the manager's car. With her 19-month-old child being held hostage, the bank manager went inside and retrieved \$169,900. The bank manager and her son were driven to Green Holly Elementary School nearby and released.

Brown and Johnson then buried the rifle and buried \$84,000 in cash in safes, which was recovered during a search of the property. The kidnapers were sentenced to terms in prison ranging from eight years to 19 years and were ordered to pay restitution.

Detectives on that case "did an amazing job," Sheriff Cameron said.

Prescription pill abuse was the major issue of the day 16 years ago and the Sheriff's Office began tracking that data in 2007. But as prescription opioids continued to be abused locally and nationally, users found that addiction was too costly to maintain.

"We started clamping down on pills and people

went to heroin, which was cheaper and more plentiful," Sheriff Cameron said.

Law enforcement is still dealing with the effects of opioid and heroin abuse. Deputies regularly administer Narcan to those overdosing, often saving the victims lives. In 2022, almost 100 doses of Narcan were used by deputies in overdose responses.

Further compounding drug addiction issues is the prevalence of Fentanyl, a deadly substance added by drug dealers into their product.

"It's all made in China and that stuff is coming across the border unchecked," Sheriff Cameron said.

And then COVID-19 entered the world stage and made its way to Maryland and St. Mary's County. "It challenged every aspect of government services," the Sheriff said.

With a stay-at-home order issued by the Governor in March 2020, "I've never seen anything like that – barren streets," in St. Mary's County, Cameron said.

But the Sheriff's Office remained opened and responded to calls for the duration of the pandemic.

Sheriff Cameron noted that no one in St. Mary's County was cited for non-compliance with COVID regulations as the emphasis was on education rather than enforcement.

And at the same time, police agencies across the nation were dealing with demonstrations following the death of George Floyd in Minnesota in May 2020.

In early June, hundreds of demonstrators marched peacefully at the governmental center in Leonardtown. What people did not see was the security provided by the Sheriff's Office for the event. "I had no anxiety about the people demonstrating. We had to be prepared to protect the demonstrators," the Sheriff said.

There were no arrests made at the demonstrations.

And while law enforcement continues to have recruitment and retention issues across the nation, Sheriff Cameron said he is very pleased with the agency's progress that was made during his tenure.

"There was definitely a need of a culture change here," when he first took office as Sheriff, Cameron said. "That took a number of years to shift the culture. There is absolutely a healthy culture now – our mission to protect our citizens from criminals and events. We have very talented, hard-working people here who are very disciplined," he said.

His philosophy as sheriff was to hire quality applicants, continue high levels of employee training, continual reinvestment into personnel and holding them accountable and "that work towards having a community that is engaged and proud of their police," he said.

"Just tell people like it is," Sheriff Cameron said. "If you engage the public and ask them to be your eyes and ears, they can do it. You just need to let them know what they're looking for."

Captain Steven Hall, Commander of the Special Operations Division, won the Republican primary election for St. Mary's County Sheriff this year. Sher-

iff-Elect Hall takes the Oath of Office on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022.

Sheriff-Elect Hall said of Sheriff Cameron, "If there is one person who has set the example, bent the trends and reshaped perception of local law enforcement, it is you." Upon first meeting Cameron as a 16-year-old at Mattapany Camp, Hall said. "From that day to present, I am amazed at how people were drawn to you -- the ease and comfort with which you held conversations and the attention of those around you," Hall said.

"I was influence and wanted to do not just what you did, but how you did it," he said. "I admire your passion for people in our profession and thirst for education. Forward march, forward lean and follow through is the Cameron way," Hall said.

"I am profoundly moved by a principled life lived in the service of others without complaint or deceleration. That is your legacy to us all. You will always be the Man in the Arena to me," Hall told Cameron.

Under Sheriff Cameron's terms, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office began numerous initiatives, such as:

- membership in the National Network of Safe Communities, a research center that provides proven, evidence-based, lifesaving violence reduction strategies to communities nationwide.

- the DARE program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) for 5th and 6th graders was reimplemented by the Sheriff's Office in the 2007-2008 school year and continues annually.

- the Lexington Park COPs Unit was formed in August 2013, providing deputies to specifically patrol and interact as partners in the Lexington Park community.

- Continuation of the School Resource Program, providing School Resource Offices in public schools in St. Mary's County. In the 2019-2020 school year, additional resource officers were brought on for the county's four public middle schools, in addition to the deputies already assigned to the three public high schools.

As he departs from the Sheriff's Office on Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, Sheriff Cameron was recently selected to lead the Wyoming Highway Patrol, a new role that he starts in January 2023.



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# Saturday, December 3

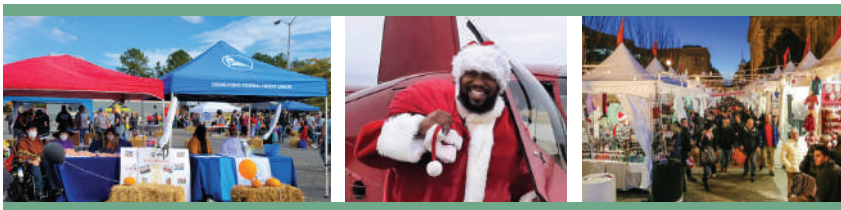


2-5 p.m.  
St. Mary's Square

Holiday Shopping  
Craft Vendors  
Local Businesses

Pictures with Santa  
Community Carolers  
Holiday Crafts for Kids

Food Trucks  
Police & Fire Rescue  
and more!



# LIQUIDATION SALE

## ALL REMAINING MERCHANDISE 60% OFF

### CHARLOTTE HALL ONLY

### OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK | 9 A.M. - 8 P.M.

### 30% OFF TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL

## Pet OF THE WEEK MEET YELLER



I watched my dog chase his tail for 10 minutes and thought "Wow, dogs are so easily entertained". Then I realized, I just watched my dog chase his tail for 10 minutes.

Hi there, my name is Yeller. My TCAS pals say that I'm a dashing Lab type girl who especially likes meeting new people (and getting all the attention and pets I can). I also really love running around the back yard. I'm about 3 years old and so very eager to please that I lean into you while you pet and talk to me. I'm very anxious to meet you so please email [animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov](mailto:animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov) to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP! BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Tri-County Animal Shelter Southern MD or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/tri-county-animal-shelter>

## TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

## Fall Craft Show Returns To Hollywood

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department is excited to once again sponsor the Annual Fall Craft Show at the Hollywood Firehouse. There are over 100 Craft Vendors registered to participate. There are many returning Vendors registered to participate in the Show, as well as several new Vendors. There will be a variety of hand-crafted items for your browsing and shopping pleasure. We are certain you will find something you have been looking for, whether it be for you or someone else.

The Fall Craft Show will be held on Sunday, November 20, 2022. The doors will be open for browsing and shopping from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. There is no vehicle parking charge or admission fee.

The members of the Ladies Auxiliary will be preparing and selling food and beverage items in the kitchen. Our famous Stuffed Ham sandwiches and other food items will be available for purchase during the Show and there will be a small dining area where attendees can sit to eat.

The Ladies Auxiliary will also sponsor a bake sale consisting of homemade treats and a 50/50 money raffle for a fee. If you would like to donate something for the Bake Table, we welcome your contribution. We will be accepting donations of non-perishable items for the local Helping Hands Food Pantry.

If you have any questions, please contact the Craft Show Chairman at: [Craft-show@hvfd7.com](mailto:Craft-show@hvfd7.com)

## St. Mary's County Government Operations for Thanksgiving Holiday

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, all St. Mary's County Government administrative offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, 2022. Offices will reopen with regular operating schedules Monday, Nov. 28, 2022.

The six (6) Convenience Centers and the St. Andrews Landfill will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24. They will reopen for normal business hours Friday, Nov. 25.

All three St. Mary's County Library branches (Charlotte Hall, Leonardtown and Lexington Park) will close early at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 23, and be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25.

All Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler and Northern) will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25. There will be no Home-Delivered Meals.

The St. Mary's Transit System (STS) will be closed Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, 2022.

The Department of Recreation and Parks programs and facilities will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24. They will reopen for normal business hours Friday, Nov. 25.

The St. Clement's Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and the Old Jail Museum will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24. They will reopen for visitors Friday, Nov. 25 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The Wicomico Shores Golf Course and Riverview Restaurant will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24. The Wicomico Shores Golf Course will be open 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., and the Riverview Restaurant will be open 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 25.

## Legal Ads

### LEGAL NOTICE COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN FAIR SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 213

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Leonardtown have passed, and the mayor has approved, Ordinance No. 213 – Code of Ethics of the Town of Leonardtown. A fair summary of the ordinance will follow:

Ordinance No. 213 – Chapter 9 – Code of Ethics of the Town of Leonardtown to incorporate amendments enacted by the Maryland General Assembly pursuant to House Bill 363 – Chapter 252, Acts of 2021 and House Bill 1058 – Chapter 425, Acts of 2021.

Ordinance No. 213 will become effective December 5, 2022. A full text of this ordinance may be obtained at the Town Office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or on-line on the Town's website at [www.Leonardtown.somd.com](http://www.Leonardtown.somd.com)

By Authority:  
Laschelle McKay,  
Town Administrator

## Letters to the Editor

### Help Mike's Bikes Help Others

It's Christmas time in St. Mary's county. A great time to get together with friends and family. Giving gifts and good times. It is also time to think about the less fortunate. For the 40th time I am asking for your help. We are trying to provide turkey baskets for 1000 needy families in St Mary's. Each basket will have a 12 to14 pound turkey and 10 pounds of potatoes and some canned goods. For this we need money. The cost of a basket has gone up from 20 to 35 dollars. We need donations badly. For the last 39 years St Mary's has stepped up. Please help me make it happen again this year. Send a check to Mikes Food Fund 21310c Great Mills road lexington park MD 20653. This year we will be

back at Zion United Methodist Church on RT 235 about a mile and a half south of gate 2 PAXNAS. Deliveries will be from . Mon December 19 ,20, and, 21st until we run out. volunteers should show up on these days about 4 pm. The less fortunate of your community need your help. We need cash ,food, and helpers. Your donation can help make Christmas great for a needy family. thank you. If you need a basket please call the office of human services 3014754200. If you need any information on the turkey drive call me at 3018637887.

Thank you,  
Mike Schwartz  
Lexington Park

**If you would like to place a  
LEGAL NOTICE contact  
[AlDaileyCountytimes@gmail.com](mailto:AlDaileyCountytimes@gmail.com)**

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The St. Mary's County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's County. The St. Mary's 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 St. Mary's 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 St. Mary's 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 St. Mary's County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The St. Mary's County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



## County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

# ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

### On View Arrests:

Assault- On November 2, 2022, Dep. Deinert responded to the 44900 block of Worth Avenue in California, for the reported assault. Investigation determined Aliyah Lasha Thomas, age 27 of Great Mills, threw a plastic



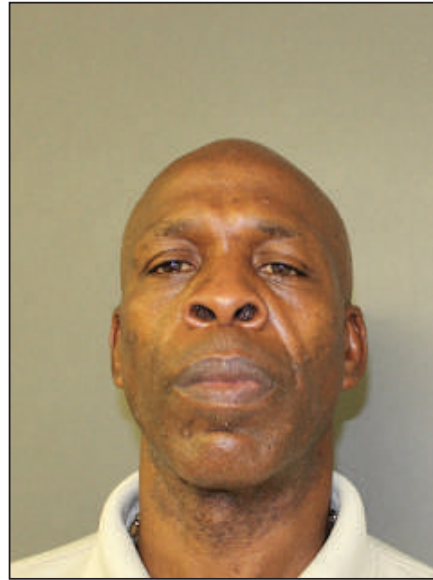
Degree and Possession of CDS While Confined.

Assault- On November 3, 2022, Dep. Absher responded to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, for the reported assault. Investigation determined



Taquan Anthony Berry, age 24 of St. Inigoes, assaulted the victim by striking the victim in the face several times. Berry pushed the victim to the floor and continued to punch the victim, causing significant injury to the victim. Berry was charged with Assault 1st and 2nd Degree.

Escape- On November 3, 2022, Dep. Absher made contact with a correctional officer in the 25500 block of Point Lookout Road in Leonardtown, to assist with an escapee. Investigation determined a correctional employee was attempting to make contact with Rob-



ert Gary Jones, age 59 of Mechanicsville, to conduct a pretrial check. Jones fled from the correctional officer while still wearing his ankle monitor. Jones was ultimately taken into custody and charged with Escape 2nd Degree/Conditions of Release.


Assault- On November 9, 2022, Dep. Myers responded to the 45000 block of Lady Lane in Callaway, for the reported assault. Upon arrival deputies located a victim, who had been stabbed in the back. Investigation determined the victim had been stabbed by Nathan Daniel Field, age 23 of Lusby. Field was



located a short time later and arrested. At the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center, a baggie of suspected cocaine was located on Field. Field was charged with Assault 1st Degree and Possession of Contraband at Place of Confinement.

tissue container at the victim, striking the victim in the face, causing visible injury to the victim. Thomas was arrested and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention Center, where a folded dollar bill was located on her person containing suspected cocaine. Thomas was charged with Assault 2nd

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Obituaries

*In Loving Memory*



*Jim Graves*

Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us  
Every day.  
Unseen, unheard,  
But always near.  
Still loved, still missed,  
and very dear.

March 27, 1943 – Nov 21, 2017

*In Loving Memory*

*Eric Kelly*

7/3/61-11/20/20

You touched so many lives with  
your kind and loving ways. You  
have left us with lasting memories  
that shines on all our days.

Love Mom, Yvonne, Shayna and  
Jeremiah



*In Loving Memory*

*Mary Katherine Kane*

Sept 18, 1924 – November 22, 2019



Mama it's been three years since you went home to be  
with the lord, but it still feels like yesterday.  
Our home will never be the same. The tears still flow  
and I talk to your pictures to ease the pain.  
I knew one day that you had to go, but I know that  
you are in the arms of the lord.  
You may be gone but in my heart you are still with me  
until we meet again.  
I love you,  
Larry

*Happy Birthday*

I love and miss you every day  
More than words could ever say.  
It has been a daily struggle to survive  
Without you not by my side  
It hasn't been quite a year  
But you remain in my prayer.  
Even though we are now apart  
You will always remain in my heart.  
You were the love of my life,  
I was so proud to be your wife.  
I will love you till the day i die,  
Until we meet in the heavenly sky.

In loving memory of my husband  
*Robert (Bob) Nashwick*  
November 18, 1938 – January 5, 2022



Happy birthday, sweetheart  
Your loving and devoted wife,  
Angie and all the family

**Special Education Institute Gets Space at University System of Maryland**

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

A world-renowned educational institute that focuses on special needs students has secured space at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM) campus, the first of its kind in the state, The County Times has learned.

The Kennedy-Krieger Institute (KKI) has announced it has come to an agreement with the leadership at the university satellite to take over a section of the facility.

Sen. Jack Bailey (R-Dist. 29), who worked to help secure the deal between with the two institutions, said that the deal was a significant boost to the special education resources available to the region.

“There’s no doubt about it,” Bailey told The County Times. “It’s the first one of its kind in Maryland; it’s in a rural area.

“It’s going to be able to help a lot of our families and communities throughout Southern Maryland.”

KKI specializes in dealing with students it says have “complex special educational needs.”

“My colleagues at Kennedy Krieger and I are grateful for this partnership with USMSM and excited that we will soon be bringing our expertise about special education and child development to Southern Maryland,” said Kennedy Krieger Institute president and CEO Bradley L. Schlaggar.

Schlaggar counted Bailey, USM Chancellor Jay Perman and U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer along with the Board of Regents with the successful conclusion of the agreement.

“This new Kennedy Krieger school will make it possible for public school students and their families living in St Mary’s, Charles, Calvert and southern Prince George’s counties, who need our educational and related services, to have access to them close to home,” Shlaggar said. “With today’s building decision, we’re embarking on a new journey together to help children and teens who reside in Southern Maryland pursue all that’s possible in their lives without having to travel excessive distances each day to do so.

“We’re committed to helping each student thrive and build a life filled with wide possibilities; we’re excited to transform this wonderful facility into a new school home for many Maryland children in need.”

The time when the school would open has yet to be determined, according to the educational institute.

KKI is headquartered in Baltimore that offers medical and recovery services as well as educational to special needs children in 21 other locations throughout Maryland.

But the future KKI facility in St. Mary’s would be the furthest one south and the only one in a rural area.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith hailed the agreement as “huge deal” for St. Mary’s and the rest of Southern Maryland.

“It’s a fantastic thing,” Smith said. “We’ve been putting kids on the bus to go all the way to Baltimore every day for what sometimes turns out to be an eight-to-10-hour instructional day.”

KKI was able to provide services and education to students with “specific and intense



KKI CEO Bradley Schlaggar, Dr. Nancy Grasmick and Sen. Jack Bailey

needs,” Smith said, that the local school system cannot effectively provide.

“This is a fantastic thing for our families,” Smith said.

The lease agreement was approved at the Nov. 11 meeting of the full Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland.

It would be up to 15,500 square feet in size, according to the university system documents, which is the amount of space that can be allowed for the project.

With the opening of the third building at the campus in California, the documents stated, the space was not needed for university system programming.

The documents go on to detail how KKI will modify and improve the facility for their special mission.

“The building, once improved by KKI as set forth herein, is appropriate for these services,” the planning documents read. “KKI will enlarge classrooms by combining adjacent spaces; add bathrooms next to each enlarged classroom; add a small, fenced playground; modify space as needed to accommodate specialty areas (e.g., art, music, and nursing rooms); and raise the roof of the current media room to meet the requirements of a gym

“In addition, KKI will have regular use of the warming kitchen in Building 2, and full use of the parking lot, which is currently configured to make their very limited bus traffic convenient.”

According to the agreement, the term of the lease is 15 years with two five-year renewal options that can be exercised by KKI with the approval of USMSM. Under the lease, KKI will cover the cost of the utilities in Building 1, which is estimated to be approximately \$36,000 annually.

Additionally, they will maintain their own network servers and phone system. USMSM will maintain the building, the parking lots, and sidewalks, including plowing, shoveling, and salting, as well as daily custodial and nighttime deep cleaning services, the agreement summary stated.

**Gerald Scott Adams, 53**

Gerald Scott Adams, 53, of Severn, passed away on October 28, 2022. He was born in St. Mary's County to Rose Elizabeth and the late Robert Stephan Adams. He was employed by KBR as a NASA Level

A Instructor and was formerly employed at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab where he worked on space flight hardware for many space missions. He had a deep passion for anything space related and was very proud to work in that industry. His hobbies included writing, producing and engineering music, video production, graphic arts and photography. He enjoyed putting those hobbies to good use while working with his wife on many Miss USA and Miss Teen USA local pageants. He also loved to travel and recently returned from a trip to Niagara Falls, Canada. In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his brother, Jonathan Dale Adams, and his mother and father-in-law, Alice and Todd Leatherman.

Scott is survived by his devoted wife, Geneane Marie Adams; beloved son and step-daughter, Keegan Adams (Cassidy Bryant) and Loghan Wright (Oren); cherished granddaughter, Olive Wright; loving mother, Rose Elizabeth Adams; and dear brother, Kevin Adams (David Brooks). He will also be missed by his dear nephews, Ethan and Matthew Brooks; caring brother-in-law, Eric Leatherman (Francesca); loving niece, Harlow Leatherman;

and many other loving in laws, extended family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to the American Heart Association. The family will receive visitors at Singleton Funeral & Cremation Services, P.A., 1 2nd Ave. S. W. (at Crain Hwy) on Sunday, November 6th, from 3 - 5 PM. A Celebration of Life service will immediately follow at 5 PM in the funeral home chapel.

Funeral home website link: <https://www.singletonfuneralhome.com/obituary/Gerald-Adams>

**Billie Joan Geisbert, 91**

Billie Joan Geisbert, 91 passed away on November 2, 2022, at her home in Charlotte Hall, Maryland.

Billie was born February 5, 1931, to Elbert Inglis and Eugenia Pearson in Bonham, Texas.

After high school, Billie went on to college to become a registered nurse. Billie married Stuart Geisbert Jr. on January 1, 1954. They had three children, Stuart, Sandy, and Stacey.

Billie enjoyed helping others which included her church, blood drives, meals on wheels, girl scouts, and the moonlight dream club to name a few. Above all, she enjoyed spending time with her family.

Billie is survived by her children Stuart Geisbert III (Shirley) of Charlotte Hall, MD, Sandy Ondrejcek (Jack) of Bryantown, MD, and Stacey Wilson (Bobby) of Mechanicsville, MD; grandchildren Jesse Geisbert (Jessica), Samantha John-

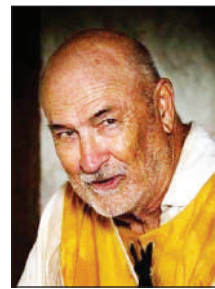
son (Will), Allie Ferraro (Chris), Dustin Wilson (Mary), Cory Wilson (Alanna) and nine great-grandchildren.

Billie is predeceased by her parents, husband Stuart, sister Dottie Gale, and grandson Joshua Geisbert.

The family will receive friends on Monday, December 5, 2022, from 5:00-7:00 pm with a prayer service at 7:00 pm at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Rd., Charlotte Hall, MD 20622 and a funeral service Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 11:00 am at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd. Mechanicsville, Maryland 20659. Interment will be private.

Condolences can be made to the family at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com)

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

**Peter Aloysius Himmelheber, 83**

Peter Aloysius Himmelheber, 83, passed away peacefully on November 9, 2022 at George Washington Hospital Center with his family by his side.

Pete was born January 15, 1939 in Washington, DC, to Merrie (Childrey) and Charles Himmelheber. The family moved to St Mary's County where he and his four siblings were raised. Pete was in the first graduating class (1957) of Ryken High School. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in electrical engineering. Pete attended Naval Officer Training School and spent the next three years in the US Navy, ending active duty as a missile ordnance officer on the USS Reeves. In January 1965, he married the former Mary Lillian Fenwick and they raised four daughters. Pete was a life-long Roman Catholic and was an active member of Our Lady's Catholic Church. He worked as a civil servant at Webster Field, St Inigoes after being honorably discharged from the navy.

After his retirement in 1995, Pete began volunteering with Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC). He was a docent and interpreter at HSMC and Sotterly Mansion. He led over 950 tours at HSMC and crafted the wrought iron cross for the chapel there. Pete was awarded the Cross Botony for service to HSMC. Pete was also an avid land records researcher and was a board member of the St. Mary's County Historical Society. He edited and contributed to their publication, "Chronicles of St. Mary's". Pete enjoyed sharing his vast historical knowledge with anyone willing to listen. In addition to his volunteer work, his hobbies included blacksmithing, sand casting, cooperage, and restoring old farm engines.

Pete was predeceased by his parents and his infant brother William. He is survived by his loving wife, Lillie, and his daughters Becky Rice (Michael), Diane Lood (Jonas), Nancy Himmelheber, and Susan McDonough (Matthew); his grandchildren Eva Lood, Britta Lood, Alexander Rice, Nicholas Rice, Callie McDonough, Jonas Peter Lood, and William McDonough; and his siblings Jerry Himmelheber, Anne Shirley, Merrie Ruth Raley, and Eve Love.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where prayers and recitation of the rosary will begin at 7:00 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will

be celebrated at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at Our Lady's Catholic Church at Medley's Neck, Leonardtown, MD. Interment will follow at Our Lady's Church Cemetery, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Alexander Rice, Nicholas Rice, Jonas Peter Lood, William McDonough, Joe Fenwick, and Robert Groat. Honorary pallbearers will be J. Ernest Bell, Alfred Gough, Ray Long, Robert Russell, William Russell, Robert Wigginton, and Ray Wise.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Pete's name to the St. Mary's County Historical Society or the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

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

**Nicholas "Nick" Joseph Simonetta, "PopPop", 89**

Nicholas "Nick" Joseph Simonetta, "PopPop", 89, of LaPlata, MD, formerly of Colton's Point, St. Mary's County, MD, passed away on November 7, 2022 in Silver Spring, MD. Nick was born in Syracuse,

NY on February 16, 1933 to his late parents, Mary Nancy Adornato Simonetta and Augustino Simonetta. Nicholas was the loving husband of Patricia Ann Simonetta, who were married in December 1992 and lovingly renewed on February 18, 2010 at Holy Angels Catholic Church, Avenue, MD. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children Jeanne Marie, Mary Theresa, Ronald, Christopher, and Christian, his siblings Marie of Syracuse, NY, and Fay of Syracuse, NY. Nick "PopPop" was the proud grandfather and great-grandfather to 19 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. Nicolas was preceded in death by his siblings Elizabeth, Rosemary, Dominick, Joseph, and August.

Nicholas graduated from Syracuse High School. He was a business owner, restaurateur, and renowned innovator and trailblazer in the entertainment industry, retiring in 2009 after over 40 years in business. Nicholas served in the United States Air Force as an Airman First Class for four years, from January 23, 1952 to January 23, 1956. He was a proud member of the 7th District Optimist Club and American Legion. He enjoyed baseball, softball, and spending time with his wife and dog.

The family will receive friends on Monday, November 21, 2022 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at Holy Angels Catholic Church, Avenue, MD. Interment will follow at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery, Bushwood, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Daniel Ross, Tom Emery, Dominic Troese, Greg Van Meter, Nicholas Simonetta, and Dominic Bright. Honorary pallbearers will be The Optimist Club Members.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

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



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# Boy Scouts Deliver Food as Demands Increase on Pantry

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Local boy scouts engaged in their annual Scouting for Food event Nov. 12, going around the county and collecting from local businesses and residents the food donations for the food pantry at Church of the Ascension in Lexington Park.

The scouts brought in a total of just over 2,000 pounds of food donations, and Phyllis Greer, director of the pantry's operations, said it was sorely needed.

"All I can tell you is that our numbers of people coming to the pantry has tripled in the past two years," Greer told *The County Times*. "We have 70 to 80 families visit us each day."

The food pantry is not open every day of the week



Phyllis Greer, center, with local Boy Scouts

— just Monday and Thursday — Greer said, but the number of families visiting to get food is now staggering.

She said the influx of food will help the food pantry ready for the holidays.

Volunteers at Church of the Ascension, about seven in all, busied themselves separating the various canned and packaged goods for later distribution but the food pantry also has meats and fruits and vegetables for customers coming for assistance.

But as demand has increased on the food pantry, which Greer said has become the Lexington Park "hub" for food assistance, particularly for the homeless, the volunteers there are running into another problem.

Donations are down 40 percent, Greer said, including from individuals and grocery stores in the past year.

Also, the food pantry is running out of federal assistance to help pay for the distribution of donations to the needy.

"We have had a Food to the Network grant, for the past two years, Covid backed," Greer said. "This grant will end Dec. 31, causing us to incur the expenses of some of the foods we distribute."

"Therefore, we are actively exploring other options to continue to provide these foods, but also cost accountability."

Dawn Elliott one of the key organizers for the Boy



Scouts participating in the event, said the scouts picked up 3,400 pounds in food donations from the VFW Post in California alone.

During the annual pickup of donations, she said, scouts put out notices soliciting donations from neighborhoods throughout Southern Maryland and then the next weekend return and retrieve them for delivery to numerous food pantries in Southern Maryland.

Church of the Ascension is just one of the pantries they bring donations to.

Last year, Elliott said, scouts gathered a total of 20,211 pounds — more than 10 tons — of food from the Southern Maryland area.

"We do it every year in November," Elliott said of Scouting for Food. "It's our way of giving back to the community."

[guyleonard@countytimes.net](mailto:guyleonard@countytimes.net)



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# Artist Brings Home A Hopeful Message



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Charlie Hewitt spent much of his life in St. Mary's County, growing up as part of the extended Hewitt family most noted for its business ventures and forays into elected office.

Coming up here as an artist, Hewitt left behind many of his works that still adorn the hallways of homes and businesses throughout the community.

Now, at 76, Hewitt has long continued his artistic journey living outside the county — he now resides in Portland, Maine — but it is now bringing him full circle, after a fashion, with his latest project.

Called the Hopeful Project, it places large, electrically lighted signs speaking one word — “Hopeful” — on buildings in urban areas around the North East and Mid-Atlantic states.

The project started in 2019, Hewitt told The County Times, when he found himself reflecting on the mood of the nation and his own.

“It was pre-COVID, but post-election,” Hewitt said. “We were very divided.”

He wanted to create a piece of art that could help him fight against “all the things that were keeping me in my corner” and being part of the division that was sweeping communities.

It didn't help, either that Maine often had a rather overcast climate, Hewitt said.

“Maine is a dark place in the winter,” Hewitt said, “And I felt compelled to illuminate that corner of our world with a message of hope.”

By designing the illuminated signs, Hewitt said, he hoped to find a way to “come out of my corner and be in the light” and hopefully spread that message to people who thought as he did and those in opposition alike.

In partnering with an industrial fabrication shop, Hewitt and his Hopeful Project have produced signs for placement all up and down the Eastern Seaboard from Maine to Maryland.

A sign already hangs in Easton and a smaller one — many of the signs are up to 20-to 24-feet long — sits in Anne Marie Gardens in Calvert County, Hewitt said.

A sign meant for Lexington Park now sits in Hollywood awaiting a place to call its home, though that has yet to be determined.

Hewitt designed his artwork, he said, to appeal to a broad swath of people with an eye towards bringing people together rather than divide.

“It just grew,” Hewitt said of the project's scope branching out from Maine. “It's non-political.

“It's not weaponized in any way.”

A graduate of Great Mills High School, Hewitt was not born in St. Mary's but his family, which includes his brother County Commissioner Mike Hewitt, found a home here and thrived.

His artwork is a reflection of his affection for St. Mary's County, he said.

“The county embraced our family,” Hewitt said. “And I've forever been grateful for it.”

Hewitt said there have been plans to put the sign in the front yard of the Church of the Ascension but Pastor Greg Syler, who leads the church there, said some significant things have to be done before the church can allow the sign to go there.

Essentially, Syler said, there has to be more hopefulness in Lexington Park, which is the county's urban center but also plagued with the most violent crime and poverty, before it can be proclaimed by a colorful sign.

“I think it's a great idea that people all over St. Mary's County want to invest in downtown Lexington Park,” Syler said.

“But, we need to find a way to engage, listen to and partner with the residents, churches and businesses who call it home

“Lexington Park has some of the greatest opportunities and greatest needs in all of St. Mary's County.”

Syler said much work was left to do to provide real hope in Lexington Park.

“There have to be meaningful signs of hope,” Syler said. “If the neighborhoods are engaged in something that has signs of being hopeful, then we'll gladly put up the sign.

“There has to be something meaningful for people to put their faith in before we put a great big sign in our front yard.”

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## Much Loved Local Historian Dies

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Peter “Pete” Himmelheber, who was well known locally for his work for the local historical society and Historic St. Mary’s City to catalogue and preserve the county’s heritage passed away last week.

He was 83.

Himmelheber was a Navy veteran, electrical engineer at Webster Field in St. Ingoes who exhibited a tremendous passion for history and dove into it upon his retirement.

Dr. Regina Faden, executive director of Historic St. Mary’s City, said Himmelheber was a personable as he was passionate about history and both found expression at the city as well as Historic Sotterley Plantation and at the St. Mary’s County Historical Society.

“He was deeply engaged... he did a tremendous amount of research,” Faden told The County Times. “He was a real contributor to the community.”

Himmelheber was also a docent at St. Mary’s City, guiding visitors through life in the founding colony of Maryland while dressed as one of its original denizens.

“He guided 900 tours for school children,” Faden said. “He also worked to keep the grounds looking their best.

“He was part of what we called the ‘defence group,’ fixing the fences around the property.”

Along with his passion for history, he was also a blacksmith.

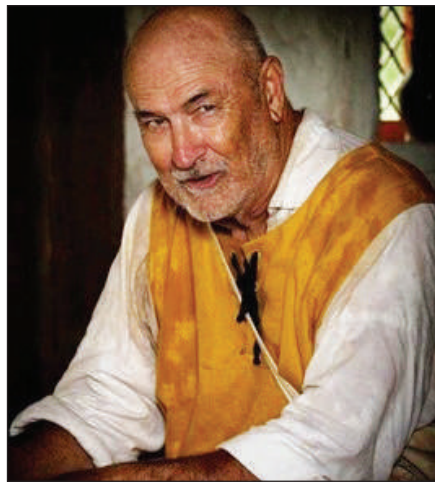
His skill can be seen on top of the chapel at St. Mary’s City in the form of a wrought iron cross there.

“He was an institution in his own way,” Faden said.

Himmelheber was “a fount of knowledge,” said Faden, who was deeply knowledgeable about St. Mary’s history, not just the who and the what but also the where.

“He knew the terrain of the county as it is now but also the historical background,” Faden said.

D.J. Lavery, supervisor of the area of the historic city known as the town center, wrote a tribute to Himmelheber



Peter “Pete” Himmelheber

and his impact on how we understand county history.

“Over the last 20 years I have had the immense honor — and, more than once, the intense frustration — of serving alongside Pete here at HSMC in a number of capacities,” Lavery said. “He has, at varying times, been my teacher, my co-worker, my subordinate, my mentor and my friend.

“Perhaps, after a lifetime of cataloging, I would be able to make a list of all the things I have learned from him; I couldn’t do that now. I think Pete might still scoff from the heavens if I tried.”

Lavery said Himmelheber’s influence at the city was ubiquitous.

“Whether it’s his research, his knowledge, his advocacy, his handiwork, his mentorship, his personality, his humor... is there anywhere an aspect of this museum, its landscape or its people that Pete didn’t touch?” Lavery wrote. “It’s easier to make a list of the things he didn’t have a hand in: That list is empty.”

Lavery said he instituted a rule which briefly stated was when Himmelheber spoke to staff, they should always listen to him.

“His shadow is long, his legend is well earned and his effect will be remembered for generations to come,” Lavery wrote. “Things will never be the same without him, and we will never be the same for having met him.”

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## County Moving Ahead with St. Clements Museum Replacement

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The longstanding St. Clements Island Museum in Colton’s Point — built in 1984 — is set to be demolished in favor of building a new, two-story facility in the near future.

The St. Mary’s County Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve a minor site plan in late September, stating the project was in keeping with the county’s comprehensive master plan.

Karen Stone, county museum division manager, said the footprint of the building would be the same as the current structure but with an extra 1,500 square feet of exhibit space going up to the second floor.

There are also plans to add hands-on exhibits for children on the second floor with an outside deck overlooking the Potomac River.

“If everything goes according to plan we should be able to award the contract [for construction] in January and work beginning shortly thereafter,” Stone told The County Times this week. “It should take about 12 months to complete.

“So by Christmas of 2023 we should be almost completely in.” The current building is aging and has



some structural issues, but Stone said, the new building will not only have more space for exhibits but tell a much deeper story about the English colonists who first came to St. Clements Island and founded Maryland in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

“We’ve got a good start on the design of the new exhibits,” Stone said. “We’re expanding the whole founding story.

“It will be about why they got on those little boats to come here and we’ll also tell the story of the Piscataway people who were already here.” Members of the Piscataway tribe are involved in writing that history, she said.

“They are writing their own story,” said Stone. “We’re really excited about that.”

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# Pedestrian Death Puts Focus on STS Passenger Safety



J. Harry Norris IV

By Guy Leonard  
 Staff Writer

The county's public works chief told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County this week that its STS bus drivers were taking extra care to encourage passengers to not get off at stops the driver believed were unsafe.

In doing so, Jim Gotsch, director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation talked openly about details of a situation in which a driver was asked to let a passenger off in Leonardtown in the last few weeks in an unsafe location.

Though the recent incident's details bore an uncanny resemblance to the one that led to the death of J. Harry Norris IV in July in Leonardtown, Gotsch said in a later phone interview it was "a completely different incident."

Norris, a disabled man and the son of former mayor J. Harry Norris III, was killed after stepping off an STS bus and attempting to cross all four lanes of Route 5 across from his long-time residence at Cedar Lane Apartments.

He was struck by an oncoming vehicle driven by a Mechanicsville resident; there was driving rain that day.

Without naming the passenger in the most recent incident at the Nov. 15 county commissioner meeting, Gotsch said that it was the passenger who "pulled the cord" in the bus to call for the driver to stop so they could walk across Route 5 to get to some destination.

Gotsch said the driver, who he also did not name, tried to dissuade the passenger from getting off the bus. "But they're saying 'I want to go across the street; I want to run

across Route 5,'" Gotsch said of what transpired on the bus between the passenger and driver before the passenger disembarked.

The death of Norris, Gotsch said, has motivated drivers to encourage passengers to avoid asking to be let off at potentially hazardous stops.

In the latest example, Gotsch said, the unnamed passenger was uninjured.

"We want to, and our drivers are doing that now, trying to make it safer for people to get on and off the bus," Gotsch said.

When Commissioner Mike Hewitt asked Gotsch about the results of the investigation into Norris' death, Commissioner

John O'Connor said their legal counsel had cautioned the elected body to avoid speaking about the incident because of possible litigation against them by the decedent's family.

In the later interview with The County Times, Gotsch said the county's own investigation had determined why Norris, 43, was let off in driving rain so far away from Cedar Lane when for years he had been both picked up and dropped off there.

"We know that but I can't talk about it," Gotsch said.

In the immediate aftermath of the striking the victim's father said the family was perplexed at why his son was dropped off in a different place than he had been for the past 15 years.

Officials with the St. Mary's County sheriff's office said this week they have yet to receive the final report from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore in the Norris case and could not release the findings of their investigations.

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“He was an institution in his own way.”  
 St. Mary’s City Executive Director Dr. Regina Faden  
 on the passing of Peter Himmelheber.



**LOCAL** 4  
 STS renews focus on passenger safety



**COMMUNITY** 15  
 Cameron bids farewell to sheriff's office



**ON THE COVER**  
 Artist with ties to St. Mary's wants to bring a hopeful art message back home

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU 11/17	49° /28°	Periods of sun	MON 11/21	49° /33°	Plenty of sunshine
FRI 11/18	50° /30°	Sunny much of the time	TUE 11/22	53° /36°	Sunny and warmer
SAT 11/19	48° /27°	Partly sunny and chilly	WED 11/23	57° /43°	Plenty of sunshine
SUN 11/20	44° /26°	Sunshine, but chilly	THU 11/24	62° /48°	A little afternoon rain

Provided by www.accuweather.com



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## A MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR ST. MARY'S