

Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

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Women's Businesses Flourish in Calvert

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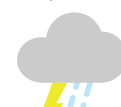




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MON, APR 17	TUE, APR 18	WED, APR 19	THU, APR 20
			
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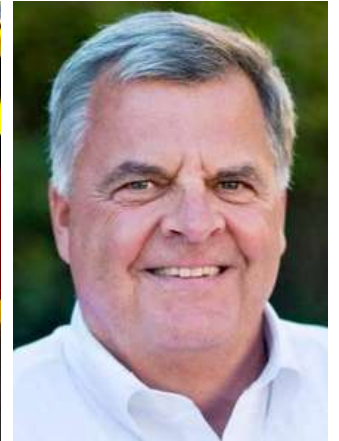
Legislature Shows Calvert 'Where's the Money'

By Dick Myers
 Staff Writer

"I think you did real well there. I think money got spread out from north to south," Del. Todd Morgan (R: 29C) said of the Maryland General Assembly's largesse to Calvert County during its 2023 session. Morgan spoke to The County Times the day after the close of the session on April 10.



Sen. Michael Jackson



Del. Todd Morgan.jpg

Morgan's staff reported the following funding coming to Calvert County:

- \$17.1 million for improvements to Jefferson Patterson Park
- \$11 million for a new library building for the University of Maryland Environmental Science Lab in Solomons
- \$2.5 million for a new research lab to study the Patuxent River
- \$1.4 million for various improvements at CalvertHealth Medical Center
- \$600,000 for improvements of the Chesapeake Beach Water Park
- \$175,000 for improvements to the Annmarie Sculpture Garden in Solomons
- \$250,000 for Calvert High School's Turf Athletic Field
- \$265,000 for improvements to the Gray-Ray American Legion Post #220
- \$265,000 for the Ladies of Charity, North Beach Food Pantry acquisition, design, site plan and construction

"That was all good," the freshman legislator said. Morgan represents southern Calvert and middle St. Mary's. He was elected last November after serving 12 years as a St. Mary's County Commissioner, a position which he feels helped him navigate through his first year in Annapolis.

"From a commissioner point of view," he said, "I was able to stop from going forward a couple times. Wait a second, guys, you don't understand from the point of view where I sat before, why this is a bad idea."

Bills supported by the Calvert County Commissioners had an uneven fate. The one that would have given the commissioners authority to produce a method of providing a bid preference to county businesses failed.

Morgan said that bill was in his committee and the chairman said he would probably move the bill out of committee. But Morgan said he was subsequently told by the committee chairman, "The Speaker (of the House) doesn't like local preference, so it's not moving."

Another failure was the Sunday hunting bill, which Morgan blamed of what he called "the horse lobby," people who like to ride their horses on Sunday.

"Sunday hunting is probably one of the biggest fiascos that goes on in Annapolis

because every Sunday hunting bill was killed and it's killed because of the horse riders," Morgan said.

He added, "The hunting season for deer, which is what everybody's worried about, is only about eight weeks long. So, horse riders can ride all year. Fox hunting is allowed all year, including on Sundays. But the people who want to go hunt deer, and we have an overabundance of whitetail deer and it's eating everything in sight. And as development continues to sprawl, the deer have less acreage to use."

Morgan said in spite of the hard lessons, it was a positive experience. "I had a very enjoyable time up there the last couple of weeks for the most part. I really had a good time. I learned to make friends up there. I learned how the game gets played, how you work across the aisle. I made a lot of new friends."

One bill that did succeed: "authorizing the State's Attorney of Calvert County to designate the county attorney or an assistant county attorney to prosecute civil infractions."

Senator Michael Jackson (D: 27th) said it was determined that a bill naming the bridge over Fishing Creek on Maryland Route 261 in Chesapeake Beach "the Fallen Heroes Fishing Creek Bridge" wasn't necessary; it can be done administratively. He said the design has already been done. "I think it's going to be great for the town," Jackson said.

As to statewide issues, Jackson said, "We were able to manage, for the first time ever in history of Maryland, the legislature having a say so in the budget."

Jackson noted, "We found out, at the beginning of session, that we had like a half a billion-dollar write-down challenge that we had not anticipated, but we were very mindful of mandates and being careful not to put a lot of mandates out there, because of challenges with the budget going forward. So, we're giving local governments enabling power versus dictating to them on many of these projects."

He added, "I think we we're continuing to lock down our responsibility on behavioral health across the state, healthcare in general, and education."

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Grasso Cuts Ribbons for Three Woman-Owned Businesses

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County Commissioner Catherine Grasso, during the just concluded Women's History Month of March, continued to make history as the first woman on the commissioner board in more than a decade. And in her first ribbon cuttings for new businesses in the county, she celebrated the opening of three owned by four county women who are making their own history with their new ventures. They are:

- Chantae Ludwick and Yolanda Williams of Let's Play Indoor Playgroup at 735 Solomons Island Rd N, Prince Frederick;
- Jennifer Garner of Whole Soul Wellness Studio, at 14350 Solomons Island Rd. Suite 202 in Solomons; and
- Kimberly Allen of Beach Beauty Supply at 10366 Southern Maryland Blvd in Dunkirk

Grasso said she was "absolutely thrilled" to see the enthusiasm of the new entrepreneurs and "such diverse leaps, with one facility for children that really gives the younger children a safe place where they can come and play and just be kids and not be on their computers. And it's such a good setup for moms and dads. Just sit there and watch their kids play or to interact.

"And then further in the county, Jennifer, I really just liked her enthusiasm as well,

and she was just so positive and such a big need for the county, for women's wellness and for men as well.

"And then when I went to the Beach Supply place and Kimberly?"

Grasso reflected, "I don't know that I would have the guts to do what they did, and I was so proud to be able to cut the ribbon for them because these women have just taken a giant leap that is going to add so much to our county. I was really enthusiastic, and I hope people will get to know them and will go to their places and keep their businesses going."

She feels the county has lent them support. "I know they are because Julie (Oberg) and her group at Economic Development, when we do these ribbon cuttings, and of course I tell them, we're behind them and we're so happy that they have opened up in our community. But then Julie Oberg and her staff come up to them as well and let them know it doesn't end here. 'If you need anything, we are there for you. Don't hesitate to call'."

She said she felt "the county's not putting you out there without oars. We will be the oars and we will help you with any questions, any problems, the good and the bad of being a business owner. So, I think that's very positive."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Beach Beauty Supply, Dunkirk



Let's Play Indoor Playgroup, Prince Frederick



Whole Soul Wellness Studio, Solomons

Calvert Delegate Charged in Home Invasion

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Democrat Delegate Jeffrie Eugene Long, Jr., 26, of Huntingtown has been charged with home invasion and first-degree assault in connection with an incident that occurred Aug. 4 in Calvert County.

Long is accused of entering the unlocked residence of Debbria Ann Brown, also located in Huntingtown on Stephen Reid Drive, without permission or invitation and threatening both Brown and a male who was in the residence.

The victims in the case are 67 and 60 years old, according to police reports.

Long, who represents areas of both Calvert and Prince George's counties as the District 27 B delegate, recently voted to send SB 1, a bill that severely restricts the ability of concealed carry permit holders to carry a handgun in public, to Gov. Wes Moore's desk, where it will likely be signed into law.

When police responded to a burglary complaint, Brown told them that Long entered her house through the unlocked front door with a metal pipe in his hand.

Long is alleged to have said: "Keep my

name off your mouth or I'm going to put you six feet under," charging documents stated.

The victim told police she was afraid for her life, court papers stated.

Long is said to have left the residence in a Mercedes, charging papers revealed, and police found a car matching that description when they went to Long's Huntingtown address on Solomons Island Road to contact him after the alleged home invasion.

When they arrived, they encountered an "unknown female" who police referred to as uncooperative who said they could not talk to Long because he was in session.

When she called Long on her cell phone, she would not allow deputies with the Calvert County Sheriff's Office talk to Long, court papers alleged.

Calvert State's Attorney Robert Harvey, Jr., petitioned the court to assign a special prosecutor to the case as he declared his office had a conflict of interest in pursuing the matter, court documents show.

St. Mary's County State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling has agreed to assign Assistant State's Attorney Lisa Ridge as special prosecutor on the case, according to court documents.

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CHRIS FRANJOLA is a writer and comedian who can currently be heard hosting his highly successful podcast, "Cover To Cover With Chris Franjola." He's a frequent contributor on Heather McDonald's wildly successful podcast, "Juicy Scoop." Chris was a regular panel guest on "Lights Out with David Spade" on Comedy Central and on Fox's gameshow "Punchline." Chris was also a writer and a regular performer on E!'s hit show "Chelsea Lately" for eight years. Together with the talented writing staff, Chris wrote more than 1,500 episodes while performing on the show. Before "Chelsea Lately," Chris wrote for other shows, including "Family Guy," the MTV Video Music Awards and the original "Chelsea Handler Show." He also starred on the critically acclaimed scripted comedy series "After Lately," which aired for three seasons on E!. He was the host of the "Sons of Anarchy" aftershow "Anarchy Afterword," airing live on FX.

MATT BERGMAN has been honing his comedy craft since he was in college pursuing a degree in criminal justice. After graduating, he realized he was afraid of criminals and decided stand-up comedy was the way to go. Bergman is easily relatable and versatile, a skillset that has opened the door to tv appearances on Gotham Comedy Live, Comedy Central Live and a Dry Bar Comedy Special. His recent album "Approbation Constante" was called "really tough to purchase" by his mother who still doesn't quite understand iTunes.

TIM D. MILLER is a master at engaging audiences and crafting a stand-up set that is a guaranteed good time for all. Tim's material is based on his life experience from Waco to the Army to the White House, trying to raise a daughter and his unique ability to find the funny in everyday life. Tim has appeared on TRU TV and in 2019 he performed at Comedy Central's Clusterfest. He is the producer and host of "Read the Room," a crowd work showcase.

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Kimberly Allen: Finding a Niche to Fill a Void

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Kimberly Allen's business plan was to fill a void in Calvert and surrounding counties. There was no beauty supply business.

Beach Beauty Supply in Dunkirk was one of three woman-owned small businesses to open recently in Calvert County.

Allen is a real estate agent and still does that part-time. But she got interested in the beauty business from her daughter, who is a beautician. And she admitted, "I've always loved playing with doll baby's hair and just hair in general. And I noticed that in the county we didn't really have a resource for synthetic hair, human hair, just hair care in general. We have lots of beauty salons, but not a beauty supply store. So, I've just always been fascinated with fashion and hair, and this just seemed like the business for me."

Allen said, "My daughter went to Northern High School, and she was in the cosmetology program, so she's kind of the one that got me interested in synthetic hair and lashes and makeup. She's the one that kind of pushed me towards opening up the beauty supply."

About starting the business, she said, "It definitely was challenging because it's a startup business and there wasn't a lot of competition and a lot of other beauty sup-

plies in the area. Funding has been challenging as far as getting loans and those types of things. But overall, with the help of my husband, we were able to obtain private funding and launch our business."

She also received some grant funding from the state of Maryland's Project Restore program, an initiative of former governor Larry Hogan.

"It was a lot of paperwork. It definitely was," she said, but her experience with real estate helped her get through the grant bureaucracy, she said.

The business is located in the Dunkirk Marketplace (Safeway shopping center, next to Hallmark Cards).

She explained, "We sell all types of beauty supplies. That includes human hair, synthetic hair, ponytails, makeup, skincare, oils, wigs, and some fashion apparel. We have some baths, we have some dresses, we have some fuzzy slippers. We have lots of different fashion apparel and accessories."

"I definitely have done my research and I've visited many beauty supplies over the years. But I've also talked to a few of the beauty supply owners that were having some difficulties and they gave me some guidance on marketing and what type of product to use. Also, social media has been very instrumental in helping me to research my target market areas and just provide a service for everyone," Allen said.

Of her new business, she said, "It's been going pretty well. Every day gets a little bit better. It's a small business and we're just starting out. It's just really getting the notice out to people that we're here and that we, we can provide the service that our county has needed for quite some time now."

She has three employees, and her husband also pitches in. And that daughter who got her interested, "she does eyelashes on Saturdays. And she does eyebrows and makeup. She also helps with some of the wig installation when people come in to get the wigs."

Allen advises others considering entrepreneurship. "I would say definitely start with the business plan and do your research. Your market research is very important to know what your customers need and never give up because there's going to be a lot of roadblocks. A lot of hurdles. You have to jump in and do a lot of long hours and you just have to be ready to engage in your



Kimberly Allen at Beach Beauty Supply

business really fully. A hundred percent." She sees the possibility of a Beach Beauty 2 and 3 sometime in the future.

They're at 10366 Southern Maryland Blvd., Dunkirk. Their hours are Monday, 1-5 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 12 to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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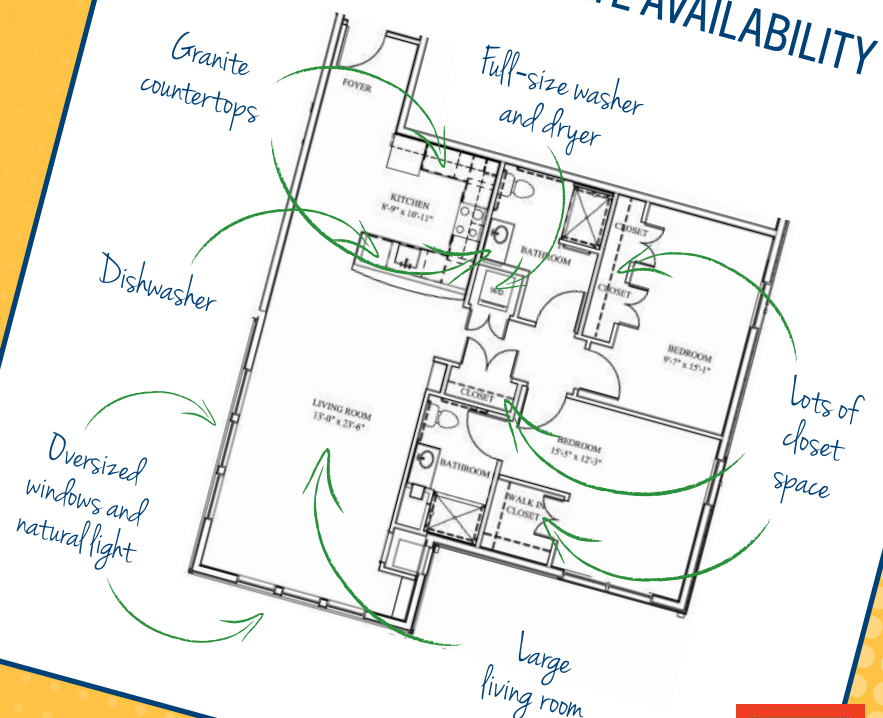
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Jennifer Garner: Finding a Higher Calling

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

“Right before I turned 40, I knew that I needed a long-term plan for my life and restaurant management was not it,” explained Jennifer Garner. Earlier this year, her plan came to fruition with the opening of her new business, Whole Soul Wellness Studio in Solomons.

Garner further explained, “I enjoyed my career previously in the restaurant industry, but I also knew that there was a higher calling, and that it was time to change. It was just time to go back to school. So, I actually went back to school and while I was still working full-time right about the time that I was supposed to receive my license, Covid happened, and the world shut down. So that put a little halt to it in the beginning. So, once I was able to take the rest of my testing with the state of Maryland, and the world opened back up, I started my journey and I very quickly realized that I wanted to open a wellness center within the first three months of working.”

Garner said, “There’s a huge need in Southern Maryland. I was living in Anne Arundel County, in Crofton and was going through my own health issues, and I just refused to let that slow me down and proceeded as normal business. And I did work for some other establishments, but just kept that goal in mind that I wanted to open up my own place so that I could work a feasible and healthy work schedule for myself and

my family.”

“It’s all been very fast rolling and fast developing,” she added. “I’ve had some very good opportunities working for other professionals in Calvert and St. Mary’s County who’ve been very supportive and helped me get where I am now.”

She launched the business in January and opened her doors in mid-February. “It’s been nonstop ever since.”

Her biggest challenge: “The hurdle is there are no business loans for my industry. Everything that I’m doing is completely out of my own pocket, which has made it a very scary process. But I am very passionate about what I do for a living. So, I put the fear aside.”

There weren’t even any Covid-related business loans available, she said.

“I just decided to take the leap. But I now know that’s why many women don’t go into business is that fear factor. Honestly that’s not just women in business. I am a single parent, so it was very hard for me to make that decision to take the leap from being an employee or even a contracted therapist to 100 percent working for myself, just because I am the only adult in the household.”

She chose Solomons because, she said, “I feel that in both counties, St. Mary’s and Calvert, people have to drive so far to receive holistic care. Most of my clients have told me they either have to go to Annapolis or the people on the St. Mary’s side have to drive all the way to Waldorf, and it’s a burden for them to work that into

their schedule. So, I really wanted a middle place geographically for both counties. I have clients both in Calvert and St. Mary’s County.” And she added, “Solomons is such a peaceful and beautiful place”

“I am a therapeutic massage therapist,” she explained about her business. “I specialize, mostly in rehabilitative and injury rehab work. I also offer acupressure and myofascial release, which is very helpful. That’s a lighter modality. I do have quite a few post-chemotherapy clients that come in when they’re ready to be cleared with their chemo and radiation treatments.”

She added, “I also do energy healing, which is called reiki, which is a Japanese modality.”

Garner noted, “During Covid, therapists did lobby. We were told that we could not work, so we all got with the state as far as getting insurance coverage for massage treatments. There are a lot of people dealing with chronic pain. And so, the state has really been working well with the therapists to offer a non-medicinal form of pain management to help decrease the opiate crisis.”

What’s it like being a new entrepreneur? “It’s been very exciting. I would say the excitement of learning the ins and outs of small business has been challenging. Marketing was one area that I did not have a lot of experience in. So, I’ve been studying.”

“I will say I work a lot more now that I work for myself than I ever did as an employee for anyone else. But I really feel I was led to do the work that I’m doing, and I know that there’s a huge need, and so it’s very fulfilling. And opening my own business has brought me a sense of joy that



Jennifer Garner, owner of Whole Soul Wellness

I haven’t experienced before.”

Will her business grow from being a one-person shop? She said, “I think I’m going to need to expand, based on the amount of bookings that are coming in,” adding, “I think that would be a wonderful way to feed into the economy of the county.”

Her studio can be reached through their website: www.Massagebook.com/biz/whole-soul-wellness, by phone at 240-466-1444 or email at wholesoulwellnessllc@gmail.com

The studio is located at 14350 Solomons Island Rd. S, Suite 202 B Solomons (second floor of the Avondale/CD Cafe Building).

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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Individuals can link both home and work

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Kids' Laughter Fills New Women-Owned Business

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

There's a new business in Calvert County that's almost assured of having happy customers. It's a place for kids to come to play. The new Let's Play Indoor Playgroup in Prince Frederick is owned by friends Chantae Ludwick and Yolanda Williams, one of three women owned small businesses recently opened in the county.

Ludwick talked to The County Times about the new business. She said she and Williams both have children. "We basically just thought of it from just going to other indoor playgrounds that are similar and just wanting to open up one for ourselves. We both have two young boys and just going to the different places and seeing how it was done, we just thought that we should open up our own."

They got the idea to start the business in 2019 but the plans were put on hold because of the pandemic. "In 2022 we decided to just move forward with it," Ludwick explained. They finally opened in February.

One of the impediments to getting started was securing all of the necessary permits. "Just learning about everything we needed because we went in full force. We didn't know a lot going in," she said. "But it's definitely a learning experience."

They did most of the interior renova-

tions of the space in the Foix Run Shopping Center (between Big Lots and Game Stop) that used to be a shoe store, assisted in part by some contractors.

There are other indoor playgrounds in Southern Maryland but none in the Prince Frederick area. Ludwick lives in Waldorf and Williams in Prince George's County, but the two friends did their research and determined that there was a real need for an indoor play facility in the Prince Frederick area.

Ludwick said, "We have bounce houses. We're a little bit similar to Pump It Up but we have a little bit of interactive play. We have a toddler area, and then we also have a block area where the kids can build different size blocks, Legos, and stuff like that."

One thing missing in the 5,000-square-foot facility is a large piece of play equipment which was special-ordered but has not yet arrived due to supply chain issues.

"It's one huge inflatable and it has different things inside. So, it has like a basketball court area. It has an obstacle course area, a bounce area also within one big inflatable," she explained.

Neither woman had any business experience, although Ludwick has a degree in Human Resources (she's pursuing a master's degree).

Of the business aspect, she agreed, "It is a challenge."

She said, "It helped me some with my human resource background only because we went through a lot of the systems that are used within the field. But yes, it's definitely has been a learning experience for me."

"Everything has been going well," she said about the business since it opened in February.

"No surprises," she added. "We've had a lot of support from the community. We have a lot of kids coming in, a lot of parents that come in in the morning with their kids. We also have daycare centers that come on for field trips. And then we have a study group also that's going to start coming once a month."

They started on a smaller scale but do have expansion desires, she said. "We actually want something on a larger scale."

Her advice to aspiring entrepreneurs: "I would just tell them to do their homework. Maybe even try to find a mentor. Although it's hard these days because everybody wants to charge you for everything. Nobody wants to give free information."



Yolanda Williams (l) and Chantae Ludwick, owners of Let's Play Indoor Playgroup in Prince Frederick

"Just do your homework first and just write down everything that you may need as far as opening a business, as far as signing a contract and what things that are included or may not be included. Have a lawyer look over your paperwork and just to make sure you know all that's needed going in."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Parenting Again: Resource Conference

Stepping in for Families Who Can't

Are you parenting again? Join us to celebrate those who step in for families who can't. Come and speak with others who are parenting again. Share tips on successes and learn how to handle the challenges. Local agencies and presenters will share helpful resources on grief, bullying, online safety, social opportunities, respite ideas, asset development, legal topics and more.

Saturday, April 29 | 10am - 1pm
Calvert Library Prince Frederick

In partnership w/Calvert County Office on Aging, Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse, Maryland Coalition of Families and Calvert County Department of Social Services

For accessibility accommodations, please contact us at least 2 weeks prior to the event at 410-535-0291.

Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Apr 13

Career Curious for Tweens and Teens

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

Want to know more about an exciting career? Join an expert in the field to talk about what it's like! Career Curious is for people aged 10-19 and their families. April Guest Speaker is: Jeff Brown from Mayweather Boxing & Fitness, Bowie. Hear all about how to be an entrepreneur and personal trainer from a local business professional, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way and Zoom
6:30-8 p.m.

Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Jeannette Findley and JC Hooker. Please register to receive the Zoom link. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Apr 14

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>.

Sat, Apr 15

Community Yard Sale

Huntingtown High School
4125 Solomons Island Rd.
8 a.m.-noon

The Huntingtown High School RFL Club is the sponsor. In the front parking lot of the school. Reserve a spot for a \$20 donation to the American Cancer Society. To reserve a spot or for more information, contact dibroof@gmail.com.

Earth Day Themed Story Walk

American Chestnut Land Trust's
Griffin Meadow Trail
10 a.m. (all week)

Self-Guided story walk designed for families with children with pages of book posted along trail. Free

Asian American Pacific Islander Cultural Festival

Calvert County Fairgrounds
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Join us to learn about and celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander culture. There will be dancing, food, art projects, games and more. Co-sponsored by AARP Maryland, Calvert Library, Calvert County Parks & Recreation, Charles County Public Library, St. Mary's Public Library. Enjoy performances and exhibits representing multiple cultures such as Korean, Hawaiian, Filipino, Chinese, Indian and Thai. If you're interested in participating as a AAPI vendor, performer, or exhibitor, contact Robyn Truslow at 410-535-0291. Hints: Buy lunch from one of our Asian food vendors. Registration is not required but it helps us gauge interest. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Family Game Day

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
1-4 p.m.

Come play games at the Southern Branch! Drop-in to play board and card games in the meeting room. Choose from our selection of classic and new games, or bring your own. We have Happy Salmon, Yahtzee, Doomlings, Sorry!, What Do You Meme Family?, Game of Thrones Monopoly, Jenga, chess, Last Word, and more. Children, teens, and their families are all welcome! Hot chocolate and donuts will be available. Registration not required. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, Apr 16

Bayside History Museum Lecture Series

North Beach Town Hall
1:30-2:30 p.m.

Hear Vincent Turner's telling of the story of the 2nd and the 5th Ranger Battalions at Pointe-du-Hoc 79 years ago. Uniforms and equipment from World War II will be on display. Registration not required but will get you a reminder! Calvert Library, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Southern Maryland Bluegrass

Calvert Elks #2620
1015 Dares Beach Rd, Prince Frederick
2 p.m.

Southern Maryland Bluegrass at the Elks will feature High Fidelity, a group of young performers that has the heart of '50s and '60s style of traditional Bluegrass music draws much of their inspiration from bands like Reno & Smiley, The Stanley Brothers,

The Louvin Brothers, and Jim & Jesse.

Tickets for the show will be available at the door for \$20 per person. Under twelve are admitted free with a paid adult. Food and beverages will be available for sale and there will be a 50/50 raffle as well as door prizes. The doors open at noon and the show will begin at 2 pm. For more information go to: www.somdbluegrass.com or call 301-737-3004.

Mon, Apr 17

Book Discussion

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

Join us this month to discuss "The Marriage Portrait" by Maggie O'Farrell. Florence, the 1550s. Lucrezia, third daughter of the grand duke, is comfortable with her obscure place in the palazzo: free to wonder at its treasures, observe its clandestine workings, and devote herself to her own artistic pursuits. But when her older sister dies on the eve of her wedding to the ruler of Ferrara, Modena and Reggio, Lucrezia is thrust unwittingly into the limelight: the duke is quick to request her hand in marriage, and her father just as quick to accept on her behalf. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Apr 18

School Readiness Series - Communication.

Calvert Country School
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Boost your child's language development and knowledge of the world. Snacks, take home materials, and door prizes provided for all registered families. Calvert Library 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Take Back the Night

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

I Have the Right To: A HS survivor's story of sexual assault, justice & hope. Meet Susan and Alex Prout, founders of "I Have the Right To" whose daughter Chessy is the survivor of high school sexual assault and author of the book "I Have the Right To." In partnership with Commission for Women, Calvert County Sheriff's Office, Calvert County State's Attorney's Office and Calvert Health Department. Place "I Have the Right To" on hold. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Apr 19

Reading Buddies

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
6-7 p.m.

Help build your child's reading confidence by reading to a teen. Bring your child and we will provide the teenager. Fun for all! Please email Mary for more information at least a week before the event. Do NOT register for the event! Recommend a book you liked as a child. Earn a service learning hour! 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Women Transitioning Back to the Workforce

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

Looking for a job after an extended gap in employment? Don't miss this free, interactive series with guidance on how to update your resume, negotiate your salary, and interview on Zoom. The CCCW wants to help the women of Calvert County re-enter the workforce with dignity and grace. This interactive Career Builder Series is offered by the Calvert County Commission for Women in partnership with Calvert Library. If you have questions or comments, please contact the Calvert County Commission for Women at calvertwomen@gmail.com or Alisha.aliaspsey@gmail.com 303-906-2954.

Thu, Apr 20

Little Minnows

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

This month's theme is Wacky Weather. For preschoolers ages 3 - 5, with an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Join us for story time and a takeaway craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Programming is included with museum admission.

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'll be getting lost and found with map making! For cartographers in grades K to 7. Registration required. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Apr 13

St. Mary's County Public Schools Virtual Job Fair

Online
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

If you attended our in-person teacher job fair on March 25, this fair is not for you. But, if you could not participate in that fair, please sign up for our virtual teacher job fair. Our students can't wait to meet you!

Use this link to make an appointment: cfplus.page.link/dgkv

Fri, Apr 14

Annual Spring Book Sale

St Mary's County Fairgrounds
Noon to 8 p.m.

The Friends of the St. Mary's County Library (FOL) is holding its Annual Spring Book Sale at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds. The Friday sale is open only to FOL Members. Membership Information is available at www.stmalib.org and you may

join at the door. Friday's hours are: 12 to 8 p.m. 100% of the net proceeds support the St. Mary's County Library.

Rec & Parks Summerstock Auditions for School of Rock

Great Mills High School
21130 Great Mills Rd, Lexington Park
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Auditions for this year's Summerstock production, School of Rock, will be held April 14 and 15. Video auditions are also available. The age range is 10 to 22.

Roles to be cast include 35 adult characters (actors/singers/dancers aged 15 to 22 playing parents, teachers, and more), 9 students (actors/singers/dancers aged 10 to 14), plus Dewey (actor/singer/guitarist aged 15 to 22), Katie (actor/singer/bass player aged 10 to 14), Zach (actor/singer/guitar player aged 10 to 14), Freddie (actor/singer/drummer aged 10 to 14), and Lawrence (actor/singer/keyboard player aged 10 to 14).

For complete audition information and online audition form, download the audition info booklet at drive.google.com/file/d/1X-tarf4ai2lb6IgJEj5pLiJtjPZ8KYr6M/view?usp=share_link

Email Wade Thompson at smsummerstock@gmail.com if you have questions.

Sat, Apr 15

SMAWL Kitten Shower

Cat Castle
20835 Callaway Village Way, Callaway
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SMAWL is hosting their Annual Kitten Shower in person this year at the Cat Castle! Come join us for fun games and prizes, balloons, silent auctions, door prizes, popcorn and cotton candy, visit with our Castle cats, get your picture taken in our photo booth or with our newest mascot Princess. See our newly renovated facility, take a tour, learn more about what we do and how we rescue 400 kittens per year! Fun for all ages and the whole family!

Am. Legion Pork Loins and Beef Sandwich Sale

American Legion Post 221
21690 Colton's Point Rd, Avenue
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 is sponsoring a pork loin and beef sandwich sale. Pork loin, sliced roast beef, and BBQ beef sandwiches will be sold on both Saturday and Sunday at American Legion Post 221 @ 21690 Colton's Point Rd (Rt. 242), in Avenue, MD. The event will be from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and sandwiches will cost \$8.00 each. For more information e-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301*481*6625. Tell them you saw the announcement on the SoMD Internet Calendar.

Ongoing

Annual Spring Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale

Seventh District VRS Auxiliary
21506 Colton Point Rd, Avenue
April 15-22, 2023
Saturday Hours - 8 am to 12 pm
Sunday & Weekdays - 9 am to 3 pm
Outdoor Space Rental - \$20.00

Call Trisha at 301-769-3214 or Peggy at 301-481-7210 for information, donations or outdoor space rental. Thanks for your support of our fundraiser.

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I run for distance. And for Hospice.

Legendary Ultra Runner Mike Wardian
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THIS SATURDAY

26th Run & Walk for Hospice

Saturday, April 15th, 2023 | Leonardtown, MD | Register/sponsor at runforhospice.org

"When you look back on life, you may find the greatest investment you ever made wasn't in a stock or market, but in another person's life."

Sponsor our event! See runforhospice.org or call: Emily 301-994-3075 | Jim Dicus 240-925-5423

100% of all net proceeds benefit Hospice in providing care to the terminally ill.



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

Unless otherwise specified, all activities are open to Senior Activity Center participants ages 50+. Please call your local Senior Activity Center or visit StMarysMD.com/aging for the most up-to-date information.

Zumba Gold

This exciting class takes place at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Mondays at 12:30 p.m. Geno will get you groovin' with exciting dance-fitness workouts, featuring upbeat world rhythms designed to provide a total-body wellness program that feels like a party while it revitalizes your mind and body. Are you a beginner? A high burner? Somewhere in the middle? Perfect—you can move at a pace comfortable for you! If you've never tried this class, you can check it out for free the first time. If you decide to keep it going, purchase a fitness card for \$35 which is good for 10 fitness classes of any kind at any of the three senior activity centers in St. Mary's County. Stop by any Monday in time for the 12:30 p.m. class armed with a water bottle and wearing

comfortable fitness clothes!

Physical Therapy: New Technologies

The world of physical therapy has been ever-changing with new options since you last tried physical therapy (PT). Dr. Michael O'Brien of Freedom Physical Therapy will provide information on today's latest and greatest PT technology. Join us at Northern Senior Activity Center on Thursday, April 20, from 2-4 p.m. for this in-depth, fascinating presentation on aquatics, laser, cupping, dry needling, and more innovative tools. A Q&A session will follow. To register for this free event, click on the "View and Sign Up for Activities and Programs" button at www.stmarysmd.com/aging. Accommodations can be made for those requiring registration assistance by leaving a message at 301-475-

4200, ext. 3115.

Supporting the Men & Women in Law Enforcement

The community is invited to join the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, the Department of Aging & Human Services, and the Triad/SALT Council to thank this year's Law Enforcement Officers of the Year and remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to their community.

Law Enforcement Appreciation Day will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 11:30 a.m. at The White Rose, located at 21030 Point Lookout Road in Callaway, MD.

The Officer of the Year from each agency will receive recognitions from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County,

Governor Wes Moore, the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House of Delegates, the Triad/SALT Council and more.

The community is invited to stay for lunch, free of charge, following the ceremony. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Sarah Miller at 301-475-4200, ext. 1073, or at sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov

Loffler Book Club

During the month of April read *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Discussion will take place on Friday, May 5, 2 p.m. at the Loffler Senior Activity Center. Contact Sheila.Graziano@stmaryscountymd.gov if you wish your e-mail address to be added to the book club contact list.

★ ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



Our Rights Too! Overlooked Women of Color in the Fight for Women's Rights

Overlooked No More! Carol Simon Levin, storyteller and author of "Remembering The Ladies: From Patriots in Petticoats to Presidential Candidates," tells the story of the long fight for women's rights emphasizing the overlooked role played by women of color. This is a virtual session held on Wednesday, April 19 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. A Q & A session will follow this presentation. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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

Friday, April 14 - Sunday, April 16 at St. Mary's County Fairgrounds

The Friends of the St. Mary's County Library Annual Spring Book Sale offers thousands of gently used books at amazing prices! Cash, check, credit cards accepted.

Friday, April 14, 12 - 8 p.m. (Members Only - Not a member? Join today on <https://folstmalib.wildapricot.org/> or join at the door!)

Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 16, 12 - 4 p.m.

Protect Yourself: Online Security and Privacy

Learn how to protect yourself and your information online at Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, April 18 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Topics include using strong passwords and two-factor authentication, avoiding internet scams, and using freely available tools to limit the information that's collected and shared when you browse the web. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Using Census Records: The U.S. Federal Census and State Census Records

The U.S. Federal Census has been conducted every 10 years since 1790. These federal and state census records contain valuable information about your ancestors. Join us online on Tuesday, April 18 from 6 - 7 p.m. to learn about locating census records, what information was collected, and how you can use the information to make a timeline for your ancestors. A Zoom link will go out to participants the day before the program. Register on www.stmalib.org

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The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

The new fishing season is having a slow beginning as cold fronts continue to keep us and the water chilly. This is the week that will get things going as day temps reach toward 80° and night temps stay above 50°.

Perch have been caught on the bay shore at Elms Beach, that lays between Cedar Point and Point Lookout. This is a fun public beach with a parking lot and picnic tables. Catches of medium sized perch have been consistent on blood worm bits. Perch should become available most everywhere as the water warms.

Catfish are the big-ticket item for the upper Potomac where charter and private boats are hauling in huge fish. The fish are easy to catch and eager to bite. Cut alewife or mud shad are the ticket for bait. The fish range from a couple of pounds up to 25 or 30 pounds, with the bigger fish more common. How big do these fish get? Fifty- or sixty-pound fish are not out of the question, and a monster close to 100 pounds would not surprise anyone. Bring big gear.

The season is closed for striped bass until May 1. There have been plenty of sightings and accidental hook and release of big cow stripers on their spawning run. If it is a late spawn, there will be big fish for trollers in the bay and Potomac when the season kicks off.

Black drum have been caught in the lower bay and in Tangier Sound.

Fresh water fishing is excellent with bass at St. Mary's Lake and in local and public ponds hitting crank baits. Many are small, but there are a lot of them. Crappie have started at the Lake and live minnows fished below a bobber and reeled in slowly will bring strikes. Crappie jigs are good cast around submerged structure. Pickerel will hit spinner baits.

A View From The BLEACHERS



DISAGREEMENTS, HANDSHAKES AND BEER

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

The calendar is light. March Madness and baseball's opening day have passed. The NHL and NBA playoffs haven't started. The NFL draft is weeks away. What then? In these bleachers we still lurk, looking for inspiration, something to quicken the pulse, to bet on, or to argue and fuss about.

That's it: a good old fashioned verbal sparring among friends. Why not? Recognizing I have the stage here (so long as you don't give me the hook), and 700 words of uninterrupted monologue, I ask for your patience. Some of this will prompt applause (or at least a quiet, affirming grin). Irritation will be the defining emotion for others. There will be a little bit of both for everyone – of this, I'm sure. So, stick with me. And thanks – in advance – for the time.

Here are some statements about music. The Rolling Stones are the greatest band ever. Longevity. Ridiculously deep catalog. Killer live act. No one has written better songs than Bob Dylan. Singers: Aretha Franklin has no peer. None. Her album "I Never Loved A Man The Way That I Love You" is appointment listening. Do so soon if not immediately. No one has ever played the trumpet like Miles Davis. That's a difficult admission because I love New Orleans. And if you love New Orleans, well...Louis Armstrong. To square with Mr. Armstrong, I anoint him jazz's greatest artist of all time. There, I feel better. As for today's music, there's good stuff out there if you hunt. But most of the popular stuff is artificial-intelligence-generated crap. I'm laughing as I type that but I'm not entirely joking...it sounds like AI!

The planet's climate is in peril. Why this doesn't bind us is baffling; it threatens our security, the homes of millions, global stability and, for many devout people, the creator's work. "Influencers" and Kardashians are overpaid and overrated; teachers are underpaid and underrated. The obsession with trivial quibbles, demonization of fellow Americans and disregard of the truth, ignores existential threats and emboldens our real enemies. The concentration of wealth in the United States is disturbing; the lack of support for candidates proposing to address it is confounding. As a parent, the inaction to combat gun violence, to include common sense gun control, is maddening.

And for sports, the reason you stopped by, enjoy the parade of likes and dislikes. The Masters had me in mental knots last weekend. The LIV golfers annoy me – mercenaries chasing a bigger pot of gold – as does Augusta National and its record of racial and gender exclusion (no African American or female members until 1990 and 2012, respectively). A "tradition unlike any other"? But it's The Masters – azaleas in bloom, Jim Nance's soothing voice and all the best golfers competing for the green jacket – golf's eden.

Couple points on basketball. Michael Jordan is the greatest player of all time, okay. If you could pick one player to win one game, it's Jordan. Second, I hate "load management" – stars sitting out games. Jalen Rose has a great idea. Instead of the statistical champs – scoring, rebounds, etc. - being crowned based on highest average, give it to the player who accumulated the most (points, rebounds, assists, etc.). Love it.

And finally – baseball. I'm crushing on the pitch clock. What do I feel when dumfounded pitchers and hitters get called for violations? Glee. Life is too short to see a batter adjust his helmet, gloves and other particulars after every pitch or pitchers staring blankly at the catcher in the set position with no intention of delivering a pitch before next Tuesday.

There's a chance you find most of that agreeable; others find much of it nonsense, if not pure lunacy. Universal agreement or disagreement is unlikely. Which is fine. There are few absolutes in music, politics, sports or elsewhere. Opinions are entitlements. Conversations are healthy. Disagreements broaden perspectives. And in the end, there's a handshake and a beer (if the parties are so inclined), a shared love of a team, a sport or a country.

Or at least that's how it was. How it should be. How it must be again.
Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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How to Make Outdoor Living Spaces More Comfortable

Private backyards are now go-to spaces for recreation and entertainment and great places to recharge the body and mind.

One ripple effect of the COVID-19 pandemic was more time spent outdoors, even if it was predominantly on one's own property. OnePoll, in conjunction with the lawn care company TruGreen, surveyed 2,000 American homeowners and found participants spent 14 hours outside every week in 2021, which was three hours more than prior to the pandemic. In addition, respondents admitted that time spent outdoors was therapeutic.

A separate survey conducted for the International Casual Furnishings Association found that people now spend more time relaxing, gardening, exercising, dining, and entertaining outside than in years past. Though COVID-19 may no longer dominate headlines, the desire to enjoy outdoor spaces has not waned.

While enjoying outdoor living areas, homeowners can do all they can to make these spaces comfortable and welcoming. The following are some good starting points.

Get all lit up

Outdoor spaces can be enjoyed no matter the hour when there is ample lighting. That could be why the International Casual

Furnishings Association reports those who plan to renovate their outdoor spaces list outdoor lighting as a priority. Outdoor lighting not only sheds light on entertaining spaces, but also makes spaces safer and more secure.

Increase privacy

No matter how friendly homeowners are with their neighbors, there comes a time when privacy is paramount. Fencing, whether it is wood or vinyl, or even a natural fence made from closely planted hedges, can ensure residents feel comfortable venturing outdoors to swim, take a cat nap or even star gaze in private.

Address the elements

Homeowners should note the direction their backyard faces and the typical daily conditions of the space. For example, a yard that faces southwest may get plenty of strong sun during the day, requiring the addition of shade trees, covered patios or arbors to cut down on the glare and heat. If the yard is often hit by winds, trees or bushes planted strategically as windbreaks can help.

Sit comfortably

High-quality comfortable seating increases the likelihood that homeowners



will want to stay awhile in their outdoor spaces. A deep seating set complete with plush chairs, outdoor sofa or love seat and chaise lounge chairs gives people more opportunity to sit and stay awhile.

Take a dip

A pool can be the perfect gathering spot on a warm day, while a spa/hot tub can bridge the gap to cooler weather. According to the Family Handyman, soaking in hot tubs can relax tired muscles after a long day, loosen up stiff joints, improve cardio-

vascular health, and reduce the time it takes to fall asleep.

Bite back at bugs

Homeowners may want to consider using a professional exterminator to get rid of ticks, mosquitoes and other nuisance insects from outdoor spaces.

As people spend more time enjoying their properties, they can consider the many ways to make outdoor living spaces more comfortable.

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The Basics of Fertilizing a Lawn



Spring marks the return of lawn and garden season. Lawns often bear the brunt of winter's wrath, so spring is a great time to nurse them back to health, and fertilizing can be an essential component of that process.

Fertilizing a lawn can be intimidating. An array of fertilizers, with each seemingly designed to address a different issue, can make homeowners' heads spin when visiting their local lawn and garden center. However, fertilizing is a very simple task that any homeowner can tackle. In fact, fears about fertilizing are often unfounded and can be overcome with some basic knowledge of the process.

- Identify which type of grass is in the yard. The home improvement experts at HGTV note that turfgrass is divided into two categories: cool-season grass and warm-season grass. A local lawn and garden center can help homeowners identify which type of grass is in the yard, and this often depends on location. Fescue, bluegrass and perennial ryegrass are some examples of cool-season grasses, while Bermuda, bahia, St. Augustine, and zoysia are considered warm-season grasses. Identifying which type of grass is in the lawn is important because that will indicate when to fertilize. Cool-season grasses are typically best fertilized in early spring, while warm-season lawns can benefit from an application just before especially warm temperatures arrive.
- Survey the lawn to identify which spreader to use. A small yard or a

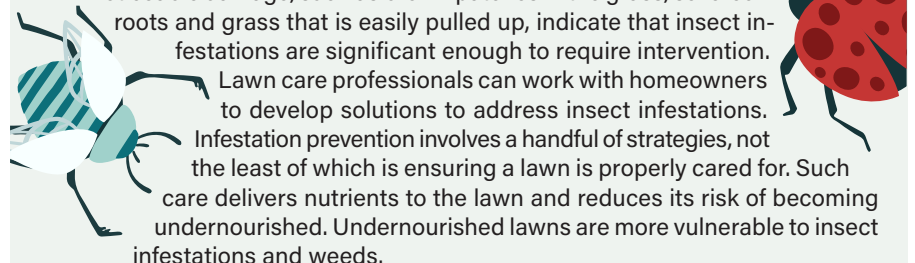
thriving lawn with only a few bald or unsightly patches may not need a full application of fertilizer. In such instances, a hand spreader can suffice. For larger lawns and areas, a broadcast spreader is the ideal option. Spreaders have multiple settings, and the fertilizer package will indicate which setting to utilize when using the product.

- Test the soil prior to purchasing fertilizer. The lawn experts at Pennington® note that a simple soil test can reveal soil pH and phosphorous and potassium levels. Soil tests can be purchased at most home improvement stores and lawn and garden centers, and they can help homeowners determine which fertilizer will most benefit their lawns.
- Water the lawn prior to fertilizing. The experts at Scotts® recommend a good watering a few days prior to fertilizing a lawn. Such an approach ensures the soil is ready to accept the fertilizer once it's applied.
- Follow the instructions carefully. Detailed instructions are typically provided on fertilizer product packaging. Once homeowners have identified and purchased the product they need, they can simply follow the instructions on the packaging, including how and when to water after application, which can make fertilizing less intimidating.

Fertilizing in spring can help a lawn recover from the previous summer and winter, ensuring it's lush and green when summer entertaining season arrives.

Did you know?

The National Association of Landscape Professionals notes that lawns can support a significant number of insects feeding on them because the grass grows much faster than the insects can damage it. But noticeable damage, such as brown patches in the grass, severed



roots and grass that is easily pulled up, indicate that insect infestations are significant enough to require intervention. Lawn care professionals can work with homeowners to develop solutions to address insect infestations.

Infestation prevention involves a handful of strategies, not the least of which is ensuring a lawn is properly cared for. Such care delivers nutrients to the lawn and reduces its risk of becoming undernourished. Undernourished lawns are more vulnerable to insect infestations and weeds.

Should I DIY?: 3 Questions to Decide Whether to Renovate On Your Own



A do-it-yourself mentality has taken hold in millions of households across the globe. Popular television channels like HGTV and DIY Network as well as accessible home improvement content on apps like YouTube has inspired many homeowners to tackle renovation projects around their homes. Taking such initiative is admirable, though it also can prove costly if homeowners end up biting off more than they can chew.

Home improvement videos and television shows have a tendency to oversimplify renovation projects, potentially giving homeowners a false sense of confidence in their DIY abilities. A concerted effort on the part of homeowners to determine if it's best to renovate on their own or hire a professional should always be the first step of any renovation project. No two homeowners are the same, but the following three questions can help homeowners determine if DIY is their best option.

1. Can I afford to DIY?

Professional home improvement projects are costly for a variety of reasons. Materials can be costly, but so are the tools and labor necessary to do the job right. Homeowners may not have the tools necessary to complete complicated projects. Specialty tools can be expensive to purchase or even rent, and the cost of acquiring such tools should be included in any DIY project cost estimates. Labor also factors heavily into professional projects, and for good reason. Talented contractors have unique skills that have been developed and perfected over many years. Those skills can ensure projects are completed quickly and correctly. Labor may seem costly, but such costs may ultimately prove to be a bargain compared

to the cost of fixing DIY mistakes. Projects that are minor in scope and don't require the use of potentially costly specialty tools may be better suited for weekend warriors than more complicated renovations.

2. Do I have the time?

Homeowners must determine how much time they have to complete a project before deciding to do it themselves. No one wants to spend months staring at an unfinished renovation project. Homeowners who are already pressed for time may not be able to complete projects in a timely fashion, which can make homes less comfortable and even less safe.

3. Can I pull this off?

DIY projects can instill homeowners with a sense of pride in their homes, but it's imperative that homeowners considering the DIY option conduct an honest assessment of their skills. A lack of renovation experience does not necessarily mean a homeowner cannot successfully complete a DIY project. But in such instances, it may be best to start with small, straightforward projects and then gradually move up to bigger, more complicated projects as skills are fine tuned. And homeowners who have never been at their best with a hammer in hand should not be ashamed to leave the work to the professionals.

Television shows and online tutorials can make renovations appear easier than they actually are. Homeowners considering DIY renovations can ask themselves a handful of questions to determine if they're ready for the challenge of renovating their homes on their own.

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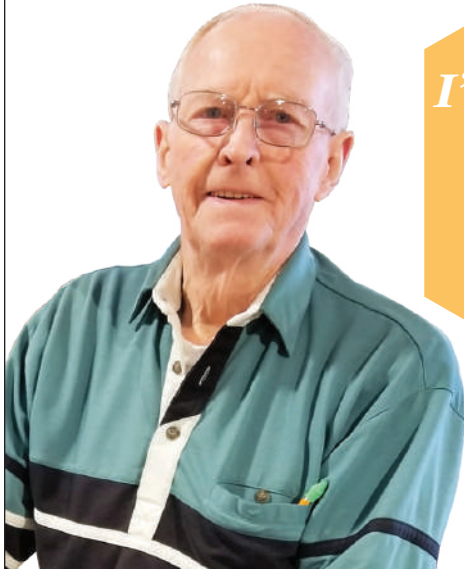
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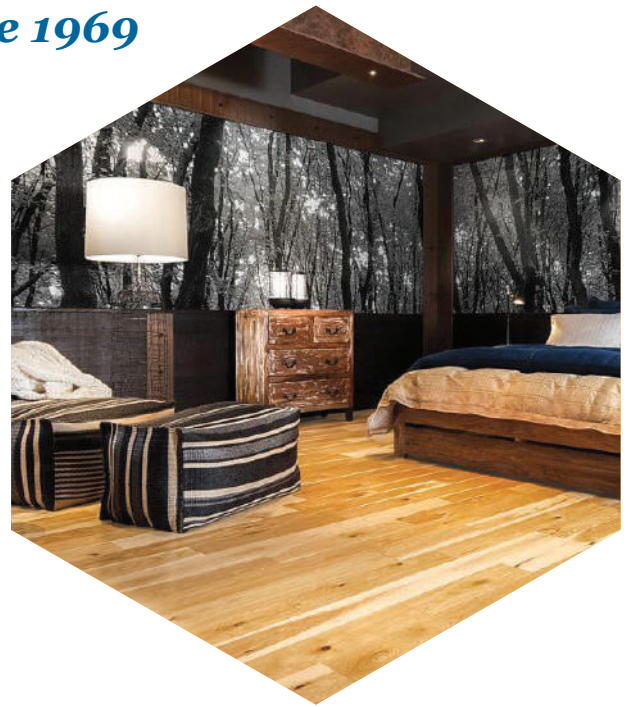
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Stay safe around power lines

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- Contact SMECO to disconnect power if you are doing work that requires close contact with overhead lines attached to your home.
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The Benefits of an Energy-Efficient Home



Consumer efforts to be more eco-conscious are more and more noticeable. For proof of that, one need look no further than the increase in vehicle charging stations. Such stations are more accessible than ever and illustrate that consumer preference is increasingly leaning toward products that leave as small a carbon footprint as possible.

Another indicator of a growing interest in eco-friendly products is the popularity in energy-efficient homes. In fact, a recent survey from the National Association of Home Builders found that energy-efficient features are among the most sought-after “must-haves” among homebuyers. Among those surveyed, 83 percent desired Energy Star-rated windows, 81 percent wanted Energy Star-rated appliances and 80 percent preferred energy-efficient lighting.

Though eco-conscious sensibilities compel millions of homeowners to make their homes more energy-efficient, that’s not the only reason to upgrade your home. The following are a handful of the many benefits of energy-efficient homes.

- **Save money:** Inflation was one of the biggest stories of 2022, as the cost of living rose dramatically in the wake of world events. According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation led to an overall 6.5 percent increase in prices. But that increase was dwarfed by the cost of electricity, which increased by 14.3 percent in 2022. Energy-efficient appliances can help homeowners overcome that spike, as the U.S. Department of Energy indicates upgrading to such products can

help homeowners reduce their energy costs by as much as 30 percent.

- **Improve resale value:** As the NAHB survey indicates, modern homebuyers want energy-efficient homes. They’re also willing to pay more for such homes. Research from the mortgage lender Freddie Mac found that homes with energy-efficient ratings sold for nearly 3 percent more on average than homes without such ratings.
- **Live healthier:** The benefits of energy-efficient homes aren’t just economic, though health-related benefits certainly produce an economic incentive as well. According to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, insulation and air sealing protect individuals from heat waves and other ripple effects of climate change. The ACEEE notes that weatherization can improve indoor air quality and comfort, a notable benefit for asthma sufferers and seniors. In fact, the ACEEE estimates that integrating energy efficiency programs in homes could reduce seniors’ risk for falls in their homes, potentially saving \$2 billion in fall-related health care costs over the next decade, and improve asthma outcomes, which could reduce health care costs by as much as half a billion dollars.

Energy-efficient products and practices pay numerous dividends, making them a worthy expenditure for any homeowners looking to upgrade their homes.

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Quick and Easy Ways to Give Your Kitchen a New Look

Kitchens are often described as the busiest rooms in a home. Kitchens are where meals are prepared and tend to be go-to gathering spots on holiday get-togethers and during other events when homeowners host family and friends.

With so much time spent in the kitchen, it's easy to see how homeowners might grow a little bored by these rooms. The cost of a kitchen remodel won't be cheap, as the home improvement resource Angi.com notes that the typical cost of such a project in the United States is between \$13,000 and \$38,000. Angi.com estimates even indicate that a high-end remodel could cost homeowners as much as \$61,000. That's beyond many homeowners' budgets. But the good news is that there are many quick and easy, not to mention less expensive, ways to give a kitchen a new look.

- Repaint and restyle the cabinets. Cabinet space is an undeniably precious commodity in a kitchen, especially as more and more homeowners embrace their inner chef and cook more complicated meals at home. After all, the more expansive a home chef's culinary repertoire, the more space that person needs to store all the tools of the cooking trade. A full cabinet replacement is unnecessary if the cabinets are still functional and not overcrowded, so repainting them

can be a great way to give the kitchen a new look while keeping costs reasonable. During the painting project, homeowners can install new cabinet knobs and/or drawer pulls to freshen up the style of the cabinets even further.

- Install under-cabinet lighting. Another inexpensive way to give a kitchen a new look is to install under-cabinet lighting. Under-cabinet lighting serves both an aesthetic and practical purpose. From a purely aesthetic standpoint, under-cabinet lighting can make a kitchen feel more warm and keep the kitchen illuminated when meals aren't being prepared and homeowners don't want to have their overhead lights on but still want to be able to navigate the kitchen safely. During meal prep, under-cabinet lighting can illuminate counters so it's easier to chop, peel and perform other prep tasks.
- Replace the existing backsplash. Replacing backsplash is another simple, inexpensive and effective way to give a kitchen a new feel. Homeowners can opt for something neutral that won't upset their existing decor or go with a more bold backsplash that immediately draws the attention of anyone who enters the room. This simple job can be done by the aver-



- age do-it-yourselfer and the cost of new backsplash won't break the bank.
- Replace existing seating. Whether you have an island countertop with bar stools or a breakfast nook with cushioned seats, replacing the seating is a budget-friendly job that can create a new look when entering the room. Countertop bar stools come in many styles, so giving this area of the kitchen a new feel can be as simple as shifting

from classic, high-back stools to more modern swivel stools with a chrome base. For the breakfast nook, replacing a light-colored bench cushion with a bolder alternative can instantly transform the look of the space.

Kitchen remodels can break the bank. But there's a host of budget-friendly ways for cost-conscious homeowners to revitalize these popular spaces in their homes.



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Five Signs It's Time to Renovate



Homeowners renovate their homes for a variety of reasons. Renovations can increase the value of a property and make homes safer and more comfortable for their occupants. Improvements also can be made to stay current with the times or to give a home a new vibe.

Statista projects \$510 billion will be spent on home improvements in 2024. The home improvement market is generating significant revenue. In fact, nearly a quarter of Americans opting to renovate their homes will spend an average of \$10,000 on their projects. According to a Home Stars Renovation report, 8 percent of Canadian homeowners who have renovated have spent more than \$20,000 on a

home improvement project.

Kitchens and bathrooms often get the most attention when it comes to home improvement. However, every room and space in a home may need a renovation at some point, and the following are five signs it's time to renovate.

1. Age: The National Association of Home Builders states that 50 percent of U.S. homes are over the age of 40. That means that age alone could dictate a need to renovate, particularly if some materials are original to the home. For example, asphalt roofs typically last 25 to 30 years, while window frames can last 20 to 50 years depending on how well they have been maintained.

- 2. Inconvenient layout:** Some homeowners scratch their heads when faced with awkward floor plan layouts. While one may live with the inconvenience for some time, typically a floor plan that isn't working for the homeowner is a major driver of renovations.
- 3. Outdated looks:** A home can look dated even if it is a relatively recent build. That's because trends change quickly. For example, dark, cherry cabinets that were popular just a little while ago have now been replaced by lighter color palettes. Homeowners whose homes do not match the looks emulated in design magazines may consider a change, particularly if they're planning to sell soon.
- 4. Deterioration:** Signs of water, storm or structural damage should be addressed as soon as possible. Any deterioration should be a strong indicator that it's time to renovate.
- 5. Efficiency:** Escalating utility bills could be indicative of an inefficient home. Homeowners can conduct energy audits and then improve the areas where energy loss may be occurring, such as windows, doors, siding, and insulation.

Homeowners can renovate their homes when they see fit, but various signs may warn that it's time consider updating or remodeling a home.

Did you know?

Home renovations can improve a home in many different ways. Modifications to kitchens and bathrooms have long been popular projects, but are they the most popular renovations? According to data from Realm, which analyzed the top 10 most popular projects from roughly 2.8 million listings and permit filings in the United States in 2022, certain projects are more popular than others. Nationally, the most common home renovations include interior painting, exterior painting, finishing a basement, installing or replacing windows, and bathroom remodeling. Houzz polls have unveiled that renovating kitchens and bathrooms, new windows and porches, balcony and deck projects are among the most popular.



Exterior Renovations with the Best Return on Investment

Remodeling with a return on investment in mind can be a smart strategy for homeowners, whether one is thinking about moving in the next few months or further down the road. Though this approach is an inexact science, in many instances, it's savvy for homeowners to consider what buyers may want when planning home improvements.

Homeowners may be surprised to learn which renovations garner the best ROI at resale. The home loan and refinancing company RenoFi indicates that overall home improvement projects provide a 70 percent ROI on average. Many high-ROI projects add functional space and improvement. The following are some exterior renovations that help homeowners recoup the most money at resale, according to Remodeling magazine's "2022 Cost vs. Value Report."

1. Garage Door Replacement: 93.3 percent recouped of \$4,041 cost
2. Manufactured Stone Veneer: 91.4 percent recouped of \$11,066 cost
3. Siding replacement (Fiber Cement): 68.3 percent recouped of \$22,093 cost
4. Window replacement (Vinyl): 67.5 percent recouped of \$20,482 cost
5. Siding replacement (Vinyl): 67.2 percent recouped of \$18,662 cost
6. Window replacement (Wood): 66.3

percent recouped of \$24,388 cost

7. Deck addition (Wood): 64.8 percent recouped of \$19,248 cost

The majority of renovations on Remodeling magazine's list of the best investments are exterior renovations, making this area of a home a particular point of interest for homeowners. The only interior project that cracked the Top 10 ROI for projects was a minor midrange kitchen remodel.

Exterior renovations perhaps add the most bang for your buck because they're not only functional, but also because they add immediate curb appeal. Much in the way it has been said people eat with their eyes first — which is why chefs spend so much time on elaborate plating — buyers will judge a property by how it looks when they arrive, even before they've stepped inside a home. In essence, home buyers often judge a book by its cover. A worn exterior may indicate to potential buyers that the home was not maintained, however false that assumption may be.

It's important for homeowners to consider all factors before beginning a renovation. Certain projects offer a stronger return on investment than others, and that's a significant consideration for homeowners thinking of selling their homes.



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Eldred Greenwell, 87



Eldred Wilkinson Greenwell, October 28, 1935 – April 5, 2023

Eldred, son of William F. Greenwell and Estelle P. Wilkinson, was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in St. Mary's County, Maryland, where as a boy, he was known as Sonny. He attended St. Mary's Academy and graduated in 1954. Eldred entered Military Service in the US Army that summer and served Active Duty in Okinawa, Japan 1955 – 1957. He continued his education at the University of the Americas, Mexico City, where he graduated in 1960, and pursued graduate studies at George Washington University, University of Maryland and St. Mary's College of Maryland.

In 1962 Eldred began his teaching career, serving St. Mary's County Public Schools as a high school Social Studies teacher until he retired in 1985. He was also known as a landlord with rentals in Leonardtown and on Greenwell Hill in Medley's Neck, where he also raised donkeys and geese. With his business partner Jimmy Brown, he owned the Sunoco Station in Leonardtown, where they opened a liquor store. The two also owned a bar and convenience store in Medley's Neck known as The Country Store.

Eldred loved boating, especially sailing and owned several boats. He obtained a Captain's license and assisted boat owners in transporting their boats up and down the East Coast. Eldred also owned Joy Point Marina while in his 70's and 80's. He traveled extensively, visiting the Philippines, many countries in Europe, all over Central and South America, and the islands of the Caribbean.

For the last 30 years Eldred lived on Breton Bay, a place he called paradise, with his partner Janet Padgett. He was the godfather of Diana and Michael Bromley, both of Leonardtown, MD.

Family, friends and neighbors are welcome to join a celebration of Eldred's life on April 22, 2023 1:00 – 5:00 at 41130 Cryer Court, Leonardtown, Maryland.

Helen Wright, 91



Helen Elaine Wright, 91, of Great Mills, MD, formerly of Bluefield, WV, passed away on March 27, 2023 in Leonardtown, MD. Born on April 8, 1931, in Bluefield,

WV, she was the daughter of the late Mattie B. Short and the late Charles Short. Helen was the loving wife of the late William B. Wright, whom she married on May 29, 1959, and who preceded her in death on May 23, 2007. She is survived by her children Cindy Wright of Great Mills, MD, Debbie Welsh of Great Mills, MD, Becky Hall (Tommy) of Leonardtown, MD, and Sharon Gonzalez (Abel) of Great Mills, MD, her sisters Irene Prisen of MD and Joyce Smith of WV, as well as 14 grandchildren, and 25 great grandchildren. In addition to her parents and husband, Helen was preceded in death by her siblings Robert Short, Elizabeth Alcorn, Willis Short, Danny Short, Beula Duncan, Vernie Willenborg, Jackson "Jack" Short, and Paul Short.

Helen moved to St. Mary's County, MD from Bluefield, WV in 1958.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 9:30 AM in the funeral home chapel. Interment will follow at Maryland Veterans Cemetery, Cheltenham, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Jarred Welsh, Wil Warren, Jordan Welsh, Kyle Morris, Tyler Morris, and Bradley Morris. Honorary pallbearers will be Casey Curley, Morgan Jones, Michael Warren, Darren Grimes, Abreeonna Gonzalez, and Alexis Gonzalez.

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

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

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

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

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



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County Times

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EXPLORE Leonardtown



Leonardtown Spring Events

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Leonardtown Luau Bar Crawl, 4/21

Plein Air at the Wharf and Leonardtown Earth Day Celebration, 4/22

Int'l Dance Day, Drum Set Showcase and the On the Water's Edge Concerts Season Premiere, 4/29

Spring Fling Car Show, 4/30 (Rain Date 5/7)

Cinco De Mayo First Friday All Weekend, 5/5 - 5/7

www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/Events

View the
LTOWN
EVENTS CALENDAR



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The Old Jail Museum



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stmarysmd.com/recreate/oldjail



Mulberry Music Festival Returns to St. Mary's College with Four-Act Lineup



M.C. Carly Harvey



Headliners The JoGo Project

The Mulberry Music Festival returns this summer to St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM), on Friday, June 16, from 6 to 9 p.m., kicking off the Juneteenth weekend for the fourth year. Headlined by The JoGo Project, the festival also features Oh He Dead, Kevin Howard and The Boneshakers. The College's own Carly Harvey, SMCM Class of 2007 and "DC's Queen of the Blues," returns as mistress of ceremonies and guest vocalist. The event, held on the College's Townhouse Green, is free of charge and open to the public.

"The way we celebrate diversity at St. Mary's College of Maryland is a model for the broader community and the nation," said SMCM President Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD. "I initiated the Mulberry Music Festival in order to celebrate diversity through music, bringing the community to our riverfront campus through the unifying message that comes from the music."

Attendees are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets, as seating is limited. A vari-

ety of food and other vendors will be on site, with the Townhouse Green opening at 4 p.m. Complete information can be found on the festival website at www.smcm.edu/mulberry-music-festival.

Mistress of Ceremonies

Named "D.C.'s Queen of the Blues" by Dr. Nick Johnson of WPFW Radio, Carly Harvey was featured in Big City Blues magazine in 2018 as one of the youngest blues artists to watch. In 2021, she won the Wammie Award for Best Blues Artist. Her EP "Kiss & Ride, Vol. 1" (2019) is available through Apple music.

Headliner

The JoGo Project is a Wammie Award winning band based in Washington, DC that fuses many styles of music, but with Jazz harmonies and a driving Go-Go beat at its core. JoGo was founded in 2014 by DC native and a prominent figure on the jazz scene Elijah Jamal Balbed during his

residency at Strathmore. Nine years later, The JoGo Project has become a mainstay in the DC music community and is dedicated as ever to keeping DC's Go-Go music alive while also exploring new sounds and repertoire.

When Elijah was a Sophomore at Howard University, he received a life-changing call from James Brown's last drummer Robert "Mousey" Thompson. Mousey said "Elijah! Call Bryan Mills! He needs a sub with Chuck Brown and I told him you're the guy!". Subsequently, Elijah would go on to perform with Chuck from May of 2011 until the Godfather of Go-Go's death the following year – May 16th, 2012. That year Elijah spent with Chuck instilled a newfound love for Go-Go music, which would forever influence his sound and approach to music. When it was time for Elijah to start a band of his own – he knew it had to be something that brought his Jazz and Go-Go worlds together.

Artists

- **Oh He Dead** lead singer CJ Johnson, "maneuvers her powerful voice — a combination of Stevie Nicks and Tracy Chapman" (NPR) in rhythm with the band's "infectiously groovy" and "sublime instrumentation" (NPR) to create an "infectious and soulful sound" (Washington Post). Founded in 2015 by Johnson and Andy Valenti, the

close-knit six-piece band weaves in and out of genres ranging from soul to funk to folk to rock, all tied together by the stirring harmonies of Johnson and Valenti.

- **Kevin Howard** is a world-class keyboardist, composer, producer and businessman. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, now making his home in Maryland. Kevin Howard's smooth dynamic sound, warm personality and infectious smile will have you yearning for more. Together with his band of world-class musicians, the sounds you'll experience are tantalizing, smooth, dynamic, and mesmerizing.
- **The Boneshakers'** no holds barred funk, blues and rock marries the sounds and spirits of Detroit Rock City, Memphis, and Mussel Shoals. In the remarkable 25-year career of The Boneshakers, the iconic band has always been led by world-renowned guitarist Randy Jacobs of Was (Not Was). The band and members have toured and recorded with Bonnie Raitt, BB King, Keb Mo, Aretha Franklin, Elton John, Bootsy Collins, Tears 4 Fears, Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, Gov't Mule, and Iggy Pop...just to name a few. They have built a substantial following among blues, jazz, and funk audiences with their powerhouse style.

Lexington Park Scratch-off Fan Strikes Gold With \$50,000 Win



Lexington Park's "Scratch-off Queen" changed her game choice and won \$50,000.

A St. Mary's County woman who loves Maryland Lottery scratch-offs took a break from playing her new favorite game, which is the \$3 Frogger instant ticket, to try her luck with the Gold X50 scratch-off.

It turned out to be a great decision: She won a \$50,000 second-tier prize!

The "Scratch-off Queen," as she nicknamed herself, said she and a friend were at Great Mills Citgo at 21265 Great Mills Road in Lexington Park when they both took a chance on the \$10 Gold X50 game.

"I didn't win anything so I decided to get two more," the scratch-off fan said. "At first, I thought I won \$50." Closer inspection of the prize amount printed beneath the matching number showed three more zeros.

"I quietly left," said the Lexington Park resident, laughing at the memory.

The mother of four, who is a public school employee, plans to pay bills with some of her prize. This is her biggest Lottery score to date compared to three \$1,000 prizes she's won over the years.

Pet OF THE WEEK

MEET NEPTUNE



You are what happened when I wished upon a star.

Hi there, my name is Neptune and I'm a BOUNCY, HAPPY, 10-MONTH-OLD pup who enjoys having space (space, get it?) to run around. I've even lived with another dog. I do a great job of keeping the squirrels from the yard and I just LOVE hanging out with the KIDS. I'm an OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD pup looking for a FUREVER FAMILY. If you think it's time for a change of s-space, if you'd like LOVE and FUN and a WONDERFUL new family member, then come meet me during adoption hours, Monday-Friday 11am-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm or email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! And always opt to ADOPT, don't shop!

To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



Cowboy Carnival Coming to First Colony

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Patuxent Baptist Church will hold a cowboy-themed carnival April 16 at event grounds it owns in the First Colony community immediately behind the Lowe's home improvement store.

Of the many events the church has held in its nearly 20 years of operation, this is among the most ambitious as they hope to bring in at least 1,000 visitors to the church property in California.

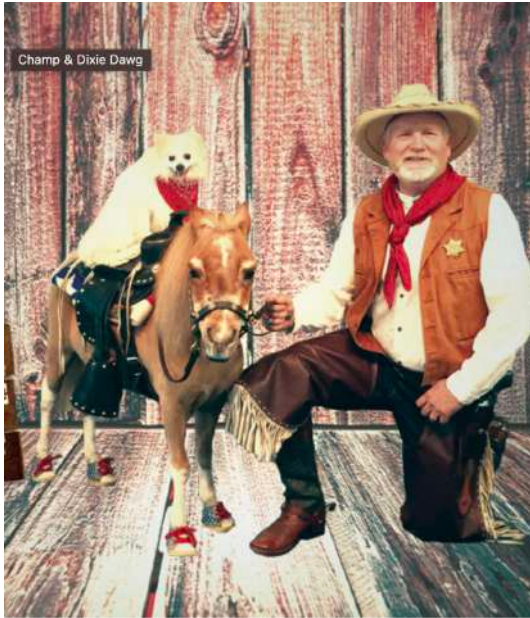
Church members spent much of April 8 setting up four large tents in anticipation of large crowds coming out this weekend to see the Cowboy Carnival, which will include food, fun and games for the family in addition to a chance to win prizes.

Performing will be Kevin Walker and family of Roundup Ministries and his smiling trick horse Champ and Dixie Dawg.

Also included at the carnival will be moon bounces for children and other rides.

Pastor Rick Conner, lead pastor at the church wanted to make a statement with the tents.

"I wanted to get them up early," Conner



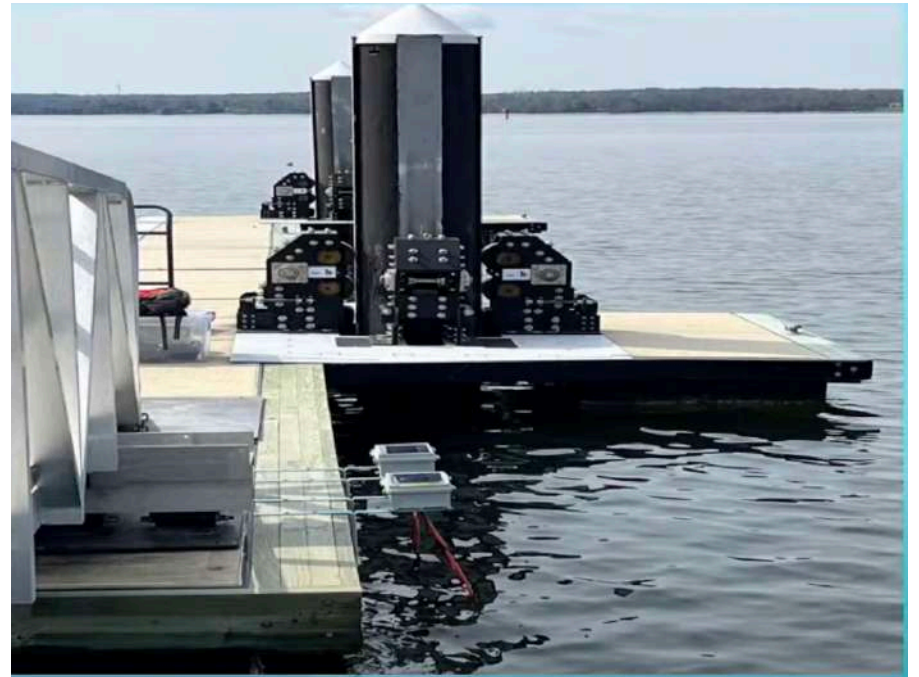
Kevin Walker of Roundup Ministries

told The County Times. "That's so people passing by will know something's coming."

Admission to the event is free and visitors who wish to register for prizes can do so at <https://www.patuxentbaptistchurch.org/roundup>.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Students Unveil Breton Bay Water Quality Monitoring Project



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Three technology students at the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center in Leonardtown have a devised a water quality monitoring system for Breton Bay and will place data collecting modules in the watershed, allowing the public to view the information collected in real time.

The students presented their project to the Commissioners of Leonardtown this week during the council's regular business meeting of Apr. 10.

The modules are called BOBs or Breton Observation Boxes and are billed as low-cost water quality monitoring apparatus, funded by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

BOB is essentially a floating instrumented box that monitors various water quality variables and electronically sends that data to the internet every 10 minutes explained Eva XXX.

There are seven such boxes in the monitoring network, she said.

"Leonardtown Wharf will have its own BOB," Eva said. "It will be floating in the water, not attached to a pier

"We installed them... two weeks ago."

They first underwent testing at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory before being put into the field.

The modules monitor air temperature and humidity, water temperature at the surface and the bottom, dissolved oxygen, the acidity levels in the water, electrical conductivity, total dissolved solids and salinity, Eva said.

The seven BOB modules will be placed at Leonardtown Wharf, Lovers Point Oyster Sanctuary, McIntosh Run, Moll Dyer Run, Combs Creek, Cherry Creek and Newtowne Neck.

The student team wanted their project to increase public awareness of the importance of water quality, Eva said, but also to aid in the restoration of natural oyster reefs by monitoring for excess nutrients that can cause the growth of algae blooms that lower oxygen content that is so vital to oyster survival.

"They're very important because they serve as the keystone ecosystem species," Eva said. "They're very good at keeping the ecosystem in balance."

Oysters can filter out impurities in the water, providing a cleaner ecosystem for all life in it.

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Legal Notice

Authorization is being requested from the State's Attorney's Office for St. Mary's County, Maryland to remove the remains of Kelly Marie Farrell, currently interred in St. Aloysius Cemetery, Leonardtown, Maryland, Section 506-3; Lot 98; Grave #3, and to reinter said remains in the St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Compton, Maryland, Section 508-1; Lot 3; Grave #21. This relocation is being made to relocate the deceased to the family plot. James O. Farrell and Linda R. Farrell, the parents of Kelly Marie Farrell, are making the request. Any interested party should contact Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A. at 301-475-8500 prior to April 24, 2023.

Entrepreneurs Working to Revitalize Leonardtown

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Billy Gibson remembers growing up with the woman who would become his wife — Becky Gibson — in the 7th District and spending plenty of time in the Leonardtown town square, watching the old First National Bank and Bell Motor Co. thrive.

Fast forward to the present and he and his wife are the new owners of the old Bell Motor Co. building and one of a core of entrepreneurs trying to bring the town square back to its former glory.

The Gibsons have turned the once thriving car dealership, which had been vacant for years since finally closing its doors after decades of operation, into a flexible space for numerous new retail operations.

The Gibsons are entrepreneurs with roots in St. Mary's but business interests in Calvert County with a fabrication and motor

businesses expanding, renovating or moving.

Also moving in to town is the Flour Bakery, which shares space in the old Bell Motor Co. building, and the Kneaded Baking Company down the street in the town square.

Smashburger, has set up shop in Shepherd's Old Field on Lawrence Avenue and Ken Held owner of Slice House II, is renovating and expanding in to vacant Oga's Cuisine restaurant.

Salted Scoop has already moved to the old location of Heritage Chocolates on the town square and Heritage Chocolates has moved into a house next to Olde Towne Pub on Washington Street.

Further out on the edge of the town square Happy Zen, a crystal merchant, has opened as has Statik Ink, a tattoo studio.

Gibson said in the next few days shipping containers are going to be delivered to be used in the parking lot behind the building as operating space for individual vendors.

Gibson got the idea from similar projects in Seoul, South Korea and South Africa.

"It's amazing what they've done with them," Gibson said of the coming Shops at the Bell Courtyard project.

In a far corner of the town square, the old Bank of America has sat vacant for several years but Kaitlyn Folger, who works in Charles County in mortgage lending and property management, has purchased it and has a vision for the old property to

become a hybrid work space for professionals and retail shops.

A St. Mary's Ryken High School graduate (SMR), Folger grew up in Charles County but like any SMR student she was well acquainted with the down town area on after-school jaunts.

She says it helped her fall in love with the concept of town squares in rural settings.

She wants to help bring new retail opportunities to town but also find a way for artists and entrepreneurs to work in an energetic setting.

"More retail space [in Leonardtown] is going to be good for everyone," Folger said.

Her plan is to have two anchor retailers in the space and have spaces for professionals upstairs on the second floor, which would also be available for artists as well.

The vault space, which is also the name for business she is standing up, will be used for co-working as well.

"It's called co-working," Folger said. "I think people do it because of the energy.

"Being around other productive people helps us be more productive."

The concept, she said, has been developed through the pandemic as a hybrid between office work and working at home.

She said more employers are moving to this concept so they can cut costs on overhead.

"Working remotely is great, but working from home is not for everybody," Folger said. "It's a new concept for the county."

The county has recently experienced an influx of residents who have retained high paying jobs, Folger said, but have moved from higher cost of living areas, and such new spaces could be appealing to them to continue their work where there are amenities such as a communal kitchen and internet access.

Leonardtown was her place of choice to try out her new vision, Folger said.

"They're really thoughtful about development," Folger said. "Geographically, the foot print is there. Small town squares are very appealing to a lot of people."

Leonardtown has been pursuing a plan of renewal and revitalization in the town, especially in the downtown area, with new signage, traffic patterns and dedicated parking along with repurposed alley space for events to make the town more appealing to visitors and tourists alike.

The long-established and popular Social Coffee House now located on Fenwick Street is on its way to moving into the old Duke Building just across the street; owner Sean Coogan said early summer is the target date for opening the doors on what is going to be both a new restaurant operation and a retail establishment were coffee beans will



Artist's rendering of The Meadows at Town Run

be roasted and sold on site.

"We're building a whole new business," Coogan said. "Using the term renovations doesn't really do it justice.

"We're restoring the building as well as building it out at the same time."

Coogan said the job has taken more time and effort than he had planned for, but the investment in the town's growth was worth it as it has provided a platform for his business success.

"It's the newest, old building in town," Coogan said.

The Meadows at Town Run is being built by Quality Built Homes in two phases with 107 homes and most of them already sold. It's one of the newest housing developments in Leonardtown to support the rapid growth of the town, which is among the fastest growing in the state.

The growth of so many new and established businesses, such as The Rex with its new event space, is what is working to attract new residents and business interest in town.

There were few if any venues in Southern Maryland that offered so much to do in so compact a space where residents could walk the entire way and not have to get into their cars, Coogan said.

"Why does everyone want to move to Leonardtown?" he said. "It's because of what we're doing in the town square."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



The Rex

sports business in Prince Frederick.

Gibson said there had been plans to demolish the old building but he just couldn't let that happen.

"It would've killed me to see them tear it down," Gibson said. "There's just so much history there."

Marie and Nash is a high end clothing and furniture retailer making use of the space, Gibson said, while his wife has started the Town Market inside the historic building.

Her business sells local produce, local meats and is open to local vendors during the weekends, Gibson said.

Over the Easter weekend the Town Market hosted several hundred visitors, he said.

"When she first started this, I thought she was crazy," he said. "But she made a believer out of me."

But the town has been host to a flurry of new businesses opening and more established



Shepherd's Old Field Market

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Lexington Park Man Convicted for Homicide of Mother and Child



Wayne Carroll Key

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that a St. Mary's County jury convicted Wayne Carroll Key, Jr., 43, of Lexington Park, Maryland of first degree murder of a child and her mother stemming from the November 2021 killing of both victims.

The trial started last week and continued into this week -- spanning eight days. Over 200 pieces of evidence were admitted for the jury's consideration. The jury heard testimony from over 40 witnesses. The State called four expert witnesses to include experts in DNA, historical cell phone mapping, microscopy, and forensic medicine.

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling said, "The unimaginable killing of a child and her mother is truly despicable. I want to extend my sincerest condolences to the family of our victims. Although nothing can ever bring back our innocent victims, my hope is that with these convictions the family may

begin the process of healing."

Sterling added, "Understanding the difficult and sensitive content of the testimony and the disturbing physical evidence presented to them, the jury remained patient and professional throughout the entire trial. I want to thank them for keeping their focus and paying close attention to the tremendous amount of testimony and evidence."

"I want to extend a very special thank you to all of the police officers, crime lab technicians, allied agencies and the State's Attorney's Office's support staff for their assistance and involvement with helping to bring closure and justice for the victims' family," said Sterling.

The lead prosecutor, Chief of the Special Victims Unit Senior Assistant State's Attorney Sarah Proctor, was joined by Assistant State's Attorney Joe Boyd, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

The lead detective was Detective Tyler Payne of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

Additional agencies who assisted with the investigation and trial included: Homeland Security Investigations, Maryland State Police Forensics, MicroTrace, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, St. Mary's County Department of Social Services, and St. Mary's County Geographic Information Systems.

Mr. Key will be held without bond pending sentencing.

The Honorable Joseph Stalanonis presided over the case.

Seventeen of Eighteen Businesses Pass Alcohol Compliance Checks

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Alcohol Enforcement Unit recently conducted a series of alcohol compliance checks at 18 businesses in northern and central St. Mary's County. Seventeen of the establishments were found to be compliant, while only one business failed to ask an underage person for identification.

The covert compliance checks were conducted on Thursday, March 30, 2023, starting at 3 pm, utilizing an underage individual. The 19-year-old was wearing plain clothes and was directed to enter each business to order or retrieve an alcoholic beverage for purchase.

Of the 18 businesses visited, 17 (94 percent) were found in compliance with Maryland law and required identification from the underage person. One business failed to ask for identification or failed to corroborate the person's age and the underage individual was able to purchase an alcoholic beverage underage.

Businesses found in compliance were: Pal Liquors & Gas in Leonardtown; Centre Liquors in Leonardtown; Third Base Store in Loveville; St. Mary's Gas Station in Clements; Village Liquors in Chaptico; Chaptico Market in Chaptico; Race-N In in Budds Creek; Vino 2 Wine & Liquor in Charlotte Hall; Lighthouse in Charlotte Hall; Fred's Liquor in Charlotte Hall; New Market Service Center in Mechanicsville; Big Dogs' Paradise in Mechanicsville; A & B Liquor in Mechanicsville; DJ's One Stop Shop in Mechanicsville; Korner Karryout in Mechanicsville; Cook's Liquor in Hollywood and Bradfords Neighborhood Market in Hollywood.

The one business found to be in violation was Leonardtown Wine & Spirits in Leonardtown.

The alcohol violation report was forwarded to the St. Mary's County Alcohol Beverage Board for review.

Celebrating 10 Years in Business

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St. Mary's, Calvert Delegates Warn of Campaign Finance Fraud

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

St. Mary's Del. Matt Morgan and Calvert Del. Mark Fisher have signed onto a letter to the Maryland State Prosecutors Office asking that an investigation be started into alleged campaign finance violations in Annapolis.

The letter, signed by several other GOP delegates in the Maryland General Assembly, references a YouTube video recently produced by James O'Keefe, asking donors to a Democratic political action fund called Act Blue about thousands of separate donations made in their name and using their address.

The totals of their donations, O'Keefe's reporting showed, reached into the tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars from individuals in a few years' time.

"Campaign finance irregularities are a serious matter that cannot be ignored," said Morgan. "We must ensure that our political process remains fair and free of corruption, and any individuals responsible for such activities must be held accountable."

Several of the citizen donors, who were recorded on camera with their faces blurred, told O'Keefe — representing the eponymous O'Keefe Media Group — that they had made contributions to Act Blue but nowhere near the amounts listed in total or in the sheer numbers of individual acts of donation.

The letter from the delegates also was

sent to the Department of Justice and the Federal Elections Commission, Morgan said in a message to constituents.

"In one instance, a \$217,000 [donation] was made through 12,000 separate donations over three years in the name of one Maryland resident," the letter reads.

"If these allegations are true, this represents a serious issue that needs to be quickly resolved."

In one instance, O'Keefe interviews a man in Lanham in Prince George's County about Act Blue records stating he had made more than \$230,000 in contributions to various causes in more than 30,000 separate acts of donation.

The man questioned by O'Keefe was an octogenarian who said he did not believe he had ever donated to Act Blue in the past.

"No, that's not us," the resident told O'Keefe when asked if he had donated the massive amount of money through more than 30,000 small contributions. "I think my wife has, but nowhere near that amount."

He said he was unaware of anyone using his name for making contributions.

"It appears someone may be committing a crime using your address," O'Keefe said.

The letter from the delegates to State Prosecutor Charlton T. Howard stated: "We have obtained data that supports the O'Keefe claims..."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Public Hearing on County Budget to be Held April 25

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (SCMC) will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Chopticon High School, located at 25390 Colton Point Road in Morganza, to consider adoption of:

- Constant Yield Tax Rate ("Real Property Tax Increase")
- St. Mary's County fees and charges for the following Departments:
 - Aging & Human Services – Senior Center Room Rental Rates
 - Emergency Services – Rescue Billing Transport Fees
 - Land Use & Growth Management – Development Service Fees
 - Recreation & Parks – Wicomico Golf Course Fees
 - Recreation & Parks – Recreation Activity Fees
 - Soil Conservation – Erosion & Sediment Control Fees
 - Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department Tax Rate Increase to .056

• FY2024 Recommended Budget
Copies of the FY2024 Recommended Budget are available online at: stmaryscountymd.gov/publichearings or from the St. Mary's County Department of Finance.

Residents are encouraged to attend and participate in the public hearing. Those wishing to address the Commissioners may participate in-person or provide their feedback via:

Email to: csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov
Mail to: PO Box 653 Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

All submissions must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. All submissions will be considered by the Commissioners at the Public Hearing and/or up to seven days following the Public Hearing.

Commissioners of St. Mary's County Public Hearings are televised live on St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) TV Channel 95 and streamed live on the SMCG YouTube Channel.

Asian American & Pacific Islander CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 15 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Calvert County Fairgrounds, Prince Frederick

Celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander culture!

- Dancing, food, art projects, games and more
- Performances and exhibits representing cultures such as Korean, Hawaiian, Filipino, Chinese, Indian and Thai
- Buy lunch from Asian food vendors

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

So. Md. ROOTS Bull Roast, Oyster Scald & Auction
Sunday, April 30, 2023 – 3 pm
Olde Breton Inn, Leonardtown, MD
Advance Ticket Purchases Required
www.southernmarylandroots.org

Loveville Produce Auction
Spring Flower & Craft Auction
Loveville Produce Auction Facility – Loveville, MD
Saturday, May 6, 2023 – 9 am
Selling with 2 Auctioneers throughout the day!

Mark your calendar! **So. Md. Spring Auction**
Saturday, May 13, 4 pm
Westfield Farm Arena & Auction Barn – Mechanicsville, MD
Flowers, Bedding Plants, Combo Planters, Vegetable Plants, Mother's Day Flowers/Items, Outdoor Furniture, Lawn/Garden Items, Tools, Toys, Handcrafted Quilts, Misc. Tack
Mostly New Items!

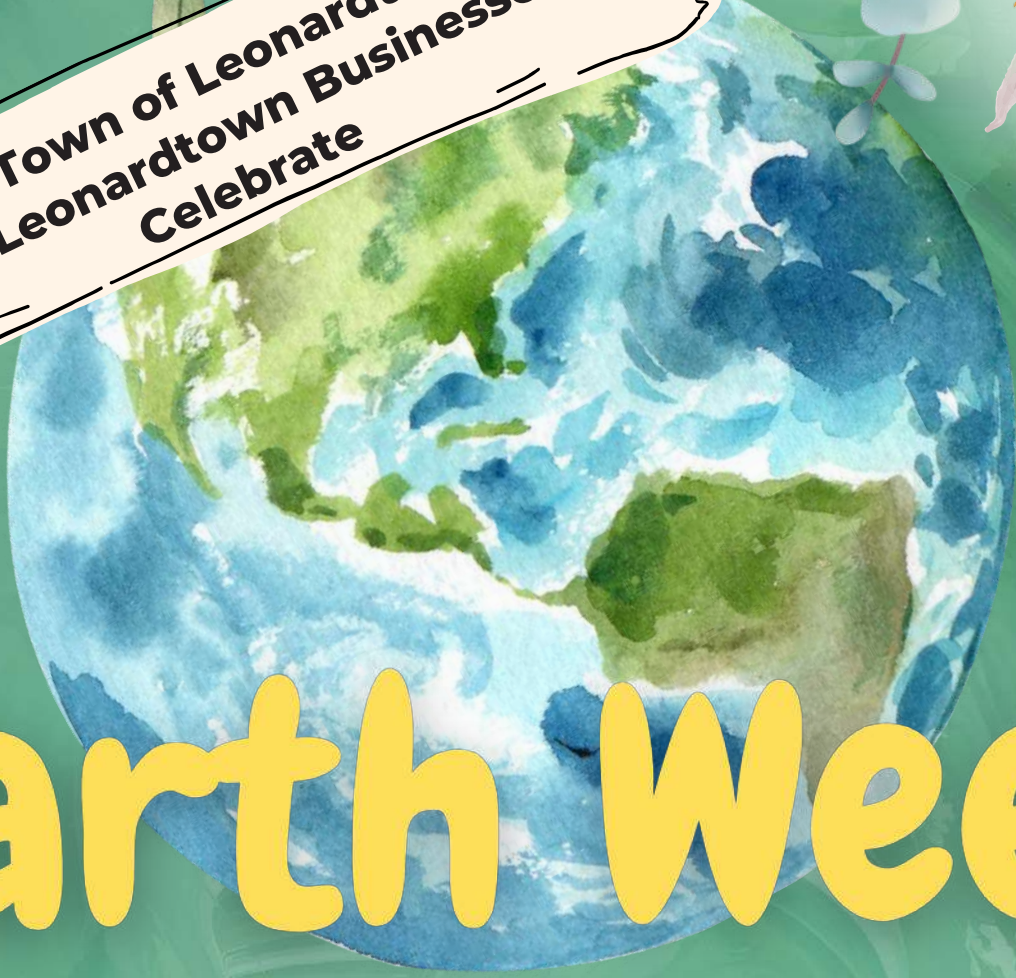
NOTE: This is one of several auctions we have each year that focuses on our local farmers, growers & producers.
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FULL SCHEDULE



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General Assembly Finishes Out 2023

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Maryland General Assembly passed legislation this year that enshrines abortion rights as well as allowing anyone seeking transgender treatments to use Medicaid to pay for it, while at the same time making it virtually impossible to carry a handgun for self-defense even with a state-issued concealed carry permit.

The legislature also legalized recreational cannabis usage, including removing the ability of law enforcement to search a vehicle during a traffic stop if the officer smells the odor of marijuana.

The legislature also moved up the date of the increase of the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

Locally, the legislature did pass a bond bill that authorizes the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to borrow \$56 million to fund a long list of public construction projects but without the conditions on \$15 million of that funding for the planned YMCA to be built on Great Mills Road next to the county-owned public swimming pool.

Earlier in the session Sen. Jack Bailey and Delegates Matt Morgan and Todd Morgan supported a bond bill that would have required the YMCA to complete its \$4 million private fundraising bid before the county commissioners could get the authorization to borrow the \$15 million in public money.

What passed though was Bailey's bill — SB 457 — that was quickly amended in the closing hours of the assembly to remove those conditions.

Democrat Del. Brian Crosby had entered his own bond bill weeks ago to compete with the GOP-backed bond bill which excluded the conditions on the YMCA funding but that did not pass.

Matt Morgan said in a social media post that Crosby was able to get the amendment on the GOP-backed bill.

"Any taxpayer protections on the new YMCA project in Lexington Park will have to come from the county commissioners," the Dist. 29 A delegate said. "Though Delegate Crosby initially voted in favor of the delegation's solution for this project, he ended up using his backroom connections to sneak an amendment on the Senator's bill, essentially removing any taxpayer protections we added to the YMCA Bond Authority Bill for St. Mary's County."

Crosby retorted: "I proposed a bill granting the full \$56 million. There was a hearing to all the bills."

"Ask the county commissioners what their request was for."

The commissioners original request for bonding authority did not include the conditions on the \$15 million for the YMCA funding.

HB 705/SB 798 is now headed to the Gov. Wes Moore's desk for likely signature into law; the measure includes the right to an abortion in the Maryland constitution.

As a constitutional amendment, it must be approved by a majority of voters in the Nov. 2024 General Election.

The legislative push was in response to a

June 2022 Supreme Court decision which ruled that abortion was not protected under the U.S. Constitution and was a matter for the states to resolve individually.

The state also acted quickly to greatly restrict the ability of citizens to get concealed handgun carry permits in another response to a recent Supreme Court decision that ruled the state's long-standing "good and substantial reason" clause for applying for a permit to partake of a right in public was unconstitutional.

SB 1 greatly restricts the ability of someone with a carry permit to actually carry their weapon concealed in public by excluding most public buildings and places.

Essentially the only place a person would be allowed to carry their weapon lawfully would be to a place where they received prior permission from the owner.

This bill was opposed in its final form by all the delegates of the St. Mary's County delegation.

A similar bill that passed in the House of Delegates increases the costs to apply for a state permit, which is approved by the Maryland State Police.

Maryland Shall Issue, a Second Amendment advocacy group which has long proclaimed that self-defense is a civil right, has promised to oppose the new law if the governor signs it.

"The Supreme Court was clear in its landmark decision in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association vs. Bruen* that there is a general right to public carry for all law-abiding, responsible Americans," Maryland Shall Issue director Mark Pennak said in a statement. "Maryland Shall Issue stands ready to defend that right and will take appropriate action with litigation should these bills not be vetoed by Governor Moore."

A sales plan for legalized cannabis is now ready to be signed by Moore, as is a bill that blocks law enforcement from searching a vehicle based on the smell of burnt or unburnt marijuana.

HB 1071 also states the presence of cash or currency in proximity to cannabis without other "indicia of an intent to distribute" is not grounds for a search.

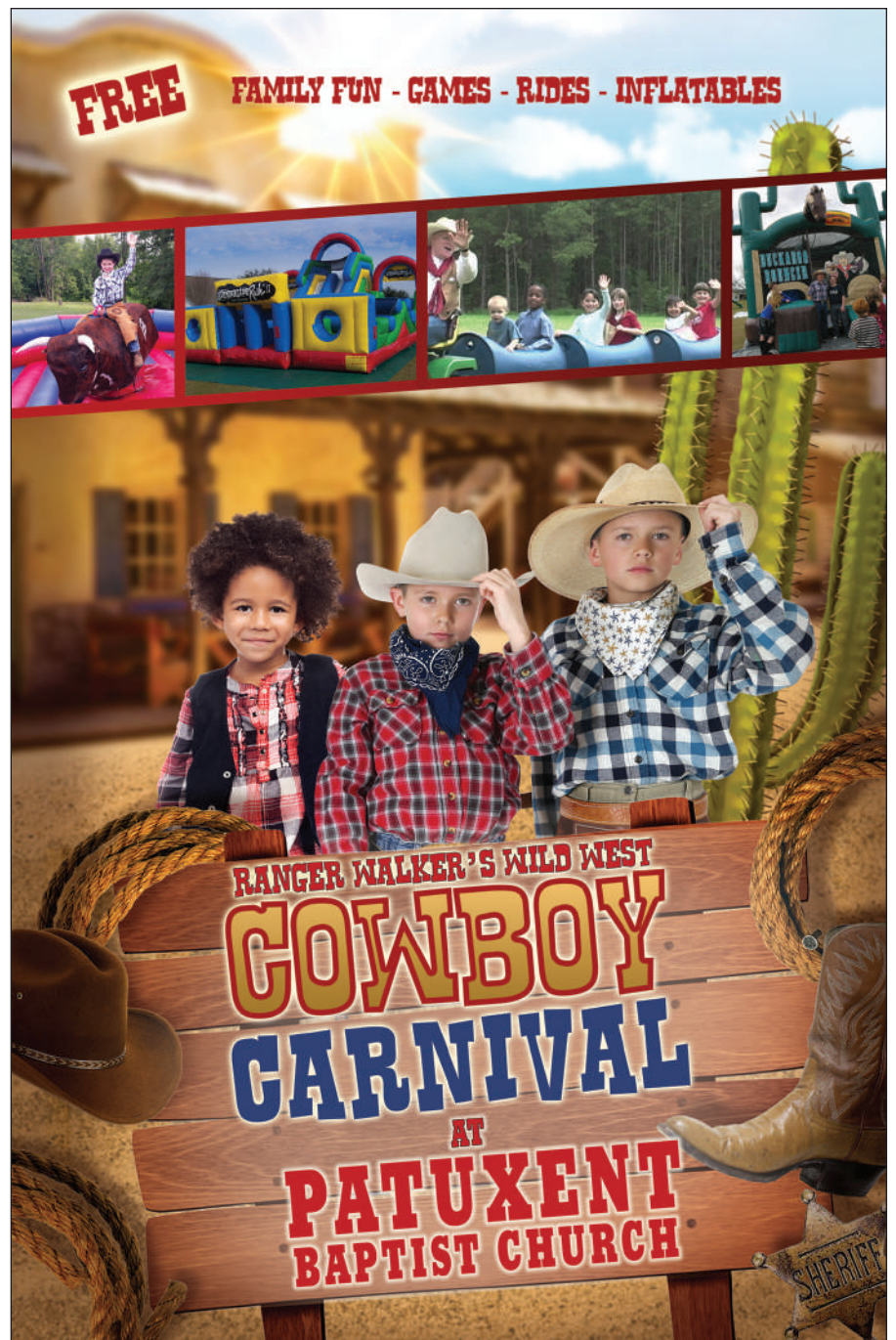
Also, a law officer may not search areas of a vehicle that are not readily accessible to the driver or vehicle operator.

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) said that amendments to the marijuana sales legislation allowed towns and cities to benefit from tax revenues collected by the state.

"With the passage of House Bill 556, cities and towns will receive 2.5 percent of sales and use tax revenue derived from any cannabis sales in their jurisdiction," an MML statement reported.

"This is a historic first step for Maryland's municipalities to be included in the sales tax revenue — we are one of the few states nationwide who do not provide locals a sales tax and it's been difficult to see Maryland not be a leader in this area," said MML CEO Theresa Kuhns.

The legislature also approved a law that would accelerate moving to the \$15 minimum wage to Jan. 1 instead of waiting until the previous target date of Jan. 1 of 2025 for large businesses and 2026 for small businesses.



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“IT WOULD’VE KILLED ME TO SEE THEM TEAR IT DOWN. THERE’S JUST SO MUCH HISTORY THERE.”

ENTREPRENEUR BILLY GIBSON ON BUYING THE OLD BELL MOTOR CO. BUILDING IN LEONARDTOWN



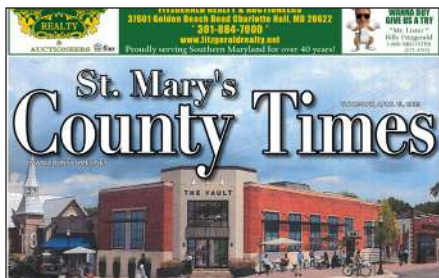
LOCAL 5

General Assembly elevates abortion, transgender treatments, restricts concealed carry



LOCAL 8

Man convicted in double homicide



ON THE COVER 9

Old spaces in Leonardtown get new businesses

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WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, APR 13</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 82° Lo: 57°</p>	<p>FRI, APR 14</p> <p>Mostly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 59°</p>	<p>SAT, APR 15</p> <p>Thunderstorms Hi: 73° Lo: 56°</p>	<p>SUN, APR 16</p> <p>PM Thunderstorms Hi: 77° Lo: 53°</p>
<p>MON, APR 17</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 66° Lo: 49°</p>	<p>TUE, APR 18</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 71° Lo: 47°</p>	<p>WED, APR 19</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 69° Lo: 50°</p>	<p>THU, APR 20</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 53°</p>

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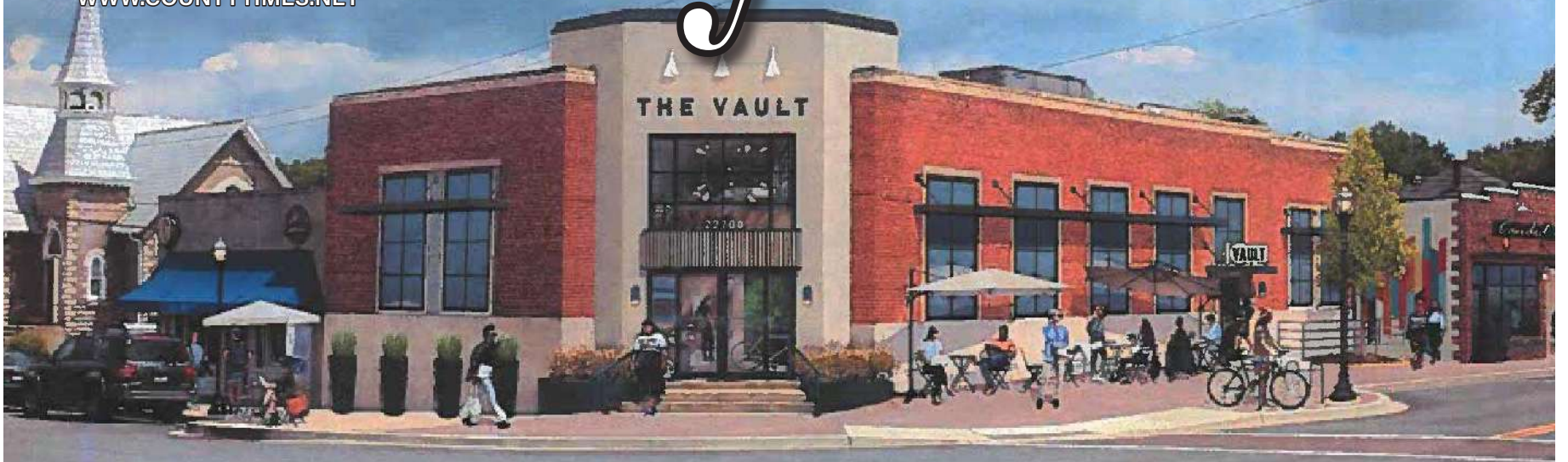
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