

Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

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Fatal Collision in
Prince Frederick

Ten Bills Proposed
for 2024 Legislature

Plummer-Welker to Retire
After Almost 30 Years

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CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS	3	COPS & COURTS	7
COMMUNITY	8	CALENDAR	9

“THE KNOWLEDGE IS OFF THE CHARTS.”

COMMISSIONER MIKE HART ON RETIRING PLANNER JENNY PLUMMER-WELKER



LOCAL 5
Commissioners to hear legislative proposals



LOCAL 6
Long-time county planner retires



4 ON THE COVER
Bike paths proposed for town centers

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, AUG 31 Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 59°	FRI, SEP 1 Sunny Hi: 77° Lo: 57°	SAT, SEP 2 Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 62°	SUN, SEP 3 Mostly Sunny Hi: 87° Lo: 69°
MON, SEP 4 Sunny Hi: 91° Lo: 72°	TUE, SEP 5 Sunny Hi: 91° Lo: 72°	WED, SEP 6 Sunny Hi: 90° Lo: 71°	THU, SEP 7 Sunny Hi: 89° Lo: 70°

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Plan Proposes Bikeways in Town Centers

Considers Only Prince Frederick, Dunkirk

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has been presented with the final report of a feasibility study of bikeways in the Prince Frederick and Dunkirk town centers. The commissioners at their Aug. 29 meeting accepted the report presented by Planner III Jessica Gaetano, but they made no funding decisions.

Gaetano explained, "The Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program is a State-funded grant program open to local governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, non-profit organizations, and federal, state, and transit agencies. In 2020, the Hogan Administration announced \$3.78 million in fiscal year 2021 grants to support bicycle safety and access improvements for projects across the state. In 2021, the BOCC was awarded grant funding from the Bikeways Network Program in the amount of \$88,000 with a matching fund contribution of \$22,000. The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, Adopted August 2019, Amended 2022 advocates for the creation of "safe and attractive paths that allow people to travel within the town centers, connecting residential, commercial, recreational, institutional, and employment areas."

Gaetano explained, "The purpose of the grant is to enable the county to plan for a network of bicycle facilities accessible to riders of all ages and abilities with a specific focus on the Prince Frederick and Dunkirk town centers. County staff worked with the consultant firm, Mead & Hunt, on the feasibility study."

In response to a question, Gaetano said the study was limited to the two town centers because of the amount of the grant and because the county is now working on updating those two town center master plans.

The plan makes the following recommendations for the Dunkirk Town Center:

Reduce Town Center Boulevard and Dunkirk Way to one lane in each direction and add protected bicycle lanes.

Construct pathway between Apple Green community and Dunkirk Way. • Construct shared-use path between Dunkirk District Park and Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park along Ward Road.

Extend established pathway to allow access from Dunkirk District Park to shopping center along Ferry Landing Road, add pedestrian gate.

Gaetano was asked by Commissioner Mark Cox if reducing the number of vehicle travel lanes was a good idea.

She said, "Reducing is always cheaper,

more so than expanding. And this is internal to the development of Calvert Gateway. So, while there may be trouble getting in and out of there, I don't think there's problems getting around once you're on site through Town Center Boulevard."

Short-term recommendations for Prince Frederick are:

- Install protected bicycle lane along Prince Frederick Boulevard during planned resurfacing.
- Construct shared use path between MD 2-4 and Calvert Elementary School along Dares Beach Road.
- Upgrade signs and markings and install decorative bicycle racks to create a bicycle awareness zone in the Main Street Old Town area.

Commissioner President Buddy Hance wondered about potential conflicts between cars using the shoulder and bicyclists using the bikeway. Public Works Director J. R. Cosgrove said they would study that but there may be enough right-of-way on Prince Frederick Boulevard to accommodate both.

Costlier, long-range projects for Prince Frederick Town Center are:

When existing segments of Fox Run Boulevard are connected, a shared-use path should be installed in the new segment and retrofit of the existing segments should be considered.

If Chesapeake Boulevard is extended to the north/west, a shared-use path should be installed, and a retrofit of the existing segments should be considered.

If MDOT widens MD 231 west of Thoroughbred Drive, the widening should include a shared-use path to the College of Southern Maryland.

If Chesapeake Boulevard is extended, a shared-use path should be installed along the north side of Stoakley Road to Prince Frederick Boulevard.

Development of Armory Square and realignment of Armory Road should include a shared-use path along Armory Road.

The plan calls for a variety of bike path options:

Shared-Use Path: Bicycle and pedestrian specific transportation corridors adjacent to roadways. Pathways are ideally 10 to 12 feet wide to accommodate bidirectional walking and bicycling; the paths typically require a five-foot landscape buffer from adjacent roadways

Protected Bike Lane: Bike lanes in the roadways are considered "protected" when they have a physical separation between motor vehicles and bicycles. Protected bike lanes are usually at least five-feet wide with a two-foot-wide buffer.

Bike Lane: Designated roadway lanes for bicyclists without physical separation



Existing and proposed future condition of park to park shared-use path along Ward Road

or protection between motor vehicles.

Paved Shoulder: Paved space beyond the edge line of a roadway's travel lane that provide space for bicycling outside the usual path of motor vehicles. This area also provides a clear space for motorists and accommodate drainage and emergency stopping.

Shared Lane Marking ("Sharrow") Lanes shared by vehicles and bicycles. Sharrow

are indicated by bike icons and chevrons. They mark roadway lanes that advise motorists that bicyclists may be present and indicate to bicyclists where to position themselves within a travel lane.

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Ten Proposed Bills to Be Presented to Legislators

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County Attorney John Norris presented to the county commissioners on Aug. 27 a list of 10 proposed pieces of legislation to be presented to the county's legislative delegation for consideration for introduction in next year's legislative session. Four come from within county government and six were requested by citizens during the open period for submitting suggestions.

The commissioners will vote on the proposals at their Sept. 12 meeting ahead of the meeting with the delegation on Oct. 17 at the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center.

Several of the requests represent repeat attempts at getting the idea through in Annapolis. One would seek "legislation authorizing the county to regulate the solicitation of money within public rights-of-way by adding Calvert to the existing law within the Transportation Article applicable in Allegany and Cecil counties," Norris said.

In those counties, Norris said, "except for representatives of a qualified organization, a person may not stand in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle. Qualified organizations mean

any fire company or bonafide religious, fraternal, civic or war veterans or charitable organization."

Other counties also regulate such soliciting in various other ways, including requiring a permit. He said the fact that there are other counties doing essentially the same thing might make it easier to get the law through for Calvert.

"They're actually all in the same section of the transportation article. So, it's not something that the General Assembly is unfamiliar with. It's not something that they don't know how to deal with," he said.

There also is a proposal to next year once again try to get a local bidding preference put into law. Norris said, "Our purchasing and procurement authorities do not include the ability for the county to favor county-based vendors over out of county vendors in awarding procurement contracts.

"Today, you do have the reciprocal preference. That is if a business is coming from a county where they offer a local preference, you can apply that as a penalty to that company's bid so that it evens the playing field for the Calvert County business here at home.

"But this was a request that was made last year. It was supported by the minority chamber, the local NAACP, the Minority

Business Alliance, the Circle of Angels Initiative, the Calvert County Chamber of Commerce, and others. It did not get out of committee last year. Staff is working and the director of the economic development is working to make sure we have a different result this coming year."

Norris reported earlier this year that the committee chairperson didn't like local preference bills.

Norris said the bills requested by the public included:

Outlaw all companies like Mosquito Joe and Mosquito Sherriff that are spraying back yards with pymethrins that kill pollinators.....no pollinators, no farms, no food.

Require state and local government agencies to use alternative chemicals for de-icing salt to be developed/identified by the Environmental Department.

Boats and real estate transfer on death without the need to go through probate.

Better speed control on Route 4, including the use of speed cameras.

A physician or physician group practice be prohibited from owning/operating a physical therapy clinic. This would help support the federal Physician Self-Referral, or Stark, Law, which prohibits a physician from referring their patients to a physical therapy clinic that is within their building.



County Attorney John Norris

Norris also reported, "A citizen has requested legislation intended to address a perception of conflicts of interest." He said that person is working directly with Del. Mark Fisher (R: 27C) on the legislation.

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Man Killed in Two-Car Collision

Accident Occurred on Route 231

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A Virginia man died Sunday morning as the result of injuries sustained in a two-car collision on Route 231 east of Hallowing Lane in Prince Frederick. The deceased is identified as Lionel Crawford Mitchell, 74, of Haymarket, Va.

According to a report from the Prince Frederick Barrack of the Maryland State Police, "On August 27, 2023, at approximately 1118 hours, troopers responded to a motor vehicle collision on eastbound Rt. 231, east of Hallowing Ln., in Prince Frederick. Upon their arrival, they learned that a 1998 Nissan Maxima was traveling westbound on Rt. 231 when the operator lost control of the vehicle, causing it to enter the eastbound lane of Rt. 231 where it struck 1975 Triumph TR6, that was traveling eastbound, on the driver's side.

"As a result of the collision, the adult male operator of the Triumph was pronounced deceased. The Triumph's front seat passenger was flown by Maryland State Police Aviation Command Trooper 2 to the University of Maryland R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore

for treatment of her injuries and currently listed in critical condition. The operator of the Nissan was uninjured."

The operator of the Nissan is identified as Travis Wayne Carr, 25, of Charlotte Hall. The injured passenger in the Triumph is identified as Nancy Mitchell, 72, also of Haymarket, Va.

The state police report, "Driver error and vehicle condition is being investigated as contributing factors in this collision. The Calvert County State's Attorney's Office was notified and is consulting as the investigation continues."

Prince Frederick Barrack personnel were assisted on scene by deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and personnel from the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration.

This investigation is being continued by TFC R. Backus, a Collision Reconstruction Specialist assigned to the Prince Frederick Barrack. Anyone who may have witnessed or who has information regarding this collision is asked to contact the Prince Frederick Barrack Duty Officer at (410) 535-1400 and reference case number 23-MSP-030225.

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County's Long-Range Planner Retires

Guided Master Plan, Zoning Updates

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The public face of planning and zoning for many years is retiring after almost 30 years in that county office. The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) honored Long-Range Planner Jenny Plummer-Welker at their Aug 29 meeting.

Plummer-Welker served under six different planning directors and nine commissioner boards.

Commissioner Mike Hart showed his fondness for Plummer-Welker in presenting the proclamation in her honor. He noted, "Jenny was instrumental in overseeing the process which led to the development and adoption of many of the county's most important and long-range plans, including the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan updates, land preservation, parks, and recreation plan, and town center master plans, and in doing so will have forever left her imprint on Calvert County and its citizens."

Hart said, "The knowledge is off the charts. But the bigger word I just kept coming back to was 'respect.' Jenny, you

respect everyone you work with in the public. This land here, she loves nature. This environment, she embraces it."

Current Director of Planning and Zoning Marty Beth Cook said, "It's a bittersweet day for planning and zoning. I know no other county employee more passionate, more full of pride, more having a love of the county. Jenny put her heart and soul into everything that she did for us, and I can't adequately thank her. There aren't enough words to say how much I've enjoyed working with you. How much we're going to miss you. We are going to call you."

Plummer-Welker's career with Calvert County government began on January 24th, 1994, as a Planner 1 with the Department of Planning and Zoning. Thereafter, she was promoted to Planner 2 in 2003, principal planner in 2007 and on July 28th, 2014, she was promoted to the new long-range planner position where she is serving until her retirement early next month.

A reception was held in her honor at the Harriet Brown Community Center later that afternoon.

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CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of August 14 – August 20, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,489 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 23-57321

On August 14, 2023, Deputy Sylver responded to the Advance Auto Parts located at 635 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised an unknown suspect(s) broke into a transport vehicle an attempted to steal the driver side door by snapping it off the hinges. The glass window to the door was also broken out. The estimated value of damaged property is \$1200.00.

Damaged Property: 23-58534

On August 19, 2023, Deputy Lee responded to a residence in the 4200 block of Baden Drive in Huntingtown, for the report of damaged property. The complainant advised a rear basement window had been damaged. Deputy Lee observed the window screen had been ripped out and the window pane had been broken. The estimated value of damaged property is \$500.00.

Motor Vehicle Theft: 23-58003

On August 17, 2023, DFC Kwitowski responded to the 4200 block of Broomes Island Road in Port Republic, for the report of a vehicle theft. The complainant advised sometime between 12:30 a.m. and 6 a.m., an unknown suspect (s) stole the victim's vehicle and an attached trailer from his yard. Deputies were able to track the vehicle to an address in the 6000 block of Mackall Road in St. Leonard. The victim's wallet

and \$2,800 in cash were missing. This case remains under investigation.

Theft: 23-57401

On August 14, 2023, Cpl. Durner responded to the Sheriff's Office located at 30 Church Street in Prince Frederick, for a report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between Aug. 7 and Aug. 14, an unknown suspect (s) stole 20 donated bicycles from the Bikes Across the World donation box located at 3205 Broomes Island Road in Port Republic. The estimated value of stolen property is \$2000.00.

ARRESTS



Charles Raymond Corbin

On August 19, 2023, DFC Shoemaker responded to the area of Patuxent Point Parkway in Solomons, for a traffic complaint (a green van all over the roadway). The Calvert County Emergency Communication Center advised an adult male driving the green van had pulled into a parking lot and was yelling at bystanders. The male identified as **Charles Raymond Corbin**, 48 of Lusby, was screaming vulgar statements and waving his arms in the air, capturing the attention of patrons in the shopping center. Corbin was given multiple commands to stop being disorderly to which he failed to comply. Corbin was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where

he was charged with Disorderly Conduct and Intoxicated Public Disturbance.



Jean Darlene Ross

On August 18, 2023, at 6:17 p.m., Dep. Smith responded to the Safeway located at 80 W. Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a female urinating on the sidewalk. According to witnesses, **Jean Darlene Ross**, 38 of Bellflower, CA, squatted near the entrance to the Safeway and urinated on the sidewalk in full view of the public and patrons of the shopping center. Ross was issued a Trespass warning and was advised to leave the area. At approximately 8 p.m., Dep. Smith responded to 140 W. Dares Beach Road in the area of the TJ Max in Prince Frederick, for the report of a female urinating on the sidewalk in full view of the public. Investigation revealed Ross was observed once again squatting and urinating on the sidewalk between the Safeway and W. Dares Beach Road. Witnesses also observed Ross cross into traffic without yielding making her a danger to the public and herself. Ross was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with Indecent Exposure, Disorderly Conduct, and Intoxicated Public Disturbance.

On August 14, 2023, Cpl. Shrawder responded to the 7-Eleven located at 685 Prince Frederick Blvd. in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant



Keith Jamael Francis

advised a black male entered the store and stole a carton of Newport 100s cigarettes and a Red Bull energy drink then fled without paying for the items. The complainant followed the suspect until police arrived in the area. Cpl. Shrawder pulled up in his marked patrol vehicle with emergency equipment activated at which point the suspect began to run to evade police. After a brief foot pursuit, the suspect, **Keith Jamael Francis**, 30 of Lanham, was taken into custody. A search of Francis's person revealed the stolen items. Francis was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Theft: \$100 - \$1500, Resisting Arrest, and Failure to Obey a Lawful Order.

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

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

St. Leonard Man Sentenced for Weapons Charge

Michael Ian Harts, 31, of St. Leonard, on Aug. 28 received a sentence of 10 years incarceration, suspended to three years of active time, for illegal possession of a short-barreled rifle and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance. The sentence was imposed by Calvert County Circuit Court Judge Mark W. Carmean.

Harts was arrested by Calvert County Sheriff's deputies in February 2023, following a traffic stop. A court-authorized search warrant was executed at Harts' residence which led to the discovery of the illegal weapon.

Harts will be on 5 years of supervised probation upon his release from prison. Due to the nature of his conviction, he will be prohibited from possessing a firearm of any kind. If Harts is found to have violated any condition of probation, all or part of the unserved portion of his jail sentence may be reimposed.



Michael Ian Harts

The case was handled by special prosecutor John Stackhouse of the Charles County State's Attorney's Office.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney.

Loaded Guns Recovered After Traffic Stop



Anayah Ann Battle

Maryland State Police recovered two loaded handguns and arrested a man and a woman following a traffic stop on Sunday in Calvert County.

Troopers from the Prince Frederick Barrack at about 12:20 a.m. Sunday pulled over a Chrysler that was seen swerving and moving erratically in the area of Route 4 and Lancaster Drive in Saint Leonard.

According to a preliminary investigation, troopers observed a handgun lodged between the center console and the driver's



Anthony Jerome Hill

seat. The firearm was loaded and missing a serial number. Troopers then initiated a search of the vehicle, which yielded a second, loaded handgun in a purse.

The driver of the vehicle, Anthony Jerome Hill, 43, and the passenger, Anayah Ann Battle, 40, both of Washington, D.C., were arrested on charges of illegal possession of a firearm and taken to the Calvert County Detention Center for processing.

The case remains under investigation.

What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their August 30 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick.



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

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

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

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

5) CSPR-142988, **St. Leonard Volunteer Fire Department**, located on Calvert Beach Road, St. Leonard, on a 5.076-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Village District Subarea B. This project will have public water but will utilize a private septic system. Proposed 4.1 acres of disturbance for demolition of

the existing pavilion and construction of a two-story, 40,280-sf fire & rescue service building with eight double-loaded apparatus bays. The concept submittal was accepted June 28, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.

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

1) SD-142955, **Armory Towns**, located on Armory Road in Prince Frederick. This project is on two residential parcels totaling .85 acres, Zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, Old Town Transition District. A total of nine townhouses are proposed, each lot size averaging 1,764 sf, as well as a 6,597-sf playing field and 400-sf mini-park. The project will utilize public water and sewer. The Preliminary Plan submittal was accepted April 26, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett

2) SD-142770, **Lusby Villas, Lot 1**, located on Lusby Parkway in Lusby. One commercial lot proposed on one parcel consisting of 24.87 acres, Zoned Lusby Town Center, Village Residential Office District, Tier I. The Preliminary Plan submittal was accepted January 26, 2022. Agent: COA Barrett

3) SD-142999, **Magnolia Ridge**, located on Fox Run Boulevard, Prince Frederick, on a 31.29-acre parcel, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District and will be served by public water & sewer. Proposed 164 Townhouse Units and 96 Apartments with a density of 8.3 units per acre. The project proposes 3.04 acres of recreation area and 12.58 acres of open space. The Preliminary Plan submittal was accepted August 23, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.

Concept submittals have been removed from this list. There is no assurance that those projects will reach Preliminary Plan status. If/when they do, they will be placed on this list under their Preliminary Plan project number.

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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, Aug 31

Reading Buddies

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Children that need some extra help with reading build confidence by reading to teens! Teens can earn a service-learning hour. A program for K-5 graders to practice reading in a relaxed and welcoming group space! Parents: Please register your child for the event. Readers select books to read aloud to a teen Reading Buddy. Kids will earn a token for each book read, then get to pick out prizes! There are games available for group play. Snacks and pizza. Stuffed animals welcome, or borrow one of ours! TEENS: Help a young reader by being a kind and patient listener, and earn a service hour for school! No need to register, just email Jess if interested in being a Reading Buddy: jess.swain@calvertlibrary.info 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Sep 1

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>.

First Fossil Friday!

Calvert Marine Museum
1 – 4:30 p.m.

Fossil hunters, bring your fossil finds from the Calvert Cliffs or other local areas

from 1 – 4:30 p.m. to be identified! This service is provided for free; however, admission fees apply for access to CMM exhibits.

Mon, Sep 4

Wm. B. Tonnison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
2 p.m.

Celebrate Labor Day with a leisurely one-hour sightseeing cruise on the river aboard the *Wm. B. Tonnison*, a log-built bugeye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. If there is a cancellation due to inclement weather, you will be notified by the crew prior to the cruise. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children – infant through 12 years.

Wed, Sep 6

WOW (Work on Whatever) Wednesday

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bring your project and supplies. Whether it's paper craft, scrapbook, quilting, origami, or whatever you're working on. Come for the whole time or just a couple of hours. Get your projects done and make new friends! Registration is not required but you'll get a reminder if you do. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Thu, Sep 7

Sea Squirts: Rockin' Reptiles

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

Children 18 months to 3 years, accompanied by an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, sto-

ries, and special activities. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. The cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

Ongoing

Clear the Shelter

Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter
5055 Hallowing Point Rd, Prince Frederick
Month of August

The shelter will waive adoption fees for adoptable animals during this campaign, made possible through a collaborative effort between Friends of the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter and the Board of County Commissioners. Regular adoption procedures still apply during the event.

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter is an open admission animal shelter managed by the Animal Shelter Division of the Calvert County Department of Public Safety. Shelter hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To schedule an intake appointment, call 410-535-7387. Animals of all ages are available for adoption, including dogs, cats, rabbits, roosters, pigs and more. For more information about adopting from the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter visit www.CalvertCountyAnimalShelter.com.

Wm. B. Tonnison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
Wed – Sun, the month of September
2 p.m.

Relax and enjoy a leisurely one-hour cruise on the river aboard the *Wm. B. Tonnison*, a log-built bugeye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. If there is a cancellation due to inclement weather, you will be notified by the crew prior to the cruise. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children – infant through 12 years.

Upcoming

Community Sale

Asbury Solomons Retirement Community
11100 Asbury Circle, Solomons,
Saturday, Sept. 9
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The sale will include:

- “Betty’s Closet” - featuring gently used clothing.
- “Granny’s Treasures” - household and miscellaneous items.
- The “Library Committee” presenting books and music.

All proceeds will benefit the Benevolent Care Fund.

Contact - 410-394-3000

Artsfest '23 Fine Arts Festival

Annemarie Arts Center and
Sculpture Garden, Solomons
Sat & Sun, Sept. 16 & 17
10:00am-5:00pm

Set amidst the spectacular backdrop of the 30-acre sculpture garden, Artsfest is truly a unique arts experience! Enjoy more than 125 artist booths, 35 performers on four stages, activities for kids in the Discovery Tent, Studio School, and the Zany Zone, along with great food, wine & beer, and much more! Street performers, including bubble artists and musicians, will be found throughout the festival! It's a fabulous weekend of visual and performing arts set amidst the beautiful Annemarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center. Rain or shine event, no pets, no smoking. Advance tickets \$10 online, (\$12 at the gate, if not sold out); kids 11 & under free; members free. Reduced price admission tickets available for SNAP card holders. Rain or shine, no pets, no smoking. Details: www.annemariegarden.org



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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, Aug 31

International Overdose Awareness Day Candlelight Vigil

Church of the Ascension
21641 Great Mills Rd, Lexington Park
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"Recognizing those people who go unseen"

Join St. Mary's County Health Department and Beacon of Hope as we honor our residents who have lost their lives to substance use. This initiative raises awareness of the hidden impacts of overdose, promotes education on overdose response, and ends stigma. Feel free to bring a photo of a loved one and we will honor them. #WESEEYOU

Lecture: The Freedom Suits of Southern Maryland, Family History, and Reckoning with American Slavery

Historic St. Mary's City

7:00 p.m.

Join Dr. William G. Thomas III, author and history professor from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, to discuss the freedom suits and the families of Southern Maryland featured in his prize-winning book, *A Question of Freedom: The Families Who Challenged Slavery from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War*.

Fri, Sept 1

Leonardtown Summer Music Festival Concert-Jan Knutson

Leonardtown Square
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Leonardtown Summer Music Festival presents sensational, improvisational jazz guitarist, Jan Knutson, in concert in Leonardtown Square for A&E First Friday. Enjoy smooth jazz and art related activities throughout the evening.

For more information about this special event or other music festival concerts visit: www.visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownmusicfest.

Shattering Sexualization

AMC Lexington Park 6 Theatre
FDR Boulevard, Lexington Park
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

This is for Singles, Married, Divorced, Parents, Grandparents

Sexualization can impact our ability to connect and be intimate in meaningful ways. When we continually sexualize other people, we can lose touch with reality and the relational people in our lives.

There is a significant difference between healthy sexuality and sexualization. But what is that difference? And how can you be free from the grip sexualization can have on your life?

Have you ever lusted, looked at swimsuit calendars, or the shirtless firefighters calendar. As yourself, are you objectifying them?

For discounted ticket price of \$6.00 per person call Tom at 443-752-2795 or you can purchase at the door for \$11.00.

Coming Up

DivorceCare Support Group

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
22375 Three Notch Rd, Lexington Park
Beginning Sept. 28, 6:30 to 8:00pm

Divorce is one of the most painful experiences you can face. You don't have to go through it alone. DivorceCare offers support, answers and practical tools to help you manage the many stresses of separation and divorce and find healing. DivorceCare is a 13 week support group that helps heal the pain of separation and divorce. We meet in small groups and respect your privacy. Advance registration is required for planning purposes. Please send an email to athewell@ihmrcc.org

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SAT/ SEP 2, 2023

Join us for the A&E Celebration at the Wharf:
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3 PM - 7:30 PM
 On the Water's Edge Concert featuring Phillip Michael Parsons
8 PM - 8:30 PM
 Fireworks Spectacular

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In Remembrance

Dick Padgett, 92



Richard Lee "Dick" Padgett, 92, long-time resident of Scotland Beach and Gaithersburg, MD, died peacefully on June 27, 2023, at his home in Gaithersburg. Born

on December 24, 1930, he was the son of the late Harry F. and Eileen (LaHayne) Padgett. Predeceased by his son, Richard L., Jr., Dick was survived by his sweetheart of many decades, Helen; his three daughters: Jacqueline (Mark), Jeanne, and Yvonne (Mark); and his three granddaughters: Catie (Brian), Ginny and Ashley.

Raised in Washington, DC, he attended Bancroft Elementary, Raymond Elementary, Powell Junior High and Central High schools (Class of 1950). He spent his summers with his family at Cobb Island, MD, and it is there that that he fell in love with the water, with boating, fishing and crabbing, and the Chesapeake Bay.

A proud veteran, Dick served in United States Marine Corps during the Korean War, receiving multiple awards for his service and was a lifetime member of the VFW (Gaithersburg 9862) and The Chosin Few. After returning to civilian life, Dick married, started a family, and joined National Geographic Society. Employed as an apprentice engineer, he went on to become chief engineer of the NGS membership center in Gaithersburg. During his career at NGS, he was assigned to the NGS Space Photographic Pool for the NASA Gemini-6A launch in 1965, Apollo 8, 9, and 13, being responsible for the electrical systems for remote photography of the launches.

In 1968, NGS built their membership center in Gaithersburg, with a state-of-the-art heating and cooling system, and Dick was promoted to chief engineer. The man-made lake in front of the building was not only a gem on the landscape but served as an element in the ecological chain, utilizing the lake water as a heat sump for the electric HVAC system. The building was warmed in cooler temperatures by recycling the heat generated by people, lights and computers—a system that conserved energy and saved on electric bills. Dick was later responsible for overseeing the installation of a power grid to run the banks of computers used to process membership applications after the Society ceased using their antiquated keypunch system. Later came the removal of the asbestos in the building, and Dick managed the teams to have it safely removed. With a staff of 17 engineers, machinists, painters, carpenters, and mechanics, he oversaw the Membership Center's boiler rooms and maintenance of the rest of the building. In 1990, Boland Services named NGS and Dick Padgett as one of the first winners of Boland Services Engineer's Award of Excellence. After 39 years of employment, Dick retired in 1993.

Decades of fishing trips, vacations and weekends at Scotland Beach with many of

his friends from NGS, Dick decided to retire there and had his retirement home built by local builder and good friend, Bruce Stouten. Dick lived there full time for over 10 years. He enjoyed the peaceful life near the Bay, and could often be found walking the beach or enjoying a beer and some tall tales with his friends and neighbors. In his later years he divided his time between his two homes in Scotland Beach and Gaithersburg.

In addition to Scotland Beach and the Chesapeake Bay, his passions included his Cadillacs and Big Band music of the 1940s. He was handy in all things mechanical and always willing to lend a hand. Dick was loyal friend, a loving father and devoted son and partner.

The family will hold a Celebration of Life at his beloved Scotland Beach in October. Memorial contributions can be made to: Ridge Volunteer Fire Department, Children's National Hospital Foundation, The Chosin Few, and The Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Sign Guest Book at www.goinghomecares.com

Milton Dartouzos, 82



Milton George Dartouzos, 82 of La Plata, MD passed away on August 26, 2023 at St. Charles University of MD Regional Medical Center Hospital in La Plata, MD.

He was born on April 16, 1941 in Washington, DC to the late George Milton Dartouzos and Anna Economopoulos Dartouzos.

Milton was a 1959 graduate of Charlotte Hall Military Academy in St. Mary's County, MD. He entered into the United States Air Force on January 28, 1962 in Baltimore, MD and served until January 21, 1966 from Homestead AFB, Florida. While serving in the military he served as an emergency room medic. Upon leaving the Air Force he furthered his education at the University of Richmond earning his Bachelor Degree in Business. He worked for the Federal Government for 26 years as an Accountant in MD. He then retired to Florida, where he enjoyed making friends and playing Bridge, often competing in various tournaments. He will be buried at St. George's Episcopal Church in Valley Lee, MD. He was a beloved father and will be missed. He is survived by his previous wife Trudy L. Dartouzos and son Daemon A. Dartouzos.

Family will receive friends on Saturday, September 2, 2023 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. with a funeral service officiated by Rev. Greg Syler at 10:00 a.m., at St. George's Episcopal Church, 19167 Poplar Lane, Valley Lee, MD 20692. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

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

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

In Remembrance

Alina Gatton, 49



Alina Lynn Gatton, 49, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on August 12, 2023.

On October 29, 1973, Alina was born to Timothy and Linda Gatton. After

Alina graduated from Booker High School in 1991, she pursued a degree in Biological Sciences at the College of South Maryland.

After school, she worked as a lab technician for over 10 years. Alina was passionate about her work and loved what she did for a living. She also worked as an optical, pharmacy, and water technician, all of which she enjoyed doing.

When Alina was not working, she liked to draw and was a budding artist, enjoying all mediums, from charcoal to clay.

Alina is survived by her parents, Timothy and Linda Gatton, her brother Tim Gatton, Jr. of Mechanicsville, MD and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the St. Mary's County Animal Adoption & Resource Center. Condolences can be made to the family at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com. Visitation and interment will be private.

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

Francis Wood, 72



Francis Irving Wood (Moses), 72 of Ridge, MD died August 17, 2023 at Hospice House in Callaway.

Francis was born September 1, 1950 in St. Mary's City, MD to the late Marie Dement Wood and the late Charles Dolie Wood. He was a resident of St. Mary's County. He attended St. Michael's Catholic School in Ridge, MD. In 1968, he graduated from Great Mills High School. He went to University of Tennessee in Nashville, Tennessee, where he received his Bachelor's and Master's Degree.

Francis was a man of all trades, but spent most of his years in Waste Water Management with St. Mary's Metcom and NAWCAD at St. Inigoes, Webster Field, as a contractor. He liked having social conversations with his bar buddies. Knowing his unique sense of humor, his buddies would try to set other people up, and then have them wondering in amazement at what Francis just said. He was very generous with people that he thought needed help.

Francis is survived by his significant other, Cecelia, his daughter, Susan Dunphy, and son, Kevin Wood, and his grandchildren Kelsey Dunphy and Brendan Dunphy. He was previously married to Vicki Vellines.

Francis was one in a family of eight siblings, and had three brothers and four sisters, Rose Wood Burroughs (deceased), James Wood (Gay) of Washington, DC, Roberta Davis

(Wilson) of St. Mary's City, MD, Shirley Melton (Tom) of Churchton, MD, Charles Dolie (CD) Wood (Judy) of Hollywood, MD, John Wood (Sara) of St. Mary's City, MD, Mary Jones (Mike) of Ellicott City, MD.

Francis's Memorial Service will be celebrated on Sunday, September 3, 2023 at Knights of Columbus (KC Hall) in Ridge, MD between 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice House in Callaway, MD and the Volunteer Rescue Squad in Ridge, MD. Francis donated his body to the Anatomy of Science for research to help others in the future.

Eleanor Belknap, 94



Heaven gained a precious angel on August 3, 2023 when Eleanor Keen Belknap of Lexington Park, MD went home to be with her Lord and Savior at age 94. Her children were at her side when she passed.

Eleanor was born on February 12, 1929 in Newton, WV to Harry Bert Keen and Willa Florence Surface. Growing up during the Great Depression she learned the value of hard work, saving money, self-sufficiency and education. She had numerous close cousins and friends during school, most of whom she stayed in touch with over the years. While attending a 65 year high school class reunion she reconnected with a classmate, Hank Smith, and had a wonderful 12 year friendship that included travel to Europe and Alaska, visits in Michigan and Maryland, and many long-distance phone calls which were a lifeline during the pandemic lockdown.

After attending Hollywood Elementary school and graduating as the salutatorian from Spencer High School in 1946, she worked at a drug store and as a substitute teacher in Spencer, then moved on with her cousin (also named Eleanor) to the American Viscose company in Parkersburg and later Libby Owens Ford in Vienna, WV.

While in Parkersburg with her cousin visiting relatives, a handsome young man came running around the corner attempting to escape trouble for lighting up some firecrackers near the house. She was smitten and the rest is history. She married Carroll Paige Belknap on May 25, 1952 in Newton, WV. During the next 19 years of Carroll's service with the Navy, they lived in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Tennessee, DC, Virginia, Florida and Maryland. They settled in Callaway, then Lexington Park, MD where their two children grew up.

She acquired many nicknames over the years including Cricket (for her petite stature and jet-black hair), Crick, Aunt Crick, Elli-nor, Norrie & Ellie. Although tiny, she was a force and had a strong will resulting in a few additional nicknames - the power pint and the velvet hammer.

Eleanor loved volunteering at her children's Elementary school. She then became a teacher's aid at Green Holly School working with special needs children for 15 years.

After the sudden and untimely death of Carroll in 1980, she went back to school to study computer operations and worked as a software tester at Mantech until retirement.

Eleanor was an excellent cook and relished having friends and family over for lunches, dinners and celebrations. She loved gardening and would grow and can fresh vegetables every season. She made each granddaughter a beautiful crocheted baby blanket. She also enjoyed the outdoors, the mountains, camping and fishing. She started the family passion for Shetland sheepdogs in 1964 which continues to this day. She will be remembered for her kindness and generosity, her dedication to her family and children, her honesty and her strong Christian values which were the foundation for her life.

Her greatest passion and conviction was her unwavering faith in God. She LIVED her faith. She was an active parishioner of several local churches including the Lexington Park Baptist church, Lexington Park United Methodist church where she taught Sunday school, Patuxent River Naval Air Station chapel and First Saints Community church where she volunteered in the soup kitchen. She attended numerous bible study groups and Full Gospel Businessmen meetings and made many wonderful friends along the way.

Eleanor is survived by her children Michael S. Belknap of Warrenton, VA and Cheryl L Parra (Rosendo) of Austin, TX, grandchildren Lauren Faudree (Keegan),

Megan Wells (Jackson), Allison Parra and Madison Parra all of Austin, TX and one great grandson William Byers Faudree also of Austin, TX. Additionally, she is survived by brother and sisters-in-law James W. Belknap (Yvonne) of Parkersburg, WV and Carol Keen Ward of Valley Lee, MD, nieces Shelley Allen (Scott) of Corsica, PA, nephews Jeremy Belknap of Parkersburg, WV, Bill Keen (Pizzel) of Valley Lee, MD and John Keen (Tracy) of Drayden, MD.

She was predeceased by both parents, her beloved husband Carroll P. Belknap (1980) and her brother Larry D. Keen (2013) whom she adored.

Services will be held at Brinsfield Funeral home in Leonardtown, MD on Thursday September 7; visitation 4:00-5:00pm followed by the funeral service at 5:00pm presided over by Pastor Ruth Dixon. Pallbearers will be Bill Keen, John Keen, Colt Keen, David Cullison, Barry Voithoffer and Kevin Warren. Interment will be September 9 at 1:00pm at the Tariff cemetery in Tariff, WV.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in her memory to Heifer International, Gideons International, Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, The 700 Club or the Soup Kitchen at First Saints Community Church.

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

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The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

The bay is alive with fish. From the white perch, puppy drum and even spot and croaker eager to take your Beetle Spin in the creeks to huge cobia in the bay and Blue catfish in the Potomac.

Spanish mackerel and bluefish are fighting over your trolled spoons or surgical eels from Cove Point to Smith Point. Spanish were even caught breaking in the St. Mary's River near the mouth of Carthegenia creek last week.

Cobia are hit or miss, mostly miss ; but enough have been caught to keep hope alive. We have until Sep. 15 to get that trophy. Chummers and trollers are getting hits.

White perch are now active in the creeks and rivers, and they are getting bigger. Got a nice catch on the falling tide on Sunday afternoon with several between 10 and 11 inches. There have been puppy drum in droves, but they have scattered a bit.

Slot reds are lurking in the shallows along with some hefty 20-to-24-inch rockfish. They love bone colored swimming plugs. Speckled trout and flounder have made a showing this week in various locations.

The blue catfish in the Potomac are off the charts. Huge catfish are the norm just south of the 301 bridge. They love fresh alewife. 40-to-60-pound catfish are caught daily.



Alex is catching hefty rockfish from the shore on top water poppers in the Patuxent.

Spot and croaker are carpeting the Patuxent river bottom. Most of the croaker are not up to the nine inch minimum, but the 10-to-12-inchers are increasing. Spot are very good sized, approaching jumbo.

Crabs are big and plentiful.

It appears that Idalia will not approach our area, and the weather forecast is perfect for the entire Labor Day Weekend. Let's go fishing!

A View From The BLEACHERS



THE ENIGMA

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

Hope is alive along the north shore of the Allegheny River. The Pittsburgh Pirates recently selected Paul Skenes, a stud right-handed pitcher from LSU, with the top overall pick in the 2023 MLB draft. Skenes has the kind of stuff to alter a franchise's trajectory - in wins and losses, butts in seats and the national consciousness. Of course, he's a pitcher, a profoundly fickle and fragile position, so the dreams of Bucs fans are, as Elton John might suggest, a candle in the wind. Nevertheless, the flame burns - for now.

This begs the question: What if you could guarantee that Skenes would play 13 years for the Bucs, win 113 games, post a 3.24 ERA, notch multiple 15-win seasons and one 18-win campaign, never win the Cy Young award, record 30 or more starts just three times and pitch over 200 innings in a season just twice? Would Pirates fans take that deal?

The short answer, without any context, is probably a firm "no", followed by a hearty bite of a Primanti Bros. sandwich and a spirited Pittsburghian declaration of "Yinz crazy or something?"

The player who produced those statistics, the one Pirates fans would likely pass on, is Stephen Strasburg, another generational pitching talent and the top pick in the 2009 MLB Draft.

The lacking context, of course, could change the answer. Strasburg's numbers alone are solid, but not spectacular - in whole or in a single season. He was, though, a player who burned white hot. His 14-strikeout debut in 2010 against Skenes' Pirates was pure magic and somehow surpassed the ridiculous expectations. It is not hyperbole to declare that game the moment when D.C. actually became a major league baseball city again - in its and everyone else's mind.

Then there's the playoff version of Strasburg: a 6-2 career postseason record with a ridiculous 1.46 ERA. In the 2019 playoffs, Strasburg was a perfect 4-0 and outdueled future Hall of Fame pitcher Justin Verlander in World Series Games 2 and 6. And there's really no argument that Strasburg's Game 6 masterpiece, with the Nationals facing elimination, is the greatest individual performance in franchise history.

But the injuries - Strasburg has always been as much tragedy as triumph. Just two months after his franchise energizing debut, Strasburg blew out his elbow and was shelved for a year after Tommy John surgery. He came back, but battled through all sorts of ailments in the years that followed. Ultimately 2019 proved to be his last healthy season. A chronic nerve issue in his neck and arm necessitated multiple surgeries and has limited him to just eight starts since that storybook night in Houston in October 2019. Last week, Strasburg, who hasn't pitched since early last season, announced his intent to retire in the coming weeks.

Strasburg's retirement will end one of the most unique careers in professional sports. Using a real estate reference, I can't come up with a "comp". Strasburg was more accomplished than Mark Prior or Kerry Wood, two other talented pitchers with injury-shortened careers. He's certainly more comparable to the shelf life of The Beatles than the Rolling Stones. Was he a disappointment? Not after his World Series performance. But "what could have been" is still very much part of his story.

In the end, Strasburg will remain an enigma, a mashup of franchise-altering accomplishments, a championship parade, unfortunate events and unrealized promise. To wrestle some clarity from Strasburg's career, here are a few thoughts. You just never know - no matter the talent or circumstance - what life will bring. So have a plan and set goals, but remain present and recognize that plans are written in the sand next to a powerful surf. Be steadfast. Work hard. Flat out grind when you must. Celebrate wins and learn from losses. And at the end of the day, the week, the month, the year or a professional career, find peace in knowing you greeted every moment, every curveball from life, with your very best - that is the formula for contentment, the antidote for regret.

Hopefully Strasburg retires with plenty of the former and not a trace of the latter. Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com



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ART WALK

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Saturday, September 2

7 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Choose from a variety of fitness classes with root SUP & Fitness including rootCamp and SUP. www.facebook.com/rootsupfitness

7:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Choose from a variety of fitness classes with SPICE Studio, including yoga, barre, and strength classes. www.facebook.com/somdspicestudio

9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Zumba Fitness Around Town under the pavilion at Port of Leonardtown Park. www.facebook.com/groups/267558040548248

9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Vendor Saturday at Town Market. www.facebook.com/TownMarketLLC

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Kids Open Studio (12 and under) at Wine & Design. www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Teen and Adult Open Studio at Wine & Design. www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center. www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 2nd Annual Sidewalk Art Contest at Leonardtown Wharf. www.visitleonardtownmd.com/10thanniversary

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Stamp Stuff: Shirts Immersion at Bay Fibers Studio www.facebook.com/bayfibers

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Family Friendly Mini Sign Workshop at Board and Brush (6+). www.facebook.com/boardandbrushleonardtownmd

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Kids Open Studio (12 and under) at Wine & Design. www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Teen and Adult Open Studio at Wine & Design. www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Amongst Friends Duo and food provided by Gatos Tacos. www.facebook.com/portoftownwine

3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. On the Water's Edge Labor Day Finale Concert at Leonardtown Wharf featuring Phillip Michael Parsons, John Zimmerman and Girl Crush. www.visitleonardtownmd.com/10thanniversary

4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Time to Dye: Pick Your Project at Bay Fibers Studio www.facebook.com/bayfibers

7 p.m. Live Music at Social Coffeehouse featuring Will B and Caitlyn. www.facebook.com/socialonfenwick

8 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Fireworks Extravaganza at Leonardtown Wharf. www.visitleonardtownmd.com/10thanniversary

Sunday, September 3

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Evolve Yoga at Leonardtown Wharf. www.facebook.com/evolveyogawellness

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center. www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Kids Open Studio (12 and under) at Wine & Design. www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Teen and Adult Open Studio at Wine & Design. www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

11 a.m. Free Pool on Sunday at Action Lounge and Billiards. www.facebook.com/ActionLounge

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Teen and Pick Your Own Project Workshop at Board and Brush (12+). www.facebook.com/boardandbrushleonardtownmd

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Time to Dye: Pick Your Project at Bay Fibers Studio www.facebook.com/bayfibers

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Draw/Paint/Sculpt on Sundays at The Yellow Line. www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. "Drum Point Lighthouse" Workshop at Wine & Design. www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Live Music at Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Gloria's Imagination and food provided by Chaptico Market. www.facebook.com/portoftownwine

2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Family Roller Skating at Leonard Hall Recreation Center. www.facebook.com/LeonardHallRecCenter

4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Illustration Class on Sundays at The Yellow Line. www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co

The information included here is accurate at the time of printing, and is subject to change. Please visit the event page for current information.

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Friday, September 1

5:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Choose from a variety of fitness classes from root SUP & Fitness including flow, rootCamp, Spin, and aerial yoga. www.facebook.com/rootsupfitness

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Choose from a variety of fitness classes with SPICE Studio, including barre and high low fitness, and Pilates. www.facebook.com/somdspicestudio

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Brunch at Antoinette's Garden. www.facebook.com/AntoinettesGarden

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center. www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum

11 a.m. Leonardtown's Art Walk begins and is brought to you by St. Mary's County Art's Council, Gallery & Giftshop - Ends September 30th (Art shown in select businesses in Leonardtown. Check with individual business for hours of operation.) www.facebook.com/smcartsCouncil

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. First Friday Walk-ins: Pick Your Project at Bay Fibers Studio www.facebook.com/bayfibers

12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Adult Art Club at The Yellow Line Art Studio. www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Open Studio Time at The Yellow Line Art Studio. www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co

4 p.m. - 5 p.m. Live music in Leonardtown Square featuring contemporary classic flutist, Dr. Ceylon Mitchell. www.visitleonardtownmd.com/10thanniversary

5 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Audience Participation Drum Circle taught by the SoMar Drummers at St. Mary's County Arts Council, Gallery & Giftshop. www.facebook.com/smcartsCouncil

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Meet and greet with Carla Simpson, creator of So. MD Music Scene and the Sound Check podcast, at St. Mary's County Arts Council, Gallery & Giftshop. www.facebook.com/smcartsCouncil

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Aerial performance in LTown Alley featuring The Vertical Dance Company. www.visitleonardtownmd.com/10thanniversary

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Fire dancing performance in LTown Alley featuring the Ghawazi Circus Sirens. www.visitleonardtownmd.com/10thanniversary

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Live Music in Leonardtown Square featuring improvisational jazz guitarist, Jan Knutson. www.visitleonardtownmd.com/10thanniversary

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack #420 Popcorn Sales in front of Olde Towne Insurance.

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Pick Your Project Workshop at Board & Brush (16+). www.facebook.com/boardandbrushleonardtownmd

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Design your own pin & TopArt challenge at The Yellow Line. www.facebook.com/theyellowline.co

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Kids Open Studio (12 and under) at Wine & Design. www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Teen and Adult Open Studio at Wine & Design. www.facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd



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Community Resource Day to Offer Information, Free Supplies

Join the St. Mary's County Homelessness Prevention Board at Community Resource Day on Friday, September 8, 2023, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Lexington Park United Methodist Church, located at 21760 Great Mills Road in Lexington Park, MD.

Community Resource Day will offer information about housing, health checks, employment support, and much more! Community partners will be on site to provide some limited services and give

out information. The Maryland Vehicle Association will be available to assist in obtaining a Maryland ID.

A free backpack full of supplies will be given to all attendees, while supplies last! Free lunch will be available.

Community Resource Day is sponsored by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the St. Mary's County Homelessness Prevention Board. For more information, please call (301) 475-4200, ext. 1680.

RetroFest Brings All Things "Vintage" to Piney Point



St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division, in partnership with the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums, is excited to announce the 4th Annual RetroFest on the Potomac. RetroFest will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park.

RetroFest on the Potomac is a free family event that represents all things vintage! Enjoy live music from Kiti Gartner & the Drifting Valentines; Rocking House Party from Vince Turner; a variety of vintage displays, exhibits and vendors; fun retro family activities and crafts; a food truck, beer truck, ice cream, and much more!

Admission is free for this event, but Museum donations are always welcome.

Free parking will be available at Piney Point Elementary School with free shuttle service bringing visitors to and from RetroFest. There will be no public parking at the museum during the event, except for vehicles displaying appropriate handicap parking permits.

For more information about this event, please call Piney Point Lighthouse Museum at (301) 994- 1471 or visit Facebook.com/1836Light.

Attention vendors and classic/vintage vehicle owners! If your business or non-profit is related to the vintage/retro theme, offers vintage-related items or activities, or if you have a vintage car, truck, motorcycle, boat, or other vehicle, please contact sara.saunders@stmaryscountymd.gov for more information and to sign up.

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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>



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There Will Also Be A Silent Auction!

Public Invited to Review Flood Maps

Public Forums Scheduled for September 13

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing updates to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for St. Mary's County, MD. Community members and partners are invited to participate in a 90-day appeal and comment period.

The updated maps were produced in coordination with local, state, and FEMA officials. Before the maps become final, community members and local organizations can identify any corrections or questions about the information provided and submit appeals or comments. These determinations were made after a multi-year project to re-examine St. Mary's County's riverine (non-coastal) flood zones and develop detailed, digital flood hazard maps. If you are an affected property owner you will receive notification letters, the first round of notification letters was mailed on August 24, 2023.

The 90-day appeal period will begin on or around August 31, 2023. Residents, businesses, and other community partners are encouraged to review the updated maps to learn about local flood risks and potential future flood insurance requirements. They may submit an appeal if they perceive that modeling or data used to create the map is

technically or scientifically incorrect.

An appeal must include technical information, such as hydraulic or hydrologic data, to support the claim.

Appeals cannot be based on the effects of proposed projects or projects started after the study is in progress.

If property owners see incorrect information that does not change the flood hazard information—such as a missing or misspelled road name in the Special Flood Hazard Area or an incorrect corporate boundary—they can submit a written comment.

The next step in the mapping process is the resolution of all comments and appeals. Once they are resolved, FEMA will notify communities of the effective date of the final maps.

The preliminary maps may be viewed online via the FEMA Flood Map Changes Viewer at: <http://msc.fema.gov/fmcv>. Submit appeals and comments by contacting your local floodplain administrator, Valerie Caswell, at valerie.caswell@stmaryscountymd.gov. Changes from the current maps may be viewed online via the Region 3 Changes Since Last FIRM (CSLF) Viewer.

For more information about the flood

maps:

- Use a live chat service about flood maps at <http://go.usa.gov/r6C> (just click on the "Live Chat" icon).
- Contact a FEMA Map Specialist by telephone; toll free, at 1-877-FEMA-MAP (1-877-336-2627) or by email to FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov.

Most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flooding. There are cost-saving options available for those newly mapped into a high-risk flood zone. Learn more about your flood insurance options by talking with your insurance agent and visiting floodsmart.gov.

Public Forum & Information

St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) will host two public forums on September 13, 2023, at 2 p.m. and at 6 p.m., in the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) Meeting Room of the Chesapeake Building, located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown. SMCG staff, along with FEMA officials, will be available to answer questions and provide information on the mapping process, appeal process, flood insurance, and potential mitigation opportunities.

St. Mary's County, MD Flood Mapping Milestones:

- November 22, 2021 — Flood Risk Review Meeting to review draft flood hazard data.
- November 29, 2022 — Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map released.
- January 26, 2023 — Community Coordination and Outreach Meeting to review Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map and discuss updates to local floodplain management ordinance and flood insurance.
- August 31, 2023 — Appeal Period starts.
- September 13, 2023 — St. Mary's County Public Forum.
- November 29, 2023 — Appeal Period ends.
- August 2024* — New Flood Insurance Rate Map becomes effective and flood insurance requirements take effect. (*Timeline subject to change pending completion of the appeal review process.)

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Region 3 Office of External Affairs at (215) 931-5597 or at femar3newsdesk@fema.dhs.gov.

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

PMA-234 Gives Inside Look Into Electronic Attack with Inaugural JAM Fest

Before returning to school, dozens of children received a lesson they would not learn in a classroom. On Aug. 16, the U.S. Navy's Airborne Electronic Attack (AEA) Systems Program Office (PMA-234) welcomed more than 75 family members and guests to the inaugural JAM Fest at Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

The event, dubbed JAM Fest in a nod to radar jammers, was designed to provide family members an inside look at how program office personnel support the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. It was also an opportunity for the next generation to learn how they could support the warfighter in the future.

"We had a unique opportunity to share with future generations how important and cool our jobs are and how each and every member of this program office supports our warfighters," said PMA-234 Principal Deputy Program Manager Laurie Wassink.

The day started with a visit to the program office, where kids received their own personalized JAM Fest identification badge. Families then met with PMA-234 Program Manager Capt. David Rueter, a couple of deputy program managers, and

Royal Australian Air Force members who are a part of the program office. Family members enjoyed seeing pictures of various U.S. Navy missions, videos of the AEA equipment in action, and hearing tales from military personnel.

"It was great to see so many young ones eager to learn about what we do," explained Rueter. "To see the excitement on their faces, I hope this leaves a lasting impression on them."

After departing the program office, families were invited to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23 to see an EA-18G Growler up close. The Growler carries the AEA pods that PMA-234 supports. Military members from VX-23 walked families around the aircraft and explained how the Growler supports the warfighters on the ground and why their mission is vital to the U.S. Navy.

"My favorite part of the day was talking to the pilot while looking in the Growler cockpit," said sixth grader Mitchell Agamaite. "I learned so much about what it takes to fly the aircraft."

Following the Growler tour, the learning opportunities continued with the Naval



Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division's (NAWCAD) Mobile Digital Fabrication Laboratory (FABLAB). The NAWCAD innovation team showed visitors how the FABLAB can turn concepts into prototypes with a CO2 laser, microcontrollers, and 3D printers. Visitors watched the 3D printer in action and took home 3D printed jets.

Families were treated to a fly-by and landing of a UH-1Y Venom, which carries the Intrepid Tiger II pod, also supported by PMA-234. Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (HX) 21 welcomed the opportunity for families to tour the aircraft and build a stronger relationship between HX-21 and PMA-234.

"It was so cool, and I couldn't believe it

landed right in front of us!" Fourth grader Jeremiah Shrum exclaimed. "I loved climbing in the back of the helicopter and trying on the flight gear. I think I want to be a pilot when I grow up."

JAM Fest wrapped up the day with a picnic and camaraderie, and a lesson that is sure to be etched into young minds for years to come.

"If just one child walks away today with the plan to pursue a STEM or military career, then I call it a success," Rueter said. "I also hope today's JAM Fest leaves families with a sense of pride, especially the children. They should be very proud of the work their parents do every day."



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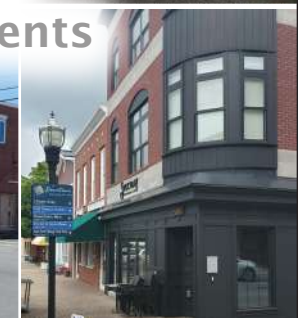
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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for St. Mary's County, Maryland and Incorporated Areas

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within St. Mary's County, Maryland and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the preliminary FIRM and/or FIS report for St. Mary's County, Maryland and Incorporated Areas. These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/bfe, or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

CASE NO: C-18-FM-23-000251

Thomas Snook
21685 Oakley Road
Avenue, MD 20609
Plaintiff

vs.

Nancy Lynn
25463 Maddox Road
Chapico, MD 20621
Defendant

NOTICE – ALTERNATE SERVICE (Md. Rules 2-121, 2-122)

Thomas Snook, the above named plaintiff, has filed a complaint titled Complaint for Limited/Absolute Divorce and Other Relief in which he/she is asking the court to grant a Judgment of Limited/Absolute Divorce.

The Circuit Court for Saint Mary's County, Maryland may grant that relief unless Nancy Lynn, the above named defendant, can show reason why the court should not grant the relief. Nancy Lynn must file a response to the complaint on or before October 18, 2023.

If Nancy Lynn fails to respond within the time allowed, the court may enter a judgment by default or grant the relief sought, as long as a copy of this Notice is published in a newspaper in this county at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks on or before September 16, 2023.

After the time period in the judge's order has passed, you may ask the court for a default judgment or to move forward with your case.

Debra J. Burch
Clerk of the Court, St. Mary's County

If you would like to publish a legal notice, please call 301-373-4125
or email aldailey@countytimes.net

County Times
St. Mary's County • Calvert County

SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

Identity Sought for Theft Suspects

On Tuesday, July 18, 2023 between 2:00 PM and 3:00 PM, the subjects pictured entered the Ridge Supermarket in Ridge. Once in the store, one subject acted as a lookout, while the other two grabbed several bottles of alcohol and then exited the store, failing to pay for any of the items.

The three all arrived and left in the vehicle shown, which appears to be a black Jeep Patriot.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect and or this incident is asked to contact DFC. T. Snyder #342 at Thomas.Snyder@stmaryscountymd.gov or call 301-475-4200 ext. 8068. Case #38371-23

You can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or send a text to Crime Solvers at 274637.

Type "Tip239" in the message block and select SEND. After you get a response, con-



tinue your conversation.

Note: Tip239 is case sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown.

With Crime Solvers you never have to give your name. If your information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a cash reward.

Identity Needed for Trespassing Suspects

On July 30, 2023, and several times since then, the subject pictured above as well as two others, also on blue dirt bikes have been trespassing on private property in St. Ingoes. This property is roped off as well as No Trespassing signage placed on the property.

These same three subjects on the blue dirt bikes have also been observed operating on Three Notch Rd, riding north towards Mattapany Rd, and turning around there and returning south.

The one pictured subject appears to have long blonde hair.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect and or this incident is asked to contact Deputy N. Hill #361 at Nicholas.Hill@stmaryscountymd.gov or call 301-475-4200 ext. 8078. Case #44612-23

You can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or send a text to Crime



Solvers at 274637.

Type "Tip239" in the message block and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

Note: Tip239 is case sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown.

With Crime Solvers you never have to give your name. If your information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a cash reward.

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Leonardtown Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Office located at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. The purpose of the hearing is to present for public review and comment a Special Exception request for the Splash in Carwash to be located at 40874 Merchants Lane in Leonardtown. Tax Map 0120, Grid 0018, Parcel 394, Recorded as Lot 2, Gordon Ragan Subdivision.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 4:00 p.m. on September 21, 2023 to the Board of Zoning Appeals, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority:
Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

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Capitol Heights Man Sentenced to 25 Years for Attempted Murder

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Austin Dylan Winbush, 24, of Capitol Heights, was sentenced to life suspended all but 25 years of active incarceration in prison for attempted first-degree murder.

Following a three-day jury trial, a St. Mary's County jury convicted Mr. Winbush on March 23, 2023, of attempted first-degree murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence and having a loaded handgun. The charges stemmed from a May 5, 2021, shooting that took place in Lexington Park, MD.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Jeff Maylor, Chief of the Major Crimes Unit, prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

The Honorable Amy D. Lorenzini presided over the case.



Austin Dylan Winbush

Corrections Officer Assaulted on the Job

On Friday evening, a Corrections Officer was seriously assaulted by an inmate at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center.

While standing her post, Corrections Officer Hanna Suite was approached by inmate Kamisha Raquel Thomas (30 year old female) who threw a cup of liquid at C/O Suite and then suddenly and violently attacked the Corrections Officer.

Inmate Thomas repeatedly struck C/O Suite in the face and head in an attempt to gain a position of advantage. C/O Suite was able to summons help using her radio as she was blocking the repeated blows from the inmate. At that time, several females incarcerated in the unit came to the aid of the Corrections Officer and were able to help stop the assault.

C/O Suite was transported to MedStar St. Mary's Hospital where she was treated for several abrasions, a laceration to her left eyebrow, hematomas, and the possibility of a concussion.

Saturday afternoon, Sheriff Steve Hall visited Corrections Officer Suite at her house and awarded her the Sheriff's Office Purple Heart Medal.

Sheriff Hall remarked, "Our Corrections Staff are an integral part of the Sheriff's Office. Day in and day out, they deal with those incarcerated at our Detention and Rehabilitation Center. They are the "silent line" of security—you rarely see them, but they are working 24/7 to protect the community. This was a brutal assault on a Corrections Officer and we are thankful that Hanna did not receive life threatening injuries. I am very proud of the way she stood her ground and refused to give up until help



Sheriff Steve Hall commends CO Hanna Suite

could arrive."

Sheriff Hall added, "I am grateful for the inmates who came to the aid of the Corrections Officer; it's a testament to the respect the inmates had for C/O Suite and that there is a lot of good within the detention center. This incident illustrates what Corrections Officers deal with on a daily basis—the worst and the best of human behavior."

Inmate Thomas was charged with 1st Degree Assault, 2nd Degree Assault, 1st Degree Assault on a DOC employee and 2nd Degree Assault on a DOC employee.

Regional Ag Center Project Progressing, But Slowly

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A project to construct a mecca for regional farmers to sell their goods — including locally raised meats — has been in the works for several years now in the north end of St. Mary's but issues with the land upon which it is to be built have slowed its progress.

The Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) project was highly sought after by regional governments to support their agricultural base but St. Mary's County won the bid to receive \$1 million in design money from the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Committee, beating out counties as far away as Anne Arundel.

The RAC is to be built on land already owned by the county where the Charlotte Hall Convenience Center currently operates; the land also abuts the property for Lettie Marshal Dent Elementary School.

But that 47-acre parcel has not even been cleared yet, confirmed county public works chief Jim Gotsch; right now, about half a dozen trees have to be removed to make way for the construction of the on-site sep-

tic system the facility would require.

There is no public water or sewer in the area.

The trees in question are known as specimen trees, Gotsch said, and are over 30 inches in diameter at about chest height — they must be removed as they were unlikely to survive there once the facility were built.

Also, if their roots were left in the ground, they were likely to break through the pipes of the septic system and foul its operations, county planning documents stated.

The county Board of Appeals will have to grant a variance for their removal to comply with state law.

"They're [the state] wanting to preserve forest and it's better to save old growth forest than to replant smaller trees.

"It's already established."

The cost of the project is a little over \$5 million, Gotsch said, and while it has been fully funded the state has yet to "cut the last check" to have it in place.

The state, specifically the legislature, wants to have more proof of progress before releasing any additional funds, Gotsch said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Condominiums, Car Dealership Planned for California



The proposed site for a new car dealership

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A proposal to build a 42,000-square foot condominium is under consideration by the county's department of Land Use and Growth Management and could soon make its way to the planning commission for initial approval.

The project is proposed to be placed on a parcel to the rear of the Park Place development in California; the property is well known as a restaurant center as well as host to a hotel and defense contractor office building on Three Notch Road at the intersection of Shady Mile Drive.

The project is officially known as the Park Place Units LLC with ownership under the same name.

According to state property ownership documents, the proposed condominium facility would be in two buildings and would

be the eighth and ninth structure on the site.

A county planning staff report going into greater detail on the project has yet to be released.

Another large development — a car dealership — is also planned in California, planning documents show.

More than 47,000 square feet in size, the Kia and Honda brand vehicle dealership would be located on Three Notch Road across from Worth Avenue, planning documents show.

The entire site would be located on about 8.4 acres, with more than five acres of that impervious surface.

The construction of the dealership would necessitate the demolition of a long vacant and dilapidated house on north bound Three Notch Road.

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COVID Hits County Government

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Department of Land Use and Growth Management (LUGM) was effectively closed down for a day this week, said Commissioner Mike Hewitt, because several county employees who worked there either had COVID-19 or were symptomatic and avoided the office.

Hewitt made the announcement at the end of the regular business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County Aug. 29.

"We had five people out at LUGM yesterday," Hewitt said. "We've even had issues here in county government.

"We had to close LUGM [Monday.]"

Hewitt warned that COVID-19 was still a present health threat.

"COVID-19 is still out there, we still need to keep track of it."

The latest news comes as fears about COVID-19 resurgence have grown, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control are tracking a new variant of the illness, known as BA. 2.86.

"We're seeing more cases of COVID-19 coming back up in the county," said Commissioner Eric Colvin. "It's hitting county government and some of our schools."

But, Colvin said, work was still getting done with employees working remotely.

"The doors are still open, timelines have not changed and everything will still get done," Colvin said.

In consultation with Dr. Meena Brewster, the county's chief health officer, Colvin said that the county is not seeing an increase in hospitalizations due to COVID-19.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

"Last Mile" Internet Connections Still to Be Completed

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

St. Mary's County continues to move towards 100 percent connectivity when it comes to internet access for all residents but the county's information technology chief told elected leaders this week that about 1,100 homes are still without that service.

Bob Kelly, director of the Department of Information Technology, said that those residents who would benefit from the so-called "last mile" connection have been difficult to contact regarding the county's overture about whether they want that service.

Kelly made his presentation to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County seeking the reallocation of about \$100,000 in federal COVID disaster money from "middle mile" connections — which are mostly clusters of homes and neighborhoods that are easier to reach — to internet security.

"The challenge we're experiencing with last mile is reaching the homeowner, these last, about 1,100 homes we're looking to get connected... just getting them to respond," Kelly said. "It may take going out and knocking on doors."

Kelly said his staff have engaged in door knocking before but to a "wider degree" to reach a cluster of homes at the same time.

Kelly said: "1,100 homes is a lot of door knocking."

Kelly said that the initial effort to connect last mile homes focused on homes that were about 500 feet from the cable junction at the intersection with the main road; now the information technology staff is focusing on homes as far as 4,500 feet from the main road service junction.

Some of these connections would be so far away that they would cost between \$50,000 to \$60,000, said County Administrator David Weiskopf.

"Holy smokes," exclaimed Commissioner Mike Hewitt at the cost.

Kelly said that since the project to quickly expand internet connection cable began during the COVID-19 pandemic roughly 2,500 homes have been newly connected to the service.

The last mile homes are the most difficult, Kelly said, not just because of distance but also because of property boundary issues and even hurdles such as crossing streams.

"Connect as many people as you can, as quickly as you can; that is our mantra," Kelly said. "Whatever issues exist, we work with the vendor, we work with the homeowner to get them connected."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Charles County Fair Glass Art & Wood Carvings Auction

Sunday, September 17, 2023 – 4:00 pm

St. Mary's County Fair 4-H Cake Auction

Friday, September 22, 2023 – 6:00 pm

St. Mary's County Fair 4-H Livestock Auction

Saturday, September 23, 2023 – 6 pm

Grocery Auction – Mother Catherine Academy

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St. Mary's Student Test Scores Improve

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

In the post COVID-19 pandemic world, educators have struggled to bring student achievement back to acceptable levels and the latest round of Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program results show they may be succeeding.

The improvements in mathematics and English language arts are small for the school year 2023 MCAP results but local educators and administrators are pleased to see them.

In the English language arts category grades 3 through 5 showed a one-percent improvement in number of students who gained a proficient score, from 49 percent to 50 percent over last school year.

Grades 6 through 8 had better performance in language arts with 56 percent of students in those levels gaining proficiency in the tests, four percent higher than last school year.

The high school level, 10th grade language arts assessment student proficiency level rose from 60 percent to 65 percent.

This puts St. Mary's County among the highest proficiency levels of counties, the latest reports from the state show. There are just six counties higher than St. Mary's in proficiency for 10th grade language arts; Calvert is the highest with 82 percent.

There are eight counties higher than St. Mary's in the grades 3 through 8 language arts assessment, with Worcester County the highest with 68 percent student proficiency.

Calvert came in at 61 percent in that category.

There are four performance levels measured in the MCAP, only level 3 and level 4 are desirable; level 3 is considered proficient with a score range between 750-789 on an assessment.

Level 4 is considered distinguished with a score of 790 to 850 on any of the assessments.

Both of these levels comprise the percentage of students considered to be proficient by the state.

"We are... showing incremental growth over the previous year, demonstrating our commitment to closing learning gaps created by the pandemic," said Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith.

Statewide, the mathematics assessments for all grades are where student performance

suffer the most and St. Mary's County is no different, the latest numbers show.

For the math assessments for grades 3 through 8 just 33 percent of St. Mary's students performed adequately; six counties performed better than St. Mary's with Calvert earning a 36 percent student proficiency rating.

Worcester County had the best student proficiency rating at 47 percent.

In the Algebra assessment, St. Mary's students fared much worse with just 20 percent of students who took the exam earning a proficiency rating.

Neighboring Calvert bested St. Mary's again with a 22 percent proficiency rating; Howard County had the highest rate with 38 percent student proficiency.

The breakdown of St. Mary's math assessment numbers is a bit more encouraging.

For grades 3 through 5 student math proficiency rose to 37 percent from 36 percent from the previous year.

Grades 6 through 8 rose from 24 percent proficiency in the 2022 school year to 27 percent in school year 2023, the latest report shows.

In Algebra 1 the proficiency rate rose from 17 to 20 percent.

In the 5th and 8th grade science assessment, the results put St. Mary's County near the top of student performers at a 43.5 student proficiency rate; just four counties outperformed St. Mary's in that category.

Calvert achieved a 41.8 proficiency rate in the 5th and 8th grade science assessment.

It was in this assessment that St. Mary's saw some of its highest gains, with 44 percent of students in 5th grade reaching proficiency over the previous year's 36 percent.

Grade 8 student dropped in achievement, however, from 49 percent proficient to just 37 percent scoring adequately, the data shows.

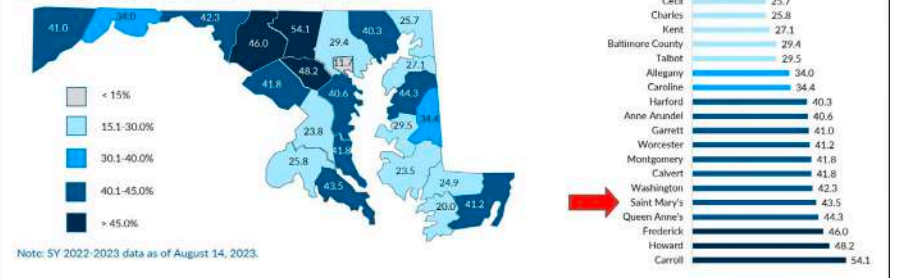
Still, in many of these assessments St. Mary's students showed they were performing better than the state average.

"St. Mary's County Public Schools continues to outpace the state average on all MCAP and MISA assessments," said Smith. "Consistently placing in the top ten counties for Maryland."

More detailed findings on student achievement through the MCAP, the latest in a long line of assessments chosen by the Maryland State Department of Education to measure learning progress, is scheduled for release on Sept. 26 and again in December.

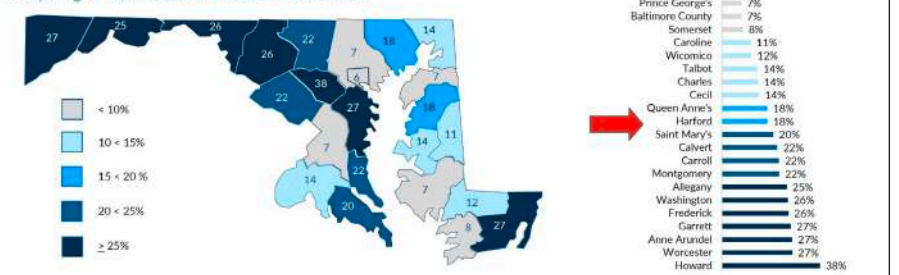
Science Grade 5 Assessment, SY 2022-2023 Proficiency by LEA

Statewide, the percentage of students scoring proficient on the grade 5 science test was 34.5% for SY 2022-2023. LEAs vary from a low of 11.7% to a high of 54.1% in proficiency percentage. Twenty-two LEAs improved their performance when comparing SY 2021-2022 to SY 2022-2023.



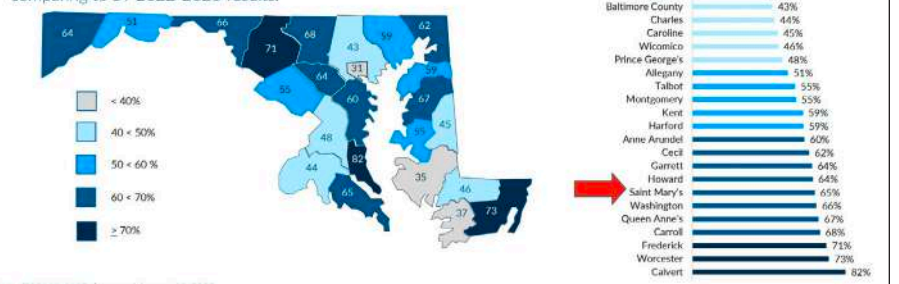
Algebra I Assessment by LEA, SY 2022-2023

Statewide, the percentage of students scoring proficient on the Algebra I test was 17% for SY 2022-2023. LEAs vary from a low of 6% to a high of 38% in proficiency percentage. Twenty-three LEAs improved when comparing SY 2021-2022 to SY 2022-2023 results.



English 10 Assessment by LEA, SY 2022-2023

Statewide, the percentage of students scoring proficient on the English 10 test was 54% for SY 2022-2023. LEAs vary from a low of 31% to a high of 82% in proficiency percentage. Eighteen LEAs improved from SY 2021-2022 when comparing to SY 2022-2023 results.



Smith said he was confident that St. Mary's could continue its steady, upward achievement trend

"We realize there remains much work ahead but we are not alone in our challenges and our teachers and those who support them are relentless," Smith said.

The most fundamental issue the school system struggled with, though, was ensuring all students attended class regularly and on time, avoiding unnecessary or unexcused absences.

This has been a particular problem at the high school level post pandemic.

"As a reminder to all parents, the most consistent predictor of academic success is regular attendance and we need you to make this a priority in your home," Smith said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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For parking, shuttle, and other event details visit:

Visit LeonardtownMD.com/10thAnniversary



Leonardtown Celebrates 10 Years of Arts and Entertainment

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A decade ago, the Town of Leonardtown applied for and won from the state the official designation of being an Arts and Entertainment (A&E) District, which has boosted the town's profile statewide and helped bring in business and tourism to keep its revitalization dreams alive.

This weekend marks a celebration of the success the designation has brought the town, to be held at the town wharf Sept. 2 and complete with fireworks, food and musical acts.

The celebration of attaining the A&E designation, though, will last the entire month of September, according to the town government.

Mary Maday Slade, town commissioner, was enthusiastic for the celebration to unfold.

"I'm excited for it," Slade said. "We've got the sidewalk chalk contest this weekend, which was great last year.

"I can't wait to see what everyone brings out."

The contest gives children and adults the chance to draw their own works of art on town sidewalks in chalk; all for the chance to win a prize.

The designation has helped the town with its key goals of boosting business and its revitalization.

"It's given us the opportunity to apply for all kinds of grants," Slade said. "And it showcases art in Leonardtown."

The town warned that the wharf will be closed to traffic over the weekend — much the same as it was when the World's Largest Rubber Duck came — with trolley service extended to aid in visitors coming to the celebration.

"In anticipation of increased traffic for the concert/fireworks at the Wharf on Saturday, Sept. 2, an additional trolley will be running to transport attendees up and down the hill from the corner of Washington St. and Courthouse Dr. to the Wharf and back from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Law Enforcement, State's Attorney Targeting Bad Drivers

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Slow Down St. Mary's program is working to take the steam out of bad driving on county roads according to the first reports of law enforcement activity.

Sheriff's deputies and state troopers wrote a total of 630 tickets after the first week of the program, which combines the efforts of the two agencies in cooperation with the state's attorney's office to cite and prosecute alleged offenders.

Law officers wrote 424 tickets for speeding, 36 for use of a cell phone while driving, 35 for running a red light or a stop sign, six tickets for unsafe lane changes and nine for failure to observe the "Move Over" law which states that drivers must either slow down or move away from police or emergency vehicles stopped on the side of the road in the performance of their duty.

There were 47 tickets written for miscellaneous infractions, the sheriff's office



reported for a total of 557 traffic stops in the program's first week.

Law officers also issued 30 repair orders, the sheriff's office report stated.

They also issued a total of 124 written warnings.

The sheriff's office reported that the State's Attorney's Office would now closely pursue monetary fines and points for violations to ensure there was punishment to follow law enforcement actions.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS	3	SPORTS	18
COPS & COURTS	10	OBITUARIES	19
COMMUNITY	11	CALENDARS	21

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Algebra I Assessment by LEA, SY 2022-2023

Statewide, the percentage of students scoring proficient on the test was 17% for SY 2022-2023. LEAs vary from a low of 6% to a high of 38% in proficiency percentage. Twenty-three LEAs improved comparing SY 2021-2022 to SY 2022-2023 results.

LOCAL 5
Test scores show small improvement



LOCAL 7
New condos, car dealership planned

THE LEONARDTOWN 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

St. Mary's County Times

COVID Strikes County Government

Leonardtown Celebrates Arts & Entertainment

Test Scores Show Small Improvements

3 CRACKING DOWN ON DANGEROUS DRIVING

ON THE COVER
St. Mary's law enforcement is cracking down on bad drivers

WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, AUG 31</p> <p>Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 58°</p>	<p>FRI, SEP 1</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 78° Lo: 56°</p>	<p>SAT, SEP 2</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 62°</p>	<p>SUN, SEP 3</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 87° Lo: 68°</p>
<p>MON, SEP 4</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 92° Lo: 73°</p>	<p>TUE, SEP 5</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 93° Lo: 71°</p>	<p>WED, SEP 6</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 91° Lo: 70°</p>	<p>THU, SEP 7</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 91° Lo: 69°</p>



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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

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CRACKING DOWN ON DANGEROUS DRIVING

