

Calvert County

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Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023



**State Says No Funding
for Bridge**

**Search On for 1950s
Black Boy Scouts**

**Schools Launch Career
Advisory Program**

CALVERT TO L.A.:

Calvert Man Gets His Kicks on Route 66

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“YOU ALL UNDERSTAND THAT WE DEFINITELY DON'T HAVE THE DOLLARS FOR IT RIGHT NOW...”

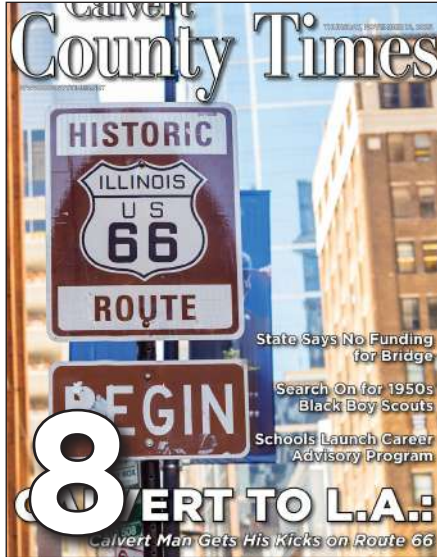
MDOT SECRETARY PAUL WIEDEFELD ON THE GOV. THOMAS JOHNSON BRIDGE



LOCAL 3
State won't fund bridge project



LOCAL 7
Historian seeking black Boy Scout camp members



8 ON THE COVER
Calvert man hits Route 66

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WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, NOV 16 Sunny Hi: 67° Lo: 47°	FRI, NOV 17 Partly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 54°	SAT, NOV 18 Partly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 36°	SUN, NOV 19 Sunny Hi: 57° Lo: 36°
MON, NOV 20 Partly Cloudy Hi: 54° Lo: 43°	TUE, NOV 21 Showers Hi: 59° Lo: 49°	WED, NOV 22 AM Showers Hi: 55° Lo: 37°	THU, NOV 23 Partly Cloudy Hi: 53° Lo: 35°

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Bridge Funding Still Out of State Plan

Officials Insist the Bridge is Safe

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

During the week that state crews were doing a routine inspection of the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge, and just hours after an accident once again closed the bridge, representatives of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) visited with the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to tell them that once again a bridge replacement is not in the state's six-year Consolidated Transportation Plan.

MDOT Secretary Paul Wiedefeld at the Nov. 14 briefing insisted the bridge is still safe. He said federal matching dollars (total of \$ 2 million) were being used to determine the desired height of a new bridge and that effort was part of an ongoing process. But right now there is no money earmarked for the bridge replacement or the roadwork needed to accompany that.

He said, "It takes, as you can imagine, a lot of work before you redo a major bridge like that. So, the work that we are doing now is to even determine what level that bridge would be," adding, "That bridge, like all of our bridges, at some time will need to be replaced. You all understand that we definitely don't have the dollars for it right now, for sure. But we'll continue to monitor its condition."

Holding up the book that contains the state

transportation plan that does not include a bridge replacement, Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart, said, "So, it's always the elephant in the room, but you guys know my district is Solomons and Lusby, where the bridge is. You knew, before you got here, that's coming up. So, it's no surprise."

Hart added, "A few folks will look at publications and Facebook, but there's always this misconception with the bridge. They're going to ask until Jesus comes back, when's the bridge. I always ask you folks to please say publicly it's not coming. And the book's great because the book actually lists the projects. It takes all the misconception out because they go, what if this happens? What if it doesn't matter? And I'm looking for you to stop me if I'm wrong. If it's not here, it's not happening until it (the bridge) falls down."

Hart insisted, "Folks, I just want you to know at home, it's not the people in this room. It goes way up to make the decision when these projects are on there, it's laid out alphabetically. And I answer the question almost weekly at my work about that bridge. A couple of weeks ago, both bridges were actually closed down due to accidents. Someone from one of the publications said, do you think this will be the difference? No, there is absolutely nothing going to move that needle until the day they deemed that it ranks on the priority."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance noted that until the state makes the bridge a

priority, needed federal monies will not be forthcoming.

Hart said, "I appreciate the enthusiasm and the participation from the public, but there's absolutely nothing this board or the local delegation or senate can do to my knowledge until funds be made available and this moves up on a priority. And the question everybody always asks is, what does it take to get it here? My personal opinion is we don't have the numbers to get it here. No matter how many times people go across that (bridge), it becomes a thing of politics. Let's be honest, we have 90,000 folks here. How many people are in the state?"

State Highway Administrator William Pines said, "It's important to say that the bridge is not currently rated in poor condition. We do inspections. The one the secretary noted was happening this week. We do routinely check the condition of the bridge. My background actually was...a bridge engineer in my early career. And I say it all the time, if we knew that the bridge was not safe, it wouldn't be open. And so, the idea that the bridge is getting ready to fall down, that didn't come from us. And that's not rooted in the reality of the current conditions of the bridge."

He also referenced the new Nice-Middleton Bridge "The funding was put forward for the planning, the planning study was completed. You get a NEPA record of decision, then funding got brought forward for preliminary engineering activities like geotechnical investigations like navigation, clearance studies, those things help to de-risk a project to help you know what the scope is. And so yes, a large program like this takes a lot of funding to do everything, but if there is a methodical process to get there and we're on that process."

The Nice-Middleton Bridge is a toll bridge administered by the Maryland Transportation Authority, which led Hance to bring up the proposal for a private toll bridge. He asked, "Not that we're entertaining that, but if we did, is that something the state would turn that bridge over to allow it to be replaced by a private entity?"

The secretary replied, "I think we'd want to work with all of our stakeholders to determine if that is a good idea or not."

Hance observed, "You can't just replace the bridge if you don't fix the road issues. And this company just does bridges. So, the other question is, even if there was a plan to replace the bridge with a private partnership, is the state going to fix the routes, upgrade the routes?"

Wiedefeld replied, "I think we'd have to have a thorough discussion of that because our experiences in the state with some of



Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Paul Wiedefeld

these public/private partnerships have led us down different avenues that I think we've got to really think through before we commit to something like that."

The secretary right up front in his presentation said the state is facing transportation revenue problems. He said, "The trust fund is funded through a number of sources, and we're under quite a bit of pressure, like the county. I'm sure the cost of inflation, the inability to find labor and materials have all driven our costs up. We're all experiencing that. We have one unique source of funds that's drying up, though, Covid Relief funds. The state of Maryland roughly got \$3 billion to support transit systems throughout the state of Maryland, and that disappears this fiscal year. So that is a very large hole in the program. In addition, the trust fund has one of its major sources the motor fuel tax. And as cars become more fuel efficient, which is fantastic for the customers, from a financial model it actually causes quite a bit of stress on the trust fund. In addition, as we electrify the fleet, as the world's moving that direction, that also drives down that source of revenue for the department."

Wiedefeld said a committee has begun to meet to investigate the revenue problems and is expected to issue a report to the Maryland General Assembly.

The commissioners were told the three intersection improvements along Route 231 will be completed in the next two years and work on timing of the traffic lights in Dunkirk was expected soon. Additional tweaks to the timing of lights in Prince Frederick are also being looked at.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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Museum Seeking Information on 1950s Black Boy Scout Camp



Calvert Cliffs State Park

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

‘Bayside History Museum in North Beach is seeking information about a little known African American Boy Scout camp in Lusby on what is now part of Calvert Cliffs State Park. Museum President Grace Mary Brady, during research for a lecture on Boy Scout Camp Roosevelt in Chesapeake Beach, discovered mention of a separate camp for Black scouts located on almost 100 acres of land in Lusby.

Brady’s research found that \$1,500 for the National Capital Area Council of Washington, D. C. to purchase the land in May of 1953 from Louis L. and Hazel H. Goldstein was provided by the Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation of the Washington Post. The boy scouts sold the land in 1956 to the Girl Scouts of the District of Columbia and it became Camp Bay Breeze. It was purchased by the state of Maryland in 1974.

Brady has yet to locate the name of any Calvert County resident who attended Camp Chesapeake. She circulated information about the camp this past summer at a large reunion of an African American Calvert family and no one knew anything about it.

The museum’s research did uncover articles about the camp in the Washington Post and Baltimore Afro-American newspapers. Some names of camp attendees mentioned include Francis A. Gregory, Lemuel Penn, Richard N. Dixon, and Raymond Hollingsworth.

Brady said, “While conducting research for this lecture I uncovered a treasure trove of information on African American Scouting going back to 1927 with Robert Best, the first Negro Eagle Scout emerging as an Eagle Scout.”

The Negro division of the DC Boy Scout Council was known as Russell-Douglass. She said, “Negroes serving the Cubs, Scouts and Explorers in Russell-Douglass had

swelled and included such able scouters as Halston Eagleson, Sam Danley, Franklin Proctor, James Scott, Benjamin Henley, Robert Goodloe, Raymon Hayes, Portia Ware (the Den Mothers’ Den Mother) and many, many more.”

She noted, “Prior to 1940, camping was done almost entirely on a troop basis, sometimes at the Negro YMCA Camp Lichtman. In 1944, a small piece of land near Olney, MD was purchased on a tax deed with money raised largely in the Negro community and supplemented by a grant from the National Council. This was the first actual council camp for Negro boys. It was named Benjamin Banneker after the distinguished Negro inventor & aide to Pierre L’ Enfant in planning the Capital city.”

A July 30, 1952, article in the Washington Post written by Matt McDade described the camp as “nothing fancy.” The story said Camp Chesapeake has grown slowly with “pioneer spirit.”

The reporter said the camp had about 85 scouts each week “living in tents pitched in neat clearings among tangles of holly, laurel, and oaks. They have splashed and learned to swim in the cool Chesapeake.” He reported that they had spent time, as many do today, collecting shark’s teeth along the cliffs.

“It makes you feel like a part of nature,” one camper was quoted as saying.

Brady is anxious to hear from local residents who may have had relatives who attended Camp Chesapeake or may have done so themselves. She also is seeking any pictures that may be available of the camp and campers. They may be in an attic or basement somewhere. The only existing picture was one included in that Washington Post story.

If you have any information, you can contact Brady at the museum at 410-610-5970.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending Category 1 site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their Nov. 15 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) **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. 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 gwp-story, 40,280 sf fire & rescue service building with 8 double loaded apparatus bays. The concept submittal was accepted June 28, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett

6) CSPR-143093, **Calvert C&D Recycling Center**, located in the Calvert



Industrial Park on Ketch Road, Prince Frederick, on a 2.49-acre parcel, zoned I-1, and will utilize public water and sewer. The applicant proposes to develop the property as a commercial construction and demolition recycling facility with a 19,220 sf, 1-story building with an anticipated 2.57 acres of disturbance for construction of the facility. The concept submittal was accepted October 25, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.

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

1)SD-142770, **Lusby Villas**, 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

2)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

3) SD-142999, **Magnolia Ridge West**, located at Armory Road and Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, with frontage and access from Dares Beach Road & Armory Road. The project is proposed on multiple parcels totaling 26.30 acres, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District. The subdivision proposes 79 townhome TDR lots on 4.58 acres total with a density of three units per acre. This project will be served by public water and sewer. A total of 19.47 acres of total open space is provided, including 3.81 acres of proposed recreation area. The preliminary submittal was accepted September 27, 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.

CALVERT COUNTY CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of October 30 – November 5, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,827 calls for service throughout the community.

Burglary: 23-77786

On November 2, 2023, Dep. Smith responded to the 12200 block of Saugaro Court in Lusby, for the report of a burglary. Investigation revealed an unknown suspect forced entry to the home and stole household items including an Xfinity cable box, a backpack, and a suitcase containing miscellaneous clothing, a purse, and a wallet. The estimated value of stolen property is \$1,335.00. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$150.00.

Damaged Property: 23-77166

On Oct. 30, 2023, Dep. Jones responded to the 400 block of Lake Drive in Lusby, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised sometime between Oct. 7 and Oct. 30, an unknown suspect smashed out the windshield of the victim's vehicle parked in the driveway of the residence. The estimated value of damaged property is \$500.00.

Motor Vehicle Theft: 23-77211

On October 30, 2023, DFC Lewis responded to the 3600 block of E. Chesapeake Beach Road in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a motor vehicle theft. The complainant advised he parked his white 2022 Dodge Ram 1500 4-door pickup truck in the front yard of his residence, went inside, and returned 20 minutes later to find his vehicle had been stolen. The truck was left unlocked and the keys were inside the vehicle at the time of the theft. The estimated value of stolen property is \$40,000.00.

Theft: 23-77187

On October 30, 2023, Deputy DeSantis responded to the 7700 block of C Street in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised he ordered a Google Pixel 8 phone that was to be shipped to the residence. A FedEx driver arrived at the residence and handed the victim an open square box. The exterior of the box was ripped open and the phone was missing from the package. The estimated value of

stolen property was \$759.00.

Theft: 23-78166

On November 3, 2023, DFC Sturdivant responded to the CVS located at 10095 Ward Road in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. Investigation revealed two black males and a black female entered the CVS and stole several personal hygiene and beauty care products then ran out of the store passing all points of sale. The estimated value of stolen items is \$2,798.83.

ARRESTS



On November 5, 2023, Deputy McCourt responded to the 800 block of San Mateo Trail in Lusby, for the reported Assault/Disorderly subject. Contact was made with **Chicago Alexander Garner**, 29 of Lexington Park. Garner had multiple active warrants for his arrest. Garner was asked about the situation and became extremely hostile and aggressive. Garner attempted to flee from deputies, but was apprehended a short time later. As Garner was placed in handcuffs, he began to resist arrest while yelling profanities and threatening deputies. Garner was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Resist/Interfering with Arrest, Failure to Obey a Reasonable/Lawful Order of a Law Enforcement Officer, Obstructing and Hindering, Disorderly Conduct, Burglary-Fourth Degree and Intoxicated Public Disturbance.

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

CalvertHealth Active Shooter Exercise Planned

CalvertHealth Medical Center will be conducting an Active Shooter Drill/Live Exercise on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 7 a.m. until 10 a.m. The exercise will be held in conjunction with the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and Maryland State Police - Prince Frederick Barrack "U".

You may see a large police presence at

the hospital during these times. To avoid any confusion, the public is notified ahead of time. This exercise is closed to the general public. CalvertHealth will be at normal operations during the live exercise.

If you have any questions, please contact the CalvertHealth Security Department at 410-535-4000.

Calvert Honors Veterans



The annual Veteran's Day ceremony on Nov. 11 on the courthouse Veteran's green in Prince Frederick was sponsored by the county's American Legion posts. Guest Speaker was Marine Corps veteran and the Mayor of North Beach Mike Benton.

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Calvert Public Schools Introduces Career Advising Program

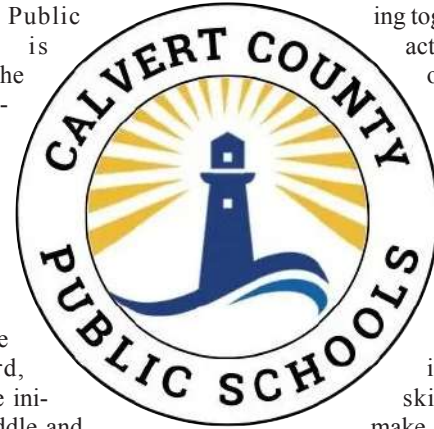
Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) is proud to announce the launch of an innovative career advising program designed to align with the State's Blueprint for Maryland's Future. In partnership with the Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board, CCPS' transformative initiative empowers middle and high school students by providing dedicated career advisors who teach career and exploration skills, ultimately providing students the necessary foundation for individualized academic and career readiness.

"This program transforms our schools into career-curious spaces, fostering the development of each student's unique career identity," explained CCPS Career and Technology Academy Principal Carrie Akins, who oversees career and technical education for the school district.

"Beyond career fairs and classroom guest speakers, our integrated foundational approach builds relationships with students and provides ongoing, personalized career conversations with all secondary students, ensuring they graduate with the necessary skills to evaluate options and create a career pathway for their future," continued Akins.

Director of the Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board Ruthy Davis said, "As a crucial partner in the realization of the college and career readiness pillar of the Maryland Blueprint, we provide school districts with valuable resources, partnerships, and expertise to help students prepare for a successful transition into college and careers."

CCPS' career advising program is centered around recently created career advisors in each of the middle and high schools. The school district's career advisors are work-



ing together to share ideas and activities to ensure collaboration with all students.

"As a career advisor, I work with students to help them gain a better understanding of themselves through career focused discussions, explorations, and activities. The goal is for students to gain skills to equip them to make career preparations and decisions," said Plum Point Middle School Career Advisor Nikki Phillips.

To begin connecting with students, CCPS career advisors are meeting with students individually as well as speaking with them in the classroom setting. "We are going to students versus waiting for them to come by the counseling office," continued Phillips. Career discussions and activities designed to engage students will be conducted throughout the school year.

"Our program provides students with the confidence and knowledge to aid them in understanding and shaping their career aspirations, which ultimately guides them towards gainful employment," said Plum Point Middle School Principal Danielle Swann.

All of the CCPS career counselors meet frequently to ensure that language and strategies are consistently shared at the middle schools to ensure continuity as the student moves to high school.

In addition to aligning with the State's Blueprint for Maryland; CCPS' career advising framework also reinforces the School District's core support strategies of Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision Making.

For more information about CCPS' work on the Blueprint for Maryland, visit www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/blueprint.

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Calvert to Los Angeles: Getting My Kicks on Route 66

By Rick Thompson
Special to The County Times

They call it “America’s Mother Road” and the “Main Street of America.” It’s been the subject of two hit songs and a hit television series. It was featured in a film franchise and a classic John Steinbeck novel. Every year people travel it from one end to the other in search of the real America.

And it doesn’t exist.

It’s Route 66, and I took the journey in October.

Oh, Route 66 certainly *did* exist as one of the first United States highways, a system of interstate highways that became official on November 11, 1926 after a two-year process by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads. Prior to that date, American roads were a mishmash of modern highways, two-lane roads, and unpaved paths. Getting, for example, from Chicago to Los Angeles was a guessing game. You may or may not have gotten where you were going. After 1926, however, it was as easy as following the number on the signs.

One of those numbers was 66 — Chicago to Los Angeles. During World War Two this highway system made moving men and equipment coast to coast possible, but the postwar boom put more and more people and cars on the road. Result: the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act was passed by Congress and signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. On June 27, 1985, after being decertified by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, U.S. Route 66 ceased to exist. No more “Get Your Kicks on Route 66.”

But the actual pavement was still there. Parts became state highways, others service roads alongside the interstate and still others were literally under an interstate highway (I-40 or I-10). Today, there are state Route 66 associations that work with advocates, merchants and even the bureaucracies that shut it down, to keep the highway alive. Every state along the route puts up signs that proclaim “Historic Route 66” in brown (as opposed to the official green) along with the state name.

It’s a legend, and now this retired reporter, editor and publisher had caught the bug. I wanted to travel “America’s Road of Flight,” as John Steinbeck called it in “The Wrath of Grapes.” It took a few years to realize the dream, but I did.

First, reaching the starting line. I cheated a little. Route 66 starts at the corner of Lakeshore Drive and Jackson Boulevard in Chicago. However, due to my previous career in convention publishing (34 of my 42 years as a journalist), I had visited Chicago multiple times because of its popularity as a convention city. I had seen what there is to see in that city, plus the traffic is brutal. (Route 66 had and has the distinction of having the worst traffic in America at both ends.) Instead, I began just outside Chicago, in Pontiac, Illinois, on a bright October morning after driving 630 miles the day before from Calvert County.

Pontiac is home to the Route 66 Museum combined with a World War II Museum.

The town has an auto museum that features (what else?) Pontiacs and not one, not two but three “Swinging Bridges” over the Vermillion River. Further down the road is Towanda, home of a “Dead Man’s Curve.” Who would miss the Grain Elevator Museum in Atlanta, Illinois or the world’s largest covered wagon, complete with Abe Lincoln perched in front reading law? As you’d expect, it’s in Lincoln. The last stop that day: Lincoln’s Tomb in Springfield.

Day 2 started in Bourbon, Missouri, famous for its three water towers with the town name emblazoned thereon. Fanning, meanwhile, boasts the world’s largest rocking chair (The gift shop has great fudge!) and Cuba, Missouri styles itself as “Route 66 Mural City.” Over a third of the buildings (even the controller box for the lone traffic light) have one. The good people of Waynesville thought a large rock overlooking the road looked like a frog, so what could they do but paint it to look like one?

Marshville is hometown to Dr. Edwin Hubble, he of the famous telescope. The town square contains a quarter-scale model of his creation. Not to be outdone, the capital city of Springfield contains the Pythian Castle (said to be haunted) and an auto museum that contains both a DeLorean (sans flux capacitor) and a copy of the television Batmobile. Ah, but outside Carthage is what looks like a crop duster. This one sprayed fertilizer, though, hence the name “Crapduster”!

After a very short jaunt through a corner of Kansas, Day 3 is Oklahoma, where just outside Foyil you can see the world’s tallest totem pole, all 90 feet of it. Claremore, Oklahoma is home to the world’s largest collection of firearms (20,000!), and is also the hometown of Will Rogers. I, however, wasn’t interested in either of those. Rather, I went to the Lynn Riggs Memorial. Riggs wrote the 1931 play “Green Grow the Lilacs.” Twelve years later Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein 2nd turned it into “Oklahoma!” The exhibit includes, among other things, the original Surrey With the Fringe on Top from the movie.

Of course, how could I forget Pops, which announces itself just outside Tulsa with a giant soda bottle? Pops (that’s what we real and fake Oklahomans call soda) is the Amazon of pop, sorted by color. I tried the “Dang! It’s Good!” Butterscotch Root Beer. You only go around once in life...

The next day started in Tucumcari, New Mexico, across the street from a restored Conoco “tower” station. (Restoring gas stations, mainly Phillips 66, is big along Route 66.) McLean, however, has something I severely doubt you’ll find anywhere else: a Barbed Wire Museum. You’ll learn the history of barbed wire, all the different types, all the different uses, and some things people have made from it — even a hat. Why anyone would wear a barbed wire hat is not explained. I also came across Jericho, an actual ghost town.

Just west of Amarillo is a famous, if world-class kitschy, art work, the “Cadillac Ranch,” consisting of ten vintage Caddies planted hood down in the ground. It’s an artwork that’s always changing, because you



Author Rick Thompson on his journey on Route 66



Why someone made a barbed wire hat is not explained at the Barbed Wire Museum in McLean, New Mexico, where it is on display.



Just west of Amarillo is the “Cadillac Ranch.” Be part of the art by spraying the hulk or hulks of your choice with graffiti. They’ll even sell you the paint!

are encouraged to spray paint graffiti on the cars. They’ll even sell you the paint! Just EAST of Amarillo, is another artist’s parody: the “Slug Bug Ranch” — VW Beetles planted in the turf. Same rules with paint.

Day 5 is when towns and small cities get further and further apart. A cold front has come through during the night, whipping up 40-50 mph winds which cancel all the day’s flights at the annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

But the balloons weren’t on my itinerary. Santa Rosa was, and it’s home to another auto museum, but with a difference. This is one of the few places where you can buy some of the cars. You can score a pristine 1956 Buick Roadmaster with automatic transmission and a V-8 engine for a cool 26 grand.

You can also buy, which I did, an official metal Historic Route 66 road sign, the same

in every way as what they put on the highways. (Buy that Buick and maybe they’ll throw in a sign!) The signs can be bought from the various associations and certain authorized member businesses, and nowhere else. Each one has an almost-irremovable sticker on the back saying it was bought legally. There is a problem with people stealing the signs from the roads, so if you get pulled over for anything and a Historic Route 66 sign is in your possession, it better have that sticker. If not, “you in a heap o’ trouble.”

Day 5 is also milestone. Just before the Arizona border, in Adrian, N.M., is the halfway point of Route 66. What sights and surprises will the other half hold?

(To Be Continued!)

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, Nov 16

Calvert Concept Charitable Corporation Town Hall

Zoom, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/744625052577?aff=oddtcreator>
6:30 p.m.

Information is knowledge and that is what the Calvert Concept Charitable Corporation (C4) is planning to provide in the upcoming year through its *NOW WHAT?* series. The first *NOW WHAT?* will focus on the Ins and Outs of C4 with a Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2023. "This Town Hall Meeting will delve into the nuts and bolts of C4, its programs, people behind the scene and more," says Edsel Brown, board member of the C4 board and president of the Calvert County Minority Business Alliance.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/744625052577?aff=oddtcreator>

Literary Bites: "The Waterman's Widow"

No Thyme to Cook
14624 Solomons Island Rd S, Solomons and via Zoom
6-8 p.m.

Join Calvert Library to discuss and digest a culinary novel. This month we're reading "The Waterman's widow" by local author Carol McCabe Booker. Register to sign up for a free ticket to attend virtually. (In-person discussion includes meal with a paid ticket and opportunity to meet the author!) Who killed Captain Littleton Condiff? The wife who slept by his side? A robber seeking the small fortune under his mattress? A son desperate to escape the drudgery of his father's life as an oysterman? <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

TACOS Teen Advisory Council of Students

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

Teens! Calvert Library needs you! We

want the library to be a safe space where teens can hang out and freely access books and information. TACOS meets from September through May, to help us with our events and services planning. Join us on the third Thursday! Receive 1 Service Learning hour for each meeting attended.

Fri, Nov 17

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>.

Pub Quiz

Calvert County Fairgrounds
140 County Fair Dr, Prince Frederick
5-10 p.m.

Friends of Calvert Library Fundraiser. For one night only, the library won't help you find the answers. But that won't stop us from asking plenty of tough questions. Register for \$120 per team of up to 6 adults. (The team isn't considered registered until paid.) Cash prize to the top 3 teams! Limited space! Doors open and food trucks will be on site at 5pm. Quiz begins at 7pm. Costumes/team uniforms welcome, creative team name required! en, Food trucks will have dinner for sale! Please support these local businesses and do not bring in outside food. Be sure to bring photo ID. No one under 21 will be admitted. Beer, wine, seltzer, sodas and water available for sale beginning at 5pm. Sponsorships are available for \$300. Your name will be included in a slideshow at the event and you'll be recognized by the Quizmaster Commissioner Buddy Hance. MD. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Nov 18

Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

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

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

Dungeons & Dragons – Teens

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

Meet up have fun with D&D. Players ages 13-19 of all levels and interest welcome. Registration is required. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Holiday Photos with Horses and Christmas Market

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue
7940 Flint Hill Rd., Owings
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

For \$25, you and your whole family can have a 15-minute professional photography shoot with your favorite FHHR horse. Photos with Santa are available for \$5 per portrait. Portraits will be sent to your email two weeks after the events.

Walk-ins will start at 11 am this year. If you do not get a ticket before they sell out, we will try to fit your family in after 11 am. Walk-ins are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please, No Pets Allowed.

To register go to www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-photos-with-horses-christmas-market-2023-tickets-510284303087?aff=oddtcreator

Mon, Nov 20

Grooving and Moving: Ages 0-2

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach
9:15-9:35 a.m. for ages 0-2
10-10:30 a.m. for ages 3-5

Join us for Grooving and Moving where we will use music and movement to start the day! Fans of Storytime will enjoy this 4 week session as we move, play instruments and sing together. Registration required. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Investigation Station

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach,
6:30-7:25 p.m.

Question, Discover, and Explore! Investigate science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) with dynamic books, experiments, and other fun, hands-on activities. For technicians in grades 3-7. Registration required. 10-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Nov 21

Book Discussion

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
8-9 p.m.

Join us this month to discuss "Love and Other Disasters by Anita Kelly" by author. Discussion starts at 8pm. Recently divorced and on the verge of bankruptcy, Dahlia Woodson is ready to reinvent herself on the popular reality competition show Chef's Special. Too bad the first memorable move she makes is falling flat on her face, sending fish tacos flying—not quite the fresh start she was hoping for. Still, she's focused on winning, until she meets someone she might want a future with more than she needs the prize money.. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

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The County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's and Calvert County. The County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies of the newspaper. The County Times does not espouse any political belief or endorse any product or service in its news coverage.

To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the County Times will make every attempt possible to publish late content, but cannot guarantee so. Letters may be condensed/edited for clarity, although care is taken to preserve the core of the writer's argument. Copyright in material submitted to the newspaper and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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Thu, Nov 16

Lecture: Domestic Architecture of Chesapeake Slavery

Cole Cinema, Campus Center
St. Mary's College of Maryland
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Speaker: Dennis J. Pogue, PhD, Assoc. Research Prof., Univ. of Md., College Park

The generic image of housing for enslaved Blacks in the American South is of small wooden cabins in rickety rows along the margins of plantation society. Pogue's ongoing research finds far greater diversity in slave housing developed over time, reflecting local conditions, social & demographic trends, and economic factors. With 120 buildings documented so far, Pogue will place the findings within the broader context of slavery in the region, and will detail the processes of documenting and interpreting these structures. Free admission. Info: 301.994.4370 or email info@hsmcdigshistory.org

Sat, Nov 18

St. Francis Xavier Parish Old-Fashioned Christmas Bazaar

St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall
21370 Newtowne Neck Rd., Leonardtown
10 a.m. to 3p.m.

Featuring Traditional & Unusual Homemade Arts and Crafts. Enjoy a Cafe-style luncheon and goodies from the Bake Table; and there are Raffles for a "Cooler Full of Cheer", the parish quilters' Handmade Quilt, and 50/50.

Info@stfrancisxavierchurch.org

Sun, Nov 19

Annual Fall Craft Show

HVFD Social Hall
24801 Three Notch Rd., Hollywood
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department.

Huge show with over 100 vendors with unique homemade crafts. Refreshments will

be available for sale by the Ladies Auxiliary. Bake table and 50/50 Raffle. Free Admission and Free Parking

For more information contact chairman at Craftshow@hvfd7.com.

Donations of Non-Perishable Food Items for St. Mary's Helping Hands Food Pantry will be accepted.

Quarter Auction for Mechanicsville VFD

Mechanicsville Vol. Fire Department
28165 Hills Club Rd., Mechanicsville
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Come on out to support one of the many wonderful volunteer fire departments in Southern Maryland. Food, Raffles and 50/50 will be available. Come dressed in anything Christmas themed and receive a FREE paddle with the purchase of 2. Doors open at 1pm and auction starts at 2pm.

Reservations not required but encouraged especially if coming in a group. Contact Darlene at 301-751-7475 or Beth Thompson at 240-475-5640.

Upcoming

Historic St. Mary's City Hearth and Home event

Historic St. Mary's City
18751 Hogaboom Lane, St. Mary's City
November 24 & 25
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit Historic St. Mary's City's outdoor grounds for the annual Hearth and Home event. During your walk, experience the sights and smells of hearth cooking as each outdoor exhibit makes a variety of dishes using historic recipes that are over three hundred years old.

Guests receive a free recipe booklet of the food being made, providing an opportunity for families and friends to work together at home and create their own delicious masterpiece.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 seniors, \$6 students, and free for those 5 years and under and HSMC museum members. Guests contributing a non-perishable food item will receive a \$1 discount on admission. All food donations will benefit Chapline House, a living facility for senior citizens on fixed incomes. Tickets are available for purchase on the event day at either the HSMC Visitor Center or The Shop at Farthing's Ordinary.



ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



UPCOMING EVENTS

Author Fair

Learn from local writers and meet new ones! Learn about getting started writing, publishing, and more. No registration required for attendees. Join us at Charlotte Hall Library on Saturday, November 18 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The St. Mary's County Library Author Fair provides an opportunity to meet local authors and browse their works. Authors will give a quick presentation on their works, and have an opportunity to promote and sell their work. Featured Speaker: Jerry Gabriel, author of *Drowned Boy* and *The Let Go*, and Project Director for *SlackWater: A Journal of Environmental and Cultural Change in Southern Maryland* and co-director of the Southern Maryland Folklife Center, will lead us in plotting a novel from start to finish (over the course of an hour, with much

St. Mary's County Library Closures

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22, and will remain closed on Thursday and Friday, November 23 – 24 for Thanksgiving and Native American Heritage Day. All locations will be open on Saturday, November 25.

Westwood: An Ancient Native American Site

Join Dr. James Gibb for this virtual presentation on Monday, November 27 from 7 – 8 p.m., in which he'll discuss findings from an archaeological site known as Westwood North. Westwood North, originally identified as a multicomponent Early

second-guessing and argument). To see all of our participating local authors, visit www.stmalib.org

and Late Archaic site, is a single-component Brewerton Complex site blanketed by redeposited sands and gravels with Transitional and Late Woodland inclusions. The buried A horizon and BE horizon yielded 21 heavily reworked notched projectile points of quartz, quartzite and rhyolite. These buried deposits also produced 150 kg of fire-cracked rock and 6500 pieces of flaked stone, but there is no clear patterning evident across ten 5 ft by 5 ft excavation units. The site is adjacent to a relict tributary of Mattawoman Creek on the Chesapeake coastal plain. Register on www.stmalib.org with an email address to receive the Zoom link the day before the event.

Using Google Docs Templates for Resumes

In this lecture, we'll demonstrate how to make the most of Google Docs templates for resumes at Leonardtown Li-

brary on Tuesday, November 28 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Templates are a great option for resumes because they take the guesswork out of formatting! We'll review some of the helpful features of Google Docs, like sharing, reviewing, and commenting privileges, as well as how to save and share your doc as a PDF. Finally, we'll go over some dos and don'ts for resume content. A Chromebook is not required, but if you would like to bring yours, please do! Register on www.stmalib.org.

D&D at Your Library!

Learn and play Dungeons and Dragons at the Charlotte Hall Library on Saturday, December 2 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Attendees under 14 must have an adult present. Characters will be available to be chosen from. No experience needed! Register on www.stmalib.org.

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In Remembrance

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

Freddie Norris, 85



Joseph Frederick Norris, "Freddie", 85, of Hollywood, MD, passed away peacefully on November 3, 2023 at his home. Born on August 9, 1938 in Leonardtown, MD, he was the son of

the late Mary Rosalie Norris and the late Frederick Abell Norris. Freddie was the loving husband of Patricia Diane Norris, whom he married on May 18, 1979 in Hollywood United Methodist Church, Hollywood, MD. He is survived by his children, Jill Lee Norris (Gabby Reckendorf) of Elkridge, MD and William Robert Albert (Sandra Albert) of Hollywood, MD, his siblings, Billy Norris (Gail Norris) of Hollywood, MD and Janice Abell (Bobby Abell) of Leonardtown, MD, his brother-in-law, Orville Matthews, of Hollywood, MD, and two grandchildren, Thea Elizabeth Albert of Hollywood, MD and Jenna Herbert Mueller of California, MD. He was preceded in death by his siblings Jean Matthews and Alice Knott, and his brother-in-law Francis Knott.

Freddie was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and attended St. Mary's Academy from 1953 to 1956; he then graduated from Leonardtown High School

in 1957. Freddie was a Material Handler Supervisor, Supply Department for the U.S. Government, NAWCAD Patuxent River Naval Base, MD for 28 years, retiring on March 3, 1995. He served in the National Guard for three years from August 24, 1956 to October 23, 1959 and the United States Army Reserves for five years, from October 23, 1959 until his honorable discharge on September 30, 1954.

Freddie enjoyed being on the water, crabbing, traveling to the beach, classic cars, shopping, going out to lunch, working in his yard, and spending time with his family.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 10:00 AM in St. John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD with Father Ryan Braam officiating. Interment will follow at the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be his nephews, George Abell, Trevor Norris, Gilbert Dorsey, Jimmy Knott, Joe Knott, and Joey Norris. Honorary pallbearers will be his nieces, Jaime Abell Weber, Missy Dorsey, Pattie Joy, Rosedale Knott Yannayon, and nephew, Robby Abell.

Contributions may be made to the American Red Cross and the American

Heart Association.

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

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

Oliver Kangas, 88



Oliver Raymond Kangas, 88 of Solomons, MD passed away on November 4, 2023 at Asbury Solomons, MD.

He was born on August 14, 1935 in Wisconsin to the late Oliver Nickolai

Kangas and Anna Simaitis Kangas.

Oliver grew up in Kenosha, Wisconsin along the banks of lake Michigan and served in the Marine Corp from 1953 to 1957. He married his lovely wife Catherine in 1958. He went to college at Parks College of St. Louis and graduated in 1961 in the top 10% of his class with a degree in aeronautical engineering while having two of his three children.

He went on to work for general dynamics installing missiles in Kansas and upstate NY. He then went on to work for Grumman on many of the Apollo missions including the missions that sent the first manned

flight to the moon. He then moved to southern Maryland in 1969 where he finished his career at Pax River Naval Air Station, retiring in 2000.

Oliver enjoyed sailing and anything to do with the water, he was an avid tennis player, he enjoyed biking, gardening, and could fix just about anything. He was always tinkering with something and helping many others with projects of their own.

The family will receive friends on Monday, November 20, 2023 from 10:00 to 11:00 am followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 am, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, 14400 Solomons Island Road, Solomons, MD 20688. Interment will follow at 1:00 pm at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, 16566 Three Notch Road, Ridge, MD 20680.

He is survived by his wife, Catherine; children, Linda Anne Karaczynski (Jake) of Leonardtown, MD and Joseph Alan Kangas (Pam) of Ridge, MD; brother, John B. Kangas (Debbie) of Phoenix, AZ; granddaughter, Katie May Dixon (Ryan Ducey) of Seattle, WA, and one great granddaughter, Rowan Josephine Ducey and step grandson Nick Nowotny of Hollywood, MD

The family went through the devastating loss of their first son Michael Kangas in 2005 who will never be forgotten.

Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com. Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Sell it - Buy it at Auction

Public Auction

Items remaining from the building previously known as "Junk Box" / "Betsy Ross Antiques"

Saturday, December 2, 2023 – 9:30 am
28345 Point Lookout Road – Leonardtown, MD
(Auction Terms by Mahlon Stauffer, Jr. Ten percent buyer's premium. Cash, Checks Accepted (No Credit Cards).)

Vintage Items ▪ Glassware ▪ Vintage Tools ▪ Pots/Pans ▪ Utensils ▪ Dishes ▪ Items from other local consignors to include: Storage Shed (new/unused), Run-in Shed (new/unused); Evergreen Wreaths/Items; Fall Produce; Baked Goods; More

SPECIAL NOTE: Parking available at Stauffer's Produce and fields next to and around the building. Due to the close proximity to the road, please use caution when entering/exiting the area. Parking assistants will be present to help direct attendees to parking areas. **Auction Preview on Friday, December 1, 2023 from 4 pm to 6 pm.**

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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



Rushing the Holidays

I am enjoying our fall decorations so much, but I almost feel like the lone holdout of the fall displays I keep up in the yard until after Thanksgiving. They are beautiful, warm, and cozy to me, even during the little heat wave we just went through. We did, of course, have a burst of Halloween decorations mixed in leading up to our Halloween Trails last week. It takes over a week to prepare and put them all up for one night of crazy fun. I was so thankful the weather had cooled down for Halloween night. I was the only person (like normal) in capri pants, a t-shirt, and sandals on Halloween and still overheating and perspiring. Steroids to blame like usual I guess.



We did have some excitement on the Saturday night before Halloween when we had a lot of people helping to start the set-up. We ordered pizza from Pizza Hotline for everyone, and the man came and dropped off the pizzas and went back to his car to find that the engine was on fire. Luckily he was not hurt, and my husband rushed in and grabbed two of our fire extinguishers to extinguish the flames (he is a retired Federal Firefighter and a Hillside Volunteer before that). The acrid smoke enveloped half our yard just as we were starting to eat the pizzas and the burgers on the grill. Mechanicsville Fire Department got here quickly to make sure all was safe, as well as a volunteer from in the neighborhood who ran to our house. I was rushing to get Mindy in the house away from the smoke. Unfortunately, there were still pizzas that the delivery driver had in the car to deliver (sorry to whatever neighbors never got their pizzas). We made sure the driver got a burger while he waited for the tow truck.

The day after Halloween we started putting everything away at 2 pm (we just weren't moving that well before 2). By 6 pm we had everything stowed away in boxes according to my detailed plan and my husband and our friend Richard had everything put away efficiently by their plan in our Halloween shed.

The Halloween boxes (for inside decorating) are still waiting downstairs for the dreaded under the steps seasonal change out that I just did the week before. I may finish that up later this evening or tomorrow morning. Now Halloween goes in the back, then Easter boxes, and Christmas in front. Yes, it is a bit of a claustrophobia experience, but it is doable. I keep Fall, Valentines Day, and St. Patrick's Day boxes in the laundry room since they are just special decorating events. I don't need to do the "under the steps switch out" any more times than necessary.

Someone on our neighborhood Facebook page recently asked how many other people were decorating for Christmas while the weather is this nice. And that's fine for those who love Christmas and can't wait for the decorating, shopping, and general hustle bustle of the season. I like to savor each season and not rush into another holiday season before the current one has passed. And it seems I want to savor longer each year I get older. I don't want to be rushed anymore. I have always done everything on my own time anyway, that's probably why I found out early on it was best to work for myself and not in an office. I think my late onset claustrophobia had a lot to do with not working in a building. I could have retired with money in the bank now if I had done things the normal way my friends did with their careers. Eh, who needs lots of money anyway.

Christmas decorating for me starts when the first old Christmas cartoons show on TV, like: A Charlie Brown Christmas, Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, and The Grinch who stole Christmas. But what really gets me excited every year is watching Christmas Vacation with Chevy Chase. After all that I am ready to start the Christmas transformation. I normally put the Christmas Village up first on my hutch and in the bay window. I used to put the Christmas carousel up on my antique bookcase, but at some point my husband commandeered the top of that for some of his Bourbon collection. He keeps eyeing the hutch for expansion but that's not going to happen. I'll just throw some pine boughs in between the Bourbon bottles.

But as for now, I am going to enjoy fall in all its beautiful colors, along with our lovely firepit nights, and Kentucky mules or wine by the firepit with no rushing. I hope you take the time to enjoy the remaining time of fall as well... Christmas will come quicker than we think anyway.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Consider these year-end financial moves

It won't be long before we turn the page on 2023. But you still have time to make some financial moves that can pay off in 2024 — and beyond.

Here are a few to consider:

- *Review your progress toward your goals.* Have you made progress toward your long-term goals over this past year? If not, you may want to revisit your investment and financial strategies.
- *Boost contributions to your retirement plans.* If your employer allows it, you may be able to increase your contributions to your 401(k) or similar retirement plan before the year ends. And you have until April 15 to contribute to your IRA for the 2023 tax year. You can put in up to \$6,500 to your traditional or Roth IRA and add another \$1,000 if you're 50 or older. (Your ability to fully contribute to a Roth IRA is based on your income).
- *Don't waste FSA dollars.* If you have a flexible spending account (FSA) through your employer, you've likely used it to take care of a variety of health care costs, such as deductibles, co-payments and coinsurance. But FSAs are "use it or lose it" accounts, so if you have unspent dollars at year-end, you risk losing them. Make sure you know your employer's deadlines for incurring expenses and submitting claims so you can take full advantage of your FSA.
- *Contribute to your HSA.* When you have a health savings account (HSA), your contributions are tax deductible, your earnings generally grow tax free and your withdrawals are tax free, as long as they're used for qualified medical expenses. Plus, an HSA isn't "use it or lose it" — you can carry unused funds through retirement, when you can still use them for qualified medical expenses. And you've got until the April 15 tax deadline to contribute to your HSA for 2023 (Check with your employer on how to contribute to your HSA past December 31, 2023.)
- *Strengthen your emergency fund.* If you don't already have an emergency fund, see if you can start one before the year lets out. Eventually, try to put away three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.
- *Think about tax-loss harvesting.* If you have some investments that have lost value, and they no longer fit into your plan, you could sell them to offset gains from other investments, including capital gains distributions from mutual funds. And if your losses exceed gains for the year, you could use the remaining losses to offset up to \$3,000 of ordinary income — and any amount over \$3,000 can be carried forward to offset gains in future years. You'll want to consult with your tax advisor before embarking on tax-loss harvesting.
- *Bundle your charitable contributions.* A few years ago, a change in the tax laws resulted in a large increase in the standard deduction, which led to fewer people itemizing deductions and less incentive for making deductible charitable gifts. But if you can afford to "bunch" two to three years' worth of charitable donations, you may be able to itemize and gain a greater tax benefit.

It's always challenging to reach your goals and gain feelings of control over your financial future. But by reviewing your situation every year and making the appropriate moves, you can help yourself keep moving in the right direction.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Contributed by David McDonough

Financial Advisor at Edward Jones

Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302

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Over 90 small business shops & services!

Small Business Saturday Weekend Sale
 Friday - Sunday, November 24 - 26, 2023

Holiday Hours
 beginning November 24, 2023
 Monday - Saturday: 10 AM - 7 PM
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Christmas Open House
 Sunday, December 17th, 11 AM - 3 PM



Shepherd's Old Field Market **shepherds_old_field_market** www.shepherdsoldfield.com

Museums Announce Free Family Holiday Events & Exhibits



St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division, which oversees Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, St. Clement's Island Museum, and the Old Jail Museum is pleased to present special events and exhibits during the holiday season at each historic site.

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum

- *Holiday Family Open House (Sunday, November 26, 2023, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.):* Kick off the holiday season with family activities, refreshments, and more! Get a jump on your holiday shopping at the Museum Store. Admission is free for the day.
- *Holiday Exhibit at Piney Point (daily from Sunday, November 26, 2023, until Sunday, January 1, 2024, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.):* Join us for a family friendly holiday exhibit where visitors can tour the museum, lighthouse, and historic park. Admission is \$7.00 for adults; \$3.50 for seniors, students, and military; and 5 and under free. The Museum Store will be open during museum hours for holiday shopping. Exhibits are closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

St. Clement's Island Museum

- *Christmas Doll & Train Exhibit Opening Event (Sunday, December 3, 2023, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.):* The museum will offer fun for the entire family, including kids' activities, music, refreshments, and much more. Run the model trains, see vintage dolls like Barbies and American Girls, and more! Get a jump on your holiday shopping with a wide variety of unique and local items inside the Museum Store. Admission is free for the day.
- *Christmas Doll & Train Exhibit (daily from December 1, 2023, to January 1, 2024, from 10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.):* Families can enjoy a holiday exhibit of antique and collectible dolls like Barbie and American Girl, classic trains, and other vintage toys in this festive holiday display. The cost for this exhibit is \$3.00 Adults, \$2.00 Seniors and Military, \$1.50 Children, 5 and under are free. The Museum Store

will be open during museum hours for holiday shopping. Exhibits are closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Old Jail Museum

- *First Friday in Leonardtown & Daily (December 1, 2023, from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., or daily from 10 – 5 p.m.):* Come take a tour of this fascinating historic site or shop at the Museum Store for a variety of unique gifts. Admission is free.

November 26, 2023, is also Museum Store Sunday at all three museum sites: Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, St. Clement's Island Museum, and the Old Jail Museum in Leonardtown. Our museums join over 700 museum stores to offer relaxing, inspired shopping inside your favorite St. Mary's County museums. Museum Store Sunday offers a special shopping experience in our one-of-a-kind stores, showcasing a broad assortment of unique, mission-specific gifts. From books to jewelry, to children's products, to home accessories, and offerings by local artisans and authors, there is something for everyone. Shop knowing you are supporting the museum mission and programs! If you cannot make it to any shop during the month, you can shop at the online Friends Museum Store 24/7, which offers contact-free local delivery and free shipping to friends and family outside the area: <https://friendsmuseumstore.square.site/>.

At the stores and online, you can pick up the 2023 Friends Christmas ornament. This special edition ornament features the unique stained-glass window at St. Clement's Island Museum which depicts the Ark and the Dove. Each year, the Museum Store designs a new ornament as the Friends' collectible ornament. Ornaments featuring the Drayden African American Schoolhouse, Piney Point Lighthouse with Keeper's Quarters, Old Jail Museum, Blackistone Lighthouse, Fresnel Lens, and Moll Dyer are also available.

For more information on hours of operation, programs, events, admission prices, and more, follow the Museum Division pages on social media at Facebook.com/SCIMuseum, Facebook.com/1836Light, and Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum.

Pet OF THE WEEK



MEET APPLEJACK

It's ADOPT A SENIOR month! Looking good, feline good!

Hello, my name is Applejack and I'm the epitome of FELINE GRACE at the ripe old age of 9! I'm a CALICO BEAUTY who has graced this world with my presence long enough to master the art of indifference. Kids, other cats, toys? Pff, what's the point when you can have a sunbeam, am I right? I'm a senior cat with a LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE in napping and avoiding the frivolities of the world. So, if you're up for the challenge of adopting a cat who's mastered the art of nonchalance, I'm definitely your gal!

I'm 100% ready to meet you during adoption hours, Monday-Friday 11am-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! ALWAYS OPT TO ADOPT, please don't shop!!

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



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Leonardtwn Soccer Advances to State Championship



The Leonardtown High School boys' soccer team will play Northwestern of Prince Georges County Friday for the Maryland 4A State Championship. The Raiders defeated Whitman 2-1 in overtime at Glen Burnie High on Saturday. Leonardtown will face Northwestern on Friday, Nov. 17, at 5 p.m. at Loyola University. Photo by Roselyn Phillips.

Commission on Public Health Seeks Workgroup Members

Maryland's Commission on Public Health is seeking subject matter experts for five workgroups that will inform the work and recommendations of the Commission. The Commission is tasked with assessing and recommending improvements to the delivery of public health services in Maryland. Workgroups explore five key subjects relevant to this mission: Funding; Governance and Organizational Capabilities; Workforce; Data and Information Technology; and Communications and Public Engagement.

The Commission invites members of the public with relevant experience in the subject matter to volunteer for a workgroup. Applications are welcome from persons representing different backgrounds, including but not restricted to: primary care and specialty care practitioners; payors; consumer advocates; hospital executives; safety net health care providers; public health practitioners; community-based organizations; and faith-based organizations. Applications are due by Friday, December 15, 2023 at 5 pm Eastern Standard Time. Click here to apply or complete the application at: bit.ly/phcommissionworkgroup.

"Workgroup members will be a key part of the Commission's efforts to assess public health infrastructure in this state and make

recommendations for reform," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer and Co-Chair for the Commission on Public Health. "We need these subject matter experts to help us analyze and recommend improvements to Maryland's ability to handle major public health challenges."

"This is an ideal opportunity for members of our community to play a role in the future of public health in Maryland," said Dr. Boris Lushniak, Dean and Professor of the University of Maryland School of Public Health and Co-Chair for the Commission on Public Health.

"Workgroup members are an integral part of this commission as they bring relevant knowledge and experiences that will significantly inform our assessments and recommendations for reform," said Dr. Oluwatosin Olateju, Assistant Professor with Coppin State University School of Nursing and Co-Chair for the Commission on Public Health. "The significance of having subject matter experts as workgroup members of this commission is not merely symbolic; it is a strategic imperative to improve the delivery of foundational public health services in the state."

For more information on the Maryland Commission on Public Health, please visit msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual.

STAUFFER FEED MILL

*** BLUE TARPS**
(2.5 oz. / sq. yd.)

Cut Size	Sale Price	Cut Size	Sale Price
5x7	\$1.80	12x25	\$14.45
6x8	\$2.45	15x20	\$14.45
8x10	\$4.10	15x25	\$18.00
8x12	\$4.90	15x30	\$21.65
8x15	\$6.15	16x20	\$15.40
8x18	\$7.35	20x20	\$19.25
8x20	\$7.70	20x30	\$28.85
9x12	\$5.50	20x35	\$33.65
10x12	\$6.15	20x40	\$36.85
10x15	\$7.65	24x36	\$39.80
10x16	\$7.70	25x45	\$51.80
10x20	\$9.65	30x40	\$55.25
12x12	\$7.35	30x60	\$75.50
12x14	\$8.10	40x50	\$83.90
12x16	\$9.25	40x60	\$100.65
12x20	\$11.55		

*** GREEN TARPS**
(5 oz.)

Cut Size	Sale Price	Cut Size	Sale Price
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10x12	\$12.00	30x50	\$123.50
10x15	\$14.95	40x60	\$198.90
10x20	\$19.95		
12x12	\$14.35		
12x16	\$19.15		
12x20	\$23.95		
12x25	\$29.90		
15x20	\$29.90		
15x25	\$35.85		
16x20	\$31.90		
20x20	\$38.20		
20x25	\$47.75		
20x30	\$57.30		
20x35	\$66.85		
20x40	\$69.65		

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(6 oz.)

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10x12	\$16.35	20x20	\$52.10
10x20	\$27.20	30x40	\$135.55
12x12	\$19.60	30x50	\$169.45
12x16	\$26.10	30x60	\$203.35
12x20	\$32.65	40x60	\$271.10
12x25	\$39.10		

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3.78 | 
8-Ct., Selected Pillsbury Grands Biscuits
2/\$7 | 
16-Oz. Food Club Heavy Cream
3.28 | 
Gallon, Selected Lemonade Or Turkey Hill Tea
2/\$6 | 
16-Oz., Selected Dean's Dip
2/\$4 | 
25.6 To 36-Oz., Selected Marie Callender's Pies
4.98 | 
48-Oz., Selected Breyer's Ice Cream
2/\$7 |
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Virginia Or Honey Kretschmar Ham Off The Bone
5.98 Lb. | 
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48-Oz. Double Layer Coconut Cake
11.98 | |
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21-Oz., Bakery Fresh 8-Inch Pecan Pie
5.98 | 
Maplehurst 22-Oz., 8-Inch, Bakery Fresh Pumpkin Or Sweet Potato Pie
3.98 | 
12-Ct., Selected King's Hawaiian Rolls
3.78 | 
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4.48 |

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10-Oz. Cans 24 Pack Bud Light
19.89 | 
12-Oz. Cans 18-Pack Miller Lite
14.99 | 
12-Oz. Cans 15-Pack Milwaukee's Best/Ice Beer
7.99 | 
12-Oz. Bottles 12-Pack Corona Extra Beer
16.99 |
| 
1.75L Crown Royal
42.99 | 
1.75L Tito's Vodka
30.49 | 
750-ml Jim Beam Whiskey
18.99 | 
750 ML Disaronno Liqueur
27.99 |

Wines of the Month

- | | | | |
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750 ML Loosen Brothers Riesling
11.98 | 
750 ML Whispering Angel Rose
17.98 | 
750-ML Kendall-Jackson White Wines
11.99 | 
750-ML Kendall-Jackson Red Wines
16.99 |
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10 To 16 LB
Whole
Frozen Turkey
1.68lb.

Certified Angus Beef
Boneless
Bottom Round Roast
5.98lb.

80% Lean
Fresh
Ground Chuck
3.48lb.

9 Lb.
Smithfield Spiral
Sliced Half Ham
2.48lb.

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Special
Smoked Ham
Shank Portion
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4 To 9-Lb., Frozen
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1.48lb.

16-Oz., Selected
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Sliced Bacon
4.98

12-Oz., Selected Beef or Bun Size
Nathan's
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20 To 24-Oz., Selected
Bob Evans
Side Dishes
3.98

8 Burgers Per Box
Holten's
Smashed Burgers
9.96

Fresh, Bone In
Whole Corned
Ham
2.99lb.

1 Lb., Tail On Frozen
21 To 20 Ct.
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Delicious!
Sea
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5.99

FARM to TABLE

NC Grown
Orange Flesh
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.26lb.

Farmers Finest
Large Stalk
Celery
2/\$3

12-Oz. Bag
Ocean Spray Fresh
Whole Cranberries
1.98

Farmer's Finest
Tender
Asparagus
2.98lb.

3-Lb. Bag, All Purpose
Medium Yellow
Onions
2.48

4-Lb.
Domino Pure
Granulated Sugar
2/\$6

40-Oz., Selected
Crisco
Cooking Oil
3.98

10.5-Oz., Cream of Mushroom Or
Campbell's
Cream Of Chicken
4/\$5

15.25-Oz., Selected
Duncan Hines
Classic Cake Mix
4/\$5

16-Oz., Selected
Duncan Hines
Frosting
2/\$4

3.78
5 To 6-Oz., Selected
Pam
Cooking
Spray

5-Lb., Selected
Pillsbury
Flour
3.78

24.5 To 25.6 Oz.
Maxwell House
Ground Coffee
5.98

12.9 To 13.7-Oz., Selected
Ritz
Crackers
2/\$7

8.5 Selected
Nabisco
Triscuit
2/\$7

60 To 64-Oz., Selected
Ocean Spray
Cocktail Juice
2/\$5

12-Oz., Selected
Heinz
Gravy
2/\$4

3 Oz. To 3.9 Oz. Selected Pudding Or
Jello
Gelatin
4/\$5

7-Oz.
Jet-Puffed
Marshmallow Cream
2/\$3

12-Oz.
Heinz Seafood
Cocktail Sauce
2/\$4

14 To 16-Oz., Selected
Kraft
Salad Dressing
2/\$6

9.4 To 14-Oz., Selected
Kraft Deluxe
Macaroni & Cheese
2/\$7

19.25 Oz.
Kraft
Mayochup
4.48

30-Oz., Selected
Kraft
Real Mayo
4.98

30-Oz.
Kraft
Miracle Whip
4.98

3.7 To 4.12 Oz.
Maxwell House
K-Cup Coffee
6.98



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November 15 THRU November 28, 2023



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SUNDAY 8 am to 7 pm

Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
CASE NO: C-18-FM-23-000735

TO: CHRISTOPHER JAMES FINN, JR.
IN THE MATTER OF RYLAN MARIE FINN

**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF A MINOR
(Md. Rule 15-901(d))**

FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO: Rylan Marie Bowles

A petition to change the name of Rylan Marie Finn to Rylan Marie Bowles has been filed with this court.

You must consent to (agree) or object to (oppose) the petition in writing no later than 30 days after being served (receiving) this notice and the documents filed in this case. **If you do not file a written consent of objection within 30 days of being served with this notice, the court will consider your silence to be consent and may grant the name change.**

You can use form CC-DR-063 (Parent's/Guardian's/Custodian's Consent/Objection to Change of Name of a Minor).

Any objection must be supported by an affidavit (a written statement signed by oath or affirmation) and served on all parties. (Md. Rule 1-321.)

Changing the name of the minor will not change and existing child support obligation or paternity.

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
CASE NO: C-18-FM-23-000736

TO: CHRISTOPHER JAMES FINN, JR.
IN THE MATTER OF HARLOW LAINE FINN

**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF A MINOR
(Md. Rule 15-901(d))**

FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO: Harlow Laine Bowles

A petition to change the name of Harlow Laine Finn to Harlow Laine Bowles has been filed with this court.

You must consent to (agree) or object to (oppose) the petition in writing no later than 30 days after being served (receiving) this notice and the documents filed in this case. **If you do not file a written consent of objection within 30 days of being served with this notice, the court will consider your silence to be consent and may grant the name change.**

You can use form CC-DR-063 (Parent's/Guardian's/Custodian's Consent/Objection to Change of Name of a Minor).

Any objection must be supported by an affidavit (a written statement signed by oath or affirmation) and served on all parties. (Md. Rule 1-321.)

Changing the name of the minor will not change and existing child support obligation or paternity.

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



Letters to the Editor

Bluegrass for Hospice

After a 5-year hiatus, Bluegrass for Hospice 2023 turned out to be an overwhelming success. Better than any one year from 2009-2018 when I originally put on the event. On Saturday October 28th at the Flat Iron Farm in Great Mills with a crowd of just under 500 attendees, \$44,141.00 was given to the Hospice of St. Mary's in support of their Hospice House in Callaway, MD. I believe my Dad, Johnny Armsworthy, who I did this in memory of, would've been proud and as he would always say, "you did too much and got too much stuff" (door prizes/silent auction).

There's been a lot of changes in 5 years. Some people have passed, health wouldn't allow some to participate as before, and some businesses couldn't offer like before because of the economy. But there were many who attended my first Bluegrass for Hospice in 2009 and returned every year until the last one in 2018. Although it's been 5 years, many of you returned. This was an event that brought the community out where some friends and acquaintances have not seen each other in a long time. Bluegrass Music has a way of doing just that. I was so glad to see the response and turnout.

I first need to thank my Mom, Lorraine and my wife, Michelle for supporting my idea of wanting to resurrect this event. Especially to Michelle. She made some great looking gift baskets for the silent auction, and she was there to meet and greet everyone who came through the door while I was running around like a cat on hot bricks.

Thanks to Bubby Knott for letting me use the Flat Iron Farm. From his words when I told him I wanted to do this again, he said "Make it happen". I knew then I had to move forward and plan. Also, thanks to Jo Ann for getting the facility put together with all of my requests. Thanks to Jan Barnes and the Hospice of St. Mary's Board members for volunteering and the States Attorney's Office for volunteers to assist with parking. I want to extend an extra thanks to Jimmy & Ramona Thomas for my big surprise and the highlight of my day. They arranged for the owner, DJ, and my boss of the radio station, The Bluegrass Jamboree, Annette Grady to come up from North Carolina to surprise me. My radio show, Bluegrass on the Bay, is carried on her station every Monday evening and I have never met her in person. I wish someone could have videoed the moment. They said it was priceless.

As always, there are so many people and friends who helped in so many ways. Whether it was selling raffle tickets, setting up the night before, or maybe you ran around to pick up something. You were a big help, and made the event go smoothly. I'm sure to miss someone, but I want to thank each of you: Barbara Clarke, Carlene Gross, Charlene Cusic, Debbie Johnson, Debra Morgan, Dunkin Donuts-Leonardtown, Frannie Woodburn, Jack Tippet and Billy Norris, Joe, Denise, and Michael Bragg, John Potts & Susanne

Henderson, Kenny, Janice, Lauren, and Daniel Sebring, Martha Bailey, Mary Lou Simpkins, Michelle Gallagher, Mike "Muffin Man" Bowles, Jen, and Aiden, Mike Reid of the Southern Maryland New's, Enterprise for the great article, Pat Roache and her family who sold refreshments and baked goods in memory of her husband Vince, Printing Press of Leonardtown, Quilters by the Bay for the beautiful quilt that they made and donated, Joan & Dick Sebring for helping out with that, Sheetz-Great Mills, businesses of St. Mary's County and the Amish/Mennonite community for their generous donations, Woody and Elissa Norris, the local bands who donated their time entertaining everybody: 15 Strings, Bubby Abell & Spoon Creek, Bush Mill Band, Cuzin's N Harmony, David Norris & the Chaptico Song Works, and my band, Eastern Tradition. There were many sponsors who had sponsored years ago and I appreciate their support for returning with me once again: Jimmy Hayden Realtor of REMAX 100, Lexington Park Chevy, Lexington Park Ford, Metro Restaurant & Janitorial Supplies, Bob Taylor Engineering, Bushmill Band, Jan Barnes of Century 21 New Millennium, Leonardtown Collision Center, St. Mary's County Arts Council, Summer Breeze Farms, T. N. Bowes Heating & Air, Indian Bridge Kennels & Suites, Flooring Max, Guy Distributing, Winters Heating & Cooling, Hollyrock Customs, Shadow Objects, Cogito Innovations, Law Office of Daniel AM Slade, Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Dorsey Law Firm, Pioneering Decisive Solutions, Eagle Systems, Kenny & Janice Sebring, FGS, Georgette Gaskin of Tastefully Simple, A & G Electric, ABC Liquors, Airtec, Bowles Operations, C & C Plumbing & Septic, Charlotte Long Homes, Community Bank of the Chesapeake, Compliance Corporation, Coombs Bus & Truck Service, Danny Miedzinski & Son, Doyle's Carpet, Dyson Building Center, Fitzgerald Realty & Auctioneers, Gracie's Guys and Gals Dance Studio, Greenfield Engineering Corporation, J. F. Taylor, Jahn Corporation, Luke M. Morgan, D.D.S. & Associates, Quality Built Homes, Rita B. Catering, Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO), Stanley & Joan Williams, Philip C. Riehl Insurance Agent for State Farm, Take It Easy Campground, Taylor Gas, Tru Home Exteriors, W.M. Davis, Wally's Excavating, WJ Dent & Sons/Chief's Bar, and to the many other anonymous donors.

Congratulations to our \$400 money winner, Alex Briscoe, and also to our \$100 winner, Jay Morgan, who donated it back to Hospice. Thank you, Jay. Once again, thanks for a great day and we couldn't have asked for a better weather day. I know my Dad, Jim Bailey, Margaret Ann Pruit, and Kenny Petrie were all looking down on that day.

Jay Armsworthy
Bluegrass for Hospice-Promoter

ST. MARY'S COUNTY CRIME BLOTTER

Former Chopticon High School Employee Convicted of Sexual Abuse of a Minor

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that following a two-day bench trial, Davon Stewart, 22, was convicted of sexual abuse of a minor. The sexual abuse of a minor, who was enrolled as a student, occurred while Mr. Stewart was employed by the St. Mary's County Public Schools as a Safety and Security Assistant at Chopticon High School.

"The remarkable courage and bravery of this young survivor throughout the investigation and trial means that Mr. Stewart will finally be held accountable for his actions," said State's Attorney Sterling. "Schools should be a safe space for our children, without anxiety or fear of abuse. Mr. Stewart's use of his position to exploit a minor child and violate that safe space is especially heinous. I'm hopeful that the conviction in this case will allow the victim and the victim's family the ability to begin healing from his actions and deliver a sense of justice."

Mr. Stewart faces a maximum sentence of up to 25 years in prison and will be required to register as a Tier III sexual offender for life.

He will remain held without bond pending a sentencing hearing.



Davon Stewart

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Sarah Proctor, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

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

The Honorable Joseph M. Stalanis presided over the case.

Man Charged with Attempted Murder Following Assault with Vehicle

Sylvester Kenneth Price, 22, of California, MD, has been charged with three counts each of Attempted First-Degree Murder, First-Degree Assault, and Second-Degree Assault following his arrest for striking a pedestrian with his vehicle at approximately 11:45 a.m. on Friday, November 3, 2023.

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division responded to 43954 Main Way Road in Valley Lee, MD, for the report of a pedestrian struck by a vehicle. A witness stated that Price appeared to accelerate his vehicle and drive it toward two adults, one of whom was carrying an infant; one adult male was struck by the vehicle. After the collision, the suspect exited the vehicle and physically assaulted the pedestrian before fleeing the scene.

Members of the Criminal Investigations Division assumed the case; Price was positively identified, and detectives obtained an arrest warrant for Price. He was arrested at



Sylvester Price

approximately 6:39 p.m. on November 3 by Corporal Daniel Holdsworth. The suspect is being held in the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center.

Identity Sought for Persons of Interest in Robbery

At approximately 5:40 p.m. on Friday, October 13, 2023, a male was robbed on Lexwood Drive in Lexington Park, MD.

The subjects pictured are persons of interest who may have been involved in this robbery. Person of Interest (POI) #1 is seen riding the victim's bicycle moments after the robbery.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect and/or this incident is asked to contact Deputy Richard Stillwell at Richard.Stillwell @stmaryscountymd.gov or call 301-475-4200, ext. 8155. Please reference Case #57463-23.

Citizens 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 receiving a response, continue the conversation. Note: Tip239 is case-sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown. With Crime Solvers, tipsters may remain anonymous.

Tipsters may be eligible for a cash reward if the information leads to an arrest.



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County Times

Liquor Board to Discuss Increasing Fines

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Members of the county's Alcohol Beverage Board said they want to hold an open discussion about increasing the levels of fines and penalties for alcohol license holders violating the beverage laws after learning about what other jurisdictions in Maryland impose.

Beverage board member Richard Shin opened the conversation at the Nov. 9 meeting by saying that jurisdictions such as Baltimore City and Montgomery County have a maximum penalty of \$20,000 for a violation of the alcohol code.

The St. Mary's maximum violation is \$1,000 per offense.

"What we're about is ensuring our laws are being enforced," Shin said. "At first I balked at it [such a high fine]... but it makes a lot of sense."

"If you have such a fine hanging over their heads, they'll make sure their employees are trained, they'll make sure they don't get hit with something like that."

Shin said he was not proposing taking the maximum fine to \$20,000, but an increase should at least be discussed.

Shin and other members of the beverage board attended a conference of other such boards in Virginia recently to learn the state of alcohol license governance across the

region.

Local beverage board member Debra Hill agreed with Shin.

"I felt we were way under compared to what other counties are doing," Hill said.

Board chair David Willenborg said that the amount of revenue the local board was collecting in fines and penalties for alcohol violations was only a fraction of what was actually spent to enforce the law to begin with.

"You're collecting maybe 15 to 20 percent of the revenue you're putting out to do the enforcement," Willenborg said.

Other jurisdictions also shut down alcohol-selling establishments for a certain period of time as punishment.

"Something we rarely do here shut them down for a week," Willenborg said. "We normally use it for a very extreme case but for some counties that's just the normal [penalty]."

But, Willenborg cautioned, higher fines and stiffer penalties did not necessarily lead to better results as there were more failed compliance checks in those jurisdictions than in St. Mary's.

"Howard [County] had 13 compliance checks and five [businesses] failed," Willenborg said. "We're in the top three or four for compliance checks."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

County Government Thanksgiving Operations

All St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) administrative offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 22, 2023; Thursday, November 23, 2023; and Friday, November 24, 2023, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

This three-day closure also includes:

- The Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler & Northern); with no home-delivered meals
- The St. Mary's Transit System (STS), including ADA and SSTAP

The following operations will be open on November 22 (closed November 23 & 24):

- The six Convenience Centers and the St. Andrews Landfill
- All three St. Mary's County Libraries (closing early 11/22/23 at 5 p.m.)

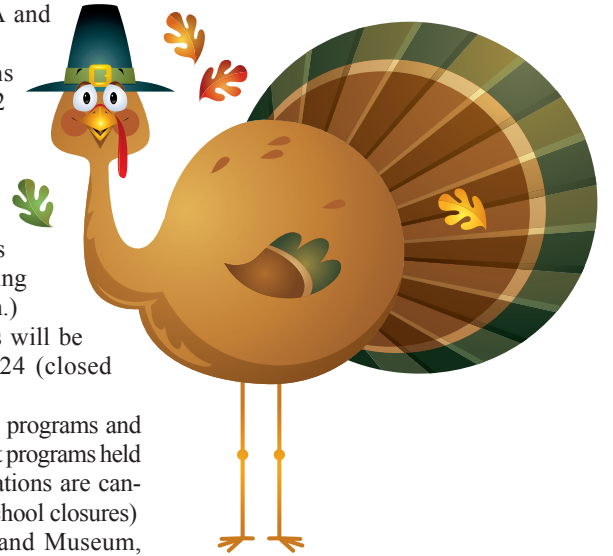
The following operations will be open on November 22 & 24 (closed November 23):

- All Recreation & Parks programs and facilities (please note that programs held in/at public school locations are cancelled, due to holiday school closures)
- The St. Clement's Island Museum,

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, and Old Jail Museum

- The Wicomico Shores Golf Course and Riverview Restaurant
- The St. Mary's County Animal Adoption & Resource Center

For more information on SMCG programs and operations, please visit: stmaryscountymd.gov or follow St. Mary's County Government on Facebook or Twitter (X) for regular updates.



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Town Council Holds Off Decision on Redevelopment Project

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A developer who wants to build eight new homes on Lawrence Avenue in Leonardtown where a high-density apartment block once stood will have to wait until December for the town council's decision on whether his project can move forward.

Saying they wanted more information on how he would put the new homes on such a relatively small parcel, the town council members voted to hold off on making a decision regarding approval of the project until next month's public hearing.

The Cottages of Leonardtown is proposed for construction on 26,267 square feet of land owned by Laurel Grove Properties LLC — in turn owned by Jeff Buckler and John O'Connell, according to town planning documents.

The plan calls for the land to be subdivided into two lots; the project is attempting to keep with the town's Planned Infill and Redevelopment District program that seeks to replace blighted and dilapidated properties.

The homes would all be two-story in nature and have footprints between 640 square feet to 1,080 square feet in size.



Some residents who spoke out at the public hearing at the town offices on Nov. 13 said the project was not appropriate for the character of the neighborhood and would infringe on the privacy of other residents because there because of an absence of buffer yards between them.

There were also concerns over increased vehicle traffic, parking and pedestrian safety, according to letters sent to the town council before the first public hearing.

Before the project plans went before the town council they were first approved by the town's planning commission as meeting the requirements of the municipal zoning code.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

STS Bus Service Non-Discrimination Policy Gets Approval

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Every year the county's Department of Public Works and Transportation brings forward a plan to comply with the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, ensuring that their STS Bus service in no way discriminates against its customers or employees based on race, color, national origin, or sex.

The department was seeking the approval of the plan from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, said its director Jim Gotsch, with hopes that it will have to have some amendments next year.

The reason, Gotsch said, for any pending amendments would be because the bus system would move to a fixed stop model from the current flag stop model, which allows riders to get picked up or dropped off anywhere on county roads they desire.

"In this document it mentions flag stops, which we want to get away from," Gotsch told commissioners at their Nov. 14 business meeting. "There are provisions in here [the plan] for [those with] limited English proficiency.

"Right now there's no requirement for having multi-language publications, we do have a card that the buses have that if the person doesn't speak English it can at least identify what language they are speaking."

This data can later be used, Gotsch said, to ascertain what language or languages the county STS service would have to interpret to better serve customers.

Commissioner Eric Colvin asked if public works had made any progress in establishing an application program for mobile devices to track locations of buses.

Gotsch said his department was pursuing that type of information access aggressively.

"This is 2023, I want to be able to see where the bus is on an app," said Gotsch. "We need grant money to purchase software to coordinate that with [the Department of Information Technology.]"

The department already tracks each bus using GPS technology from its office, the director said, but it needed more funding to expand that ability to residents.

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Major Section of FDR Boulevard Opens



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The latest portion of FDR Boulevard now connects Chancellors Run Road to Buck Hewitt Road, completing what is known as Phase 3A of the project designed to take traffic off of Route 235 and put it on a parallel route, providing relief for traffic congestion.

The county officially opened the road section Nov. 14 after the Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted unanimously to include the latest phase of the roadway into the county's maintenance and operation system.

At a ceremony later in the day at the intersection of Chancellors Run Road and the new section of FDR Boulevard, public works engineer Alan Settle, the lead on the project over the past several years, said the sections that were previously opened had taken as much as 20 percent of the traffic off of Route 235.

The new roadway will help enhance traffic safety, Settle said, as well as provide more options to bicyclists and pedestrians to ride and walk in and in between their

communities.

Public works chief Jim Gotsch told county leaders this week that the plans for construction Phase 3B of FDR Boulevard — from Buck Hewitt Road all the way to Pegg Road across from the main gate of Patuxent River Naval Air Station — are already set and ready to go.

The only thing left to do, Gotsch said, is to purchase a few more easements along the roadway so construction can commence.

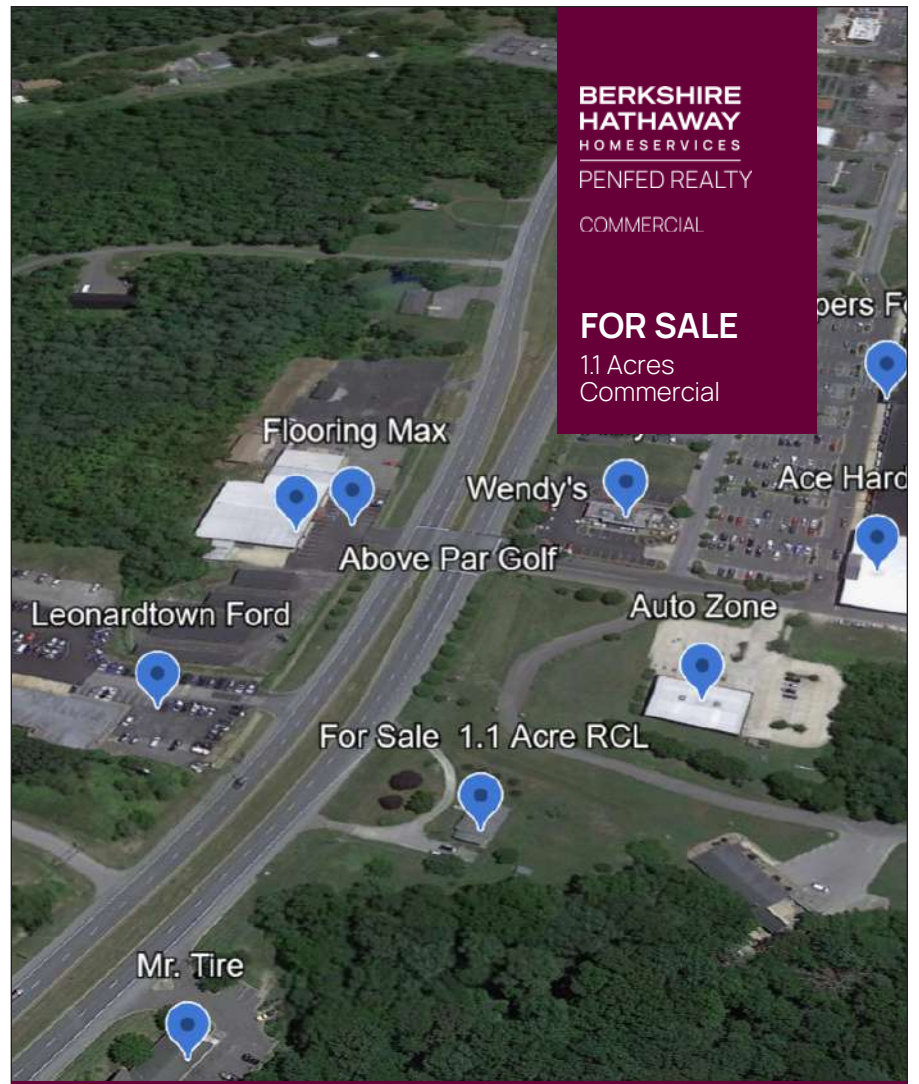
"We're just trying to wrap up the last of the property acquisitions," Gotsch said. "We're over 90 percent of the properties on [Phase] 3B.

"We should be rolling on to that next."

Commissioner Mike Hewitt said the process of getting FDR Boulevard actually built — it had been on the county's construction plan books since the mid-1970s at least — got started nearly two decades ago when other commissioners were sitting on the dais.

"It's been almost 16 years," Hewitt said. "Lord knows, it's well overdue."

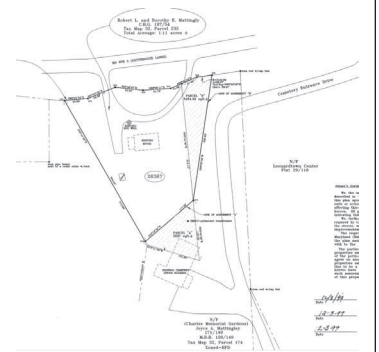
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- Current Building Size: 2,880 square feet



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Report Details Flooding Fixes for Leonardtown

By Guy Leonard
 Staff Writer

A report released last month to the county's Hazard Mitigation Planning Board talks about details surrounding the massive flooding that took place in Leonardtown in August of 2020 when Hurricane Isaias struck the county.

It also gave suggestions as to how the same difficulties that rose from the flooding three years ago could be mitigated.

The report identified Leonardtown as being at continued risk of flooding.

"One of the locations most prone to flooding is on McIntosh Run, where it passes under Maryland Route 5/Point Lookout Road, the areas just to the north along Maypole Road and the areas just to the south along Maryland Route 243/Compton Road," the report compiled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Silver Jacket Team. "The flooding causes instability in the stream, damages to residential and commercial buildings, as well as impacts to the roadways."

The report found that there were several factors that contributed to the flooding, obviously one was extreme rainfall, which caused McIntosh Run to overflow by several feet and completely cover the box culvert on Route 5 near the intersection with Compton Road.

"During the August 4, 2020 event, a total of 7.79 inches of rain fell during a 10-hour period between midnight and 10 a.m.," the report reads.

But the investigators also believed that the failure of one or more beaver dams in



the watershed may have contributed to the massive flooding by releasing tremendous amounts of water when it breached.

"At some point prior to August 2020, while building a dam, beavers blocked a 66-inch culvert on McIntosh Run under Secretariate Drive, creating a roughly 30-acre pond," the report stated. "The beaver dam breached during Isaias, likely exacerbating the flooding situation just downstream."

Still, the report stated, the beaver dam breach was probably a minor contributor to the overall flood.

Also, the location of the Route 5 bridge itself, was a problem, the report stated, as it is built low and at the confluence of a large amount of water.

The report stated that sediment removal from the watershed could be helpful in mitigating flooding when it occurs.

Flood proofing of buildings, such as putting structures on stilts to elevate them out of the water but was considered difficult and had to be done on a building-to-building basis, the report stated.

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Speed Camera Proposal Warmly Greeted

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The public came out in support of a proposal that would allow traffic speed cameras in school zones in St. Mary's but officials said that approving a new local ordinance was just the first step in getting them operational.

First, the county must study whether they have a speeding problem at school zone intersections in the first place, testimony revealed at the Nov. 14 public hearing for the speed camera ordinance.

Most of those who testified in favor of the speed cameras were school system and sheriff's office employees who said they saw firsthand the speeding problems that plague school zones on a daily basis, but especially during the dropping off and picking up students.

There were only a few everyday citizens who testified but none testified against the proposal, which has stirred some concerns among residents that the implementation of the mobile devices was either a revenue gathering scheme or a solution in search of a problem.

Capt. Shawn Moses, of the sheriff's office, said a traffic study would have to be conducted to show whether a speeding problem actually existed in school zones.

This would occur once the ordinance was approved by the county commissioners; essentially passing the ordinance did not necessarily guarantee the installation of the speed cameras.

"If after all this and we find out we don't need them, what do we do?" asked Commissioner Mike Hewitt.

"We wouldn't pursue them," Moses said. "It's required [by the state] that we provide before and after studies."

The State Highway Administration requires the data, Moses said, before they will allow the use of speed cameras on state roads, many of which run through the school zones where county officials would like to place speed cameras.

There is also an application process with the state to allow their placement on state roads, Moses said, which require the passing of the legislation first.

"There may not be the justification to pursue this," Moses said. "But to engage vendors we need the passing of an ordinance."

Commissioner Mike Alderson said residents would be concerned about "mission creep" of the program, seeing them move from school zones into neighborhoods.

"Where does the line get drawn as far as stopping the mission creep?" Alderson said.

Expanding a speed camera program into neighborhoods, Moses said, would require enabling legislation passed in the General Assembly in Annapolis.

"Work zones could be pursued," Moses said. "But at this point there's no intention to do that."

"These are... baby steps."

Skip Stewart, a former sheriff's office deputy, said the ordinance should take a more sweeping approach.

"I humbly request that you allow speed

cameras to be set up in every one of our school zones," Stewart said. "This should be a permanent fixture."

"Everyone knows you're supposed to do the speed limit."

Dameron resident Roy Fedders said he was initially suspicious about the proposed ordinance but, with some reluctance, had come to support its implementation.

"I was on the fence about this for quite a while," Fedders said. "Can the contract the county enters into become a tax on the people if the revenue from the contract is not met? Yes, it could."

"Will people speed up once they go through the school zone? Of course, they could."

But, Fedders said, if he were sheriff, he would pursue the same program Sheriff Steve Hall is pursuing now.

"The best thing is for the people to slow down," Fedders said. "So, I support the sheriff in this endeavor."

"I think the idea of the safety outweighs the concerns I have now."

The newly proposed speed camera ordinance before the Commissioners of St. Mary's County would impose a \$40 fine on motorists who violate the speed limit in the vicinity of a school where they are placed, the text of the proposal states.

The fines could be contested in District Court, the proposed ordinance states, but failure to pay the fine otherwise could result in the state's refusal to register the offender's vehicle as well as the suspension of the registration.

The proposal states that: "Revenue received by the county from this School Zone Speed Camera Safety Program shall first be used to recover the costs of implementing and administering the [speed camera program]."

"Any remaining balance shall be used for public safety purposes as set forth in the annual budget adopted by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County," the ordinance continues.

The speed cameras would only operate between the hours of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, the proposal states.

The sheriff's office would assign "one or more deputies" to monitor the cameras, the proposal states, but may enter an agreement with an outside contractor to fulfill that duty.

Before using the speed cameras, the county commissioners would be made to advertise their upcoming installation — as the cameras would be mobile — in local news publications and place signs to note their locations to passing motorists as well, the proposal states.

In a recent survey given by the sheriff's office of more than 1,200 respondents over several months, almost 75 percent said curbing speeding and other unsafe driving actions was their highest priority when it came to quality of life in St. Mary's.

The concerns over speeding and dangerous drivers even eclipsed worries over drugs and gun violence, the survey showed.

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Redevelopment of Lexington Park Shopping Center Approved



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The shopping center formerly known as Millison Plaza, one of the oldest in St. Mary's County, will see some drastic changes soon after the county planning commission approved a concept site plan this week for its redevelopment.

Now known as the Pax River Village Center, the shopping venue will see the addition of two new establishments, including an Aldi's grocery store and a Starbucks coffee house.

Many of the businesses currently there will stay, according to the center's new owners Atlantic Realty, and the center will be rebuilt to a more modern standard and aesthetic.

The sprawling shopping center was built in 1974, about the same time the county adopted a zoning code.

The concept site plan approved unanimously on Nov. 13 paves the way specifically for the two new establishments with a 6,100 square feet of restaurant space, 19,432 square feet for retail sales and 1,300 square feet for a take-out food establishment.

The redevelopment of the center has been highly anticipated by elected officials as it would refresh commercial stock in the Lexington Park area and also provide an additional grocery store to counter the perceived "food desert" in the community.

There is only one other grocery store on Great Mills Road located in the St. Mary's Square Shopping Center about one mile south of the center in question.

The entire site to be redeveloped encompasses a little under 25 acres.

Joe Kadjeski, principal engineer on the project, said the site plan also calls for the complete demolition of a hotel that currently sits on the far end of the property which

fronts Route 235.

This hotel, once known long ago as The Belvedere Inn, has mostly been demolished already and only the final building remains; it is currently not operational.

The plan also calls for the removal of the Bank of America branch and a portion of an office building nearby, Kadjeski said.

The remaining portion of the office building will likely be filled by a fast-food operator and a limited retail business, said Kadjeski.

The Bank of American will be replaced by a drive-thru automated teller machine (ATM) facility.

Kadjeski said that there are currently eight access points to the site between Three Notch Road, Great Mills Road, Shangri-La Drive and FDR Boulevard but two of those will be closed.

"The consolidation of these existing accesses will support safer vehicular movements to and from the site," Kadjeski said.

Michael Lenhardt, the traffic consultant for the project, said the redevelopment would actually offer a slight reduction in daily vehicle trips over what currently visits there now.

The second phase of the redevelopment, Lenhardt said, would require a traffic study as it would generate more than an additional 50 daytime vehicle trips.

That second phase, explained Kadjeski, would include a residential component such as town homes.

Planning board member Joe Fazekas looked upon the revitalization plan for the site as one that would calm traffic confusion there.

"That's definitely a welcome improvement, I would say," Fazekas said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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“IT’S BEEN ALMOST 16 YEARS. LORD KNOWS, IT’S WELL OVERDUE.”

COMMISSIONER MIKE HEWITT ON MAJOR PROGRESS ON FDR BOULEVARD



LOCAL 5
Village Center project approved



LOCAL 11
Liquor Board to discuss fine, penalty increases



ON THE COVER
County opens latest section of FDR Boulevard

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, NOV 16	FRI, NOV 17	SAT, NOV 18	SUN, NOV 19
Sunny Hi: 67° Lo: 48°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 54°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 36°	Sunny Hi: 57° Lo: 36°
MON, NOV 20	TUE, NOV 21	WED, NOV 22	THU, NOV 23
Partly Cloudy Hi: 55° Lo: 44°	Showers Hi: 60° Lo: 50°	AM Showers Hi: 56° Lo: 38°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 54° Lo: 35°

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WELCOME TO THE TABLE

With my father being in the military, my family moved around a fair number of times. We finally landed in the state of Florida, across the country from anywhere we'd previously lived. Where we had once had a wealth of family to engage in our traditions with, we now had none. This was until we reunited with some family friends with whom we had met while my father was stationed in Hawaii, the Gibsons.

The Gibsons, also a military family, were just as familiar with the potential for loneliness in the holidays. They came up with a means of addressing it, not only for themselves but for other families in similar circumstances. Their Thanksgiving tradition became having an open dinner for any who might want a place to go, eat, and share community. One of the unique ways they embraced the different people they invited in was by encouraging everyone to bring a part of their own traditions to the dinner for all to learn from and enjoy. The Gibsons were displaying aspects of Jesus to their guests.

Much like the Gibsons, Jesus went out of His way to seek the company of and provide comfort for those who were without, and had few restrictions on who might join at His table. He sought company with both religious and non-religious folks alike, enjoying in their food and conversation. Jesus spent many nights communing with people such as Zacheus, who was looked down upon in his city, after he took great effort to try and hear Christ's teachings (Luke 19), as well as with the friends of his disciple Levi, where He states the He has come to provide for those who are in need (Luke 5). He also met with a few of the more religious and highly held folks, such as Nicodemus the Pharisee, with whom He gently corrected and led towards an understanding of the need for a spiritual rebirth in the Lord. He opened His table to people from all walks of life, without consideration for where they'd been or what they'd previously done, so long as they desired to eat with Him.

In the book of Revelation, John sees the multitude of those who have entered into heaven, people from all nations, tribes, and languages. They are recognizable as being from their own cultures, as they have brought their own forms of praise and relationships with God to Him in a unified song of praise proclaiming together that "Salvation belongs to our God and the Lamb!" (Rev. 7) And at the end of Revelation, it is made clear that God is preparing a feast for His people, in which it said that those who are invited to the supper are blessed (Rev. 19). But the beauty of this is that, like the Gibsons, God has invited all of us to the final supper. He loves all of the world dearly and opens the invitation to all who might accept it. (John 3:16)

Spencer Arthur
Resident Director of The Mission



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St. Mary's County Times

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