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THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

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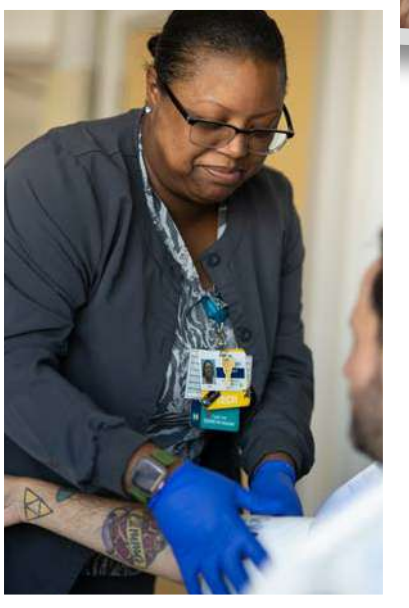


Water, Sewer Rate Increases Proposed

School System Reveals Strategic Plan Draft

County Sets Hearing on FY2025 Budget

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 Water, sewer fee increases proposed



LOCAL 9
 Chesapeake Beach to fund free swim lessons



ON THE COVER
 Sheriff Ricky Cox wants action on Calvert High School

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAY 9 Rain/Thunder Hi: 70° Lo: 56°	FRI, MAY 10 Rain Hi: 62° Lo: 49°	SAT, MAY 11 Partly Cloudy Hi: 64° Lo: 52°	SUN, MAY 12 Showers Hi: 65° Lo: 50°
MON, MAY 13 Mostly Sunny Hi: 73° Lo: 60°	TUE, MAY 14 PM Showers Hi: 73° Lo: 63°	WED, MAY 15 Showers Hi: 72° Lo: 63°	THU, MAY 16 Showers Hi: 78° Lo: 63°

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Commissioners Create School Safety Committee

Sheriff Cox Promises Full Cooperation

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

In the wake of the failure of the Calvert County Board of Education to pass a motion requiring School Superintendent Dr. Andraé Townsel to come up with an action plan to correct issues of discipline at Calvert High School, the county commissioners have taken it upon themselves to do something about it. At their May 7 meeting, the commissioners unanimously passed a motion creating an ad hoc Calvert County Student Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee appointed by them to potentially include, but not limited to, representation from Sheriff's Office, BOCC/Calvert County Government, Calvert County Public Schools, faith-based and non-profit organizations. This committee will focus on data from multiple sources in order to develop its recommendations for the BOCC.

Sheriff Ricky Cox joined Assistant County Administrator Linda Turner in making the presentation to the commissioners. Cox lent his full support to the idea and promised to work with the commissioners to address the problems.

Turner said, "There are incidents in our public schools that elicit fear and concern from parents, students, teachers, our school support staff, and our school administrators. Despite this, few, if any, incidents are reported. We find more transparent reporting of the happenings inside our primary and secondary institutions of learning on social media, the sidelines of sporting events, the aisles of our grocery stores, and the sidewalks of our streets. There are teachers and administrators that have suffered physical assault within our public schools; there are students who are trying to prepare for their future and deserve to look back on their school years, memories, whether pleasant or those they bemoan, but should not look back with anxiety for the fear they currently endure. We owe our students the integrity to say we do not necessarily know how to best address the situation in which we now find ourselves, but we will not stand by and do nothing."

Cox said, "I watched a meeting from the Board of Ed again from April 11th and I take it personal. That's my school, that's where I graduated from. I have friends in that school. And just hearing the comments made, I think that it takes all of us to get that school back on track. And I think this is the first step to doing that. And, hearing the teachers are in fear of going to the classroom, hearing some of the students saying that they can't go to the bathroom because of what happens in there. It's concerning."

Commissioner Todd Ireland, a retired deputy and also a CHS graduate, echoed the feelings of the commissioners, "I'm thoroughly disgusted at what's going on and what we're hearing of these types of behavior," adding, "Now's the time. Dr. Townsel, we'll throw every resource at you we can to help you get Calvert High School under control. We're willing to do that, I believe, as a board here,



Calvert High School

and hopefully by us establishing this committee, it'll help get different perspectives and be able to push things in the right direction to definitely turn things around."

Ireland introduced Richard Hill, a retired state trooper, who overheard a conversation while standing in line at a restaurant between a mother and her son about discipline. She told Hill that the family had moved to the county because of the schools but were now considering moving to Virginia because of the problem here.

Hill said, "The young gentleman proceeded to tell me that his friends were scared to death and hate attending school for fear of being jumped and beaten up for no reason. He said there were fights at his school on a daily basis, and you just pray that you don't get jumped. Many of his friends refrain from drinking liquids throughout the day so they don't have to use the bathroom. He advised that it was really scary to walk into a bathroom." He is in middle school and said it was even worse in high school.

Cox said, "I'm committed to the staff. I'm committed to the students. And I'm also committed to our bus drivers because I think we forget about them too, as well. There's a lot of violence that occurs on our buses."

Cox advocates having a school resource officer in every school but is short of that goal now. He is seeking two more in the coming year's budget.

Commissioner Mike Hart asked Cox, "Are you given the liberties to just go into a school, talk to the principal and say, hey, look, I need to put five, 10 guys here, or whatever, law enforcement to help rectify this?"

Cox responded, "We had a meeting last year at this time about Calvert High School on the violence, and here we are again. I give the school board that that's their shop, let them run it. But now that we're back here again, talking about the violence and not just the physical violence on our staff, but the verbal violence that they're getting abused. And that's just not the way I graduated from Calvert High School 25 years ago. That's just not the way I came up. And

I see it going down the wrong path to me. I told him in the meeting last year, I'll give you every resource that I have. I'll put a deputy in every hallway if we can quell the violence that's happening in, in our hallways, in our bathrooms. So, is that what we're doing now? No, we're not. Every principal is kind of king or queen of that building. And they kind of dictate what happens inside that building. And you can get different approaches on measures that are taken inside that building."

Hart asked, "So do you feel a need to go into Calvert High School?"

Cox responded, "Yes. I do," adding, "I don't want Calvert High School to look like prison, because I've had long conversations about that. It's not that. It's building those relationships with the kids."

Cox said he doesn't want Calvert County to turn into another Lexington Park, "A lot of these kids are affiliated with those kids in Lexington Park. And, if you just read what happens there every night, St. Mary's County Sheriff Steve Hall is put in a tough spot. I think he does a great job. But I think we could head this off right now and we could be a part of the solution moving forward."

Cox was asked about the situation where six students were caught smoking marijuana in the bathroom and were returned stoned to the classroom. He said, "I'm told as the sheriff that nothing's being done about the discipline and the drug use in our schools."

Townsel bristled at the notion that he's doing nothing. He said, "As the superintendent, I'm open to any type of support, resources, whatever it takes to be proactive. So, I'm always going to work in good faith to ensure we get the outcomes that we're looking for. Second, in no way to be defensive in any way, shape or form, very similar to our sheriff. I take everything personal, especially when it's on my watch. The only thing I want to clear up is the information that nothing is happening, because I know people say things and say six kids did this and nothing happened. Because you're absolutely right. The law does circumvent



Commissioner Todd Ireland

any policy. Because the law is the law. It's important to share that Calvert County Public Schools has the third highest arrest in any other district in the state of Maryland."

The commissioners hope to appoint committee members soon with the goal of having a plan in place by the start of the next school year.

Later in the meeting during the public comment section, school board member Lisa Grenis, who unsuccessfully introduced the motion for Townsel to prepare an action plan, said, "I'm here this morning to show my appreciation and support for the new Calvert County Student Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Committee. I especially want to thank our sheriff Ricky Cox and each one of our county commissioners for launching this important initiative. As member of the Board of Education, I know our schools are experiencing serious discipline and safety issues that need immediate attention. Forming an advisory committee is an excellent example of the sheriff's department, our county leadership, and the community coming together to make our school safe. We owe it to our staff, students, and parents who are begging for help. And one teacher recently stated on Facebook, we need an intervention. At our last Board of Ed meeting, I proposed a motion for our superintendent to develop an action plan to address the immediate concerns surrounding Calvert High School. Unfortunately, the motion was voted down. My hope is that this new committee will help us take the necessary actions to fix our goals so we can provide our students with the best learning experience possible."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "I can assure you this is not an undertaking that we wanted to do but felt necessary to do. And I can also assure you it's going to be a cooperative effort, but we've heard enough that we felt like something had to be done. So, we're going to get our school back in line, is the goal."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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Water and Sewer Rate Changes Proposed

Large Hike Seen for Connection Fees

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is moving ahead with a plan to create a four-tiered rate structure for water and sewer service based on usage and tripling the combined water and sewer capital connection charge for new construction to \$24,200, making Calvert's fee the largest in the area, except for Chesapeake Beach.

Under the four-tiered rate structure, the majority of rate payers would fall in the first two tiers (normal water usage without lawn sprinkling) and would pay less than the current fee under the existing structure. That would shift more of the burden on the heavy users and help close the gap in the current revenue shortfall.

The study came about after the customer service nightmare for the county after bills with unanticipated major increases were sent out over the Christmas holidays in 2022.

The proposed rate changes will be included in the commissioners' budget to be presented at a May 16 public hearing. They will finalize the budget by the end of the month. The proposed general fund budget has not yet been released.

At the BOCC May 7 meeting, consultant Mike Baker with NextGen Strategies and Solutions Company, said, "The water and sewer enterprise funds should be financially self-supporting. They should obviously not be funded through the general fund and vice versa. If there are any services they receive from the general fund, they should certainly pay for those. They should maintain reserves, provide for contingencies, unplanned expenses, just as you maintain a checking account and a savings account for any unplanned expenses."

He added, "The water and sewer rates

should be kept as low as possible over time."

He said the operation and maintenance expenses are a major factor in what rates need to be charged – "your benefits, your salaries, materials, supplies, things like that."

The consultant said, "We've assumed a two-and-a-half-percent escalation rate, that's been about the historical average for the CPI over the past 20, 25 years. I know in the recent past it's been a lot higher than that, but we're seeing it come back down to more normal levels."

He said, "The capital improvement plan's going to be a big driver. That's your investment in your actual infrastructure. So, your treatment plants, your water mains, distribution collection systems, debt service. So, any capital projects that we plan on debt funding, we're using a 3 percent interest rate and a 25-year maturity."

Baker explained, "Our reserve target is maintaining 180 days of operating expenses. It's roughly half a year of your operating expenses maintained in reserve."

Under the proposal, 20 percent of usage and 23 percent of customers (1,280) would pay the lowest rate in Tier 1, with an average usage of 2,200 gallons. They would pay an average of \$2.13 quarterly, less than what they pay now.

Most usage would be in Tier 2, with 28 percent of usage and 58 percent of customers (3,230) and average usage of 10,000 gallons. They would pay about \$2.66 quarterly, slightly less than what they pay now.

Under the plan, the connection fee for water and sewer would increase from \$8,400 to \$24,200, which likely would be passed on to the homebuyer.

Connection fee for just water would be raised only slightly, from \$3,000 to \$3,200.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter Announces Temporary Closure

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter announces the shelter will be closed to the public on Wednesday, May 8, and Thursday, May 9, for administrative duties related to an animal control investigation.

During the closure, the shelter will remain accessible for emergencies and intakes for stray animals but will not be open for adoptions or owner surrenders.

Animal Control officers still will be available to respond to emergencies during the planned closure on Wednesday, May 8, and will have normal hours of operations on Thursday, May 9. For questions or concerns related to animal control services, contact 410-535-1600, ext. 2526.

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter,

located at 5055 Hallowing Point Road, in Prince Frederick, is an open-admission animal shelter managed by the Animal Shelter Division of the Calvert County Department of Public Safety. Contact 410-535-7387 for inquiries or to schedule an intake appointment. For more information about adopting from the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter visit www.CalvertCountyAnimalShelter.com.

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Cycling 5k Time Trials.....	June 5
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Diving.....	Sept. 29
Golf.....	Sept. 30
Horseshoes.....	Sept. 7
Pickleball.....	May 16-19
Powerlifting.....	July 14
Racquetball.....	Sept. 4-5
Road Race 5k.....	Aug. 31
Road Race 10k.....	Sept. 22
Shuffleboard.....	Sept. 28
Softball.....	Sept. 7
Soccer 8v8.....	Aug. 17-18
Swimming.....	Sept. 7
Table Tennis.....	July 27
Tennis.....	Sept. 27-29
Track & Field.....	Aug. 3-4
Trap Shooting.....	June 29
Triathlon.....	June 2
Volleyball.....	Aug. 24-25
Walking Events.....	Aug. 3-4
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Draft School System Strategic Plan Unveiled

Grenis Says Policies Need to Be Changed

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Education got into a chicken or egg situation at their April 25 meeting. At the meeting Superintendent of Schools Dr. Andraé Townsel unveiled the draft of the school system's strategic plan which was drafted after a series of workshops with stakeholders and the assistance of a consultant.

During the presentation, school board member Lisa Grenis said she was unable to approve the plan because school board policies made it impossible to achieve the objectives. Several school board members said the policies flowed from the plan and they can be changed by the board. Those policies mentioned by Grenis are controversial and efforts to change some of them have previously failed.

The plan says the Top Five Strengths are:

- High performance/high expectations for all
- Equity focus/action plan
- Engaged, high quality educators
- Inclusion of diverse students
- Student relationships with trusted adult

The plan says the Top Five Challenges are:

- Staff with multiple responsibilities
- Student behavior/management
- Options for personalized learning
- Continuous improvement of already high functioning schools
- Achievement/opportunity gaps

As an Engaged Citizen, a CCPS Student will:

- Demonstrate qualities such as honesty, integrity, respect, responsibility, empathy, kindness, and will exhibit the moral courage to stand up for what is right.
- Contribute positively to the school community through ethical behavior and leadership that inspires and uplifts.
- Show respect for diversity and promote a positive and inclusive learning environment for all.

As an Empowered Learner a CCPS Student will:

- Consistently strive for excellence and seek opportunities for growth and learning.

- Set and pursue challenging goals and show resilience in the face of challenges.

- Demonstrate dedication, motivation, leadership, and creativity.

As a Critical Thinker a CCPS Student will:

- Analyze information objectively, think logically, evaluate evidence, consider different perspectives, and make informed decisions.

- Navigate complex academic and life issues by asking thoughtful questions, solving problems creatively and engaging in discussions that require reasoning and evidence-based arguments.

As a Collaborator a CCPS Student will:

- Excel in collaborative work that promotes cooperation, active listening, and shared decision-making where all individual contributions are valued and respected.

- Understand the importance of cooperation, compromise, and shared decision-making in academics and extra-curriculars.

As a Communicator a CCPS Student will:

- Engage diverse audiences respectfully by exchanging ideas and information responsibly, listening actively, speaking and writing clearly, and using print and digital media appropriately.

- Listen actively, contribute ideas constructively, and resolve conflicts amicably

The Mission Statement is: "CCPS nurtures an inclusive and supportive school community to empower students with a rigorous academic foundation that ignites a passion for learning and raises the bar for excellence in education."

Townsel said, "Core Values are our core principles and ethics, how we show up for our work and treat each other."

Of those core values, he said, "We value a safe learning environment and well-being for all; growth, achievement, and excellence for all; a culture of collaboration and creativity; acknowledging diverse perspectives; responsible and ethical stewardship of all resources."

Townsel said, "Objectives break down priority areas and provide clarity and direc-

tion at the governance level without prescribing specific strategies."

For the objective of Student Excellence, the plan says,

- Ensure every student meets or exceeds curricular standards
- Ensure every student develops academic mindsets and habits that support learning.
- Ensure every student has access and opportunities to explore their passions.
- Ensure every student is engaged in rigorous, responsive, and authentic learning experiences.

Townsel said, "The purpose of the strategic plan is to have a systemic alignment. So, when we talk about the strategic plan that guides our board of education goals, which guide the superintendent goals, which guide our school improvement plans, which guide our departmental goals, and all the way through to individual goals."

Townsel praised all of the people involved in the planning process. Grenis said, "I agree a lot of people put a lot of work and effort into this, but I would like to go through and very respectfully share some thoughts I have."

She said of the mission statement, "I don't mean to criticize, but it is not brief and memorable and that's what worries me. A mission statement should be something that every person knows exactly what it is."

She added, "When I look at that, we have inclusive and supportive as the meat of it. Well, a rigorous academic foundation is an afterthought embedded in a prepositional phrase. Our number one priority is academic foundation, even according to your priorities. On slide 18, you refer to it as student excellence. So, a possibility could be something like, 'Calvert County Public Schools is dedicated to empowering all students through academic excellence and achievement.' I think the focus needs to be on academic excellence."

She then mentioned the policies regarding hoodies, cell phones, the code of conduct, and requiring students to get a 50 percent grade even if they didn't take the test as policies that were counter to the goal of student excellence.

Board Vice President Inez Claggett asked



School Superintendent Dr. Andraé Townsel

Grenis, "You mentioned that you believe there are policies that need to be changed and strengthened before you can support the strategic plan. So, the board adopts policies because that is part of our responsibility, and this strategic plan is being developed by the superintendent. How do you, could you define for me how the two interplay? Because ultimately the policies could stop the strategic plan from being put into place in what you're saying."

Townsel responded, "The plan is to increase academic achievement. So, with the policies that are in place that are already approved by the board, this is our plan is to be better as a district. So, the question is how do we have a, I think it's a strategic policy, then strategic plan, but the policies are already in place, and they're often being updated every month. So, with the policies as they are, we believe that this is a plan that can increase academic achievement and ensure that Calvert County is better tomorrow than we are today."

Grenis reiterated, "The policies need to be changed in order for me to accept this strategic plan."

Townsel said the draft plan would be put into a form to be presented for further review and discussion.

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Chesapeake Beach Passes Budget

Utility Rates to Be Increased

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Chesapeake Beach Town Council, at its May 7 meeting, adopted a general fund budget of \$10,980,672 for Fiscal Year 2025 with a property tax rate of \$.2977 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is the same as the current rate. The rate had been cut the previous six years.

According to Town Administrator Holly Wahl, "There is no increase to the town's General Fund FY25 budget overall. The total Town of Chesapeake Beach staff wages across all funds increased by 1 percent. Of the total budgeted expenses for the fiscal year of 2025, salaries account for 12 percent, across all funds."

At the same meeting, the council adopted the utility fund for the next fiscal year that includes a rate hike to make up for a projected \$1 million revenue deficit.

The utility fund increases the fixed quarterly sewer fee from \$50 to \$100 and an almost 50 percent increase in the variable water rates based on usage.

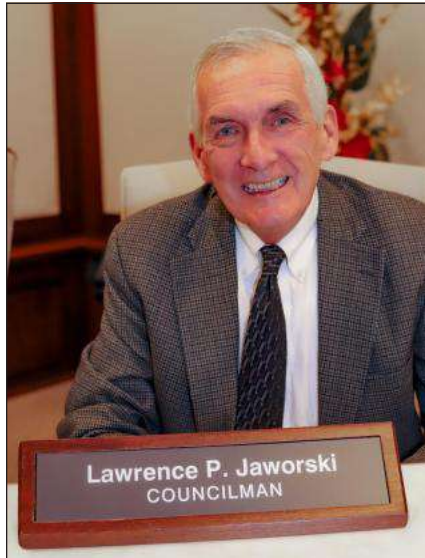
The council at an earlier work session had considered other options including more of an increase in the variable rate. Councilwoman Valerie Beaudin had argued increasing the fixed rate didn't encourage water conservation.

She expressed concerns about "how this affects our lower income and our retirees and those people that are living in one of the old cottages versus living in one of the new subdivisions."

Mayor Pat Mahoney observed that others, such as families, could be negatively impacted by having the user fees increased in place of the fixed charge.

In the end the council decided increasing the fixed rate would ensure the monies needed to collect the needed revenue would be received.

In voting for the utility fund budget, Councilman Larry Jaworski still had reservations. At the May 7 meeting, he said, "I find myself torn on this issue, between supporting our treasurer, our town administrator, our public works director, and others who worked very hard to put this together. And yet, as I have commented in previous meetings, my concern extends to what is a fairly significant increase in rates. I did the math on my personal rate, and under the new rates, my water and sewer bill is going to go up by about 44 percent. I think that is a tremendous jump in one year. I'm okay with it financially. Thank you, Lord.



Chesapeake Beach Councilman Larry Jaworski

I can afford it. But I'm concerned about seniors in our community, low-income families, and our businesses. And as we look at connection fees and other elements in the plan, I'm concerned about the impacts on possible economic development in our town. Do I have suggestions as to how to change it? No, I don't."

During the meeting, several residents suggested the town pursue a higher admissions and amusement tax than the current half percent, noting other jurisdictions such as Calvert County are significantly higher.

But Mahoney said, "The town of Chesapeake Beach is not permitted to increase the amusement tax on gaming revenue from one-half of one percent. That state law was enacted 15 years ago. So, it's not like we've been sitting on our hands, it's just it would be a violation of state law."

But Councilman Greg Morris said the town should pursue it anyway. He said, "I think that that law is archaic. I think that this town deserves more than a half percent, and it needs to be recalibrated. This town enjoyed the benefit of having the leadership of Senator [Thomas V. "Mike"] Miller for so long, and he lived here in town. What an amazing human being that he was. There's quite a vacuum now there because of that, and I think it's worthwhile to press that and see if we can get that changed somehow."

Mahoney added, "What we have to understand is that would impact three local businesses only. It would not impact the state. They're not giving us any money."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Detectives Make Arrest in Prince Frederick Burglaries

Deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau responded on April 27 to Pollo Delicioso located at 155 Central Square Drive in Prince Frederick, for a reported commercial burglary.

Preliminary investigation revealed an unknown black male wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt, gray sweatpants, and black boots was observed on video surveillance throwing a rock at the window of Calvert Crabs LLC, located at 151 Central Square Drive, several times but had negative results breaking the window. Moments later the suspect was observed standing in front of Pollo Delicioso throwing a rock-like object at the window and then kicking the window in. After gaining access to the establishment, the suspect attempts to take the cash register. The suspect was confronted by a store employee and dropped the cash register before fleeing on foot.

On May 1, detectives from the Criminal Investigations Bureau were conducting a canvass of the area and observed a suspect matching the description of the burglary enter the Prince Frederick Inn. Contact was made with the male, identified as Ronald Joseph Strain, 58 of Prince Frederick.

Further investigation revealed in the early morning hours of May 1, Maryland State Police responded to the Shell Gas Station located at 400 N Solomons Island Road in



Ronald Joseph Strain

Prince Frederick, for a commercial burglary. Items stolen from the Shell were a pack of Newport cigarettes and \$50 in US currency.

A search of Strain's residence revealed the clothing and boots Strain wore during the attempted burglary of Calvert Crabs, the burglary of Pollo Delicioso, and the burglary of the Shell Gas Station. A search of Strain's person revealed \$40 in US Currency and an open pack of Newport cigarettes.

The estimated value of the damaged property to Pollo Delicioso was \$3,500.

Strain was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Malicious Destruction of Property Value \$1,000+, two counts of Second-Degree Burglary, two counts of Fourth-Degree Burglary, and Theft: \$100 to Under \$1,500.

Press Release from CCSO

Public Hearing Set on FY 25 Recommended Budget

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners will hold a public hearing Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 7 p.m. to present and receive comments regarding the fiscal year (FY) 2025 commissioners' recommended operating and capital improvement budget. The public hearing will be held in the Commissioners Hearing Room, located in the Calvert County Circuit Courthouse, Second Floor, at 175 Main St. in Prince Frederick.

The public may dial in by phone (audio only) to participate remotely:

Toll-free: 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 899 4188 8251
Passcode (if asked): #

To provide public comment: *9

The FY 2025 commissioners' budget document will be made available for public viewing in advance of the hearing at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/PublicHearings.

Hard copies will be available at the public libraries or by contacting the Department of Finance & Budget at 410-535-1600, ext. 2441, or Dawn.Wood@calvertcountymd.gov.

To ensure full public access and transparency, the meeting will be streamed live on the Calvert County Government YouTube page at www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

The meeting will also be broadcast live on Comcast channel 1070 HD.

Reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities or linguistic barriers should be requested by contacting the BOCC office at 410-535-1600, ext. 2202, or TTY 1-800-735-2258.

Individuals may also submit written comments. Written comments may be submitted by email to Dawn.Wood@calvertcountymd.gov or mailed to the BOCC at 175 Main St., Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

Interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing in person or virtually. To learn more about the budget development process at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/FY25.

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov. Stay up to date with Calvert County Government on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd and YouTube at www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

Press Release from Calvert County government.

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Chesapeake Beach to Offer Swim Lessons This Summer

To be Free at County Aquatic Center

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Chesapeake Beach Water Park will be closed this summer as the town council considers the plan to repurpose it as an aquatic center. The process has been delayed as the town failed to get any bidders for a Request for Proposal to study the feasibility of the idea. Town staff are working on a revised RFP to send out.

With the water park closed, the location of swim lessons for town residents has been eliminated. Mayor Pat Mahoney set out to find an alternative solution and found one close to the town's backyard.

At the May 7 meeting of the mayor and town council, a vote was taken to authorize the expenditure of funds so town residents can get free lessons at the county Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center in Prince Frederick this summer. Commissioner President Buddy Hance assisted the town in forging the agreement.

The information presented prior to the motion passing said, "The Town Council to consider authorizing the mayor to initiate a swim lesson program at no additional cost to Town residents by employing Town of Chesapeake Beach lifeguards. The Town Council to consider authorizing the mayor to enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Calvert County government to hold swim lessons at the Prince Frederick Aquatics Center and enter into an agreement with Red Cross to train the Town's

lifeguards to conduct the swim lessons. Costs for the program, including staffing costs, licensing and training are estimated at \$7,000 from the General Fund Recreation Operation line item from the FY24 budget."

Background material provided to the council said, "Over the course of the last couple of months town staff have contacted several private pools and the Calvert County Government to find ways to continue the Town's swimming lessons that are paramount to water safety for Town residents. Since 2021, over 500 children have completed the CBWP Swim Lesson program, garnering rave reviews from their parents."

Lessons would be Sundays, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. for four weeks (June 30 through July 21, 2024). Three levels of classes could be offered:

- Tadpoles (ages 3 to 5) – 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.; Water exploration – children learn basics of swimming: bobbing, flutter kicks, front/back float, blowing bubbles, etc.
- Jelly Fish (ages 5 to 7) – 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Swimmers will enhance their skills and develop new techniques: alternating arms, front/back glide, arms & legs together, submerging face.
- Sting Rays (ages 7 to 10) – 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Swimmers enhance their skills and develop new techniques: rhythmic breathing, front/back crawl, treading water, breaststroke, elementary backstroke, butterfly, sidestroke.

The CBWP swim lesson curriculum was re-designed before the 2023 season, with

a focus on water safety awareness in any environment. Lesson plans facilitate an age-appropriate introduction to swimming and development of skills while also encouraging a love and respect for the water. With the option of holding one class at a time, we would be able to increase class size from 10 to 15 children in each level. Nine staff members from the Aquatics Management Team are returning from last season. To teach swim lessons at the County pools the lifeguards would be required to obtain a Red Cross Water Safety Instructor license and the Town would be required to enter into a service provider agreement with Red Cross as this is the firm that provides services to Calvert County Government for their aquatic facilities."

The closure of the water park is still controversial, with several town residents at the May 7 meeting calling for it to be retained. But at the meeting, Council Vice President Charles Fink said, "I don't want to be on a soapbox, but I think it's interesting to take this opportunity to note that I believe we are pretty good stewards of the citizens tax revenue, and there's been a lot of debate about the waterpark, and we will hear more, and we will do our best to make our goals very clear as we move forward. Doing anything other than what we're doing with the waterpark would not be a good stewardship of taxpayer money."

The town website has a fact sheet on the water park that says, "Over the last several months, the Town Council, in close collab-



Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center

oration with the community, has discussed the need to reconceptualize the Chesapeake Beach Water Park, ensuring a community asset for Town citizens. The twenty-nine-year-old Park has provided generations of fun; however, it has surpassed its useful life, requiring further consideration of a path forward with Town residents' desires as a center point in decisions."

The fact sheet says, "The Park is not expected to open for the 2024 season due to safety concerns. However, exciting plans are underway for capital improvements that will refresh the longstanding recreational amenity at the heart of the Town of Chesapeake Beach, promising a future park that provides space for community gathering, and contributes to the wellness of our town residents."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

SMECO Recognizes Outstanding Teachers

Math, Science, and CTE-STEM Educators Receive Awards

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) worked with the school systems of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties to select and honor 20 educators with Outstanding Teacher awards for leadership in the fields of mathematics, science, technology, and engineering.

Receiving awards this year were eight math teachers, nine science teachers, and three CTE-STEM (career technical education, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) teachers from schools in three counties. The teachers were chosen for their outstanding performance in the areas of creativity, rapport with students, enthusiasm for teaching, professionalism, and innovative teaching methods. Each teacher receives a plaque and a cash award. In 33 years, SMECO has recognized almost 500 local math and science teachers.

"We're committed to a well-educated Southern Maryland community and we know that starts with you, the individuals in front of our classrooms," said Sonja Cox, SMECO's president and CEO, at the awards presentation. "As an educator, you know that STEM skills are coveted by many businesses, including SMECO. Students who graduate with mathematics, science, and technology skills are vital to the success of



SMECO Outstanding Mathematics Teacher Award Recipients, Calvert County — From left are Kelly Cannon, Mount Harmony Elementary School; Kimberly Surratt, Windy Hill Middle School; and Sara Smigielski, Huntingtown High School.

our modern workplaces. You play a crucial role in nurturing the next wave of innovators by not only teaching science and math, but by developing essential soft skills that so many people need—skills like communication, problem solving, and critical thinking."

Along with the Outstanding Teachers awards, SMECO works with local school systems to sponsor other educational programs. They include the MATHCOUNTS competition for middle school students, the annual Elementary Mathematics Challenge,

and the scholarship awards for Southern Maryland high school seniors. SMECO also takes students to Washington, D.C., for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour.

The awardees from Calvert County are:

- Barbara Broussard, St. Leonard Elementary School, Science
- Bonnie Brown, Patuxent High School, CTE-STEM
- Kelly Cannon, Mount Harmony Elementary School, Mathematics



SMECO Outstanding Science Teacher Award Recipients, Calvert County — From left are Tiffany Hance, Huntingtown High School; Barbara Broussard, St. Leonard Elementary School; and Amanda Price, Northern Middle School.

- Tiffany Hance, Huntingtown High School, Science
- Amanda Price, Northern Middle School, Science
- Sarah Smigielski, Huntingtown High School, Mathematics
- Karin Stewart, Calvert Middle School, CTE-STEM
- Kimberly Surratt, Windy Hill Middle School, Mathematics

Press Release from SMECO.

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, May 9

Social Security: Disability Benefits

Calvert Library (Zoom)
6:30-7:30 p.m.

We invite you to this virtual presentation to learn more about disability benefits, eligibility requirements, and the application process. Presentation by Diana Varela, Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration followed by Q&A. This event will not be recorded. If you'd like to use the wifi and a library computer to participate in this Zoom event please call 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, May 10

Rooftop Car & Truck Cruise Nite

4165 Mears Ave., Chesapeake Beach
4 to 8 p.m.

On the rooftop of the Rod 'N' Reel parking garage by the Bay. DJ tunes. FREE. 866-313-5596

Pub Quiz

Calvert County Fairgrounds
5:00pm-10:00pm.

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. Cash prize to the top 3 teams! Limited space! Registration required. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, May 11

Annual Plant Sale

Grounds of Fairview Branch Library

Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
9:30 am to 2 pm.

The Chesapeake Garden Club's annual sale features both annuals and perennials. Many plants are from members' gardens and include irises, daylilies, ground covers, hosta, sunflowers, Black-Eyed Susan, and native plants. Vegetable plants and herbs will be for sale. Maryland native ground covers, bulbs and cuttings of hydrangeas, hellebores, and more are available, houseplants too!

The "Garden Room" will feature unique items designed for use on a porch, patio, or in the yard. Popular "yard art" items, floral arrangements, baskets, wreaths, plant stands, and more. Southern MD tobacco sticks were transformed into walking stick and stars. Blue bird houses and other bird houses will be for sale.

In addition, the Club's Master Gardeners will share gardening tips and answer questions from the public and will provide tips and recommendations to improve home gardens.

For more information, please contact Plant Sale Chair Sharon Sherbert - 240-723-1318.

Calvert Arts Festival

All Saints Episcopal Church
Rts 2 & 4, Sunderland
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sample flavorful wines and craft beers from Maryland makers at 18th Calvert Arts Festival Saturday. A \$20 fee to taste wines/beers gives you a souvenir tasting glass and wristband. No fee to shop from outstanding local juried artisans. Enjoy delicious food and beverages, live entertainment, children's crafts, raffles & more. Tour our 1692 church & labyrinth. Event is rain or shine. More information at allsaints1692.org/news-events/calvert-arts-festival/. Age verified for alcohol tasting by picture ID at festival. Proceeds benefit local charities that aid County children. Free parking at All Saints' Church and nearby Sunderland Park & Ride.

Sun, May 12

Sunday Afternoons with Poppie

Calvert Marine Museum
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Make your Sunday afternoon memorable by coming to visit with our very own Pop Star "Poppie," our Virginia Opossum. You can join the Poppie paparazzi in the museum lobby with one of our educational interpreters, learn all kinds of fun possum facts, and visit our Museum Store for possum fan gear. Since the welfare of our animals is our primary concern, Poppie's ability to visit with her adoring public may occasionally be subject to change on short notice.

Mother's Day Evening Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
4:30 - 6 p.m.

Celebrate mom or your "special" someone aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*! Relax together and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Solomons Harbor and Patuxent River. Heavy hors d'oeuvre and a special dessert will be served. Guests are welcome to bring their own beverages; water, tea and lemonade will be provided. Cost is \$40 for adults, \$20 for children ages 5-12, and \$10 for children 4 and under. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/498/Special-Cruises>

Mon, May 13

JobSource Mobile Career Center

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

Stop by for your job search needs! Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. 410-257-2101. <https://>

CalvertLibrary.info.

Investing: Rules of the Road

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

Learn the risks and possible rewards that come with investing. Presenter Sarah Weems is a financial advisor with an office in Lusby. This is a partnership event with Calvert Concept Charitable Corporation (C4) and Calvert County Commission for Women. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, May 14

Women's Health Expo

CalvertHealth Medical Center
2:30-6:30 p.m.

9th Annual. Free screenings & information on nutrition, fitness, mental wellness, diabetes & hearth health, maternal health, hearing & vision, cancer prevention and more. 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, May 15

Chromebook Giveaways

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th Street, North Beach
2-7 p.m.

Calvert County and Calvert Library are excited to be able to give one FREE Chromebook to qualified households. Please see the qualification requirements before making a pick-up appointment. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Publisher Thomas McKay
Associate Publisher Eric McKay
General Manager Al Dailey aldailey@countytimes.net
Advertising Jen Stotler jen@countytimes.net
Staff Writers Dick Myers dickmyers@countytimes.net
Guy Leonard guyleonard@countytimes.net
Contributing Writers Ron Guy, Ken Lamb, Shelby Opperman, Dave Spigler

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



CALVERT COUNTY INFORMATION & EVENTS

Calvert County Government will be responsible and accountable to all citizens of Calvert County; provide high quality, effective and efficient services; preserve Calvert County's environment, heritage and rural character; foster opportunities for responsible and sustainable residential growth and economic development; and support Calvert County's essential institutions and keep them strong.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and are subject to change.

Board of County Commissioners Meeting

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 10 a.m.,
Commissioners' Hearing Room, 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick

Boards and Commissions Meetings

Meetings are held via Zoom unless otherwise noted.
Call-in information can be found on www.calvertcountymd.gov.

Employee Recognition Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 1-3 p.m.
Duke Room, 30 Duke Street Prince Frederick

Architectural Review Committee Town Center Meetings:

- Dunkirk: Thursday, May 9, 5-6 p.m.
- Huntingtown: Thursday, May 9, 7-8 p.m.
- Prince Frederick: Monday, May 13, 7-8 p.m.
- Owings: Wednesday, May 15, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday, May 15, 7 p.m.
Harriet E. Brown Community Center
901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick

Zoning Ordinance Update

Wednesday, May 15, 7 p.m.
Harriet E. Brown Community Center
901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick

Public Hearings

FY 2025 Board of County Commissioners Budget
Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m.
Commissioners' Hearing Room, 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick

Find more information about all Boards and Commissions at www.calvertcountymd.gov/GetInvolved. Now is a great time to get involved! Call 410-535-1600, ext. 2201 with any questions.

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Primary Election

Tuesday, May 14, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Same day voter registration is available at any polling location.

FIND POLLING LOCATIONS:
www.calvertcountymd.gov/PollingPlaces

VOTE BY MAIL DEADLINES AND DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:
www.calvertcountymd.gov/VoteByMail

PRELIMINARY RESULTS:
Tune in to the Calvert County Government channels at www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov or Comcast channel 99 or 1070 to view preliminary results for state and local contests.

ELECTION INFORMATION:
www.calvertcountymd.gov/Vote

TRANSPORTATION
During the 2024 primary election in Calvert County residents have access to various transportation providers. Regularly scheduled public transportation service will be available during early voting and on primary election day.
www.calvertcountymd.gov/Transportation

Public Transportation provides point to point paratransit services upon request for qualifying seniors or disabled to all polling locations, except Plum Point Elementary.

The Office on Aging coordinates with Lifestyles, Inc. to provide point to point service for seniors and persons with disabilities at a sliding scale; please contact the Office on Aging at 410-535-4606 for more information.

BREEZY POINT Blast-Off

SATURDAY, MAY 18 5-9 P.M.

Come enjoy games, activities, music, local food trucks and a spectacular fireworks display!




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 YOUTUBE
www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov

 LINKEDIN
www.linkedin.com/company/calvert-county-government

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, May 10

Historic Sotterley's next Sotterley Presents: People & Perspectives

Historic Sotterley
44300 Sotterley Ln., Hollywood
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

In honor of Mother's Day weekend, we are offering a tour focusing on the lives and legacies of ten remarkable women who lived at Sotterley over the course of 300 years. Learn about the lives of the women of Sotterley including Rebecca Bowles, Elsa Bond, Mabel Ingalls, and Agnes Kane Callum.

SMTMD Contra Dance

Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall
Zach Fowler Rd., Chaptico
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The evening starts at 7 pm with a half hour beginner's dance workshop followed by live music performed by the SOMD Open Band and dancing from 7:30 to 10 pm. Check the

website calendar for the lineup of dances and callers! Admission is \$12 for non-SMTMD members; \$8 for members. Children 17 and under, when accompanied by an adult, and band members are free. Info: smtmd2@gmail.com, smtmd.org/#/dances/

Sat, May 11

Mother's Day Plant Sale

First Saints Community Church
First Friendship Campus
13723 Point Lookout Rd., Ridge
8am to 2pm (Rain or shine)

Cash or check (checks made payable to First Friendship UMW). All proceeds to support First Friendship Food Pantry

Mother's Day Bake Sale and Gift Basket Raffle Drawing

7th District VRS Auxiliary
Rescue Squad Building
21530 Colton Point Rd., Avenue

9 a.m. until sold out

Drawing for the gift basket winner to follow. Tickets: A donation of \$1 each or 6/\$5. Tickets are available from any member of the auxiliary or they can be purchased at fundraising events.

Sun, May 12

All You Can Eat Home Made Home Style Breakfast -Mother's Day

2nd Dist. VFD&RS Social Hall
45245 Drayden Rd., Valley Lee
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Menu: scrambled eggs, home fried potatoes, pancakes, French toast, sausage links, ham, bacon, creamed chipped beef, sausage gravy, spiced applesauce, grits & biscuits. Drinks: assorted juices, milk, and coffee will be available. Adult—TBD; children 6 to 12 TBD; children 5 & under are free

Upcoming

Dolly and Me Tea

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department
24801 Three Notch Rd, Hollywood
Saturday, June 8
12 p.m to 3 p.m.
Deadline to register is Friday, May 31

May 31st is the last day to register for the Dolly and Me Tea hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department.

Come join Cinderella for a magical afternoon. This will be an afternoon tea with fun and exciting activities. Cost is \$25 per ticket. There will be a table decorating contest, raffles, vendors selling doll clothing and more! Finger sandwiches, scones, desserts and tea will be provided.

Please contact Lynn Brady at 240-538-2503 for reservations.



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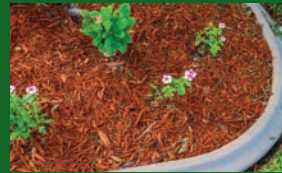
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Dan was a House Painter early in his career, then worked 33 years for the paint companies Duron Paints and Wallcoverings, and the Sherwin-Williams Company as a technical writer. Dan also attended St. Mary's College in Maryland, graduating in 1976 with Honors, and with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Human Development, with an emphasis in Psychology. Dan also took specialized courses at Essex Community College in North Baltimore, MD, and at Kent State University in Ohio. He excelled in learning and teaching Paint Technology, Paint Technology Writing, Paint Product Development, and Customer Service. He achieved the reputation of "Paint Expert" within the Residential Paint and Light Industrial Coatings Industry. After retirement from Duron and the Sherwin-Williams Companies in 2010, Dan worked several jobs. Including 5 years at Wood's Paintin' Place in the Wildewood Shopping Center, California, MD.

Dan was a Parishioner of St. John's Church in Hollywood, MD, and served as an Usher at the 7:00 a.m. Mass. He was a Lifetime Member of the St. John Francis Regis Knights of Columbus Council #7914 and served as Grand Knight and several other Officer Positions, and as Chairman of many Council activities. Dan was also a member of the Patuxent Moose Lodge #2393, where he became friends with many members there. Dan's hobbies included yardwork, woodworking, woodcarving, fishing, boating, playing Pitch, and especially singing Karaoke. He was told he had a good Elvis voice and loved singing ballads. Above all, he loved spending time with his wife and family, and found pleasure in talking to all the others with whom he worked with and met.

The family will receive friends on Monday, May 13th, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at St. John's Catholic Church in Hollywood, MD where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM, with Father Ray Schmidt officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Ryan Greenwell, Joseph Hall, Francis Hall, Jim Daugherty, Jamie Wilson, and Justin North. Honorary Pallbearers will be the St. John Francis Regis Knights of Columbus Members.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to St. John's Church, or St. John's Charitable Society, 43950 St. Johns Road, Hollywood, MD 20636 or Hospice of St. Mary's, PO Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Connie Rice, 53



Connie Lee (Burch) Rice, 53, of Callaway, MD, passed away on May 3, 2024, surrounded by her loving family after battling mental illness and succumbing to multiple strokes.

Connie was born on August 9, 1970, in Leonardtown, MD, and was the loving and devoted daughter of Sharon (Nelson) Mahmoud (Dave) and Ernest Benton Burch, Sr. (Brenda). Connie is survived by her husband, Robert "Bobby" Rice, Sr., who was her soulmate and best friend, Robert B. Hidey, her deeply beloved son, and her most precious granddaughter, Cheyanne Hidey, her heart-loving brother, Ernest "Ern" Burch (Lindsey), her nephews, Ernest "Fox", Benton "Ben", Winfield, Holden Burch, Brody, Gabe, and Linken Richards, as well as Jennifer Suite (Bobby) and Tiffany Richards (Chris), whom she loved and considered sisters. She was preceded in death by her heavenly brother, Adam Burch.

Connie worked as a Financial Management Analyst at Patuxent River Naval Air Station, where she retired with disability.

Connie enjoyed taking her puppy on walks to the water park and other places, spending time with family, particularly her son and granddaughter, attending family gatherings, especially crab feast, the Baltimore Orioles, tanning at the beach and getting sand between her toes and listening to the waves, listening to music and singing with family, as well as reading her Bible.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 10:30 AM with Pastor Alden Laird officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Ernest "Fox" Burch, Howard Burch, Jay Owens, Mack Owens, Jimmy Williams, and Mark Unkle.

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.

Traditional Funerals, Cremation Services, Memorial Packages & Pre-need Services Provided

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22955 Hollywood Road
Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-475-5588

BRINSFIELD FUNERAL HOME, P.A.
30195 Three Notch Road
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
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- Mother's Day Baskets - Combo Planters - Handcrafted Quilts - Concrete Items - Outdoor Furniture - Variety of New Items (Including: Camping Lanterns, Pit Boss Grill, Wind Chimes, Vacuum Seal Bags, Body Glove Life Jackets, Tool Belts, Hot Wheels Toys, Thermometers, Kitchen Items, SOG Knife Sets, Lights, Camping Bags, Air Hoses, Garden Hoses, Youth Outdoor Toys, and More) - Mary Lou Troutman Framed Print - "St. Mary's County" sign by D. Poe - New Water Buckets - Used Western & English Saddles - More.

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REMEMBRANCES
IN PRINT & ONLINE

County Times

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.

George Jarboe, 80



George Melvin Jarboe, 80, of Charlotte Hall, MD, suddenly passed away on May 2, 2024. On October 9, 1943, George was born to Thomas M. and Virginia Jarboe

in Great Mills, Maryland.

He was a graduate from St. Mary's Seminary Junior College. He had a varied work experience which included road construction, working for Dean's Construction Company, in charge of maintaining facilities at St. Mary's College while maintaining a part-time job on weekends with the Evening Star. He later began working for St. Mary's County Public Works. He was in charge of inspections on roads that developers were seeking to be approved by the County. He then became head of the STS Bus service in the Department of Transportation until retirement in 2005. After his retirement his passion and love for Jesus led him to become a Pastor for Land of Lights Christian Fellowship until 2022.

On May 1, 1987 he married Donna Lee Ellis. They celebrated 37 years, plus 1 day of a wonderful marriage together. Together they shared the joy of three wonderful children, Carolyn Jacobsen (Mick) of Catonsville, MD, Lisa Benton (Steve) of LaPlata, MD, and Michael Ellis (Laurie) of Shrewsbury, PA.

George was predeceased by his parents T. Melvin Jarboe and A. Virginia Hammett Jarboe, and his two brothers, Dr. Patrick Jarboe and David Jarboe.

He is also survived by his seven grandchildren, Simon Rudow, Sam Rudow, Rebecca Benton, Gabrielle Benton, Morgan Ellis, George Ellis and Shannon Ellis.

On Wednesday, May 8, 2024, the family will receive friends for the visitation from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm with prayers at 7:00 pm at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. Another visitation will be held the following day at the funeral home from 9:00 am to 10:00 am with the funeral service beginning at 10:00 am. Interment

will follow after the service at Queen of Peace Cemetery, 38888 Dr Johnson Rd. Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to these ministries that were very close to George's heart:

- Go Ye Ministries, Rev. Jean Ann DiBenedetto, P. O. Box 904, Pt. Pleasant, N. J. 08742
- Dream For Nations at <https://dream-formations.org>
- Joel Hitchcock Evangelistic Ministries at <http://www.joelhitchcock.com>

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

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

Julie Petroff, 66



Julie Ann Petroff, "Jewels", 66, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on May 3, 2024, in Leonardtown, MD. Born on August 15, 1957, in Washington, D.C.,

she was the daughter of Loretta Sayre and David Sayre, both of St. George's Island, MD. Julie was the loving wife of Carl M. Petroff, Sr., whom she married on March 19, 1977, in St. George's United Methodist Church, St. George's Island, MD. She is survived by her children, Carl M. Petroff, Jr. of Mechanicsville, MD and David T. Petroff of Mechanicsville, MD, as well as five grandchildren.

Julie graduated from Great Mills High School in 1975. She was a secretary for the St. Mary's County Board of Education for 42 years, retiring in 2017. Julie was an EMT with the Mechanicsville Vol. Rescue Squad and the Valley Lee Rescue Squad.

The family will receive friends on Monday, May 13, 2024 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 1:00 PM in the funeral home chapel. Interment will be private.

Contributions may be made to the Mechanicsville Vol. Rescue Squad, P.O.

Box 15, Mechanicsville, MD 20653 and/or the Second District Vol Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 1, Valley Lee, MD 20692.

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.

Lynn Buonviri, 77



Lynn Buonviri, age 77, of Leonardtown passed away comfortably on May 2nd at the MedStar St Mary's ICU. Loving family members were at her bedside throughout her time there.

Lynn taught briefly at Great Mills High School, where she met her husband Mike. They were together for 40 years. She left to work for a contractor at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, followed by a job working for the St Mary's Board of Education as an IT.

She loved history and genealogy. She served as Registrar for the Major William Thomas chapter of the DAR, working diligently to help prospective members with the necessary and intense research to become a member. But her most impactful pursuit involved our own local witch, Moll Dyer. Lynn spent 6 years researching online to find the real identity of Moll Dyer. The results appear in her book, available on Amazon and in local shops, called "Moll Dyer and Other Witch Tales of Southern Maryland." The relocation and enhancement of the Moll Dyer rock in downtown Leonardtown is due largely to Lynn's determined efforts. Many attempts, over many years' time, failed to generate enough interest in improving the rock's presentation. But her persistence prevailed, and now it rests in a site of appropriate prominence. Incidentally, every penny of proceeds from the sale of the book went into helping pay for the rock's improvement.

Lynn was also an avid doll collector and sewed her own realistic Civil War clothing that she wore to various shows and talks that she gave. She was a docent for many years

at the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, MD and was involved with the Dr. Samuel Mudd House in Waldorf, MD.

Lynn had 2 sons, David and Thomas Wagner, and 2 grandchildren. Both sons attended St. Mary's County schools. David now lives in Georgia while Thomas resides in Florida.

Lynn fought lung infections for almost 20 years. They were like TB but not curable. She was unrelenting in a daily regimen of activities aimed at minimizing the impact of these bacteria and fungi. Her dedication to this effort was exemplary. Her doctor at Johns Hopkins even asked her to speak to a large audience of young doctors to give them insight into the patient's perspective of handling this type of disease.

In lieu of a funeral service, donations in Lynn's honor may be made to the NTM <https://ntminfo.org/>, an organization working toward a cure for the diseases she had.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Dan Greenwell, 71



Daniel Aloysius Greenwell, age 71, and living in Hollywood, MD, passed away at his home on Saturday, May 4th, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Dan

was born March 20, 1953, in Leonardtown, MD, to Ignatius Valley Greenwell (Nace) and Laura May Greenwell. On November 25, 1972, Dan married the Love of his Life, Sandra Ann Greenwell (Sandy), at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, in Morganza, MD. Together they were married for 51 years. Dan is survived by his children Daniel Ryan Greenwell (Melissa) and Laura Kaitlyn Greenwell, grandchildren Kristin Greenwell, Mason Greenwell, Ashley Greenwell, Megan Greenwell, and Logan Roberts. Surviving siblings are Janet Jenkins, Sharon Booth, and Lisa Elphick (Brian). Dan is predeceased by his parents and brother, Ret. Major Gerry I. Greenwell (Margo).

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Doug Delahay Woodburn
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"love you pumpkin"
Words cannot say
We miss you everyday
Through the month of May
We remember your Birthday

In Memory of
Mary Catherine Kane
Sept. 18, 1924 - Nov. 22, 2019

Mama, your memories are with us on this Mother's Day as they are always. We will never forget the love and care that you gave us. We know you always prayed for us, more than yourself. So happy Mother's Day, Mama.

We love you,
Ellen and Larry

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Financial freedom: A gift to your family

Here's a sobering statistic: 72% of retirees say one of their biggest fears is becoming a burden on their families, according to a study by Edward Jones and the consulting firm Age Wave. If you are near retirement, how can you prepare yourself to become financially free, so you won't have to depend on grown children or other family members?

Here are a few suggestions to consider:

- *Keep adding to retirement savings.* Today, with a greater awareness of healthy lifestyles, many people are spending two, or even three, decades in an active retirement. To help pay for those years, then, you'll likely need to build your retirement savings as much as possible. So, while you're still working, try to contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. If you are in the later stages of your career, possibly close to your peak earning power, you may be able to put in sizable sums every year.
- *Choose an appropriate withdrawal rate.* While it's obviously important to build your retirement savings, it's just as essential to make the money last. Once you retire, you'll want to establish an appropriate withdrawal rate — that is, the amount you can take out each year from your 401(k) and other investments without running the risk of outliving your money. The amount you can safely withdraw each year will depend on a variety of factors, including your age, your account balances, Social Security benefits, inflation, income tax rates and spousal income. In any case, selecting a suitable withdrawal rate can help go a long way toward preserving your financial freedom throughout your retirement.
- *Think about downsizing.* One possible way to boost your savings and add liquidity is to downsize your living arrangements. This may be an attractive option if your children are grown and your current home feels too large. Of course, downsizing is a highly personal decision — if you've lived in your home for many years, have fond memories of raising a family in it and still enjoy the neighborhood, it can certainly be hard to leave. Consequently, you'll need to weigh these emotional factors against the potential financial benefits of moving into a smaller, less expensive space.
- *Prepare for long-term care costs.* If you were ever to need some type of long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home, you could face some sizable expenses, most of which may not be covered by Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan. And clearly, you would not want to put your grown children in a position where they might feel the need to step in financially. To help avoid this possibility, you may want to consult with a financial professional about addressing these costs through strategies that may be appropriate for your needs.

These aren't the only ideas to consider in helping maintain your financial independence and reducing your potential dependence on your family during your retirement years. But taken together, they can give you a good start — so think about putting them to work.

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

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Contributed by David McDonough

Financial Advisor at Edward Jones

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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



Continuing Tour of Little Italy

Isn't it nice to have a treat after you go to the doctor? I love it. My husband and I, after we have our various appointments up the road in DC or in Baltimore, love to try out new areas or new restaurants.

Sometimes we don't know where we will end up to eat, but after my rheumatology appointment on April 25th at Johns Hopkins Bayview, my husband already had Baltimore's Little Italy on his mind; that's fine with me since Italian food is my favorite. Over the years we have tried several restaurants in Little Italy, and of course Vaccaro's Italian pastry shop quite a few times (you have to have cannoli for life to be worthwhile). We found a parking spot quickly and nearly walked into one restaurant on the corner when both of us realized we had already been to that restaurant. You all know, as readers, that I have been on the great lasagna hunt for many years.



So, we ventured to the opposite corner to Chiapparelli's Restaurant at 237 S. High Street where upon entering I could already tell or rather smell that a great lasagna awaited us. The garlic smelled heavenly. When our waitress came to the table she said, "I saw you out walking and hoped you'd come in". I'm so glad we did. The inside is beautiful with warm brickwork, white tablecloths, and candles, just the way a restaurant should be in my mind. After I asked the waitress about the history of the restaurant, I found out her name is Denise, the great niece of the owners, and her maiden name was Pizza (how could she not love working in an Italian restaurant). Her great-grandmother lived across the street from the restaurant. Denise has worked an astounding 50 years at Chiapparelli's but looks like she's decades younger than that could be possible. Denise said that "She is the longest employee, but not the oldest". I also found out how to pronounce Chiapparelli's which I was pronouncing in my head like Che-ahhp-parelli's but is really pronounced as Chipparrelli's.

We had a wonderful time talking to Denise and found out quickly that the Orioles are one of her passions. Denise, my husband, and the man at the next table were doing some serious baseball talk. Denise was telling us about the upcoming St. Anthony's Festival on May 31st which has been going on since the Great Fire of Baltimore which happened February 7th thru February 8th in 1904. The Little Italy website further explains that during the fire: "Someone in the crowd cried out, "Saint Anthony protect us!" A few men present rushed back to Saint Leo's and returned with the statue of Saint Anthony and a vessel of holy water. As Father Monteverde raised his arms in prayer, they made a solemn vow: If their homes and church were spared from the fire, they would hold a yearly festival in honor of Saint Anthony." The tradition continues today with Bocce ball and watching the movie Moonstruck at the Bocce ball area..

The afternoon at Chiapparelli's was fascinating. But the food was out of this world. Warm homemade Italian bread was brought to the table first (something I miss seeing in most restaurants). We were enjoying the bread and perfect Chianti when the salads were brought towards the table which caused my husband and I to stare -the salad was beautiful and piled high with fresh grated parmesan. I am not a salad eater normally, but the homemade dressing had me finishing all but a few bites. It was hard not to eat the tablecloths too since you could smell the lasagna and other dishes cooking. When the lasagna came to the table, I just inhaled the aroma and sighed. That only lasted for a few seconds before I grabbed my fork and dug in. Oh, my goodness it was so delicious. Robert and I both agreed we will end the great Baltimore lasagna hunt at Chiapparelli's.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby. Have a Happy Mother's Day weekend and I hope to see everyone at the Strawberry Festival at our Christ Church, Choptico Parish Hall on Sunday the 19th. Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook.

MARYLAND SENIOR OLYMPICS



2024 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

For men and women aged 50-plus. Out-of-state participants welcome.



Air Gun.....	June 22
Archery.....	Sept. 28
Badminton.....	Sept. 7
Basketball 3-on-3.....	Aug. 10-11
Basketball Skills.....	Aug. 10-11
Billiards.....	Oct. 5-6
Bocce.....	Sept. 12 & Oct. 4
Bowling.....	Aug. 19-20
Cornhole.....	Oct. 13
Cycling 10k Time Trials.....	May 1
Cycling 5k Time Trials.....	June 5
Disc Golf.....	July 20
Diving.....	Sept. 29
Golf.....	Sept. 30
Horseshoes.....	Sept. 7
Pickleball.....	May 16-19
Powerlifting.....	July 14
Racquetball.....	Sept. 4-5
Road Race 5k.....	Aug. 31
Road Race 10k.....	Sept. 22
Shuffleboard.....	Sept. 28
Softball.....	Sept. 7
Soccer 8v8.....	Aug. 17-18
Swimming.....	Sept. 7
Table Tennis.....	July 27
Tennis.....	Sept. 27-29
Track & Field.....	Aug. 3-4
Trap Shooting.....	June 29
Triathlon.....	June 2
Volleyball.....	Aug. 24-25
Walking Events.....	Aug. 3-4
Wii Bowling.....	Sept. 16

Dates subject to change



Details & Registration

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Celebrate the Start of Summer at the Splash Bash Pool Party



St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P) has the announced the upcoming temporary closure of the Great Mills Swimming Pool in preparation for summer, outdoor operations.

The Great Mills Swimming Pool will be closed from Thursday, May 16, 2024, through Friday, May 24, 2024, for removal of the dome bubble and completion of bi-annual maintenance for the outdoor pool season. The outdoor pool will reopen on Saturday, May 25, 2024.

Join us to celebrate the reopening and start of the summer season on Sunday, May 26, 2024, from 1 – 4 p.m. for our Splash Bash Pool Party! Featuring fun pool games

and music, this event is sure to be a blast for the entire family. Please note daily/open swim admission pricing applies.

Visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/pool for admission prices, hours, membership information, to register for summer programs, to reserve the pool for parties, and more! Note: 2024 summer hours will include daytime open swim options for the season, beginning on Monday, June 10, 2024, through Friday, August 16, 2024.

The Great Mills Swimming Pool is located at 21100 Great Mills Road in Great Mills; questions on pool operations may be directed to R&P pool staff at (301) 866-6560.

Mental Health and Wellness Education Fair

The Mental Health and Wellness Education Fair will take place on Saturday, May 18 at the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. St. Mary's County Public Schools are partnering with the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership to host approximately 50 community partners including Mental and Behavioral Health Providers, guest speakers, mini-educational sessions, and other wellness support services.

Guest speakers will provide information on Teen Dating Violence, Teen Mental Health, QPR Suicide Prevention, Psychotropic Medications, and Internet Safety including Human Trafficking. Mini Educational Sessions will be offered on the

following topics: Signs and Symptoms of Mental Health Concerns, Disordered Eating, Healthy Eating Habits, Building Emotional Well-being, Understanding and Supporting Identities, Addiction Awareness, and Stress Management. Therapy pets, hearing and vision screening, nutritional information, and dental hygiene kits will be on-site. Admission is free and transportation from Lexington Park Elementary School, George Washington Carver Elementary School, and Greenview Knolls Elementary School will be available.

For more information, please contact Robin Schrader, Supervisor of Mental Health Services, at 301-475-5511, ext. 32198.



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percent of the graduating students.

While initially we didn't get much support from the Sheriff's Department, gradually deputies began to volunteer to chaperone. Skip Stewart, a retired corporal volunteered at Project Graduation for 27 years.

In the beginning there was opposition from a segment of the students who were going to boycott the program and from parents who said that the students wouldn't come because it was a different way to celebrate graduation. We sponsored a contest to design a graphic for Project Graduation and Charles Pliesse, son of a local attorney who was graduating from Leonardtown High School, was the winner and the design was used on printed material, tee shirts and other graphics to encourage attendance.

Since the retirement of Walter Dorsey as State's Attorney and this writer's retirement, Project Graduation has successfully succeeded in keeping young people safe year after year. For a number of years, other county agencies took the lead. Joe Dick, who was with the prevention office, and later Joe Donnick and Kelsey Bush were the major organizers of the event each year.

St. Mary's Circuit Court Judge Joseph Stanalonis, a graduate of Chopticon High School who personally experienced Project Graduation when he graduated, led the State's Attorney's Office's efforts to keep things going until 2018.

Stanalonis said that the "proof is in the pudding" because there have been no fatal

accidents attributed to graduates celebrating for 39 years.

St. Mary's County led the state with the first Project Graduation event in 1984 and the creation of a manual and blueprint and speakers from the St. Mary's State's Attorney's Office and Maryland State Police helped to start a program in other counties.

As Judge Stanalonis says, the program was designed to keep young people from drinking and driving and it has accomplished that for 39 years. But another benefit of the program which should not be underestimated is the interaction between police officers and the graduates. They played together, ate together and laughed together. We learned this would work to help establish camaraderie between cops and kids the first year. When the Chopticon kids arrived at their party, they stepped off the bus and were greeted by Sgt. Simms at the door. As several boys passed by, they shook Simms' hand and said, "Hi John." At that point we realized that a bridge between the young people and the police was taking place.

Current State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling is a continuing supporter of Project Graduation and is committed to continuing to provide the program within St. Mary's as long as it is "ethically and legally" funded. Her budget request this year asks the county for adequate funding to provide the event to six schools with graduating seniors.

Museums Offer Free Admission for Moms on Mother's Day

On Mother's Day, May 12, 2024, St. Clement's Island Museum in Colton's Point and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum in Piney Point, will offer free museum admission for moms during normal operating hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please note regular admission prices apply to others in the party:

- St. Clement's Island Museum: \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children (6-18), \$2 for seniors and military, and free for those 5 and under. St. Clement's Island Water Taxi rides are not included in this promotion. Water taxi rides are \$7 per person (all ages), which includes museum admission.
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum: \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children (6-18), seniors and military, and free for those

5 and under.

- Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center: always free admission for all!

The Museum Stores at all three locations are open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and showcase a broad assortment of unique items – from books to jewelry, to children's products, home accessories, and offerings from local artisans and authors, there is something for everyone.

For more information on this promotion, 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.

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Project Graduation Celebrates 40 Years

By Florence Ballengee
Contributing Writer

Forty years ago I was in my office in the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office when then State's Attorney Walter B. Dorsey came in and told me about a news report he watched about a program in the State of Maine that provided parties after graduation to keep the graduates safe from drunk driving accidents. It came about because of five deaths following graduation attributed to drinking and driving. He promised the funding and his only instruction was to "make it happen." He expressed his desire for all graduates, from each neighborhood, each race and each school to have this program available to them.

Initially the idea was not greeted warmly by students and by parents. The way in which some parents had handled the drinking and driving issue was to provide alcohol to underage people and then take their car keys so they couldn't leave the parties. While this method may have kept some control, it did not eliminate the problem completely and many years there were alcohol related accidents with injury and death among St. Mary's graduates. It also set a poor example for the students to know that parents were ignoring the law regarding the legal age for alcohol consumption.

With little to go on other than an idea, I contacted Sgt. John Simms who was the Crime Prevention Officer for the

Leonardtown Barracks of the Maryland State Police. We met and formed a partnership between the State's Attorney's Office and the Maryland State Police that has endured for 40 years.

Documenting our work along the way, we met with Dr. Lorton, then superintendent of the county schools, and Naval Air Station Messes and Recreation staff and presented programs to various organizations hoping to garner the support of volunteers. Our first offer of financial support came from James Manning McKay, owner of McKay's Super Markets.

The first year we paid the Navy a small amount to use the drill hall and to provide breakfast for the graduates, four nights in a row following each graduation ceremony.

As time went on, we developed a "family" of committed volunteers. Major Gary Cox and his wife Debbie, Det. Sgt. Don Holloway and his wife Georgia, and other troopers and their wives and deputies and their wives, the Optimist members, volunteer bus drivers, Corporal Skip Stewart and his wife Kathy and other members of the local law enforcement community stepped up to help.

The State's Attorney's Office provided and funded an education program each year in each school to educate students about the dangers of drinking and driving. Notable speakers were contracted, vehicles that had been involved in fatal accidents were towed to school properties and other evidence demonstrating the results of too much alcohol and driving were provided.

In 1985, the 7th District Optimist Club joined us in a way that could never have been imagined. They provided manpower, all night food and drinks and a breakfast in the morning. The Optimist Club members interacted with the young people and completely handled the food service four nights in a row. Initially it was just the 7th District Optimists and they then recruited the other Optimist groups in the county. This formed a strong alliance of support for the Project Graduation program. Eddie Bailey used his catering trailer and much of the food was purchased at cost from Johnny Wood at Wood's Supermarket which was located in Mechanicsville. The Optimist slogan "Friend of Youth" was truly earned that year and every year since by the Optimist Clubs in this county.

We wrote to every parent of every graduating senior at all four high schools explaining the program and we enclosed a contract we designed for the young people and their parents to agree to and sign. Every graduate and their one allowed guest had to come on the bus and leave on the bus unless they were picked up by a parent from the party.

Because the State's Attorney's Office is an incredibly busy office, we needed to recruit help for typing, copying, and many other clerical tasks related to an event such as Project Graduation. We solved this through Al Smith, the Director of the Detention Center, who found us an inmate trustee to help with all kinds of clerical and other tasks including typing (pre-computers) several thousand letters to the parents

of graduating seniors. Then Assistant State's Attorney Joe Mattingly, Jr. would go over to the jail each morning and bring the inmate to our office where he would spend the day working. Sad to say that inmate was killed when struck by a car and we were all devastated at the loss of his life and of his presence in our office over many months. He had brightened each workday with his presence.

Between the work of Sgt. Simms and the Maryland State Police and the State's Attorney's Office we were able to provide chaperons for the all-night event. Sgt. Simms recruited volunteer bus drivers to transport the graduates immediately following graduation to the base and home again in the morning. Among those volunteers several drivers were always there to help us without our having to ask. Bucky and Kitty Belleare, both school bus drivers have driven students to Project Graduation for many years. Bucky recruited other drivers and assisted us in many ways.

As we progressed toward our first year of Project Graduation, we had been compiling information and writing what could best be described as a blueprint for other jurisdictions to follow to establish their own parties. Sgt. Simms arranged for us to take students to State Police headquarters in Pikesville to have videos made to encourage other jurisdictions to start programs and to encourage our own young people to attend.

We were ecstatic when the first year the attendance at Project Graduation was 85

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Museums to Host Monthly Outdoor Activities



All ages are invited to enjoy new outdoor activities while visiting the St. Clement's Island Museum or the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum on the second Saturday of the month throughout the year.

These activities encourage visitors to explore nature and the outdoors through curiosity and play. Modeled loosely after "Forest School" learning styles in Denmark and Sweden, the Nature & Forest Play for All Ages Series encourages discovering nature through hands-on, tactile, "no right or wrong way to play" experiences. Age is not a factor; adults need to connect with nature in relaxing, simple ways, just as much as children do!

Themed activities will be held on the following dates and times. Price is included in regular museum admission. Save the dates and call ahead to pre-register!

St. Clement's Island Museum (38370 Point Breeze Road in Colton's Point):

- June 8, 2024 (12 p.m. – 2 p.m.): Flower SMASH!
- October 12, 2024 (12 p.m. – 2 p.m.): Spooky Ghost Leaves

More information: (301) 769-2222 or Facebook.com/SCIMuseum

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum (44720 Lighthouse Road in Piney Point):

- May 11, 2024 (12 p.m. – 2 p.m.): Bugs!
- August 10, 2024 (12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. for families and children; 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. for adults): Beach Combing
- September 14, 2024 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.): FamilyFest on the Potomac
- November 9, 2024 (12 p.m. – 2 p.m.): Outdoor Autumn Play Skills and Forest Stories
- December 14, 2024 (12 p.m. – 2 p.m.): The Christmas Spider

More information: (301) 994-1471 or Facebook.com/1836Light

Registration is not required but encouraged so that we can ensure enough materials for participants. Please call the location ahead of time and let our team know which session(s) you would like to attend. All these activities are included in regular museum admission. Play is rain or shine if there are no safety concerns (e.g., heat advisory, heavy winds, lightning, blizzard conditions, etc.). Please also call location for more information on the weathering-out policy.

Pet of the Week

MEET PENNY



Old friends are the best friends!

Have you found a lucky Penny lately? Well, my name is Penny and I'm definitely one you won't want to pass up! I'm a FABULOUS 10-year-old Lab mix and I'm in search of MY FOREVER HOME. I'm a SEASONED PRO at snuggles, housebreaking, and being an all-around GOOD GIRL. Come scoop me up because I'm a GOLDEN OLDIE who deserves a loving retirement home with someone just like you. Hurry on down to meet me! I'm waiting! Adoption hours are Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 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>



FOLK LIFE 2024 SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Join us to celebrate the 4th annual Folklife Summer Workshops! Support community-based living and the cultural traditions of Southern Maryland.



Funding is provided by the Maryland State Arts Council. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



May 18

- Making Stuffed Ham (2 day workshop)
- Gelli Printmaking Workshop
- Environmental Youth Workshop

Located at St. Mary's College of Maryland, the Center offers a variety of workshops and programs that showcase and preserve traditional art forms.

Workshops will be held at St. Mary's College of Maryland



FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION go to www.somdfolklife.org, or scan the QR Code



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AN OUTDOOR IMMERSION
EXPERIENCE WHERE CAMPERS
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ENVIRONMENT, AND EACH
OTHER THROUGH HANDS-ON
INTERACTION WITH NATURE.

Dates
JULY 15-18
2024

Time
9AM-2PM

Ages
7-14
YEARS OLD

Cost
\$225

Activities

- ✓ Daily Prayer
- ✓ Fishing and Crabbing
- ✓ Canoeing
- ✓ Swimming
- ✓ Arts and Crafts
- ✓ Ecosystem awareness
and bay health activities

Camp Maria Retreat Center

41290 Camp Maria Rd
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Register Online At
campmaria.org



More Information

+301-475-8330 campmaria.org





SUNSET CRUISES

@ Leonardtown Wharf

Cruise Breton Bay to St. Clement's Island with Captain Phil select Fridays & Saturdays beginning May 25



Schedule & Tickets at VisitStMarysMD.com/cruises

mdsunset.com | 301-904-0935

Leonardtown Wharf

COASTAL ARTS MARKET

Artist • Crafters • Makers
Local Handmade Products

Saturday • May 18th
9AM – 3PM

coastalartsmarket.blogspot.com
[instagram.com/coastalartsmarketpark](https://www.instagram.com/coastalartsmarketpark)

REN-FEST SOUTHERN MD

May 25, 2024 10 AM - 8 PM
at Brüdergarten Beer Garden
22725 Duke Street, Leonardtown, MD

<p>ON THE SCHEDULE: Live Bands & Entertainment Food & Drink Visiting Local Brewers Demonstrations Re-enactments Laser Tag Artisans & Vendors Children's Activities Petting Zoo & Pony Rides</p>	<p>PRE-SALE TICKETS: Available at SOF Market Adults: \$10 Kids 3-12: \$5 Kids 2 & under: Free</p> <p>At the Door: Adults: \$12 Kids 3-12: \$6 Kids 2 & under: Free</p> <p>Cash only</p>
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Rain or shine event! RenFest garb encouraged!
No weapons allowed including costume and prop items.

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- Men's Cuts
- Beard Trims
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Inside Shepherd's Old Field Market

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Leonardtown

SIDEWALK SALE

SALE

JUNE 1, 2024

Sales & Specials throughout the Town



EXPLORE Leonardtown

LEONARDTOWN Spring Calendar

WHARF	SQUARE	LTOWN ALLEY	BUSINESS
MAY 18	Coastal Arts Market at the Wharf 10 am - 3 pm		
MAY 18	Fenwick Street Books: Book Fair in LTown Alley 10 am - 4 pm		
MAY 18	On the Water's Edge Concert ft. Cover Your 6 Military Appreciation Concert 5 pm - 7 pm		
MAY 21	Third Tuesday Tunes in the Square ft. Chris Dean 10 am - 3 pm		
MAY 25	RenFest SOMD - Brudergarten & Viking Axe Throwing 10 am - 8 pm		
MAY 25	Leonardtwn Vol. Rescue Squad EMS Week Event 10 am - 3 pm		

Leonardtwn is blooming with events - For all events & activities, visit: www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/EventsCalendar

TRACK THE TROLLEY

RIDE THE LEONARDTOWN TROLLEY

RIDE THE TROLLEY! THIS SUMMER

APRIL 19 - OCTOBER 26

FRI: 5 PM - 10 PM
SAT: 5 PM - 10 PM

FREE TROLLEY RIDES!

New Stop Added! New Stop in Singletree located at the Board of Education Bldg. on Moakley St. & Miss Bessie Dr.

The Old Jail Museum

Open Daily 10am to 5pm
41625 Courthouse Dr., Leonardtown, MD
stmarysmd.com/recreate/oldjail

New View Fiber Works LLC

SHOP LOCAL!

UNIQUE GIFTS MADE BY LOCAL WOMEN WE WILL WRAP IT!

**WED & THU 10-4
FRI & SAT 10-5**

301-475-FUZZ (3899)
22696 Washington St. ★ Leonardtown, MD 20650

www.NewViewFiberWorks.com

Farmers Markets Open for the 2024 Season



St. Mary's County is home to three county-sponsored farmers markets, where you can shop for fresh produce, locally raised meats and seafood, flowers, baked goods, local wines, spirits, and more! St. Mary's County Government encourages all community members to visit The Barns at New Market, Home Grown Farm Market, and the California Farmers Market this season!

Home Grown Farm Market

- Open year-round
- Hours: Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Location: 21078 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park
- Information: www.facebook.com/HomeGrownFarmMarket

The Barns at New Market

- Open March 30th through October 26th
- Hours: Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (inside and outside), and Wednesday – Saturday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (limited out-

side vendors).

- Location: 29133 Thompson Corner Road, Mechanicsville
- Information: www.facebook.com/TheBarnsAtNewMarket

California Farmers Market

- Open April 27th through November 23rd
- Hours: Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Location: BAE parking lot at the intersection of Rt. 235 and Town Creek Drive, California
- Information: www.facebook.com/CaliforniaBAEFarmersMarket

Additional information about St. Mary's County Farmers Markets can be found at www.visitstmarysmd.com/farmersmarkets.

Questions may be directed to the Department of Economic Development, via email to lisa.ledman@stmaryscountymd.gov or by phone at (240) 309-4022.

Free Document Shredding Event Saturday

It's time to clean out your filing cabinets and desks to get rid of confidential, private, or important personal documents that you no longer need to keep!

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) will host their 16th annual Community Shredding Event on Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 8 a.m. – noon at the St. Andrews Landfill, located at 44837 St. Andrews Church Road.

This community event gives residents the opportunity to have their confidential, private, and important documents destroyed by a professional shredding service at no cost. This type of shredding turns sensitive documents into confetti-sized pieces, ensuring

that confidential material cannot be copied. All paper material shredded during the event will then be recycled.

Please refrain from bringing materials that are not confidential in nature, such as newspapers and magazines (acceptable for recycling at the six Convenience Centers) as they will cause the truck to fill up more quickly. The shredder can handle simple staples, paper clips, spiral notebooks, and thin metal prongs, however it cannot accept 3 ring binders. Please limit the number of boxes you bring to 3 standard bankers' boxes (10"H x 12"W x 15" D) per person so we can serve as many residents as possible.

For more information, please call DPW&T at (301) 475-4200, ext. 3550.

Information & Resources For Older Adults

Aging & Disability Resource Center

23115 Leonard Hall Drive
Leonardtwn, MD
301-475-4200, ext. 1057

Garvey Senior Activity Center

23630 Hayden Farm Ln,
Leonardtwn, MD
301-475-4200, ext. 1064

Northern Senior Activity Center

29655 Charlotte Hall Rd,
Charlotte Hall, MD
301-475-4200, ext. 3104

Loffler Senior Activity Center

21905 Chancellors Run Rd,
Great Mills, MD
301.475.4200, ext. 1654



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46-Oz., Selected
Turkey Hill
Ice Cream

2/\$7



25 To 28-Oz., Selected
Banquet
Family Size Entrees

2/\$7



9.8 To 14.8-Oz., Selected
Eggo Frozen
Pancakes Or Waffles

SALE PRICE **2/\$6**
DIGITAL COUPON
1.00
OFF TWO

FINAL PRICE **2/\$5**



Original Or Honey
Kretschmar
Off The Bone Ham
5.98Lb.



Deli Fresh!
Kretschmar
Mild Cheddar Cheese
5.98Lb.

Bakery & Deli Fresh

10.5-Oz.
Two-Bite
Brownies

4.98



9.3-Oz. Sour Cream Or Nutty Crumb
Bakery Fresh
Dunkers

3.98



49-Oz., Double Layer
Luscious
Lemon Cake
10.98



8-Inch
Bakery Fresh
Blueberry Pie
5.98



Bakery Fresh!
6-Count
Croissants
4.98



Liquor and Beer

10-Oz. Cans
24-Pack
Bud Light

19.89



12-Oz. Bottles
12-Pack
Blue Moon

17.99



12-Oz. Cans
18-Pack
Miller Lite

14.99



12-Oz. Bottles
18-Pack
Budweiser Beer

18.99



1.75L
Jim
Beam

28.99



1.75L
Tito's
Vodka

30.49



750mL
1800
Tequila Reposado

30.99



1.75L
Crown
Royal

42.99



750-ML
Ecco Domani
Pino Grigio

10.98



750-ml., Selected
Apothic
Red Wine

11.98

Wine of the Month

750mL Selected
Coppola Wines

10.99



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NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET

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10-Lb. Chub, 75% Lean
Fresh
Ground Beef

2.98 Lb.

Frozen Or Previously Frozen, Tray Pack
Boneless & Skinless
Chicken Breast

2.18 Lb.

1-Pc
Baby Back
Pork Ribs

2.98 Lb.

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3.48 12-Oz. Selected
Smithfield Sliced
Bacon



7.98 27.2-Oz., Selected
Prairie Fresh
Pork Loin Filet



1.68 Lb. USDA Inspected
Boston Butt
Pork Roast



4.98 16-Oz., Regular Or Spicy
Curly's Pulled
Pork BBQ



5.98 1-Lb., 16/20-Ct., P&D, Tail On
Southern Seas Jumbo
EZ Peel Raw Shrimp



2/\$5

2-Lb.
Snow Floss
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Previously Frozen
Catfish
Fillets

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Delicious!
Fresh
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15.99 Lb. Delicious!
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Crab Clusters

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COUPON REDEEMABLE 5/3/24 - 5/5/24
*LIMIT ONE FREE ITEM PER HOUSEHOLD
*NO BRANDS ARE AVAILABLE
*TAXES WHERE APPLICABLE



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2 Liter Coke
Products
2/\$4



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Selected
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15 To 16 Oz., Selected
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Load Friday 5/3/24 ONLY and redeem by Sunday 5/5/24



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13.54-Oz., Selected
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SALE PRICE **2/\$6**
DIGITAL COUPON 1.00 OFF TWO
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20-Oz., Easy Squeeze
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DIGITAL COUPON 1.00 OFF TWO
FINAL PRICE **2/\$4**



20-Oz., Easy Squeeze
Heinz Ketchup
SALE PRICE **2/\$6**
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FINAL PRICE **2/\$5**

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WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
8	9	10	11	12	13	14

PRICES GOOD FROM
May 8 THRU May 14, 2024

WE ACCEPT:



STORE HOURS:

Monday - Saturday 7am to 9 pm
SUNDAY 8 am to 7 pm

THE **Wentworth** Weekly
Great Gifts for Mom
 Mother's Day this Sunday, May 12th!

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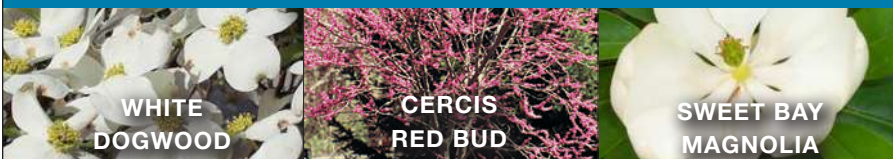


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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Test Pilot School Students Evaluate Orion Spacecraft at NASA

As part of a technical exchange with NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, 24 test pilots under instruction from the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division's (NAWCAD) U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) were invited to spend a week at NASA to evaluate the Orion spacecraft controls and displays during orbital maneuvering and re-entry procedures. The Johnson Space Center is where astronauts primarily train for their missions to space.

The technical exchange is a two-week segment of the intense, 11-month USNTPS curriculum that gives students exposure to other agencies, governments, and organizations that perform flight tests at different classifications and technology levels. This year, students spent one week of that exchange experience at NASA.

"Test Pilot School teaches students not only how to test aircraft, but any system, software, or vehicle for any potential missions," said Cmdr. Jeffrey Webb, fixed-wing flight instructor at USNTPS. "The evaluation of the Orion spacecraft gave them opportunity to broaden their experience and think about flight testing in an unfamiliar system, performing unfamiliar tasks, to accomplish an unfamiliar mission."

Capt. Adam Klein is Chief Test Pilot for NAWCAD's Atlantic Test Ranges (ATR) at Patuxent River, Maryland. He is also a fixed wing flight instructor at USNTPS and is employed by NASA as a research pilot. He temporarily stepped away from his NASA duties when he was recalled to active duty at ATR and USNTPS supporting his Navy Reserve status.

"Our students performed a simulated hand-flown, manual re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere after a return trajectory from the moon," said Klein, who explained this was the first time USNTPS students were given such a dynamic Orion test by NASA.

"The students were asked to evaluate the human-machine interface of Orion while attempting to capture and maintain very specific flight parameters such as vehicle pitch, roll, and yaw, all while preserving maneuvering fuel in an attempt to successfully splashdown in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California."

According to Klein, NASA uses an in-house team of engineers in a Rapid Prototyping Laboratory (RPL) to develop the interface for their spacecraft. The engineers at the RPL get a set of high-level requirements for a control or a display of a spacecraft, then conduct rapid prototyping either through 3D printing of hardware or the generation of software, followed by evaluation of their design by astronauts.

According to Webb, the students provided



U.S. Naval Test Pilot School students Lt. Nathaniel Kruder and Lt. Guy Williams evaluate the human-machine interface of the Orion spacecraft for NASA. (U.S. Navy photo)

feedback to the RPL relating to the accuracy and precision with which they were able to capture re-entry orientation, refine their landing zone, and complete terminal maneuvers prior to splashdown.

"This gives the RPL immediate feedback to make necessary changes before moving on to the next design task," said Klein. Only when the design is finalized is it then sent to the vendor to make flight-ready hardware and software for the aircraft.

"NASA routinely invites USNTPS to return," said Klein. "They get valuable feedback from a unique perspective since not all astronauts have a test pilot background."

Some of the feedback from USNTPS students over the years has actually been integrated into design changes for the Orion spacecraft that will be bringing humans back to the moon as part of the Artemis campaign.

USNTPS is a component of Naval Test Wing Atlantic, test wing under the NAWCAD, located at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland.

NAWCAD employs more than 17,000 military, civilian and contract personnel. It operates test ranges, laboratories and aircraft in support of test, evaluation, research, development and sustainment of everything flown by the Navy and Marine Corps. Based in Patuxent River, Maryland, the command also has major sites in St. Inigo, Maryland, Lakehurst, New Jersey, and Orlando, Florida.

Fraud Suspect Sought

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office seeks assistance identifying and locating the individual in this picture regarding suspected fraudulent purchases. The victim inadvertently dropped his debit card in a convenience store and later that day received notification from his bank that it was being used at various businesses in the community.



If you know who this individual is, please contact Deputy Shanna Peters at Shanna.Peters@stmaryscountymd.gov or 301-475-4200, ext. 8186. Please reference case number 21219-24.

Tipsters can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or send a text to Crime Solvers at 274637. Type "Tip239" in the message block and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

Note: Tip239 is case-sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown. With Crime Solvers, you never have to give your name. If your information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a cash reward.

Letters to the Editor

Popularity or qualifications?

Will the election for St. Mary's County Judge be decided based upon a popularity contest or solely upon qualifications? If a popularity contest, Sue Armitage is a well known and well liked "County Girl" with over 30 years in private practice majoring in Family Law, i.e. Divorce Lawyer. She has not served as a prosecutor or as a Judge. Her criminal law experience does not compare to that of Judge Amy.

Judge Amy had to go through an extensive screening process to be appointed by

Governor Hogan to fill a vacancy. She has nearly 20 years in private practice with experience in dealing with civil and criminal cases. She served as Assistant District Attorney for St. Mary's County, and she has proven herself as a Judge. It is important that a Judge have experience as both a prosecutor and as a defender, as Amy does. Vote qualifications. Vote to keep Judge Amy.

*Joe Wible, Sr.
Leonardtown*

'Two highly qualified candidates'

I had the good fortune to attend virtually and in-person debates between Amy Lorenzini and Sue Ann Armitage who are seeking election to St. Mary's County Circuit Court. I came away with the opinion that the citizens of the county are fortunate that we have two highly qualified candidates for this prestigious position. Since I did not know either candidate well, I relied on input from friends, elected officials and folks from the legal profession to better understand their qualifications, legal capabilities and judicial temperament. In particular, I wanted to better understand their respective legal

knowledge, as well as, their reasoning on the spirit of the law. Will they show compassion and understanding, as well as strict punishment for the bad actors who pray on our citizenship?

I came away with enough information to decide on supporting Sue Ann Armitage for our next Circuit Court Judge. I believe she will do an exemplary job with this most important position. I plan on voting for Sue Ann Armitage for Circuit Court Judge.

*James J. Davis
Leonardtown*

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF DISINTERMENT AND REINTERMENT

Authorization has been requested from the State's Attorney's Office for St. Mary's County, Maryland to disinter the remains of John Matthew Ennis from Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. He will be re-interred with his Parents, John Matthew Ennis and Lori Mullins, parents, at Arlington National Cemetery, 1 Memorial Avenue, Arlington, VA 22211. This request is being made by John Matthew Ennis and Lori Mullins Ennis his parents.



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MAY 15, 2024

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 - BOOTHE'S HEATING, AIR, PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL
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 - CEDAR POINT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
 - CHARLES CO. PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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 - CHOICE COMPANIES
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 - COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MD
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 - PERSONALIZED THERAPY, LLC
 - PLUMBERS AND GASFITTERS LOCAL 5 APPRENTICESHIP
 - PROVIDENCE OF MARYLAND
 - PSIPAX, INC
 - RELIABLE CONTRACTING, COMPANY, INC.
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Fire Destroys California Home



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Two people, a resident and a firefighter, were treated for non-life-threatening injuries following a blaze the evening of May 4 on Magnolia Lane that destroyed a single-family home.

The blaze took 70 firefighters 45 minutes to extinguish; emergency radio traffic during the response showed there were

three tanker trucks assigned to fight the fire.

One apparatus came from as far away as Benedict.

The estimated loss of the home was total at \$450,000, according to the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office.

Fire investigators have ruled the cause of the fire as accidental: the fire began within the attached two-car garage.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Wanted: Dimarian Eltrek Logan

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking Dimarian Eltrek Logan for escape. On Tuesday, May 7, 2024, Logan, an incarcerated individual at the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, was wearing a GPS device while on an approved furlough. Correctional Officers received a tamper alert from the GPS device and responded to the location of the alert, where the device was found in a bathroom trashcan.

Logan is a black male, 6' tall, weighing 175 pounds.

Anyone with information about Logan's whereabouts is asked to contact Detective Joseph Bowling at Joseph.Bowling@stmaryscountymd.gov or 301-475-4200, ext. 1959.

Tipsters can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or send a text to Crime Solvers at 274637. Type "Tip239" in the message block and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

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



Dimarian Eltrek Logan

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Talk to Brandie at bedelen@luckyinlove.info or (240) 298-8339

By Authority of Friends of Brandie Edelen, Luis Mejia Treasurer

Men's Health Day: A Blueprint for Wellness

The Department of Aging & Human Services
is pleased to offer the third annual

Men's Health Day: A Blueprint for Wellness!

Garvey Senior Activity Center
23630 Hayden Farm Lane - Leonardtown, MD

Saturday, June 1, 2024

9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Pre-Registration is strongly encouraged.

Register at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/MensHealth

Presentations

Promoting Prostate Health

Presented by: Hillary McDonald, PA-C, Chesapeake Urology Associates

9:30-10:30 a.m.

Planning Ahead

Advance Health Care Directives, Hospice Services, and more!

Presented by: Rachael Okun, LCSW-C, Hospice of St. Mary's County

11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Mission BBQ Lunch provided - 12:30 p.m.

Informational Displays & Health Screenings include:

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital - Blood Pressure and Body Composition Screenings

Lions Club - Vision Screenings

St. Mary's County Health Department

St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks

AARP



For more information, contact Sarah Miller

Phone: 301-475-4200, ext. 1073 - Email: sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov

St. Mary's Celebrates Nurses Week

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Nursing is at the core of the health care profession and Loren Stauffer, a nursing leader at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, along with her team is focused on ensuring their nurses are the best they can be.

Stauffer, a county native, has deep experience in both intensive care, trauma, and emergency department nursing from her time practicing in Baltimore and in St. Mary's after returning home in 2015.

Now she heads the Quality, Safety and Health Information Management department of the hospital, which works to ensure that patients receive the best care possible.

"My department drives and focuses on the best quality of care we can give," Stauffer told The County Times. "This is my county; I grew up here. I want to make sure when they come here, they get the best care possible."

This week is Nurses Week, where communities honor caregivers for their constant work to treat and heal the sick and injured.

Stauffer, who holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in nursing as well as continuing to be a registered nurse, said health care is constantly evolving and nurses have to be given the time and tools to grow and improve.

"We want to make sure we're adapting and can change with it," Stauffer said of her profession.

Her department and team have established a program that helps nurses with less than a year on the job to broaden their education and preparedness and support them in their careers.

The program helps them take the broad skillset they already have after nursing school and sharpen it.

"She's constantly looking at outcomes," said Holly Meyer, the hospital's director of public relations. "That's to make sure we're delivering excellent care."

Stauffer said nurses have to be able to trust their training and instincts when they meet patients.

"One of the things I tell them is that their superpower is their assessment skills," Stauffer said. "It's a wholistic assessment;

you're looking at the whole person."

Nurses have to be able to see how patients behave when they are talking about what ails them, Stauffer said, and not just their reported symptoms.

Nurses have to be able to notice differences in their patients each time they interact with them and form a connection with them, Stauffer said.

"You have to learn to listen," said Stauffer. "You have to listen to learn and not listen to respond."

With all of the work they do, nurses often see people at their worst moment and the profession can wear them down; Meyer said the hospital works to support nurses to ensure they avoid burnout on the job.

"There was the idea once that only the tough nurses survive," Meyer said. "We're not of that philosophy."

"The more they're trained, the better the outcome for their patient."

Stauffer said nurses are key to ensuring patient care and treatment because they work with patients and all the other departments in the hospital that help with their diagnosis.

"The nurse is going to be able to pick up on a subtle change in their patient," Stauffer said, which they will relay to doctors, lab technicians or other specialists such as respiratory therapists and radiologists.

"To have that collaboration is super important," Stauffer said. "The list goes on; it's a whole team approach."

The nursing team, as well as the entire hospital, is pursuing what is known as a Magnet certification from the American Nursing Credentialing Center, which would distinguish MedStar St. Mary's as a hospital where nurses are keen to stay with their profession and provide much better than average patient care.

Stauffer said attaining such an award would make the hospital a "showcase of nursing excellence."

"It's not an easy achievement by any means," Stauffer said.

Meyer said the hospital has been seeking the designation for the past 15 years and that only about 6 percent of hospitals nationwide have the designation.

The Leapfrog Group, a national health



Loren Stauffer

care watchdog group that advocates for patient safety and quality care, recently bestowed the grade of "A" to MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, owing in part to the quality of nursing staff there.

The hospital is concerned with keeping its nursing staff strong and constantly learning and improving in providing patient care and sharing knowledge with those entering the profession.

"We want to grow from within," Stauffer

said.

Stauffer said nurses have more than earned a special week to have them and their profession honored.

"Every nurse has something that drives them," Stauffer said. "It's not for the faint of heart."

"Having a week to recognize that hard work is important."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Happy Nurses' Week!

This Nurses' Week and always, we offer a **big thank you** to all of our incredible **MedStar St. Mary's Hospital** nurses! Your expertise, knowledge, and compassion make all the difference to our patients, their families, and our community. We are so grateful to have you on our team.

It's how we treat people.



MedStar Health

Medical Center Expansion Approved



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county planning commission got what it desired, at least in part, when the traffic engineer for the expansion project of the Philip J. Bean/MedStar medical center in Hollywood came to speak on traffic impacts the new, 53,994 square-foot building would bring to the current facility's intersection on Route 235.

The newly proposed facility would effectively double the footprint of the medical building there and two weeks ago the planning commission held off on approving the concept site plan.

The continuance was largely based on the planning board's dissatisfaction with the assertion that the entrance and exit intersection would remain at a level of service "C" — a state rating — despite the doubling of the facility's footprint and concurrent increase in traffic volume.

Mike Lenhart of Lenhart Traffic Consulting, told planning commission members, that his group's traffic study met with the approval of both county and state planning staff.

The State Highway Administration con-

firmed, Lenhart said at the May 6 continuance hearing, that the study was approved without a median acceleration lane for traffic turning left onto north bound Route 235 after crossing the two southbound lanes.

"If they deemed out study inadequate, and there were failures that required it [a northbound acceleration lane], they would have required a median acceleration lane," Lenhart said.

Lenhart said the project did not preclude such improvements in the future if they became necessary.

The traffic signals to the left and right of the medical center entrance on Route 235 — one at Airport View Drive and the other at St. John's Road — provide gaps in traffic approximately every two minutes, to allow for exiting the facility's property, Lenhart said.

"I don't see a problem with the project; there never was a problem with the project itself," said planning commission chair Howard Thompson. "I think most of this board was worried about the safety part of it."

The planning commission voted unanimously to approve the concept site plan.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Early Voting Numbers Remain Low

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Only a small fraction of St. Mary's registered voters have taken advantage of the week set aside for early voting, the latest numbers from the state Board of Elections.

The lack of apparent interest in the primary election led Commissioner Eric Colvin to implore voters to take advantage of the few remaining days of early voting left.

Today is the final day to cast an early ballot.

"I've talked to people all across the political spectrum; early voting — we're doing too much as a state," Colvin said. "It costs a lot of money and a lot of volunteer time to run these three early voting centers for as long as we do."

In speaking both with Democrats and Republicans, Colvin said, both agreed that the early voting period could be shortened.

"It'd be great if it was from a Friday to a Monday..." Colvin said. "These early voting centers aren't being used and it's your tax payer dollars that go to pay for them."

The early voting numbers per day have scarcely broken 500 voters between all three sites combined, and have fallen well below that on at least two occasions.

Early voting numbers reached their height on May 7, the sixth day, with 619 voters coming out between all three sites.

So far just 3.74 percent of county voters have come out for early voting; there are 75,743 registered voters in St. Mary's.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Law Enforcement Backs Sue Ann



ARMITAGE

for JUDGE



We are confident that Sue Ann will focus on protecting this community from repeat violent offenders. Please join us in voting for her on May 14th.

Sheriff Tim Cameron (Ret.)

Sen. Jack Bailey, Sgt., Maryland DNR Police (Ret.)

Capt. Eric Sweeney, SMCSO (Ret.)

Dep. Skip Stewart, St. Mary's longest serving Deputy (Ret.)

Dep. Jack Curtis, 25 years DC Metro Police, 25 years SMCSO (Ret.)

Sgt. Gary Willis, MD State Police (Ret.)

Sgt. Mark Karwacki, MD State Police (Ret.)

Tpr 1st Class Dave Koenig, MD State Police (Ret.)

Dep. 1st Class Lawrence Vallandingham (Ret.)

By Authority of Friends of Sue Ann Armitage, Eric Sweeney, Treasurer

RE-ELECT

Cathy Allen

- Active, well-informed Board member
- Proven leadership and experience bringing our county's voice to Annapolis
- Former critical care nurse
- Effective, tireless advocate for our students, schools, and community



St. Mary's County Board of Education, District 2

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Find me on Facebook: @CathyAllen2016

By authority Cathy Allen, Candidate; Bradford J. Allen, Treasurer

Sheriff's Office Seeks Federal Funding for New Mobile Command Vehicle

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county sheriff's office is seeking a new mobile command vehicle to be used as an on-call base of operations for deputies responding to critical incidents and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County is helping to ask for federal funding for it.

The commissioners have signed a letter of support for the expenditure sent to U.S. Rep Steny Hoyer (D-MD-5th) in hopes of getting his assistance.

"This is being done with federal money," said Sheriff Steve Hall. "We need to move into the 21st century in our response to critical incidents."

Hall said St. Mary's was the only sheriff's office in the region that did not have a modernized mobile command vehicle.

The sheriff said the county was hoping Hoyer could provide a congressional funding earmark for the purchase; the price ranges from about \$800,000 to \$1.5 million.

The current apparatus the sheriff's office is using is a trailer that must be towed to an incident site by a 2008 Ford F550 pick-up truck, the commissioners' letter stated.

"The current unit is antiquated, very narrow, limited in space, does not have a restroom and is not efficient in functionality," claims the letter regarding the critical incident trailer. "The proposed motorized Mobile Command Vehicle



Calvert County's Mobile Command Vehicle, similar to the one St. Mary's County Sheriff's office is seeking.

(MCV) unit would be a large motor home style vehicle, which does not require a CDL and is equipped with the necessary tools and technology that can be deployed on a moment's notice from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

"This MCV would provide a secure and mobile structure for critical incident operations, to include electricity, generator, radio/

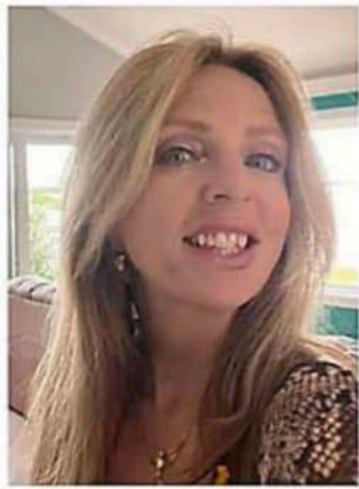
computer capabilities, equipment storage, conference area, and restroom facilities."

The MCV's main task would be responding to certain active crime scenes such as barricaded suspects, searches for critical missing persons, aircraft crashes, and to active shooter events; but it could also be used to provide a law enforcement presence

at large scale community events.

"A MCV provides a vital setting for law enforcement wherein responding personnel of a critical incident or event can securely meet, stage, brief, and deploy resources," the letter reads.

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By Authority, Julia Guy, Treasurer

Burris, Colvin, Mattingly Victorious in Town Elections

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Mayor Dan Burris kept his seat after the May 7 election after handily defeating his opponent, Slice House pizza restaurant owner Ken Held, by a margin of 295 votes to 96 votes.

There were 392 votes cast during the town election day, according to J. Earnest Bell, long the election judge for the town and an attorney, with 17 absentee ballots cast.

Council members Nick Colvin and Jay Mattingly — both of whom ran unopposed — garnered 317 and 342 votes despite not having anyone running against either of them.

The poll at the town hall was open from noon until 7p.m. and it a little over an hour to count all the ballots with three people taking the tally.

Both men ran on the idea of keeping the town moving ahead with its revitalization and business growth efforts but Held tried to distinguish himself during the several months of campaigning by saying the town leadership could perform better in being transparent in its plans and projects. In a recent candidate forum Held also said he



Election Judge J. Earnest Bell and attorney Kathleen Werner count ballots for the May 7 town elections

supported making the town square open only to pedestrians.

Burris ran on his experience as mayor since first taking over the office in 2012 and helping to guide the town's revitalization, including planning the expansion of the wharf property and the eventual development of the Tudor Hall project which will add homes and a commercial element to the town in conjunction with waterfront access.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Superintendent Renews Calls for New Teachers

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Superintendent J. Scott Smith told the county school board that the county has reached a critical juncture in its efforts to continue to recruit teachers at their May 8 business meeting.

“We are in an evolutionary time when it comes to how we will inspire people to become teachers,” Smith said. “There is a lot working against us.”

Smith said “chaos, noise and disinformation” made it difficult to recruit teachers to the profession.

“We’ve got figure out how to cut through all of that and present ourselves... St.Mary’s in particular and really market ourselves.”

Smith said this issue crystalized at a forum held April 26 at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland campus here in which all three regional superintendents and some of their staff participated.

The information regarding teacher recruiting needs for the future versus where the region stood now, Smith said, was “chilling.”

“We have an unprecedented need facing us for the next generation of teachers,” Smith said.

For example, information presented by Charles County Superintendent Maria Navarro showed that the number of education majors at the University System of Maryland had dropped from a little over 2,000 just 10 years ago to 1,500 in present day.

The decline in education majors was also reflected in a concurrent decline in teacher certificates.

Navarro’s presentation blamed the educator shortage regionally on the cost of housing, limited access to four-year degree programs and certification programs and mid-year resignations of teachers for higher paying positions in private industry.

The report showed there are many vacancies in Maryland in all school disciplines; including special education, elementary education, English, mathematics and the sciences.

The school system reported there were 20 teachers who were leaving the system this month, as well as one administrator.

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- ✔ Increase teacher recruitment through effective advertising. Retain teachers with a responsive administration.

Authority: Friends of Josh Guy; Brandon Hoffman, Treasurer

**“...Criminal law,
It’s Not My Thing.”**

-Sue Ann Armitage, Candidate for Judge
Republican Central Committee Candidate Forum, April 2024

Q: But, Ms. Armitage, have you ever tried a criminal case?

A: No.

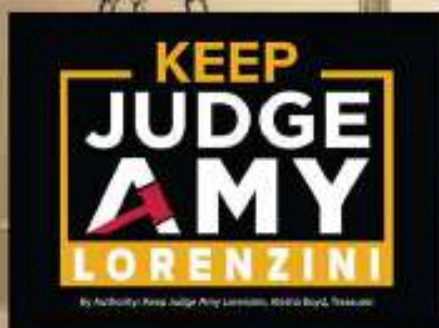
-Response of Sue Ann Armitage, Candidate for Judge
Democratic Central Committee Candidate Forum, April 2024

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- ▶ Sue Ann Armitage stated publicly, in two separate candidate forums, that she has **NO** criminal trial experience
- ▶ Judge Amy Lorenzini is a former criminal prosecutor
- ▶ Judge Amy Lorenzini has tried dozens of criminal cases as a prosecutor and a defense attorney
- ▶ Judge Amy Lorenzini has significant criminal trial experience
- ▶ Nearly half of all cases heard in Circuit Court by Judge Amy Lorenzini are criminal matters.



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By Authority, Keep Judge Amy Lorenzini, Alesha Boyd, Treasurer

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“THESE EARLY VOTING CENTERS AREN'T BEING USED AND IT'S YOUR TAX PAYER DOLLARS THAT GO TO PAY FOR THEM.”

COMMISSIONER ERIC COLVIN ON EARLY VOTING



LOCAL 4
Incumbents win town election



LOCAL 7
Medical facility expansion approved



ON THE COVER 9
Nurses honored this week.

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- Only missed one meeting in 27 years
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner
- The Board of Education is my full-time job
- Believes in excellence for all students, administrators, and support staff
- Graduate, University of Maryland College Park

By authority Mary Washington, Eddie Washington, Treasurer

WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, MAY 9</p> <p>Thunderstorms Hi: 73° Lo: 56°</p>	<p>FRI, MAY 10</p> <p>Rain Hi: 62° Lo: 49°</p>	<p>SAT, MAY 11</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 64° Lo: 52°</p>	<p>SUN, MAY 12</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 65° Lo: 50°</p>
<p>MON, MAY 13</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 73° Lo: 59°</p>	<p>TUE, MAY 14</p> <p>PM Showers Hi: 72° Lo: 63°</p>	<p>WED, MAY 15</p> <p>Showers Hi: 72° Lo: 63°</p>	<p>THU, MAY 16</p> <p>Showers Hi: 78° Lo: 63°</p>

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Senator Jack Bailey

Delegate Todd Morgan

President of Commissioners Randy Guy

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Commissioner Mike Alderson

Commissioner Scott Ostrow

Former Pres. of Commissioners Barbara Thompson

Former Pres. of Commissioners Julie Randall

Former Commissioner Frances Eagan

Former Commissioner Dan Raley

Community Leader Gwen Bankins

Come join Sue Ann for her campaign rally, "Ballots, Boothe and You!"
Saturday, May 11th from 2pm to 4pm at Stoney's Clarke's Landing in Hollywood.

By Authority of Friends of Sue Ann Armitage, Eric Sweeney, Treasurer

Sue Ann
ARMITAGE  *for* **JUDGE**

By Authority of Friends of Sue Ann Armitage, Eric Sweeney, Treasurer

St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

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**Bean Building
Expansion Approved**

**Incumbents Take
Town Election**

**Two Injured in
California House Fire**

ST. MARY'S CELEBRATES ITS NURSES

