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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025

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**School Board Proposes
Hiring Push**

**Commissioner Presses
for Accessible Restrooms**

**Chesapeake Beach
Pauses Utility Hikes**

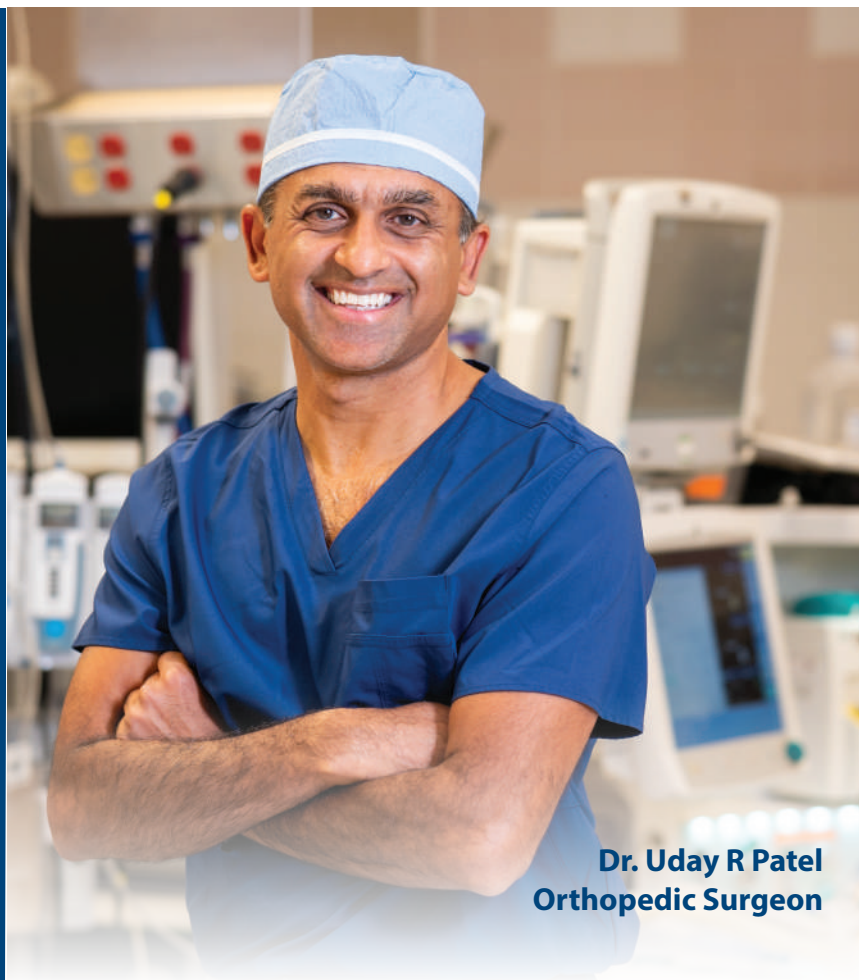


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“I JUST THINK IT’S DIGNITY.”

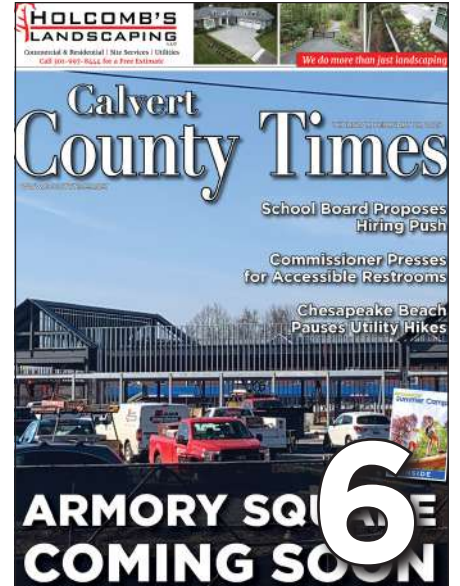
COMMISSIONER MIKE HART ON THE NEED FOR HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE RESTROOMS AT ATHLETIC FIELDS



LOCAL 4
School board mulls new hires in budget



LOCAL 5
Commissioner pushes handicapped restrooms at athletic fields



ON THE COVER 6
Retail businesses filling in Prince Frederick

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, FEB 27 Cloudy Hi: 62° Lo: 41°	FRI, FEB 28 Mostly Sunny Hi: 54° Lo: 45°	SAT, MAR 1 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 62° Lo: 26°	SUN, MAR 2 Sunny Hi: 39° Lo: 23°
MON, MAR 3 Sunny Hi: 42° Lo: 30°	TUE, MAR 4 Partly Cloudy Hi: 55° Lo: 45°	WED, MAR 5 Showers Hi: 63° Lo: 47°	THU, MAR 6 Partly Cloudy Hi: 53° Lo: 34°



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School Board Gives Staffing Wish List

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Education, at a special meeting on Feb. 20, spent time going over a wish list of proposed new hires that would significantly alter Superintendent Dr. Andraé Townsel’s budget.

Board President Jana Post prefaced the discussion by saying that in the end the board should not be asking any more from the county commissioners. Townsel had proposed a level request of the county compared to the current year.

But after listening to all of the proposed hires, Townsel said his revision could contain a request for more county funding. His revision will be presented to the board at a Feb. 27 meeting at which the board is expected to approve a budget to send to the commissioners.

In order to fund all the requests, the board could cut elsewhere in the budget and/or use additional monies from their fund balance in addition to asking more from the county.

Board member Melissa Goshorn suggested one place to look for revenue was the unfilled positions. She said, “We have 76 open positions currently, 42 support staff and 34 professional staff.”

She added, “Between the two of them, it’s over \$6 million cost. Some have been posted since 2022 as an example. So, I would encourage us to look at those vacant positions and see if we can utilize the cost that’s already included in the budget for those vacancies to fill the priorities of the board.”

But Chief Operations Officer Dr. Susan Johnson said, “So as I look at this list, I see vacant positions that actually have been filled by long-term subs. So, when you have science teachers, while there might be a science teaching position that is vacant, it is a classroom that is being filled by a long-term sub at this time. So, if we look at those positions, in essence, if that science teaching position were to go away, then you have, are affecting what could be class size in the other science classes at that school.”

Suggestions for priority changes included a GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) teacher in every school. Absent that, Goshorn said, “I would like to request at least two GATE teachers that would give us at least the ability to have a GATE teacher split in buildings and they could split two and a half days per elementary school.”

GATE teachers would cost \$100,000 each with benefits, Johnson said.

Board Vice President Lisa Grenis said, “I think that’s an incredibly important position right now. The way they’re being utilized is not only supporting the teachers, it’s supporting the needs of a wide variety of our students.”

For a full complement of GATE teachers, 12 more would be needed at a cost of \$572,000, Johnson said.

While recognizing the importance of GATE teachers, Post said, “I do recognize that we want to make sure that we can take care of our high performers. But it is only three percent of our student population. And

at the elementary school level, I think there also needs to be an emphasis on learning specialists, or reading specialists, literacy specialists. I say that because that is the foundation for everything. And if kids can’t read coming out of elementary school, I think it puts any student at a huge disadvantage.”

Goshorn also suggested adding a fourth vice principal to Calvert and Patuxent high schools. Northern and Huntingtown already have four. Goshorn said vice principals assist in reporting and instructional requirements for special education and handicapped students. That work can also be done by assistants called SSTs (Student Services Team). Goshorn said it would be up to the principals of Calvert and Patuxent whether they would need a dedicated SST.

Two additional vice principals would cost \$295,000, Johnson said.

Regarding the ongoing discussion of having safety advocates at every elementary school, Post said, “I recently learned from the elementary school administrators that they would’ve much preferred to have a behavior tech in their school, based on the current climate and what we know and the resources. I would also ask that there be a behavior tech added to every elementary school.”

It would also take seven more school resource officers for a full complement. Board member Paul Harrison said Sheriff Ricky Cox would be asking for five in his budget, which means two mires would be needed out of the school budget.

The SROs cost \$125,000 including their



School board member Melissa Goshorn

car, Johnson said.

Grenis also suggested a signing bonus for NJROTC instructors to make sure there is a full complement at all four high schools. But Johnson said that would be subject to union bargaining.

Townsel said, “Just for clarity, it’s a struggle to get those teachers because the pool is extremely shallow. So, the human capital in some cases is not there.”

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Hart Presses for Accessible Restrooms at Athletic Fields

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

"We're better than that," said Commissioner Mike Hart about the school system's failure to provide handicapped restrooms at athletic fields.

Hart's passionate plea came during a discussion of long-range plans for field houses at the high schools as part of the presentation of the school system's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The school system's Director of Planning and Construction Shuchita Warner said the portable toilets they have are not accessible.

"So how do we solve that?" Hart asked. "I've been asking for years. They make handicap accessible portable toilets, but we don't have those."

Warner said the cost was not only for the toilets, but the handicapped-accessible access to them.

Noting his familiarity with Patuxent High School, Hart said, "It's that same blue one out there. The pathway to get to it, I don't know how somebody in a wheelchair would and they couldn't use it. Correct me if I'm wrong, even with the placement of the field houses, which is a couple of years out before it would even be there, I don't even think that's close to that area."

"We have to solve this. I hate beating a dead drone, but we have to solve this," Hart insisted.

Hart added, "How do we justify a playground or anything else when, if somebody's handicapped and has a child and they play a sport and they want to go see that child to play, then we don't have a bathroom for them. I can't get past it."

"I just don't know how we can spend millions and millions of dollars, and we don't have bathrooms for folks."

"I just think it's dignity," Hart insisted.

Warner said the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements were only for new construction and existing athletic fields are grandfathered.

Warner observed, "We can do anything (if) we get the money. Give me the money, I can get it done."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance



Commissioner Mike Hart

said that School Superintendent Dr. Andraé Townsel would be visiting them soon and the issue could be addressed then. He asked Warner to ask Townsel to be prepared to talk about the problem.

Regarding the overall CIP for the schools, Acting Capital and Grants Management Specialist Danielle Russell, in a memo, said, "The Board of Education FY 2026 request is \$33,201,318.00, a 15 percent increase from the forecasted FY 2026 request in the approved FY 2025 capital budget. The Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) 90 percent recommendations, pending the governor's budget approval, will provide \$8,033,801.00 for the Northern Middle School Construction project. The other \$13,227,412.00 in non-local Northern Middle School Construction funds comes from the Build to Learn Act (BTL) through the Maryland Stadium Authority."

The FY '26 projects are:

- Northern Middle School Construction
- Mary Harrison Center Partial HVAC Equipment Replacement
- Sunderland Elementary School HVAC System
- Playground Equipment Replacement

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Court Ruling Allows Save Lusby, Inc. Suit to Proceed

Seeks to Overturn Lusby Villas Approval

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A visiting judge in Calvert County Circuit Court has denied a motion by the county to dismiss a suit by Save Lusby, Inc. seeking to overturn the approval by the planning commission of the 276-unit Lusby Villas garden-apartment project.

The planning commission, represented by the Annapolis-based Council Baradel law firm, argued that Save Lusby, Inc., a new organization formed to fight the apartment project, did not have standing to file the suit.

Retired Prince George's County Judge C. Philip Nicholas, Jr. disagreed at the Feb. 13 hearing. Save Lusby, Inc. President Sean McGuire told The County Times he lives close by.

"I think about 660 feet from where this proposed project is where they're talking about putting it up," McGuire said. "It directly impacts our way of life."

McGuire noted, "The problem with it is that two of the county commissioners had called together a July 9, 2024, town hall meeting in which the township came out in droves with factual data as to why this would be a detriment to our town."

He said, "How could they possibly think

about proceeding with this? And then the folks on the planning commission turned around a month later in August and voted 4-3 to approve going forward with it, completely ignoring the voice of the people. To me that's not democracy. That's, tyranny!"

The organization is in the midst of a fundraising campaign to raise funds to pay for their attorney, G. Macy Nelson. "We continue to raise funds. Every penny is greatly appreciated. It all goes directly towards the lawsuit. The board and I are completely unpaid volunteers and have contributed at this point thousands of dollars of our own money to fight this. We continue to post fundraising events at times where we're allowed to. I think a lot of the businesses in the area have, understandably so, wanted to take a more neutral approach to it, not picking sides or anything like that. It's completely understandable."

McGuire said, "The best way to contribute is either by mailing a check to the P.O. Box 102, Lusby, Maryland, 20657 or you can check out our website, save-lusby.com, which will have links to our GoFundMe page."

The case is expected to be heard this spring.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Armory Square Development Begins

Seven Businesses Have Started Permitting



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The retail portion of the Armory Square project in Prince Frederick is now under construction. According to the county, new businesses that have started the permitting process are: Aldi, Dash In, First Watch, Jersey Mikes, Michaels, Playa Bowls and Sneades.

Calvert County Government Department of Economic Development Business Programs Assistant Grace Fadely told The County Times, "Armory Square does have a website that mentions Hangry Joes, Always Ice Cream, Fosters Grille, and Quickway Hibachi will be going in as well. It is possible these businesses will be going in, but they have yet to apply for permits so they are not on our website yet."

The construction consists of three free

standing retail shells.

The county sold the property to the developer. It was the site of Calvert Middle School. According to the county developer, Generation Properties, "is a commercial property management and development company formed by Eric Bailey, principal and sole proprietor, and Charles "Rick" Bailey, Jr., advisor, who previously ran the commercial division of Marrick Properties. Generation Properties continues to manage the commercial properties previously developed during their time at Marrick Properties in addition to providing third-party property management and construction services to other developers. They continue to develop and construct new commercial properties in Southern Maryland."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Town Mulls Solutions to Utility Fund Increases

Proposal: Rescind Previous Council's Decision

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

In one of their first actions, the newly elected Chesapeake Beach Town Council voted to pause the water and sewer rate increases enacted by the previous council. Those rate increases were significant for some residents.

Now the council is considering several options and is seeking outside help to come up with a plan. Several of the council members have advanced their own ideas. At least two have questioned the decision of the previous board to add prorated salaries of the town hall staff into the expenses of the utility enterprise funds, leading to a large amount that needs to be recouped from the rate payers.

Councilman Eric Reinhardt was one of the advocates from that position. He said, "I do think that there are some identifiable expenditures that were moved by the previous administration from the general fund to the utility fund that could be moved back to where they came from."

He added, "When you're looking at these kinds of budgets and accounts, you've got

to find a way to either increase revenue by not increasing rates, which is very difficult, or you can find a way to decrease the expenses. And the last administration increased the expenses. It wasn't necessarily plant increases of operation or capital projects, but there were some glaring expenses that were new."

He added, "I don't know if it was completely subjective, there had to be some subjectivity to it, but putting portions of people's salaries who would normally be in the general fund, as office staff or other staff, and trying to divide time while you spend this amount of time working on the utility fund type of topics and this amount of time working on something else and splitting salaries up into different funds, I really don't agree with because I feel as though it's not transparent as far as what salaries even are of the different people."

Reinhardt explained, "We could decrease the expenses in the utility fund by around 20 percent, and that could be a direct savings of 20 percent passed on to every single citizen immediately."

He noted, "I'm very disappointed that

we don't have something within that framework, with ordinances being introduced here today, because we could have done it on a general timeframe in introducing an ordinance, giving the public time to think about it and make comment, giving the counsel 30 days to talk about it and argue about it. And, behind the scenes one-on-one coming up with better ideas. And at least we could then make amendments to the ordinance when it came time to vote on it 30 days later."

He observed, "We can always take the time to get more information and do things right and deliberate on it and then analyze everything. And that's what we're going to do when it comes time to do budgets, before budgets and after budgets, and through that whole process."

Council Vice President Jamey Shuls said he ran into a town resident someone at Roland's who said they didn't know how they were going to be able to afford the rate increase.

Councilman Anthony Greene said, "Let's make sure we get it on record that people understand that we are all putting this effort into it and what the pitfalls are, what the obstacles are, and why we can't get anything



Chesapeake Beach Councilman Eric Reinhardt

done sooner. And if we can't get anything done sooner, we need to let folks know.

Greene said the council shouldn't lose sight of the human aspect of people's ability to pay any increase.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Firefighters Fight Huntingtown Blaze



Members of the Huntingtown VFD fought a fire on Feb. 23 in the 4200 block of Weeping Willow Lane that started in a chimney. Photo courtesy of Huntingtown VFD.

Ag Commission Facing Funding Cuts

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Members of the Southern Maryland farming community are fighting proposed cuts by Gov. Wes Moore in the budget of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD).

According to a press release from SMADC, "Proposed cuts of \$250,000 in the Governor's FY26 Budget could jeopardize our programs, grants, and workshops that benefit the farming community."

The commission has issued an appeal to the agricultural community to testify against the cuts at a hearing on Senate Bill 321, the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025. The hearing will be Friday,

February 28 at noon at the Department of Legislative Services Building, Joint Hearing Room, Annapolis. In-person and virtual options are available.

According to the press release, "SMADC plays a critical role in promoting agricultural education, expanding the rural economy, connecting farmers to consumers, and fostering sustainable practices. Without full funding, these essential services may be severely diminished."

If you have questions or need assistance, please reach out via email. If you cannot access the MGA system, you can also email your support letter to us for inclusion in our testimony document. Please contact swatsonhampton@smadc.com for additional resources.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

'New Sailors Wanted' at Upcoming Solomons Sailing Event

An early-March date turned out to be a big hit last year for the Annual SpinSheet Solomons Crew Party at Southern Maryland Sailing Association (SMSA) in Solomons, as what event chairman Tim Flaherty called, "the best turnout we've had in the 10 or so years we've done this," packed the SMSA clubhouse in March of 2024. That success has led to 2025's event to again be scheduled for the second Sunday in March.

Next Sunday, March 9th, from 4pm to 6pm, SMSA, will open its doors to the public for a two-hour, meet and greet-style open house designed to introduce Southern Marylanders to the sport of sailing. The event at SMSA is one of a series sponsored by SpinSheet Magazine and is sponsored locally by Coors Banquet Beer.

"We want people to know that you don't necessarily need to own a boat or live on the water to enjoy sailing on the Chesapeake Bay," Flaherty emphasized while talking up the Crew Party. A long-time SMSA member, he added that "SMSA will have plenty of members here to tell people about resources for learning to sail, to go sailing with others, race boats, just hang out on boats, and to learn what gear you might need to hop on a boat and go sailing with somebody else."

The idea for "crew parties" began in the 1990's with SpinSheet founders Mary



Steve Birchfield, left, of Port Republic, an avid local sailor, poses with a visitor during last year's SpinSheet Solomons Crew Party at Southern Maryland Sailing Association.

Ewenson and Dave Gendell. "Dave and Mary came up with this idea to help pair wanna-be sailors and people looking for boats to sail on with boat owners looking for racing crew in Annapolis," explained Flaherty. "It was just a free keg of beer in a parking lot in Annapolis, and a couple of hundred people turned out."

SpinSheet editor Molly Winans, contacted by phone at her Annapolis office, exclaimed, "This is exciting because it's

the 30th year we've been hosting these parties. I encourage anyone on or near the Chesapeake Bay to stop by and meet some sailors. You will meet someone who's happy to take you out on a boat come spring!"

Winans said she will be representing the magazine in Solomons. "Wouldn't miss it," she said. "We love Solomons and enjoy supporting sailing there."

From its humble beginnings as a spring-

time keg party, The Crew Party grew to include a computerized sailors' data base, managed by SpinSheet, and events in Solomons and Hampton, VA. Although there is no more "free beer," the 2024 Solomons party will feature free pizza and a bar with reasonably priced beverages. The event is family friendly, and visitors can learn about the Calvert County High School Sailing Team as well as SMSA's kids summer camp.

"Last year," Flaherty explained, "we had some reservations about having the Crew Party so early in the season, but it turned out to be a tremendous success. We had more people than before, SMSA picked up several families as new members, and the local sailing school in Solomons got some referrals for people taking classes. It was a 'win' all the way around."

"If the weather is halfway decent, we will have some boats rigged-up out back so new sailors can check them over," Flaherty added. "Even if you just want to stop by and have a beer or a Coke, the Crew Party is a great day to come to Solomons and talk sailing no matter your experience or skill level."

Southern Maryland Sailing Association is located at 14490 Solomons Island Road S., opposite the boardwalk gazebo in Solomons. Doors for the Crew Party open at 4pm, and the club asks that visitors sign the guest book.

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of February 10, 2025 – February 16, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,106 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 50
- Domestic: 21
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 57
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 1,100
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 22
- Traffic Complaints: 69
- 911 Hang Ups: 48
- ARRESTS: 36



Amber Renee Kellis

CDS Violation: 25-13217 On February 15, 2025, Deputy Campbell conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle on N. Solomons Island Road just prior to Fox Run Blvd. in Prince Frederick, for multiple traffic violations. Contact was made with the driver, **Amber Renee Kellis**, 40 of Great Mills, who was informed of the viola-

Damaged Property: 25-13087 On February 15, 2025, Deputy Morgal responded to

tions. Further investigation revealed K9 Kodak conducted an open air sniff of the vehicle alerting to the positive odor of a controlled dangerous substance. A vehicle search revealed a cut straw with a white powdery residue (Alprazolam) and a prescription pill bottle with an altered label and a white powdery residue. Kellis was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia and CDS Prescription/Remove Label.

the 3000 block of Abington Manor Drive in Huntingtown for a report of property damage. The complainant reported that an unknown suspect(s) had damaged the gate to the community pier, breaking both the lockbox and chain. The estimated value of damaged property is \$500.



Brandon McNeil Robinson

Trespassing: 25-11376 On February 10, 2025, Deputy Deinert responded to the 7-11 located at 15 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a disorderly subject. The complainant advised **Brandon McNeil Robinson**, 18 of no fixed address, was

making threats towards store management. Investigation revealed Robinson had been previously trespassed indefinitely from the property. Robinson was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

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

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

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization, C-SMMPO, will conduct a Public Hearing virtually on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 10 a.m. to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) for MD 4 Corridor Improvements in Solomons/California.

The Meeting ID is 430 427 6617, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4304276617?omn=85095997914>.

This public hearing is required by law to allow all interested parties the opportunity to present evidence and public comment regarding the C-SMMPO documents. A decision will be made solely on evidence and testimony presented during the public hearing. Public meetings are open to the public. Members of the press may attend.

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before March 10, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov. All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization Council at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

An electronic copy of the plans may be requested by contacting Karly Maltby by phone (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507, via e-mail: Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov, or by visiting <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

Public Hearing Guidelines are subject to change. For more information on viewing, listening to, or submitting comments via telephone or video clip, please call (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507.

All content of these proceedings is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Photographic and electronic audio and visual broadcasting and recording devices are used during the meetings. These are public meetings and attendance at these meetings automatically grants St. Mary's County Government permission to broadcast your audio and visual image. Any person requiring special arrangements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act shall notify the C-SMMPO no less than 72 hours prior to the date of the scheduled meeting so that necessary special arrangements can be made in order to facilitate participation.

Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board Releases WIOA Integrated Plan for Public Comment

The Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board, a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD), has posted its updated WIOA Integrated plan for public comment through March 29, 2025. It can be accessed at <https://tccsmd.org/integrated-workforce-plan-2025/>. Send comments to malaw528@gmail.com.

Background: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law on July 22, 2014 and became effective July 1, 2015. WIOA supersedes the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and is designed to help youth, job seekers and businesses. The Act requires each Local Workforce Development Area to develop and submit to the Governor a comprehensive four-year local plan, in partnership with the Chief Elected Officials.

The Southern Maryland Workforce Development Area, named JobSource by the Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board, is a three-county Local Workforce Development Area, including Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties and is part of the American Job Center national network.

The Southern Maryland Comprehensive Plan was completed in alignment with the State Comprehensive Plan, the goals and vision of the Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board and in accordance with WIOA regulations. Through this plan, the Board will propose innovative methods of training and serving the job seekers and businesses in the Southern Maryland area. This plan will be overseen by the Director and utilized as a guide to evaluate the implementation and efficacy of specific strategies.

The Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board's strategic vision for preparing an educated and skilled workforce inclusive youth and individuals with barriers to employment in order to support the local area economic growth and economic self-sufficiency is to guide the Southern Maryland workforce delivery system in developing a skilled workforce that meets the needs of businesses and strengthens the local economy. This plan demonstrates a strong partnership of funding streams, economic development leaders, chief elected officials, private business leaders, and community-based organizations that will work together to build a talent pipeline that meets the needs and expectations of business in the coming years.

About Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland: Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) was formed in 1964, as a cooperative planning and development agency to foster the social and economic development of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. The purpose of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland is to serve as a forum for the resolution of region-wide issues and the attainment of regional goals.

If you would like to place a classified ad or legal notice, please call the County Times at 301-373-4125 or email aldailey@countytimes.net

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, Feb 27

Meet Michelle Coles, Author of *Black Was the Ink*

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way, 4-8 p.m.

MD Libraries Together and Calvert Library are excited to present Michelle Coles to help celebrate Black History Month 2025. Coles, a civil rights attorney, wrote the award-winning young adult book *Black Was the Ink*, a very readable story that brings history and contemporary issues to life in a very discussable way. In person, books will be available for sale and signing. Due to limited space, please register if you will be attending in person to meet Ms. Coles. The event will also be streamed online on Calvert Library's YouTube channel. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Feb 28

Veteran Services Program

Southern Pines Senior Center
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Are you a veteran or close family member looking for assistance? The Calvert County Office on Aging is partnering with ServingTogether to provide support twice a month, every second Wednesday and fourth Friday. Walk-ins are encouraged. No appointment is necessary. Visit <https://servingtogetherproject.org/calvert> for more information.

Sat, Mar 1

Volunteer Orientation at Freedom Hill Horse Rescue

7940 Flint Hill Road, Owings
1-3 p.m.

Become a Volunteer at Freedom Hill Horse Rescue! We are always in need of passionate, hardworking, and dependable individuals to assist with feed shifts, training,

events, programs, and other tasks. Prior to attending, YOU MUST EMAIL Freedom.Hill.Org@gmail.com

Tea Party-PHS Band Program

Patuxent High School
12485 Southern Connector Blvd., Lusby
3-5 p.m.

Please join us for an afternoon of tea, yummy treats and fun. We will have a silent auction and door prizes. Please wear your favorite Tea Party attire.

All proceeds of this event will benefit the PHS Band Program. Table for 8—\$180, Adult (13 yrs old and up) \$15, Children (4 yrs old to 12 yrs old) \$10. Please use the link to order tickets online: osp.osmsinc.com/p/EQ113-252.

Sun, Mar 2

Bayside History Winter Lectures: Camp Chesapeake

North Beach Town Hall
1 p.m.

Join us to learn about local history and more from local experts. Co-sponsored by Calvert Library, Bayside History Museum and John Hanson Chapter NSDAR. Camp Chesapeake by Vincent P. Turner II. Calvert County's African American Boy Scout Camp, a history preserved. 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Beyond the Displays: Artifact Stories

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

Join Lori for an insightful exploration of the museum's artifacts, uncovering their origins and significance. Discover the history behind the emblem from a paddle wheel boat, the tools found in the blacksmith shop, and the Gov. R. M. McLane name board. Hear captivating stories about WWII's impact on the Solomons community and uncover hidden pictures within the museum murals. It's a unique opportunity to delve into local history and see these artifacts in a

new light. Learn something new every tour. Included with museum admission.

Bluegrass Double Header

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

The Junior Sisk Band along with Red Camel Collective will take the stage. Tickets are \$23.00 per person and under 12 free with a paid adult. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs with all the trimmings will be available for sale from Noon until 2:00 pm by the Calvert Elks. Tickets are available at the door.

Mon, Mar 3

Book Discussion

Calvert Pines Senior Center
1-2 p.m.

Join us to discuss *Educated*, a gripping memoir about a young woman who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

English Conversation Hour

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

Are you trying to learn or be more confident in conversational English? Do you enjoy talking to others? Would you like to get to know your community better at the same time? Then the English Conversation Hour is for you! 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Astronomy Night

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
7-8 p.m.

Come see what the night sky has to offer in the field behind Fairview. Learn about

the equipment used to view the sky from the Astronomy Club of Southern Maryland. All ages welcome. Outdoor only event, weather permitting. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Mar 5

Chess Club

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
2-3:30 p.m.

Enjoy playing chess? Looking to sharpen your chess skills? Come drop in and challenge new opponents! All skill levels and ages are welcome. Please bring a chess board along if you own one. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Morning Book Discussion

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join us this month to discuss our latest book selection, *Go As a River* by Shelley Read. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Library Art League: Found Object Printmaking

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

Join us for an event exploring different art forms! For Ages 9-12. Registration Required. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Upcoming

Honoring WWII Heroes

American Legion Post 274
11820 H.G. Trueman Road, Lusby
Sunday, March 9
1 p.m.

Honoring Robert Augusto Padilla and John Mackall on We ask that you RSVP no later than 5:00pm, March 6, to hollandnmd@aol.com.

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

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



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Greek mythological figure
- 5. Small amount
- 8. Play a role
- 11. River in Georgia and Alabama
- 13. Water in the solid state
- 14. Ancient Greek sophist
- 15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- 16. Fleece
- 17. Writer/actress Dunham
- 18. Behave in a way that belittles
- 20. Comedienne Gasteyer
- 21. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 22. Conceits
- 25. Slowed down
- 30. Nourishment
- 31. Midway between east and southeast
- 32. Fights
- 33. Comedienne Tyler
- 38. Standing operating procedure
- 41. Locks
- 43. Old
- 45. Song sung to one's lover
- 47. Whale ship captain
- 49. Moved quickly on foot
- 50. Volcanic craters
- 55. Large musical instrument
- 56. Liquefied natural gas
- 57. Ethiopian town
- 59. Not closed
- 60. A team's best pitcher
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Disfigure
- 63. Prefix denoting "in a"
- 64. Sleep

CLUES DOWN

- 1. S. American plant
- 2. Soul and calypso song
- 3. Fruit of the service tree
- 4. Continent
- 5. Albania's capital
- 6. Poisonous plant
- 7. Argues
- 8. Assists
- 9. Town in Galilee
- 10. Russian leader
- 12. Promotional materials
- 14. Wings
- 19. Not odd
- 23. Expression of creativity
- 24. Conceptualize
- 25. A digital tape recording of sound
- 26. Peyton's little brother
- 27. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- 28. Difference in potential
- 29. Owner
- 34. I (German)
- 35. Chinese conception of poetry
- 36. The world of the dead
- 37. Sign language
- 39. Coincide
- 40. Religious observance
- 41. Confined condition (abbr.)
- 42. Polite interruption sound
- 44. Texas ballplayer
- 45. Type of sword
- 46. Abba ___, Israeli politician
- 47. Basic unit of a chemical element
- 48. Native American people in California
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Hebrew calendar month
- 53. Easily swindled person
- 54. One point south of southwest
- 58. Small island (British)

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FEBRUARY 20 SOLUTIONS

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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, Feb 28

Poker at HVRS

Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad
43256 Rescue Ln., Hollywood
7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Texas Hold'Em Bounty Tournament at Hollywood Vol Rescue Squad. \$65.00 buy-in for \$20k in chips. Rounds are 20 minutes each. Doors open at 6 pm, tournament starts at 7pm. BYOB, food and sodas will be available for purchase. Tables deal their own cards, dealers are not provided. Late entries permitted until 1st break, approx. 8 pm cut off. No rebuys allowed.

Please note this event is at the rescue squad, not the fire house.

Open Mic Night

Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall
37497 Zach Fowler Rd., Chaptico
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Acoustic musicians of all skill levels are welcome to perform their favorite tunes or

enjoy a night out listening to some local talent. A keyboard can be made available by prior arrangement. Contact Chris Dudley in advance (ccdudley@rocketmail.com) to sign up as a performer. Doors open at 7 pm with performances beginning promptly at 7:30 PM. Admission is \$8; children 17 and under (when accompanied by a paying adult) and performers are admitted free of charge. Info: smtmd2@gmail.com, www.smtmd.org/new-events/

Sat, Mar 1

64th Annual Spring Dinner

Hollywood VFD Social Hall
24801 Three Notch Rd., Hollywood
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department presents it's 64th Annual Spring Dinner. \$35.00 cash or check. Carry out only.

Stuffed ham and chicken salad for sale by the pound. Bake sale and 50/50 raffle.

Menu: stuffed ham, fried oysters, chicken salad, candied sweet potatoes, parsley potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, beets & roll

Spring Benefit Auction: Shipwrecked!

Little Flower School
20410 Point Lookout Rd., Great Mills
5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Little Flower School will host its annual spring benefit auction, with a theme of "Shipwrecked! Pirates and Mermaids." This event features silent and live auctions, drink specials, a SOMD-style dinner by Rita B. Catering, raffles, games, and more! For tickets (21+ and older), visit littleflowercatholic.org/auction

Tue, Mar 4

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Our Lady of the Wayside's Loretto Hall
37575 Chaptico Rd., Chaptico
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Buffet style. Adults \$15, children 6-12 \$10, children 5 and under free. Menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, French toast, fried potatoes, sausage, bacon, coffee and juice. Carry outs available. For more information contact Brenda Russell at rsbrsll@aol.com or 301-247-1871.

Sun, Mar 9

Carry Out Chicken Dinner

Knights of Columbus Hall
16441 Three Notch Rd., Ridge
11:30 a.m. until sold out

1/2 chicken, potatoes, veggie, cole slaw, and a roll for \$15. Baked goods available. Self-serve dining facilities available.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Oyster Restoration in Southern Maryland

Learn about the history of the oyster industry in the Chesapeake Bay, the decline of the oyster, and community led efforts to revive the local oyster population in the St. Mary's River and Breton Bay. Leonardtown Library on Thursday, February 27 from 6 - 7 p.m. Oysters filter water, provide habitat, and are a vital part of our local economy and culture. Restoration work is staffed by community volunteers and led by local non-profits St Mary's River Watershed Association (SMRWA) and Friends of St Clements Bay (FSCB). Find out what's happening with oyster restoration, why it matters, and how you can help! Register on www.stmalib.org.

Music Play is Learning Play: Childcare Provider Workshop

Join musician & educator Jim Gill to learn how to use musical play to support healthy development, pre-literacy & math skills, & self-regulation. Discover ways music can create an inclusive environment for children of all abilities. FREE Professional Development

Institute for licensed child care providers. Earn 3 Core of Knowledge Hours (2 in Curriculum, 1 in Special Needs). Offered by St. Mary's County Library. Sponsored by the Early Childhood Advisory Council of St. Mary's County, with grant support from the Maryland State Department of Education. Saturday, March 1 from 9 a.m. - 12 pm. at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. Register on www.stmalib.org

Collage and Gelli Printing Class

Learn how to create colorful, multi-layered, textural collage prints using Gelli plates, paint, book and magazine pages and scrapbook paper! Lexington Park Library, Saturday, March 1 from 9:30 - 11 a.m. Gelli printing is a type of mono printing that uses a flexible gelatin plate to create prints with textures and layers of color. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Garden Orientation + Gardening 101

Come hear all about the Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden and learn the fundamentals of gardening from a Master Gardener! Lexington Park Library, Sunday, March 2 from 2 - 3:30

p.m. All are welcome! Come join us for all or just part of the afternoon's activities. We will first learn about how to use the LMPP Community Garden! Renters, volunteers, and interested community members alike are invited to learn about this fantastic community resource. After the garden orientation, there will be a Gardening 101 Class taught by a Master Gardener. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Family Learning Fair: Dr. Seuss!

Share a Dr. Seuss-themed evening of fun, games, crafts & food for families to learn and play. Dinner will be provided. Registration not required. Wednesday, March 5 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Presented by the Early Childhood Organization of Educators for St. Mary's County & the Early Childhood Advisory Council, with grant funding from the Maryland State Department of Education.

Puzzle Club

Find your puzzle people! Join us for casual group jigsaw puzzles and puzzle games. Try out this new club to grow our adult puzzle loving community! Ages 16+. Leonardtown Library, Thursday, March 6

from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Each month we'll have a 1000 piece on-going jigsaw puzzle to work on plus a rotating puzzle activity. This month we'll try out several kinds of paper and pencil puzzles. Register to let us know you're coming and to get reminder emails before the event. Walk ins are also welcome. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Perks Partners

St. Mary's County Library is excited to announce a partnership opportunity for businesses! Through our Perks Partners program, the Library will spread the word about your business through our network, including social media, in-library messaging, and email messaging. In return, your business will offer a 10% discount to library card holders. Perks Partners are welcome to sign up on the Library website: <https://www.stmalib.org/about-us/perks-partners/>. After you sign up online, a library staff person will contact you to bring you a window decal to display in your place of business.

In Remembrance

Continued from page 19

Five children- Dorothy S. Prickett (Arthur) of California, MD; W. Kenneth Sickle (Cheryl) of Belmont, MI; Joseph C. Sickle of Hollywood, MD; Elizabeth S. Stricker (Andrew) of Tallassee, AL; and Kathryn Flitter (Lance) of Poolesville, MD; nine grandchildren; and eleven great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, from 5:00 – 8:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, where prayers will be said at 7:00 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 10:00 AM in Holy Face Catholic Church, Great Mills, MD. Interment will follow in the family plot at Holy Face Church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family prefers donations be made to National Fibromyalgia Research Association, P.O. Box 500, Salem, OR 97308; Catholic Charities at Attn: Donor Services, 2300B Dulaney Valley Rd, Timonium, MD 21093; or Ladies of Charity at Holy Face Catholic Church, P.O. Box 106, Great Mills, MD 20634.

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.

Bob Holden, 90



Robert Alfred Holden, "Capt. Bob", 90, of California, MD, passed away on February 19, 2025, in Callaway, MD. Born on September 17, 1934, in

Baltimore, MD, he was the son of the late Basil Holden and the late Gertrude Smith Holden. Bob married the love of his life, Gail McIntyre Holden of Pawtucket RI on November 10, 1956. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Robert Holden and wife Michelle, Ellen Mangiafico and husband Paul M., Margaret Kelnberger and husband David, Daniel Holden and wife Donna, Joann Kohut, Janet Lynch and husband Conrad and Evelyn Nastos and partner Terry. Bob (aka Pop) is also survived by his grandchildren, Bonnie, Jeff, Adam, Sean, Josh, Julia, Sarah, Michael, Paul R., Christopher, Gina, Jackson and Brett and his great grandchildren Sophia, Logan, Isabella, Grace, Max, Grant, Orin, Holly, Henry, Nolan, Mateo and Leo. He was preceded in death by his 9 sisters and 8 brothers.

Bob grew up in Piney Point, Md where he spent his time taking apart car and boat engines, running his skiff up and down the river and tagging along behind his older brothers. After a tour of duty with the United States Navy he returned home to St. Mary's County to work as an auto mechanic at Bell Motor Company in Leonardtown. It was there that his love for the iconic "bow tie" vehicle and the Dale Earnhart Number

3 was solidified. He moved onto a career at Patuxent River Naval Air Station supporting Public Works and retiring as a mechanic from the Search and Rescue Boat house.

He enjoyed nothing more than taking his children and grandchildren out fishing, oystering and crabbing on his boat "Laura". The family enjoyed sitting around the plywood table in his garage, shucking oysters, picking crabs and drinking cold Miller beer. In his "spare" time he also ran a charter fishing boat service with his good friend Capt. Bob Bowes. He was very proud to have his grandsons as his first mates on his charters.

Bob's other passions included both auto and boat racing. He was a founding member of the Southern Maryland Boat Club driving the "Elsie D". The family enjoyed many weekends at Swan's in Piney Point for the races. His mechanical and racing skills put him on the podium quite often, much to the excitement of his family. He was an avid pitch and poker player often found around the dining room table with his kids and grandkids teaching them the nuances of the games and challenging their bids and bluffs.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 10:00 AM in St. George Catholic Church, Valley Lee, MD. Interment will follow at the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Hospice of St. Mary's or the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

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.

Johnny Bean, 73



John "Johnny" Roland Bean, 73, of Valley Lee, was sent to his eternal home on February 20, 2025. Born March 2, 1951 in Valley Lee, Maryland, Johnny was the son of the

late Helen Genevieve Redman Bean and Joseph Leo Bean. His marriage to Mary Elizabeth "Libby" Bean (Norris) spanned 51 years. During this time, Johnny and Libby built a home and created a lifetime of memories with their two sons, Jason Bean of Leonardtown and Jesse Bean (Ashly) of Leonardtown and their three grandchildren Devon Bean, Kendell Bean, and Jason Bean. Johnny is survived by his brothers George Bean (Kathy, deceased), Andrew Bean, Robert Bean (Diann), and Francis Bean (Gloria) all of Valley Lee, Maryland as well as his sisters Leona Unkle (Bennie) of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Gennie Williams (Wayne) of Tall Timbers, Maryland, Joan Sebring (Dick) of Valley Lee, Maryland, and Evelyn Bean of Leonardtown, Maryland. He was preceded in death by five nephews, Joe Parran Nelson, Danny Sebring, David

Williams, Joe Bean and Adam Bean; his brothers William Bean, Bernie Bean, David Bean, and Gregory Bean and his sisters, Lucy Bean, Neadurra "Sissy" Hall and Sister Rosalie Bean CSSJ.

As a St. Mary's County Native, Johnny graduated from Great Mills High School, and went on to have a successful career in Firefighting as well as in Planning and Estimating at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. Johnny spent 28 years serving his community as a member of the Second District Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad where he served as Lieutenant, Fire Captain, Engineer, Assistant Fire Chief, and Fire Chief. His three generation legacy within the fire department carried on with his sons and grandsons. In 1986, Johnny started his business, "John R. Bean Construction & Stuff" which he proudly ran for 39 years. Johnny prided himself on passing on his trade by working alongside his boys Jason and Jesse, his nephews Leo and Joe, Grandsons Devon and Jason, and his paperwork buddy, Kendell. Johnny thoroughly enjoyed surrounding himself with family and friends which included playing pitch, being captain of "The Bean Boys" fishing vessel, hosting gatherings at "The Garage," and watching his grandchildren grow up. Johnny left his mark on Valley Lee and will be remembered for his morning coffee at Russell's, stuffed ham, oyster scalds, and his parties.

The family will receive friends ON Monday March 3, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM, in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held on Tuesday March 4, 2025 at 1:00 PM. Interment will follow at St. George Episcopal Cemetery, Valley Lee, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Woody Norris, John Chapman, Leo Bean, Kenny Sebring, Rob Bean, and Devon Bean.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Second District Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad, PO 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.

Mac Goode, 71



Malcolm "Mac" Elmer Goode Jr., of Chaptico, MD passed away peacefully on February 15, 2025, after a brief battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC.

Born May 3, 1953 he was the son of the late Malcolm Elmer Goode Sr. and Anne Adams Goode.

He was the husband of Barbara Lucille Guy Goode whom he married on November 15, 1975 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in

Morganza, MD. She preceded him in death on July 12, 2022.

He is survived by his four children, Patrick Goode of Chaptico, MD, Dana Nichols (Robby Oliver) of Chaptico, MD, Kathie Bartz (Kevin) of Mechanicsville, MD and Matthew Goode (Randi Bouchillon) of Chaptico, MD; five grandchildren, Hannah Nichols, Michael Nichols, Jacob Bartz, Landon Bartz, and Kaylee Bartz.

Along with his parents and wife, Mac was preceded in death by his brother Allen Lee Goode.

Mac was the fifth generation of his family to grow up and live on Pond Point Farm in Chaptico. He graduated from Chopticon High School in 1971, serving as Chapter FFA President during his junior and senior year. Following graduation he became a full time and life-long tobacco and grain farmer. He had a love of hauling grain with his trusty, International Detroit Truck. People could always hear Mac's truck coming or leaving from miles around. From 2004 through 2019, he became a seasonal driver for Southern Maryland Oil (SMO). Despite the occasional dog bite, his seasonal job was a joy to him as well.

He was a life-long parishioner of Sacred Heart Catholic Church where he assisted semi-annually with church dinners, decorating the church for Christmas, cemetery cleanup, and a host of other church projects. After losing his wife, getting together to work with his parish family was a great help for him.

Mac served as a past member of the St. Mary's County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and was a former President of the Holy Angels – Sacred Heart School Board.

Ultimately, Mac loved his family and was dedicated to their well-being in so many quiet and unacknowledged ways. He instilled in his children, a lot through actions and not words, the importance of faith, volunteering, the love of neighbor as yourself, and how hard work never hurts anyone.

The family received friends on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where prayers were recited at 7:00 PM by Deacon Joe Lloyd. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 11:00 AM in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, MD with Father Stephen Wyble officiating. Interment followed at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery, Bushwood, MD. Serving as pallbearers were Michael Nichols, Preston Day, Allen Lacey, CD Raley, Craig Tyer, and Robert Wolfe.

Contributions may be made to the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 7, Avenue, MD 20609, or Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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.

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.

Robin Alvey, 65



We share with a heavy heart that Robin Jenelle Alvey (Inman) of Scotland, MD passed away on February 12, 2025. Robin was born July 29, 1959 in Norfolk VA the daughter of

Earl Inman and Valerie Beatty.

Robin graduated from Chopticon High School in 1977, had her first child and started her life the same year.

Robin worked in many facets of the culinary world. She started her love of food and cooking at her father's steakhouse, Earl's Charcoal Steakhouse. She went on to Captain Billy's Crab House and Fitzies Marina & Pub. She worked 22 years at St. Mary's Hospital, working many positions in the dietary department, continuing at Fitzies during the busy season, part time. She was dedicated to her work and no one could ever say she did not work hard. Most times she juggled two or three jobs at once.

She loved to cook. She fed everyone all the time. You would never leave her home hungry. She would wrap and pack your next meal to go. Her grandchildren knew when they visited, they could look forward to Nana's Fried Chicken. She would always say "I don't have much to give, so this is my way of giving back". She even fed the animals that showed up at her door just the same. She could not let an animal go hungry. She adopted 3 cats Neptune, Tux and Scrapper due to her feeding them when they showed up at her door, as well as a possum who she named Dawnie. Her pets meant as much to her as her family and she cared for them like she would her children. Her children and her grandchildren were her world. She was known as "Nana" to her grand and great grandchildren. She never missed a birthday or a holiday. She showed up for grandparent's day, school events, award ceremonies, art shows, football games, proms, graduations and anything in between. She was the queen of cards. Every holiday, birthday or special event she made sure you got a card with a handwritten, heartfelt note just for you and a gift that was either thoughtful or something you mentioned you would like to have months before.

She loved the beach. No beach in particular, any beach would do. She enjoyed nothing more than sand between her toes, sunshine on her face and the ocean breeze in her hair. She greeted everyone with a smile, a "Hello", "How are you" and "Thank you honey". If she knew you, you were getting a hug, if she knew you well enough you were getting a kiss on the cheek too.

Remaining to cherish her are her daughter Dawnielle Lee-Russell, (Mark) her son James Alvin Russell Jr, (April), her grandchildren Floyd Downs, Thomas Lee, Andrew Lee, Briana Lee, Tyler Shotwell, Jacob Russell, her great-grandchildren, Floyd Jr

and Troy her brothers Robert Inman (Nancy) of TX, Michael Williamson (Alison) of MD, Jonny Keen (Carol) of MI and her sister Danielle Harmon (Mike) of CA.

Preceding Robin in death are her father Earl Inman and her mother Valerie Beatty.

Memorial services will be held February 25, 2025 at 4:00pm at Fitzies Marina in Leonardtown with Pastor James Bell officiating. Celebration of Life held directly after.

In Lieu of flowers Memorial donations in Robin's memory may be directed to Cat Castle in Callaway. Donations can be made online at <http://smawl.org>, in person, by mail, or by phone (301) 373 5659.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Ceci Hoffman, 79



Cecilia Mary Hoffman passed away on February 13, 2025, in Clinton, Maryland, surrounded by her devoted husband and loving sons. She was born on March 3, 1945, in Limestone, Maine, to Hope and Joseph Obar. Ceci grew up in Limestone with her brother, Raymond, and many beloved cousins.

In 1979, she met James Hoffman at St. Louis Catholic Church in Limestone. They married in the same church on June 27, 1980, beginning 45 years of love and devotion. Together, they raised two sons, Anthony and Matthew, who were the heart of Ceci's life. She dedicated herself fully to her family, sharing her Catholic faith and caring deeply for those around her.

Ceci was known for her comforting presence—a source of unwavering love, quiet strength, and gentle encouragement. She found joy in crafting, spending countless hours creating heartfelt gifts for loved ones. Her faith was central to her life, and she was an active member of her church, always willing to lend a hand, offer a kind word, and among the first to keep you in her prayers.

Ceci welcomed her daughters-in-law, Jennifer Huynh (wife of Anthony) and Amanda Hoffman (wife of Matthew), with a warm heart and open arms. Her greatest joys were her grandsons, Daniel (son of Anthony and Jenn) and Michael (son of Matthew and Amanda), who brought her endless happiness.

She is survived by her loving husband, James, her sons, Anthony and Matthew, and her cherished grandchildren, Daniel and Michael. Ceci will be laid to rest on March 13, 2025, in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery in Leonardtown, Maryland.

Her love, faith, and kindness will be forever remembered.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 from 5:00 PM

to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 9:30 AM with Father David Beaubien officiating. Interment will follow in St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery, Leonardtown, MD.

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.

Dorothy Sickle, 96



Mrs. Sickle, the former Dorothy Rosa Greenwell, 96, of California, MD, died on February 18, 2025, at Suburban Hospital, Bethesda, MD.

Born in Hollywood on March 1, 1928, she was the seventh of nine children of Valley I. Greenwell (a Trial Magistrate for St. Mary's County) and Blanche E. Jones Greenwell.

Dorothy married William Joseph "Joe" Sickle on February 1, 1947, at St. Aloysius

Church, Leonardtown, MD. She was preceded in death by her husband on January 06, 2009.

Dorothy and Joe had five children: Dorothy Ann, William Kenneth, Joseph Clarence, Elizabeth Louise, and Kathryn Lynn. Joe and Dorothy built their home in 1957 on the Sickle farm. Joe and Dorothy, and the children, helping the family by raising livestock and growing a wide assortment of crops. She opened a needlecraft shop on the farm, which gave her younger daughters business experience. Dorothy and Joe raised their children, by example, to be committed to religious values, education, hard work, and charitable pursuits.

"Dot", as she was known by her many friends and family, was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was an active member of the Ladies of Charity in Holy Face Church. She devoted many hours as a member of the Senior Vibes singing group and as a volunteer with numerous charitable organizations in St. Mary's County. With a gracious heart, she donated to local, regional, and national charitable organizations.

Surviving family members include: a sister, Agnes (Greenwell) Poe of Valley Lee, MD;

Continued on page 20



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MAR 9 | 3:30PM | FS1

LAS VEGAS
MAR 16 | 3:30PM | FS1

HOMESTEAD-MIAMI
MAR 23 | 3PM | FS1

MARTINSVILLE
MAR 30 | 3PM | FS1

DARLINGTON
APR 6 | 3PM | FS1

BRISTOL
APR 13 | 3PM | FS1

TALLADEGA
APR 27 | 3PM | FOX

TEXAS
MAY 4 | 3:30PM | FS1

KANSAS
MAY 11 | 3PM | FS1

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MAY 18 | 8PM | FS1

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MAY 25 | 6PM | PRIME

NASHVILLE
JUN 1 | 7PM | PRIME

MICHIGAN
JUN 8 | 2PM | PRIME

MEXICO CITY
JUN 15 | 3PM | PRIME

POCONO
JUN 22 | 2PM | PRIME

ATLANTA
JUN 28 | 7PM | TNT

**CHICAGO
STREET COURSE**
JUL 6 | 2PM | TNT

SONOMA
JUL 13 | 3:30PM | TNT

DOVER
JUL 20 | 2PM | TNT

INDIANAPOLIS
JUL 27 | 2PM | TNT

IOWA
AUG 3 | 3:30PM | USA

WATKINS GLEN
AUG 10 | 2PM | USA

RICHMOND
AUG 16 | 7:30PM | USA

DAYTONA
AUG 23 | 7:30PM | NBC

CUP PLAYOFFS

DARLINGTON
AUG 31 | 6PM | USA

**WORLD WIDE
TECHNOLOGY
RACEWAY**
SEP 7 | 3PM | USA

BRISTOL
SEP 13 | 7:30PM | USA

NEW HAMPSHIRE
SEP 21 | 2PM | USA

KANSAS
SEP 28 | 3PM | USA

**CHARLOTTE
ROAD COURSE**
OCT 5 | 3PM | USA

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SMCPS to Host Pre-K Expo, Early Childhood Family Workshops

St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) will offer a Pre-Kindergarten Expo focusing on Foundational Language, Literacy, and Mathematics skills on Monday, March 3, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center (JAFCTC). Hands-on learning stations, practical learning opportunities that can be easily replicated at home, and prizes will be available. Registration is required for participation. Please contact Ms. Patricia Lynn Trehern at pltrehern@smcps.org, Early Childhood Resource Teacher/Coach to register or if you have questions.

Early Childhood parents, with children in grades Pre-K to 2, are invited to participate in a series of Conscious Discipline Virtual Workshops beginning on March 5th through April 29th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. with Lead Instructors Amy Speidel and Lety Valero.

The session on March 13th will be in person

at the JAFCTC from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Topics include:

- March 5: Learning Responsibility with Age-Appropriate Jobs (Virtual)
- March 13: What Temper Tantrums are Telling Us (In Person with Amy Speidel)
- April 1: Getting Ready for the Next Grade and Preventing the Summer Slide (Virtual)
- April 8: Making Time to Connect and Be Present (Virtual)
- April 29: Managing the Bedtime Battles (Virtual)

Registration is required for participation in the Conscious Discipline Workshop series. Please contact Ms. Patricia Lynn Trehern at pltrehern@smcps.org, Early Childhood Resource Teacher/Coach to register.

Local childcare providers and their families are welcome to attend the Pre-K Expo and Conscious Discipline series.

Recreation & Parks Announces Leadership Award Recipients

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P) is proud to announce the 2025 Will Smith Leadership Award recipients. Recipients received their awards at a ceremony held on February 16, 2025, at Great Mills High School.

The Will Smith Leadership Award was established in 2009 to recognize 8th grade participants in the St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks youth basketball program. The award is named after R&P basketball alumnus Will Smith, who lost his life on September 21, 2008, while he was a student at Becker College in Massachusetts. The ceremony was attended by Will's parents, Jeanne and William, and his brother, Timothy. Awards were presented by Raymond Bivens, Director of St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks.

"Presenting this award to these young men and women is medicine for us," said Jeanne Smith, Will's mother. "Will was a hurricane—for 19 years he went through life with the biggest smile, offering a hand to anybody."

The award recognizes players who participate in the league from 6th-8th grades and

demonstrate sportsmanship, passion for the game, and leadership on and off the court.

The 2025 Recipients of the Will Smith Leadership Award are:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Aiden Mills | Jacob Copeland |
| Alex Pope | Jamar Somerville |
| Antonio White | Jamarion Jefferson |
| Blake Fleming | Keimari Baskin |
| Brody Lynch | Kendrick Berry |
| Brooklyn Gray | Khloe Jarman |
| Chandler Boyd | Liam Klier |
| Cooper Wieber | Makhai Berry |
| Demi Carroll | Maxwell Shubrooks |
| Desiree Dyson | Nasir Hebb |
| Gaige Wenk | Noah Earhart |
| Jack Loewe | Quintin Dorn |

To learn more about R&P youth sports leagues, including the youth basketball program, visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/recreate.

Never miss an update! Follow R&P on social media at: www.instagram.com/stmarysrecandparks and www.facebook.com/stmarysmdrecreation.

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Literacy Council and Health Hub Seek Tutors for Adult Education

The Literacy Council of St. Mary's and the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) are seeking tutors for their adult education tutor match program.

Literacy Council of St. Mary's provides one-on-one tutoring and customized learning opportunities for adults. The mission of the Literacy Council is to develop community relationships and workplace readiness by working one-on-one with adults to achieve their self-identified learning goals. Tutors are carefully trained and matched with students to support learning English for speakers of other languages as well as advancing academics at all levels, including GED preparation and skills for successful career paths.

The Literacy Council is currently recruiting tutors to serve Health Hub clients. If you want to make a difference in our community, a free 2-day training is provided before tutors are carefully matched with adult continuing education students who will benefit from their experience. No teaching experience is needed! To apply to be a tutor or a student with the Literacy

Council, call 301-863-4847 or email smalit@somd.lib.md.us.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead said that decades ago and we are proving it every day at the Literacy Council," said Susan Brookbank, Literacy Council Director. "One student at a time, we are helping our adult students thrive as they learn how to handle their responsibilities and meet their goals. We give our students a sense of belonging and they give us a sense of purpose."

"The unique partnership between health and education gets better outcomes for both. Boosting someone's reading and writing skills advances their education, promotes economic stability, and builds health literacy," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "These are all key to a person's lifelong wellness and long-term health outcomes."

To learn more about services and programs offered at the St. Mary's County Health Hub, visit smchd.org/hub.

Registration Still Open for St. Mary's County History Day Contest

Registration is still open for St. Mary's County History Day until March 1st, 2025. If you are new to the contest, St. Mary's County History Day is a district-level contest associated with Maryland History Day and National History Day. It is an opportunity for 4th through 12th grade students to do self-guided research and create projects about topics that interest them. Winners of St. Mary's County History Day receive awards and middle and high school winners advance to the state level contest.

The contest encourages students to explore topics that interest them related to a particular theme – this year's theme is "Rights and Responsibilities in History". Participating students gain valuable skills, including navigating research, synthesizing information, problem solving, effective communication and public speaking, and more. These are skills that they can take with them throughout the rest of their education and into their careers to ensure success.

Projects can be in one of five categories: documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website. Students and parents can register on the St. Mary's County History Day website at <https://tab.so/smchistoryday> and begin working on their projects any time

before March 1st. Judging will take place at the Leonardtown Public Library on March 8th, 2025, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, and a full schedule of events can be found on the St. Mary's County History Day website.

St. Mary's County History Day is organized by Historic Sotterley and made possible by partnerships with St. Mary's County Public Library, Maryland Humanities, and National History Day. If you have any additional questions about the contest and how to sign up, please reach out to the event coordinator, Katherine Humphries, at edteam@sotterley.org.

About Historic Sotterley

A National Historic Landmark and a UNESCO Site of Memory for the Routes of Enslaved Peoples, Sotterley is one of the oldest museums of its kind in the United States, with a history dating back to the turn of the 18th Century. Through the preservation of the site's historic structures and natural environment and the use of powerful stories to educate and bring American history to life, the organization strives to foster a better understanding of our world today by providing a living link to America's complex history and legacy of slavery.



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8.49



750mL
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11.99



1.5L., All Flavors
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9.19



750mL
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750mL
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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization, C-SMMPO, will conduct a Public Hearing virtually on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 10 a.m. to amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) for MD 4 Corridor Improvements in Solomons/California.

The Meeting ID is 430 427 6617, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4304276617?omn=85095997914>.

This public hearing is required by law to allow all interested parties the opportunity to present evidence and public comment regarding the C-SMMPO documents. A decision will be made solely on evidence and testimony presented during the public hearing. Public meetings are open to the public. Members of the press may attend.

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before March, 10, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov. All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization Council at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

An electronic copy of the plans may be requested by contacting Karly Maltby by phone (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507, via e-mail: Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov, or by visiting <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

Public Hearing Guidelines are subject to change. For more information on viewing, listening to, or submitting comments via telephone or video clip, please call (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507.

All content of these proceedings is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Photographic and electronic audio and visual broadcasting and recording devices are used during the meetings. These are public meetings and attendance at these meetings automatically grants St. Mary's County Government permission to broadcast your audio and visual image. Any person requiring special arrangements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act shall notify the C-SMMPO no less than 72 hours prior to the date of the scheduled meeting so that necessary special arrangements can be made in order to facilitate participation.

Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board Releases WIOA Integrated Plan for Public Comment

The Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board, a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD), has posted its updated WIOA Integrated plan for public comment through March 29, 2025. It can be accessed at <https://tccsmd.org/integrated-workforce-plan-2025/>. Send comments to malaw528@gmail.com.

Background: The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law on July 22, 2014 and became effective July 1, 2015. WIOA supersedes the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and amends the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and is designed to help youth, job seekers and businesses. The Act requires each Local Workforce Development Area to develop and submit to the Governor a comprehensive four-year local plan, in partnership with the Chief Elected Officials.

The Southern Maryland Workforce Development Area, named JobSource by the Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board, is a three-county Local Workforce Development Area, including Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties and is part of the American Job Center national network.

The Southern Maryland Comprehensive Plan was completed in alignment with the State Comprehensive Plan, the goals and vision of the Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board and in accordance with WIOA regulations. Through this plan, the Board will propose innovative methods of training and serving the job seekers and businesses in the Southern Maryland area. This plan will be overseen by the Director and utilized as a guide to evaluate the implementation and efficacy of specific strategies.

The Southern Maryland Workforce Development Board's strategic vision for preparing an educated and skilled workforce inclusive youth and individuals with barriers to employment in order to support the local area economic growth and economic self-sufficiency is to guide the Southern Maryland workforce deliver system in developing a skilled workforce that meets the needs of businesses and strengthens the local economy. This plan demonstrates a strong partnership of funding streams, economic development leaders, chief elected officials, private business leaders, and community-based organizations that will work together to build a talent pipeline that meets the needs and expectations of business in the coming years.

About Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland: Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) was formed in 1964, as a cooperative planning and development agency to foster the social and economic development of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. The purpose of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland is to serve as a forum for the resolution of region-wide issues and the attainment of regional goals.

If you would like to place a classified ad or legal notice, please call the County Times at 301-373-4125 or email aldailey@countytimes.net

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Sheriff's Office Seizes Drugs, Cash, and Firearm in Great Mills

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division, in conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, executed search warrants on a residence and multiple vehicles in Great Mills on Wednesday, February 26, leading to the seizure of suspected cocaine and fentanyl, cash, and a loaded handgun.

During the warrant service at a residence in the 22000 block of Baja Lane, deputies recovered \$1,638 in U.S. currency and controlled dangerous substance (CDS) paraphernalia. Additional searches of vehicles yielded several tied-off bags containing approximately 45 grams of suspected cocaine, approximately 82 grams of suspected fentanyl, and a loaded, unserialized Polymer 80 9mm handgun.

Following the warrant service, Daiquan Malik Barnett, 28, of Great Mills, was taken into custody and charged with

- Two counts CDS possession with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance
- Two counts CDS possession of a controlled dangerous substance
- Possession of a controlled dangerous substance in an amount of 28 grams
- Possession of a firearm after being convicted of a felony
- Possession of a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime
- Possession of a regulated firearm after being convicted of a disqualifying crime
- Possession of a regulated firearm after having been convicted of CDS possession



Daiquan Malik Barnett

sion with intent to distribute

- Possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony
- Possession of an unserialized firearm
- Two counts of related ammunition charges

Barnett is currently incarcerated at the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, where he awaits a bond hearing.

This case remains under investigation, and anyone with additional information is asked to contact Lieutenant Brian Fennessey at 301-475-4200, ext. 8063, or by email at Brian.Fennessey@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Online Visioning Activities Available for 'St. Mary's 2050' Plan

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM) continues to seek input from the community on the vision, key planning themes, and goals to be considered as the county's Comprehensive Plan is updated. The "St. Mary's 2050" plan will establish a cohesive, countywide vision for land use, economic development, other quality-of-life goals, and will outline an actionable strategy to achieve this vision.

Public input is critical to ensuring St. Mary's 2050 reflects the needs and priorities of the community. There is still time to participate, online visioning activities are still available on our website through Monday, March 3, 2025, allowing community members to provide their valuable feedback. Click "Participate Now" to get started!

Online visioning activities are available in over 240 languages.

Community members are encouraged to visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/StMarys2050 to get more information and to stay involved.

About St. Mary's 2050

St. Mary's 2050: Charting Our Tomorrow is an update to the County's existing Comprehensive Plan, which will guide future land use in the County through 2050 and beyond. St. Mary's 2050 will chart the course for ensuring St. Mary's County continues to be a great place to live, work, and play. Visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/StMarys2050 today to learn more, stay engaged, and add your voice in shaping the future of St. Mary's County.



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County Supports Tudor Hall Restoration

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A centuries-old home standing at the heart of Leonardtown that has been the headquarters of the St. Mary's County Historical Society since the early 1980s could be the recipient of grant funds to help in its restoration if the county government has its way.

The county has drafted a letter of support for the historical society to pursue grant funding from the Maryland Historical Trust.

The local historical society is a private non-profit with no direct affiliation to county government. Neither application nor ultimate acceptance of the grant by the historical society will incur any fiscal obligation upon the county.

Tudor Hall was first built in 1744 and owned by one Abraham Barnes, according to historical society documents, and was later expanded in 1798 and finally remodeled to close to its appearance now around 1820.

"For 74 years, the historical society has advanced scholarship in, and the public's interest for, our county's rich history and heritage," the county wrote to the Maryland Historical Trust. "Tens of thousands, over those years, have attended the historical society's events, consulted its research library, or sought its volunteers' expansive knowledge to further their knowledge of the county's past."

"As Tudor Hall itself continues to age, we support wholeheartedly the society's efforts to ensure it remains a suitable location



Tudor Hall

for the historical society's administrative offices, research library, and visitor center for future generations."

Peter La Porte, executive director of the local historical society, said the grant money they seek would be to create a preservation plan that would guide the restoration of the aging building over the next several years.

It would also give some kind of guide as to how much it would cost to do so, La Porte said, as the society has no current idea what that figure would be.

The fundraising efforts for a phased restoration would likely be significant, though, he said, since the project would require special materials and special techniques to preserve the historical authenticity of the structure.

This is a requirement of the Maryland

Historical Trust, said La Porte.

"We're still a long way away from doing any major work," he told The County Times. "This is the oldest building in Leonardtown and one of the oldest in St. Mary's County to be sure."

The building is part of what was once known as the American Felix Secundus plantation, of which a portion was carved out to create Seymour Town, which eventually was renamed Leonardtown, the county's seat.

It's no exaggeration, La Porte said, to say that Leonardtown springs from the site of Tudor Hall.

After its construction, it hosted such people as George Washington when he addressed watermen of the community from



Peter La Porte

its loggia, La Porte said, and it was one of the buildings spared from the torch when the British invaded the county during the War of 1812.

"It's very wrapped up with the founding of America and the War of 1812," La Porte said. "It's not just another old building."

The building is also home to some 600,000 documents, photographs and other artifacts chronicling the history of the Mother County of Maryland, he said.

"Without Tudor Hall, we would be homeless," La Porte said of the historical society and its trove. "We not only steward the artifacts stored here, we steward the building itself."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



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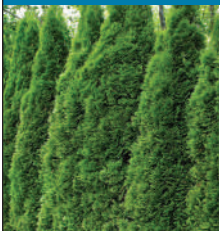
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Commissioner: No Reductions in Federal Workforce on Base Yet

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

There are more than 10,000 federal workers in St. Mary's County, by far the most number in the tri-county area, with most of them working on Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

Many of them are concerned that they will be next when it comes to the federal government's — vis-à-vis the Trump administration — rapid push to down size the workforce.

Commissioner Scott Ostrow, who works for a local federal contractor, said, in speaking with leadership on the base, that some of that fear is currently misplaced.

"No RIFs (reductions in force) have taken place as of yet," Ostrow said at the Feb. 25 business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. "Don't believe everything you see on social media.

"There's a lot of panic talking out there." Ostrow said there is a federal law in place that requires a study be done on whether

a reduction in force of federal employees will negatively affect the defense posture of the nation.

"Until such a study is performed no RIFs can be done," Ostrow said.

Commissioner Eric Colvin called the issue of laying off federal workers to streamline government spending and pare down the nation's ballooning \$36 trillion debt was the "elephant in the room."

"I think everybody agrees we want to see more efficiencies in federal government," Colvin said. "But blanket firings of probationary workers is not a good way to do it," Colvin said. "This will have significant impacts for St. Mary's County if it comes to pass."

Firings of defense-related federal employees, Colvin said, would have negative effects on income taxes after the loss of a job and doubly so on property tax revenues if the former employee had to move.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

County Opposes Solar Siting Bill

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A bill introduced in Annapolis that would codify a state Supreme Court decision that preempts any local restrictions on the siting of large solar farms — that produce at least two megawatts of power — has drawn the ire of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

"It clamps down on the counties to any extent on the argument that we had to make," said Deputy County Attorney John Sterling Houser during the commissioners' business meeting Feb. 25 in Leonardtown.

Houser was explaining the impacts the bill would likely have on reducing local zoning control on such projects here.

"Something new it does is make great changes on the local taxation of these facilities," Houser said.

Under the requirements of the proposed bill, a solar facility that has a 150-foot vegetated buffer between the nearest occupied home or just a 50-foot buffer without a nearby domicile, the county would be required to give its approval to the project application, Houser said.

"If those minimum requirements are met, we, as a county, must permit it," confirmed Houser.

"This is just one more instance where even if St. Mary's County isn't directly, immediately affected by it, other counties are," said Commissioner Eric Colvin. "And we need to protect local autonomy has much as possible."

Houser said that the bill has "Eastern Shore counties pretty much in open revolt



Deputy County Attorney John Houser

right now" because the bill could mean farm land could be purchased cheaply and used to produce solar power.

The bill also exempts a power producer from paying any property taxes locally, Houser said, ultimately hurting a county's revenue gathering capabilities.

The replacement under the bill, Houser said, would be a \$5,000 payment in lieu of taxes per every two megawatts of power produced.

He said it would represent a fraction of what the county would normally collect in property taxes.

The commissioners voted to oppose the bill.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

New Sheriff's Headquarters Won't Be Built for Years

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

For years the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office leadership has spoken of the need for a new headquarters facility as well as an auxiliary building for support services such as evidence storage.

After this week's budget work session of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, it appears that the deputies and command staff will have to wait some time longer; the project was set to begin in fiscal 2026 according to the county's current capital improvement budget but the commissioners voted to move the project out several years to fiscal 2028.

The decision came in part due to the fact that the commissioners were starting the budget talks with \$15 million less to work with, as the county legislative delegation to Annapolis had only agreed to support the commissioners' authority to borrow \$71 million on the bond market for construction projects as opposed to the initial request of \$86 million.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt was the first

to suggest pushing the headquarters building replacement out several years, since it had taken so long to get ready to build the support services building, which had only recently gone out for bid.

Originally the support services building has to be approximately 15,000 square feet in size, but that footprint had increased to nearly 21,000 square feet, Hewitt said, while the headquarters plan had increased from just under 45,000 square feet to over 51,000 square feet in size.

Hewitt said he was incredulous that the commissioners had been informed that they could build the larger facilities for the same price.

Commissioner Scott Ostrow also said he did not believe the county would be ready to build the new headquarters in fiscal 2026, which begins July 1 of this year.

"We haven't sent it out for bid yet, we haven't done all those things and those things take a while," Ostrow said.

Deputy County Administrator David Yingling said the public works department had been doing "tremendous" work in

designing what he called a "complex" new headquarters building in anticipation of its construction.

When public works chief Jim Gotsch said it would take eight months to hear back on the bid for the support services building, Hewitt responded in disbelief.

"Eight months?!" Hewitt said. "You're kidding me."

"I just thought this thing would be up and moving by now."

Gotsch explained: "If we can get through the bidding process faster, we would do that."

"We wouldn't hold it up intentionally."

Hewitt also said he was "baffled" by the increase in scope of the projects without bring brought before the commissioners for their approval; Commissioner Eric Colvin also said he did not remember the projects coming to commissioners for permission to increase in size.

"Let's just get this evidence building built," Hewitt said. "Let's get this silly thing done."

Sheriff Steve Hall said the current headquarters put a serious constraint on his agency's operations.



Public works chief Jim Gotsch

"That is the pain we've been living with since 2019, the delays," Hall told the commissioners. "We've done everything we've been asked to do to make sure there was never any impediment to this project."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Commissioners Mull Schools Budget

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

St. Mary's County School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith and his chief financial officer Tammy McCourt presented their proposed \$295 million operating budget for fiscal 2026 this week to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

This budget proposal is approximately \$5.1 million more than the current fiscal 2025 budget, but represents just a 1.7 percent increase, school budget documents show.

The pair were quick to report that they had made efforts to trim the budget, the largest portion of the county's expenditures per year, by not filling 10 teaching positions that were set to go vacant.

Smith pointed out that no teachers were actually losing their jobs to allow for the cost savings of \$700,000.

"We're not doing a reduction in force," Smith told commissioners at their Feb. 25 budget work session.

He noted that the teachers who were leaving were leaving at or near the top of their pay scales.

The county is being asked to fund \$139.7 million of the total schools operating budget, or about \$5.4 million more than the current level of local funding.

The budget projection also takes into account roughly \$147 million in state level funding for the next fiscal year, or about



Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith

\$4.1 million more than the state's prior commitment.

The schools budget also includes a proposed \$2.7 million in federal funding, school budget documents show.

The greatest level of expense in the operating budget is \$104 million for instructional salaries, followed by \$70 million in fixed expenditures; \$25 million is also include for special education costs, budget documents show.

Mid-level administration costs account for \$21 million.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

DES Director Speaks on EMS Billing Problem

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county has pursued for the past several years a policy of charging the insurance companies of residents who call for an ambulance for the service, and any charges the insurance company did not accept would be taken care of by the county.

But in an article in The County Times last week, it was revealed that the third-party billing company was sending billing statements to some residents who had used the service and had informed them that they were responsible for the remainder of the payment.

There was no notation on the bill that the county would step in and pay for the remainder as the Commissioners of St. Mary's County had repeatedly stated over the years.

This week the director of the county's Department of Emergency Services told the Commission on Aging, which is an advisory board for the interests of county senior citizens, that she had heard about the issue months ago.

"Someone flagged this and brought to the county's attention last summer," said Jennifer Aubert-Utz, director of the Department of Emergency Services. "You will not have to pay anything."

"I'm aware of it and I'm looking into it."

Christine Morgan, a member of the Commission on Aging, said she had personally heard from senior citizens in particular who would not call an ambulance



DES Director Jennifer Aubert-Utz

because they were afraid they would have to pay for the service.

The billing statement did say that the county would continue to provide ambulance service to residents regardless of their ability to pay; commissioners have said no resident would be made to pay for an ambulance ride at the point of service, either.

"No one should ever be afraid of calling 911," Utz told the committee.

The county is currently investigating the beginning of the issue; it has yet to reveal how many residents were erroneously billed or how much money was collected that should have been paid instead by the county.

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“NO RIFS HAVE TAKEN PLACE YET.”

COMMISSIONER SCOTT OSTROW OVER FEARS OF LAYOFF OF FEDERAL WORKERS ON NAS PATUXENT RIVER



LOCAL 5
Commissioners push out sheriff's headquarters replacement



LOCAL 6
Bill would remove county say over solar farm siting



ON THE COVER
The county's historical society wants to restore Tudor Hall

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, FEB 27 PM Showers Hi: 63° Lo: 40°	FRI, FEB 28 Mostly Sunny Hi: 55° Lo: 45°	SAT, MAR 1 Partly Cloudy Hi: 63° Lo: 26°	SUN, MAR 2 Sunny Hi: 40° Lo: 24°
MON, MAR 3 Sunny Hi: 43° Lo: 31°	TUE, MAR 4 Partly Cloudy Hi: 56° Lo: 45°	WED, MAR 5 Showers Hi: 65° Lo: 47°	THU, MAR 6 Partly Cloudy Hi: 54° Lo: 34°

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