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THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025

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**Agencies to Cooperate
on Crisis Response**

**Public Hearing Held
on Ethics Changes**

**New Deputy County
Administrator Named**

**JOHNSON NAMED ACTING
SUPERINTENDENT**

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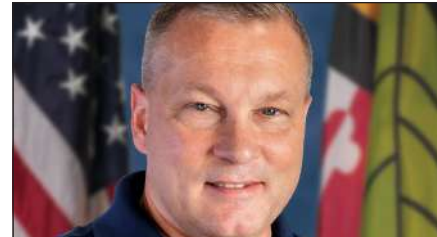


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“WE’RE NOT TALKING CALLS THAT DEFINITELY NEED A POLICE OR FIRE OR EMS RESPONSE.”

EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTOR DAVE MCDOWELL ON THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH DISPATCH AGREEMENT



LOCAL 5
County seeks to overhaul mental health crisis response



ON THE COVER
Dr. Susan Johnson named acting Superintendent of Schools



LOCAL 6
Commissioners hold public hearing on ethics ordinance changes

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUL 17	FRI, JUL 18	SAT, JUL 19	SUN, JUL 20
Partly Cloudy Hi: 93° Lo: 76°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 86° Lo: 72°	Scattered Storms Hi: 84° Lo: 73°	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 87° Lo: 72°
MON, JUL 21	TUE, JUL 22	WED, JUL 23	THU, JUL 24
Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 71°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 71°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 72°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 89° Lo: 73°

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Veteran Educator Selected as Acting Superintendent

Interim Superintendent will be Appointed Next Month

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

With Calvert County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Andraé Townsel headed to Hartford, Ct. to lead their school system, a veteran local educator has been selected to be acting superintendent. Dr. Susan Johnson will be leading the school system at least until the next school board meeting in August. The board has not yet selected an interim superintendent. School Board President Jana Post said that process has to be done in public at a meeting. Presumably, the selection process for a new superintendent will be announced at that meeting.

Dr. Johnson has been with Calvert County Public Schools for 34 years. She has served at just about every available level within the school system. She has been a teacher, assistant principal, and principal as well as Director of Secondary School Improvement, Chief Academic Officer and most recently Chief Operations Officer.

After graduating from Old Dominion University in Richmond, Johnson taught for eight years before being named Assistant Principal at Northern Middle School and a year later as the school's principal. She then became principal at Calvert High School before transitioning to central

office positions.

The Eastern Shore native (Somerset County) told the County Times in a 2022 interview, "I wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I graduated from high school and was moving toward physical therapy when I was a freshman in college. My mom was a nurse and my dad an educator, so it seemed like a good fit. I took a survey course in special education and was fascinated by the brain research regarding students with disabilities and I was hooked. I switched my major and graduated with a degree in special education with an emphasis on learning disabilities."

In her most recent roles, she has been a regular presenter at school board meetings.

The public schools' website lists Dr. Johnson's related experience:

- Maryland's Superintendent Academy, 2022-2023
- Maryland Negotiations Service Fall Conference, 2022
- Digging into Pillar 2 as a Negotiation's Team
- Uninterrupted Learning Focus Conference, 2019
- Preventing Roadblocks for Successful District Implementation
- Focused and Engaging Professional Learning
- AASA National Principal Supervisor

Academy, 2017-2018

- Maryland Boards of Education Annual Meeting, 2016
- CreaTE the Future with CTE Today: Transforming Vocational Technical Programs
- Annual Meeting of School Construction, 2013, A Principal's Perspective on School Construction
- Maryland Boards of Education Annual Meeting, 2013 - Session - Students Leading Students
- Leadership Maryland - Education Day, 2013, Panelist - K-12 Education
- Maryland Boards of Education Annual Meeting, 2012 - Round Table Discussion - MAC Scholars
- Maryland Board of Education, 2012, Principal Representative to discuss statewide eligibility.
- Calvert County Public Schools, Presenter, A&S Staff Development, New Teacher Sessions, Staff Development
- Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award - 2007
- Washington Post Leadership Academy
- Maryland Leadership Academy

In her role as chief operations officer she was responsible for overseeing:

- System and Instructional Performance



Dr. Susan Johnson

- Equity
- Special Education
- Information Technology
- Student Services
- Secondary Principals

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FORTUNE BEST PLACES TO LIVE 2024
FORTUNE BEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR 2024

Agencies Forge Agreement on Mental Health Crisis Response

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners has approved a landmark agreement by several county agencies that affects the way that help is dispatched in mental health or behavioral health crisis.

Emergency Services Director Dave McDowell explained at the July 15 BOCC meeting, “A 911 specialist processed that call and we would dispatch police or fires or EMS. Although we would dispatch them, they may not be the most appropriate resource for that individual. There have been many instances throughout the country where that interaction has turned negative because they weren’t the most appropriate resource. So, by bringing in 988 (Suicide Prevention Hotline), this allows 911 to transfer those calls. And these are low acuity calls. We’re not talking calls that definitely need a police or fire or EMS response. These are the low acuity calls where maybe they’re better off speaking to somebody over the phone or getting the mobile crisis team where they have clinicians on their response unit there to talk with that person instead of police responding and tying up their resources where they may need to be available for an actual police emergency. So that is the intent of this initiative.”

Commissioner Mike Hart said, “I’m glad you guys are doing this. We talk about this a lot that society has not been equipped for this because (in) the traditional way of handling things is you would send someone out to the house, and they might not be the right one. Suicide has gotten so prevalent.”

Hart added, “I never thought I would know as many people as I do who have committed suicide and you just never knew what

they had going on inside.”

McDowell said, “There’s resources out there, but 911 professionals may not know what those resources are. So, by connecting them to the right person, they can make sure they get those resources, and they can follow up and make sure they get the most appropriate help at the right time.”

Commissioner Catherine Grasso observed they had met recently with the county health officer and “our big conversation both times was mental health and how do we address it and how do we help people. This is imperative for our county and thank you both for being proactive.”

Commissioner Vice President Todd Ireland asked Communications Chief Stanley Harris, “When we’re going through the phone calls to make sure that it’s not a safety issue with just sending the mobile crisis team? Or should a deputy go with them?”

Harris said, “It’s called Emergency Medical Dispatch. The protocols we use to process 911 calls through the questioning that triages the call based on what the caller tells us. So, we’ve identified codes in that protocol where if there are high acuity codes, it’s getting police, fire, and it may get an MCT response dispatched initially as well, but we’re sending police to secure because maybe there’s a weapon involved. These are the low acuity calls where maybe I was thinking about committing suicide last week. I have no intention of doing it now, but I want to talk to somebody. We’re not trained to do that at 911 and do we really need to tie up a police resource to go talk to somebody for that? So, we’re able to transfer them to 988, where they can talk to a mental health professional and they can provide those resources and talk to them. We have in the MOA (Memorandum of

Agreement) triggers where if they get to 988 and then it escalates. Now I went and gotten a weapon and I’m seriously considering it, they transfer it back to us and now we can send police on that response along with mobile crisis.”

Director of the Local Behavioral Health Authority Andrea McDonald-Fingland thanked McDowell and Jarris “for their not just cooperation, but advocacy in this initiative. When I called or emailed Stanley, a year and a half ago when we started this initiative, I wasn’t necessarily expecting everybody to jump on the bandwagon right away, but Stanley was there like, what do we need to do?”

She said, “We are one of the first counties in Maryland to execute this MOA.”

McDonald-Fingland said, “Here in Calvert, there was no pushback. Everybody was so ready to put this initiative into place.”

She added, “It also is financially responsible of us to be dedicating the resources of our fire, EMS, and Sheriff’s office and MSP to emergencies where there’s a dangerous aspect to it. And so, the emergencies or the crises that are occurring where the behavioral health is involved, but no one’s in immediate danger, we can let the mental health and peer support professionals provide their interventions.”

Director for Behavioral Health Diversion at Community Crisis Services, Inc. Adriana Faso said, “We are the designated contact center for 988 in Southern Maryland. So, my team is going to be working directly with the police department to deescalate and kind of divert calls from them back to the community resources.”

“The biggest thing at 988,” she said, “is that we do have trained specialists that are there to not only deescalate and provide



Emergency Services Director Dave McDowell

emotional support, but also to redirect them back to community resources. A lot of people don’t know what they don’t know. And so, we just want to make that easy for them.”

Clinical Supervisor for Calvert Crisis Response Regina Turnbull said, “The services that we provide at Calvert Crisis Response are a mobile response team, which can dispatch out into the community, either through the public safety system or through self-dispatch, or through 988, we can go out to the community where people are having crisis of mental health or behavioral health crisis, or who may be experiencing it vicariously through somebody else.”

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Deputy County Administrator Appointed

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners announces the appointment of Stephen McGibbon as deputy county administrator, effective Aug. 4.

McGibbon brings more than 30 years of experience in financial oversight, risk management and government operations. Most recently, he served as director of finance for Prince George’s County Government, where he led efforts to manage a multibillion-dollar debt portfolio, supervised key divisions including treasury and accounting and developed programs to strengthen financial compliance and internal controls.

In his new role, McGibbon will support the county administrator in overseeing daily operations, implementing strategic initiatives and ensuring the effectiveness and accountability of government services. He will also lead efforts to review and evaluate performance measures across key agencies to promote continuous improvement and transparency.

“We are excited to welcome Stephen to Calvert County,” said County Administrator Linda Turner. “His deep experience in finance, strategic planning and executive leadership will be a tremendous asset as we continue working to deliver efficient, responsive services to our residents.”

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of Calvert County, execute the vision of the Board of County Commissioners and provide strong, reliable, high-quality support to the county administrator,” McGibbon said. “Throughout my career, I’ve been committed to public service and ensuring that government works effectively for the people. I look forward to working alongside our talented county team to support that mission.”

McGibbon’s career includes leadership roles in both local government and the federal sector. He has played a key role in policy development, process improvement and legislative impact analysis. He also served

with the Library of Congress Office of the Inspector General and began his career in public accounting.

McGibbon holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from Howard University and is a certified public accountant (CPA), certified internal auditor (CIA) and certified information systems auditor (CISA). He is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and other professional organizations. He is also an alum of Leadership Greater Washington and volunteers his time with nonprofit boards.

He has been married for more than 30 years to his wife, Karlene, and they have two children: a son, Connor, who is college-aged, and a daughter, Eryn, a rising sophomore in high school.

Press release from Calvert County government.



Stephen McGibbon

Public Hearing Held on Ethics Changes

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It's been six years since former county commissioner Kelly McConkey voted to include land he owned into the Huntingtown Town Center. That action led a small group of county citizens to try to overturn the decision and prevent such actions from ever happening again.

The group, called Calvert Citizens United, took their ethics complaint to local and state courts and eventually to Maryland highest court. That court urged them to seek redress through legislative action, which in turn led to the passage of House Bill 834 in the 2024 Maryland General Assembly.

The Calvert County Ethics Commission and the county commissioners have been working since then to comply with the provisions of the law, requiring the county commissioners to act on an ethics complaint against one of their own members.

That path led to a July 15 public hearing on a proposed change in the county's ethics law. By then what started out as highly controversial seems to have turned into something routine. Only one person spoke, and that was in favor of the proposal.

Calvert County Constituent Services Specialist Emily Shrieve gave the commissioners the background at the beginning of the hearing. She said, "On June 17, 2025, the Calvert County Ethics Commission (CCEC) held a work session with the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regarding the implementation of Ch. 370 Laws of Maryland, 2024 (House Bill 834), which requires the CCEC to publicly disclose recommendations to expel a commissioner and authorizes the governing body to remove county elected officials for local and state conflict of interest violations based on the CCEC's public recommendation. The BOCC directed the CCEC to move forward with a public hearing to consider and receive comments regarding amendments to Chapter 41 (Ethics) of the Calvert County Code of Ordinances to implement Maryland law."

She went on to say, "The Calvert County Ethics Commission recommend amending Chapter 41 of the Calvert County Code of Ordinances to implement Ch. 370 Laws of



Susan Dzurec

Maryland, 2024." There was no projected cost to implementing the change.

The only speaker at the hearing was Susan Dzurec, one of the founders of Calvert Citizens United, who described herself as a former member.

Dzurec said, "There's a lot of personal stuff in this though. My earrings say all things are possible when you have hope. The oyster shell on my necklace is in honor of Senator Bernie Fowler, who advised Calvert Citizens United up until the time of his death. His motto was 'Never, never, never give up.'"

"My hope is that moving forward with the enactment of House Bill 834 into the ethics code will decrease the chances of our elected officials from engaging in the unethical behavior that brought us here. I appreciate that finally, this has come to public hearing. I've aged significantly during this process. It started in 2019. This is when this journey began. Please, let's get this done so that I know our time was not spent unwisely," she concluded.

The commissioners will keep the record open for at least 10 days before making a decision.

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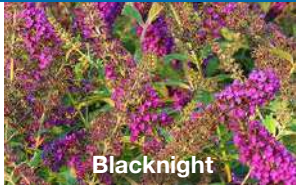


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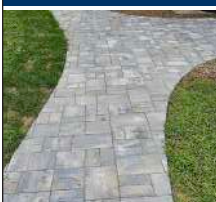
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North Beach Shooting Under Investigation



Rayquan Malik Jackson



Devon Patrick Hunter

Deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office on July 4 at approximately 12:30 a.m. responded to Neptune's Seafood Pub located at 8802 Chesapeake Ave., in North Beach, for the report of a shooting. No injuries were reported at the scene.

As a result of the investigation, two suspects were identified and apprehended:

- Rayquan Malik Jackson, 27 of Falls Church, VA
- Devon Patrick Hunter, 24 of Friendship, MD

Both individuals are currently being held at the Calvert County Detention Center without bond. The following charges have been filed against them:

- Attempted First-Degree Murder
- First-Degree Assault
- Use of a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony
- Illegal Possession of a Firearm
- Second-Degree Assault
- Reckless Endangerment

Additionally, a third individual, Jeremiah Jermaine Nick, 19 of Shady Side, MD, has been identified for tampering with evidence in an effort to obstruct the investigation. A criminal summons has been issued for Nick.

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office is actively seeking further information related to this incident. If you were present at Neptune's Seafood Pub during the time of the incident, or if you have any information that may assist with the investigation, please contact:

- Detective Christopher Murphy – christopher.murphy@calvertcountymd.gov or (443) 624-7963
- Detective Ryan Gough – gough@calvertcountymd.gov or (443) 684-4712.

All tips and information are greatly appreciated.

Press Release from CCSO

Fire Damages Chesapeake Ranch Estates Home

On July 12 at 1:35 p.m., Calvert 911 began receiving calls in the 11900 block of Hemlock Road in the Ranch Club area of the first due (Solomons VRS&FD) for a structure fire. Units from Solomons and surrounding companies were dispatched. Chief 3c (Bowen) pulled up two minutes after dispatch to find a two-story, single-family dwelling on a basement with a working fire through the roof with the whole 2nd floor fully involved.

Crew from Engine 31 stretched the 400 (ft. hose) off the rear and pulled the line to the front door and masked up. Crew from Engine 31 encountered heavy fire on the fire floor and had a bulk of the fire knocked in minutes before the next line was in place. Crews operated for about four hours performing salvage and over hull and assisting with the Fire Marshals Office. (No one was reported injured).

A Go Fund Me account has been posted online for anyone wishing to donate. The official link in here <https://gofund.me/4c300705>

Press release by Deputy Chief Brian Bowen



Residents Encouraged to Take Part in Buy Local Challenge



Calvert County residents are encouraged to support local farmers, waterman and artisans by participating in the Maryland Buy Local Challenge, taking place during Buy Local Week, from Thursday, July 17, through Sunday, July 27.

Each year, Calvert County joins with State of Maryland and the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission for the Buy Local Challenge, asking Marylanders to pledge to eat at least one locally grown or produced item every day for a week. This simple commitment helps strengthen our agricultural community and supports long-term sustainability.

"We're proud to highlight the amazing variety of products our local farmers, watermen, and artisans provide," said Economic Development Director Julie Oberg. "Supporting local agriculture strengthens our economy, sustains family businesses and builds meaningful connections between consumers and the people who produce their food. When we choose to buy local, we help preserve the character and heritage that make our region so special."

Buying local food is not only fresher and more nutritious, but also better for the environment and the local economy. Supporting local farms helps promote cleaner air and water, reduces the carbon footprint from transportation and keeps dollars in the local community. If every Maryland household spent just \$12 a week on local farm products for eight weeks, it would return more than \$200 million to the state's farming economy.

There are many ways to participate in the annual statewide challenge. The Department of Economic Development suggests adding one or two local items a day to your meals – fresh eggs and bacon with breakfast, a snack of local fruit or veggies, some Chesapeake Bay blue crabs caught by a local waterman, complemented by your favorite local beer or wine. Brighten your table with handmade candles crafted with locally harvested beeswax, serving boards and spoons made from Maryland-grown woods or a bouquet of locally grown flowers.

The Calvert County Farmers Markets offer a great and convenient opportunity to support local agriculture and celebrate

Buy Local Week.

The 2025 market season:

- Tuesdays in Prince Frederick at CalvertHealth Medical Center back parking lot
130 Hospital Road
2:30–5:30 p.m.
April 29 to November 25
Farmers Market Association market
- Thursdays in Dunkirk at the entrance of Dunkirk District Park
10750 Southern Maryland Blvd.
2:30–5:30 p.m.
May 22 to August 28
Farmers Market Association market
- Saturdays in North Beach at the North Beach Senior Center parking lot
9010 Chesapeake Ave.
8–11:30 a.m.
April 19 to October 25
Town of North Beach municipal market

Join us for the Buy Local Challenge Celebration Event on Monday, July 28, from 5–8 p.m., rain or shine, at Tettimers' Produce (3305 St. Leonard Road, in Benedict). This family-friendly event will feature more than 35 vendors in a farmers' market-style setting where visitors can shop for farm-raised meats and dairy, fresh produce, flowers, oysters, baked goods, jams, handmade soaps and local arts and crafts. Maryland wineries, breweries and distilleries will also offer tastings.

Tickets are \$5, and children age 6 and under are admitted free. Tickets are available online until 4 p.m. Monday, July 28. Each ticket includes a complimentary insulated shopping tote with ice, entry into a free raffle, carriage rides with the Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales, pony rides with Mary's Go Round and access to the Rolling Acres Farm petting pen. For tickets and directions, visit www.buylocalchallenge.com/blc-celebration.

To learn more about Calvert County's agricultural community or get updates on local agri-businesses, visit www.CalvertAg.com or contact the Calvert County Department of Economic Development at 410-535-4583 or info@choosecalvert.com.

Press Release from Calvert County government

What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending Category 1 site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their July 16 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick and Zoom/call-in, live stream.

1. CSPR-143112, **CCIP Lot 3RI** located at 171 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, Lot 3R in the Calvert County Industrial Park, zoned Light Industrial. Proposed redevelopment of a portion of the 4.5-acre lot by demolishing the existing office and constructing a new two-story office building in its place. It is further proposed to repave the southern portion of the site and to construct a storage warehouse and wall to segregate parking between the storage building yard & adjacent flex space tenants. A total of 6,524 sf of new construction with a total disturbance of 1.2-acres is proposed and the amenities will utilize public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted December 20, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett
2. CSPR-143253, **Cal. Gateway Business Center, Lot 12R (Town Center Place)**, located on the 4.04-acre parcel at 10380 Town Center Blvd. in Dunkirk, MD and is zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed development of two shell buildings containing 18,075 sf of proposed of retail space and 15,835 sf of flex space with disturbed acreage of 2.52 acres. The project proposes to utilize private water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted January 22, 2025. Agent: Atwell Group.
3. CSPR-143260, **Westside on Main**, located on ~3.8-acres of combined parcels at 305 & 445 Main Street in



Prince Frederick, MD and is zoned Town Center. The project consists of 66,680 sf of newly constructed townhomes and office building with disturbed acreage of 3.05 acres. The project proposes to utilize public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted January 22, 2025. Agent: COA Barrett.

4. CSPR-143276, **Meadow Run Gun Range**, located on the 11.86-acre parcel at 7625 Meadow Run Lane in Owings, MD and is zoned Light Industrial. The project consists of an approximately 61,000 sf indoor gun range with disturbed acreage of 10 acres. The project proposes to utilize private water and septic. The concept submittal was accepted February 26, 2025. Agent: COA Barrett

No **major subdivisions** are currently under review for Planning Commission consideration. Please check next month's agenda for any new additions to this list.

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



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CTA Students Earn Medals at National SkillsUSA

The SkillsUSA Maryland student delegation brought home 26 medals from the 61st Annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), held this summer in Atlanta. A team of the state's most talented Career and Technical Education (CTE) students showcased their skills in 94 CTE competitions.

Calvert Career and Technology Academy (CTA) students were among the honorees. They are:

- **Silver Medal, Firefighting**
Oliver Fox
- **Bronze Medal, Audio Production**
Team L - Dwight Brooks, Liam McGowan
- **6th Place, Crime Scene Investigation**
Team S—Kayla Freeman, Kathryn Phillips, Alvani Generillo
- **6th Place, Outstanding Chapter**
Team E—Charlee Lewis, Gianna LiCalzi, Jalena Mason

Demonstrating exemplary CTE training and preparation, Maryland students challenged 6,800 other student champions from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Maryland students competing in Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Promotional Bulletin Board and Sheet Metal are officially among the best in the nation, returning with

gold medals. Silver medals were awarded to students competing in Community Service, Digital Cinema Production, Firefighting, Nurse Assisting and Photography, and bronze medals were awarded to students competing in Advertising Design, Audio Production, Early Childhood Education, Entrepreneurship, Mobile Robotics Technology, Photography, and Restaurant Service.

"Maryland's SkillsUSA students have once again proven the power of high-quality Career and Technical Education," said Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Schools. "Their success on the national stage reflects not only their talent and hard work, but also the dedication of our educators and the strength of our CTE programs."

SkillsUSA Maryland, a premier Career and Technical Student Organization that empowers its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible citizens, has a statewide membership of 5,100 high school students. Members have consistently demonstrated their expertise and professionalism while participating throughout the year in a variety of leadership and competitive conferences and events.

Press Release from Maryland State Department of Education

County Students Excel at National Leadership Conference

Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) is proud to announce that four outstanding students achieved national recognition at the 2025 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference (NLC), held June 29–July 2 in Anaheim, California.

The event drew thousands of student competitors from across the United States to showcase their business knowledge, leadership skills, and career readiness in one of the premier student conferences in the country.

Representing Calvert County and the state of Maryland, the following students earned top honors:

- Ada Marciniak
Northern High School
5th place in the nation in Business Law
- Ihnaya Mason
Huntingtown High School
5th place in the nation in Computer Problem Solving
- Amaria Jenkins
Huntingtown High School
7th place in the nation in Organizational Leadership
- Gentry Bowie
Northern High School
Honored as Maryland's "Who's Who in FBLA" recipient

The National Leadership Conference provides FBLA members with the opportunity to demonstrate their academic and career skills through competitive events, network with peers from across the nation, and participate in professional development workshops. This year's event, held in Anaheim, emphasized innovation, global awareness, and leadership in the modern business world.

For the students, the experience extended far beyond competition. "Walking across that stage, especially as the only woman, is surely an experience I'll never forget," said Ihnaya Mason, reflecting on the significance of her achievement.

Amaria Jenkins spoke to the personal and professional growth sparked by preparing for and attending the event: "The experience showed me that FBLA is so much bigger than our chapter or school. The weeks leading up to the NLC helped improve my study habits and inspired me to dream big - walking that stage in front of thousands of people and being a national winner. Meeting new people and feeling the energy was such an amazing opportunity. I cannot wait for next year!"

Lynne Gillis, FBLA advisor at Huntingtown High School, emphasized the dedication behind these accomplishments: "Success in FBLA isn't just about competition - it's about commitment. These students turned hard work and determination into a national championship win."

FBLA is one of the nation's leading Career and Technical Student Organizations, dedicated to preparing students for careers in business, entrepreneurship, and leadership. As part of Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Calvert County Public Schools, FBLA gives students the chance to apply classroom learning in real-world settings, gain leadership experience, and compete on local, state, and national levels.

For more information about FBLA or Career and Technical Education programs in Calvert County Public Schools, visit www.calvertnet.k12.md.us/cte.

Press Release from CCPS

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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Jul 17

Song Circle

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
6–7:30 p.m.

Whether you're a musician, singer, or just love to hum along, this event is for you. Lead or learn folk and acoustic tunes in a casual, welcoming jam session. Bring your instrument, voice, or enthusiasm. Spectators are welcome to come enjoy the music, energy, and community spirit! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

TACOS Teen Advisory Council of Students

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

We want the library to be a safe space where teens can hang out and freely access books and information. TACOS meets monthly to help us with our events and services planning. Join us every third Thursday! You can receive one Service Learning hour for each meeting attended. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Jul 19

On Pins and Needles

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
1–4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Jul 19

Toy Boat Building

Calvert Marine Museum
1–4 p.m.

Make a toy boat from wood under the Corbin Nature Pavilion! Space and materials are limited. Visitors will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. For ages 5 and older. Museum admission applies; in addition, a donation of \$2 per boat is requested.

Insectival

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
9 a.m.–1 p.m.

What's an INSECTIVAL? It's an insect festival! Join us for a day of buggy fun as we explore and get creative with the world of insects. Enjoy activities for all ages, meet community groups who love bugs, and have fun roaming the garden, galleries, and indoor classrooms as you explore and have fun with insects! Celebrate these invertebrates and all the wonderful wildlife that depends on them. Tickets Required: www.annmariegarden.org/annmarie2/content/insectival

Magpie: Summer Fun

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
11–11:45 a.m. and 12:15–1 p.m.

Join Terry and Greg of Magpie for an unforgettable musical adventure about fish, dolphins, crabs and other marine life. With guitars, harmonicas, and even a mandolin, they create a fun mix of folk, blues and tunes that will make you want to sing and clap along. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

On Pins And Needles – South

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
2–4 p.m.

If you knit, embroider or crochet, or would like to learn, join us at the Southern Branch on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Get together with other fiber crafters to learn or develop your skills. Work on projects in progress or start something new! Registration requested. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mystical Moths: A Close-Up Look at Nature's Nighttime Wonders!

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
2–3 p.m.

Did you know some of the most beautiful creatures come out after dark? Join us for an eye-opening exploration of moths, from tiny backyard visitors to giant silk moths! Led by Ty Clark, an experienced moth enthusiast who raises and studies these amazing insects. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Jul 22

Mobile Health Center from CalvertHealth

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Come talk about your healthcare questions or needs because a simple change can make a difference in you or your family's life. We are here to support you! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Job Seeker Resources: Skillbuilders

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9 a.m.–3 p.m.

MD Labor Workforce Development Specialists, Veterans Services, Senior Community Service Employment, and Justice Involved program representatives, along with Health Department staff will be available (in person) to meet with those seeking employment-related support and community service information. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Jul 23

Intro to Sewing—Fabric Bookmark

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch

4100 5th St., North Beach
5–7 p.m.

Join us for a brief introduction to sewing. At this event, you will learn the basics of the Bernina sewing machine in our Makerspace and create your own fabric bookmark! Participants must complete the Bernina sewing machine online certification piece before this event. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Bilingual Conversation Hour: Spanish-English

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
6:30–7:30 p.m.

We will get to practice our English and Spanish Conversation Skills! It will be a time for community members to help each other out with their language needs! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Kraken Crisis Teen Escape Room

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

The Depths Await! Escape the Kraken's grasp! Captain Elias vanished without a trace. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Boating & Water Safety Workshop

Calvert Marine Museum
4–8 p.m.

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, will host a workshop designed to help educate the public about all aspects of boating and being on the water. It's a four-hour workshop focusing on proper life jacket fit, licensing/titling, basic boat maintenance, man over-board procedures, navigating our local water ways, and much more. This workshop will have speakers from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and local Watermen to discuss proper boat care/maintenance.

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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

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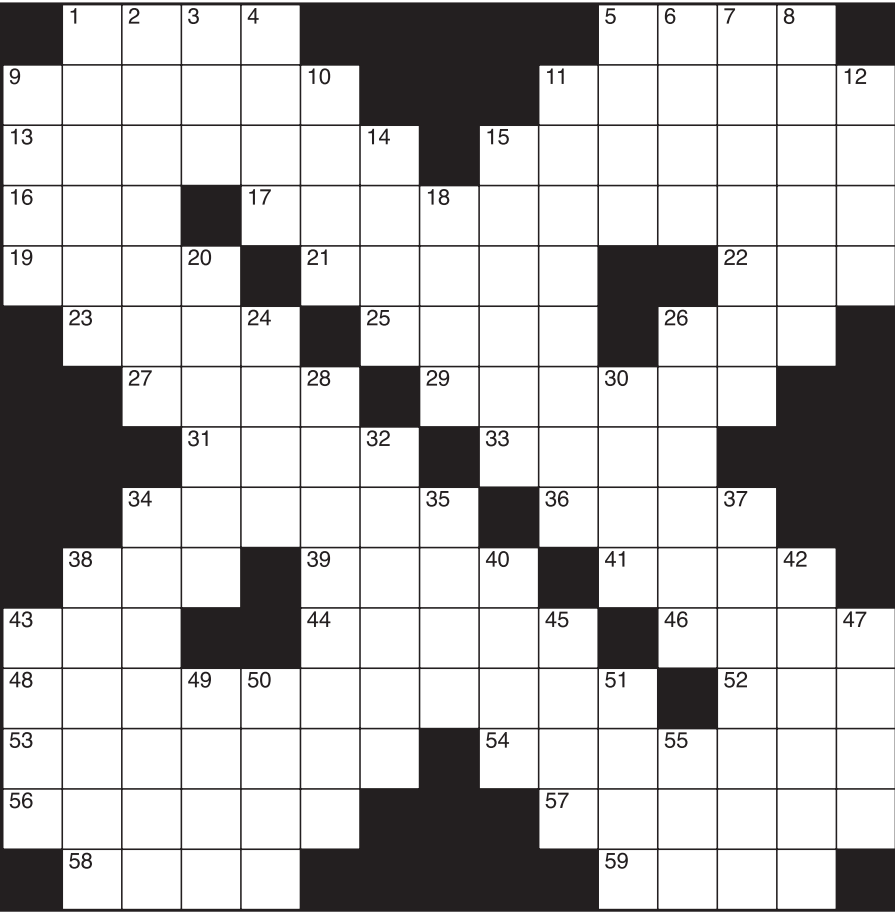
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- CLUES ACROSS
- CLUES DOWN
1. Resorts

5. One point south of southwest

9. Musical performances

11. Matched

13. Four-footed animal part

15. Express severe disapproval of

16. Type of leaf

17. Preparatory

19. Walk heavily

21. Succulent plants

22. Rectangle of grass

23. Lump in yarn

25. Too

26. Foot (Latin)

27. Afflicts

29. Smoothed

31. Mind (Greek)

33. Tampa ballclub

34. Semitic language

36. Sheltered sides

38. Ocean

39. Electronic point of sale

41. Thrust a knife into

43. 12th month (abbr.)

44. Ringworm

46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.)

48. Fighting back

52. Cease to exist

53. Insects in adult stage

54. Freestanding sculpture

56. Caps

57. Repents

58. Brown and Wallace are two

59. Moved quickly
1. Goes bad

2. Yard structure

3. They ___

4. Marine invertebrate

5. European river

6. Office supplies firm

7. Physically abused

8. Service stations in Australia

9. Kills

10. Liquid body substances

11. Particular to a given individual

12. Brave or noble act

14. Sicilian city

15. Conqueror

18. Elected officials

20. Type of "pig"

24. Drop of viscous substance

26. Monetary unit of Spain

28. Guarantees

30. Coloring materials

32. Reddish browns

34. Square measure

35. Will not

37. Canned fish

38. Appeared

40. Six (Spanish)

42. Took off

43. Negligible amount

45. Posts in a Greek temple

47. Witnesses

49. Phil ___, former CIA

50. Places to park

51. Guns

55. Dance to pop music

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★ ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

UPCOMING EVENTS



Art and Legacy: Black History Through Creative Expression

Explore the rich and diverse world of Black art in this hands-on workshop. Charlotte Hall Library, Saturday, July 19 from 3 - 4 p.m. Discover the styles of iconic and contemporary Black artists, and let their work ignite your creativity. Create your own unique masterpieces inspired by these influential creators. All skill levels are welcome! Register on www.stmalib.org.

Beatbox Remix: Christylez Bacon & Qi Yu

Progressive hip-hop artist/composer Christylez Bacon is joined by gu-zheng (Chinese zither) artist Qi Yu for an innovative performance exploring cross-cultural collaboration through music. Elements of hip-hop, like human beatbox, rhyming, and storytelling, blend with elements of traditional and modern Chinese music to create a unique experience spotlighting teamwork and creativity. Together, these

two musicians blend genres and styles to bring a wholly original performance that pushes the envelope for musical collaboration. Most seating will be on the floor—feel free to bring a blanket! Space may be limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Lexington Park Library, Monday, July 21, 10:30 a.m.

Mechanicsville Elementary School Gym (28585 Three Notch Road, Mechanicsville) Monday, July 21, 2 p.m.

The Great Migration of African Americans: Migration Journeys with SMCM

A pivotal moment in U.S. history, when millions of African Americans left the rural South for urban centers in the North and West. Register to receive a reminder via email or text. Walk-ins welcome! The Great Migration had a profound impact on the 20th century. Explore the social, economic, and cultural transformations that shaped individuals, communities, and the nation during this transformative era. Speaker - Mr. Leslie Walker, Adjunct

Professor Anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Lexington Park Library on Monday, July 21 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

African Migration and Its Maryland Connections: Migration Journeys with SMCM

Trace the story of humanity from its African roots to modern-day migrations. Register to receive a reminder email or text message. Walk-ins welcome! Migration is central to the story of humanity from its African roots to the modern-day. Learn about the special connections between Maryland, the mid-Atlantic, and The Gambia, and understand the ongoing struggles of Africans seeking new lives and opportunities. Speaker - Bill Roberts, Professor of Anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Lexington Park Library on Tuesday, July 22 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Preparing Healthy Snacks

Join local health and life coach, Shaniqua Cousins, as she demonstrates to families

how to assemble healthy snacks as part of the More to Explore program. Attendees will receive a free goody bag while supplies last. This event is a partnership between the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership and St. Mary's County Libraries. Lexington Park Library on Friday, July 25 from 2 - 2:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

The History of Ellis Island - The Island of Hope and Tears

"Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses." Join us for a history talk and Q&A with Historian Paul Rose on the topic of Ellis Island. Ellis Island, located in the New York Harbor, was once the busiest immigrant inspection and processing station in the United States. Paul Rose is a researcher at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum but is not acting a representative of the institution in this presentation. Lexington Park Library, Saturday, July 26 from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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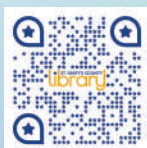
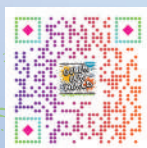
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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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.

Sat, Jul 19

Maryland Dove Passenger Sail

Historic St. Mary's City
10 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Ages 5+, Step aboard the *Maryland Dove* and set sail on the serene waters of the St. Mary's River. \$60, \$50 members. Reservations: 301-994-4372 or hsmcc.groups@maryland.gov

Teacher Appreciation Sail Aboard the Maryland Dove

Historic St. Mary's City
1–3 p.m.

Enjoy a discounted sailing experience aboard *Maryland Dove* just for educators. \$50 per person. Current educators only; valid school ID or email required.

Toy Boat Building

Calvert Marine Museum
1–4 p.m.

Make a toy boat from wood under the Corbin Nature Pavilion! Space and materials are limited. Visitors will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. For ages 5 and older. Museum admission applies; in addition, a donation of \$2 per boat is requested.

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Kids Day

Summerseat Farm
26655 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville
11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Summerseat is once again gearing up for a day of family fun. Join us for games and activities for all ages on the lawn, and cooling off on the slip-n-slide or our other water stations. Make sure you take time to walk down to the barn area and feed the animals (they really enjoy your visits)! Food and refreshments will be available for purchase.

There is no gate fee but we do encourage a \$10 per family donation. Your donations are what help us maintain the farm and make events like this possible. All donations are tax deductible.

Open House

Drayden African American Schoolhouse
11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Visit one of the nation's best-preserved, one-room African American schoolhouses the first and third Saturday of each month from April to October and on Juneteenth. Check out the restored schoolhouse and learn about its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County. Staff will be available at the school during this time to answer any questions and provide information.

This is a FREE EVENT co-hosted by Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC) and the St. Mary's County Museum Division.

INFO: www.facebook.com/events/1304609537658205

Mon, Jul 21

Monday Motors

24710 Sotterley Road, Hollywood
6–8 p.m.

Bring your car! Casual, fun atmosphere! This Month's Theme: Bikes, Trikes, and Poptcycles! Not all vehicles have FOUR Wheels; bring what you've got, whether it have 2, 3, or ...5? No matter the theme, all vehicles are welcome! www.facebook.com/events/911477330918196

Monday Night Poker

St. Mary's County Elks Lodge
45779 Fire Department Ln., California
7 p.m.

Buy-in: \$35. Blinds will start at 25-50 and progress every 20 minutes. Please enter

through the side of the building.

Wed, Jul 23

Boating & Water Safety Workshop

Calvert Marine Museum
4–8 p.m.

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, will host a yje workshop designed to help educate the public about all aspects of boating and being on the water. It's a four-hour workshop focusing on proper life jacket fit, licensing/titling, basic boat maintenance, man over-board procedures, navigating our local water ways, and much more. This workshop will have speakers from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and local Watermen to discuss proper boat care/maintenance.

Ongoing

Teacher Appreciation Week

Historic St. Mary's City
Monday–Friday, July 15–19
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Educators and one guest enjoy free admission to all sites with valid school ID. Thank you for your work in and out of the classroom!

Disney's *Freaky Friday: The Musical*

Three Notch Theatre
21744 S. Coral Drive, Lexington Park
Through August 3

The Newtowne Players present Disney's *Freaky Friday: The Musical*. Based on the novel *Freaky Friday* by Mary Rodgers and the Disney films. With a book by Bridget Carpenter (*Parenthood*, *Friday Night Lights*) and an original pop/rock score by Tony Award® and Pulitzer Prize® winners Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey (*Next to Normal*, *If/Then*), *Freaky Friday* delivers a contemporary musical comedy with sharp wit, rousing tunes and a deeply emotional core.

Show times: Thursdays–Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 3 p.m., through August 3. Visit NewtownePlayers.org for tickets and

more information. Adults \$20; seniors/students/military \$17; children 6-11 \$15; under 5 free (not recommended for young children)

Summerstock 2025 — Disney's *Tarzan: The Musical*

Chopticon High School
25390 Colton Point Rd., Morganza
July 18–20 and 25–27

St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks' Summerstock Production. Based on the 1999 animated film. With music and lyrics by Phil Collins, and a book/script/libretto by David Henry Hwang, TARZAN is sure to delight audiences of all ages.

Tickets at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/recreate/summerstock.

Upcoming

10th Annual Patriot Day 5K

Little Flower School
Great Mills
September 6

A special community celebration honoring our heroes and supporting our school! This family-friendly event includes a 5K race, kid's fun run and community gathering filled with school spirit, remembrance and gratitude. If you would like to sponsor or register for the event, please visit LFS website for event details: <https://www.littleflowercatholic.org/patriot-day-5k>

Finding the Right College Fit:

Lexington Park Library meeting room
Monday July 28
5–6:30 p.m.

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Toni Mitchell, 67



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Toni, who peacefully transitioned on June 13, 2025.

Born Toni Lorene Williams, and later becoming Toni Lorene Mitchell, she was born on December 23, 1957 in Waukegan, Illinois, at St. Therese Hospital. She was 67 years old at the time of her passing in Clinton, Maryland.

In her earliest years, Toni spent much of her time in Waukegan with her grandparents, Vivian Jones Williams and Theodore Williams, where her aunts and uncles treated her like a cherished little sister. She was especially close to her grandparents, often being the cousin who spent the most time with them, time which was cherished by all.

Around the age of seven or eight, Toni moved with her mother, Betty, to the Washington, DC area, where her mother later married James Arthur Mitchell, who lovingly adopted Toni. They made their home in Prince George's County, Maryland where Toni grew up, attending Thomas Johnson Jr. High School before graduating from DuVal Sr. High School. Toni was a good student throughout and after high school, she chose to attend college at Marquette University in Wisconsin, just a car ride away from her beloved grandparents in Waukegan—a choice that reflected her deep connection to them. During college, she returned to Waukegan in the summers, working at Ft. Sheridan Army Base while holding a position during college breaks. She graduated in 1980 with a degree in Speech Pathology.

Toni returned to the DC area after college, later purchasing a home and continuing to build a life filled with warmth, good food, and family. She had a stellar career, and retired as a training administrator at USAID for over 20 years. Toni was a beloved supervisor who required excellence. She supported her colleagues and friends, often taking on the role of professional resume polisher; never hesitating to help others during their job searches. Toni organized toy drives for children during the holidays and always doted on the children in the family, treating each with the same love and attention she showed to everyone she met. She quietly helped many family members and friends with financial and moral support.

Toni loved to cook and was considered one of the best cooks among us, keeping family recipes alive with her personal flair and particularity. She had a knack for cooking which was cultivated early in her life by both grandmothers, her mother and her Aunt Iris. It seemed as if she had attended culinary school—perhaps she did, attending “television university,” as she loved watch-

ing cooking shows and trying new recipes. She loved spending time with her cats, each of whom held a special place in her heart: Bridget Sue, Cherchez La Femme, Pierre Pierpont, Tina and Molly, to name a few. She was faithful in attending family events and Zoom calls, which were started during the covid pandemic, and made a point to help gather the family for events and celebrations. Many times, she prepared most of the meals.

Toni lived by the values of sometimes brutal honesty and truth, letting people be who they are, doing things on her own terms. She made people feel loved, seen, valued, and happy. Children always gravitated toward her, often finding themselves nestled in her lap. Her infectious laugh was a gift to everyone around her.

Her love of gaming is legendary. From slots to Spades, to Pitty Pat, to Bid Whist to Scrabble to games at family gatherings, she was highly competitive and engaged and seldom lost at any of them. She engaged happily in family gathering silliness and helped to craft the games we played. She always planned our menus, knowing she did it best, giving each of us our meal assignments. She liked jigsaw puzzles, relaxing on the family boat and hosting and planning regular gatherings for her employees at USAID. She will be remembered as someone you could laugh with and be your whole self with, someone who was not judgmental and who created space for others to feel safe, seen, and loved.

Toni was baptized in 1970 at the Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Lanham. She was deeply spiritual and had a personal relationship with God that guided her faith, quiet strength and kindness throughout her life. She had a strong and feisty side to her personality, and was very vocal in calling out injustice, either to her or others. She made no bones about her strong beliefs; even in her last moments, letting it be known to all that she was ready to “go Home to be with God.”

She is survived by her mother and father, Betty Currie (Robert - deceased) and James A. Mitchell (Brenda Girton-Mitchell); her Aunt Esther Williams Yarborough (Davey), Aunt Gladys Williams (Theodore Williams, Jr., deceased), Uncle Ivy Dennis Johnson (Eloise), Goddaughter Melani Finney Dawodu (Deion), Godson De'jon Howell and a host of sister-cousins, cousins, family and friends who loved her deeply and will continue to carry her legacy.

Family will receive friends for visitation on Friday, July 25, 2025 from 10:00am to 11:00am at People's Congregation United Church of Christ, 4704 13th St. NW Washington, D.C. 20011 with a Funeral Service beginning at 11am. Interment will be private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

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In Remembrance

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

Ellen Quade, 78



Frances "Ellen" Quade ("Sissy" to close family), 78, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away on July 11, 2025, in Leonardtown, MD, surrounded by her loving family. Born

on July 26, 1946, in Leonardtown, MD, she was the daughter of the late Ernest Ignatius Norris, Sr., and the late Mildred Louise (Guy) Norris. Her siblings, Thomas Merle Norris, Sr., Mildred Anne Norris, Ernest Ignatius Norris, Jr., and beloved niece, Erin Rochelle Norris, predeceased her.

Ellen is survived by her children, James Michael Quade of Avenue, MD, Jacquelyn Michelle Greenwell (Todd) of Hollywood, MD, and Jeanette Abell Hammon (Mike) of Magnolia, DE. She is also survived by her sisters-in-law, Eleanor Norris and Dawn Norris, and by many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Her greatest joys were her grandchildren, Timothy Wayne Abell, Jr. (Courtney), Kacie Lynn Quade, Michael Thomas Hammon, Ashton Michael Quade, Connor James Greenwell, and Carley Grace Greenwell. She cherished baking and doing crafts with them, and most importantly, celebrating their accomplishments. Her recent joy came with becoming a great-grandmother to Reid Liam Abell, and she was looking forward to meeting Easton McClure Abell, who is due in September.

Ellen loved being with her family. She had fond memories of Wednesday dinners at Merle and Eleanor's, where she spent time with her mother. Ellen shared a special bond with Eleanor and looked forward to her many visits. Her favorite things were baking, decorating for Christmas, and crocheting. It brought her much joy to share her baked goods and crocheted items, including soup bowl holders, dish scrubbies, and blankets, with her friends and family.

Ellen graduated from Leonardtown High School in 1965. Following graduation, she attended Washington D.C. Beauty Academy, where she earned a diploma in Cosmetology in 1966. Ellen worked as a hairdresser for over 40 years, with most of her career spent at Sarah's Beauty Boutique in Leonardtown, MD. Ellen also spent almost 30 years working nights and weekends as a cashier at McKay's Food Store in Hollywood, MD.

The family would like to thank the staff at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital for the compassionate care and support they provided. In addition, a special thank you goes out to her many friends at Cedar Lane Senior Living, the service coordinators, and Kristie's Cards. Their friendship meant a lot to her.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, July 17, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a Christian funeral service will be held at 12:00 PM in the funeral home chapel. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Timothy Wayne Abell, Jr.,

Michael Thomas Hammon, Connor James Greenwell, and Carley Grace Greenwell. Honorary pallbearers will be Kacie Lynn Quade and Ashton Michael Quade.

Contributions may be made to the Friends of Cedar Lane, 22680 Cedar Lane Court, 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.

Bob Hmielecki, 86



Robert Raymond "Bob" Hmielecki, 86, of Great Mills, Maryland, passed away at home on July 7, 2025. Bob was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and teacher.

Born on February 3, 1939, in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, Bob was the son of Raymond Joseph Hmielecki and Evelyn Koscielniak Hmielecki. He attended Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, MD and then moved to St. Mary's County in 1960.

Bob dedicated his career to education, serving the St. Mary's County Public School System, first as an English teacher at Leonardtown High School and then as Principal of Frank Knox Elementary, Lexington Park, MD, and Leonardtown Elementary School, Leonardtown, MD. After retiring, he continued his educational work as an administrator at Mother Catherine Spalding School in Mechanicsville, MD. He was best known by students and teachers as "Mr. H".

Beyond education, Bob was an avid fisherman who enjoyed the waters of St. Mary's County, and a passionate sports official, serving as a slow-pitch and fast-pitch softball, hardball, and football umpire for over 45 years. Known for his sharp wit and humor, Bob loved sharing long and entertaining stories. Bob was also an enthusiastic gardener who took great pride in cultivating his own vegetables and flowers. Above all, Bob deeply loved his wife and family, loving every moment spent with them. Bob was a lifetime Catholic and enjoyed teaching children about Jesus at Little Flower School and Holy Face Church.

Bob is survived by his wife Joan R. Hmielecki who was his high school sweetheart, his sons Robert Raymond Hmielecki of Advance, NC and Joseph Ignatius Hmielecki and his wife, daughter-in-law Binita Kwankin of Highland Park, IL, and son-in-law Andrew Jacobs of Rehoboth Beach, DE. Bob was the loving grandfather ("Pop pop") to his and grandchildren Seth, Sarah, and Matthew Jacobs. He was preceded in death by his parents, his daughter Susan Lynn Jacobs and grandson Isaac Hmielecki.

Family will receive friends on Thursday, July 17, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with prayers starting at 6:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Mass of

Christian Burial will be offered on Friday, July 18, 2025 starting at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Face Catholic Church, 20408 Point Lookout Rd, Great Mills, MD 20634. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A..

Dale Mattingly, 59



Dale Allen Mattingly Sr., a beloved husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, and friend, passed away on July 6, 2025, in Sonora, California, at the age of 59. Born on September 20,

1965, in Leonardtown, Maryland. His legacy of love, laughter, and service will live on in the hearts of many. Dale lived a life marked by dedication, service, and love for his family. After graduating from Leonardtown High School in 1983, Dale proudly served in the United States Army from 1984 to 1990. His commitment to duty and country was matched only by his unwavering devotion to his family

and his Catholic faith. Dale had a deep passion for softball, auto racing, and soccer (football). He loved to travel and cherished every moment spent with his loved ones. His sense of humor, strong spirit, and kind heart left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mildred Xiomara Mattingly; his children, Dale Allen Mattingly Jr., Stephen Allen Mattingly, Christopher Saul Mendoza, Angel Mendoza, and Jocelyn Maria Mendoza; his cherished grandchildren, Troy Nigel Mattingly and Chanya Danielle Mattingly; his parents, Robert Allen Mattingly and Sharon Lee Mattingly; his siblings Brenda Bauer (Greg), Kristine Mattingly (James Koehl), Terry Mattingly, Ricky Mattingly, extended family including brothers-in-law Luis Alecio, Josue Alecio and sisters-in-law Terri-Lynn Chaplin, Claudia Alecio, and Laura Alecio; Daughter in-laws Kariana M. Mattingly and Christina Mattingly. He also leaves behind many, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

Dale is preceded in death by his brother, Troy Daryl Mattingly and grandparents, Herbert and Dorothy Nordstrom and William (Bones) and Hilda Mattingly.

A funeral service was held on Friday, July 11, 2025 at Monarch Memorial Funeral Home in Bakersfield, CA.

There will be a memorial service held at St. Francis Xavier Church in Compton, Maryland July 23, 2025 at 2:00 P.M.



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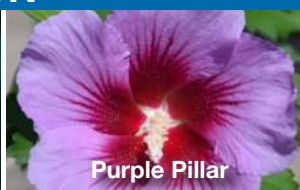
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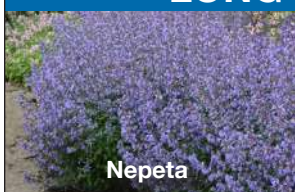


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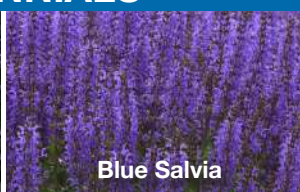
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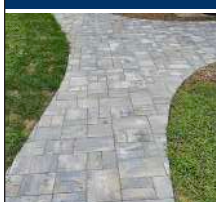
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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind



If I Just Close My Eyes

By Shelby Opperman
Contributing Writer

This past Sunday I was missing the early 1960s ritual that my two older brothers and I had of laying down on the living room floor with the Sunday comics spread out in front of us. I feel like there were some Saturday comics too. Though Saturday morning was reserved for all the great, classic cartoons and live action shows like Land of The Lost, HR Pufnstuf and others. What great days those were, especially with the smell of my mother making bacon and eggs or French toast in the background. And of course, after all the comics had been read it was time for the Silly Putty to come out to copy the comics, as well as to make my mother mad when any Silly Putty would get in her wool rug.

Sometimes I can close my eyes, and I am right there on the floor again with my brothers. That was only for a short time since my oldest brother was off to college in the fall of '65, and my other brother ran off and got married when I was 10. I still enjoyed my cartoons and comics time and the mornings during the week reading the back of cereal boxes at breakfast. Or spending a summer day outside reading with the sounds of nature as your music. I wonder if kids still enjoy any of these simple pleasures.

Hearing the sound of the Cicadas outside of the office window takes me back to finding a cozy spot to read while listening to the Cicadas' repeating crescendos. Another simple pleasure. Unfortunately, I am a terrible typist, so I can't keep closing my eyes and trying to type out my remembered feelings. Something like crsnakdhdusmeytsvtem comes out on the screen instead. But closing my eyes to remember all of this from way back when is so peaceful.

However, there are mistakes that can occur when you are trying to keep your eyes closed or to keep a room dark so you can possibly go back to sleep in the middle of the night. I was trying to do just that a few 'middle of the nights' ago when I was searching for the cortisone cream in the bathroom sink cabinet. I have my own door which keeps all the stuff I use regularly like make-up, Visine, cortisone cream all in their own special spots...well...I thought that was the case anyway.

My forearm where an ant had bitten me a few times and the side of my neck where something else had bitten me were itching like crazy, so I stumbled into the dark bathroom and reached for my cortisone cream to ease the itch. I took the tube back to the bedroom and put it on the little table on my side of the bed in case I needed it again. I woke up again later and was still itchy and put some more on but drifted back off to sleep with no relief. I suppose you can guess it wasn't cortisone cream I was smearing on my arm and neck. It was the other cream: Aspercreme Odorless. I would have thought that would have helped and almost wished I had found some of that other cream which begins with Preparation...so at least it might have smoothed out some wrinkles through the night. I've heard that people sometimes use that cream on the wrinkles on their faces. I am just thankful I didn't try the Aspercreme on the wrinkles around my eyes. You probably would have heard me screaming at your house.

To each new day's adventure,
Shelby

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



Tee-It-Up for Kids Golf Tournament Returns

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P) is pleased to announce that the Tee-It-Up for Kids golf tournament will be held Friday, October 3, 2025, at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course in Mechanicsville.

Proceeds from the event support the R&P youth scholarship program, which provides opportunities for children in St. Mary's County to participate in summer camps, sports, and other recreation programs at a discounted rate. Throughout the tournament's multi-decade history, it has raised more than \$195,000 for the scholarship program.

The tournament registration fee is \$375 per team of four. Team registration includes 18-holes of golf, door prize entry, continental breakfast, food, and limited-quantity on-course beverages provided for golfers throughout the day. Individuals will be placed on teams with spots or teams will be formed for individuals registered. The tournament will fill with a maximum of 30 teams being accepted.

Registration is available online at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/golftournament.

Local businesses are invited to provide additional community support through door prize sponsorships and donations, which can include gift certificates, item donations, and more. In addition to supporting a good cause, event sponsorship is also a great way to promote your business and welcome new customers. More details about sponsorship opportunities for this event can be found at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/docs/SponsorshipPacket.pdf.

For additional information about the Tee-It-Up for Kids Golf Tournament, please contact R&P via email at webtrac@stmaryscountymd.gov or by calling (301) 475-4200 ext. 1800.

Stay up to date with R&P events and happenings on social media. Follow R&P at: www.instagram.com/StMarysRecAndParks and www.facebook.com/StMarysMDRecreation.

Press Release from St. Mary's County government

The Apple Basket Celebrates 41 Years



Nestled in the heart of St. Mary's County, The Apple Basket has long been a destination for those drawn to the beauty of antiques, fine estate jewelry, and vintage treasures for over 40 years. This charming locally owned shop has grown into a beloved community fixture, offering not just unique finds, but a warm and welcoming experience for every visitor.

To celebrate another year of curating timeless charm, The Apple Basket invites customers to its 41st Anniversary Sale on July 26th and 27th. This special two-day event will feature exclusive discounts throughout the shop, highlighting everything from mid-century glassware and Victorian tea services to summer home décor, furniture, local wines, and more.

Guests can also enjoy refreshments, door prizes, and a few extra surprises tucked among the aisles—because celebrating a milestone should feel as joyful as discov-

ering that perfect piece.

"The Apple Basket has always been a labor of love," says owner Charlene Tsirgotis. "This sale is our heartfelt thank-you to the community that has supported and inspired us. We're grateful for every customer who's shared in the stories behind these treasures."

With its cozy country feel and beautifully curated selection, The Apple Basket continues to enchant collectors, decorators, and anyone who believes objects can carry memory, meaning, and joy.

Stop by, celebrate with us, and maybe even win a little something special while you're here.

The Apple Basket is located at 27056 Mount Apple Church Rd., Mechanicsville, MD. For more information, call (301) 884-8118 or visit www.applebasketstore.com

Press Release from The Apple Basket

Church Group Distributes School Supplies, Groceries



Volunteers from Faithful House of Hope were at the Bay District Fire Department on July 12, distributing free backpacks filled with school supplies as well as free groceries for those in need. Photos by Ceandra Scott.

Classified Ads

HELP WANTED Music Director

Mt. Zion UMC of Laurel Grove seeks a Music Director. This position plays a pivotal role in shaping our musical direction, overseeing all musical activities, guiding musicians, and ensuring the delivery of high-quality performances. Ten hours/week with a salary of \$10,000 annually.

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- Prepare cantatas for Christmas and Easter.
- Maintain the music library and manage the music budget.

Qualifications:

- Proven experience in a musical leadership role.
- Strong mentoring abilities with a commitment to developing the talents of others.
- Ability to inspire and motivate musicians.

This role is ideal for an individual who is dedicated to fostering a love for music in others while leading them toward excellence in performance.

To inquire, call the Mt. Zion at (301) 884-4132 or email Pastor Corey Sharp at pastorcorey@mysixdays.com.

Museums Announce Special Saturday Activities

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

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

Themed activities will be held on the following dates and times. Price is included in regular museum admission. Save the dates and call ahead for info; walk ups are encouraged.

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

- August 9, 2025 (9 a.m. – 11 a.m.): Potomac Palette – Paint the Scenery Using Water from the Potomac River
- October 11, 2025 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.): Batty for Bats – Build & Decorate Your Own Bat Box while Learning about the Importance of these Flying Mammals

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

- September 13, 2025 (4 p.m. – 5 p.m.): Frame the Beach – Make a Beachy Picture Frame
- November 8, 2025 (10 a.m. – 12

p.m.): Deck the Halls – DIY Ornament Workshop

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

For more information about these programs, or to set up special educational programs at one of our museum sites for a group, please contact Olivia Flack at Olivia.Flack@stmaryscountymd.gov.

For more information on hours of operation, programs, events, admission prices, and more, following our museums on Facebook at:

- St. Clement's Island Museum: Facebook.com/SCIMuseum
- Old Jail Museum & Visitor Center: Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum: Facebook.com/1836Light
- U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center: Facebook.com/USCTCenter
- Drayden African American Schoolhouse: Facebook.com/DraydenSchool

Press Release from the St. Mary's County Museum Division

Buy Local Challenge Returns

Featuring Contests, Recipes, and More

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is excited to announce Maryland's Buy Local Week, running from July 17 to July 27, 2025. This initiative aims to boost awareness of local farms and producers through contests, recipes, and special events.

The statewide effort encourages residents to support Maryland agriculture by purchasing locally grown and produced foods daily throughout the week.

The campaign highlights Maryland's wide variety of farm-fresh offerings—from roadside farm stands and bustling farmers' markets to wineries, breweries, distilleries, dairies, creameries, and local grocery stores and eateries. Participants are encouraged to discover these opportunities and savor Maryland's abundant agricultural treasures. Be sure to visit the contest page and make your pledge today!

For those seeking more ways to engage, visit www.BuyLocalChallenge.com for

tips, recipes, and a series of online cooking classes titled "In a Cook's Kitchen," demonstrating how to prepare meals with local ingredients. The website also features full details on contests, prizes, farm guides, market directories, downloadable pledge certificates, and social media resources.

Want more recipe inspiration? Check out the Governor's Annual Maryland Buy Local Cookbook. Additionally, the website features fun incentives and competitions on the 'BLC Contests' page.

Stay connected via the Maryland Buy Local Challenge Facebook and Instagram pages for updates on Buy Local Week activities across the state.

Created by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, and promoted in partnership with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the program aims to celebrate and support Maryland's local food producers.

Press Release from SMADC

52nd Annual Governor's Cup Yacht Race Scheduled



The Governor's Cup Yacht Race, the oldest premier overnight race on the Chesapeake Bay, will take place August 1-2, 2025. With a 68.6-nautical-mile main race course from Annapolis, three other race routes are available to area sailors, all finishing at St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM).

The community is welcome to join in the activities planned on the College's waterfront on Saturday, August 2, featuring food, music and fun for the entire family.

"The Governor's Cup, started by three St. Mary's College students back in the 1970s, has become one of those time-honored traditions for Chesapeake Bay sailors," said Rick Loheed, associate director of waterfront activities for SMCM and race director since 2008. "We're looking forward to as many as 100 boats competing in this year's race, and a lot of fun activities for racers and the community alike."

In addition to the Annapolis leg, racers can depart from Solomons Island in Calvert County, Maryland; run the Potomac Leg starting in Dahlgren, Virginia; or complete the Fishing Bay Leg starting from the Piankatank River off Deltaville, Virginia. Multiple race classes are available.

Non-racers are welcome to kick off the

finish activities at the College, beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday evening as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) presents "Summer Serenades" in the Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center on campus. The "pay-what-you-wish" concert is offered as part of the BSO's "Music for Maryland." Tickets are going fast as a similar concert sold out in 2023 and must be booked in advance, online at www.smcm.edu/dodge.

Saturday sees a full day of activities at SMCM's Teddy Turner Waterfront (47498 Trinity Church Rd, St. Mary's City, Maryland), with live music from three bands and performers beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing to 7 p.m. An all-you-can-eat breakfast is served in the Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall across the street from 6 a.m.-noon, while food trucks will be on site from noon to 8 p.m. To quench your thirst, a bar service will be available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., featuring the event's signature cocktails and other alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Visit the race website at www.smcm.edu/govcup52 for more information on race entry, shoreside amenities and fun activities.

Press Release from SMCM

Farmers Feeding St. Mary's Announced

From local farmers to your plate! The annual Farmers Feeding St. Mary's program will offer farm fresh produce free to the community. There will be two food distribution dates and locations for this program:

- Thursday, August 14, 2025
Bay District Volunteer Fire Department
46900 S. Shangri-La Dr.,
Lexington Park
2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Saturday, September 13, 2025
U-Haul Parking Lot
46041 Signature Ln., Lexington Park
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

A variety of fresh produce, such as corn, tomatoes, squash, and more, will be available at each event! In addition to produce, frozen

meat will be available at the September 13 distribution event only. Family units will be limited to one bag of produce per event. Food distribution will continue until the event's end time or until produce runs out.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County, the Department of Aging & Human Services, the Department of Economic Development, Feed St. Mary's, and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are pleased to offer this valuable community event! For more information, please call 301-475-4200, ext. 1074, or visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/FFSM.

Press Release from St. Mary's County government

Baltimore Symphony Returns to St. Mary's College



St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) welcomes the return of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO), under the baton of Nicholas Hersh, to the Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center on Friday, August 1 at 7 p.m. The concert is open to the public, with tickets available under a "Pay-What-You-Wish" arrangement.

The "Sunset Serenades" performance, representing the St. Mary's County stop under the BSO's "Music for Maryland" series, marks the return of the orchestra to SMCM under the same series as an August 2023 performance. Featuring harpist Bridget Kibbey, the concert will include dance-inspired works from across Europe by Shostakovich, Tailleferre, Dvořák and Strauss.

"When the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra performed here in August of 2023, their exceptional performance affirmed what we knew when we opened the Dodge Performing Arts Center one year before: that we had something truly special—not just for Southern Maryland, but for audiences and world-class musicians everywhere," said Keith Hinton, the Dodge Performing Arts Center's executive director. "Hearing the overwhelmingly positive comments from audience members about the BSO's

performance and the acoustics in the hall bolstered that belief; the enthusiastic praise from the BSO musicians themselves and their genuine excitement about the experience of performing here confirmed just how extraordinary our venue is. So, you can imagine my pride and joy when the BSO asked to return on August 1 for what promises to be another unforgettable performance in Southern Maryland's premier music venue."

Tickets are going fast and are only available in advance, online. As always, parking is plentiful and free at the Dodge Performing Arts Center. Accessible seating and parking are also available.

Opening in September 2022, the Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center is Southern Maryland's premier destination for music and the arts, with a 700-seat concert hall and 140-seat recital hall. The recipient of the 2023 AIA Maryland Public Building of the Year Award, the center hosts a variety of musical and performing artists from around the world as well as the College's student performers and community arts partners.

Press Release from SMCM

Get Ready for National Night Out

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office invites community members to register their neighborhoods now for participation in National Night Out, taking place Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

National Night Out is a nationwide campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to help make communities safer and more caring places to live.

Local neighborhoods hosting events are asked to register with the Sheriff's Office to be included in planning and coordination.

If your neighborhood has already regis-

tered through the national website, please notify the Sheriff's Office to ensure you're included in local outreach efforts.

The deadline to register your neighborhood event locally is Saturday, August 2.

To register or to let us know you've signed up nationally, visit www.firstsheriff.com/community/national-night-out or email smcno@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Let's work together to build stronger, safer neighborhoods across St. Mary's County.

Press Release from SMCSO

Pets of the Week

sponsored by:



"No such thing as a bad dog."
Nutrition • Training • Grooming • Daycare • Walking

Temporarily located inside Well Pet Clinic
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Call/Text: 240-431-7834

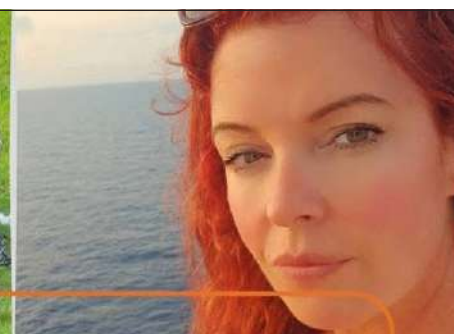
MEET JOSHUA

Need a hiking buddy, playmate, and personal comedian all rolled into one handsome floof? I'm Joshua—a 3-year-old German Shepherd who's got the zoomies, the smarts, and a serious case of the wiggles. I've been working on commands (I totally know them...when it suits me), I love kids 5 and up, and had a blast playing with the neighbor's dog. If you're ready for laughs, love, and a tail that never stops wagging, I'm your four-legged MVP! Meet me during adoption hours, Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm. To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



MEET MARSHMALLOW

Marshmallow the 2-year-old Great Pyrenees is a sweet boy looking for someone who just wants to cuddle all day long. He loves a good walk and maybe a 20 minute zoomie session in the yard. He gives the best hugs and really loves to show off all of his tricks. Does great with kids and most dogs, not phased by cats and fairly low energy. If you're interested in learning more please check out our website www.animalrelieffund.org or contact 301-866-0303 to set up a meet and greet with Marshmallow.



POKER RUN BENEFITING

NICHOLE "CICI" MONEYMAKER

SATURDAY, JULY 19TH

Registration at 9:30 am
Kickstands up at 11:00 am
Last hand in at 4:00

2nd stop ~ Seabreeze
3rd stop ~ Cryer's Back Road Inn
4th stop ~ Taphouse 1637
ALL vehicles welcome

All proceeds to go towards cost incurred from accident on June 3, 2025.

**\$20/per driver
\$10/per rider**

Start/End Location:
Patuxent Moose, 23886
Mervell Dean, Hollywood, MD



**50/50, raffles, and
silent auction**

**Contact Tiffany
with donations**



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5.98 lb.

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Country Style
Pork Ribs
2.48 lb.



Springer Mt. Farms, Jumbo Pack
Fresh Chicken
Thighs Or
Drumsticks
1.59 lb.



Springer Mtn. Farms
Chicken Breast
Tenders
3.98 lb.



16-Oz, Hot Or Mild
Jamestown
Sausage Roll
2.48



Certified Angus Beef
Boneless Beef
Stew Or
Chuck Steaks
6.98 lb.



Fresh
Cod
Fillets
9.98 lb.



Fresh Atlantic
Salmon
Fillets
9.98 lb.



5/8-Oz.
Snow Crab
Clusters
9.98 lb.



1-Lb. 16/20-Ct., Jumbo
Southern Seas
EZ Peel Raw Shrimp
6.98



4-Oz., Frozen
Lobster
Tails
6.98 Ea.

Beer, Wine and Liquor

355mL., Cans, All Flavors
4-Pack Sunny D
Vodka Seltzer
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12-Oz. Cans
Selected
12-Pack
Yuengling
Lager
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18-Pack
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12-Oz. Cans
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Miller Lite
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12-Oz. Cans
12-Pack
Corona Extra
17.99



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Johnnie Walker
Red Label
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750mL
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32.99



750mL
Evan Williams
Whiskey
15.99



750mL, Selected
Absolute
Vodka
18.99



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Svedka
Vodka
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All Flavors
29.99



750mL
Teremana
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44.99



750mL
Suntory
Roku Gin
29.99



750mL
Kraken
Black Spiced Rum
21.99



750mL
Grand Marnier
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38.99



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8.99



750mL
Chateau
Suaui Bordeaux
17.99



750mL, Selected
Alamos
Malbec
10.49



750mL
La Luca Prosecco Or
Prosecco Rose
12.99



750mL
Liquid Light
Chardonnay
13.99



750mL
Januik
Melot
28.99



750mL, Bourbon Barrel
The Federalist
Zinfandel
18.99



750mL
SIMI Cabernet
Sauvignon
20.99



750mL
La Crema
Sauvignon Blanc
16.99



750mL
Elouan
Rose
9.99



750mL
Electra
Moscato
12.99



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Wines
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Commissioners to Host Public Forum

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) will host a Public Forum on Tuesday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the CSMC meeting room in the Chesapeake Building, located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown.

Public Forums allow residents to speak directly to the Commissioners on topics of their choosing. Residents may offer appreciation, questions, or suggestions in a mutually respectful format. Those wishing to speak at the forum will receive up to three minutes to address the Commissioners.

For those unable to attend in person, feedback can also be submitted to the CSMC via:

- Email: CSMC@stmaryscountymd.gov
- Mail: Commissioners of St. Mary's County, PO Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650

The CSMC are dedicated to ensuring equal access and participation for all residents. Individuals requiring accommo-

dation for disabilities, special needs, or language support services are encouraged to contact the Public Information Office at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1340 at least three days in advance of the forum, so that arrangements can be made.

Public Forums are broadcast live on St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) TV Channel 95 and streamed online at [YouTube.com/@StMarysCoGov](https://www.youtube.com/@StMarysCoGov) for those wishing to watch remotely.

The Commissioners encourage all community members to take advantage of these opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions and contribute to the betterment of St. Mary's County. For more information on the CSMC, visit: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/csmc.

Press Release from St. Mary's County government

Maryland Heritage Grants Awarded

Governor Wes Moore has announced 91 matching grant awards totaling more than \$4.6 million for Maryland nonprofits, local jurisdictions, and heritage tourism organizations by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Grant funding will support the development of heritage-related, place-based projects across Maryland that promote economic growth through tourism and community enhancement.

Seven grants totaling \$368,675 were awarded in Southern Maryland. They are:

- Calvert Marine Museum Society, Inc. — Patuxent: A Pictorial Encyclopedic History of Maryland's Forgotten River Phase II, \$50,000
- Historic Sotterley, Inc. — New Visitor Center Phase II, \$76,845
- Preservation Maryland — Historic Trades Workshops in Southern Maryland, \$16,830
- Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco, Inc. — Historic Port Tobacco Village Restoration, \$50,000
- The Official Piscataway Conoy Tribe of Maryland, Inc. — Piscataway Conoy Indigenous Peoples Festival, \$50,000
- Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland — FY 2026 Management Grant, \$100,000
- Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland — FY 2026 Block Grant, \$25,000

"History is an active force for promoting economic development and building strength in our communities," said Gov. Moore. "Projects funded through our Heritage Grant Awards will make Maryland more competitive, support a diverse array of new partnerships, and enrich the lives of thousands of people."

The Heritage Areas Program provides \$2.4 billion in annual economic benefit to the state. Maryland Heritage Areas Authority grants generate \$319.8 million

in state and local taxes while supporting 33,815 full- and part-time jobs annually. Organizations receiving awards include museums, parks, arts organizations, historic sites, schools and other educational institutions, as well as other entities that steward and celebrate the unique cultural and natural resources located within Maryland's 13 state-certified heritage areas. All of Maryland's 23 counties and the City of Baltimore will receive grants.

"The Maryland Heritage Areas Program demonstrates how history, culture, recreation and planning can work together to protect and share state assets and regional identities," said Maryland Department of Planning Secretary and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Chair Rebecca L. Flora. "I am particularly excited to see that several projects being awarded this year are connected to honoring Maryland's role in the nation's upcoming semiquincentennial. I continue to be in awe of the grantee organizations that dedicate so much time and passion to make sure the full range of our state's diverse stories are being told in authentic and engaging ways. Their efforts create experiences that enhance quality of life, make our towns more livable, and contribute to local economies."

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority is an independent unit of government chaired by Maryland Department of Planning Secretary Rebecca Flora and is administered by the Maryland Historical Trust. Since 1997, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority has awarded more than \$74 million dollars in grants to hundreds of organizations. These grants have generated over \$175 million in non-state matching funds for heritage tourism projects and activities in the state's 13 heritage areas.

Press Release from MD Governor's office.

Market Money Program Transitions to Department of Ag

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is pleased to announce the transition of the Maryland Market Money (MMM) program to the Maryland Department of Agriculture, effective July 1.

The move follows legislation passed during the 2025 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session authorizing the relocation of the program. Operating MMM under the Maryland Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) within the department's agriculture and seafood marketing program will streamline operations, increase efficiency, and enhance food access for Marylanders. This alignment strengthens the state's capacity to support farmers while improving the shopping experience for residents who rely on nutrition benefit programs.

Program benefits will remain intact, and consumers will see no interruptions to service.

"We are excited to welcome Maryland Market Money to the department," said Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Kevin Atticks. "This transition allows us to better serve farmers, food producers, and Maryland families by consolidating related programs. It reflects our ongoing commitment to growing Maryland's agricultural economy and expanding access to nutritious, locally-grown food."

Maryland Market Money is a statewide initiative that removes economic barriers for food-insecure Marylanders by matching federal nutrition benefits dollar-for-dollar at participating farmers markets, farm stands, and CSAs. The program supports local farmers and food producers with technical assistance, training, marketing, and promotional services.

"As we conclude our role hosting the Maryland Market Program at SMADC and TCCSMD," said SMADC Director Shelby Watson-Hampton, "we are proud of its growth and success. We are confident the Maryland Department of Agriculture will expand its reach, serving more communities and farms across the state. We thank Secretary Atticks and his team for making this transition successful."

Since its launch by the Maryland Farmers Market Association in 2013, MMM has become one of the state's most impactful food access programs. Last year, it served 10,934 Maryland households experiencing food insecurity, distributing \$676,428 in matching dollars, supporting more than 60 access points, and benefiting over 700 farmers and food producers.

For more information about Maryland Market Money, including participating locations and benefits, visit <https://www.marylandmarketmoney.org>.

Press Release from SMADC



Letters to the Editor

'Zip It Up, St. Mary's!'

Residents of St. Mary's County, it's time we had the talk. No, not that talk. We need to talk about... the zipper merge.

Yes, that extra lane on Rt. 4 in California—the one you've been side-eyeing with suspicion while white-knuckling the steering wheel—isn't a trick or a trap or a shortcut for the entitled. It's a feature, not a bug. It's called the zipper merge, and it's here to save your commute, your blood pressure, and possibly your soul.

Here's how it works:

Both lanes are meant to be used. Until the very end. That's right, friends—use the full lane. Like a confident, responsible grown-up. And then, like teeth in a zipper (hence the name), one car from the left lane, one from the right lane. Left, right, left, right. It's not rocket science—it's kindergarten line logic.

But what happens now? Someone uses the merge lane correctly, drives all the way to the end like the highway department intended, and suddenly everyone in the left lane morphs into traffic vigilantes. Horns honk. Fingers fly. Windows roll down and voices rise like it's Thunderdome. All because someone did the thing exactly right.

We're looking at you, pickup driver in the left lane who straddles both lanes "to teach people a lesson." You're not Batman. You're just blocking traffic and stressing out the rest of us.

Here's what science (yes, science) says: The zipper merge reduces traffic backups by up to 40%, keeps cars moving, and lowers road rage by at least 3 blood pressure points. When everyone uses both lanes and takes turns merging at the designated point, traffic flows smoother and faster. It's like magic—if magic came with orange barrels and flashing signs.

So next time you're heading toward the Solomons bridge, be the change St. Mary's needs. Embrace the zipper. Merge with purpose. Smile at your fellow drivers. Maybe even throw a thumbs-up instead of a grimace.

Because in the end, we're all just trying to get across that bridge... without losing our minds or our mufflers.

#ZipItStMarys

Drive kind. Merge smarter.

Joan E. Harris

Legal Administrator Receives Distinguished Service Award



State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling (center) with Kelsey Perkins and Steven Kroll

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling is proud to announce that Kelsey Perkins, Director of Legal Administration with the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office, was awarded the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association's Distinguished Service Award — the highest honor given to a single employee from any State's Attorney's Office across the State of Maryland — at this year's annual state-wide conference.

This prestigious award recognizes exceptional dedication, professionalism, and outstanding service to the mission of prosecution in Maryland. According to Steven Kroll, Executive Director of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, "Kelsey is a Leader, not only in St. Mary's County, but throughout the State of Maryland."

"Kelsey is the backbone of our office's legal operations," said State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling. "Her unmatched expertise, tireless work ethic, and commitment transformed the way we serve the community. Kelsey's leadership in launching our office's digital case management system has revolutionized our ability to manage

cases efficiently and deliver justice to the community."

Widely regarded throughout the state as a leading expert in digital case management, Kelsey spearheaded the implementation in St. Mary's County with precision. She also played a role in supporting and advising offices across Maryland in their own implementation efforts, further extending her impact.

Kelsey's unwavering support of the prosecution team, commitment to excellence, and collaborative spirit make her an indispensable part of the State's Attorney's Office.

This statewide honor comes on the heels of her recent award as the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office's 2024 Employee of the Year Award.

Congratulations to Kelsey on this outstanding achievement and many thanks for her continued service to the citizens of St. Mary's County and the citizens of the State of Maryland.

Press Release from St. Mary's County State's Attorney

Squirreling Away Another Honor



Sunny the Squirrel and staff of the Department of Recreation and Parks joined the county commissioners on July 15 for a proclamation in honor of National Parks and Recreation Month. Photo courtesy of St. Mary's County government.

19th Annual 2025

Rain or Shine Event

St. Mary's County

National Lawn Mower Races

August 1st & 2nd

Friday & Saturday

at Bowles Farms

22880 Budds Creek Road, Clements, MD 20624 | Intersection of Rt.234 & Pincushion Road

2-Days Of Racing

Admission Cost: **\$10.00**

Children 8 and under **"FREE"**

Food & Refreshments Available – **NO** Coolers Permitted

Camper Sites Available - 301-904-7694

Friday August 1st

Gates Open	4:00 PM
Trial Runs	6:00 PM
Racing Starts	7:00 PM

Saturday August 2nd

Gates Open	3:30 PM
Trial Runs	5:00 PM
Racing Starts	6:00 PM

7th District Rescue Squad: Ronnie 301-904-7694

7th District Optimist Club: AL 240-299-1891

More Info

www.BowlesFarms.com

New Building Approved for Pool Company

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Planning Commission has approved a concept site plan for a new 4,320-square-foot building for Norco Pools on Route 5 in Mechanicsville.

The new building will include retail and administrative office space.

The approval came after a July 14 public hearing.

According to Planner III Sianli Blasco, "Land use area is rural commerce. The zoning is rural commercial limited (RCL). The regulation for RCL zoning district is to accommodate small scale commercial uses, serving localized markets in the county, compatible with the character of rural area devoted to the local market for continued operation and reasonable expansion use. Type 77 retail sales limited is a permitted use in the RCL zone engaged in low volume

retail sales."

She said, "A buffer yard along the side and rear property lines adjacent to agricultural use. Staff finding is that design meets (the) requirements."

Gene Burroughs, civil engineering designer with the Little Silences Rest consulting firm, said the new two-story building will replace the current shed used for sales. He said, "The owner intends to do a white metal building with a black metal roof and the coating along the bottom will be a stone veneer."

Burroughs added, "This project actually reduces the amount of impervious area on the project that's there now."

No one spoke at the public hearing and the project was unanimously approved by the planning commission.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Legal Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

CASE NO: C18CV25000359

James V. Dahlstrom
Plaintiff

vs.

James Watkins
Cecelia Watkins
Commissioners of St. Mary's County
Office of the County Treasurer for St. Mary's County
ALL PERSONS that have or claim to have any interest in property described as Lot 15, Block 55, LONGVIEW BEACH, having an address of Upland Drive, Bushwood, Maryland 20618
Defendants

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property, sold by the Collector of Taxes for the State of Maryland and St. Mary's County to the Plaintiff in the proceeding described as: Lot 15, Block 55, LONGVIEW BEACH, and assessed to James Watkins and Cecelia Watkins, the improvements thereon being known as Upland Drive, Bushwood, Maryland 20618.

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid.

It is thereupon this 2nd day of June, 2025, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary County, **ORDERED**, that notice be given by the insertion of a copy of this Order in some daily newspaper having general circulation in St. Mary's County once a week for three consecutive weeks, before the 2nd day of August, 2025, warning all persons with an interest in said property to be and appear in this Court by the 2nd day of August, 2025, and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a Final Decree will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the said property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title in fee simple, free and clear of all encumbrances.

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

Lexington Park Man Sentenced to 50 Years in Prison For Domestic Violence, Stabbing

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced on July 14 that Terek Demaury Ross, 29, of Lexington Park, has been sentenced to life in prison, with 50 years of active incarceration for two counts of attempted first-degree murder.

On August 3, 2024, Ross forcibly broke into his ex-girlfriend's residence and attacked her and her houseguest with a knife. One of the women suffered multiple stab wounds, including a severe injury behind her ear, but managed to escape upstairs to call 911 for help.

The second victim, who was sleeping on the couch, was stabbed multiple times and sustained serious injuries to her right eye and left arm.

Following the vicious attack, Ross stole one of the victims' vehicles and fled the scene. Law enforcement apprehended him later that day in Calvert County. Both victims were airlifted to trauma centers, where they received emergency life-saving medical treatment.

"This was one of the most brutal acts of domestic violence in our community. Such viciousness must be met with the full force of the law, and while no sentence can ever undo the physical and mental harm caused, I hope this 50-year prison sentence provides some sense of justice and safety for the vic-



Terek Demaury Ross

tims and our community," said Sterling.

Detectives Andrew Burgess and David Lawrence and Deputy Alexander Tasciotti of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office were the lead investigators.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Lisa Ridge handled the sentencing hearing on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

The Honorable Joseph Stanalonis presided over the case.

Press Release from St. Mary's County State's Attorney

Long-Time District Director Passes Away

Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement on July 14 regarding the passing of his District Director, Terrance Taylor:

"This morning, my dear friend, District Director, and trusted advisor, Terrance Taylor, passed away from sudden health complications. His loss is incalculable for his family, as well as for me and my team and the community he served so passionately and effectively.

"My prayers are with Terrance's wife Candace, his son Simon, and his extended family. I grieve with them, as do so many others across our district, state, and country.

"Terrance was taken from us far too early, but he accomplished so much in the time he had. As a member of my district staff for more than two decades, Terrance was the human face of the federal government for so many in Maryland's Fifth District. Whether it was seniors struggling to sort out a problem with their social security check, Veterans trying to access their benefits, or Marylanders working to rebuild a washed-out road, Terrance was the person folks turned to when they didn't know who else to reach out to for help and support. The person on the other end of the line was patient, thoughtful, and deeply connected



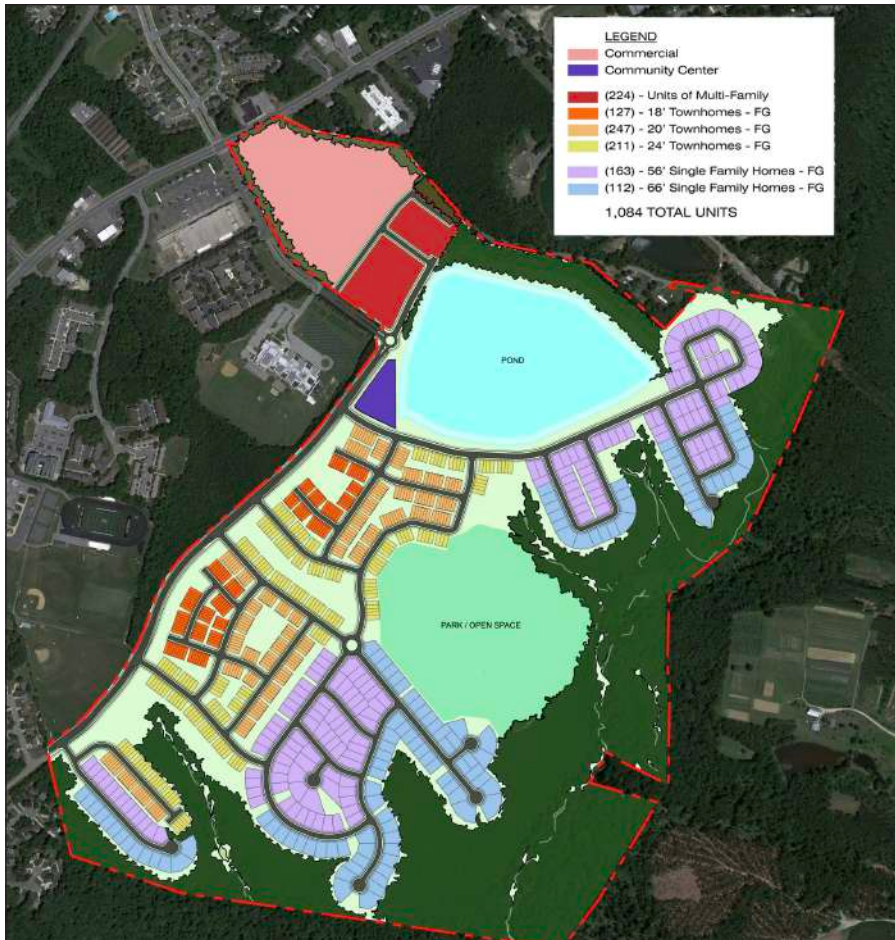
Terrance Taylor

to communities across Maryland's Fifth District.

"My team and I loved Terrance for his warmth and humor. We admired him for his intellect and leadership. We respected him for his character and commitment to service. And we will remember him for who he was: a great husband, father, brother, uncle, friend, and man. May God bless and keep Terrance Taylor."

Press Release from Office of Rep. Steny Hoyer

Stewart's Grant Modification Approved



Plan for Stewart's Grant

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) have approved changes to the Stewart's Grant Planned Unit Development (PUD). The July 15 approval came after a public hearing on June 24.

One of the changes reduced the number of authorized dwelling units from 1,122 to 1,084 on the 425.23-acre property with access to Great Mills Road and Route 5.

The development was first proposed in 1992 but this time it is actually going to happen, the current owner claims. The plan is to build 100 units annually for ten years after the preliminary infrastructure work is finished in about 18 months.

At the public hearing, several speakers from Sanner's Lake Sportsmen's Club expressed concerns about the closeness of the development to their 75-year-old shooting range.

Before the commissioners' decision, developer's attorney Richard Page Wyrrough clarified that the buffer between the properties had been significantly expanded to more than is required under the ordinance. A six-foot fence would be erected along the common property line where feasible.

He said, "They (the developer) gave up three lots to accommodate the concerns with respect to the residential area."

A developer's representative met with the sportsmen's club property owner William Sanner after the public hearing. Sanner did not make any comments at the July 15 meeting.

Wyrrough admitted the buffer may not attenuate all of the noise from the firing

range. But he said, "There's going to be disclosure of the existence of that gun club and that range as part of the sales documents."

Wyrrough said that Sanner still had some unresolved issues with the commercial section of the development.

"When that portion of it comes up, that we'll get back to him and address his concerns at this point," the attorney said.

In addition to the reduction in density, the changes included reduction of the development's main road from four lanes to two and the reservation of available space in south county public schools for the students to be generated by the project.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt expressed concern about the exits at Great Mills Road and Route 5 being wide enough to accommodate people making right and left turns. He was assured by a developer's representative that they would be wide enough to allow for turns.

Wyrrough concluded by saying, "We believe overall the project impacts will be positive for St. Mary's County, particularly in this district."

Before the vote, Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr., who attended virtually, said, "My biggest concern is any possible encroachment for Sanders Lakes Sportsmen's Club and the safety of the residents in the proposed Stewart's Grant and the need for more law enforcement that a neighborhood of this size is going to require."

But in the end, as did the other commissioners, he approved the PUD change, paving the way for the project to proceed after more than 30 years of being stalled.

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Self-Storage Facility Approved

Where 7-Eleven Had Been Proposed



Artist's rendering of storage facility

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Planning Commission approved on July 14 a large self-storage facility at a strategic location near Leonardtown Middle School and across Route 5 from the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds south of Leonardtown.

The 5.14 acre Goddard property had previously been targeted as the location of a 7-Eleven convenience store. But after significant opposition based on traffic, noise and lighting, the planning commission denied the request and it was upheld on appeal.

This time there was also some opposition at the July 14 public hearing, largely from residents of nearby Hanover Run, largely over traffic issues and the impact on their community's stormwater management pond.

The staff report on the 111,400-square-foot self-storage facility (in seven buildings) said "The property that is included within the Mixed-Use Medium Intensity land use area (Leonardtown Development District) as shown on the Land Use Plan incorporated into the County's Comprehensive Plan. The property is located within the Corridor Mixed Use (CMX) zoning district as shown on the County's Official Zoning Map." The report said the use was allowable in the zoning category.

The existing farmhouse on the property will be retained as an office.

The developers' representatives said the use chosen had one of the lowest traffic counts available. But the residents who spoke noted that many of the users would be coming in heavy duty vehicles.

The facility will share an entrance with Big Ed's body repair facility. Its owner said no one had talked to him about the shared use. But after much discussion, it was determined the entrance was owned by the State Highway Administration and they would determine how it was configured.

Developers' attorney Steve Scott said, "We certainly think that this particular use permitted in this zone on this piece of property is a much, much lower impact use on the community and in particular traffic and road concerns."

Consulting Engineer Ken Crause of

Soltész, Inc. said, "Our site will control its storm water so that we are not increasing the levels beyond what it is today."

But currently the storm water does run off the property and eventually flows into the pond on Hanover Run.

The developer Randy Wietzel told the planners they were a family business and did an extensive study that determined the need for more self-storage facilities due to the transient nature of base personnel.

He said, "We're not going to hire outside management groups for it. I think it'll benefit the community. We've done a lot of studies to see if it is needed because there are several storage units around and I'm putting a lot of money into this and I'm not a really rich guy. So, the studies looked good."

The property will have a 30-foot planted buffer in addition to the existing tree line. The developer, based on community concerns, will close the facility at 10 p.m. and have sensor lights for the rear units.

During the public hearing Erica Jiang of Hanover Run talked about the community's traffic concerns. "I have a lot of concerns with anything that increases traffic, especially the big box trucks, especially things with trailers, with boats, increasing and stopping short of that intersection because even pulling out of that second entrance of Big Ed's can be difficult."

The approval from the planning commission included a deceleration lane if it is accepted by the State Highway Administration.

During the vote, Commission Chairman Howard Thompson said, "In my opinion this property is zoned for this use. They've had different things come before this board and tried to do it. A couple of them were heavy traffic generators. This one's not."

Regarding storm water, Thompson said, "I can understand the neighbors behind are worrying about that. But with the facilities that they have on site and the facilities that we've seen come before this board in the past in different places, water has to stay on site. It's not allowed to run down through the field or anything like that. They have to do their own thing. If they don't, they get fined."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Commissioners Approve Rezoning Over Navy's Objections

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) have approved the rezoning of four parcels in the center of Lexington Park that will allow for the second phase of the redevelopment of the Pax River Village Center (formerly known as Millison Plaza) and the creation of a townhouse residential development on a vacant parking lot behind the shopping center.

The decision on July 15 came on a 3-1 vote, with Commissioner Eric Colvin opposing and Commissioner Scott Ostrow abstaining. And the decision came over the objection of the Navy. The land to be rezoned lies outside the Navy's AICUZ (Air Installation Compatible Use Zone), the area of high noise and accident potential. The Patuxent River NAS Commanding Officer Capt. Douglas Burfield contended that the AICUZ was being reevaluated and could change later this year.

Colvin wanted the decision delayed to give the developer and the Navy more time to try to work things out.

Colvin said, "I like the Atlantic Realty's plan. They've made substantial investment. They're doing great stuff. I like the plan for the townhomes, and I like the plan for the childcare and having YMCA come in and operate that is phenomenal, both for the YMCA and for the community. I think that's great."

"At the end of the day, I struggle that we have a recommendation from the Navy to disapprove this. So, what I would ask for at this point in time is to delay this decision and request from the Navy some clarification and re-looking at this situation."

But Commissioner Mile Hewitt quickly interrupted. He said, "I've lived in this county going on 63 years. I grew up, ran around Lexington Park when it was a vibrant community. And, I still have to say it can be, it needs to be, but the AICUZ put a damper on it. It made it very hard for people to redevelop their properties there."

"The AICUZ is important because we need to have that safety zone. I was on the Board of Education when we moved Carver Elementary to where it is now. The key is, we don't know where a plane will fall. We don't know when this accident can happen, but what's happened to Lexington Park is it needs revitalization."

"Now this Atlantic Realty group is the first people who I've seen come along who have an idea to revitalize this downtown, to bring food resources in, to bring walkable communities in. And what they're doing is going to increase the vitality of that Lexington Park area, in my opinion."

"I don't think it's necessary to revisit this with the Navy. The captain has made his point, and I understand it. I see it. What's unusual for this commissioner is I've never seen a Navy objection to something outside of the AICUZ. If it's inside the AICUZ, I get it. We've seen it with Arby's where they only allowed very limited amount of seating out there. I get it. But you can't have it both ways. You can't have I got the rules in and I got



the rules out. And it's been, in my opinion, somewhat of a taking of people's property rights. People buy something, they expect to be able to do something with it. And then someone says, I have an unwritten rule. It's not a law, it's not Comar. I just want you to know that there's a threat that if you do that, I may not be able to do the job I have to do."

Hewitt added, "That is something we have taken very seriously for decades in St. Mary's County. We love the Navy, we love having them there. But in this particular case, the benefit of what this redevelopment does outside of the AICUZ outweighs any potential risk, in my opinion, of what could happen by allowing it."

Hewitt noted, "I'm not in favor of prolonging this. It's time for a decision. These developers have done everything we've asked for them to do. They've crossed every t, dotted every i."

Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr. said he was concerned about a negative decision dampening expansion in Lexington Park. "Commissioner Hewitt points out the development is outside of the AICUZ. We were elected to support and represent the people of St. Mary's County, not support, not to represent the Navy. The Navy is our partner, and we should work with them as such, but I think that the people of St. Mary's County do come first on this."

Colvin said, "I look forward to seeing Atlantic Realty's development of this, but at the end of the day, we asked the Navy for their input, we invited them to provide input, and we have official Navy input that this is a risk to the health and safety of St. Mary's County residents and the continued mission at NAS Patuxent River. So that's why I cannot support it, but I hope that it is successful."

Hewitt noted, "I think what is important here is we had a joint meeting with the Navy. We hold them twice a year. We had gotten a previous letter from their planning liaison specialist opposing this project. And we asked directly, was the Navy opposed to this project? We had a planning commission meeting coming. And I know the planning commission was wavering on approving or disapproving this plan. Well, at that meeting, they told us they were not opposed to it. It was made clear that there was no opposition.

Now they may have been said to be neutral, whatever it was, but they were not opposed to it. At that time, that planning commission meeting took place, and it was approved 4-3. Now I'm going to say if we'd have known prior to that meeting that the Navy was opposed to it, there's a good chance that planning commission decision would've been reversed in the other direction."

Hewitt added, "It's not fair that we have put the developer through this process and now at the 10th or 11th hour have decided to

oppose it. Respectfully. I respect the Navy's position, but I'm going to say, (it's) outside the AICUZ and for that reason, I'll be voting for it."

Prior to the 3-1 vote, Commissioner Ostrow said he had received a number of emails supporting the project. But Land Use and Growth Management Deputy Director Bandy Glenn said they were received passed the deadline to be officially considered.

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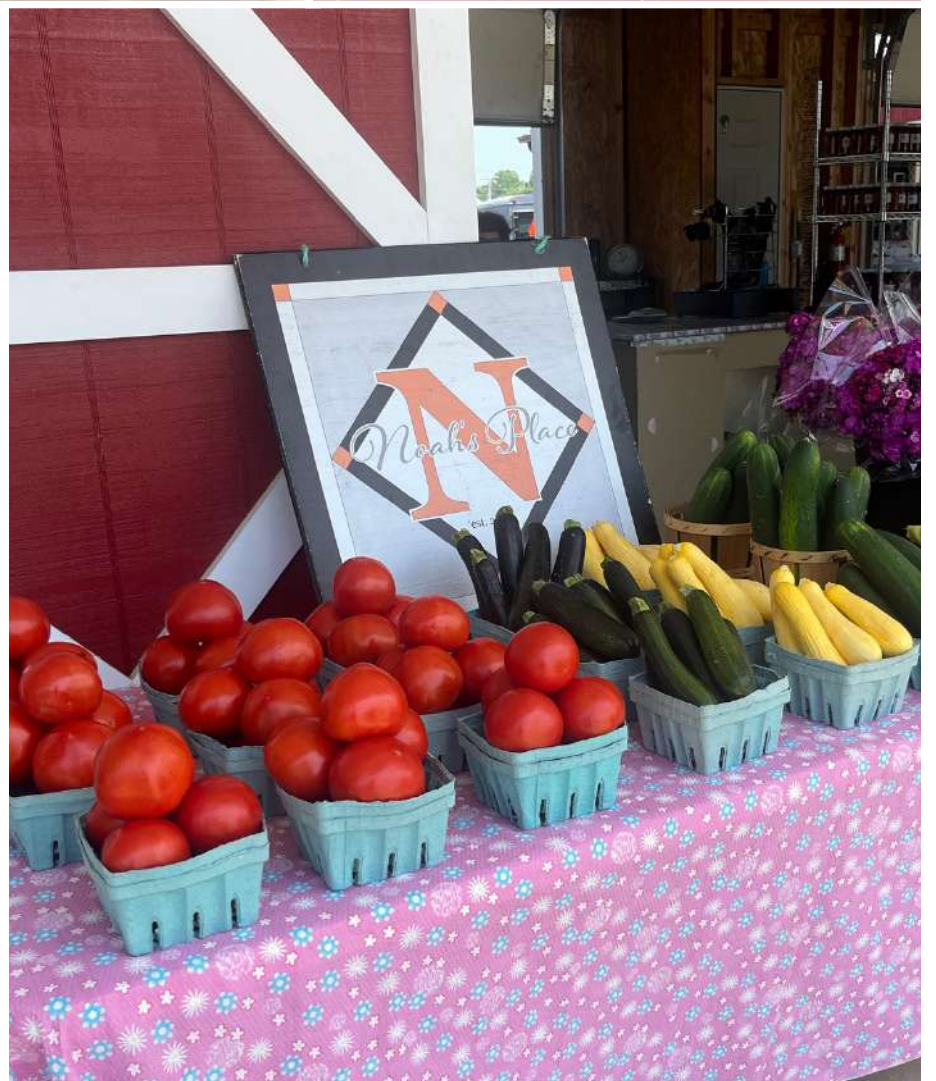
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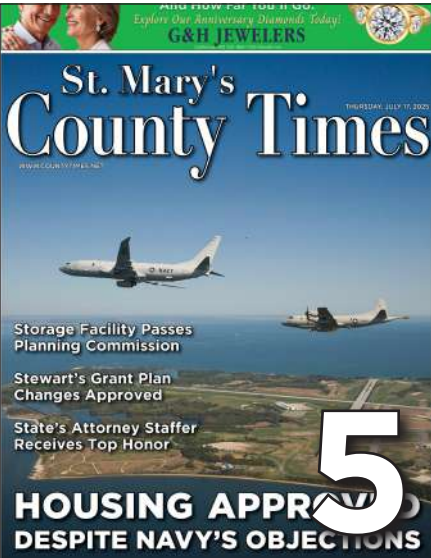
PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HOWARD THOMPSON ON GODDARD SELF-STORAGE



LOCAL 7
Plan changes approved for Stewart's Grant



LOCAL 8
Fifty-year prison sentence issued in domestic violence case



ON THE COVER
Commissioners approve townhomes over Navy's objections

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MON, JUL 21 PM Showers Hi: 84° Lo: 71°	TUE, JUL 22 Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 71°	WED, JUL 23 Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 73°	THU, JUL 24 Partly Cloudy Hi: 89° Lo: 73°

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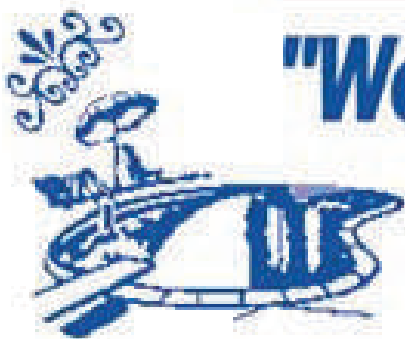
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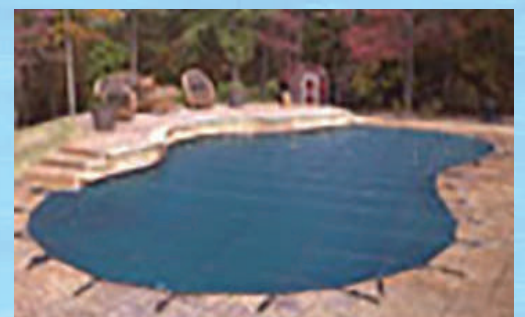


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