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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

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**Veteran's Commission
Chair Steps Down**

**State Test Scores
Continue to Rise**

**Treasurer Appointee
Files for Election**



PLAN APPROVED FOR HALLOWING POINT PARK

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“FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW, WE HAVE SEEN PERFORMANCE INCREASES.”

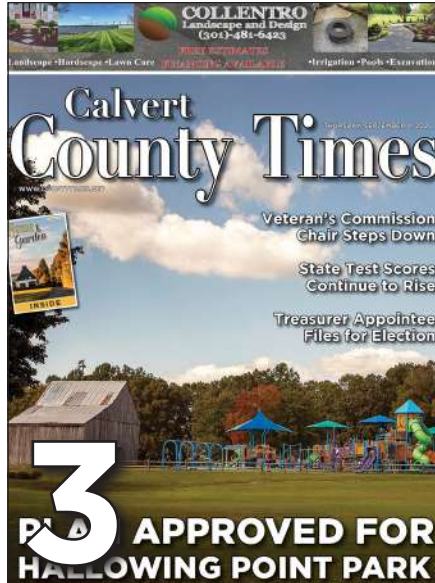
DR. CAREY M. WRIGHT, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



LOCAL 4
Dolina files for Treasurer candidacy



LOCAL 4
Calvert ranks third in state for ELA scores



ON THE COVER
Commissioners approve Hallowing Point Park Master Plan

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, SEP 4	FRI, SEP 5	SAT, SEP 6	SUN, SEP 7
Mostly Sunny Hi: 84° Lo: 66°	Sunny Hi: 86° Lo: 69°	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 87° Lo: 62°	AM Clouds/PM Sun Hi: 74° Lo: 58°
MON, SEP 8	TUE, SEP 9	WED, SEP 10	THU, SEP 11
Mostly Sunny Hi: 74° Lo: 57°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 58°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 58°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 58°



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Hallowing Point Park Plan Approved

Includes Walking Trail, Synthetic Playing Fields

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has approved a master plan for Hallowing Point Park that is intended to look out 15 to 20 years into the future. The plan includes a walking path that circumnavigates the park and two synthetic fields, the first such public facilities in the county.

Park Planner Stephanie Sperling, at the Aug. 26 BOCC meeting, presented a memo that gave a synopsis of the project. She said, "Hallowing Point Park, located at 4755 Hallowing Point Road, Prince Frederick is an 81-acre park in Calvert County, featuring athletic fields, walking paths, a playground, a basketball court, tennis courts, and pickleball courts. There's also a pavilion available for rental by the community. The most recent master plan was developed in 1998, and an updated one is needed to guide park improvements and growth over the next 15 to 20 years."

"In fall 2023, the Department of Parks and Recreation began updating the Hallowing Point Park Master Plan, gathering public input." That was done in conjunction with an architect.

She said, "A draft was completed in September of 2024, proposing improvements such as paved and natural trails, synthetic turf fields, upgraded ball fields, better signage, and a new skate park. Planning commission and Board of County Commissioners work sessions were held in October 2024, and the plan was deemed consistent with the county comprehensive plan. On February 27th, 2025, the planning commission directed staff to circulate the draft and schedule a public hearing. The plan was sent to neighboring jurisdictions and county staff, and feedback was received from four state agencies, two



Hallowing Point Park ballfield

county commissions. and four community members. On May 21st, 2025, the planning commission voted unanimously to close the record and recommended adoption by the BOCC who held hearing on July 22, 2025. No comments have been received, and the public record remained open for 10 days following that hearing."

Sperling said, "Funds to update the HPP Master Plan were previously procured and cost estimates for all proposed upgrades and additions are provided in the document."

Sperling said, "This was all based on what folks have said they wanted. We had over 2000 people who responded to a survey, so it was based on that feedback that we put all these proposed upgrades in there, but highest on the list were walking paths, and synthetic turf fields, which are controversial, but it's something that, as the years go on, it's in the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) of the budget for, I think, 2030."

"It'll be something that we continue to talk about and weigh," she said.

Two synthetic turf fields are planned: "One of our multi-purpose fields, which

would be football and soccer, and then a baseball field as well."

A field costs about \$2 million. Director of Parks and Recreation Bob Branham noted that's "current prices. When we started the process, they were slightly lower, but obviously they've gone up quite a bit."

Branham observed, "We're looking not only to do synthetic hybrids, we'll have natural as well as synthetic for both types of fields. But on the infields, there's a plan to add a dirt edge, which we've done at some of our parks. It makes them drain better and they're more playable. And so, it's a much better infield surface as well. While it's not synthetic, it is natural, but it's a better product than we currently have on certain fields as well."

Costs are difficult to tie down on a long-range plan. But Sperling said, "All cost estimates are also provided at the end of the master plan. Current cost estimates are there for us to continually refer back to."

The proposed walking trail is asphalt. Sperling said, "It would sort of encircle the park. And in areas that are farther away from the roads, we'd put in lighting as well.

So, ADA accessible, for two folks to be able to pass each other. And then also natural surface as well...on one part of the park that's undeveloped."

Branham said, "They serve two purposes in that ADA accessibility to the fields themselves as well. So not only for walking, for recreation and exercise purposes, but it also allows some of our residents that have mobility issues to get to each field as well."

The trail was the biggest scorer in the survey. Sperling said, "That's what folks really wanted because people walk all around the park as it is now, but they're sort of confined to the side of the roads currently."

Sperling said the department is seeking grants to help complete the trail.

Commissioner Catherine Grasso asked, "The popularity of synthetic fields is not waning at all, is it?"

Branham said, "There's two camps. Some want them, desire them. We understand the playability. And then there are others who talk about potential injury issues and heat, especially here in the Mid-Atlantic. They do have a different infill material to bring that heat down. Some are hot, but they also have water cannons that can be added to soak the fields to bring them down. So, it depends on which side you are. And what we've seen is prominently when it's a social media posting of the master plan, if you're getting the synthetic field and you want it, you kind of go silent. So, the folks against it comment more. And then when you say, we're not adding synthetic, those who want synthetic for tournament fields then tend to post more frequently. So, it just depends on which side you stand on that debate. But I think Calvert's being responsible in that we're looking to offer a hybrid, we're trying to do both types of fields."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Veteran's Commission Chair Steps Down

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Commission for Veterans and Military Families gave its fourth annual report to the county commissioners on Aug. 26. Since its inception, Dr. Brandon Temple has been its chair. But Temple gave his last report as he is retiring from the military next year and moving to Missouri to be closer to his family.

Temple praised the community. "I can't think of any pushback we've gotten here in this county when we were trying to get something done here and the enthusiasm that we were met with while getting it done."

Commissioner Catherine Grasso said, "It's rare that you see an individual relocate into a community and have the impact that you and your family have had on this community. I don't know of anybody in my lifetime that I've seen put forth the effort and give of your time."

The commission added military families to its expanded role last year "to more align with what we are doing and to align with what the state had already done at the state

level," Temple said.

It was an active year legislatively, Temple said. The Modernization of Military Laws Act recognizes the uniformed services, such as NOAA, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and the Public Health Service Corps. "The armed forces are the six branches of the military. But the uniform services are all eight combined," he said.

The Family Serves Act "allows hiring preferences and certain conditions for military spouses. The Time to Serve ACT increases some leave time for state employees who also serve in the National Guard. And the Veteran-owned Small Business Reserve is a program that allows some hiring preference, contracting preference in state projects for veteran-owned businesses, as long as the veteran-owned business is over 51 percent veteran owned," Temple explained.

One of the commission's big successes is the Purple Star School program. He said the commission is considered the standard across the state for the program, and members have spoken to other counties about how to get started.

Under the program schools recognize

their commitment to military families in their school community.

All of the schools are eligible and 11 have been designated with the goal of 100 percent participation. Temple said, "I think almost half of the applications for this year were from Calvert County. Statewide, I think it's like 35 percent of all the Purple Star schools in Maryland are from right here in Calvert County."

Temple gave a shout out to Theresa Weeks in the state's attorney's office. He said, "She was appointed by State's Attorney Bob Harvey to be the victim advocate for military veterans and families here in Calvert County. And she has been working, might and day to try to get a veterans treatment court here in Southern Maryland."

He said, "The state's attorneys in St. Mary's, Calvert and Charles are working together to get online and then they're going to talk to the new administrative judge in District 4 on this."

He said other counties are doing it. "Some will have drug courts or a mental health docket, and then also a Veterans Docket. And what it does..., veterans who are com-

ing in that have been charged with a crime, we're not talking about violent crimes or something, we're talking about misdemeanors, drug offenses, those types of things. Instead of just putting them into the jail system, they're entered into this program where veteran services come in from both public and private nonprofits to help the veterans through this program."

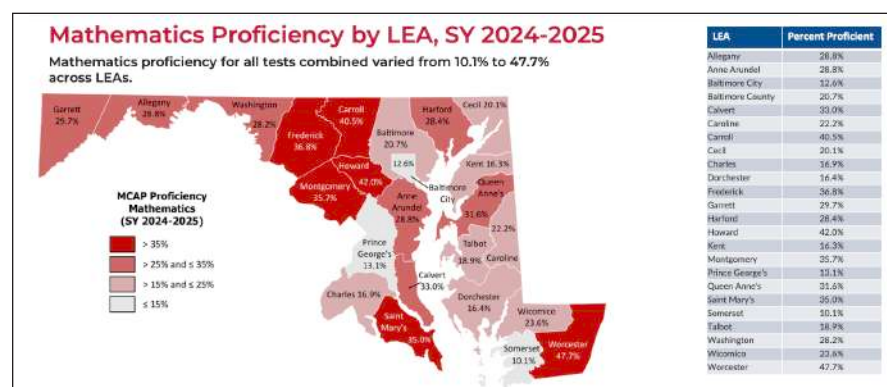
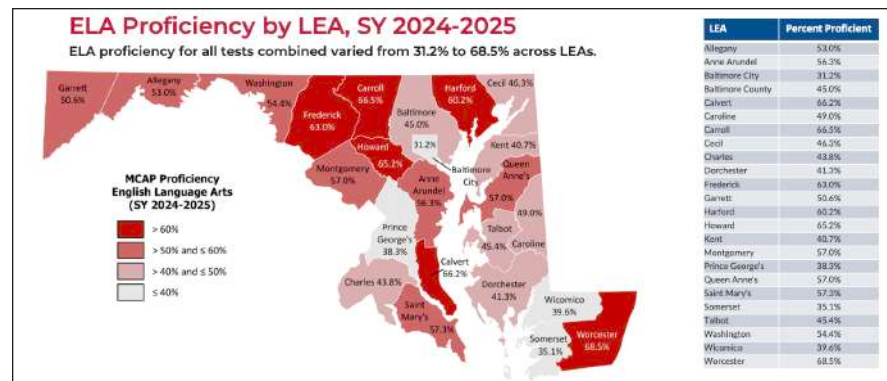
He added, "It's really to get them back on their feet and to get them back in the right direction if they come off path, to keep that recidivism down for these minor petty crimes."

Temple explained, "So the services that are brought in for the veterans who are in this program, one of those things would be mental health. So, it's mental health, housing, job help."

The Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) is nearby in St. Mary's County. Temple said, "It is a place that is relatively nearby that they don't have to go into Baltimore or DC to get care. There are limitations there, but people still want closer access."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

State Assessment Scores Rising in Math, English Language Arts



Results from the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) for the 2024-25 school year continue to rebound from post-pandemic learning loss.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) released complete results today during the State Board of Education meeting.

The results show Calvert third in the state, behind Worcester and Howard, in English Language proficiency.

Last school year marked the fourth full administration of the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments after a shortened test for the 2020-21 school year. Overall results showed steady gains, a 5.5 percentage point increase since the 2021-22 school year, although ELA student performance has recovered more swiftly than mathematics.

"Maryland students are making progress. For the third year in a row, we have seen performance increases," said Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Schools. "We will continue to explore enhanced teacher resources, professional learning and student supports. I am excited that we're headed in the right direction."

"Our latest MCAP results show modest but meaningful growth—especially for our economically disadvantaged students," said Dr. Joshua L. Michael, State Board of Education President. "This progress proves that when we focus on the fundamentals, our efforts pay off. By raising expectations, sharpening curriculum, and strengthening instruction, we're opening doors, because literacy and math unlock every other opportunity."

English language arts proficiency has now reached 50.8 percent, up from 48.4 percent the previous year and 45.3 percent in the 2021-22 school year. Mathematics proficiency reached 26.5 percent compared

to 24.1 percent for the previous school year and 21.0 percent in the 2021-22 school year. Other highlights:

- Black/African American student performance in ELA increased 3.2 percentage points from the prior year to 39.4 percent. Students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds improved ELA proficiency by 3.4 percentage points to 34.5 percent.
- Nearly all student groups experienced slight increases in mathematics proficiency.
- Achievement gaps persist in both ELA and mathematics. Multilingual students, economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities had lower proficiency rates as compared to their peers.

State standards in English language arts and mathematics were recently updated for the first time in 15 years. MSDE plans to provide parent guides and other resources to support student success while offering professional learning and working with school systems to identify high-quality instructional materials.

State ELA and mathematics assessments are administered annually in grades 3-8 and once in high school. Federal accountability requirements include a statewide science assessment for elementary (grades 3-5), middle school (grades 6-8), and once in high school.

The MCAP assessments measure mastery of state content standards to ensure that all students are progressing and receiving the necessary resources for remediation and enrichment. MCAP assessments include four student performance levels: Beginning Learner, Developing Learner, Proficient Learner, and Distinguished Learner. Both distinguished and proficient learners are considered proficient.

Dolina Files Candidacy for Treasurer

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Amanda Dolina, who was recently appointed by the governor to be Calvert County Treasurer until the next election, has filed her candidacy for the position. Dolina was appointed to fill the vacancy left with the resignation of Niva Tracy-Soper.

Dolina filed her candidacy on Aug. 21. A press release said, "With a proven record of financial leadership and a deep commitment to public service, Dolina brings the experience, professionalism, and vision needed to modernize the Treasurer's Office while safeguarding taxpayer dollars."

"Amanda Dolina currently serves as the Calvert County Treasurer, where she has led efforts to strengthen financial oversight, improve customer service, and begin modernizing operations. Drawing on over 15 years of accounting and leadership experience, she has worked with small businesses, nonprofits, and international organizations to build efficient, transparent financial systems."

"As Treasurer, I have seen firsthand both the strengths and the challenges of this office," Dolina said. "Calvert County deserves a Treasurer's Office that is accountable, service-focused, and forward-thinking. I'm running to continue the work of protecting taxpayer dollars, delivering excellent service, and bringing modern solutions to the people of Calvert County."

Her campaign emphasizes three pillars:

- "Service—Providing outstanding customer service in-person, online, and by phone."



Amanda Dolina

- "Oversight—Ensuring every taxpayer dollar is managed responsibly, openly, and with accountability."
- "Solutions—Expanding payment options and modernizing processes for greater efficiency and convenience."

Dolina, a Republican, lives in Chesapeake Beach. Her release said, "Amanda Dolina values her role in serving the people of Calvert County."

The election for Treasurer will be held in November 2026, with primary elections in June 2026.

For more information about Amanda Dolina and her campaign, visit www.friendsofamadadolina.com.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Hoyer, Delegation Push to Save Ag Research Center

Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Angela Alsobrooks (both D-MD), and U.S. Representatives Glenn Ivey (MD-04), Kweisi Mfume (MD-07), Jamie Raskin (MD-08), Sarah Elfreth (MD-03), April McClain Delaney (MD-06), and Johnny Olszewski (MD-02) warned U.S. Department of Agriculture leadership that closing the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Prince George's County, as proposed in its reorganization plan announced in July, would irreparably undermine U.S. agricultural innovation and harm the countless farmers who depend on BARC's research.

In their letter submitted for the USDA's official comment period on its reorganization plan, the lawmakers urge the agency to keep BARC open, pointing out that the required Congressional approval has not been granted for the agency to carry out such a large-scale restructuring effort.

They also outline how a move or relocation of BARC will waste taxpayer dollars while jeopardizing the success of American farmers in the immediate and long term – upending important research that can't be replicated elsewhere.

"We strongly oppose the USDA's proposed reorganization plan which includes the closure of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Beltsville, Maryland," the lawmakers began. "For over 100 years, BARC has been an engine of agricultural research and innovation and the site of numerous research breakthroughs. BARC's unique capacity has made it the nation's premier agricultural research facility, and its closure would be deeply harmful to American farmers, as well as a waste of taxpayer dollars. We also have significant concerns about the lack of transparency and the legality of USDA's proposed plan. We urge you to keep BARC open and to provide a detailed accounting of the full impact of the proposed reorganization plan."

The lawmakers go on to lay out a thor-

ough, detailed case for BARC and its employees to remain operational in the current location, stressing the following points:

- The plan to close BARC requires Congressional approval; moving forward without it would be illegal;
- The plan to close BARC would waste federal resources;
- BARC is a world leader in agricultural research; – its closure will irreparably harm the United States' leadership in agricultural production and research;
- BARC helps to train the next generation of agricultural researchers, on whom the future of American agricultural innovation depends;
- BARC's geographic location provides unique benefits to American agricultural research that cannot be replicated elsewhere;
- BARC provides regionally-tailored research to the 83,000 farms throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the loss of which jeopardizes \$10 billion in agricultural productivity;
- Key BARC research projects cannot be relocated, and decades of work may be lost completely if BARC closes;
- Closing BARC and relocating key research activities will not result in lower cost of living for USDA employees; and
- No USDA reorganization plan should move forward without a thorough benefit-cost analysis that includes a full accounting of the potential impacts of closing BARC.

"BARC's excellence in agricultural research is of enormous value to the nation, and so we urge you not to close this critical facility. We also urge USDA to ensure full transparency in any potential reorganization and to follow the letter of the law. We request an urgent meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss our concerns," the lawmakers concluded.

Press Release from Rep. Steny Hoyer

Calvert Pines Senior Center to Undergo Renovations

The Calvert County Department of Community Resources, Office on Aging, announces renovations to the Calvert Pines Senior Center have begun. The center is scheduled to remain open during the renovation process, which is anticipated to take six months.

Congregate and Home Delivered Meals are scheduled to continue as normal. Some classes and programs may be impacted. Residents are encouraged to monitor the Calvert County Office on Aging Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyOfficeonAging or call Calvert Pines Senior Center at 410-535-4606. Calvert Pines Senior Center is

located at 450 W. Dares Beach Rd. in Prince Frederick.

We thank residents for their patience while the facility is updated to better serve the community.

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

Press Release from Calvert County government.

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CalvertHealth to Host 16th Annual Breast Cancer 5K

CalvertHealth will host its 16th Annual Breast Cancer 5K on Saturday, Oct. 18 in beautiful Solomons Island. This year's event will once again feature two distances: a traditional 5K run/walk and a fun, untimed 1.5-mile walk along the scenic island—perfect for those who want to take in the views while showing their support.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Sheldon E. Goldberg Center for Breast Care at the CalvertHealth Cancer Center and its continued affiliation with Duke Health, a national leader in cancer care. This partnership gives local patients access to groundbreaking clinical trials and research—close to home. The first multidisciplinary breast center in Southern Maryland, the center for breast care provides patients with expert care and the most advanced breast health technology available.

With breast cancer incidence and mortality rates in Calvert County higher than both the state and national averages, the Breast Cancer 5K plays a vital role in sustaining breast care services locally. Since its start in 2010, the event has raised more than \$600,000 to support the life-changing work of the Sheldon E. Goldberg Center for Breast Care.

“The Breast Cancer 5K has grown into a cherished tradition in Southern Maryland,” said Barry Friedman, Foundation Board vice chair and 5K committee chair. “It’s a morning of remembrance, hope and unity—patients, caregivers, family, friends, co-workers, parishioners, classmates and neighbors all come together with a shared commitment to supporting breast cancer care right here in our community.”

He added, “In 2024, we welcomed more than 1,000 participants for the first time in

our history. Solomons Island was splashed with pink as participants gathered for this important cause, and we hope to see an even larger crowd in 2025. We all know someone who has been touched by breast cancer. Join us—form a team, walk with friends and be part of a tradition that is making a real difference.”

Event details: Race check-in begins at 7 a.m., followed by the program at 8 a.m. at the Solomons Medical Office Building, 14090 Solomons Island Road. Participants who register by Sept. 18 are guaranteed a T-shirt, and those who register by Oct. 10 will receive early bird pricing. After that date, registration will be \$50 and remain open until race day.

To register or learn more, visit CalvertHealthFoundation.org or call the Foundation Office at 410-414-4570.

Special thanks to our 2025 sponsors: AV3; Seven Lands & Seas Travel, Mr. Bob Carpenter and Dr. Stephan Peters; Associates in Radiation Medicine; Avian; Constellation/Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant; A and W Insurance Services Inc.; American Radiology Services; Asbury Solomons; City National Bank; COA Barrett LLC; Crane Service Co.; Sneade's Ace Home Center; College of Southern Maryland; McKinstry Consulting; GW CPA; Belmont Point Management; Cedar Point Federal Credit Union; Dixie Miller and Jim Ritter; Dr. Ramona Crowley, in memory of Dr. Sheldon E. Goldberg; Indian Township Solutions; M&T Bank; the Pharmacy at PJ Bean, St. Patrick's and Charlotte Hall; and Toyota of Southern Maryland. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Press Release from CalvertHealth

Christmas in April Applications Being Accepted

Christmas in April Calvert County, Inc. will be accepting applications through September 30, 2025 for Christmas in April 2026. This volunteer, non-profit organization makes home repairs and improves the homes of low-income homeowners, particularly for those who are elderly, disabled, veterans, and families with children.

The goal of Christmas in April is to ensure low-income homeowners live in warmth, safety, and independence.

There is no cost for the homeowners who are selected to be part of this program. Homes must be located in Calvert County, and all

homeowners must live in the home. If you wish to refer someone other than yourself, please first obtain that homeowner's consent.

Applications are available online at the Christmas in April website and may also be submitted online: www.christmasin-aprilcalvertcounty.org. Applications are also available at the senior centers, the churches, and the libraries. To request an application by mail, call Christmas in April at 410-535-9044.

Press Release from Christmas in April Calvert County

What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending Category 1 site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their Aug. 20 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 3R**, 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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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO) will conduct a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting at the Walter Francis Duke Terminal Conference Room, located at 44200 Airport Road, California, MD 20619, on **Thursday, September 18, 2025**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the Public Participation Plan (PPP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) project updates, and TAC agenda items. The agenda can be viewed at <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

This public meeting is required by law to allow all interested parties the opportunity to present evidence and public comments regarding items on the TAC meeting agenda. Public meetings are open to the public. Members of the press may attend.

Comments may be submitted on or before Tuesday, September 16, 2025, and should be addressed to the Long-Range Planning Division, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or Karly Maltby, Calvert – St. Mary's MPO Administrator, with St. Mary's County Government's Department of Land Use & Growth Management via email at Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov

This meeting can be attended virtually; the Meeting ID is 430 427 6617 and the call-in number is (301) 715-8592. Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4304276617?omn=85161472218>

For questions or more information, please contact Karly Maltby, Calvert-St. Mary's MPO Administrator, with St. Mary's County Government's Department of Land Use & Growth Management at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507 or via email at Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov or visit <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

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



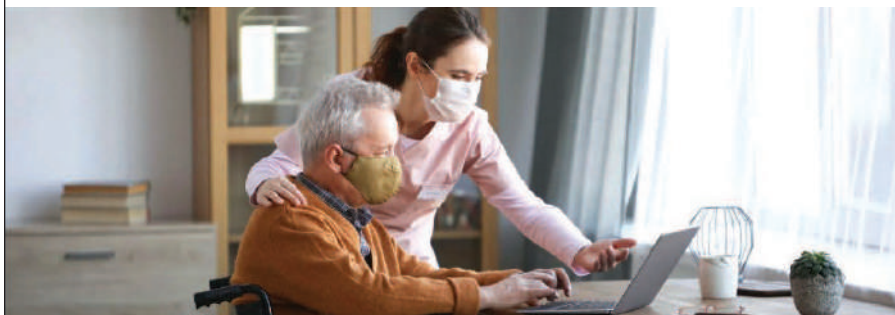
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Hospice Announces New Partnership for Home Visits

Hospice of the Chesapeake is proud to announce a new partnership with OnSite Medical House Calls, a trusted provider of medical house call services, to expand access to high-quality palliative care for patients in the comfort of their own homes.

Through this collaboration, patients living with serious illnesses will have access to in-home palliative care visits designed to manage symptoms, provide guidance on care goals, and support families through complex medical decisions. By combining the hospice's expertise in advanced illness care with OnSite Medical House Calls' experience in delivering medical care directly to patients' homes, this partnership ensures that more individuals can receive compassionate, personalized support without unnecessary hospital visits.

"This partnership allows us to extend the reach of our palliative care team while keeping our clinics in Waldorf and Pasadena open to patients who prefer in-person visits," said Becky Miller, CEO of Hospice

of the Chesapeake. "By working together with OnSite Medical House Calls, we're able to give continuity to our care—making sure patients and families have access to the support they need, whether in our clinics or at home."

Nicole Bachmann, CRNP, Medical Director of OnSite Medical House Calls, added: "This partnership strengthens our shared mission to meet patients where they are, with the care they need and the compassion they deserve."

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to easing the burden of illness while empowering patients and families with the tools, resources, and care they need to focus on quality of life.

For more information about Hospice of the Chesapeake's services or to learn about this partnership, please visit <http://www.hospicechesapeake.org> or call 1-877-462-1102.

Press Release from Hospice of the Chesapeake

Hospice Hosts Community Open House



Hospice of the Chesapeake invites the community to a Community Open House, 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, Sept. 9, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena. Remarks will begin at 10 a.m.

Guests will hear from Becky Miller, CEO, and Michael McHale, former CEO, as they reflect on the organization's shared past and bold vision for the future. The event will also mark several meaningful milestones:

Honoring the 10-year legacy of compassion at the Rebecca Fortney Inpatient Care Center.

Celebrating the opening of the Center for Hope and Healing on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus.

Experiencing the newly installed Phone of

the Wind in the Michael Stanley Children's Garden.

Visitors can enjoy light refreshments, campus tours, and healing arts activities as they connect with Hospice of the Chesapeake's mission of caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss.

Come celebrate the extraordinary care made possible by so many people in our community, from individuals and families to organizations and businesses.

RSVP to Lauren Thurston at lthurston@hospicechesapeake.org. For questions, please call 443-837-1531.

Press Release from Hospice of the Chesapeake

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, Sep 4

Awful Artworks: Emotional Rollercoaster

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

Have you ever looked at an art project and thought “I could do that,” but you in fact could not do that? Let your creativity flow without worrying about an end product! Attempt to represent your emotions in non-traditional ways! Try to draw “joy” using only angry colors and sharp lines, or “sadness” with neon glitter and googly eyes! Join us for an exploration of art in all its forms! We will provide the art materials (if you have art supplies gathering dust, bring them to share), you provide the creativity. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

OMOB 2025 Virtual Kickoff

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

Carole and Jeffery will engage in a trans-disciplinary conversation about the background, approach, and inspirations for the book. There will also be a short presentation by the Maryland State Archives about you can research Maryland history on your own. Audience Q&A will follow. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Sep 5

First Fossil Friday

Calvert Marine Museum
1-4:30 p.m.

Fossil hunters, bring your fossil finds from local areas to be identified! This service is provided for free; however, admission fees apply for access to CMM exhibits

Sat, Sep 6

ACLT Sip & Save

American Chestnut Land Trust
676 Double Oak Rd, Prince Frederick
1-5 p.m.

Help ACLT SAVE more land while you SIP a wide assortment of beer from regional breweries! More details: www.acltweb.org/index.php/calendar-of-events/

Garden Smarter - Chasing Monarchs on Migration

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
10-11 a.m.

Discover the incredible migration of Monarch butterflies with Master Naturalist Lisa Bierer-Garrett. From tagging programs in Minnesota to Western migrations in California and the breathtaking overwintering sites in Mexico, Lisa shares her journey, stunning photos, and tips for helping monarchs thrive in your own yard. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, Sep 7

Quarter Auction Benefit

Prince Frederick Vol. Fire Department
450 Solomons Island Road
12-3 p.m.

Join the Fun Bunch & Friendz auction team to celebrate our 15th anniversary quarter auction. Join us for an afternoon of fun and surprises! Auction starts at 1p.m. All in paddles are \$45 each and include a bid on every item on the event program with more than 70 chances to win! Regular bidding paddles are \$3 each, 2 for \$5, or 3 for \$7. Bring your quarters for bidding. For more information or to make reservations:
Email mdquarterauctions@yahoo.com
Phone 240-416-4224

Mon, Sep 8

Resumes and Interviewing Skills - MWE Workshop

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

Offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center, this is an interactive workshop for resume and job interview help. Looking for a first job, or a better job? Don't miss this free class. Registration closes 3 days before the event. To attend this class you must register with MWE. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Book Discussion

Calvert Pines Senior Center
1:00pm-2:00pm.

As autumn approaches, let's fall in love with reading and discuss Nora Roberts's "The Next Always." This is the first title in her beloved 'Boonsboro Inn' trilogy about family, renovation and second chances in our own picturesque Boonsboro, Maryland. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tech Help Drop-in Hour

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Learn how to troubleshoot and fix your tech problems with Calvert Library! Need help with your devices? Drop in to Calvert Library's open tech hours! We are pleased to offer personalized assistance with basic tech requests: computer and internet basics, e-Readers, Libby, Microsoft Office or Google apps, personal devices and more! While we are happy to schedule dedicated one-on-one tech trainings and offer tech help during all locations' open hours, these events are completely dedicated to you and your questions with no scheduling or appointment required. -410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Sep 9

Humane Society Event

Sneade's Hardware
1750 Prosper Lane, Owings
8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Enjoy some sweet treats, buy a treat for your four-legged best friend, meet some of adoptable dogs looking for their forever homes all while supporting the Humane Society of Calvert County.

Social Security: Disability Benefits

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

The Social Security Administration provides protection for workers and their families. Programs provide monthly income to seniors, workers with a disability, children with disabilities and families in which a spouse or parent has died. We invite you to this virtual presentation to learn more about disability benefits, eligibility requirements and the application process. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Sep 10

Job Seeker Resources

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

MD Labor Workforce—Veterans Services will be available in person at Calvert Library Prince Frederick to meet with those seeking employment-related support and community service information. This event focuses on Veterans Services. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
3-4 p.m.

Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Charles Harrell and Dennis Poremski of the Alzheimer's Association. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

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

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

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



County Times

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- CLUES ACROSS
- CLUES DOWN
1. Fairly large

6. Barrels per day (abbr.)

9. Cover the entirety of

13. Leafy appetizer

14. Showy ornament

15. Norse personification of old age

16. Athletes

17. Closes tightly

18. Attack via hurling items

19. Where the reserves stand

21. Sword

22. Begat

23. Damage another's reputation

24. Northeast

25. Turf

28. For each

29. Hours (Spanish)

31. Western state

33. One who offers help

36. Flanks

38. A woolen cap of Scottish origin

39. Free from drink or drugs

41. Tunnels

44. Mature

45. More dried-up

46. News organization

48. Steal something

49. Forms one's public persona(abbr.)

51. Female fish eggs

52. Small petrel of southern seas

54. Edible starches

56. Historical

60. In a place to sleep

61. Horse grooms

62. Off-Broadway theater award

63. Chinese dynasty

64. Resembling a wing

65. Small projection on a bird's wing

66. Of the Isle of Man

67. Derived unit of force (abbr.)

68. Plate for Eucharist
1. Vipers

2. Ancient city in Syria

3. Slog

4. Emits coherent radiation

5. "Pollock" actor Harris

6. Bleated

7. Monetary units of Afghanistan

8. Tooth doctor

9. One who takes apart

10. Commoner

11. Beat poet Ginsberg

12. Cave deposit material

14. Home energy backup

17. Begets

20. Face part

21. Frocks

23. Hill or rocky peak

25. Giving the impression of dishonesty

26. About ear

27. Male parents

29. Popular grilled food

30. Vaccine developer

32. Not conforming

34. Polite address for women

35. 1970 U.S. environmental law

37. Astronomical period of 18 years

40. One who fights the government

42. Center for Excellence in Education

43. Watches discreetly

47. An electrically charged atom

49. Hymn

50. Arabic given name

52. Popular pie nut

53. City in Zambia

55. Species of cherry

56. John __, British writer

57. Be next to

58. Make angry

59. Give birth to a lamb or kid

61. Unhappy

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AUGUST 14 SOLUTIONS

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2025 WASHINGTON COMMANDERS **SCHEDULE**

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	SCORE
SEPTEMBER 7	NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00 PM	_____
SEPTEMBER 11	@ GREEN BAY PACKERS	1:00 PM	_____
SEPTEMBER 21	LAS VEGAS RAIDERS	8:15 PM	_____
SEPTEMBER 28	@ ATLANTA FALCONS	1:00 PM	_____
OCTOBER 5	@ LOS ANGELES CHARGERS	4:25 PM	_____
OCTOBER 13	CHICAGO BEARS	8:15 PM	_____
OCTOBER 19	@ DALLAS COWBOYS	4:25 PM	_____
OCTOBER 27	@ KANSAS CITY CHIEFS	8:15 PM	_____
NOVEMBER 2	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	8:20 PM	_____
NOVEMBER 9	DETROIT LIONS	4:25 PM	_____
NOVEMBER 16	@ MIAMI DOLPHINS (MADRID)	9:30 AM	_____
NOVEMBER 30	DENVER BRONCOS	8:20 PM	_____
DECEMBER 7	@ MINNESOTA VIKINGS	1:00 PM	_____
DECEMBER 14	@ NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00 PM	_____
DECEMBER 20	PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	TBD	_____
DECEMBER 25	DALLAS COWBOYS	1:00 PM	_____
JANUARY 3/4	PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	TBD	_____

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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Sep 4

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

21690 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
7 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. E-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301-481-6625 for more information.

Fri, Sep 5

No Limit Texas Holdem Tournament

St. Mary's County Elk's Lodge
45779 Fire Department Lane, California
7 p.m.

Buy-in: \$80. Blinds will start at 100/100, 100/200 and progress every 20 minutes. Starting Stack—20K in chips

For any question or additional details contact Linda Hill, 240-925-5697 or doxiemama1014@gmail.com

Please enter from the side of the building.

Sat, Sep 6

10th Annual Patriot Day 5K

Little Flower School
Great Mills
Same-day registration begins 6:30 a.m.
Opening ceremony 8 a.m.

This milestone celebration brings together runners, walkers, families and community supporters for a morning of fitness, fun and fellowship. Honors local "Patriots," which

includes military members, firefighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians. Registration: Visit <https://littleflowercatholic.org/patriot-day-5k>

Proceeds from the 5K directly benefit Little Flower School's educational programs, helping fund classroom resources, technology upgrades and student activities.

Back-to-School Bash Wellness Event

Chancellors Run Regional Park
Small Pavilion beside the playground
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join us for a FREE community wellness event with a special treats for teachers and parents.

Enjoy our Event Highlights:

- Auricular acupuncture: For stress relief, emotional balance, and deep calm.
- Herbal Tea Tasting: Sip your way to harmony with Chinese medicinal teas!
- Live Qigong Demonstrations: Learn simple, grounding movements to support emotional release.
- FREE Wellness Gift Bags for the first 25 attendees

Hosted by AcuHerb Community Circle.
All are welcome!

Drayden African American Schoolhouse 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. 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/even

Sun, Sep 7

East Coast Drifters Fall Classic Car Show

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
27636 Mechanicsville Road
8 a.m.-3 p.m.

All years Cars, Trucks & Motorcycles are welcome. Top 70, 25 late model and several specialty awards. First 100 receive dash plaques. Pre-registration \$15 by Sept. 1st. \$20 at gate. Spectators \$5 (under 12 free) Registration cut-off Noon. For more info call: Chuck 301-751-5602 or Rich 240-538-4266 eastcoastdrifters.com (rain date Sept. 28)

Sidewalk Art Showcase

Port of Leonardtown Winery Park
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Step into a world of creativity at the Sidewalk Art Showcase! Watch as talented & budding artists transform ordinary sidewalks into stunning works of art before your eyes. This family-friendly event celebrates the power of imagination, featuring colorful chalk art, interactive installations, and live demonstrations.

All ages and skill levels welcome. Chunky sidewalk chalk available on a first come, first serve basis.

More details to come. For more information, please reach out to 301-475-9791

Drive Thru Fried Chicken Dinner

Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
28165 Hills Club Rd., Mechanicsville
11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. or until sold out

Mon, Sep 8

Pax River Quilters Guild

Hollywood United Methodist Church
Mervel Dean Rd., Hollywood
Monday, Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m.,

Monthly meeting are the second Monday of every month and feature guest speakers, show and tells, and other fun activities. Pax River Quilters Guild is a non-profit organization devoted to philanthropic quilting projects and promoting the skill of quilting. New members of all skill levels are welcome. For questions, email: prqgsomd@gmail.com

Upcoming

Friends of the Poor Walk

Father Andrew White School
Leonardtown
Saturday, October 4th at 9 a.m. (same day registration 7:30 a.m.)

St. Vincent de Paul Society's 18th annual walk. The event helps families and individuals in need in our community. There will be a post walk brunch, live music, silent auction and door prizes. For more information, call 301-904-7990.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

UPCOMING EVENTS

Student Success : Educational Resources at Your Library

Looking to help your student thrive in school? Dealing with homeschool burnout? Learn all about Library study resources and meet other home teachers! We will focus on our library services that are geared towards children and families. This includes help with searching the catalog for different subjects, using our online Homework Helper, our Library Apps, Events that we offer, and so much more! We'll also go over navigating the library website and a mini tour of the Lexington Park Library. You'll leave with a whole col-

lection of bookmarks, printouts, and confidence in accessing all the benefits your library card grants you. Lexington Park Library on Saturday, September 6, 10 - 11 a.m. This program is aimed specifically towards homeschoolers & guardians of school age children. Kids are welcome to come along! We will have crafts set up to keep them occupied while you learn! Register on www.stmalib.org.

Introduction to Ancestral Narratives for All Ages: A One Maryland, One Book Program

Ancestral narratives are a way of sharing family's stories with future generations.

Genealogists, no matter their age or experience, will enjoy learning about this useful way of preserving history. This year's One Maryland, One Book selection, Kin: Rooted in Hope, written by Carole Boston Weatherford with art by Jeffery Boston Weatherford, reflects the theme, "What We Collect/What We Tell." Their book, written for upper elementary schoolers and up, focuses on the Weatherford's own ancestors who were among the founders of Maryland and gives these individuals voice through enslavement, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. In this program, we'll discuss what ancestral narratives are and the basic steps for recording your own. They can be useful for anything from school assignments to heavy genealogy work. As exemplified by this year's book, they are a great way to pass on the stories of our past in a way that captivates readers. Leonardtown Library on Monday, September 8 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Big & Little Yoga Class

Bring your littles along to this Big & Little yoga class! Children ages 4-10 are invited to join their caregivers at this morning yoga session. Mats will be available, but please feel free to bring your own yoga mat or a beach towel to use. Registration is required on www.stmalib.org. Lexington Park Library on Friday, September 12 from 9:30 - 10 a.m.

Introduction to Canva - A Graphic Design Tool

Learn to create polished posters and flyers like a pro! Join us for this introductory class to learn how to use Canva, a free, web-based graphic-design tool. We'll get you started with Canva and cover the basics of creating your own promotional flyer. Leonardtown Library on Friday, September 12 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Computer Skills needed for this class: Advanced mouse and keyboard abilities. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Continued from page 19

carry the seriously injured "Bat" to a shed where they were kept until being moved to the infamous Hanoi Hilton, where they remained for the duration of the war. Bob continued to distinguish himself in captivity. He became the camp Communications Officer, responsible for the secret hand signals and tap codes used to communicate throughout the camp. He was released with the last group of POWs in March of 1973.

After convalescing, Bob regained his flight physical and was selected to attend the prestigious U.S. Naval Test Pilot School. Once again distinguishing himself, he was assigned to the Strike Aircraft Test Directorate. There he was involved in the test and evaluation of the Navy's most advanced and complex aircraft and systems.

During his service Bob earned the Bronze Star with Combat V, Bronze Star, Purple Heart (2), Navy "L" Award, Strike Flight Air Medal (2), Individual Action Air Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation, and Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Bob separated from the Naval Service June 29, 1979, as a Lieutenant Commander, to care for his two young daughters. In 1983 Bob married the love of his life, Julie Broxson Randall and together they adopted and raised his third daughter Mary Mechelle Randall. Mary captured Bob's heart and he spent 38 years celebrating her abilities, not her disabilities.

In his civilian career, Bob remained close to Naval Aviation as a consultant. He spent many years supporting major Naval Aviation

programs while rising to the position of Vice President with Veda Incorporated. He left Veda thinking of retirement, but instead he founded the self-descriptive Randall RDT&E Engineering Company.

When Bob finally actually retired, he remained very active in the community. Most notably, for many years, he was President of the Board of the Greenwell Foundation, which partners with the State of Maryland in managing Greenwell State Park to ensure accessible recreation for individuals with disabilities in the community. Bob was also the President of the Board of Governors of the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center. He was instrumental in working with the Governor of Maryland to secure funding for the Center, which offered several degree options from accredited colleges and universities for local students.

Bob was a humble man, who rarely spoke of his military experience or his time as a POW. He did not consider himself a hero. Unknown to many, he was an accomplished builder and woodworker. He completed several building projects at his home, including a gazebo for his daughter Mary and a barn to house his most important asset: his John Deere tractor. His home workshop is fully equipped with a full complement of classic woodworking tools, and he built several pieces of furniture for his home, crafted with the precision and care that one would expect from Bob. His wit and dry sense of humor were contagious. He considered himself a lucky man, who lived with the love of his life, wife Julie, for 42 years.

A Memorial Celebration of Life will

be held at the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum, Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 10:30 am. The museum is not on the base, so no military ID is required. The museum will be closed to the public during the ceremony. Following the ceremony, inurnment, presided by the Reverend Greg Syler, will be held at St. George's Episcopal Church, 19167 Poplar Hill Lane, Valley Lee, MD 20692.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living, The Greenwell Foundation, or the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum.

Condolences may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

JW Hall, 74



John "JW" William Hall III, of Bushwood, MD, passed away on August 23, 2025, at the age of 74.

Born July 10, 1951, in Washington D.C., he was the son of the late John

William Hall, Jr. and Gertrude "Lorraine" Hall (Lacey). JW served honorably in the U.S. Navy from 1971 to 1975. While stationed in California, he met his wife, Debra Dea Hall (Angus). They were married June 9, 1973, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Anacortas, WA. JW never forgot an anniversary.

JW returned home to the "7th D" with his wife and growing family. JW, alongside his wife, crafted multiple projects including a cupboard with punched tin doors. His children cherish the memories built from his labor such as bunk beds, a tree house, go-carts, wooden swords and rifles, playhouse, doll cradle, and doll house.

JW worked for B Frank Joy for over 35 years and eventually retired as Safety Manager. While working for B Frank Joy he discovered his love for golf. An avid and competitive golfer, he was a member of the Wicomico Shores Golf Course; winning First Flight in the club championship in 2015. When not on the golf course, he spent many years as a Little League coach for his sons, nieces, and nephews. In addition, he was an Assistant Scout Master for Troop 912 which led to many summers in Goshen, VA.

JW is survived by his four children: Jane (Joel) Sorli, Josh Hall, Justin (Cristina) Hall, and Jesse Hall; four grandchildren: Jennifer Alvey, Jessica Alvey, Lilian "Cc" Hall, and Brendan Hall; three great-children: Jordan Morgan, Jrue Morgan, and Jace Morgan; siblings: Charles "Chuck" Hall, Dale (Patty) Hall, Sandra Beall, Beverly Gardiner, and Gladys Hall; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Debra Dea Hall (Angus), August 15, 2020, and his brother, R. Kenny "Boots" Hall, April 25, 1993.

The family will receive friends and family on Monday, September 8, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, 41590 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown, MD, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 10:00 AM at St John's Catholic Church,

43927 St. John's Road, Hollywood, MD. Interment will be held at Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery, 38888 Dr. Johnson Road, Helen, MD. A reception will follow services at Bowles Farms, 22880 Budds Creek Road, Clements MD.

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

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

Arlene Carlson, 92



Melba "Arlene" Carlson peacefully reunited with her beloved husband, Cdr. Ronald F. Carlson, USN Ret., on his eternal adventure, August 28, 2025. Arlene

was the loving mother of Ronda Boyce, Jean Fail (Peter), Cathy Gaffney (Jerry), and Neal Carlson; Grandmother of Caitlin Boyce, Lauren Phipps (Ian), Conor Boyce, Christian Boyce, Nicholas Fail, and Allison Fail; Great grandmother of Grayson Boyce and Josephine Phipps.

Arlene, the daughter of Nellie Lee Halligan and Clarence Edward Potter, was born November 23, 1932, in Bird City, KS. Her siblings, Elaine, Irene, Bing, and Jimmy, all preceded her in death, but provided her with many nieces and nephews.

When her family moved to Milton-Freewater, Oregon, Arlene met her future husband and shortly after they wed in Gretna Green, NV on January 17, 1953.

As the devoted wife of a military man, Arlene was the heart of her family, building a life of love and resilience across the many places they called home—California, Texas, Rhode Island, Ohio, Hawaii, Guam, and Maryland.

While living in Guam, Arlene became a dedicated Red Cross volunteer, offering care to wounded servicemen returning from Vietnam. Known for an open heart and open home, she never met a stranger and always welcomed others around her dining room table.


After returning stateside, Arlene worked as a permanent substitute teacher at Great Mills and Leonardtown High School from 1971 to 2020. When she wasn't indulging in her favorite sport, shopping, Arlene shared her talents by catering luncheons at Sotterley Plantation and took great pride in her fundraising efforts and support for the Shriners Hospital for Children. She also served proudly as the First Lady to the Potentate of the Boumi Shriners of Baltimore and remained active until shortly before her death.

Arlene and Ron loved to travel together, and, upon retirement, they spent time visiting friends and family across the US and around the world.

The family wishes to invite friends to attend a Celebration of Life on Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 2:00-4:00 pm at her home in Lexington Park, MD to share memories of Arlene.

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.



Farmers Feeding St. Mary's

The annual Farmers Feeding St. Mary's County Program will offer free, farm fresh produce at two community events!*

Thursday, August 14
Bay District Fire Department
46900 S Shangri-La Dr, Lexington Park, MD
2-6 p.m.


Saturday, September 13
U-Haul Parking Lot
46041 Signature Lane, Lexington Park, MD
9 a.m.-1 p.m.

***While Supplies Last**

*The Commissioners of St. Mary's County,
the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services,
the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development,
Feed St. Mary's
and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
are pleased to offer these valuable community events!*

For more information, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1074, or visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging





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.

Betsy Armitage, 88



Elizabeth Powers Armitage, a long-time resident of Town Creek in St. Mary's County, died peacefully on August 29, 2025. Betsy was 88 and was the youngest

child of Olney Hume Powers and Elizabeth Russell Powers of Stafford County, Virginia. She was raised at Green Branch, a stone house her parents built on their farm near Quantico. She and her sister, Sue, and their brother, Hume, lived and played alongside cousins, aunts, and uncles, whose homes were close by. Their home was named for a small creek near the house.

Betsy was the president of her class at James Monroe High School and then received her bachelor's degree from Mary Washington College. Later she obtained a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Maryland. She was a teacher for more than 25 years in the St. Mary's County public school system. She taught first grade and declined opportunities to work with other grades because she so enjoyed "watching the light go on" when a child learned to read. She once wrote that "there is no more important skill for a full and successful life than the ability to read."

Betsy was active in the Episcopal Church for all of her life, serving as senior warden on the vestry of Trinity Church in St. Mary's City at a time when the post was usually held by men. During her tenure in the early 1990's, the historic church and cemetery underwent a major renovation. Betsy implemented changes to the walkways approaching the church. She selected the pattern of the bricks laid for the walkway, and also suggested replacing right angles with gentle curves. While subtle, these changes made for a more graceful approach to Sunday services.

Betsy enjoyed traveling, and while in her 70's spent time one summer volunteering at a school on the Sioux Reservation in Montana. She also traveled to Africa on safari during her seventh decade.

Betsy was an accomplished gardener. She also enjoyed watching steeplechase horse races and the occasional bourbon, especially when they happened together. Above all, she valued family. Even in years when the soup was thin she took everyone, sometimes including extended family, for a summer vacation to the beach or Buggs Island Lake.

Betsy is survived by her children, Daniel R. Armitage (Sue Ann) of Drayden, Maryland; and Elizabeth Hall (Rob) of Richmond, Virginia; and by several nieces and nephews. She loved and was proud of her granddaughters, Ellie, Sydney and Jesse. She was predeceased by her brother, Olney Hume Powers of Roanoke; and her sister, Susan Blackford Moffett, of Richmond, Virginia.

An informal celebration of life gathering will be held on Saturday, September 6, 2025. This will occur at 4 p.m. in the churchyard at

Trinity Church in St. Mary's City, at a spot where Betsy particularly enjoyed watching the river roll by. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Rosalyn Hurry, 99



Rosalyn Russell Hurry, 99, of Morganza, Maryland, passed away peacefully on August 25, 2025.

Born on June 20, 1926, in Morganza, Maryland, Rosalyn was the beloved daughter of William Lee Russell and Catherine Estelle (Abell) Russell. She enjoyed spending her youth on the family farm and recounted helping her mother and Grandma Willy bake three double layer chocolate cakes each week and sending one to the Priest and Sisters at St. Joseph's Church.

She attended St. Joseph's Church School from 1'st to 8'th Grades and gave the Commencement Speech at Graduation. She graduated from Margaret Brent High School and then was employed as a secretary serving the Social Services Department and Draft Board.

Rosalyn married James Raley Hurry on October 6, 1945, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church and they spent many wonderful years of happiness, love, and companionship together. Alongside her late husband, Rosalyn dedicated over 30 years to running Hurry's Store in Clements, where she and her husband raised their children upstairs and in the store. Upon retirement they moved to their farm in Morganza which was two farms over from her childhood home.

She is survived by her son, Dennis Hurry (Linda) of Mechanicsville, MD, her grandchildren; Ross Hurry (Crystal), Brooks Hurry, Haidee Kolb, Michael Hurry, Jr., and great grandson Harrison Hurry. Rosalyn was preceded in death by her husband, James, her parents, William and Catherine, and her children, James R. Hurry, Jr. (Carole) (Kate), Mary Rosalyn Hurry Dusch (Gerry) Rita C. Hurry Dusch, brothers William Austin Russell, Walter Fedalis Russell, Richard Ignatius Russell, Louis Lee Russell, James Lambert Russell and sisters Anne Helene Hoffman, Dorothy Theresa Shavatt and many nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, from 5-7 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, in Leonardtown, MD with prayers being recited at 6:00 p.m. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to A.C.T.S., P.O. Box 54, Bushwood, MD 20618 and/or St. Mary's Hospice, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

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

Bob Randall, 81



Robert I. "Bob" Randall, 81, died August 22, 2025, at home with his family at his side. He is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Julie Broxson Randall; two adult daughters, Elizabeth Anne "Libby" Randall, of Savannah, Georgia and Sarah Catherine Jarboe (Mark), of Heathsville, Virginia; grandsons Alec Jarboe (Kelsey), and Brendan Jarboe (Rachel), both of Florida; his sister-in-law Melissa Raley (Jim), of Lusby, MD; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Mary Mechelle Randall; and his brother, James E. Randall.

Bob was born October 31, 1943, to the late James Irving and Esther Mary (nee: Firstbrook) Randall, in Neptune, New Jersey. He was raised in New Jersey and graduated from Neptune High School. He attended the University of Missouri at Rolla, graduating in 1966 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, Aero option.

In 1967 he entered Naval Aviation Officer

Candidate School and graduated in 1968 as a commissioned Ensign in the United States Navy. He then received orders to the Naval Air Training Command. In July of 1969, he received his Wings of Gold and orders to Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia, to train in the Navy's front-line fighter, the F-4 Phantom. Upon completion he was assigned to the Sluggers of Fighter Squadron 103. Bob distinguished himself, becoming a Landing Signal Officer (LSO), responsible for training, evaluating, and certifying all squadron pilots in all phases of aircraft carrier operations. Bob was selected to the highly prestigious Navy Fighter Weapons School — TOP GUN. Shortly after he completed the TOP GUN curriculum and returned to the squadron, VF-103 and USS Saratoga deployed to Vietnam. Bob, known by his call sign, "Gull," and the rest of the Saratoga Air Wing commenced combat operations in May 1972. In July of 1972, "Gull" was flying as part of a coordinated air wing strike over Hanoi, North Vietnam, when his aircraft was destroyed by enemy fire. He and his RIO, Frederick "Bat" Masterson, ejected and were quickly captured by local natives. Bob's back was broken in three places, but he managed to

Continued on page 20

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Life insurance: Protect what matters most

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month and the perfect time to consider whether you have adequate coverage to protect your loved ones. While no one likes to think about what would happen if they weren't around, doing so is an act of love.

Life insurance is fundamentally about protecting your loved ones should something happen to you. If you pass away, your family will not only face the challenges of grief and loss but they could also find themselves financially strapped. Life insurance can help provide them with financial security in the event you no longer can.

Who needs life insurance: You're a good candidate if you have a spouse or partner who depends on your income or if there are children or other loved ones whom you support. Insurance protection can also be a solution if you have outstanding debts like a mortgage, credit cards or a car loan, or if you simply don't want to burden your loved ones with your final expenses.

Insurance through work: While many people have life insurance through their employers, this coverage may not be enough for you, depending on your situation. Among employers who offer group life insurance, only 2% offer more than two times the employee's annual salary — essentially just two years of income — according to the Guardian's 2023 Workplace Benefits Study. And remember that it's only good as long as you're employed there. With all this in mind, many people purchase individual insurance as a supplement to their workplace coverage.

How much: You might hear that you need life insurance equal to about seven to 10 times your pretax annual salary. That's not a bad "ballpark" figure, but not everyone is playing in the same ballpark. To get a true sense of how much of a death benefit is right for you, use the "L-I-F-E" guide to calculate your needs:

- **Liabilities:** Will your family need to pay off a mortgage, credit cards, car loan or other debt?
- **Income:** Will your family need to replace your income for a period of years?
- **Final expenses:** Do you have the resources to cover funeral and burial expenses?
- **Education needs:** Do you need to put children through a private school or college?

Which type: You can choose between two basic types of life insurance: term and permanent. As its name suggests, term insurance is designed to provide coverage for a designated period, such as 10, 15 or 20 years. In general, term insurance is quite affordable for most people, especially when they buy policies as young adults. On the other hand, permanent insurance, such as whole life or universal life, is usually considerably more expensive because in addition to providing a death benefit, your premiums build cash value. In choosing between term and permanent insurance, you'll want to evaluate several issues, such as how long you think you'll need coverage and how much annual premium you can afford to pay.

Life insurance needs can change over time, so it's important to review your coverage every three to five years or after major life events like marriage or birth of a child. Consider working with a financial advisor who can look at your complete financial situation and help you choose a policy that truly fits your family's needs. Taking action sooner rather than later could be one of the most important gifts you give your loved ones.

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

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Contributed by David McDonough, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302, Leonardtown, MD 20650 301 997 1707

A View From The BLEACHERS



Traditions: The Tonic for Change

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

Terrapins gear lined the walls, floor to ceiling, and filled racks throughout the bookstore at the student union on the campus of the University of Maryland. For a life-long fan, it is a glorious oasis of Turtle threads that sends the mind firing back into the past, recalling basketball and lacrosse national championships and greats of the gridiron, and into the future where new possibilities and heroes exist. Experiencing this rush of adrenaline recently, two certainties came into focus: I would leave this place lighter in the pocket and it didn't matter. Fresh Terps gear would be worth it.

There was a notable absence of any athlete-specific jerseys — not even a Len Bias #34 or Juan Dixon #3. Perhaps there is some name-image-likeness restriction? Who knows the rules anymore? Are there any rules? Regardless, it was a notable void in available offerings.

With the time running short on the parking meter, we snapped back to the primary task that led us to this place: retrieving my kid's books for the fall semester. That required a trip downstairs into the bowels of the student union. Here existed a labyrinth of educational equipment and texts, and...discounted athletic gear. This section was far less extravagant; while the upstairs, with its bright lights and fancy displays, exuded Terrapin pride, the vibe in the basement screamed "yard sale." Flipping through the racks I stumbled on a few player jerseys from years ago, most notable Stephon Diggs's, the one-time Terps wide receiver who's carved out respectable — and lucrative — NFL career. While I didn't put eyes on these, a "Crab Five" shirt from last year's basketball team, or a Melo Trimble or a Derik Queen jersey had to be buried in the threads begging for someone to claim them for a nominal fee.

This, of course, is indicative of the transient nature of modern college athletics. As a new football season begins, order is an illusion. Teams are dutifully ranked, win-loss projections are confidently made and a rough outline of the season is drafted. It's all nonsense. All of it. Every team has undergone so much turnover, printed rosters (with thumbnail pics) are necessary to simply identify each new collection of talented individuals, much less how they will function as a unit. For evidence, see last week's upsets of Texas, Alabama and Clemson. This same conundrum — obligatory rankings and prognostications that border on fiction — will repeat itself every college football season for the foreseeable future.

With next to zero roster continuity and no allegiance between schools and players, a collection of strangers on the field and a revolving door in the head coaching ranks, it would be reasonable to assume declining popularity of college football. That would be an incorrect hypothesis. The general addiction to football explains some of this, but there's more in play. With college football in particular, traditions are the constant; they act as a tonic to the year-over-year chaos and provide a familiar foundation for renewing enrichment. Students. Alumni. Bands. Fight songs. Mascots. Tailgating. Memories shared and to be made. On the fringe of Maryland's first game last week, it's remarkable how much resembled my experiences decades ago as a much younger Terps fan — same location, same stadium, same colors, same vibe.

There was a more significant testament to time and tradition in these football musings. In life, we were all young once and the fortunate get to grow old. During the relentless passage of time, new family members arrive and others transcend this dimension. Nothing stays as it is for long. That is deal we make for the privilege of roaming around on this spinning blue dot flying through space for several decades. What cuts through the change are traditions inherited from elders and passed on to family youth — the importance of regular gatherings, holiday celebrations, epic vacations, backyard football games, pool parties, local foods and secret family recipes. These are the things that last; they allow the spirit of long-lost loved ones to live on and current and future generations to connect to the past. None of us are timeless, but cherished traditions can be.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

MIR Welcomes Hot Rod Drag Week



It's almost time for the race to determine the title of "Fastest Street Car in America," as HOT ROD Drag Week 2025, Presented by Gear Vendors Overdrive races through four cities in one month! HOT ROD Drag Week will be hosted at the Maryland International Raceway (MIR) and also hit Numidia Dragway in Numidia, PA, Maple Grove Raceway in Reading, PA, and Cecil County Dragway in Rising Sun, MD from Sunday, Sept. 14 through Friday, Sept. 19.

The world's toughest competition to find the ultimate street-legal drag car, HOT ROD Drag Week puts competitors through a grueling test over five days of action-packed drag racing, requiring racers to drive their vehicles on a specified route from city to city, approximately 1,000 miles, while securing the quickest possible elapsed time across the five days. During the competition, drivers provide photographic evidence to prove they have followed the required route.

Some of the nation's top racers participate in Drag Week each year, and it's not uncommon for competitors to band together to help each other get through the week.

Hot Rod Drag Week 2025 Schedule

- Tech Inspection, Registration, Test 'N' Tune – Sunday, Sept. 14 Maryland International Raceway (Budds Creek, Maryland) 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. local time for registration, tech inspection, and test 'n' tune (tech open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.,

test 'n' tune begins at 12 p.m.)

- Day 1 Racing – Monday, Sept. 15 Maryland International Raceway (Budds Creek, MD) Race hours 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Day 2 Racing – Tuesday, Sept. 16 Numidia Dragway (Numidia, PA) Race hours 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Day 3 Racing – Wednesday, Sept. 17 Maple Grove Raceway (Reading, PA) Race hours 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Day 4 Racing – Thursday, Sept. 18 Cecil County Dragway (Rising Sun, MD) Race hours 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Day 5 Racing (Finals) – Friday, Sept. 19 Maryland International Raceway (Budds Creek, MD) Race hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Spectator Information

Spectator tickets will be available at each track (\$20). Children 12 and under are free with a paid adult.

Follow HOT ROD Drag Week 2025 on X, Facebook, and Instagram using #hotrod-dragweek. For those who can't make it in person, the 5-day event will be livestreamed on MotorTrend's YouTube Channel and at motortrend.com/events/hot-rod-drag-week.

Learn more about Drag Week™ at motortrend.com/events/hot-rod-drag-week.

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September 14
Games Start 4:00pm

Doors open 3:00pm

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Explaining the Siding Replacement Process

The longer a person resides in a particular home, the greater the likelihood that various components of that residence will need to be replaced. Driveways, roofs, HVAC systems, and even appliances all have expiration dates.

Although siding on a home can be quite durable, there may be specific reasons why homeowners choose to or need to replace it at some point. Understanding what's to come of the job can help homeowners prepare. No two siding jobs are exactly the same, and each project will be dictated by a host of variables, including which type of siding homeowners choose. However, these general steps are commonplace during siding replacement projects.

- Choose siding: Homeowners are urged to consult with various siding installation companies about which products are available and ask each for an estimate. Budget, climate and other factors will narrow down siding materials. The Home Depot says popular siding types include vinyl, wood, fiber cement, metal, and stone. Siding can have almost any color or texture as well.
- Remove and relocate: Outdoor items close to the perimeter of the home will have to be moved out of the way so workers can access the siding. The job will require a dumpster to be dropped in front of the home or in the drive-



way to collect debris, so homeowners should be prepared to leave space for it.

- Siding delivery: The new siding should be delivered prior to the installation start day. These materials will take up a lot of room and space should be made available so the installation team can access them without difficulty.
- Interior decor: Siding installation will include hammering, which can disrupt items on interior walls. It is best

to have all wall hangings taken down to prevent damage.

- Old siding removal: On the first day of installation, removal of the old siding will happen first, according to Smart Exteriors. Siding, insulation and trim will be removed. In the event that older, asbestos-based siding is on a home, contractors may safely remove and discard it, or go over that type of siding. Homeowners should inquire

about this step during the company vetting process.

- Home inspection: Once all old material is gone, the exterior sheathing will be inspected to ensure it is in good shape. Signs of rot or loose boards will be considered and repaired, if necessary.
- New siding install: First workers will put on house wrap or some sort of insulation/water barrier product. Afterwards, siding boards are layered on in the design chosen. Nails or screws are used to attach the siding and seams will be caulked to prevent moisture penetration. If the homeowner has chosen to have gutters and downspouts installed during the siding job, those will be fitted and installed as well.
- Clean up: The installation team will begin the process of thoroughly cleaning up the property. All tools will be removed and the property will be swept or blown to clean away debris. Crews typically use powerful magnets to grab stray nails and screws that have fallen into the lawn and elsewhere. The dumpster will be taken away shortly after the work is completed.

Siding replacement is a big job but one that can offer immediate curb appeal once completed. It typically is not a do-it-yourself project since it requires specific skills to ensure durability.



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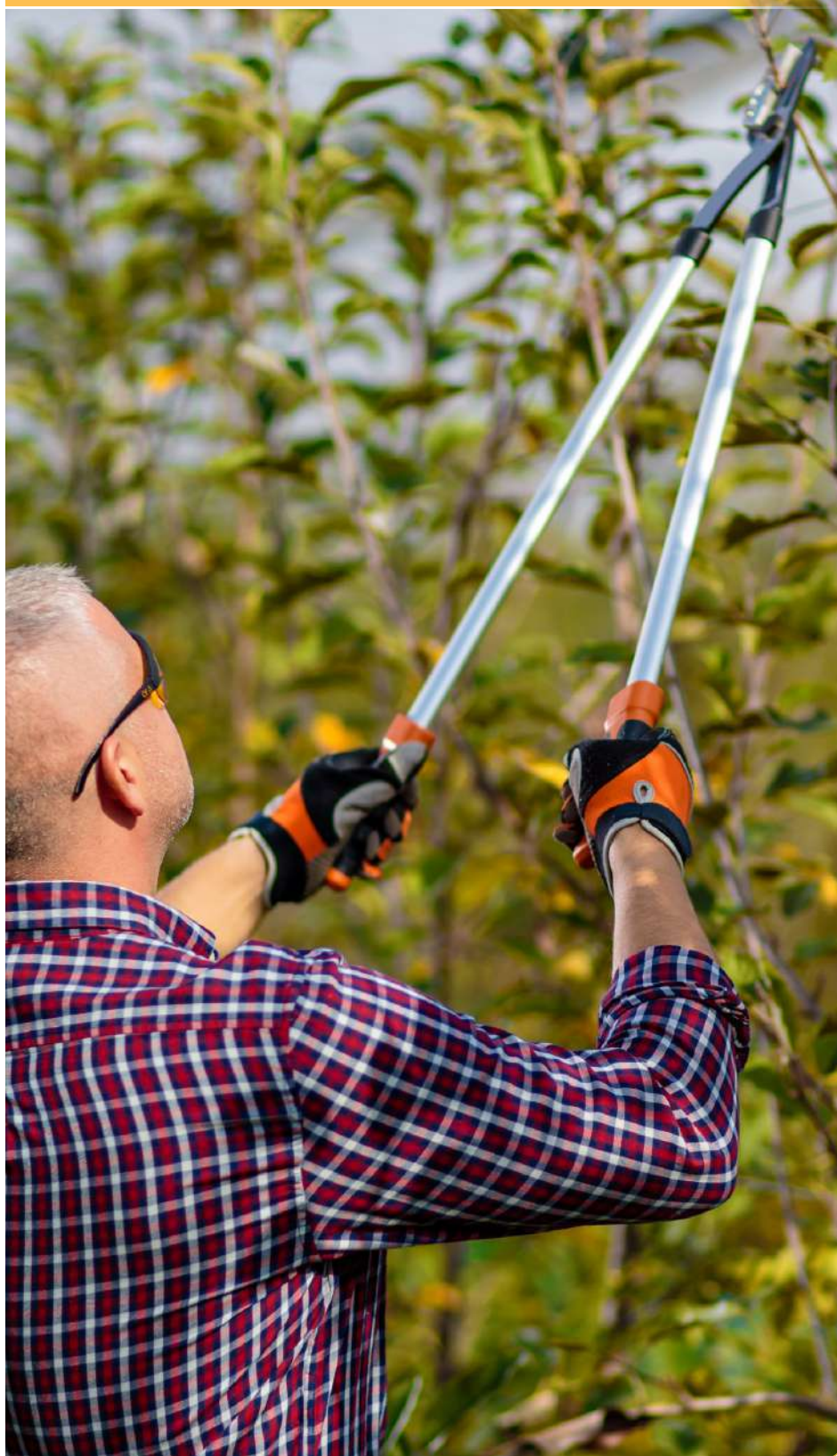
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Stay safe around power lines



As we slide into fall, many people are finishing projects around the house and yard in preparation for the coming winter months. It's important to stay safe and be aware of overhead power lines. Look up.

- Never climb power poles or transmission towers.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- Keep equipment away from overhead lines when carrying ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning tools.
- If you are doing work close to power lines—such as trimming trees, working on your roof, or doing exterior renovations—keep yourself, your ladder, and anything you are handling a safe distance from the power line.
- Contact SMECO to disconnect power if you are doing work that requires close contact with overhead lines attached to your home.
- Use a licensed electrician for all electrical work.
- Plant trees away from power lines.



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Drainage Is Crucial to Outdoor Spaces



Outdoor living spaces can be welcoming areas to spend time in nature. Such spaces expand the possibilities for entertaining, as they tend to have more room for guests than home interiors, and they enable people to enjoy sunshine, fresh air and the sounds and sights of wildlife in relaxing settings. When planning outdoor living areas, homeowners must not underestimate the significance of drainage.

Patios, pergolas, decks, and landscaping can increase comfort and convenience for homeowners. In fact, connection to the outdoors ranked high on the top 10 list of design drivers in "The Future of Home Design," a survey conducted by the New Home Trends Institute in collaboration with Pro Builder. Fifty-eight percent of survey respondents said connection to the outdoors will be an important influence on their design choices in the years to come.

When planning outdoor living spaces, it is easy to focus on aesthetic appeal and the finished project. But homeowners must carefully consider the impact these modifications will have on the landscape, particularly how they will affect drainage so it will not compromise the integrity of the new design nor impact the surrounding home and other structures.

According to Kelly Masonry in Pennsylvania, without proper drainage, water can accumulate and that can lead to various issues. Here's a more in-depth look at why drainage is crucial when planning outdoor living areas.

- Drainage prevents water damage. When water is allowed to collect on patios and in and around hardscaping features, it can cause the materials to deteriorate over the years. Pavers or stones may shift, crack or become discolored, eventually becoming less safe.
- Drainage reduces accessibility issues and safety hazards. Pooling water can make hard surfaces slippery, possibly

leading to falls and other accidents. It also can make lawns soggy and muddy, which can limit easy access to areas of the yard.

- Drainage reduces soil erosion. Water can cause erosion of surrounding soil, leading to uneven surfaces. Erosion also may threaten the stability of nearby structures.
- Drainage deters water infiltration. Water has a way of finding cracks and crevices and thus entering structures. Rainwater that is not properly directed away from a home may eventually seep into the foundation, causing anything from structural damage to mold and mildew to making damp areas conducive to pests.

Homeowners have different options when it comes to drainage in their outdoor living areas. Masonry experts will design patios with a slight slope to allow water to naturally flow away from the surface toward drainage areas. Together with well-placed gutters and downspouts, water can be directed away from the home.

Homeowners also might want to consider two different types of drain systems. French drains are a system that involves a trench filled with perforated pipe and gravel to allow water to drain naturally from the yard, according to the Home Depot. French drains can redirect water away from living areas. Channel drains are another type of system. Central Turf & Irrigation Supply says channel drains are perimeter drains around patios and other hardscaping that act as an interceptor to prevent water from going where it isn't desired. They are narrow trenches with a grate on top so that water enters and flows away.

Drainage is an essential consideration when planning outdoor living areas. Homeowners must use slope, drains and even vegetation to mitigate water issues on a property.

THE Wentworth Weekly

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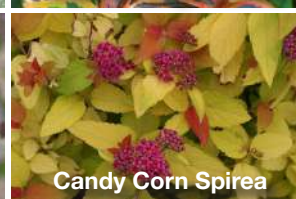
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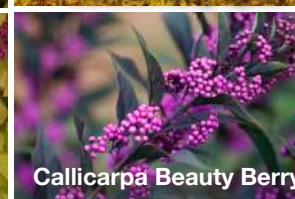
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Signs It Might Be Time to Consider a Room Addition Project

No one enjoys being in cramped quarters. Whether a person battles a legitimate case of claustrophobia when confined in tight spaces or simply prefers a place to stretch out, there's no denying the appeal of a little extra room. That's particularly so at home, where cramped spaces can make it hard to unwind.

When homeowners feel their walls are closing in on them, many choose to build space via a room addition. Room addition projects are extensive and expensive undertakings, with the home renovation experts at Angi estimating the average add-on costs \$48,000. But Angi estimates such projects can cost as much as \$72,600, or even more depending on the size of the space and the features chosen.

The financial commitment when adding a room is significant, but homeowners and residents also will need to prepare for a potentially lengthy disruption to their daily routines. Various online resources, including Angi, suggest room addition projects typically take around three to four months. With so much at stake, homeowners who think they might benefit from a room addition can look for various signs to help them determine if such a project is right for them.

- *Increasingly cluttered spaces:* Cramped quarters without much space for people are perhaps the most notable sign that residents can benefit from some additional space in a home. Cluttered spaces



suggest homeowners may have run out of room for their stuff, and a custom addition can provide that extra room while contributing to a more calming ambiance in common spaces that may no longer be overwhelmed by papers, toys and other items that can quickly take over a home that lacks space.

- *Lifestyle hurdles:* Millions of home-

owners like to entertain friends and family, and that's more manageable for some than it is for others. If interior or exterior spaces do not accommodate hosting, a room addition that expands an existing kitchen or living room might be the ideal renovation project.

- *Functionally challenged:* A home that no longer has enough space to meet

your needs is another sign a room addition might be in order. This very issue emerged for millions of professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic and has remained a challenge ever since. Indeed, an increase in days spent working remotely has left many homeowners grateful to work from home but desirous of a designated remote work space. A room addition to accommodate a home office can be just what remote workers need to restore fully functional status to their homes.

- *Cost:* While the sticker price of a home addition may (or may not) raise an eyebrow, the project is almost certain to prove more cost-effective than moving. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the average sale price of a home in the United States reached \$503,800 in January 2025. While that marked a roughly \$16,000 decrease from a year earlier, it's still a high figure that many homeowners aren't willing to pay. A cost comparison detailing the price to move versus the price to build an addition may indicate that the latter option is a homeowner's best bet.

A room addition could be the perfect renovation project for homeowners who need more space but still prefer to stay put.

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CSM Foundation Hosts Annual Golf Tournament



Pictured from left: Tony Carroll, Business Development Officer, Educational Systems Federal Credit Union (ESFCU); Candace Thompson, Business Development Officer, ESFCU; Ted Harwood, CSM Foundation Board Member and Trustee Emeritus, Golf Classic Chair; Talon, CSM Mascot; Dr. Yolanda Wilson, President, CSM; Dominic Powell, Vice President, Business Development and Partnerships, ESFCU; Leon Woolard, Branch Manager, ESFCU; and Samantha Stratchko, Chair, CSM Foundation Board of Directors and Assistant Vice President and Portfolio Manager, Shore United Bank.

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Foundation's 34th Annual Golf Classic, held Aug. 7 at Swan Point Yacht and Country Club, brought together donors, community members, alumni, employees, and students for a day of competition, camaraderie, and a shared commitment to transforming lives through education. This year's event raised more than \$80,000 to support scholarships and programs that create access, build momentum, and promote upward mobility for CSM students.

The Golf Classic was sold out, with a full field of 144 golfers in 36 foursomes who teed off in the morning for a full day of 18 holes of golf, raffles, on-course contests, prizes, and giveaways, along with breakfast, lunch, and dinner. In the afternoon, 45 Sip & Swing participants took part in the "Pots, Putts, and Pinot" experience, which combined a putting challenge with wine and food tastings and a terracotta pot painting activity. The success of the day was made possible through the generosity of more than 25 sponsors, ensuring that funds raised go directly to scholarships that support CSM students.

Samantha Stratchko '18, chair of the CSM Foundation Board of Directors and a proud CSM alumna, thanked participants for their continued dedication. "Through your generosity, this tournament has raised more than \$1.5 million over the years for scholarships and programs," she said. Stratchko, assistant vice president and portfolio manager at Shore United Bank in Prince Frederick, has served on the CSM Foundation Board since 2020 and was elected chair in 2025. "CSM has been a cornerstone in the success stories of thousands of students over the years. Being part of the Foundation's mission to provide access, momentum, and mobility for students brings me immense

joy," she added.

The tournament also highlighted the impact of scholarships, featuring Brandon Rollins, an exceptional CSM student, athlete, and scholarship recipient. An engineering major with a 3.37 GPA, Rollins is a standout goalkeeper for the Hawks men's soccer team and one of three recipients of the prestigious Danny Williams '68 Scholarship.

Many CSM students volunteered at the tournament, including members of the volleyball, golf, women's basketball, and reigning Maryland JUCO champion softball teams. These student athletes represent the many students whose educational journeys are made possible through the generosity of Golf Classic supporters.

During the dinner and awards ceremony, Ted Harwood, CSM Foundation board member and Trustee Emeritus, who has served as Golf Classic chair for the past three years, announced the winners of the putting contest, longest drive, closest to the pin, and straightest drive, as well as the raffle winners. Harwood was also honored for his service as chair. "Ted has led this tournament with heart, humor, and Hawk pride," said Dr. Wilson as she presented him with a framed photo collage capturing some of the memorable moments he has helped create over the years. "On behalf of the entire CSM family, thank you, Ted. You have truly left your mark."

Save the date for next year's Golf Classic, scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2026.

For photos from the Golf Classic and Sip & Swing, visit: csmphoto.zenfolio.com/p776795181.

To learn more about supporting scholarships, visit: www.csmd.edu/foundation/give.

Press Release from CSM



Saturday, September 6

9am - 10pm Zumba Class at Port of Leonardtown Park

9am - 4pm First Saturday at Town Market with a variety of visiting vendors

10am - 5pm Visit the Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center

2pm - 5pm Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Hot Ice and Mouth of the Bay food truck on site

Sunday, September 7

8am - 9am Rise + Shine Yoga at the Leonardtown Wharf

10am - 2pm Cars and Coffee Car Show at Town Market

10am - 3pm Sidewalk Chalk Art Showcase - Free and open to all ages to join in to make a giant outdoor art gallery at the Wharf

10am - 5pm Visit the Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center

10:30am - 12pm Prenatal Yoga at Spice

2pm - 5pm Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring David Sparrow and Heidi's Eats & Sages Treats food truck on site

2pm - 6pm Classic Rock and Classic Bikes at the Rex Theater

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Weekend Specials

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Friday, September 5

10am - 7pm Visit the Old Jail Museum for FREE tours with extended hours for First Friday

11:00am - 8pm 2025 Art Walk Contest in Leonardtown hosted by St. Mary's County Arts Council

4:30pm - 7pm Rock Painting at Elsewise Art (Located above the St. Mary's County Arts Council on the 2nd floor)

5pm - 6pm Audience Participation Drum Circle at St. Mary's County Arts Council hosted by the SoMar Drummers

5pm - 7pm Face Painting at St. Mary's County Arts Council

5pm - 8pm September Art & Entertainment Celebration: celebrate 12 years of art & entertainment on the Square in Leonardtown. Enjoy live music, art vendors, demonstrations and kid's crafts

5pm - 8pm North End Gallery's 39th Anniversary Opening Reception

5:30pm - 8:30pm Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Ciotter Music with Farm.Fork.Soul food truck on site

5pm - 10pm Ride the FREE Leonardtown Trolley

6pm - 9pm Dungeons & Dragons Game Night at Craft's N' Stitches

7pm Fleetwood Mac/Stevie Nicks Tribute at The Rex Theater



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MEET HEGGIE

Heggie is a handsome boy with a silky white coat. He's a little reserved at first but quickly warms up into a loving, loyal companion. Visit www.animalrelieffund.org or stop by the Well Pet Clinic in Lexington Park during adoption days—Saturdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.—to meet him!



Ground Broken for New Museum



The Commissioners of St. Mary's County participated in the celebration of the ground-breaking for the new St. Clement's Island Museum on Tuesday, Aug. 26, at the museum site.

This event marked the official start of construction on the new two-story museum building that will serve as a landmark destination for education, history, and community connection.

In preparation for construction, the current St. Clement's Island Museum building will remain closed throughout the duration of the project, which is estimated for completion in December 2026.

During the closure, some services will remain available to visitors through the annex building, located directly across the street from the museum site:

- Water taxi service to St. Clement's Island (*seasonal operation*)
- Museum store access, featuring a curated selection of items (*limited inventory*)

Please note that events typically held at the museum may be relocated or temporarily paused until the new facility opens. Visitors are encouraged to check the museum's web-

site and Facebook page for the latest updates on programs and services.

"While the building itself will temporarily close, the heart of the museum—its mission to share and preserve our rich history—remains open," said Karen E. Stone, St. Mary's County Museum Division Manager. "We are excited for the community to join us on this journey as we create a new and vibrant space that honors Maryland's beginnings and celebrates our cultural heritage."

The new museum will include a children's activity room, a formal conference room, a redesigned exhibit space incorporating the voices of the Piscataway Nation, and a new exhibit on Maryland's founding developed with the Smithsonian Institution, ahead of the state's 400th anniversary in 2034. The facility will also feature a lighthouse-inspired circular staircase, an elevator, native-plant landscaping, and the reinstallation of the beloved First Landing mural.

For more information, please call St. Clement's Island Museum at (301) 769-2222 or visit Facebook.com/SCIMuseum.

Press Release from St. Mary's County Museum Division

FamilyFest Comes to Piney Point Lighthouse

The Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums, in partnership with St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division, is excited to present FamilyFest on the Potomac.

FamilyFest will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park.

FamilyFest is a free event featuring fun along the Potomac and at the lighthouse with live music, food, vendors, displays, and a variety of activities for kids and families. Enjoy live music from Sax Appeal, free museum and lighthouse admission, food trucks, library story-time, kids' activities, community vendors, and much more! Admission is free for this event, but museum

donations are always welcome.

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

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

Press Release from St. Mary's County Museum Division

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Lexington Park Man Arrested on Assault, Firearm Charges

At about 3:20 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 3 deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 46000 block of Wineberry Lane in Lexington Park for a reported assault.

The victim told deputies a verbal argument escalated into a physical assault and that the suspect left the residence on foot. Deputies canvassed the area and located a subject matching the description provided.

When contacted by deputies, the individual gave a false name. He was later identified by his Maryland driver's license as Tyree Dirreck Shields, 33, of Lexington Park. During the arrest, deputies located a loaded handgun in the pocket of his jacket.

Shields was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown and charged with 11 counts, including:

- Two counts of first-degree assault
- Second-degree assault
- Providing false identity
- Knowingly carrying a loaded handgun on person
- Wearing, carrying and transporting a handgun on person
- Possession of a regulated firearm after being convicted of a violation of criminal law
- Possession of a regulated firearm after



Tyree Dirreck Shields

- being convicted of a disqualifying crime
- Use of a firearm in the commission of a felony/crime of violence
- Possession, ownership, carrying, or transporting of a firearm after being convicted of a felony
- Possession of ammunition

Shields is being held at the Detention and Rehabilitation Center on a no-bond status.

Press Release from SMCSO

Three Businesses Fail Alcohol Compliance Checks

On Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at approximately 3 p.m., the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Alcohol Enforcement Unit conducted a series of covert alcohol compliance checks at licensed establishments across the county.

The operation involved a 20-year-old Confidential Informant (CI) from the Sheriff's Office, who was dressed in jeans and a t-shirt. The CI was directed to enter each business and attempt to order an alcoholic beverage to test compliance with state alcohol laws.

The CI was accompanied by Deputy Alex Sams and Sergeant Robert Merritt of the Sheriff's Office Special Operations Division. Both deputies wore civilian attire and observed all transactions.

A total of six businesses were visited during the operation. Of those, three passed the compliance check by requesting identification from the CI. However, three businesses failed to request ID and sold alcohol to the underage individual.

The three businesses that failed the compliance check are:

- Stoney's at Clarkes Landings, 24580 Clarkes Landing Lane, Hollywood
- Hacienda Los Guayabos, 19661 Three Notch Rd., Lexington Park
- Tia's Cantina, 23415 Three Notch Road, California

The following establishments complied with Maryland law by verifying the CI's age and refusing to sell alcohol to an underage individual:

- Pax River Ale House, 46590 Corporate Drive, Lexington Park
- Pier450, 48342 Wynne Road, Ridge
- Ruddy Duck Seafood Grill & Ale House, 16800 Piney Point Road, Piney Point

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office remains committed to protecting the health and safety of our youth by ensuring compliance with state laws regarding the sale of alcohol. Establishments are reminded to always verify identification before selling alcoholic beverages.

Press release from CCSO.

Sell it - Buy it at Auction

Tri County Livestock Auction
1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the Month – Auction begins at 4 PM
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Charles Co. Fair Livestock Auction (LaPlata, MD)
SAT, SEPT 13, 2025 – 4 pm
(Wood Carving & Glass Art Items Auction Sunday – 4 pm)

St. Mary's Co. Fair Cake Auction
FRI, SEPT 19, 2025 - 6:30 pm

St. Mary's Co. Fair Livestock Auction
SAT, SEPT 20, 2025 – 5 pm

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Online Auction Closes: MON, SEPT 22, 2025 starting at 6 pm
Pickup of won items Tuesday, Sept., 23th 9 am – 5 pm

Auction Preview: Friday, September 12, 2025, 5 pm – 7 pm
(Westfield Farm Arena, 26689 Laurel Grove Rd., Mechanicsville, MD)

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Legal Notices

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE TO BIDDERS Stormwater Improvement Projects

The Commissioners of Leonardtown are seeking bids for improvements to stormwater facilities at three locations within the Town.

The job will consist of installing inlet structures, HDPE pipe, riprap and site grading. A site map and specifications for the work is available from The Commissioners of Leonardtown, 22670 Washington St., Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday or by emailing Leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.com. An optional pre bid site visit is scheduled for September 19, 2025 at 10 a.m. Interested parties will meet at Town Hall at 22670 Washington Street to begin the site visits.

Sealed bids labeled as "Stormwater Bid" will be accepted until 10:00 a.m. on September 26, 2025. Bids are intended to be awarded October 14, 2025. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, vary the specifications of those set forth, and impose such additional or further specifications as, in its discretion, it determines to be in the public interest.

By Authority of: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO) will conduct a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting at the Walter Francis Duke Terminal Conference Room, located at 44200 Airport Road, California, MD 20619, on **Thursday, September 18, 2025**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the Public Participation Plan (PPP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) project updates, and TAC agenda items. The agenda can be viewed at <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

This public meeting is required by law to allow all interested parties the opportunity to present evidence and public comments regarding items on the TAC meeting agenda. Public meetings are open to the public. Members of the press may attend.

Comments may be submitted on or before Tuesday, September 16, 2025, and should be addressed to the Long-Range Planning Division, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or Karly Maltby, Calvert – St. Mary's MPO Administrator, with St. Mary's County Government's Department of Land Use & Growth Management via email at Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov

This meeting can be attended virtually; the Meeting ID is 430 427 6617 and the call-in number is (301) 715-8592. Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4304276617?omn=85161472218>

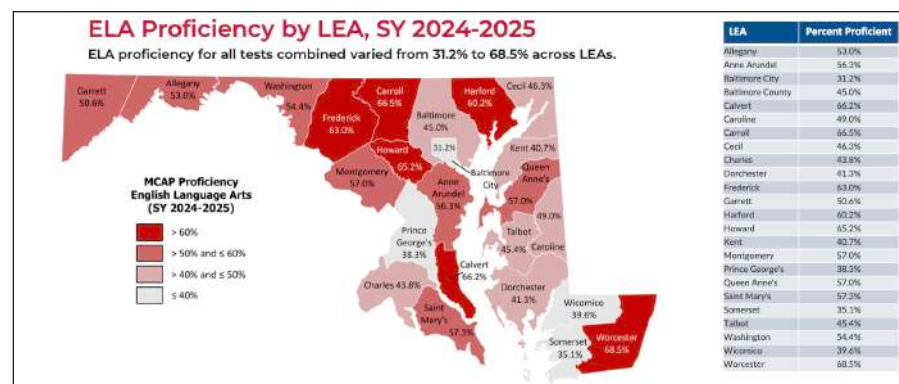
For questions or more information, please contact Karly Maltby, Calvert-St. Mary's MPO Administrator, with St. Mary's County Government's Department of Land Use & Growth Management at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507 or via email at Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov or visit <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

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

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County Times
ST. MARY'S • CALVERT

State Assessment Scores Rising in Math, English Language Arts



Results from the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) for the 2024-25 school year continue to rebound from post-pandemic learning loss.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) released complete results today during the State Board of Education meeting.

The results show St. Mary's in the top third, or eighth in the state in English Language proficiency. Calvert is third.

Last school year marked the fourth full administration of the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments after a shortened test for the 2020-21 school year. Overall results showed steady gains, a 5.5 percentage point increase since the 2021-22 school year, although ELA student performance has recovered more swiftly than mathematics.

"Maryland students are making progress. For the third year in a row, we have seen performance increases," said Dr. Carey M. Wright, State Superintendent of Schools. "We will continue to explore enhanced teacher resources, professional learning and student supports. I am excited that we're headed in the right direction."

"Our latest MCAP results show modest but meaningful growth—especially for our economically disadvantaged students," said Dr. Joshua L. Michael, State Board of Education President. "This progress proves that when we focus on the fundamentals, our efforts pay off. By raising expectations, sharpening curriculum, and strengthening instruction, we're opening doors, because literacy and math unlock every other opportunity."

English language arts proficiency has now reached 50.8 percent, up from 48.4 percent the previous year and 45.3 percent in the 2021-22 school year. Mathematics proficiency reached 26.5 percent compared to 24.1 percent for the previous school year

and 21.0 percent in the 2021-22 school year. Other highlights:

- Black/African American student performance in ELA increased 3.2 percentage points from the prior year to 39.4 percent. Students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds improved ELA proficiency by 3.4 percentage points to 34.5 percent.
- Nearly all student groups experienced slight increases in mathematics proficiency.
- Achievement gaps persist in both ELA and mathematics. Multilingual students, economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities had lower proficiency rates as compared to their peers.

State standards in English language arts and mathematics were recently updated for the first time in 15 years. MSDE plans to provide parent guides and other resources to support student success while offering professional learning and working with school systems to identify high-quality instructional materials.

State ELA and mathematics assessments are administered annually in grades 3-8 and once in high school. Federal accountability requirements include a statewide science assessment for elementary (grades 3-5), middle school (grades 6-8), and once in high school.

The MCAP assessments measure mastery of state content standards to ensure that all students are progressing and receiving the necessary resources for remediation and enrichment. MCAP assessments include four student performance levels: Beginning Learner, Developing Learner, Proficient Learner, and Distinguished Learner. Both distinguished and proficient learners are considered proficient.

Richards Steps Down as Fair President

Served the Role for 41 Years

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

For an event that many savor for its comfortableness, like a well-worn shoe, this year's St. Mary's County Fair will have a major change. For the first time in more than 40 years, the fair won't have John Richards as its president. Richards has stepped down, although he will continue as vice president as Jay Farrell of Mechanicsville assumes the presidency.

Looking back to the beginnings, Richards said, "I started out working in 4-H Livestock."

When he and his wife Ann moved to the county, she brought along a livestock-raising tradition from Baltimore County. There she had exhibited some cattle and sheep "and was active in the 4-H program there. So, we came down here, she said, we're going to get involved." I went on travel (for the base) for one week, and when I came back we had three sheep. So, we went on from there. So, we did the 4-H Livestock Show for quite a few years. And then I got on the board.

Once on the fair board it wasn't long before the fingers were pointed at him and he began that streak of presidency, the longest in state fair history.

At the time he was told, "How hard can it be? After the first year or so, I said, I'll give it one more year."

Why the passion for the fair and the fair board? He explained, "The chance for the people to see the rural part of St. Mary's. And 4-H is very important part of our activities. But during the year we have lots of Boy Scout and Girl Scout activities going on from day camps and meetings and whatever. So, they're almost as heavily involved, not necessarily at the fair, but during the year. The scouting program is involved and that's an important thing for the kids to have more than just school. They have some other useful youth activity that they can participate in, and have a good positive effect on their lives. And that keeps us going."

Richards, in talking about that 40-year adventure, emphasizes it was more than just him forging that success. It was a long list of dedicated St. Mary's countians who created the fair as we know it today.

Being on the fair board and being its president is more than coordinating a four-day, once a year event. Richards said, "All the buildings have superintendents and there's just so many people and businesses and government departments. I started to keep track of what was going on at the fairgrounds, little notebook. Nobody does that anymore. It's all cellphones."

Those fairgrounds, he said, "compares favorably to any fairgrounds in the state. And it's just good luck. Like, the sewer came down to the schools and so the fairgrounds is on city sewer. There are not a lot of fairgrounds around the state that are on city sewer. Charles isn't, Calvert isn't, Howard County isn't."

"He keeps running into people who make significant contributions to the fair and the fairgrounds. "There're so many people that have helped us from county government or businesses that it's mind blowing. It's really



staggering the amount of support we get. And yet, the downside of that is so many people think we're a county park. We're not a park. We don't get funded by the county."

Money raised at the fair gets plowed back into the fairgrounds. He boasts of "the improved restroom facilities. All of our restrooms and all our buildings are handicap accessible, that was a big plus for us." And the back parking lot provided needed space for crowded days.

Go there many days and you'll see volunteers working. The fairgrounds host the National Oyster Festival, the St. Mary's County Crab Festival and the Spring Festival and many other events not only for locals but for visitors.

"We make it available to the sheriff to do training... Sometimes you look out in the front lot and school bus driver training is going on."

The fair changes begrudgingly, sometimes unperceptively. He said, "It's that we're still trying to stay as rural, teaching the rural part of St. Mary's County. And, I would say we've had 50 some Super Bowls and guess what, they're all football games. Every year it's a football game, right. So, every year it's a fair. One of the prime sources of entertainment is the horse pull, and we have horse pulls on Thursday night, Friday night and Saturday night."

He also boasts of the farm museum on the fairgrounds. "There's another lucky thing about the fair that Bill Clements essentially working with the St. Mary's County Historical Society. We built the farm museum, which is a very nice facility, and he did all the work, getting the equipment." It's a must see when visiting the fair.

Another popular fair attraction is the Poultry Building. "People love to come in and see the chickens and roosters...and the rabbits in the back. We built the section on the rabbits. People remember there used to be a wooden floor in there and you went in halfway and then down a level. So that's all one level. So, I think pretty much everything is never totally perfect, but we're pretty well handicap accessed."

Has it been a challenge maintaining those rural roots? "Not so much because our attitude is if we have pigs, well that's good. People like to see the pigs and I think our barns are very attractive, and we have the



Clydesdales and we have the antique tractor pull and here's just a lot of farming and agriculture that's displayed."

He said people from places such as Ohio may wonder where the musical performances are. "We used to have a great day. It's part of what we did."

But Richards said, "And if you want to come to the fair on Friday night, come over to the food court and go in and watch the horse pull, that's what we are, and that's what we want to be."

Richards observed, "As far as I know I'm now vice president and we're very lucky



with President Jay Farrell and the horse and the agriculture part. To have Susan Mattingly, who's now our fair secretary, keeps things running smoothly, and Willie Goddard is recording secretary and Lisa Goddard is our treasurer and they're all wonderful people and devoted to the fair. You have to be devoted to the fair for 365 days a year. And it's not just a week of fair, it's the whole year."

The week of the fair this year is Sept. 18-21.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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School Board Receives Report on School Opening

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Judging from the many smiling faces on the St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) website, opening day last week must have been a happy occasion.

It was a smooth one according to Deputy Superintendent for the Division of Instruction J.R. Beavers and Chief Academic Officer, Curriculum and Instruction, Katie Kortokrax. They briefed the Board of Education on Aug. 27, the day after opening day.

Beavers said, "Thank you to our maintenance and operations staff, who were busy getting schools ready and preparing them for students." Highlights included:

- A job fair for maintenance
- Concrete repair and some other building cleaning and prep

Over the summer, staff were involved in:

- Laptop refresh and cabling
- Food nutrition services participated in the summer meal distribution
- Summer transportation
- Mold remediation at Hollywood and Evergreen elementary schools

Beavers said, "The only remaining project really we have left is the media center at Evergreen, and they are rapidly wrapping that up as well. We did get an update today that they feel like that will be done within the next couple weeks. So that'll be great. We'll be back to normal at that time."

Of the work done, he said, "It looks incredible. It looks beautiful."

The Lettie Marshall Dent renovation, he said, "They're at what we call substantial completion. So, it's about 95 percent complete. They do have some punch list work ongoing, and some of the boiler work is ongoing, but they do plan to have all of that cleared out by early 2026."

The work at Piney Point, he said, "They're also at substantial completion. They have rooftop units for some testing and balancing going on right now relative to the HVAC. Boilers are scheduled for startup when we hit cold weather. The contractor right now is cleaning up demobilizing and working on punch lists as well. So, they plan to close that out, no later than early November."

He added, "They had some flooring done too. It looks beautiful."

Other summer construction included the tech center paving project. He said, "That looks amazing. That's kind of funny, asphalt looking amazing, but it really does."

Also at Green Holly, "They had some roof work and some HVAC work done. They're at about 90 percent complete," for

phase one. "Phase two will be started in the summer of 2026, which is on the B side. So, more work to come there."

For the Great Mills High School roof and chiller, "they're also at substantial completion. They're working on a standing seam roof that's 98 percent complete."

Food and Nutrition Services summer meals program served a total of 230,243 meals this summer, "Which is pretty incredible," he said.

Kortokrax reported that Duke Elementary cafeteria and gymnasium "saw over 20,000 books come through." That occurred "so that their building service workers can make sure the floors are done and ready for when staff returned."

She noted, "Last year there was a board meeting, and we talked about the cohort schedule. So now students are able to enroll in band and strings during their instructional specials period so that they're not being pulled out of class. And so, we ordered a whole bunch of instruments to provide for students."

She said there's been a spike in enrollment. "Third grade strings, we saw an increase of 43 percent enrollment. Fourth grade, 24 percent, fifth grade, 47 percent more students taking strings. And then in band, fourth grade band increased by 118 percent. And fifth grade, 153 percent. So many more students have instruments in their hands that are experiencing what it is to play an instrument, which is great."

New staff orientation this year, she said, included five counselors, one psychologist, six nurses, one social worker, three speech pathologists, 40 support professionals and 58 teachers and six of our paras became teachers."

She said, "There was like over 200 people involved in the cohort all focusing on tier one core instruction, how we're going to meet students' needs and then they went out into their separate content sessions, but they were all related, like an interdisciplinary, all the supervisors planned together."

By way of introduction, Kortokrax showed pictures of this year's 44 administrative changes.

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said, "You would assume with that many changes, that it would be a tumultuous start where we were running around and people were panicked, and nobody really knew. The depth of talent in the system, and as you see people rise and you see people shift, come to central office, work for a while, really enjoy it, learn, and then go back into the buildings to lead. It's been an amazingly busy time."

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School Board Adopts Student Debt Policy

Washington Votes Against Proposal

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Board of Education has approved a new policy on student debt. When the vote came at the Aug. 27 school board meeting, member Mary Washington opposed it.

The policy says, "Students with outstanding debts may be restricted from participating in extracurricular activities or ineligible for other privileges or benefits until debts are resolved or a payment plan is established." The payment plan option was added since the first reading of the proposed policy.

Board member Dorothy Andrews wanted to know how the student delinquency was delivered to them. She was told it was in a more one-on-one setting and not publicly broadcast.

School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said by the time a student was denied admission because of a delinquency, they were clearly notified of the problem.

Smith said, "The only way you can get on the debt list is you had something assigned to you and you didn't return it. There's no sneaky way to put somebody on the debt list. It's pretty perfunctory. The food debt is the most challenging because by law, we cannot talk to the child about the fact that they're on the debt list or they don't have money. We already give them the food. And then we have to follow up with a parent to say, your child continues to receive lunch. We can't deny them lunch, but you are accumulating debt as a result of it."

Despite moderating the language in the policy, Washington still wasn't convinced. "This policy, and I understand that there is an outstanding amount of debt that is owed, and the system wants to collect that money it's owed and it's the right thing to do. There are some people who do not have the money, they can hardly feed their children. That's why they get free and reduced lunch. You say every effort is made for parents to fill out that form (for free or reduced lunch), and if their economic status changed, they



Board of Education member Mary Washington

can fill it out. If they lose their job, if they get a pay cut, whatever."

She added, "If students have outstanding debt, they may be restricted from participating in extracurricular activities. I don't agree with that because it is the parent's responsibility, not the student's responsibility; students are minors. It's the parents' responsibility."

Washington asserted, "This is very important policy. I don't want students to be used to deny to participate in extracurricular activities, because the debt is not paid. A lot of students get their sense of belonging, their sense of connectiveness, their sense of belonging to a positive group from participating in these activities. For some students, school is their safe place."

I understand why you want to this, but I'm also concerned about students having to take the responsibility because a parent cannot or will not pay the debt, to be denied extracurricular activities."

There were no public comments received on the policy, which surprised Smith.

A committee has been formed to continue to review the policy this school year.

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“THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE THE MONEY, THEY CAN HARDLY FEED THEIR CHILDREN.”

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER MARY WASHINGTON ON NEW STUDENT DEBT POLICY



LOCAL 5
School board aims to address student debt



COMMUNITY 12
Ground broken for new St. Clement's Island Museum



ON THE COVER
John Richards steps down after 41 years as county fair president

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, SEP 4 Mostly Sunny Hi: 85° Lo: 65°	FRI, SEP 5 Sunny Hi: 87° Lo: 69°	SAT, SEP 6 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 88° Lo: 62°	SUN, SEP 7 AM Clouds/PM Sun Hi: 73° Lo: 57°
MON, SEP 8 Mostly Sunny Hi: 75° Lo: 57°	TUE, SEP 9 Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 57°	WED, SEP 10 Partly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 57°	THU, SEP 11 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 58°



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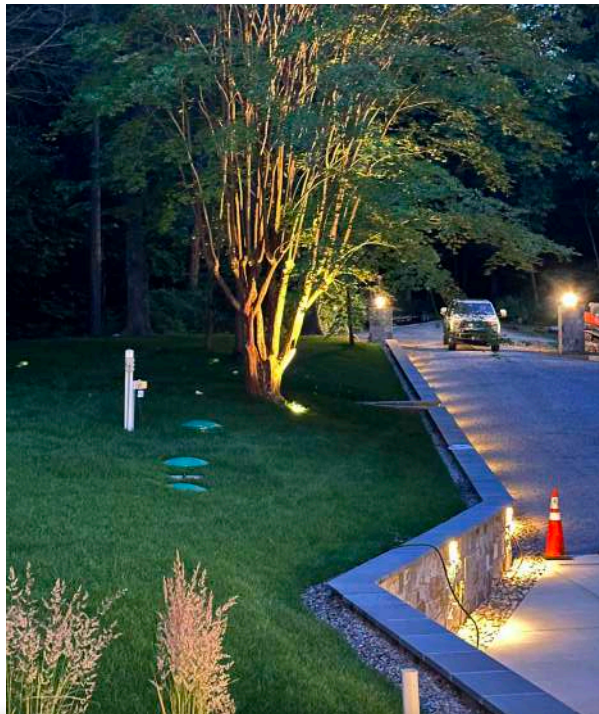
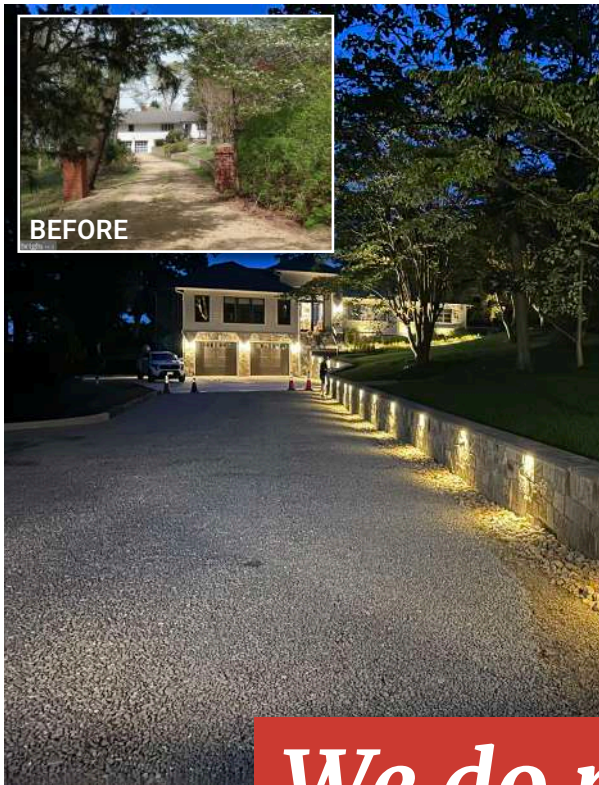
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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

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