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Tax Bill Mailings**

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 AM Clouds/PM Sun Hi: 77° Lo: 57°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 60°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 61°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 83° Lo: 63°
MON, SEP 15	TUE, SEP 16	WED, SEP 17	THU, SEP 18
 Mostly Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 61°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 75° Lo: 59°	 Sunny Hi: 75° Lo: 60°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 78° Lo: 62°



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Turner Brings Government Experience to Administrator Role

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Linda Turner brought a lengthy and diverse resume from Prince George's County government when she became Deputy Calvert County Administrator in October of 2023. She became county administrator on July 1, replacing Mark Wilis, who retired.

"I truly enjoy being a public servant. I love serving people and I love problem solving. So, the two together make a good, I would say, candidate for county government employee," Turner explained as to what attracted her to the role.

Turner was getting ready to enter high school when her family moved to Huntingtown in 1978 from College Park. She attended and graduated from Northern High School.

From high school she went to a community college, where she pursued what she had been interested in architectural engineering. But she switched her major to management and before finishing her degree she entered the workforce at Prince George's County government, later getting her degree from University of Maryland Global Campus.

At Prince George's County, she explained, "I rose up through the ranks. I worked for five county executives. I also worked six years at the water utility, WSSC, which is a county agency. And in working in the Office of County Executive, I focused mainly on contract management, and minority business opportunity. I also worked for the Chief Administrative Officer, who was the second highest ranking official in county government as special assistant and an advisor, working multiple efforts of county government from HR to budget management and public works and transportation."

She said, "At WSSC I worked during a time where they were considered, I guess by the legislature, for privatization, and we convinced the legislatures to allow us to streamline the processes and worked on multiple reengineering teams that were very successful."

Her final role in Prince George's was director for a community program, Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative, "where we went into nine neighborhoods within the border of Prince Georges County and District of Columbia, working with the police department and bringing resources to residents who needed them the most."

As to what got her started on her path through county government, she said, "My first job was actually working in the design division, so I was interested in working in the civil engineering area of government. I worked many, many years there. My last role there was a project manager. I would hire engineering firm, developing concept

plans for roads and bridges, and then I would bid the job out and then hire a contractor to build the road or bridge. In addition, I was a federal certified bridge inspector."

But she noted, "I was always interested in learning more about county government. At the time, I think the early 90's, there were budget shortfalls, and I was asked to take on more and more responsibility. So, I took on fiscal management, I took on budget responsibility. And I just constantly learned and grew from any area I could possibly do."

What caught her eye about returning to the county on which she lived? "I recall when they first advertised the deputy county administrator position, and I knew Wilson Parran (who was in the position), had a lot of respect for him, and it piqued my interest of the position. I've lived in Calvert since 1978, so I'm involved in the community. I've raised my family here. My boys have gone to school here. My grandchildren will go to school here. I just have a lot of investment in Calvert County, so Calvert County government was very interesting to me."

Her two sons are now 35 and 32.

Her oldest son is a supervisor of transportation in another jurisdiction, and the other is a correctional deputy.

As deputy county administrator she was exposed to the areas she will now be responsible for as county administrator. She said, "Sitting in this seat, I have exposure to all areas of county government, and I have the ability to affect change working with our employee base, supporting them, empowering them to have the resources they need to provide quality services to our residents."

Will she have a role in establishing policy or is that strictly with the commissioners? She explained, "The board of county commissioners will direct us to policies that they would like to see. It would be my responsibility to ensure that the standard operating procedures are developed in accordance with their directive. So SOPs are being evaluated. We'll look at what's existing. And then as times are changing, we need to update ours, so to be in alignment with business practices, running the government as if we were running a business."

She said, keeping track of public sentiment, she said, "We just recently hired my replacement as deputy county administrator, Stephen McGibbon. We have another vacancy, which we are currently filling. My vision is once Stephen is full-time deputy county administrator, he and I will be going out and meeting more frequently with business community, the residents. We are discussing what is the best mechanism for us to gather input from our residents, from our business community. We do work well with our Chamber of Commerce, and for the business community; we just held a

town hall or a listening session for the agricultural preservation community, and they came out. The goal is to host more of those town halls to gather input from our residents to hear what exactly they would like for their Calvert County."

About being county administrator, she said, "Each day is very different. So, we can start the day with a schedule full of meetings. Meetings could be internal or external participants. She meets with each department.

She added, "It's a great vantage point to meet with the department heads as a group, as a team, and collaborate. We do meet once a week on Wednesday, and we discuss our priorities, discuss recommendations, suggestions. It's really a group think discussion."

She added, "And I do meet with each of the department heads one-on-one. I try to meet with them biweekly, and they come with their agenda. I'll have an agenda, and we talk through goals, suggestions, any feedback we've received from the public. We'll just talk through a variety of items." "There is collaboration among the department heads," she noted. "When there's particularly a need for service or a project, you'll see planning and zoning, public works, working together. You'll see parks and recreation. If they have a project within their park, they could be working with public works as well."

She observed, "Our leadership team here is very strong, very little turnover." She noted, "Our sheriff's office, they have said they're fully staffed at this point in time. I don't believe they have many vacancies within the deputy sheriffs. And we have one of the safest counties in Maryland. And we have great schools, we have safe neighborhoods. I would say it hasn't been too much of a challenge attracting good leaders, at least at this point."

Her time is spent with the county commissioner priorities, which are "Number one, I would say, is fiscal responsibility. Ensuring that we're spending each tax dollar wisely, efficiently.

"And education. We want to ensure that our public schools are the best that we can possibly have for our residents and supporting them. One effort is with the Student Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Committee, which I sit on as an ex-officio member. And we've been working, we will be issuing a final report by the end of this year with some recommendations for the public schools and supporting Dr. Newsome, the new superintendent, as well.

"Public safety is top priority. We have safe neighborhoods. We want to ensure that they remain the safest and support our wonderful sheriff."

And she added, "Maintaining the rural character, adopting the newest update to the



County Administrator Linda Turner

zoning ordinance, reducing density."

She insisted, "They're (the commissioners) listening to their residents. They truly believe the residents want to maintain the rural character, and that's the direction we've been heading."

And then, "There's the infrastructure, maintaining the infrastructure that we currently have and ensuring that infrastructure remains good, strong sound."

"And last but not least, she said, "Internal and external communications. We want to ensure that we're communicating with our residents just as well as we're communicating with our employees, our workforce."

Is there something that she especially likes about her new job? She answered, "I enjoy the majority of it. I don't believe there's one item that I could say I would prefer over another. I do prefer ensuring that we are being efficient in our processes. If it comes to evaluating a process, is there a better way that we could be implementing the process? So, I like process improvement; it probably is my number one area of excitement."

Can people contact her? She said, "Whenever I receive an email from a resident, I respond to it. And in my signature line is my cell phone number. So, my cell phone number is out there. I welcome anyone to call, text."

Does having five bosses cause problems? She said, "I would say on a whole, the board is a collective effort, and they work extremely well together. And I thoroughly enjoy working for the board as a whole. There are going to be times when commissioners are contacted by individual residents and they will provide us with individual concerns, issues, or something that needs to be researched. But on the whole, we're working collectively as a group."

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Multiple Glitches Delay Tax Bill Mailings

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Newly appointed County Treasurer Amanda Dolina faced a hornet's nest of issues in her early days of office as property tax bill mailing were significantly delayed due to several issues. The mailings were the responsibility of county government, and County Administrator Linda Turner, at the Sept. 9 County commissioner meeting, apologized to county citizens for the inconvenience.

The 41,000 tax bills, whose payments is due on Sept. 30, have now been mailed, the commissioners were told.

Dolina said, "A couple of delays in the process, and we understand that. But the Calvert County residents have been absolutely wonderful in just being patient with us, because it was just so important to us that once the bills did go out, that the numbers were good and now they can start making payments. So, the bills were available online, on Aug. 15, and then...the week of Aug. 25 they were put in the mail. If anyone's ready to make payment, the citizens are welcome to contact the treasurer's office. We're available by phone, email, and in person. So, you can pay your bill online as well or drop it in the dropbox. So, there's lots of ways to get that done and we're just really committed to making sure that we're continuing the customer service that Calvert County is known for."

Turner said, "We just want to walk through a couple of the tax bill process steps that we experienced this year. As treasurer Dolina mentioned, there were approximately 41,000 property tax bills that are issued each year. Our county staff team works very diligently to work through the process, which is a coordinated effort with state, county, and municipal partners. This includes the

State Department of Assessments and Taxation. We receive a report every year at the beginning of July. This information is used to produce our tax bills so that we can print them out and mail them out to the residents. We received this report on July 3rd this year, which was the day before the holiday, and began processing on July 7. I just want to mention, this year we had our system upgrade for tax billing purposes. It was an upgrade, according to TS (technical services) that had been delayed for a couple of years. So, we moved forward with this upgrade, and they had been working for many, many months on this upgrade. So, when we received the state report, it was uploaded into this new system upgrade, and we began immediately experiencing error codes. So, one of the issues we were having to resolve those error codes, which did take time.

"The tax bills were...available to all residents online at the middle of August. And then the printed bills were put into the mail. So just touching upon some of the challenges, the vendor issues. So, the system upgrade was one issue, receiving multiple error codes. The other was the service level agreements were not met by the vendor. This means that in our contract, we assign a ticket, and they have a certain period of time to address each error. They did not meet those service level agreements, and that caused pretty much some of the delays. In addition, the printing and mailing vendor that we utilized kept returning our document back to us that we had uploaded to them. They were unable to print the bill.

"So, there was an integration issue between our tax billing system and the printing and mailing company. Some of the bills, as a result, were returned to us undeliverable, which meant that we had to take

additional staff time to put them back out into the mail."

She also said there was an insert in the bill that was in error. "We have since corrected that document and it's now available at the treasurer's office window, and it's also available online."

Turner said, "So we apologize to the residents for that erroneous document being sent to them with their tax bills."

Turner said, "The county team still was working very hard to work through each of these challenges. This is just to provide an explanation to our residents of what we were experiencing. It is not the quality that we expect from our county team, and we will do better."

About the steps they are taking to prevent future occurrences, Turner said, "So our entire county team has already met to have a debrief about what was experienced this year. We've developed a timeline moving forward as well as implemented some practice steps with the new system. So that moving forward next year, the date that we're working towards will be July 31st, and that will be the date that we want all bills mailed to residents next year."

Also, a major recommendation was advances by Dolina for all the tax billing to "be under her office from cradle to grave." That was unanimously accepted by the commissioners.

Dolina reminded homeowners to apply for the Homestead Tax Credit to cap any yearly increases at 10 percent.



County Treasurer Amanda Dolina

Turner reported:

- "The property tax rate remains at \$0.967 per \$100 of assessed value.
- "Bills for 2025 have been successfully prepared, issued online, and mailed to property owners.
- "Residents are encouraged to review their bills and contact the Treasurer's Office with any questions.
- "Payment is due by Sept. 30, 2025.

Turner said, "We really regret the delay and the attachment error in the recent mailings. This is not up to our standards, and we will strive to do much better next year."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Ground-Breaking Set for Armory Pavilion



Artist's rendering of the new Armory Pavilion

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners will host a groundbreaking for the Armory Pavilion. The new Calvert County-owned and operated open-air, multi-use pavilion is designed to facilitate a variety of year-round activities, including a farmers market, community events, arts and entertainment. The plans for the space include amenities such as restrooms, a surrounding grassy area, seasonal ice-skating

rink and a future commercial kitchen.

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, the Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Parks & Recreation will host the groundbreaking Ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 3 p.m. at 175 Armory Road, Prince Frederick.

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Should Some Town Centers Be Eliminated?

Huntingtown, Owings Say 'Yes;' St. Leonard 'No'

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning begins the update of the town center master plans for Huntingtown, Owings and St. Leonard, they have distributed a survey to town center residents, and anyone else interested in responding. One of the queries was whether residents wanted their area to continue as a town center or be "designated Rural Commercial zoning district."

The response was mixed, with Huntingtown and Owings residents preferring to opt out. In Huntingtown 60.85 percent of 389 respondents wanted to be removed from the town center. In Owings that percentage was 60.01 of 214.

By contrast, in St. Leonard, 60.2 percent of 488 respondents preferred to stay within the town center.

The majority of all of the respondents liked the small-town, rural feel of their areas and wanted it to stay that way. Presumably in Huntingtown and Owings they felt the best way to accomplish that was to not be in a town center, fearing they would turn out like Prince Frederick or Waldorf.

Several years ago, the commissioners removed the distinction between minor and major town centers, feeling all of the town centers should be areas designated for growth.

Commissioner President Buddy Hance was on the losing side of that argument. "Commissioner (Steve) Weems and I argued when they took away minors, that these communities don't want to be the way they're designed, they can't be. And we felt it was important to keep the minor status, but we lost that fight because they said they're all growth centers, they all should be town centers. The rules should be the same."

But with the survey results presented to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their Sept 9 meeting, one option to be considered as the update process continues is to revisit the minor town center designation in addition to looking at the rural commercial zoning.

Commissioner Catherine Grasso said, "If we go with something rural, I think from what I have heard, people are afraid that the growth next to the rural area will explode. There won't be the type of safety nets, the limits and so on and so forth, rather than rural growth. Why don't we just admit that not all town centers are major and those like Huntingtown and Owings and a few of the others are minor town centers and retain the same controls. So, a minor doesn't get out of hand any more than a major town center does."

Planning Director Jason Brinkley said, "With rural commercial versus town center, I would classify that as the extremes. I think something in the middle, along the

lines of what you're talking about is very much within the conversation that we want to have with the public as we move forward on this, because I think there is a difference between Prince Frederick and Owings as far as what has happened and what is possible to happen. And having everybody on a level playing field might not be the best path forward."

Grasso responded, "I don't see Huntingtown or Owings ever being much more than what they are now. And I don't think the people in those areas ever want them to be much more than what they are now. So, I think with our language, we should work to keep it within those parameters for the public, because we're going to see time and time again — No growth. No growth. No growth! That's Calvert County."

Harris observed, "I'd also like to add, because of the current zoning ordinance and the allowable density inside and outside the town centers, that fear of explosion of growth happening outside these rural town centers is not going to happen, at least at this point in time. So that's good for the public to know."

Commissioner Mike Hart added the issue of water and sewer in town centers. "I think we've seen the failure of the water and sewer stuff because look at the challenges in Dunkirk with that. We don't have the infrastructure. I think we've screened that to the moon."

"You couldn't do it if you wanted to," Hart said about lack of water and sewer.

Commissioner Mark Cox wanted to know if the town center designation was eliminated, should existing businesses fear losing their commercial status.

Brinkley said, "If they go to RC (Rural Commercial), I think the intent is not to create a bunch of non-conforming uses. It would be looking at what the potential buildability is now and create a zoning district. It would go that direction if that's the right direction that we are given by the Planning Commission or the BOCC. If we go to a major/minor, then they would still be able to develop that within the confines of the zoning for that



Director of Planning and Zoning Jason Brinkley


minor designation or major designation."

Regarding the St. Leonard outcome in the survey, Hance said, "Two property owners have got everybody stirred up because they're afraid they're going to lose their commercial zoning. These two property owners are right on Main Street. I can't envision where they would lose their commercial zoning no matter what we call it, because they're right there on Main Street in the middle of town."

The survey information will be presented to the planning commission on Sept. 17. Public information meetings will be presented as follows:

- Oct. 6 - St. Leonard Town Center Public Informational Meeting at 6 p.m. at Crossroad Christian Church (150 Ball Rd, St. Leonard, MD 20685)
- Oct. 14 - Huntingtown Town Center Public Informational Meeting at 6 p.m. at Huntingtown VFD.
- Oct. 20 - Owings Town Center Public Informational Meeting at 6 p.m. at Grace Brethren Church (9870 Old Solomons Island Road in Owings)

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CalvertHealth Reaches Strategic Plan Mid-Point

Hospital Achieves Highest National Ranking

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

CalvertHealth Medical Center has received a Five-Star Rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. “This is the top recognition, the top honor any health system can achieve,” President/CEO Jeremy Bradford told the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) during a Sept. 9 update on the progress of the hospital’s strategic plan. Achieving the Five-Star Rating was one of the strategic plan’s goals.

“In 2025, nearly 2,900 hospitals were evaluated and only 291 received five stars, putting us among the other 290 hospitals at the top 10 percent in the country for outcomes,” Bradford said.

CalvertHealth was the only hospital in Southern Maryland to achieve the five stars.

“It’s an incredible milestone for our organization,” Bradford said.

He added, “It’s not just the individuals sitting before you today, it’s the other 1200 staff members that we have, as well as our physicians, our board and our volunteers and all of our community partners that allowed us to achieve this.”

The recognition was one of several that CalvertHealth has received recently, including being named one of the top 100 hospitals in the country by Forbes.

Bradford pointed out the hospital has 5,300 admissions annually, with about 470 deliveries, “which that number is increasing.” And the emergency department sees just under 36,000 visits annually. And their medical group also sees about 85,000 visits annually. There are 48,000 outpatient visits and 3,900 surgical procedures annually.

The hospital is about halfway through developing their strategic plan. Vice President, Strategy & Business Development Kasia Sweeney said, “Our mission is, of course, to improve the health and wellbeing of those we serve. And our vision is to be the trusted healthcare leader delivering a lifetime of exceptional care. Our strategic plan has six main areas of focus. Those are culture and competence, primary care, outpatient services, clinical service lines, (which include cancer, women’s health, digestive disease and weight management, and orthopedics and sports medicine), community hospital care, and community partnerships.”

On culture and competence, it is to “Build the organizational structure, standards, processes, and culture to implement the strategy and ensure outstanding performance.

Primary care is to “Grow and maximize the impact of CalvertHealth’s aligned Primary Care base.”

Outpatient services are to “Build a geographically-distributed ambulatory network to grow deregulated services.”

Clinical service lines means to “Build Clinical Service Lines to meet expanding community needs, increase specialty care capabilities, and enhance our reputation.”

Community hospital care means to “Ensure access to community hospital care

that exceeds expectations.”

Community partnerships means “Partner with the community to address shared needs in areas such as transportation, post-acute care, home care, and other community-based services.”

About the plan, Sweeney said “We had 367 different initiatives that we were embarking upon and we’re about 56 percent of the way through completion of those initiatives, which puts us really right where we want to be at just coming up on the midpoint of our plan this winter.”

Sweeney noted, “One of the big initiatives we put in place, which is a best practice in healthcare over the last few years, was daily huddles. So, every department in the hospital every morning is huddling and talking about what’s happening in that unit, talking about safety issues, quality, reviewing metrics on our performance. That gets rolled up to a 9 a.m. health system wide huddle that everyone participates in. And every Tuesday morning our executive team meets at our huddle board, and we review the metrics and the performance across the health system.”

Sweeney said, “I’m sure you’re aware that there are a lot of policy changes happening in the state of Maryland and at the federal level that we’re paying close attention to, to make sure that we’re anticipating the needs of our community and how we deliver care. And also thinking about how we continue to strengthen our financial performance to prepare for those changes in the future.”

She observed, “We’ve long been a medically underserved area. We did a community needs assessment probably like 2019 was the last one. And I think at that time we needed about 17 primary care providers to meet the demand in our community. We’re committed through this strategic planning process to bring in at least five new net primary care doctors and to supplement that with additional nurse practitioners and PAs to help expand the workforce. So, we’ve been fortunate just in the last two years to be able to recruit six additional new primary care providers, three of whom are physicians.”

Sweeney said, “We’ve also been working on space planning, and we just opened a new second floor suite for primary care in Prince Frederick so that we could continue to grow in that area. A long-term goal is to get all of our primary care providers in one space in Prince Frederick, but we’ll be operating out of two suites for a short period of time. We also moved our specialists in Solomons from primary care on the second floor down to a specialist space on the first floor that’ll allow us to add more specialists in the southern end of the county as well as expand our primary care office.”

She added, “We submitted a recent bond grant application for support in some of that work, including some renovation and expansions of our Twin Beaches community health center, which is a growing area

where we can benefit from being able to add additional providers for outpatient services.”

She explained, “We did work with our urgent care partner, Patriot, who we have a joint venture with, to acquire an additional urgent care site in California, Maryland. So, we have a little bit of a footprint just across the bridge and that can also help serve many Calvert County residents who travel into St. Mary’s for work.”

“Our goal is to serve patients in the place where they need to be served,” Sweeney insisted.

Bradford was asked about the hospital’s challenges. He said, “I think we can all agree that from a one big, beautiful bill, as well as the health model that’s changing in Maryland too, we have two headwinds there that we’re managing through. We’re still working through that to try to fully understand it and see what implication it’s going to have and then we can act accordingly.”

He added, “Healthcare rising costs is a challenge, whether it be labor costs as well as supply costs. And that’s something that we’re looking at every single day. So, we’re working to balance it out with the revenue that we’re given as well as to balance it out to those expenses. The team has been working very, very hard to advance our organi-



CalvertHealth Vice President, Strategy & Business Development Kasia Sweeney

zation from a performance improvement. Can we do things better and more efficient, not just the same way? So, we’re really challenging ourselves to look at things differently as well as to see how we operate differently to remain relevant.”

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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Scan the QR code to purchase tickets online or visit CAASACrabfeast2025.eventbrite.com

For more information, call 410-535-3733

Calvert County services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. To request accommodations please contact us at adacoordinator@calvertcountymd.gov or 410-535-1600, ext. 8802 (voice). Please call the Maryland Relay for the hearing and speech impaired at 800-735-2258.

CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of August 18, 2025 – August 24, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,050 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 57
- Disorderly: 15
- Domestic: 23
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 41
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 1025
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 40
- Traffic Complaints: 69
- Traffic Stops: 343
- 911 Hang-Ups: 64
- ARRESTS: 47

Burglary: 25-68404 On August 21, 2025, Deputy Campbell responded to the 3000 block of Amaranth Road in Port Republic for a reported burglary. The investigation revealed that an unknown suspect removed a basement window screen, broke the glass, and entered through the window. Jewelry was taken from three separate jewelry boxes. The estimated value of stolen property is \$5,000.

CDS Violation: 25-68743 On August 22, 2025, DFC Huy conducted a traffic stop on St. Leonard Road in St. Leonard for an equipment violation. Before contact was made, the front passenger, later identified as **Corey Levant Johnson II**, 35 of St. Leonard, was observed making aggressive furtive movements toward the floorboard.



Corey Levant Johnson II



Jessica Ann Wilde

Both Johnson and Wilde were transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis. Wilde was also charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

Disorderly Conduct: 25-67615 On August 18, 2025, at approximately 9:49 p.m., DFC Grierson responded to the 300 block of Clubhouse Drive in Lusby for a report of an individual screaming and yelling for several hours. Upon arrival, DFC Grierson heard

While speaking with Johnson, deputies noticed white residue in his nose. Johnson admitted to concealing three Acetaminophen and Oxycodone Hydrochloride pills in a napkin inside his sock. A search of the vehicle revealed two additional pills in a cellophane wrapper, a makeshift smoking device, and a cut straw with residue inside a purse belonging to passenger **Jessica Ann Wilde**, 36 of Port Republic.



Joshua Mark Bragalone

the disturbance and approached a window, where he politely requested the individual lower his voice as he was disturbing the neighbors. The male, identified as **Joshua Mark Bragalone**, 44 of Lusby, continued shouting profanities and making obscene gestures. A short time later, dispatch received a second complaint that Bragalone had resumed yelling. At 12:22 a.m. on August 19, a third call was received regarding the ongoing disturbance. Deputies returned, and Bragalone exited the residence, where he was taken into custody without incident. He was charged with Disturbing the Peace, Disorderly Conduct, and Failure to Obey a Reasonable/Lawful Order.

Theft: 25-67677 On August 19, 2025, Deputy Deinert received report of a theft from a vehicle. Investigation revealed an unknown suspect stole equipment from a Pennline work truck parked at the Harriet Brown Community Center, located at 901 Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick. Items taken included a 5-gallon gas can, a 2.5-gallon gas can, 200 feet of heavy-duty rope, and a brown duffel bag. The total estimated value of stolen property is \$400.

Theft: 25-67898 On August 20, 2025, DFC Lewis responded to the Holiday Inn Hotel located at 355 Merrimac Court in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised two locks had been cut on his trailer parked in the hotel parking lot. An Echo weedwhacker, a Husqvarna weedwhacker, and a Stihl BR 600 backpack leaf blower were all stolen. The estimated value of stolen property is \$1,110.

Theft: 25-68338 On August 21, 2025, DFC Savick responded to the 4100 block of Mears Ave in Chesapeake Beach, for the reported theft. The complaint reported a 'Frabill' fishing net was stolen from the victim's boat while docked at the Rod N Reel Resort. The estimated value of stolen property is \$70.

Theft: 25-68687 On August 22, 2025, DFC Grierson responded to Sneade's Ace Hardware & Home Center, located at 11861 H.G. Trueman Road in Lusby, for a reported theft. The complainant advised that an unidentified female concealed a Milwaukee M18 12AH battery (2X) and a Milwaukee M12 Red Lithium battery in her purse before exiting the store without rendering payment. The suspect is described as a white female, approximately 35 to 50 years old, with dark black hair. At the time of the incident, she was wearing sunglasses and a blue and white striped dress. The total value of the stolen property is \$662.97.

Trespassing: 25-67324 On August 18, 2025, Deputy R. Contic observed a male subject walking through the Roy Rogers parking lot located at 14000 HG Trueman Road in Solomons. The subject had been previously



Melvin O'Neil Jefferson

trespassed from the property. When contacted, he refused to identify himself and was later identified as **Melvin O'Neil Jefferson**, 56 of no fixed address. Jefferson was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property and Obstructing and Hindering.



Raymond Travis Entsminger

Weapons Violation: 25-67787 On August 19, 2025, at 3:22 p.m., Calvert Deputies were notified of a domestic disturbance involving **Raymond Travis Entsminger**, 52 of St. Leonard, at a residence in St. Leonard. Investigation revealed Entsminger had assaulted the victim and was unlawfully detaining her. Deputies further learned he was in possession of a loaded firearm and under the influence of narcotics. Entsminger subsequently fled from law enforcement in a motor vehicle, disregarding marked patrol units with emergency equipment activated, and drove recklessly at high speeds during hazardous weather conditions. Following a vehicle crash and standoff, Entsminger was taken into custody without further incident. A loaded handgun, cocaine, drug paraphernalia, and \$2,735 in U.S. currency were recovered. Entsminger faces numerous charges including: False Imprisonment, First-Degree Assault, Second-Degree Assault, multiple counts of handgun violations, including carrying, transporting, and possession of a loaded firearm in a vehicle, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, illegal possession of ammunition, and use of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime. He is also charged with possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance. Traffic-related charges include fleeing and eluding police, reckless driving, negligent driving, driving 90 mph in a 55-mph zone, following too closely, unsafe lane changing, failure to drive on the right side of the roadway, improper turn without signal, and driving off the roadway while passing another vehicle.

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

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



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Museum Hosts Night for Friends with Disabilities

The Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) will open its doors Friday evening, Sept. 12, for Night at the Museum for Friends with Disabilities. From 5 to 7 p.m., the museum and grounds will be reserved exclusively for guests with disabilities and their families, friends or caregivers.

Guests are invited to enjoy a relaxed, supportive environment and experience all that makes the museum a welcoming destination year-round.

This FREE event is offered in cooperation with Calvert County Parks & Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Services.

Meet the museum otter mascot and take a photo together. Learn about fish, fossils, river otters, skates and rays, maritime history, and enjoy activities in the Discovery Room. Explore the boat basin and the Drum Point Lighthouse.

Families will also enjoy a fire truck on site to explore, adding an exciting hands-on experience for all ages.

The Museum Store will be open and chock full of items for all ages and interests.

The Salted Scoop will also be on campus with delicious ice cream available for purchase—perfect for a cool treat during your visit.

A calming room is available.

Take a 30-minute cruise on the *Wm. B. Tennison* at 5 p.m., 5:45 p.m., or 6:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required for each person who would like to ride the *Wm. B. Tennison*. Call 410-535-1600, ext. 8204 or 8205 to register for a cruise.

Pre-registration is encouraged but not required for museum access - Register online at <https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/455/Online-Registration>. Under Therapeutic Recreation, select TR Special Events, and scroll to Night at the Museum; or search for Activity #170773.

Press release from CMM

Chesapeake Beach Invites You to Taste the Beaches 2025

Get ready to indulge in the sights, sounds, and flavors of the Town of Chesapeake Beach! On Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Town of Chesapeake Beach will host its highly anticipated annual celebration, Taste the Beaches 2025, at the Kellam's Field Complex.

This festival-style event is free to the public and promises something for everyone. Guests can enjoy:

- Live music by the high-energy Ryan Forrester Band
- Craft drinks and refreshments from area vendors
- Freshly shucked oysters and local favorites from Traders Seafood Steak & Ale, Baia Coastal Italian Kitchen & Wine Bar, and many more!
- Family-friendly entertainment that highlights the spirit of the Town of Chesapeake Beach

"Taste the Beaches is more than just a food festival," said Town Administrator,

Dr. Samelia Okpodu, "It's a chance to experience the incredible talent, creativity, and hospitality that make the Town of Chesapeake Beach such a special place."

Each year, the Town moves the event to different venues, giving residents and visitors alike the chance to explore new corners of Town. This year's location, the Kellam's Field Complex, offers the perfect backdrop in the heart of Town for a day filled with flavor, music, and community spirit.

Whether you're a foodie, a music lover, or just looking for a fun afternoon with family and friends, Taste the Beaches 2025 is the place to be.

Admission is free. Come hungry, stay for the fun, and leave with memories to last a lifetime.

For more information, visit www.chesapeakebeachmd.gov

Press release from Town of Chesapeake Beach

Big Conversation Explores Local History Returns for 14th Year

The Big Conversation Partnership for Dismantling Racism & Privilege in Southern Maryland is holding a panel and small group discussions on the subject of "Our Southern MD History: a Tapestry of Many Voices"

The panel will be Sunday, Sept. 21, 2-5 p.m. (1:30 check-in) at Smith Hall of Middleham Parish / SMILE Campus, 10210 H.G. Trueman Rd. Lusby.

Panel members will be:

- Gwen Bankins, president of the Board of Directors, Historic Sotterley
- Scott McComb, Director of System and Instructional Performance, Calvert County Public Schools
- Grace Minakowski, former Student Member of the Calvert BOE, 2024-2025, now a Duke University student
- Todd Morgan, Maryland State Delegate, District 29C, Calvert County and St. Mary's County
- Other invited representatives of the Southern Maryland Community
- Plus, 175 concerned citizens of Southern Maryland

Our Southern Maryland History is indeed a tapestry of many voices and many perspectives. This forum is an opportunity to listen to and share those perspectives, as well as to ponder whose voices remain hidden and not shared? Our history helps us understand how our past impacts our present and our future.

This marks our fourteenth year of the Big Conversation Forums for the Southern Maryland community.

This event is sponsored by the Big Conversation Partnership for Dismantling Racism & Privilege in Southern Maryland, including: All Saints Episcopal Church, Calvert County Public Schools, Calvert County Minority Business Alliance, Baltimore Mediation, CalvertHealth, Calvert Interfaith Council, Community Mediation Centers of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties, Calvert Concepts Charitable Corporation (C4), Christ Church LaPlata / Wayside College of Southern Maryland, Concerned Black Women of Calvert Co, Emmanuel SDA Church - St. Leonard, Historic Sotterley, Inc., Grey-Ray American Legion Post, League of Women Voters of Calvert Co., NAACP Branches of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties, Patuxent Friends (Quaker) Meeting, Piscataway Park/ Accokeek Foundation, Public Libraries of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties, Remnant Center of Excellence, Inc., St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's Co. Health Department, St. Mary's Co. Public Schools, Salisbury U. School of Social Work

For additional information contact The Big Conversation at by email at bigcon@gmail.com or 410-326-4948 for Diane Davies or Michael Shisler at 410-474-4848.

Press Release from Big Conversation

Southern Maryland

Online

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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Sat, Sep 13

Humane Society Event

Calvert Cliffs State Park
10540 HG Trueman Rd., Lusby
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Come and meet adoptable dogs from the Humane Society of Calvert County while taking in the great outdoors, take a hike on one of the many trails and enjoy the views.

How to Create a Community Garden

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10-11 a.m.

Starting a community garden offers numerous benefits for individuals, families and the broader community. Community gardens can also foster a sense of ownership and pride in the neighborhood, potentially leading to increased property values and reduced crime rates. This class will provide instructions on how you can start a community garden as well as the benefits and pitfalls you need to be aware of when considering an endeavor like a community garden. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Open House & Tack Sale

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue
7940 Flint Hill Road, Owings
3- 4 p.m.

Come meet the wonderful horses at Freedom Hill! Open Houses and Tack Sales are free to the public so come on by and meet our horses, have a tour of the barn, and learn more about Freedom Hill Horse Rescue and our mission to help horses in need. There will be interactive horse activities for children where they can lead horses around the arena, groom them, and more. We do not have horseback rides at our Open Houses. If you're in the market for gently used tack, saddles, equipment or equestrian apparel please come check out our Tack Sale. www.fhhr.org/open-houses-tack-sales

David Hildebrand Concert

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

Get in the spirit of celebrating America's 250th with a live performance and historical commentary on music of the American Revolution. Specializing in Early American Music, David Hildebrand performs nationwide, appearing at historic sites and museums and on public radio and TV. In costume, and with period instruments, this will be family friendly! Sponsored by the SoMD 250th Committee. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

ACLT Garden Tour and Optional Hike

American Chestnut Land Trust
676 Double Oak Rd, Prince Frederick
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

ACLT's Farm manager will discuss the farm and food pantry followed by an optional hike around Griffin Meadow Trail. To register: form.jotform.com/250216377435153

Sun, Sep 14

Superhero Sunday

Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park
10 a.m.-1p.m.

Hosted by Calvert County Parks & Recreation! Join CCPR for an action-packed Superhero Sunday event! Enjoy an epic day filled with games, activities and a touch-a-truck spectacular. Plus, you'll have the chance to meet some of Calvert County's local heroes! Don't forget to wear your superhero best and have your camera ready for some heroic photo opportunities.

ACLT Parker's Creek Challenge

American Chestnut Land Trust
1985 Scientists Cliffs Rd., Port Republic
7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Triathlon with a twist includes a 9-mile bike ride from ACLT's South Side trailhead, *two* 2-mile runs along Scientists Cliffs

Road and through the Warrior's Rest sanctuary, and a 3-mile paddle on the Chesapeake Bay and pristine Parkers Creek. Participants may complete the triathlon individually or as a team. www.acltweb.org/

Mon, Sep 15

25th Annual Eyeglasses Golf Tournament

Chesapeake Hills Golf Club
Lusby
9 a.m.-2 p.n.

Calvert County Lions are hosting their 25th annual charity golf tournament. All proceeds benefit the local community, primarily assisting those in need with eyeglasses, hearing aids and associated services. For more information on registration and sponsorships available, please email calvertlionclub@gmail.com.

Prevent T2: Proven Program to Prevent or Delay Diabetes

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
11a.m.-12 p.m.

Take charge of your health! Join our free, fun and supportive year-long diabetes prevention program for those at risk of diabetes or looking to lose weight. Learn how small changes in eating, activity, and mindset can lead to big results. Connect with others, build healthy habits, and reduce your risk together. Presented in partnership with the Calvert County Health Department. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Sep 16

The Longest Table: Discover the Power of Community

Brick Path between Courthouses
Off Main St., Prince Frederick
5-7p.m.

Join us for a light meal and meaningful con-

versation about how our community supports one another—and how we can do even more. Teens, adults and seniors are all welcome. Your story matters and helps shape the future of Calvert County. Registration is required—pull up a seat and be part of the conversation! Call 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Sep 17

OMOB Book Discussion—*Kin: Rooted in Hope*

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

Join us this month for a discussion of *Kin: Rooted in Hope* by Carole Boston Weatherford and Jeffery Boston Weatherford. The whole state is being asked to read and discuss this book as part of the One Maryland One Book initiative. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Upcoming

Empowerment Communities Luncheon

Calvert County Baptist Church
2190 Solomons Island Road South,
Prince Frederick
Saturday, Sept. 27; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The NAACP Calvert # 7011 B is inviting pastors, faith leaders, and church members to attend. The gathering will celebrate the historic partnership between the Church and the NAACP – a bond that has fueled the fight for equality, justice, and opportunity for generations. Together, we will strengthen our shared mission, connect in fellowship, and inspire action to uplift Calvert County. Please RSVP by Sept.13 by calling 240-466-1899.

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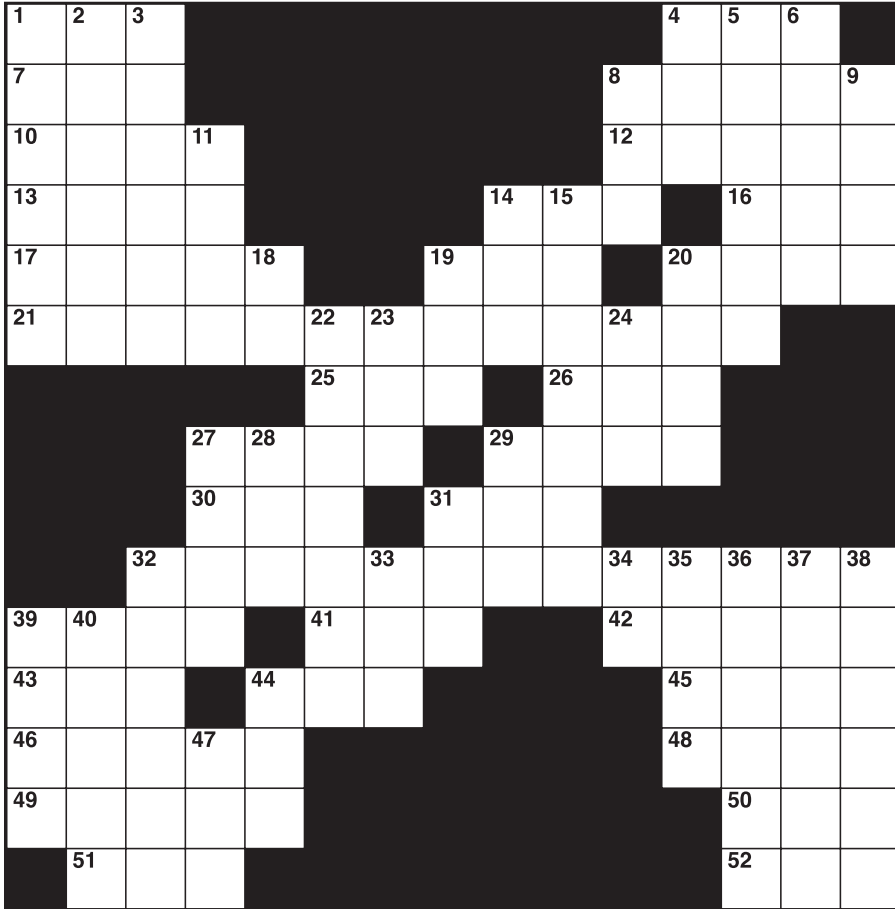
The County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's and Calvert County. The County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies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

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



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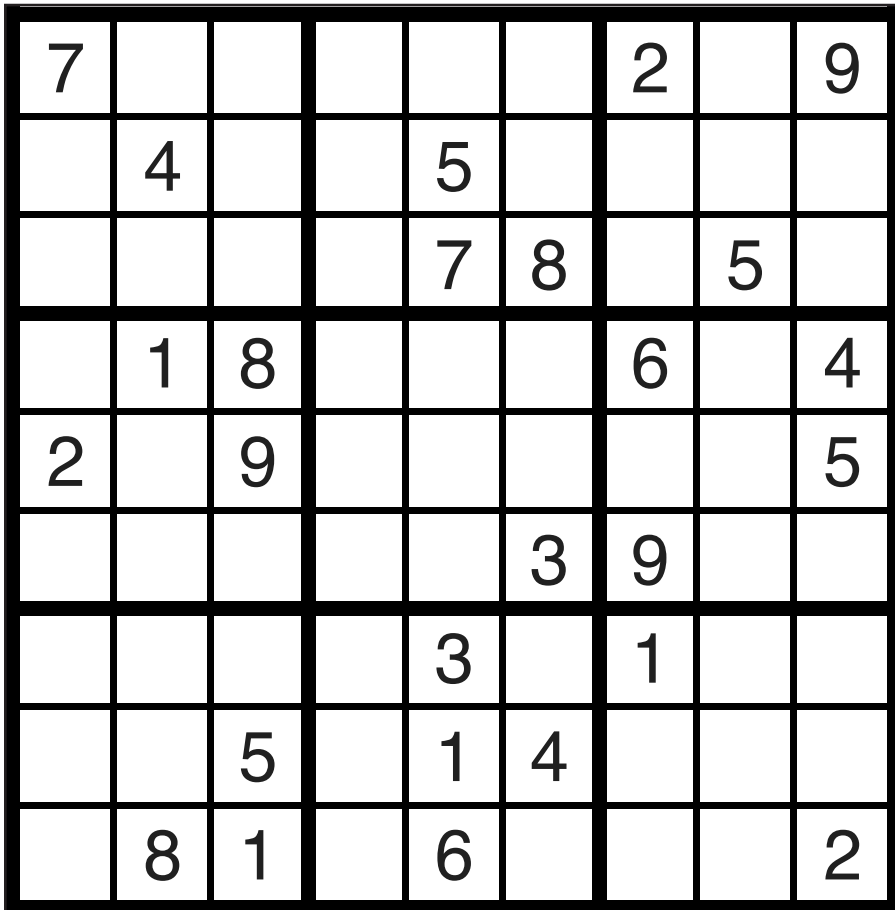


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Utilitarian fashion accessory
- 4. Engine additive
- 7. Macaws
- 8. Listens to
- 10. Self-righteously moralistic person
- 12. Made of wood
- 13. Chinese lute
- 14. Beginning military rank
- 16. Indicates near
- 17. Ties the score
- 19. Chum
- 20. Long ago
- 21. Localities
- 25. Midway between northeast and east
- 26. Make fun of
- 27. Tennis great Arthur
- 29. Construction location
- 30. Cow's noise
- 31. Blue
- 32. One of the Fab Four
- 39. Formula 1 team
- 41. Dash
- 42. Lifting device
- 43. Basics
- 44. Keyboard key
- 45. Old Irish alphabet
- 46. Shaking of the Earth's surface
- 48. Covered stadium
- 49. Sword handles
- 50. Longing or yearning
- 51. Creators' social network
- 52. Boxing's GOAT

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Occur
- 2. Show up
- 3. Capital of Taiwan
- 4. Ocean
- 5. Givers and ___
- 6. Gets ready
- 8. Ad ___
- 9. Fit of irritation
- 11. Criminal organization
- 14. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 15. American state
- 18. Sensor hub
- 19. Before
- 20. The boundary of a surface
- 22. Witnesses
- 23. Singular
- 24. Type of meal
- 27. Music awards show
- 28. Former French coin of low value
- 29. A bag-like structure in an animal
- 31. Schenectady County Airport
- 32. Calm down
- 33. Partner to cheese
- 34. Cola brand
- 35. Stepped on
- 36. Japanese city
- 37. Type of coating
- 38. A citizen of Yemen
- 39. Popular breakfast item corned beef ___
- 40. On a line at right angles to a ship's length
- 44. First responders
- 47. Short-term memory



SEPTEMBER 4 SOLUTIONS

A	M	P	L	E		B	P	D		S	P	A	N					
S	A	L	A	D		G	A	U	D		E	L	L	I				
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4	8	6	7	9	3	5	2	1
2	9	1	5	8	6	4	7	3
7	5	3	4	1	2	6	8	9
1	7	5	9	2	4	3	6	8
6	4	2	1	3	8	9	5	7
8	3	9	6	7	5	1	4	2

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IN STOCK



St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, Sep 12

Northwest Haiti Annual Benefit Dinner

Faith Bible Church
26325 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville
6-9 p.m.

The funds raised at this dinner go to support Nazarite Christian School in Passe Catabois, Northwest Haiti, continuing to provide a Christian-based education and hot lunches to the 400+ students living in this impoverished area.

The cost is \$20 per person and this year's theme is Haitian and Caribbean Cuisine. Tickets may be purchased at the dinner link @ northwesthaiti.org

Sat, Sep 13

The Something to Wear Sale

7th District Volunteer Rescue Squad
Annex Building
21533 Colton Point Road, Avenue
8 am to 12 Noon

Sponsored by Rescue Squad Auxiliary. Fill a 13-gallon bag for \$10. Some new with tags and gently worn clothing. Thanks for supporting our fundraising event.

Annual Yard Sale

Summerseat Farm
26655 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville
8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join us for Summerseat Farm's Annual Yard Sale, where treasure hunting meets community giving! This beloved event offers an incredible selection of furniture, tools, toys, antiques, home decor, and so much more-all generously donated by our supporters. All proceeds benefit the preservation and programs of Summerseat Farm, a nonprofit dedicated to education, agriculture, and history.

Artillery of Point Lookout (Living History Program)

Point Lookout State Par
11175 Point Lookout Rd, Scotland
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

This event will represent the civilian, artillery and infantry of Point Lookout. Demonstrations and exhibits will be presented by living history interpreters and will include living history, scheduled small arms and artillery demonstrations and tours of historic Fort No. 3.

Farmers Feeding St Mary's

46041 Signature Lane, Lexington Park
9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

From local farmers to your plate! The annual Farmers Feeding St. Mary's program will offer farm fresh produce free to the community. Please bring your own bag. variety of fresh produce, such as corn, tomatoes, squash, and more, will be available at each event! In addition to produce, frozen meat will be available. Family units will be limited to one bag of produce per event. Food distribution will continue until the event's end time or until produce runs out.

For more information, please call 301-475-4200, ext. 1074, or visit www.stmary-scounnymd.gov/Aging/FFSM/.

Sunset at Sotterley Gala

Historic Sotterley
44300 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood
6-9 p.m.

Join us to enjoy golden hour views, a signature cocktail, a fabulous silent auction, and music and dancing in our beautifully remodeled barns of Sotterley, all while helping preserve one of Maryland's treasured historic landmarks.

Dress in your best garden party chic attire

and party under the sunset.

This is a fundraising event in support of Historic Sotterley and its programming. The event is open to the public, but tickets are required. \$150 per person.

Mon, Sep 15

Red Cross Blood Drive

2nd District Social Hall VFD & RS,
45245 Drayden Road, Valley Lee
1:30 to 6 p.m.

For more information, or to schedule your life saving donation, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org/ to download the blood donor app

Wed, Sep 17

Tupperware Fundraising Event

7th District Volunteer Rescue Squad
21530 Colton Point Rd, Avenue
7 p.m.

Hosted by Auxiliary. Light Refreshments. Place an order in person or online at angelamayle.my.tupperware.com. Select in open parties.

St. George 2025 Annual GRAB CAKE DINNER
Carry-out (Drive-Thru) Dinner

Famous Homemade Crab Cakes
Fried Chicken Baked Ham plus All the Fixins!

SUNDAY, September 14
11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. or until Sold Out!

\$30 per Dinner -- all Drive-thru carry-outs
Dinner includes 3 crab cakes, fried chicken, ham, potatoes, green beans, beets, dinner rolls

BAKED GOODS will be sold in the Annex of the Community Center (side door).

St. George Catholic Church
19197 St. George Church Rd.
Valley Lee, MD 20692
301-994-0607
Secretary@stgeorgerc.org
This is a fundraising event for St. George Catholic Church, part of the Archdiocese of Washington, a 503(c)(3) organization.

Purse Bingo
Hosted by Elks Lodge #2092
for
Cinderella Society
22649 FDR Blvd, California, MD 20619

September 14
Games Start 4:00pm
Doors open 3:00pm

DOOR PRIZES \$40 Advanced Ticket Sale 50/50 RAFFLE
\$50 At the Door

Grab your girls and come spend Sunday sipping cocktails, playing bingo and winning your favorite Designer bags!

Proceeds go to the Elks Charity Ball fundraiser supporting Cinderella Society.

Food, Cocktails, Games & Prizes

Tickets include raffle ticket and all regular games. Special games available for purchase on the floor!

Contact Katrina Cropp for tickets
cinderellasocietysmc@gmail.com

Sponsorships Available
Please contact
cinderellasocietysmc@gmail.com

★ ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

UPCOMING EVENTS



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.

Celebremos el mes de la Hispanidad: Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Let's celebrate the start of Hispanic Heritage Month! Join us to experience music, arts & crafts, photo wall, sweet treats, and more to celebrate the rich culture of the Hispanic community. All are welcome to celebrate the start of Hispanic Heritage Month! Enjoy music, light refreshments, a photo wall with props, arts & crafts, and more. Celebrate the rich contributions and positive influence the Hispanic culture has made. Lexington Park Library on

Saturday, September 13 from 2- 4 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Cooking Up Confidence

The kitchen comes to the library with a cooking demonstration mixed with wellness! This series will help teach vital skills to tweens, teens, and their caretakers. Attendees will learn vital food safety skills as well as self sufficiency methods and broadening skill sets on nutrition, meal preparation, and healthy decision making. Labs are hands on food demonstrations. List food allergies during registration so we can prepare alternatives as needed! Lexington Park Library on Monday, September 15 from 3:45 - 5:15 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

The Black Diamond Incident: Local History Talk

Karen Stone, Division Manager of the St. Mary's County Museums, is back with new information on the Black Diamond Incident! Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, September 16, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. It

has always been said that not a single life was lost during the hunt for John Wilkes Booth. This is said with pride, as it should be. If only it were true. The Potomac was the main lifeline out of Washington D.C. and for the federal government it was the dividing line between the warring sections of the North and South. This is a story of that river, and of the men whose lives were lost in the aftermath of the Civil War, in the hunt for the presidential assassin John Wilkes Booth. This is for those 87 men and their families, so that they will no longer be forgotten. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Growing Up Different: Navigating Disability in the '60s-'70s

Meet Cheryl Knott, St. Mary's County native with a unique perspective on the history of the county. Born in 1959 with a physical disability that impacted how she walked, Cheryl's life was dramatically different from other children her age. Hear her story of growing up in a world that was

hesitant to make space for her. This program is made possible with support from The Arc of Southern Maryland and the St. Mary's County Historical Society. Lexington Park Library on Tuesday, September 16, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

StickerFest

Stick, swap, and create at StickerFest! Trade stickers, get a free sticker book, and design your own with markers or Cricut. A perfect event for sticker lovers of all ages! Lexington Park Library on Saturday, September 20, 1 – 3 p.m. Bring your favorite stickers to trade with fellow fans, and start your own collection with a free sticker book provided to all attendees. Design your own custom creations with sticker paper and markers, or try out our Cricut machine to craft a one-of-a-kind sticker to take home. Whether you're a collector, a creator, or just love stickers, there's something for everyone at StickerFest. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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AM to 11:00 AM in Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Lexington Park, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM. Interment will follow at the church cemetery.

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.

George Burroughs, 84



George Debracy Burroughs Jr, 84, of Clements died surrounded by his loving family Saturday, September 6th, after a courageous battle with cancer. The first son of

George Debracy Burroughs Sr. and Clara Thompson Burroughs, George attended St. Joseph's Elementary School and Margaret Brent School. George worked alongside his father and sisters on their family farm, which instilled his lifelong passion for gardening and working the land.

In addition to his parents, George is preceded in death by his first wife, Claudia Lynn Burroughs, his sister, Jeanette E. Cooksey, brother, Thomas M. Burroughs, and sister, Ann B. Davis.

George is survived by his wife, Helen M. Thomson Burroughs; his son, David Lewis Burroughs (Jane) of Hollywood; his daughter, Luanne Abell Raley of Clements; stepdaughters Elizabeth Hammett Copp (Stephen) of Millington, MD, and Dianne Hammett Lapinas (Keith) of Mechanicsburg, PA, sister Edna M. Oliver of Avenue, sister Shirley L. Mattingly (Pete) of Hollywood, and brother Eugene Wallace Burroughs of Mechanicsville. Also surviving are his grandchildren: Shane Burroughs (Lauren), Michael Raley (Morgan), Brianna Burroughs (Taylor), Bridget Young (James), Shannon Copp, Allyson Raley (Kameron Jackson, fiancé) and Jacob Lapinas; his great-grandchild Millie Raley, along with several nieces and nephews.

The quintessential family man, George was devoted to his loved ones. He cherished all family gatherings and celebrations. A lifelong St. Mary's County resident, George was a man of many talents. He worked for twenty-three years as a civilian pipefitter for Allied Plumbing, and thirty years for the Federal Government. George could build or fix anything. He never knew a stranger, and loved meeting and talking with people. An active outdoorsman, he loved fishing, crabbing and hunting, especially hunting quail. Time was spent enjoying bowling, playing softball, and playing cards. He was one of the original charter members of the "Clements Cuties", known to his fellow Cuties as "Georgia Peach".

George was the last surviving member of the Lewis Knott Band, the "Rhythm Rascals", well-known for playing at church dances and clubs throughout St. Mary's County in the 1960's through the

mid-1970's.

George's garden and yard were his pride and joy. He enjoyed the bountiful harvest of vegetables his garden produced each year.

The family will receive friends on Monday, September 15th from 5-8pm at Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD, with prayers being said at 7pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Tuesday, September 16th at 10:30am at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Morganza, MD, with the Rev. Drew Royals officiating. Interment will follow at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery, Morganza, MD. Pallbearers are: Shane Burroughs (grandson), Stephen Copp (son in-law), Keith Lapinas (son in-law), Randy Oliver (nephew), Michael Raley (grandson), and Lewis Yates (brother in-law). Honorary pallbearers are: Brianna Burroughs, Gene Burroughs, Shannon Copp, Brian Cooksey, Kell Davis, James Downing, Jacob Lapinas, Joey Oliver, Pat Oliver, Allyson Raley, Dale Yates, and Bridget Young.

Memorial contributions in George's memory may be made to the Hospice of St. Mary's, PO Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or online at www.medstarhealth.org/locations/hospice-of-st-marys

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.

Don Litten, 75



Don Andrew Litten, Sr., passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on Friday, September 5, 2025.

Don was born in Cheverly, Maryland to Anna Laura and Kelly Litten, Sr. on February 13, 1950. He was the second of four children. His family moved to St. Mary's County in 1956. As a young child and teenager, he lived in the Leonardtown and Loveville area. He had many adventures with his three brothers and close friends growing up.

In 1967, Don joined the Merchant Marines. Later in 1968, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corp. He graduated from Parris Island that same year. He served a tour during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged in 1970.

On May 29, 1969, Don married Mary Brent Davis, and they were married for 56 years. They had a daughter Kelly Ann in July 1969 who passed away as an infant. In April 1971, Don and Mary had a son, Don Andrew Litten Jr. Don raised his son with the same values the Marine Corp instilled in him.

Don worked for most of his career as a commercial construction superintendent. Over the years, he oversaw many job projects at various military bases, hospitals and schools, supervising mostly plumbing, heating and mechanical work. Later in his career, Don supervised the construction of

many wastewater treatment facilities.

In Don's spare time, he enjoyed building engines. He would build engines for tractors, boats, motorcycles and family vehicles. Most of all, Don enjoyed building fast Ford engines. His engines won many races and championships at dirt tracks, asphalt tracks, and drag strips in the mid-Atlantic area. From 1973 through the early 2000's, you could find "Dyno Don" on most Friday and Saturday nights at local racetracks in his trademark flip flops and flowered shirt. He wasn't afraid to take chances and experiment in the name of speed. Don was a fierce competitor who enjoyed the challenge.

Don enjoyed American and world history, travelling and dining out with friends and family. He loved taking day trips to Civil War battlefields and Shenandoah Mountain towns. Quick to jump in the car, Don loved driving with no set destination.

Don enjoyed spending time with his three granddaughters. He loved taking his "polecats" out on weekend adventures. He also loved all the cats and dogs he owned throughout his life.

Don was preceded in death by his father, Kelly Carson Litten, Sr, his mother Anna Laura (Gibson) Litten, his daughter Kelly Ann Litten, his brother Kelly Carson "Kit" Litten, Jr., his father-in-law John Kell Davis, Sr., mother-in-law Rebecca Ann (Burroughs) Davis and sister-in-law Becky

(Davis) Dean.

He is survived by his wife Mary Brent (Davis) Litten, his son Don Andrew Litten, Jr. and wife Rebecca (Wood) Litten; granddaughters Shelby Ruth (Litten) Frazier and husband Nathan Frazier, Emily Anna Laura Litten and fiancé Brad Nelson, Shannen Davis Litten and great-granddaughter Kelly Nola Frazier. Don is also survived by late brother Kelly "Kit" Litten's wife Teresa (Mirales) Litten, brothers Gary Litten and wife Debbie (Huffman) Litten and Steve Litten and wife Patty (Halstead) Litten, and several nephews and nieces that he loved very much.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, September 20th at Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad from 1-3pm for those who knew and loved him. To honor Don, flip flops and flowered Hawaiian shirts are welcomed.

Interment will be held at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, Hospice of St. Mary's County or a local animal rescue organization in Don's name.

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.



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In Remembrance

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

Larry Morgan, 77



Charles "Larry" Morgan, 77, of Mechanicsville, Maryland, passed away peacefully on September 3, 2025, with his loving family by his side.

Born on August 8, 1948, in Mechanicsville, Maryland, Larry was the cherished son of the late Carroll Richard Morgan and Mary Madeline (Wathen) Morgan.

Larry was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend. On September 14, 1968, he married the love of his life Joyce Marie Morgan, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Morganza, Maryland. Together they spent many years building a life filled with love, hard work, and family.

For more than sixty years, Larry dedicated himself to his craft as a Master Barber and proud owner of Morgan's Barber Shop in Lexington Park. Known for his skill with the clippers and his easy conversation, Larry's chair was a place where countless friendships were formed. Even after retiring in January 2025, he left the shop in capable family hands to Brenda Bounds to continue his legacy.

Beyond his career, Larry enjoyed work-

ing outdoors—especially cutting and manicuring his lawn, tending his flowers and gardens, or riding around on his John Deere Gator. He loved his old truck—"telling Colin King this old truck will be yours one day." He cherished time spent with family and friends, always ready to share a story or joke. A lover of bluegrass music, he especially enjoyed playing "that Old Doghouse Base", and gathering with others to play that "old-time" sound.

Larry is survived by his beloved wife of almost 57 years, Joyce M. Morgan, his children; James Richardson (Cheryl), Donna K. Morgan, and Joyce Duncan (Brandy), siblings; Ralph Morgan and Wayne Morgan, as well as 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his daughter Carolyn Buell, as well as his siblings, Catherine Alvey, Richard Morgan, and Carroll (Pop) Morgan.

Family will receive friends on Monday, September 15, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A. at 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650, with prayers being recited at 2:00 p.m. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704 Hagerstown, MD 21741 or cancer.org/donate.

Condolences may be left for the family at

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

Michael Moore, 79



Michael Archie Moore, 79, of Mechanicsville, Maryland, passed away peacefully at his home on August 28, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Washington, D.C. on August 14, 1946, Michael dedicated his life to education and community service. He earned his master's degree and served as a devoted teacher with Prince George's County Public Schools, shaping the lives of countless students over his career.

Michael was a man of faith and an active member of Christ Church in Chaptico. He was deeply involved in his community, serving as past president of the 4th District Optimist Club, a member of the Leonard Hall Board of Education, and a supporter of the Prince George's County A.R.C. Known for his kind heart, strong principles, and sense of humor, Michael lived his life as a loving husband, devoted father, and cherished friend.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Cheryl Moore, and their son: Edward Eugene Moore (Haley), his children from his first marriage are Michael Archie Moore Jr., Kelly S. Waynnick and Kevin Moore (Maria). Michael was blessed with nine grandchildren who brought great joy to his life. He is also survived by his sister, Kim Bessler and son-in-law John Cliff. He was preceded in death by his parents, his daughter Chrissy Cliff and his sister Suzanne Seminar.

Michael will be remembered for his generosity, his steadfast faith, and the way he always put family first. His legacy will live on in the love he shared and the countless lives he touched.

Family invites friends for a visitation on Friday September 5, 2025, from 9:30am to 10:30am at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Rd, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650, followed by a Funeral Service at Christ Episcopal Church, 25390 Maddox Road, Chaptico, MD 20621, starting at 11am. Burial will be in the church ceme-

tery following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Michael's memory to the Tri-County Animal Shelter, 6707 Animal Shelter Rd, Hughesville, MD 20637.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Larry Younger, 76



Larry Leroy Younger, 76, of Lexington Park, MD, passed away on August 28, 2025, at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Born on September 13, 1948, in Canton, OH, he was the son of the late Eleonor Marie Schaffer and the late John Raymond Younger. Larry was the loving husband of Patricia Ann Younger, whom he married in St. Mary's Church, Annapolis, MD.

Larry graduated from McKinley High School. He went on to earn his bachelor's degrees in accounting and finance in 1977 from Akron University and then his master's degree in healthcare administration in 1979 from Ohio State University. During his career, Larry worked at the Calvert County Nursing Center, the Bayside Nursing Center, the Berlin Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, and most recently, the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home; he retired in 2014 after five years of service.

Larry served in the United States Navy for 32 years, from 1968 to 2001. During this time, he held several positions in Washington, D.C., including two tours at Bethesda Naval Hospital, Recruiting Command, Bureau of Navy Personnel, and Bureau of Navy Medicine. He also received eight personal military awards, including the Legion of Merit.

In addition to his career and military service, Larry was a Fellow at the American College of Healthcare Executives, a Past Chair of St. Mary's Commission on Aging, a member of the American Legion, and a member of the Planning Committee for Southern Maryland Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk for five years.

The family will receive friends on Monday, September 8, 2025, from 10:00

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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind



Baskets of Love and Hope

By Shelby Opperman
Contributing Writer

I found out this morning that some doggie treats are pretty good. Yesterday, Mindy and I went to Your Dog's Bakery in Mechanicsville. It's in the little shopping center where My Eye Doctor is located. They have handmade treats with no additives, plus toys, shampoos, dog food, healthy supplements, and a lot of other fun things. You may have seen them at some of our local craft shows too. Mindy was naturally smelling everything in their shop while I was gathering items to fill a basket for our big Clements Cuties event this Saturday down at Back Road Inn. We have probably 8 long tables that will be set up with donated baskets and other items for the brown bag auction. Every year we get amazing baskets. The owners of Your Dog's Bakery were kind enough to also add a gift certificate and discount for the basket. I am always appreciative of small business owners who are willing to offer that.

Mindy ended up with some cute, shaped cinnamon and peanut butter doggie biscuits. I couldn't very well have her see me getting lots of treat bags and balls for the donation basket with her not getting a thing. I gave her one treat when we got back to the house, and she gobbled it up pretty quickly. Then this morning, I was about to give her another one after her morning constitutional, when I caught a whiff of the cookie, and thought, "wow, this smells really good. I bet it tastes good too". Mindy watched with a suddenly horrified face, brow wrinkled, ears lifted up, as the cookie headed towards my face. I took a small bite and raised my brows with a "Yes, this is definitely tasty look." Mindy was still looking a bit concerned that I might pop the rest of her doggie cookie in my mouth even after I set it on the floor, but I let her have it of course. I don't think it's a bad thing to check if a doggie treat tastes as good as it smells... is it? I probably shouldn't have mentioned it to my husband as that is just one more thing to add to the "my wife is a little wacky" list for him. Does he really want a normal wife???

I have two other baskets to finish, both with items from the much beloved Apple Basket, Charlene Tsirigotis's shop in Laurel Grove. One is filled with lots of Southern Maryland spice packets (one of my go to's since my long ago days with PTA and Boy Scout meetings when my sons were young), coffee cake mix, apple crisp mix, veggie roaster seasoning blend and sheet pan dinner seasoning blend packets, and since many of the seasoning packets are herb infused I added in a large cheerful gardening tote so you can add your own herbs too. And just for fun there is a cute hanging bird seed item in the basket. And of course, since it is me making the baskets, there is a wine themed basket which has a neat take on wine charms, wine napkins, dish towels with cute sayings, and bottles of wine naturally. These are all baskets of love and hope that the Clements Cuties members and friends donate.

Friday, we will start setting up for the event with the Clements Cuties wives or girlfriends, and family members stuffing the buckets with all sorts of donated goodies like hats and t-shirts into the buckets that the Cuties take into the crowd at the ballfield when they get off the trolley from the parade down to the ballfield. There's always lots of laughter when the Cuties arrive, and lots of caring tears and smiles when our past childhood Cuties recipients, and current Cuties Kids arrive by firetrucks to the field. I've got tears in my eyes just writing about it. It's like so many people say, "All these kids have ever known is battling cancer. In some it may have started later, and with some kids it may have been from the time they were born. But the Clements Cuties Organization, and many other childhood cancer organizations, are here to try to make their lives and their family's lives just a bit brighter and relieve some of the financial burden.

This year at Back Road Inn, we will also honor the lives of two very important people in the Clements Cuties Organization family: Jim Cryer, the owner of Back Road Inn (BRI), who passed earlier this year, and Veronica Johnson who was a much beloved member of the Clements Cuties, women's softball, and a whirlwind of organizational activity. This will also be the last year the event will be held at the ballfield across from BRI which will resort back to farmland. The event will be held at a new location next year. Please come on out and support the kids and the Cuties this Saturday at 4 pm. and help make this the best year ever. I'll be at the T-shirt stand like always.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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

The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Spot and bluefish are the mainstays for fishermen in southern Maryland this week.

Spot are wide open in the Patuxent, and they are achieving jumbo size. Spot love bloodworms. They will also hit hooks baited with Lug worms, night crawlers, squid, shrimp, and clam snouts. There are small spot and croaker most everywhere in the creeks and rivers. The larger spot in the Potomac are concentrated around Ragged point Cobb and St. George Island.

Bluefish are in the ship's channel breaking most every day. They bite and feed on their own schedule. The most consistent area with the biggest bluefish is below the target ship on the hard bottom. The big fish are coming up about 6:30 in the evening. We have seen pictures of 12-pound blues and heard of them up to 17 pounds and 37 inches. Average size is 5 to 6 lbs. mid-day, and 8 lbs. and up after 6pm. These specifics could change at any time. As I tell my customers: "I can only tell you where the fish were, not where they are."

Perch and stripers have been scarce most everywhere with the exception of a good catch here and there. They are staying in the deep so far and gathered on structure. The cool temperatures and rain may get the water cleared up in the creeks and rivers. The excess of sea nettles may recede. We could then get perch and rockfish back in



Northern Potomac rockfish are big and healthy.

the shallows where we normally catch them.

We learned something this week that is encouraging. There are good numbers of healthy rockfish up the Potomac above the 301 bridge.

The rock were very active there last fall and stayed around the bridge down to Dalghren and Machodoc creek. The water was much warmer there last year. This year's cool August and fall cold snap here in early September may bring the rockfish down the river and into the bay in a normal pattern, making the fish active and more accessible by the first of October.

Spanish mackerel are mixed with the bluefish in the bay.

Not much was heard about cobia and bull reds this week.

Crabs are plentiful.

Mild temperatures and breezes are predicted late this week and all weekend.

2025 FALL

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The Pentagon Memorial

At 9:37 a.m. on September 11, 2001, five hijackers crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia. All 53 passengers and six crew members perished in the crash and an additional 125 military and civilian personnel on the ground were killed in the fire caused by the crash.

The hijacking of Flight 77 was part of the broader attack on 9/11, which remains the deadliest terrorist attack in world history. The Pentagon Memorial was created to honor the 184 people whose lives were lost at the Pentagon on 9/11, as well as their families and all those who sacrifice to protect and preserve the freedom of Americans.

The design of the Pentagon Memorial was developed by architects Julie Beckman and Keith Kaseman. Their design was chosen from 1,110 submissions.

The Pentagon Memorial sits on two acres of land just outside where Flight 77 struck the building. The memorial includes 184 benches that are dedicated to each of the victims. The benches are organized in a timeline of their ages, stretching from the youngest victim, 3-year-old Dana Falkenberg, to the oldest, 71-year-old John Yamnicky. Each bench is engraved with the victim's name and arches over a shallow reflecting pool of water, lit from below. The benches for passengers who were aboard the plane at the time of the crash are positioned so visitors face the sky when reading the victim's names. The benches dedicated to the



victims inside the building are positioned so their names and the Pentagon are in the same view.

A curved wall known as the Age Wall also is a significant part of the memorial. The wall increases in height from 3 inches to 71 inches to represent the ages of the victims.

Eighty-five paperbark maple trees were clustered throughout the memorial, and these trees feature foliage that changes orange to red each fall. The trees will eventually grow to 30 feet, providing a canopy of shade over the memorial.

The Pentagon Memorial is free and open

seven days a week year-round. More information about the memorial is available at <https://washington.org/find-dc-listings/national-911-pentagon-memorial>.



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The 9/11 Memorial and Museum

Among the more indelible images to emerge on September 11, 2001 was the sight of two planes crashing into the North and South Towers of the World Trade Center. Still photos and video footage of those planes flying into the Twin Towers were the first images of the attacks many Americans saw, and no one who watched events unfold that morning will ever forget those images.

Though both the North and South Towers fell on that day, today the site where each tower once stood is a serene retreat in the bustling lower Manhattan neighborhood that was shaken to its core on the day of the attacks. The 9/11 Memorial was designed by architect Michael Arad and landscape architect Peter Walker. The 9/11 Memorial and Museum notes that Arad and Walker's proposal was chosen in a design competition that featured 5,201 submissions from 63 countries.

The 9/11 Memorial is located on the western side of the formal World Trade Center where the Twin Towers once stood. Two enormous reflecting pools are part of the Memorial Plaza, which is where the North and South Towers once stood. The pools feature the two largest man-made waterfalls in North America. Around the edges of the pools, the names of people who were killed in the 9/11 attacks in New York, the Pentagon, on Flight 93, and in the 1993 bombing at the World Trade Center are etched in bronze.

In recognition of the crash sites, 400



swamp white oak trees were selected from nurseries located in New York, Pennsylvania and near Washington, D.C. These trees are located throughout the Memorial Plaza, providing a peaceful respite separate from the surrounding city. The Memorial Plaza also includes one Callery pear tree. That tree was


discovered at Ground Zero weeks after the attacks and it was severely damaged. The tree, now known as the Survivor Tree, was nursed back to health by members of the New York City Parks and Recreation Department and returned to the World Trade Center site in 2010, where it still stands as an enduring

symbol of resilience and perseverance.

The 9/11 Memorial is free and open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information about the 9/11 Memorial and the 9/11 Memorial and Museum can be found at www.911memorial.org.



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NAS Pax River CO Reflects on 9/11

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The remembrance of 9/11 is especially a somber one for the military, which immediately went on high alert, including at Naval Air Station Patuxent River.

NAS Patuxent River Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Zematis told The County Times, "The significance of 9/11 can't be understated, and the fact that we recognize it every year shows that. That event was a terrible attack on our nation and its people, but it also showed what we as a nation can do to support one another in our darkest times.

"More than 20 years on, we're still seeing its impact on day-to-day life, and it's no different here in Southern Maryland at Pax River. Most of our people here — military and civilian — remember September 1, 2001

clearly. Most of our Pax Pros served during the War on Terror that followed, and even our younger personnel have been raised and serve in the shadow of 9/11.

"So it impacts us every day, but especially on 9/11's anniversary.

"Here at Pax we've made a tradition of beginning the morning of September 11 with Morning Colors and marking the history of the day with a small ceremony right after, noting the historic events of the day. We find significance in it because every day on our station begins with Colors, just as Sept. 11, 2001 began as a day like any other for millions of Americans. But as the morning progressed our nation and world was forever changed. We take that time to remember, so we'll never forget."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Naval Air Station Patuxent River Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Zematis

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Celebrate St. Mary's River at 18th Annual RiverFest

The 18th Annual St. Mary's Riverfest this year features the Eastport Oyster Boys, wildlife encounters, and Chesapeake Bay Retriever demos. The RiverFest is Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is Free.

Join the St. Mary's River Watershed Association (SMRWA) at Historic St. Mary's City—rain or shine for a fun-filled, family-friendly day!

Don't miss the ceremonial river wade-in in honor of Bernie Fowler at 2 pm, step aboard the Maryland Dove and the Rainbow for a tour and learn about the life of a waterman with oyster tonging demonstrations!

Headliners will be the Eastport Oyster Boys, who will perform from 12 to 2 p.m. on the main stage under the Margaret Brent Pavilion. The "Boys" infuse tales, jokes, and historical narratives from around the Chesapeake Bay with their unique island rhythm tunes.

The live music and storytelling don't end with the headliners! The Chesapeake Public Charter School fourth graders will perform songs and narratives about the importance of protecting our Bay from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. And Indian Summer, who has performed at every RiverFest, will take the stage from 2 to 3 p.m.

For the nature lovers, Raptor's Eye will bring their live birds of prey and talk about the importance of raptors to our ecosystem.



RiverFest 2019 attendees walk into the water until they can no longer see their feet. This tradition demonstrates how water clarity is linked to water quality and honors the late Sen. Bernie Fowler.

Chad Day will show off his talented Chesapeake Bay Retriever during demonstrations at 12 p.m., 1 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. on the State House lawn.

Get up close with snakes, turtles, and other native critters under the pavilion with the Forrest Technology Center's Natural Resource Management Program and the NAS PAX Natural Resources Department.

Then, head down to the waterfront to try

kayaking with Team River Runner Southern Maryland and fish seining with experienced experts. Meet us under the pavilion after the Eastport Oyster Boys perform at 2 pm. We will process together down to the waterfront and wade into the water until we can no longer see our feet in honor of Sen. Bernie Fowler. Remember to bring a change of clothes and your water shoes!

Bring the family to enjoy balloon animals,

face painting, crafts and other hands-on activities. Enjoy lunch from Southern Maryland's first Puerto Rican restaurant, El Coqui, and stop by and see over 25 of Southern Maryland's finest vendors and exhibitors along the path from the pavilion to the State House.

Discover 101 ways to protect and enjoy our waterways!

Make your own Secchi Disk with St. Mary's College of Maryland's Biology Department, participate in the marine scene stamp and splash activity, or plant some native seeds and take them home.

Explore our river's past with free admission to Historic St. Mary's City Museum and their living history exhibits.

Experience the sights, sounds, and smells of a 17th-century militia assembly as re-enactors prepare to defend the colony against Virginians and pirates during the St. Mary's City Militia's annual muster, held in conjunction with RiverFest.

RiverFest is free, open to the public, and family friendly. Thanks to our sponsors and volunteers, most activities including face painting, balloon animals, SMRWA-led crafts, kayaking, and drinks are free. For more info visit www.SMRWA.org/riverfest or email at emmasmrwa@gmail.com

Press Release from SMRWA.

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Three Chances Left to Enjoy Second Saturday Activities

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

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

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

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

- October 11, 2025 (10 a.m. – 12 p.m.): Batty for Bats – Build & Decorate Your Own Bat Box while Learning about the Importance of these Flying Mammals

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

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

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

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

Press Release from St. Mary's County Museum Division

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LEONARDTOWN Events Calendar

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SEP 13	Coastal Arts Market 9am - 3pm www.coastalartsmarket.blogspot.com
SEP 20	4th Annual Walk for Recovery 9am - 12pm www.smchd.org
SEP 26	Outdoor Movie Night 7pm - 10pm www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/EventsCalendar
SEP 28	Fall Paw Crawl 12-pm - 4pm www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/EventsCalendar
OCT 3-5	October First Friday Weekend All Weekend www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/FirstFriday

Leonardtwn is falling into fun – For more events & activities, visit:
www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/EventsCalendar

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County Times

Health Department Holds 4th Annual Walk for Recovery



Volunteers from the 3rd Annual Walk for Recovery. Photo courtesy of St. Mary's County Health Department.

By Vada Mercer
Contributing Writer

A walk for recovery will be held on Sept 20 at Leonardtown Square to raise awareness for and destigmatize mental health and substance abuse issues. The free event, hosted by the St. Mary's County Health Department, SMCHD, is in support of the broader Go Purple Initiative started by the Herren Project.

Festivities begin at 9:00 a.m. with registration, followed by guest speakers at 9:30. A group stretch will begin at 10 a.m. leading into the walk, which will go through Camalier, Courthouse, and Fenwick Street before returning to the square at Washington Street.

Attendees can enjoy activities including lawn games, face and rock painting, light refreshments, music, and training using life saving medication like Narcan. Community vendors such as Tri-County Area of Narcotics Anonymous, Community Mediation of St. Mary's County, and Stella's Girls Inc. will be available at the event to share resources.

In addition to the walk and activities, the event emphasizes education and support.

The Go Purple Initiative, started by former NBA player Chris Herren and his foundation, encourages communities to raise awareness of substance abuse and recovery.

Our community is encouraged to "Go Purple" by seeking education about addiction as a disease, using stigma-free language, and celebrating those in recovery.

Jacque Wells of SMCHD defines recovery as "a process of change through which people improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential. Because setbacks are a natural part of life, resilience becomes a key component of recovery."

September is National Recovery Month, established in 1989 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, to celebrate individuals and the progress they have made in recovery from substance abuse. This year's theme is "Recovery is REAL," Restoring Every Aspect of Life.

By bringing together families, service providers, and local organizations, the walk for recovery hopes to build compassion, reduce stigma, and empower community members with resources to support themselves and their loved ones.

Lions Clubs to Provide Free Vision, Hearing Screening

The Five St. Mary's County Lions Clubs will once again offer free vision, hearing and eye pressure screenings all four days of the County Fair, September 18, 19, 20, and 21 at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds.

The air-conditioned Mobile Health Unit will be available for screenings throughout the day and early evening each day and

until 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 21.

Youth, six and under, will receive vision screening using a special camera to determine if professional followup will be needed.

For more information call 240-577-0029.

Press Release from St. Mary's Lions Clubs

St. Mary's City to Host Reinterment of Founders



Historic St. Mary's City Chapel

Return of the Founders, a unique ceremony for the reinterment of 17th-century founders of Maryland, will occur at St. Mary's City on Sept. 20.

Excavated at the 1660s Chapel site to allow its reconstruction, the remains have been at the Smithsonian since the 1990s. They will be returned and placed in a new burial vault with a formal ceremony and a rite of reinterment conducted by Archbishop Lori of Baltimore. A large public procession with a horse drawn hearse will start at the 1676 Statehouse and go to

the Chapel, beginning at 10 a.m. Due to the small size of the chapel itself, a large tent will be nearby with the activities livestreamed to it.

The Public is invited to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime event honoring the people who founded Maryland and established the Catholic faith on these shores.

It is free but please register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-ceremony-of-return-tickets-1442431504459>

Press Rtelease from Historic St. Mary's City

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For more info, call or visit www.Facebook.com/1836Light

Help Plant One Million Oysters in Breton Bay



Do you love Breton Bay and want to see it thrive? Join local watershed associations at Abell's Wharf on Saturday, September 13 at 10 a.m. (rain date: September 14 at 10 a.m.) to help plant a million baby oysters in the Breton Bay Oyster Sanctuary. Bring the family, grab a life jacket, and join in the fun!

Oysters are a keystone species in the Chesapeake Bay, meaning they play a large role supporting other aquatic life and the health of the ecosystem. They filter the water and build reefs where striped bass, blue crabs, and many other animals take refuge.

Because of their role and the decline of the oyster population in the Chesapeake Bay, the State of Maryland designated many Chesapeake Bay tributaries, including Breton Bay, oyster sanctuaries. In these sanctuaries, oyster harvest is limited. State and federal partners have been planting oysters in several of these sanctuaries, and at one point, Breton Bay was on the list for major oyster restoration. However, that decision was revoked in 2018 due to low oyster population, poor water quality data, and a lack of annual oyster reproduction in Breton Bay.

Without investment from the state and

federal governments, community groups are stepping up to help fill the void and encourage future investment. Since 2017, St. Mary's River Watershed Association and Friends of St. Clement's Bay have been working to rebuild a healthy oyster population in Breton Bay. With partners at Bell Marine Services, Shore Thing Shellfish, LLC, EcoBAY Landscape & Design, and the Southern Maryland Recreational Fishing Organization, over 4 million oysters have been planted to date and will continue to add to the restoration reef site until the reef is self-sustaining.

On Saturday morning, we will unload about 500 bags of baby oysters attached to oyster shells from trailers, load them onto work vessels and transport the oysters by boat to their new home off Lover's Point in Breton Bay. Show your support for a cleaner, more vibrant, and healthy Breton Bay by joining us on Sept. 13 at Abell's Wharf.

To register, please visit <https://forms.gle/ekapGy2Nhwu54saX6> or contact Emma Ewing, St. Mary's River Watershed Association, at emmaSMRWA@gmail.com

Press Release from SMRWA

Great Mills Swimming Pool Maintenance Closure Set

In preparation for the fall and winter indoor operating season, the Great Mills Swimming Pool will be temporarily closed from Thursday, Sept. 18, through Friday, Sept. 26 for reassembly of the bubble enclosure and completion of bi-annual maintenance.

The pool will re-open as an indoor pool on Saturday, Sept. 27.

As a reminder, the Great Mills Swimming Pool has transitioned back to fall/winter hours. The pool is open Monday through Friday from 6:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 – 8 p.m., Saturday from 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., and Sunday from 12 – 6 p.m.

Visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aquatics for more information about Great Mills Swimming Pool membership options, as well as aerobics and wellness class information.

For more information about St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks (R&P), please visit: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/recreate. For questions or assistance, contact R&P at (301) 475-4200 ext.1800 or via email to RPinfo@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Press Release from St. Mary's County.



NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

CH-53K Transports F-35 Airframe

A CH-53K heavy lift helicopter transported an inoperable F-35B Lightning II airframe from Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, Maryland to Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort, South Carolina on Aug. 27.

The King Stallion helicopter was flown by a Marine aircrew from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 461, MCAS New River, North Carolina. The F-35, known as BF-1, was the first F-35 to perform a vertical landing. It was without its mission and propulsion systems, outer wings, or additional equipment and will be used as a permanent static display at MCAS Beaufort.

"This mission's success exemplifies the professionalism, commitment, and capability that exists at HMH-461," said Commanding Officer of HMH-461, Lt. Col. Bagley. "I am incredibly proud of the team here and extremely grateful for the support and collaboration that occurred between each group, station, agency, and program office that played a role."

According to Bagley, the coordination between organizations was essential to making the mission a success.



U.S. Marines with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 461, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW), transport an F-35B Lightning II near Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, Aug. 27, 2025. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Bryan Giraldo)

"As extraordinary as it may have seemed, this was just another day for the squadron," he said.

Col. Kate Fleeger is program manager for the H-53 Heavy Lift Helicopters Program Office (PMA-261).

"The aircraft completed the lift of the 22,000-pound F-35B with ample power margin and range, underscoring how the platform provides unmatched support to joint operations," said Fleeger.

This is the second time the CH-53K has

been used to transport an F-35 that was destined for usage after required flight test activities.

"Although the helicopter only reached IOC in April 2022, the King Stallion has already been used multiple times to execute its Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel (TRAP) mission," said Fleeger. TRAP is one of the core missions of the CH-53K.

HMH-461 self-supported on this trip by using a second CH-53K from the squadron to refuel via Air-Delivered Ground Refueling (ADGR).

"The CH-53K is not merely an upgrade of the CH-53E," said Bagley, "it represents a fundamental shift in how Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadrons can enable warfighting concepts like distributed aviation operations and maritime operations in a contested environment."

"This is not the first time, nor will it be the last, that we have been called upon to complete a mission that only this aircraft can undertake," he added. "This squadron remains ready and eager for the opportunity to provide this critical capability wherever it is needed most."

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Penn Square
Hibiscus Vodka
30.99



750mL
El Mayor
Tequila Blanco
30.99



750mL
Espolon
Reposado
8.99



750mL, All Flavors
Cruzan
Rum
8.99



750mL
Montes Alpha
Carmenere
21.99



750mL
Yalumba
Organic Vignier
15.99



750mL
Georges Duboeuf
Pinot Noir Or
Chardonnay
13.99



1.75L
Taylor
Dry Sherry
12.99



750mL
Korbel Brut,
Extra Dry Or Rose
13.99



750mL
Chandon
Brut
20.99



750mL
Orin Swift Cellars
8 Years In The Desert
Red Wine
44.99



750mL
Line 39
Rose
9.49



750mL
Mount Veeder
Cabernet
Sauvignon
62.99



750mL
A to Z
Chardonnay
14.99



750mL
Justin
Chardonnay
17.99



Wine of the Month

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Wines
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Legal Notices

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

CASE NO: C18CV25000549

NAR Solutions, Inc.
c/o Steven Harding
PO Box 31700
Omaha, NE 68131
Plaintiff

vs.

MNM Renovations Corporation
U.S. Liens, LLC
Subhash Gupta
St. Mary's County, Maryland (for Maryland Annotated Code 14-1836(b)(1)(v) purposes only)
ANY AND ALL PERSONS having or claiming to have any interest in the property and premises situate, lying and being in the County of St. Mary's described on the Tax Rolls of St. Mary's County Collector of State and County Taxes for said County known as:
47336 COPELAND LN., LEXINGTON PARK, MD, 20653, District 8, described as follows:
2.00 ACRES, W/S MD RT 235, LEXINGTON PARK
and assessed to MNM RENOVATIONS CORPORATION.
Defendants

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property sold by the Collector of Taxes for St. Mary's County and the State of Maryland to the Plaintiff in this proceeding:

47336 COPELAND LN, LEXINGTON PARK, MD, 20653 in St. Mary's County, Maryland, described as:

Beginning for the same on the right hand side of a private road leading from the Three Notch Road and is bounded on the right by the property of George Spence; bounded on the left by the property of George Barnes and is bounded by the property already owned Annie S. Chase, containing two (2) acres, more or less and being more particularly described in a deed and described secondly therein, from Francis R. Chase to Annie Chase dated September 22nd, 1942 and recorded in Liber CBG No. 23, folio 520, one of the Land Records of St. Mary's County, Maryland.

and assessed to MNM RENOVATIONS CORPORATION (the "Property").

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

It is thereupon this 4th day of September, 2025, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary County, **ORDERED**, that notice be given by the insertion of a copy of this Order in some daily newspaper having general circulation in St. Mary's County once a week for three consecutive weeks, before the 2nd day of August, 2025, warning all persons interested in said Property to be and appear in this Court by the 4th day of November, 2025, and redeem the Property and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a final judgment will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the Property, and vesting in the Plaintiff title to the Property free and clear of all encumbrances.

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

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County Times
ST. MARY'S • CALVERT

Great Mills Man Sentenced for Murder of Teenager

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced Sept. 9 that Keion Steven Brooks, 27, of Great Mills was sentenced to Life plus 45 years in prison for his participation in a drive-by shooting, which killed one teenager and endangered the lives of five additional teenagers.

On Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 3:21 p.m., deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to Pegg Road in Lexington Park for a reported shooting. Deputies arrived on scene and located two male victims suffering from gunshot wounds. One victim was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Following a multi-day jury trial that concluded in November 2024, a St. Mary's County jury convicted Brooks of one count of first-degree murder, for the killing of one teenage victim, and five counts of attempted first-degree murder for the attempted killing of the five additional teenage victims.

"This sentence demonstrates our office's

commitment to aggressively prosecuting senseless gun violence resulting in the loss of innocent life," said State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling. "Although we could never make each of these victims and victims' families whole, I hope each of them can finally find peace and feel that justice has been delivered for the young man whose life was stolen and for every teenager who was targeted in this cowardly act of violence."

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Donna C. Pettersen presented the sentencing hearing on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Detective Austin Schultz and Sergeant Taylore Nauman of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office were the lead investigators.

The Honorable Joseph M. Staloni presided over the case.

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

Recreation & Parks Director to Lead National Commission

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County are proud to announce that Ray Bivens, director of the St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P), will begin his term serving as Chair of the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) on Sept. 15 at the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Annual Conference.

CAPRA is the only national accreditation body for park and recreation agencies across the United States. Comprised of an 18-member board, CAPRA provides quality assurance and improvement to accredited agencies, ensuring excellence in management, operations, and service to communities.

Bivens, a Certified Parks and Recreation Executive (CPRE) and one of 125 Fellows nationally in the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration previously served as the Secretary and Chair-Elect for the CAPRA Commission.

"Having one of our own lead CAPRA at the national level is a tremendous honor for St. Mary's County," said Commissioner President Randy Guy. "It speaks to the expertise, leadership, and commitment of our Recreation and Parks Department, and reflects the high standards our county brings to serving the community."

St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks achieved CAPRA accreditation in September 2022, placing it among only about two percent of park agencies nationwide to hold this distinction. Accreditation demonstrates that the department provides



Ray Bivens, director of the St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks

the highest level of service, backed by a culture of accountability, continuous improvement, and excellence.

"CAPRA accreditation is the gold standard for recreation and park agencies, recognizing their commitment to community engagement, planning for the future, adoption of best practices, and data-driven decision making," said Bivens. "I am honored to be elected by my peers nationally to serve in this important role and look forward to helping the program grow and implementing the updated standards adopted just last month."

Press release from St. Mary's County

Governor Announces Completion of Five Tributary Oyster Restoration Sanctuaries

St. Mary's River Project One Completed

Governor Wes Moore has announced that Maryland will formally meet its commitment to restore five oyster tributaries in the Chesapeake Bay by completing oyster restoration in the Manokin River Sanctuary on the Lower Eastern Shore. The oyster restoration projects—among the largest in the world—have been highly successful at helping bring back oyster populations, building habitat and supporting economic growth in the Chesapeake Bay.

The St. Mary's River Project, one of the five, had also been completed.

"This restoration supports our commitment to bringing the oyster population back in five rivers by 2025 and the larger effort to support the repopulation of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay, which has more than tripled in the past 20 years," said Gov. Moore. "Our success represents the best of government collaboration to systematically address a complex environmental issue with real economic impact."

Oysters are a key driver of Maryland's commercial fishing industry. Average dockside value saw a more than 300 percent increase from before restoration began, with watermen bringing an average of 475,000 bushels of oysters annually for an average dockside value of more than \$18 million annually during the previous five years. Prior to restoration beginning, Maryland watermen harvested an average of 116,000 bushels per year for an estimated dockside value of \$3.5 million annually from 2005 to 2010.

A keystone species in the Bay, oysters are ecologically important for filtering water and providing habitat for fish and other aquatic life. The oyster restoration sanctuaries are permanently closed to harvest, except on aquaculture lease sites, and are intended as areas where oysters can grow undisturbed for their many ecological benefits. With restoration sanctuaries, scientists also hope to increase the Bay's overall spawning stock of oysters and facilitate natural disease resistance.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Josh Kurtz joined federal, university, and nonprofit partners for one of the final oyster deployments in the Manokin on Tuesday, adding thousands of new oysters to mark the completion of more than a decade of successful oyster restoration efforts in Maryland.

The moment in the Manokin marked the culmination of 14 years of large-scale oyster restoration in Maryland and ensured the state would meet its Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement commitment of restoring native oyster habitat in five tributaries by 2025. Virginia restored five tributaries in its portion of the Bay as well.

"The Manokin River sanctuary is the last phase of a decade-plus investment in oyster restoration," said Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Josh Kurtz. "Now, as we wrap up restoration here, we can see how far we've come. We've been so impressed by the success in these restoration



Dots of spat, or juvenile oysters, are visible on an oyster shell taken from a holding tank at Horn Point Hatchery. Taken to restoration sanctuaries, these spat become the next generation of oysters. Photo by Joe Zimmermann/DNR

sanctuaries. These productive oyster reefs are a testament to the hard work our staff and partners have dedicated to this effort, and they show us how oysters can thrive when we support them."

The restoration effort was made possible through strong partnerships. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provided funds, scientific expertise, and monitoring. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assists with monitoring and helped build the foundation of reefs with stone, shell, and other hard substrates to better support oyster beds on Bay bottom. The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's Horn Point Lab set billions of oyster shells with spat—or juvenile oysters—to seed the newly created reefs. Nonprofits including the Oyster Recovery Partnership and Chesapeake Bay Foundation distributed those young oysters throughout the underwater sanctuaries.

The Maryland General Assembly, in 2019, permanently protected the state's oyster restoration sanctuaries from harvest, ensuring that the restored areas will serve as protected reefs and a marine refuge for generations to come. Together, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the federal government invested more than \$92 million to restore 1,300 acres of oyster reefs in Maryland.

"The Oyster Recovery Partnership is proud of the strong partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and our shared vision to revitalize

Maryland's oyster populations," said Oyster Recovery Partnership Executive Director Ward Slacum. "The completion of the Manokin River oyster sanctuary represents a historic achievement for Maryland and for oyster restoration globally. This significant milestone was made possible by the collaborative efforts of all involved partners, who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to a healthier Chesapeake Bay."

Maryland's other completed oyster restoration sanctuaries are the Little Choptank River in Dorchester County, the St. Mary's River in St. Mary's County, and Harris Creek and the Tred Avon River in Talbot County. In restoration sanctuaries, scientists are finding several promising signs of long-term oyster recovery, such as the establishment of dense three-dimensional oyster reef structure, multiple age classes of oysters, increased oyster biomass, and natural reproduction. The 2025 stock assessment, which found oysters in the Maryland waters of the Bay had increased from 2.4 to 7.6 billion in 20 years, also found that the population of oysters in the area of the first three restored sanctuaries grew by a combined total of about 700 million oysters.

The Manokin River sanctuary includes 455 acres of restored oyster reefs, more than the 441 planned acres. More than 1.39 billion hatchery set oysters have been planted in the sanctuary. The Manokin was established as a sanctuary in 2010, and designated as the fifth large-scale tributary for

restoration in June 2019. Restoration began in 2022, with the Department of Natural Resources overseeing the planning, design, and implementation of the project in close coordination with partners.

"We are proud of our key position in the partnership, producing juveniles to restore the Chesapeake Bay oyster populations," said University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Horn Point Laboratory Director Michael Sieracki.

Maryland capital funds supported the Manokin River restoration, and a NOAA grant supported larvae production. In total, as of 2024, \$21.60 million has been spent on the Manokin restoration. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District partnered in the planning of the Manokin blueprint and provided funding and construction support for reef restoration and monitoring of the Harris Creek and Tred Avon sanctuaries. NOAA will monitor the Manokin River after initial restoration is completed.

"The Baltimore District is proud to be part of the team that has contributed to large-scale oyster reef restoration efforts in Maryland and toward the Chesapeake Bay Program's goal to restore oyster reefs in 10 Chesapeake Bay tributaries by 2025," said USACE Baltimore District Commander Col. Francis Pera. "Preservation of our Bay contributes to national security by ensuring both economic and ecological vitality for those who live and work in its watershed for generations to come."

Early monitoring results from the Manokin have been encouraging. In 2024, Maryland Department of Natural Resources staff found that the natural spat set at the Manokin was high enough that the planting of hatchery-reared spat-on-shell was not needed on 90 acres of substrate constructed reefs, saving the department \$1.8 million on the restoration.

"Large-scale oyster restoration is working," said Chesapeake Bay Foundation Maryland Executive Director Allison Colden. "In Maryland, the oyster population has tripled since 2005. And we're excited that Maryland DNR has already committed to restore three additional oyster sanctuaries in the state. This event marks a momentous achievement, but also the beginning of the next phase of oyster restoration. We're eager to keep up the momentum and continue our collaborative work towards a restored oyster population in Chesapeake Bay."

Maryland is already working on the next phase of oyster restoration. DNR has selected the next three sites for large-scale oyster restoration in Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay, in Herring Bay, the Nanticoke River, and Hoopers Strait sanctuaries. The department is also currently planting at sites in Eastern Bay, which is a multi-use regional project that supports planting in protected sanctuaries, aquaculture lease sites, and fishery harvest areas.

Press Release from MD DNR



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Hearing Held on Day-Care Centers in Critical Area

Requested by All Saints Episcopal Church



All Saints Parish Hall

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It was all support when the Commissioners of St. Mary's County held a public hearing on a proposal to allow "Day Care, Non-Medical" within the Critical Area.

According to a memo to the commissioners from the Director of the Department of Land Use & Growth Management Jessica Andritz, "The Vestry of All Saints Church in Avenue has petitioned for a text amendment to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. All Saints would like to establish a Head Start preschool program in an existing structure at 21656 Oakley Road. The property is zoned Rural Preservation District ("RPD") and lies fully within the Resource Conservation Area ("RCA") Overlay District. Current zoning regulations allow a program such as Head Start in the RPD, but not in the RCA."

Attorney Chris Longmore, representing the church, said, "All Saints is hoping to open up a Head Start program in this area of the county where they have their building already located. It's a great facility for it. They have a lot of interest from that program to do so."

Longmore said the building is just on the edge of the critical area overlay.

The attorney added, "We also have to be careful not to have unintended consequences because I know that's always a consideration of this board with any text amendment to the zoning ordinance. So, what we're proposing is to allow this type of use...in an existing building. We think that that balances the needs of my client and hopefully others that can fulfill this type of service throughout the county."

At the public hearing, Joan Sullivan Cowan said, "A lot of churches sit empty Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and here's a church who says, let's have our building be something to help the children in our neighborhood. And

God bless them. It's the third church that I know of who's done stood up and said, use our building to do something for the youth in our county. We have God's Church of Refuge in Lexington Park where it's either three or four years...they've had a Boys and Girls Club for at least 25 students after school during school year to have a program for them. And now we have the United Methodist Church also in Lexington Park working to get a program that's...called Building Bridges. And she has right now 60 some kids and has the potential of 90."

Troy Cowan said, "It's all about the kids and anytime a church congregation chooses to take into its ministry an organization that takes care of kids before school, after school, school holidays, it's to the county's benefit. And I would just like to encourage the county commissioners and all the county administration to do anything that you can to encourage this reapplication of facilities to help fulfill our childcare needs."

All Saints Priest-in-Charge The Reverend Greg Syler said, "I'm joined by members of the congregation and vestry of All Saints. And we're really grateful for your consideration of this amendment. Not only would it help All Saints better serve its community, but we're also specifically talking about the All Saints Parish Hall in Avenue, which is about two miles from the church itself, built in 1915 as a big old dance hall for the Seventh District. We won't be doing dances there, we hope, but we'll be helping impact the kids. The Head Start is very much interested in this program, and we were working with them to find a location. So the All Saints Vestry, the All Saints congregation and our partners and friends in the Seventh District are very enthusiastic about this, we're very grateful for your support."

The commissioners will keep the record open for seven days before making a decision.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

State Highway Announces Funding for MD 5

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the State Highway Administration have announced \$32.4 million in the department's draft Fiscal Year 2025-31 Consolidated Transportation Plan for safety and accessibility improvements on MD 5 (Point Lookout Road) in St. Mary's County.

"Improving safety and mobility for all roadway users – whether they travel by car, bicycle or on foot – is at the heart of MDOT's commitment to communities," said Acting Maryland Transportation Secretary Samantha J. Biddle. "The Great Mills area continues to experience substantial residential and commercial growth, and this project will help accommodate that growth and enhance safety for residents and workers who use MD 5 every day."

The MD 5 project has been identified as a priority for the county. It is aided by a \$5 million federal contribution secured by U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD-5th District) and the Maryland Congressional Delegation. Utility relocations are underway and construction is expected to begin in 2027.

"Every element of our transportation network is critical to ensure every Marylander has access to work, school, shopping, health care, recreation and other opportunities that

enhance our quality of life," said State Highway Administrator Will Pines, who joined state and local officials Wednesday at an event on MD 5 at the bridge over St. Mary's River. "The MD 5 Great Mills project is a great example of how we can advance those goals and support the state's economic vitality."

Improvements will enhance safety and operations along a .7-mile section of MD 5 with upgrades from MD 471 (Indian Bridge Road) to MD 246 (Great Mills Road), including:

- replacement of the St. Mary's River bridge, which is 112 years old and was last reconstructed in the 1950s;
- widening and resurfacing MD 5 from a two-lane road to a four-lane undivided roadway;
- addition of a 5-foot-wide bicycle lane;
- addition of 5-foot-wide sidewalks along both sides of MD 5 along with Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant ramps;
- installation of pedestrian crossing signals and
- installation of drainage improvements and new stormwater management facilities.

Press Release from SHA

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They Said Yes!

Congratulations to the happy couples who applied for marriage licenses in St. Mary's County during the month of August. Best wishes to all!

Reiker Quigley Dean, 27, Lusby, MD
Ashton Alean Osborne, 27, Lusby, MD

Courtney Annfrances Young, 25, Annandale, VA
Andrew Harrison Lefcourt, 24, Annandale, VA

Amber Marie Winslow, 31, Hollywood, MD
Christopher James Kinnally, 27, California, MD

Crystal Lashawn Janey, 43, Valley Lee, MD
Jonathan Litee Chase, Sr., 51, Valley Lee, MD

Alexander Lee Merriweather, 34, Lexington Park, MD
Sunah Sia Hallie, 35, Lexington Park, MD

Sarah Elizabeth Skane, 24, Saint Inigoes, MD
Jon Alexander Kavanagh, 25, Saint Inigoes, MD

Jeffrey Alexander Dixon, 55, Mechanicsville, MD
Rian Cole Duke, 44, Mechanicsville, MD

Sofia Paola Anaya-Martinez, 18, College Park, MD
Dominick Francis Milburn, 20, Camp Lejeune, NC

Cynthia Marie Norris, 27, Hollywood, MD
Justin Clarence Pratt, 39, Hollywood, MD

Christina Lynn Villa, 37, Leonardtown, MD
Justin Andrew Kendall, 35, Leonardtown, MD

Anne Genevieve James, 69, Leonardtown, MD
Stanley Paul Payne, 72, Leonardtown, MD

Gage Samuel Stoops, 28, Lexington Park, MD
Erin Page Mcqueen, 28, Lexington Park, MD

Logan Raymond Andrew Woods, 26, Solomons, MD
Alison Grace Timmermann, 22, California, MD

Julie Lynn Cox, 47, Hollywood, MD
Brad Alan Thordson, 52, Hollywood, MD

Isaac Blake Kerig, 19, Goose Creek, SC
Nicole Ryanne Cook, 19, Lexington Park, MD

Samantha Elizabeth Guy, 22, Mechanicsville, MD
Patrick Charles Russell, 26, Avenue, MD

Troy Jett Walter, 24, Leonardtown, MD
Asia Breanna Allen, 23, Leonardtown, MD

Brittany Lyn Coleman, 32, Mechanicsville, MD
Brian Joseph Kontra, 34, Mechanicsville, MD

Dana Marie Priest, 42, Callaway, MD
Eric Lee Hernandez, 47, Hollywood, MD

Timothy John Green, 28, Callaway, MD
Rachel Emma Dooley, 27, Hollywood, MD

Kristi Anne Tewell, 35, La Plata, MD
Jerome Edward Laceyfield, 37, La Plata, MD

Courtney Lynn Hume, 26, Waldorf, MD
Tommy Paul Edward Windsor, 30, Upper Marlboro, MD

Judith Rose Macconnell, 26, Great Mills, MD
Hunter Andrew West, 24, Oak Harbor, WA

Carolyne Grace Graham, 33, Mechanicsville, MD
Carl Michael Petroff, Jr., 41, Mechanicsville, MD

Gloria Frances Forney, 39, Prince Frederick, MD
Brien Thomas Gormley, 48, Prince Frederick, MD

Harry Linton Hodgkins, Jr., 82, Charlotte Hall, MD
Patricia Melvanice Dixon, 56, Charlotte Hall, MD

Gary Lee Weaver, Jr., 37, Mechanicsville, MD
Lisa Marie Cratty, 34, Mechanicsville, MD

Katelyn Marianne Young, 29, Mechanicsville, MD
Christopher Torres, 33, Waldorf, MD

Jerrold Lee Janschek, Jr., 29, Hughesville, MD
Katelynn Nicole Stirling, 25, Mechanicsville, MD

Kaitlyn Cooper Farran, 31, Scarsdale, NY
Ray Kareem Tammam, 31, Scarsdale, NY

Joshua Ryan Burch, 34, California, MD
Shannah Reed Wagner, 31, California, MD

Brooke Ann Wagner, 22, Mechanicsville, MD
Daniel Tyler Fitzgerald, 24, Mechanicsville, MD

Briley Lynn Haggard, 20, Mechanicsville, MD
Lara Alexis Welch, 23, Hughesville, MD

Colin Michael Dziedzic, 24, Mechanicsville, MD
Brittany Lynn Fields, 23, Mechanicsville, MD

Charles Warren Fisher, 27, Lexington Park, MD
Emily Frances Tardell, 26, Lexington Park, MD

Suzanne Beril Solberg, 35, Abell, MD
James Michael Mcknight, 35, Abell, MD

Madison Marie Ricci, 26, Bushwood, MD
Dominic Anthony Fontana, 25, Bushwood, MD

Brett Alan Buckmaster, 29, Leonardtown, MD
Kimberly Ann Moreland, 35, Leonardtown, MD

Emily Lauren Knott, 28, Graham, NC
James Edward Ripple, 28, Graham, NC

Olivia Assunta Ledbetter, 24, Alexandria, VA
Andrew Charles Heider, 24, Alexandria, VA

Michael James Krilich, 37, New York, NY
Shannon Nicole Keith, 37, New York, NY



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Former Commissioner Files to Return to Office

John O'Connor Files in District 3

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Former county commissioner John O'Connor, who served two terms from 2014 to 2022, has filed to return to the office he held as District 3 commissioner.

O'Connor, a Republican, would be running for the seat currently held by Mike Alderson, who has not yet filed for reelection.

In a Facebook posting on Sept. 4, O'Connor wrote: "Today I officially filed for County Commissioner in District 3, St. Mary's. This isn't just about an election; it's about accountability, transparency, and ensuring St. Mary's County and District 3 have an elected representative who truly works for the people of Charlotte Hall, Mechanicsville, Golden Beach, the Seventh District, and every neighborhood in between and across our county."

"For the last few years, we've seen a troubling pattern from our county-level officials that threatens our rural identity and legacy. Backroom deals, spot zoning, and development decisions driven by big corporations have overshadowed the community's voice, especially in the North End of St. Mary's."

"On top of that, your income tax has been treated like a bouncing ball, fluctuating while officials push to urbanize a rural county to drive revenues instead of preserving what we already have. That is not the kind of representation St. Mary's County and District 3 deserve. It's bad enough this state is robbing you blind with tax increases; you shouldn't have to worry about it at home."

"My record as your Commissioner from 2014 to 2022 speaks for itself. I wasn't afraid to call out nonsense and do the work that needed to be done. I fought to deliver results without burdening you with excessive tax increases and reckless borrowing. We need to get back to basics, serving the values of our community, not special interest groups or simply those with the loudest voice in the room."

"Our community's strengths are clear: excellent schools, dedicated first responders, outstanding law enforcement officers, veterans, small businesses, and volunteers who keep St. Mary's thriving. I've stood shoulder to shoulder with many of you as a County Commissioner, Youth sports coach,



John O'Connor

a small business owner, Neighbor, Veteran, Husband, Father, Brother, and Son, and I know what's possible when we are given a fair shot, the truth, and the resources we need. I have seen what real success looks like as an elected representative, and we can get there again.

"As your Commissioner, I will again work tirelessly to preserve our rural character and ensure that growth respects our legacy. I will continue to refrain from engaging in backroom deals on development, and I will bring complete transparency to zoning while protecting our rural legacy through responsible growth and planning."

I will continue to support local youth sports and programming, invest taxpayer dollars wisely in roads, public safety, and education, rather than in political games, and work to stop reckless borrowing for pet projects and unnecessary infrastructure. I will demand accountability from government officials and my colleagues so that they serve the people, not themselves, not special interests, and not their own personal political agendas, with the same level of accountability I expect to be held to by the people whom I hope to represent again.

With term limits shaking up this coming election and two seats becoming vacant, we finally have a chance to make real change. St. Mary's County and District 3 deserve better, and together, we can deliver it."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

THE Wentworth Weekly

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Six Items in Proposed Legislative Package

Hewitt: Use Revolving Fund for Hollywood VRS

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Six proposed pieces of legislation are included in the package under consideration to present this year to the county legislative delegation. The proposals were unveiled to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on Sept. 9 by Deputy County Attorney John Sterling Houser. Two were requested by individuals and four by either a county commissioner or other parts of county government.

Houser explained, "Every year the commissioners solicit proposals for new legislative agenda items that we may consider asking the delegation to pursue in the coming legislative session. We put out a public advertisement to the community to that effect, which went out on or about July 29 of this year. The submissions closed on Aug. 29 at 5 p.m."

The commissioners' vote on which proposals, if any, will be part of the legislative package this year will be on Sept. 23.

The first item elicited the most comment and came from Deputy County Administrator David Yingling.

Houser said it's "a proposal to amend the limit on the borrowing authority we have on for firefighting equipment and facilities revolving loan fund."

Houser said Yingling presented the proposal a year ago but there wasn't a press-

ing need at the time for the extra authority beyond the current \$5 million.

Houser explained that the \$5 million represents a cap on how much can be loaned out from the fund that is raised through the sale of general obligations bonds, "which further research by the Finance Department determines we haven't historically used a lot of our existing \$5 million borrowing authority. We have about \$4.7 million still left."

He added, "There's no limit on what funds we could put into it that are raised from sources other than sales of general obligation funds."

Houser observed, "It doesn't really make sense to use bond funds for this because we are charging our volunteer fire departments a half a percent interest, but we're paying back the bond funds three or 4 percent interest."

But the discussion led Commissioner Mike Hewitt to observe, "The county currently has a policy where they loan the money at 0.5 percent." He asked, "The revolving loan fund that we currently use to fund the 0.5 percent to whether it be fire departments, rescue squads, whatever we do, where's that money originate from?"

He was told it came from other funding authority, including fund balance.

Hewitt said, "We've discussed revolving loan funds before and I'm now talking with rescue squads and fire departments. They have indicated they would like to take

advantage of that 0.5 percent. Recently we did a look into what's available and what this money can be used for. And we found that it can be used along with apparatus replacement or purchase, it can also be used for construction."

Hewitt was told that the revolving loan fund was currently at \$3.1 million.

"If a fund balance exists later this year, in which case we could adjust it to help out people who need help. Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad would be a primary example in my opinion. They want to do a renovation that is badly needed to that building. They're out looking for commercial money, which is in the neighborhood of six to 7 percent. If we can do it at 0.5 percent, it would obviously save them a lot of money in interest payment."

The Hollywood project is estimated at more than \$3 million.

Hewitt said the volunteer tax limit has been reached for all of the departments except Bay District, which is going to make a request this year.

So, Hewitt suggested raising the revolving fund cap from \$5 million to something like \$10 million might make sense.

That issue presumably will be discussed at the Sept. 23 meeting.

The other legislative proposals are:

- Exempt Public Uses from Capital Contribution Charges for EDU Allocation.



Commissioner Mike Hewitt

- Prohibition of Roadside Solicitations and Donations in St. Mary's County
- METCOM - To Amend Ch. 113 of the Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County.
- Amend Ch. 267 of the St. Mary's County Code - Building Excise Tax.
- Amend Admissions and Amusement Tax to Exempt Family Oriented Recreation and Entertainment Facilities.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Blue Angels to Headline Pax Air Show 2026

The Blue Angels, the United States Navy's premier flight demonstration team, known worldwide for drawing crowds of tens-of-thousands to see first-hand their precision and thrilling aerial maneuvers, are scheduled to perform at the NAS Patuxent River Air Show June 20-21, 2026. The event will be held at NAS Patuxent River and is free and open to the public.

Founded in 1946, the Blue Angels fly advanced F/A-18 Super Hornets at supersonic speeds, performing complex combat maneuvers in tight formations just feet apart. The Blue Angels serve as ambassadors for the Navy and Marine Corps, inspiring patriotism and educating the public on careers in naval aviation.

"The air show is more than an exhibition of aerial displays; it is a community wide event for the Navy to invite the public to see, and feel the air power, first-hand on what goes on at Pax River on a regular basis," explains Jeff Sias, NAS Patuxent River Fleet and Family Readiness Director. "We're fortunate Naval Air Station Patuxent River has great working relationships with our local communities and business partners, and can host the Blues and other military and civilian aircraft and accomplished pilots."

To make such an event possible, corporate partners play a critical role. Corporate partners help cover costs and strengthen the connection between the military and civilian communities.



"We appreciate and value corporate partners, from health care providers to car dealers, sunglasses brands, to a large variety of retailers and service providers. Air shows provide the perfect venue for market exposure and direct client contact," notes Doug Arnett, NAS Patuxent River MWR Director.

"Every sponsor becomes part of a proud

tradition, connecting their brand with the bravery and skill of military might," added Sias. "Collaborative business partners ensure the air show not only dazzles spectators but also strengthens the bonds between the military, corporations, and the public. Without sponsors, many essential amenities of air show would simply not be possible."

For businesses interested in becoming part of the NAS Patuxent River Air Show, contact PaxRiver-AirShow-Marketing@us.navy.mil or contact Guillian Hunt at (804) 347-3889 or guillian.d.hunt.naf@us.navy.mil.

Press Release from NAS Patuxent River

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NAS PATUXENT RIVER COMMANDING OFFICER CAPT. MARK ZEMATIS ON 9/11



LOCAL 5
Former commissioner files for re-election



COMMUNITY 14
St. Mary's City to host ceremony for reinterment of founders



ON THE COVER
Blue Angels to return to Pax River Air Show

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, SEP 11	FRI, SEP 12	SAT, SEP 13	SUN, SEP 14
Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 57°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 58°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 80° Lo: 60°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 83° Lo: 62°
MON, SEP 15	TUE, SEP 16	WED, SEP 17	THU, SEP 18
Mostly Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 61°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 58°	Sunny Hi: 75° Lo: 60°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 78° Lo: 62°



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**Legislative Proposal
 Package Unveiled**

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**BLUE ANGELS
 TO RETURN TO ST. MARY'S**

