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County Times

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025

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CSM ENROLLMENT SEES

FIVE-YEAR HIGH

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“DECISIONS MADE WITHIN THESE WALLS HAVE SHAPED CALVERT COUNTY FOR GENERATIONS.”

COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT EARL “BUDDY” HANCE ON THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE IN PRINCE FREDERICK



LOCAL 6
Commissioners hold final meeting in historic courthouse



COMMUNITY 7
Hospice announces new partnership



ON THE COVER
College of Southern Maryland sees largest fall enrollment in five years

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 30	FRI, OCT 31	SAT, NOV 1	SUN, NOV 2
AM Thunderstorms Hi: 67° Lo: 49°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 62° Lo: 44°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 63° Lo: 43°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 61° Lo: 43°
MON, NOV 3	TUE, NOV 4	WED, NOV 5	THU, NOV 6
Mostly Sunny Hi: 64° Lo: 46°	Sunny Hi: 62° Lo: 41°	Sunny Hi: 63° Lo: 43°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 41°



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VETERANS DAY SALUTE

In honor of Veterans Day 2025, The County Times invites you to submit the names of family members who have served in the Armed Forces. The names will be published in The County Times Veterans Day Salute on November 6th.

Email names to timescalendar@countytimes.net no later than Monday, November 3rd.

Local businesses are also invited to join in our salute to local veterans. Call us at 301-373-2131 for details

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Calvert Commissioners Close Historic Courthouse Era, Advance 2026 Legislative Agenda, Weigh Future Land Preservation

By Marcia Hart
Contributing Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners met Tuesday for the final time in the historic courthouse in Prince Frederick – the county’s seat of government since the 1730s. The session marked the end of nearly three centuries of public decision-making before the board relocates to the new Calvert County Administration Building next month.

Commission President Earl “Buddy” Hance reflected on the courthouse’s legacy, noting that “decisions made within these walls have shaped Calvert County for generations.” The new facility, he added, will unite county departments, improve efficiency and make government more accessible to residents.

Commissioners Honor Election

Workers, Veterans, and Entrepreneurs

The meeting opened with proclamations recognizing Election Hero Day, Operation Green Light and National Veterans Small Business Week.

Election Hero Day honored local election officials for ensuring secure voting. Operation Green Light, observed Nov. 4–11, calls on residents to illuminate homes and businesses in green to show support for

veterans and military families. National Veterans Small Business Week, held Nov. 3–7, highlighted veteran entrepreneurs and the county’s “Salute to Business” initiative led by Economic Development.

Veteran business leaders praised the county’s outreach and support for the veteran community. Veterans Day ceremonies are scheduled for 10:15 a.m. at Veterans Green and 1 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park.

Compensation Adjustments Approved

Following recommendations from the Compensation Review Board, commissioners approved salary and benefit updates for several elected offices effective next term:

- Treasurer: \$115,000 annually; now full-time.
- Commission President: \$58,000; Commissioners: \$53,000 with retiree health coverage after 10 years.
- Board of Education Chair: \$8,500; Members: \$7,500.

Officials said the adjustments align with neighboring jurisdictions and reflect workload and responsibility.

2026 Legislative Priorities

County Attorney John Norris presented 10 proposed items for the 2026 Maryland General Assembly session. Commissioners

advanced the majority, focusing on emergency services, infrastructure, and economic growth.

Key legislative highlights:

- Emergency Services Tax Framework – Creates a stable funding model for volunteer fire, rescue and EMS operations.
- Bond Authority Expansion – Enables long-term financing for major infrastructure projects.
- Technology Investment Incentives – Attracts high-tech and defense industry employers.
- LOSAP Benefit Enhancement – Adds a \$4,000 death benefit and burial allowance for volunteer first responders.
- Accessory Dwelling Unit Fee Relief – Defers impact fees for secondary dwellings serving aging or disabled family members.

Other proposals include tightening short-term rental enforcement, authorizing 20-year service contracts, and updating the name of Calvert Health Medical Center in state code. A separate measure on tobacco-barn preservation tax credits also advanced.

Board of Health Briefing

The commissioners also received updates on chronic diseases affecting residents from the Board of Health. Highlights included:

- Diabetes: 52 deaths in 2023, above state and national averages. Roughly 10% of adults have diabetes, driven by obesity and diet. Programs such as PreventT2 and Living Well with Diabetes have helped participants lose weight and reduce blood-sugar levels.
- Cardiovascular Disease: 225 deaths last year; one-third of adults have high blood pressure or obesity. The Healthy Heart Ambassador Program provides blood-pressure monitors and coaching.
- Cancer: 217 deaths; colon-cancer rates declining, lung and breast cancers stable. Health teams focus on screening, early detection and tobacco cessation through state and community partnerships.

Officials stressed continued funding and collaboration is needed to address chronic disease and promote prevention.

Rural Legacy Program Expansion

A Planning & Zoning work session outlined possible expansions of Calvert’s Rural Legacy Areas (RLAs) to preserve farmland, forests and open space. The county’s two existing RLAs – North Calvert and Calvert Creeks – span over 48,000 acres, with more than half already preserved.

Some properties may qualify for Department of Defense REPI funds, which support conservation near NAS Patuxent River and the Naval Research Laboratory.

Expanding RLAs into Tier 3 zones could trigger reclassification to Tier 4 under state law, limiting development. Staff are consulting with state agencies to clarify requirements before public outreach.

Four expansion options range from a modest Tier 4-only boundary to a 31,000-acre proposal reaching the Fishing Creek watershed, which would require review by Chesapeake Beach.

A public meeting is planned for Nov. 17, with a potential board briefing in December. Given the timeline, officials may delay the final application until 2027 to ensure broad community engagement. Commissioners requested improved maps, parcel data, and inclusion of landowners and preservation experts at future sessions.

Public Comment and Closing Reflections

Residents in attendance encouraged the board to balance preservation with property rights and praised the county’s compassion following recent community challenges. Commissioners shared updates on the Veterans Ministry opening, farm tour and Neal Estate shoreline project, and expressed concern for residents stranded in Jamaica during Hurricane Melissa.

As the meeting adjourned, Hance commended county staff for a smooth transition to the new administration building, which will feature a historical mural and county map floor design.

“As we move forward to a new home for the county government,” Hance said, “we honor our past and continue the work of shaping Calvert’s future.”



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CSM Fall Enrollment Reaches Five-Year High



This year, the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) welcomed its largest fall enrollment class in five years, as students make new investments in their future success.

CSM saw an enrollment increase of 7.7 percent compared to fall 2024, with 5,192 total students now enrolled. This is the third consecutive year fall enrollment has grown, and the first term CSM has reached pre-pandemic enrollment.

“At CSM we are committed to creating new pathways to success and opportunities for students to build brighter futures,” said CSM President Dr. Yolanda Wilson. “Seeing our enrollment grow is an encouraging sign that students in Southern Maryland are investing in themselves and their futures.”

In 2024 CSM launched its five-year strategic plan, “Built for Success,” with one of the key focus areas to increase access for students to pursue higher education. This plan is guiding CSM to reach new students, reflected in the fall enrollment with 24 percent of students enrolling as first-time undergraduate students.

This increase also has a significant impact on the region. As one of the primary sources of higher education in Southern Maryland, CSM serves as a community partner contributing through economic investments and a steady supply of skilled workers who are filling gaps in the local workforce.

According to the CSM Lightcast Report, a recent economic and investment analysis, CSM students who relocate to Southern Maryland or stay in the area to attend the college contributed \$6.4 million in income to the Southern Maryland economy during FY2022-2023. During that time, alumni working in the region also added more than \$223 million in income.

Additionally, the report shows that earning an associate’s degree from CSM can increase graduates’ average annual earnings by approximately \$8,700 compared to those with a high school diploma.

As part of its “Built for Success” strategic plan, CSM is working to build student momentum through increased student engagement and strengthening academic advising and student support services.

Creating opportunities for students to see the finish line can encourage retention and

help students earn their degrees, increase their earnings, and make a positive impact on the local economy.

Fall enrollment at CSM is reflecting a larger national trend of students choosing community colleges to build their future. Data from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center shows that enrollment across all institutional sectors, including two-year, four-year, and graduate institutions, increased during the 2024-2025 school year, with community colleges seeing the largest growth percentage of more than 5 percent.

As an important community partner, CSM increases student mobility to fill critical needs in the workforce. This is another focus of the “Built for Success” strategic plan, to guide students towards graduation and future careers through increased transfer opportunities and workforce partnerships, and advanced STEM curriculum to fulfill regional needs.

The Lightcast Report shows that this partnership not only benefits students, but also taxpayers across the region. In FY2022-2023, CSM added tax revenue of nearly \$48 million from students’ higher lifetime earnings and increased business output, an increase from the more than \$42 million in taxpayer dollars CSM received. This means for every dollar spent, taxpayers get back an average of 2.6 percent.

Additionally, by investing in students, CSM provided the state with social savings of more than \$16 million in costs related to health care, the judicial system, and income assistance including reduced welfare and unemployment claims.

According to the Lightcast Report, “CSM enriches the lives of students by raising their lifetime earnings and helping them achieve their individual potential. CSM benefits society as a whole in Maryland by creating a more prosperous economy and generating a variety of savings through the improved lifestyles of students.”

The “Built for Success” strategic plan is now in its second year. CSM remains committed to following this plan to expand access, enhance momentum, and foster economic and social mobility for students.

Press release from CSM

Opioid Restitution Fund Survey Available Through Nov. 14

The Calvert County Department of Community Resources invites residents and local stakeholders to participate in a community survey open from Oct. 27 through Nov. 14. The survey will help guide how Calvert County invests funding from the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF) to support prevention, treatment and recovery initiatives.

The survey takes only a few minutes to complete and is open to all Calvert County residents. To participate, or learn more about the ORF, visit CalvertCountyMd.gov/ORF.

The Opioid Restitution Fund provides local jurisdictions with state-allocated funding to address the ongoing impacts of the opioid crisis. These funds are intended to expand access to behavioral health services, support individuals and families affected by substance use, and strengthen local prevention and education programs. The Department of Community Resources is developing a plan to allocate these funds and is seeking public input to inform local priorities for current and future funding cycles.

“This funding is an important opportunity to strengthen Calvert County’s prevention, treatment and recovery network,” said Jennifer Moreland, director of the Department of Community Resources. “Community input will help us ensure that these resources are used effectively to make a lasting impact.”

The brief survey is confidential. Responses will help guide a local investment strategy that prioritizes equity, impact and long-term sustainability. Funding will be distributed through a competitive application process, followed by an annual review to ensure transparency and accountability.

For more information, contact the Calvert County Department of Community Resources at 410-535-1600, ext. 8803, or email Community.Resources@calvertcountymd.gov.

Press release from Calvert County Government



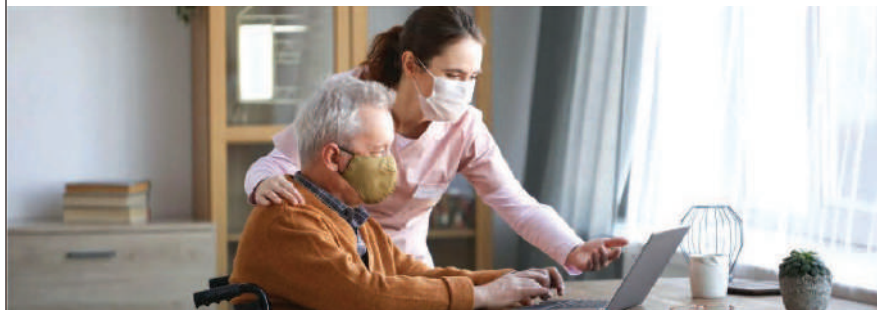
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Calvert County Government will be responsible and accountable to all citizens of Calvert County; provide high quality, effective and efficient services; preserve Calvert County's environment, heritage and rural character; foster opportunities for responsible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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and subject to change. Watch here:
YouTube | Meetings on Demand | Comcast channel 99 or 1070 HD

Board of County Commissioners Meeting

Next meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025, 10 a.m.
Commissioners' Hearing Room, 150 Main Street, Prince Frederick

Boards and Commissions Meetings

Meetings are held via Teams unless otherwise noted.
Meeting IDs and passwords are available at calvertcountymd.gov.

Board of Appeals Hearing

Nov. 6, 2025, 9 a.m.
175 Main Street 2nd Floor, Prince Frederick



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Whether you're looking for local events and activities, community resources or the top five things happening in county government, there's a newsletter for you:

Calvert Business Bulletin – News from Economic Development

Calvert Currents – Updates from the County Commissioners

Caregiver Connections – Resources from the Office on Aging

Fresh Finds – Agricultural events and updates

Planning Perspective – News from Planning & Zoning

The Connection – Senior events and activities

Tidings – Local events and things to do

Veterans Affairs Commission – Veteran news and updates



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Throughout October, Calvert County Government will be moving into the new Calvert Administration Building (CAB).

The CAB is currently open to the public by appointment only.



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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of October 13, 2025 – October 19, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,248 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 64
- Disorderly: 17
- Domestic: 21
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 47
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 1081
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 19
- Traffic Complaints: 62
- Traffic Stops: 458
- 911 Hang Ups: 52
- ARRESTS: 27

Theft: 25-85223 On October 13, 2025, DFC Claggett responded to the 3100 block of Jones Drive in Dunkirk for a reported theft. The complainant advised that a green "Cast King" backpack containing several fishing lures was stolen from the Ferry Landing Trail. The estimated value of the

stolen property is \$400.

Theft: 25-86348 On October 16, 2025, Deputy MacWilliams responded to the 8100 block of Moffat Run in Chesapeake Beach for the report of a theft. The complainant advised that an unknown suspect(s) stole the front registration plate from the victim's vehicle. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$100.



Jeremiah Antonio Outterbridge

Theft: 25-86116 On October 16, 2025, at approximately 7:57 a.m., DFC T. Bowen received a report that a stolen vehicle had entered Calvert County and was located parked at the Safeway in Dunkirk. Further investigation revealed the vehicle's license plate

was reported stolen through the Baltimore City Police Department. The driver, identified as **Jeremiah Antonio Outterbridge**, 19 of Upper Marlboro, was located inside the store and taken into custody without incident. Outterbridge was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Theft: Less than \$100.

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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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will conduct a public meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., located at the Calvert Marine Museum's Waterfront Lounge, located at 14200 Solomons Island Rd. S., Solomons, MD 20688. The purpose is to discuss a proposed amendment to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) for the Areawide Congestion Management Project, which reflects a shift in funding and the addition of a new project phase, and review the Public Participation Plan Update with changes to the public notice period and improved readability of the Plan. The agenda can be viewed at <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

The Meeting ID is 881 5571 1494, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88155711494>

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

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before Friday, November 14, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov. All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization TAC at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

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

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

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO) Council will conduct a public meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Calvert Marine Museum's Waterfront Lounge, located at 14200 Solomons Island Rd. S., Solomons, MD 20688. The purpose is to discuss the proposed amendments to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) to the MD 5 Great Mills Study Project, which reflects an increase in funds and changes in funding sources, changes to the Areawide Congestion Management Project, which reflects a shift in funding and the addition of a new project phase, and review the Public Participation Plan Update with changes to the public notice period and improved readability of the Plan. The agenda can be viewed at <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

The Meeting ID is 430 427 6617, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4304276617?omn=83110085666>

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

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before Friday, November 14, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov. All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization Council at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

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Hospice Partners to Support Aging Community



Brian Hahn, Partners In Care of Maryland, Inc., Chair of the Board of Directors and Becky Miller, Hospice of the Chesapeake President and CEO, pose for a photograph at the Partners In Care, Maryland, Inc., offices in Pasadena, Maryland. Courtesy photo.

Hospice of the Chesapeake announces that Partners In Care of Maryland, Inc., has officially joined its family of services under a newly formed umbrella organization, Chesapeake Health Partners.

This incorporation marks a significant milestone in the organizations' shared mission to serve Maryland's aging population with compassion, dignity and connection.

Becky Miller, President and CEO of Hospice of the Chesapeake said that thousands of Americans turn 65 every day. By 2030, nearly one in four Marylanders will be 65 or older. "That's not just a statistic, it's a call to action," Miller said. "By coming together, we can ensure that older adults in our community continue to receive the care, support and connection they need to thrive."

As Maryland's largest independent non-profit hospice organization, Hospice of the Chesapeake has been a trusted resource for individuals and families facing serious illness, helping them live each day with intention and peace. Partners In Care, a Maryland-based nonprofit, has built its legacy on helping older adults remain independent and engaged through its signature Service Exchange model where members help one another with transportation, handyman services, social connection and more.

Under Chesapeake Health Partners, Hospice of the Chesapeake and Partners In Care of Maryland, Inc., will work together to expand their reach and impact across the

region. This collaboration isn't simply about gaining efficiencies; it's about amplifying each organization's ability to serve.

"Together, we can build a stronger safety net for older adults, one that keeps people in their homes, connected to their neighbors and supported through every stage of aging and illness," said Brian Hahn, Partners In Care of Maryland, Inc., Chair of the Board of Directors. Partners In Care of Maryland, Inc., will retain its name, mission and volunteer-driven programs, ensuring continuity for members, volunteers and staff.

Both organizations remain committed to their shared mission of compassion, dignity and community. Volunteers and staff will continue to play an essential role in delivering services that help older adults remain active and independent.

By combining resources, Hospice of the Chesapeake and Partners In Care can continue to innovate, adapt and meet the growing needs of Maryland's aging population.

"This is about hope, growth and community," Miller said. "We're honoring our roots while embracing new possibilities. Together as Chesapeake Health Partners, we're committed to helping Marylanders age safely and independently in their own homes, supported by our expert care, resources and community connections."

Press Release from Hospice of the Chesapeake

LSM Executive Program Studies Economic Development in Southern Maryland

The Leadership Southern Maryland (LSM) Executive Program Class of 2025 met with regional economic and workforce development leaders at the Chesapeake Hills Golf Course Clubhouse in Lusby, Md., Oct. 8 to learn about Southern Maryland's efforts to attract businesses, create jobs, build and retain workforce talent and grow the region's economy.

Participants engaged in a day of honest conversations among economic development and planning directors from Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties about the realities of economic development in their jurisdictions and regionally. The class also learned about workforce development initiatives underway with the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, The Patuxent Partnership, College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Continuing Education and Workforce Development and Workforce Center and reflected on the economic impact of Southern Maryland's nonprofit organizations.

One of many highlights of the day was a robust discussion surrounding efforts to promote an entrepreneurial ecosystem in Southern Maryland with Maryland Deputy Secretary of Commerce Stephen Rice; Justin Ferguson of the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO); Maryland Small Business Development Center Southern Region Director James Vasquez; and Jordan R&D President and



Executives participating in Leadership Southern Maryland discuss entrepreneurship opportunities and challenges with a panel of subject matter experts. Panel, left to right: Brian Jordan, Jordan R&D; Justin Ferguson TEDCO; James Vasquez, Maryland Small Business Development Center Southern Region; Stephen Rice, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce, Emily Lacey, St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development

Co-Founder Brian Jordan.

A centerpiece of the session was the opportunity for class participants to "Be an Economic Developer for the Day," by collaborating with others to solve real Southern Maryland economic development challenges pertaining to infrastructure repurpose/investments, diversification through the blue (coastal/maritime) economy, and building a skilled workforce pipeline to support and scale advanced manufacturing in our region.

"The Economic and Workforce Development Session is an eye-opening and productive day for our Executive Program participants," explained LSM Executive Director Dr. Sybol Anderson. "We bring together the regional leaders and innovators for open conversations and recommendations about ways we can collectively make Southern Maryland a great place to live and work, and every year we are encouraged by the thought-partnering in the room."

Leadership Southern Maryland's flagship

Executive Program is an interactive and life-enriching nine-month, tuition-based "behind-the-scenes" experience designed to enhance the collaborative abilities of our region's top senior professionals. LSM welcomes mid-to senior-level executives representing diverse geographic locations, industries, professions, ethnicities, genders, and other backgrounds who are committed to addressing the community needs of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties

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LUMBER

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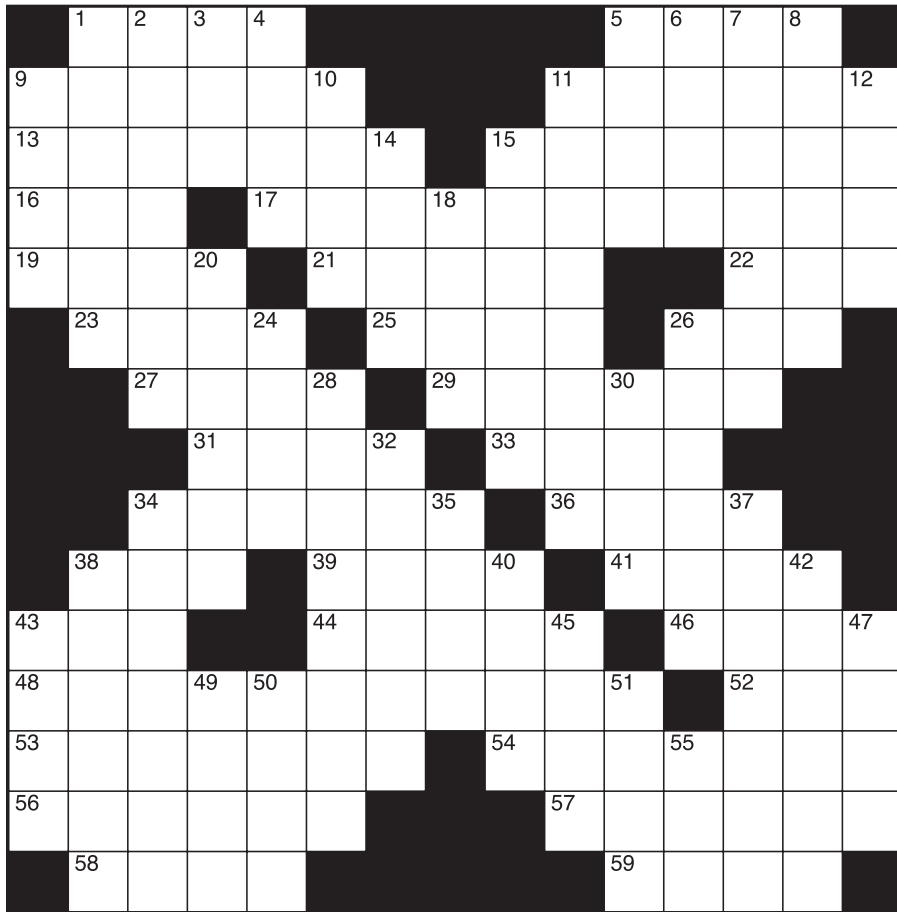
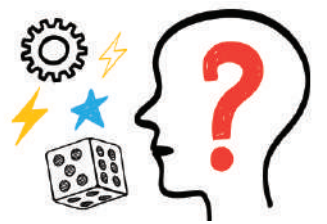
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FUN & GAMES

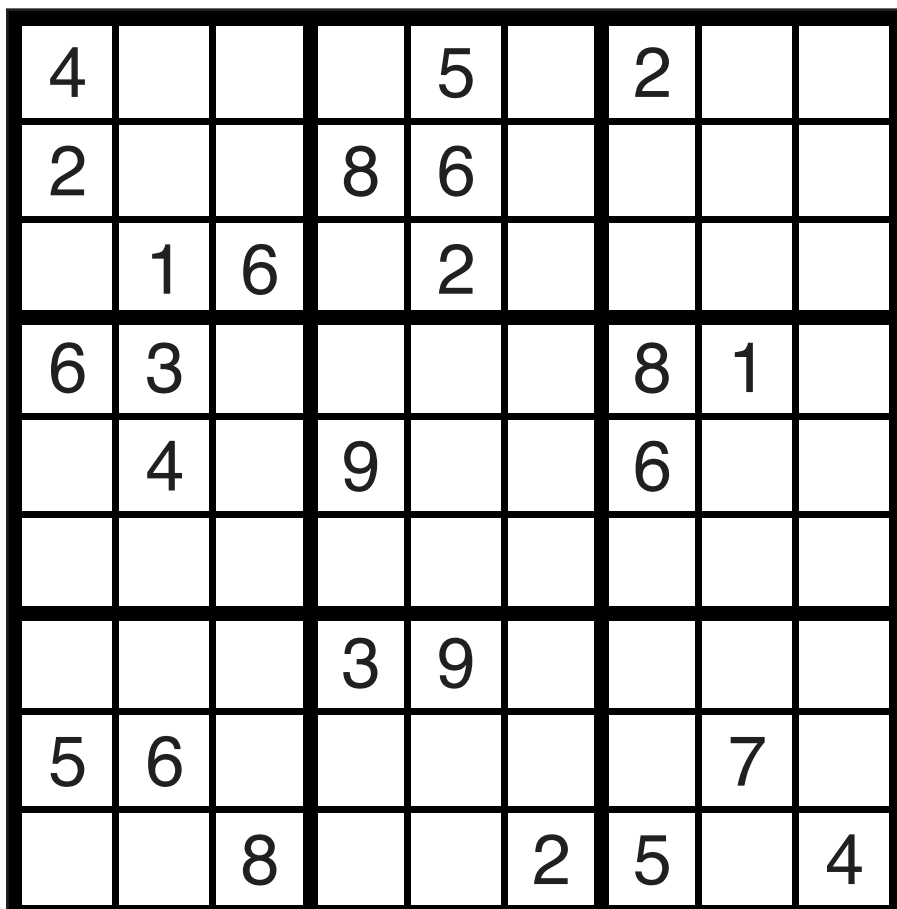


CLUES ACROSS

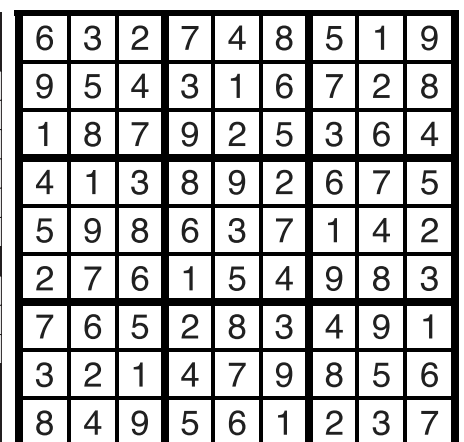
- Male children
- Robert Wagner series "Hart to ___"
- Unfolded
- Digestive disease
- Wednesday
- Malignant tumor
- Conscientious investment strategy (abbr.)
- Slowed
- Letter of the Semitic abjads
- Weights of cars without fuel
- Former CIA
- Asian country
- Instead
- Ancient Egyptian King
- Privies
- Shopping trips
- Paradoxical anecdote
- It's on the table
- Ancient Persia ruler
- Small American rail
- File extension
- Days (Spanish)
- Everyone has one
- South American plant
- About ilium
- Vanished American hoopster Bison
- A type of breakfast
- Uncooked
- Examined
- Christian recluse
- Strong posts
- Some are for pasta
- Skinny
- School-based organizations

CLUES DOWN

- Ringlet
- Type of complex
- Midway between north and northwest
- It becomes something bigger
- German courtesy title
- Genus of birds
- Marked by public disorder
- Least aggressive
- Russian city
- Insect repellent
- Interruptions
- Scoundrels
- 1,000 calories
- What one does overnight
- Dwarf planet
- Pipe
- Black powdery substance
- Set of four
- Canned fishes
- North Carolina college
- Secured
- A disgraceful event
- Physical suffering
- The home of the free
- Some are boys
- Satisfy
- Makes very happy
- South American plants
- Modes of transportation
- Female sheep
- Type of torch
- Piece of merchandise
- Jump over
- Wife of Amun



OCTOBER 16 SOLUTIONS



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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,

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COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

CRAFT / VENDOR FAIR

November 8 • 11 – 5 pm

Free Admission

Over 35+ Carnival Attractions

Battle Dome Laser Tag, Cyclone,
32' Rock Climbing Wall
Jokers Wild, Adrenalator,
Extreme Air Jumper, Meltdown
Mind Winder, Human Tumbler
24' Raiders of The Lost Temple Slide
High Voltage Xtreme Arena,
SuperSonic, Fun Park, Pony Rides
Black Ops Obstacle Course
& Much More!

**Over 30 Crafters &
Vendors!**

**Door Prizes!
Freshly Grilled Food!
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs
Pulled Pork, Pizza
Italian Sausage
Cotton Candy
Popcorn, Churros,
Funnel Fries
Nachos & Much More!**



The King's Christian Academy
Callaway, MD off Rt. 5 / 301-994-3080

www.KCAeagles.org • Rain Date: November 15

Continued from page 19

pleted by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakecenter.org. Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/events for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

Jellyfish Day

November 8, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Calvert Marine Museum
14200 Solomons Island Rd., Solomons
Admission: Activities and crafts included with museum admission.

In November, we celebrate jellyfish, the amazingly tentacled invertebrates of the Chesapeake Bay! Stop by to check out the Moon jellyfish exhibit and discover fun facts about the bay's other jellyfish species through activities in our River to Bay Gallery.

Veterans Day: Bourbon & Cigars

November 11, 2-5 p.m.
Tobacco Barn Distillery
24460 Hollywood Rd., Hollywood
Admission: RSVP to sales@tobacco-barndistillery.com

Enjoy fine bourbon, premium cigars and camaraderie in honor of our veterans. There will be a special release, limited availability bottled-in-bond bourbon supporting the Whiskey Valor Foundation, priced at \$94 a bottle. 10% of proceeds will go to this great veteran charity!

Must be 21+ to attend, RSVP to sales@tobacco-barndistillery.com

tobacco-barndistillery.com

The String Queens

November 15, 7-9 p.m.
Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge
Performing Arts Center
47835 College Dr., St Marys City
Admission: \$25+

Praised for its authentic, soulful, and orchestral sound, The String Queens (TSQ) is a dynamic trio that creates stimulating musical experiences that inspire diverse audiences to love, hope, feel, and imagine! With an array of repertoire spanning from the Baroque era to the Jazz Age to today's Billboard Hot 100 Chart, TSQ performs versatile programs that take listeners on a rousing musical journey through time and a multitude of musical genres.

14th Annual Turkey Trot

November 27, 7 a.m.
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
10515 Mackall Rd., Saint Leonard

Come strut your stuffing with us at the Calvert County Community Partners Turkey Trot 5K! This is a family-friendly, fun-filled race through Jefferson Patterson Park and a long-standing tradition for Project ECHO going back to 2012.

Annmarié Garden In Lights

November 28-January 1
Annmarié Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Rd., Solomons

Enjoy a unique holiday experience at Annmarie Garden in Lights! Experience the most magical time of the year at Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center as the garden is transformed into a twinkling wonderland! Explore an enchanting world of glowing light sculptures, wondrous light installations, and fantastic photo ops around every corner. Annmarie Garden in Lights is never the same show twice! With beautiful new light sculptures handmade by our talented staff, enchanting photo ops, activities, food trucks, and more- there are so many new things to discover!

Christmas on the Square

November 28, 4:30-8:30 p.m.
Leonardtown Square

The holiday season begins in Leonardtown when Santa arrives for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in the Town Square. The festivities begin at 4:30pm with holiday music, entertainment, horse and carriage rides, sleigh rides, train rides, hayrides, live nativity, petting zoo, face painting, children's crafts, hot drinks, fresh kettle corn, and other fun activities! Many downtown restaurants and shops around the Town Square will be open and decorated for your holiday pleasure.

Hearth and Home

November 28 & 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Historic St. Mary's City
18751 Hogaboom Ln., St. Mary's City
Admission: Included with museum

admission; \$1 off with canned good donation for Chapline House

Close out the museum season with warmth, food, and history during Hearth & Home, the final open weekend of 2025 at Historic St. Mary's City.

Stroll through the scenic museum landscape and experience the aromas and sights of the past as interpreters prepare seasonal dishes inspired by the lifeways of 17th-century English colonists and Indigenous peoples. From the crackling hearths to the stories behind the meals, this event invites you to slow down, savor the season, and take home a complimentary recipe booklet to continue the experience in your own kitchen.

All food food prepared at our living history sites is for demonstration purposes and not for consumption.

Holiday Shopping

November 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
The Belmont Farm
24079 Budds Creek Rd., Clements

Head to The Belmont Farm for festive shopping ahead of the holiday season. It's going to be a day full of great shopping, amazing food and festive fun. Come hungry! Rita B Catering will be serving up:

- Delicious stuffed ham & chicken salad sandwiches
- Mouthwatering fried chicken dinners
- The famous macaroni shrimp salad



Annual Fall Craft Show

Sponsored by the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary

Sunday
November
23
10am - 3pm

Shop unique **handmade treasures**
Support **local artisans**
in our community
Stock up on **gifts for the holidays**
Refreshments for sale from
the Ladies Auxiliary

Free Admission • Free Parking

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Dept. Social Hall
24801 Three Notch Road | Hollywood
For more information, email craftshow@hvfd7.com
*All vendor spots are sold out




Passport to the Holidays

Shop & Stroll
November 7 - November 9, 2025

Visit over 15 participating retail locations
throughout Leonardtown.
Find the hidden Rubber Duck.
Get your passport stamped.
Win fabulous prizes!

Hosted by the
Leonardtown
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

**Passports can be picked up & turned in at any
participating business or the Old Jail Museum.**

VisitLeonardtownMd.com

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Three ways to experience the magic of Leonardtown this November!



Veterans Day Parade

Salute Our Heroes! Join us at Leonardtown's Annual Veterans Day Parade!

Free parking & shuttle service available.

www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/VeteransDay

NOV
11
10 am



Christmas on the Square

Kick off the holidays in Leonardtown! Santa, lights, music, holiday market & festive fun for all!

Free parking & shuttle service available.

www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/ChristmasOnTheSquare

NOV
28
4:30 pm



Small Business Saturday

Shop local and support small businesses in Leonardtown this holiday season!

Leonardtown Trolley running for the event.

www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com

NOV
29
All Day

For parking information, road closure details, visit:
www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com or call 301-475-9791


Leonardtown
A most exceptional place!

SoMD November Events CALENDAR

Artisan and Vendor Market

November 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Summerseat Farm
 26655 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville
 Admission: Free

Summerseat Farm is hosting our annual fall artisan and vendor market, Saturday November 1st from 9AM-3PM. We have over 50 local small businesses registered. Come shop and help us support the local community.

The Manor House will also be open from 10AM-12PM for tours.

"One Maryland, One Book" Author Event - *Kin: Rooted in Hope*

November 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Historic Sotterley
 44300 Sotterley Ln., Hollywood
 Admission: Free

Historic Sotterley is proudly partnering with Maryland Humanities to bring One Maryland One Book to our visitors. One Maryland One Book brings our community together across the state through the shared experience of reading the same book. This year's book *Kin: Rooted in Hope* by Carole Boston Weatherford with art by Jeffery Boston Weatherford, is a work of art, history, and personal genealogy. It is the authors' search into their family history and led them to ancestors who were some of the founders of Maryland.

Kin: Rooted in Hope can be purchased in Historic Sotterley's Visitor Center/Museum Shop or online!

Since this event also falls on Maryland Emancipation Day, we're making a whole day of exploring ancestry, history, literature, and performance. Activities will include:

- A Keynote from Olivia Smith of St. Mary's Public Library
- A Sotterley Descendant Discussion Panel with Gwen Bankins, Dante Eubanks, Kelsey Bush, Tre Lancaster-Smith, and Nocola Williams, Facilitated by Merideth Taylor
- Creative Writing Workshops with author Caitlyn Hunter
- Living History Performances from Ms. History
- A presentation and Q&A from Dave Brown, author of *The Barber Family* and his newest book on Agnes Kane Callum
- An Open Mic for presenting poetry and creative writing

A full schedule of events will be posted soon.

American Indian Heritage Day

November 1, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
 10515 Mackall Rd., Saint Leonard
 Admission: Free

Join us as we celebrate 10,000 years of history and culture! This free event features native dancers, educational demonstrations, and tons of fun activities!

Harvest Festival

November 1, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
 St. Michael's School
 16560 Three Notch Road, Ridge
 Admission: \$10 adults; \$5 ages 4-12; ages 3 and under free

St. Michael's School in Ridge, MD, will be hosting a Harvest Festival on Saturday, November 1, 2025, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. Outdoor activities will include—face painting, hayrides, carnival-style games, 50/50 raffle with cash prizes, crafts, live music, local vendors, food trucks serving seasonal favorites, and more! Fun for the whole family! All proceeds benefit St. Michael's School. For additional information, call (301) 872-5454.

Fall Foliage Guided Hike

November 2, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 American Chestnut Land Trust
 North Side Trailhead
 676 Double Oak Rd., Prince Frederick

Enjoy a 3.8 mile guided hike on the Parker's Creek Loop. Master Naturalists will guide the hike and discuss fall foliage seen along the way. Registration is required: <https://form.jotform.com/250223606753149>

Piscataway Nation Singers and Dancers

November 4, 7-9 p.m.
 Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge
 Performing Arts Center
 47855 College Dr., St Marys City
 Admission: Free with registration

Native American Heritage Month with the Piscataway Nation—Stories, Tradition and Powwow-Style Dance

Join us for another exciting evening of cultural celebration with the Piscataway Nation Singers & Dancers! Experience the vibrant traditions of American Indian dance, drum, and song, performed by Mark Tayac and the Piscataway Nation Singers & Dancers. This pow wow-style event offers an educational and entertaining glimpse into the rich heritage of the Piscataway people, who were among the first Native Americans to encounter Captain John Smith in 1608 along the Potomac River.

Piscataway Nation dancers normally invite a small number (10) of audience members to come on stage and participate. If you plan on volunteering, please ensure that you have appropriate footwear on to avoid damaging the stage flooring. Ideal shoes would be soft-soled non-scutt varieties, like sneakers/tennis shoes. No volunteers from the audience will be allowed on stage if their footwear will damage the stage surface.

Fall Book Sale

November 8, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Leonardtown Library
 23630 Hayden Farm Ln., Leonardtown
 Admission: Free

The Friends of The St. Mary's County Library are hosting their Fall Book Sale this November 8th. Shop an impressive collection of gently-used, gift-worthy books, games, puzzles, DVDs and Music CD, plus holiday books, puzzles, DVDs, and Music CDs for sale at special prices! Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted.

Please note, members only admitted 10am – noon and open to public from noon – 3pm.

Touch-a-Truck

November 8, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
 The Calverton School
 300 Calverton School Rd., Huntingtown
 Admission: Free

Join us for one of our favorite community events of the year! Families are invited to explore and climb aboard more than 27 trucks and vehicles, including fire trucks, dump trucks, police vehicles, and more!

This year, we're adding even more fun with local food trucks, featuring:

- Calvert Crabs
- Hot Dogs & More
- The Novel Bakery
- Judy's Food Express

Bring the whole family to see, touch, climb aboard, and learn about fascinating

trucks and vehicles at Touch-A-Truck!

While this is a free family event, in lieu of monetary donations, The Calverton School will collect non-perishable food items to support End Hunger in Calvert County!

Touch-A-Truck is an exciting and educational annual community event hosted by The Calverton School. If you or your company has a unique vehicle you'd like to bring out, please call (410) 535-0216.

Handling the Holidays

November 8, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Burnett Center for Hope and Healing
 4559 Sixes Rd., Prince Frederick
 Admission: \$10/person or \$20/household

Handling the Holidays is a workshop to help people facing the holiday season after a loss. Offered through Hospice of the Chesapeake's Chesapeake Life Center, it offers support, opportunities to honor memories and time to explore coping strategies. There will be time for discussion and a creative project. Everyone will go home with a resource packet and a remembrance item. Adults and teens and children ages 6 and older are welcome.

Registration is required and can be com-

Continued on page 21

Mechanicsville VFD Auxiliary
 PRESENTS 41st ANNUAL
Holiday Bazaar
 November 30th 2025
 Table rental or more info.
Lori-Bazaar@MVFD.com
 from 10am to 3pm
 28165 Hills Club Road
 Mechanicsville, Md 20659
 OVER 80 CRAFTERS AND VENDORS - FREE KIDS CRAFT
 FOOD-RAFFLES-BAKED GOODS FOR PURCHASE
 All proceeds benefit the
 Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire
 Department.



The Sacred Journey: The Beloved Community

Sixth Annual

**SACRED
JOURNEY:**



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14
4:45 - 6:15 P.M.**

Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland

An emerging tradition at St. Mary's College of Maryland, the Sacred Journey invites the community to physically walk the path taken by the enslaved who once toiled in our community. The walk also serves as a metaphorical path from the past to the present, a sojourn of redemption as we preserve the history of the enslaved. **Take the Sacred Journey: WWW.SMCM.EDU/SJ**

**JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATORY
CONCERT THE NEXT DAY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 7 P.M.**

The dynamic trio performs versatile programs spanning from the Baroque era to the Jazz Age to today's Billboard Hot 100 Chart.

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COLLEGE of MARYLAND

The National Public Honors College



**THE STRING
QUEENS TICKETS**
SMCM.EDU/SQ

A Special Pull Out Section

SoMD

November Events

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, Oct 31

A Dinner to Die For with Ghost Tours by Spooky Solomons

No Thyme to Cook
14624 Solomons Island Rd S, Solomons
6–8 p.m.

Foolish Mortals, will you join us for a dinner worth dying for? Inspired by the country's most haunted locations, Amy Bruni of the Travel Channel's 'Kindred Spirits' has compiled recipes from these locations in her new book 'Food to Die For' highlighting the spirit realms' favorite meals. But the fun doesn't end when dinner is over. We are also partnering with Spooky Solomons to have you attend Adam's Ghost Tour if you dare. You will stroll with local spirits during two walking ghost tours around Solomons. One ticket includes both dinner and the ghost tour.

SMCM Symphony Orchestra: Halloween Spooktacular

Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge
Performing Arts Center
47855 College Dr., St Marys City
7–9 p.m.

The SMCM Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Jeffrey Silberschlag presents "Halloween Spooktacular"

- Soloists:
- Thomas Pandolfi, piano
 - Bernard Vallandingham, violin
- Music:
- Main from The Gladiator (main theme) Hans Zimmer
 - Franz Schubert - The Erlkönig

- Franz Liszt's "Totentanz" featuring piano soloist Thomas Pandolfi
- Giuseppi Tartini's "Devil's Trill"
- Henry Mancini's "The Pink Panther"
- Aaron Copland's "Buckaroo Holiday"

Hit or Miss Nu Metal Halloween Bash

The Rex Theatre
22695 Washington St., Leonardtown
8–11 p.m.

Join us with Hit or Miss & DJ C-Note to have the best Halloween ever! \$1,000 costume contest plus hits from Korn, Papa Roach, Limp Bizkit, Slipknot & more.

Movie Showing: The Rocky Horror Picture Show

The Newtowne Players Theater
21744 South Coral Dr., Lexington Park
Midnight

Get ready for a wild night with The Rocky Horror Picture Show at The Newtowne Players! Two showings only:

- October 31 at MIDNIGHT
- November 1 at 8:00 PM

Dressing up is highly encouraged — come as your favorite character and join the madness!

Summary: In this cult classic, sweethearts Brad (Barry Bostwick) and Janet (Susan Sarandon), stuck with a flat tire during a storm, discover the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter (Tim Curry), a transvestite scientist. As their innocence is lost, Brad and Janet meet a houseful of wild characters, including a rocking biker (Meat Loaf) and a creepy butler (Richard O'Brien). Through

elaborate dances and rock songs, Frank-N-Furter unveils his latest creation: a muscular man named "Rocky."

Sat, Nov 1

Brown Bag Auction

7th District VRS Auxiliary
Holy Angels Parish Hall
21335 Colton Point Road
Doors open 11 a.m.; raffle begins 1 p.m.

Tickets: \$1 each, 6 for \$5, or 25 for \$20. Over 300 items will be raffled. Remember your address labels to put on tickets. Food, drinks and homemade desserts will be available. There will be a 50/50 raffle, and a Holiday "Fixin'" Dinner Basket Raffle.

For information, contact Bobbie at 301-481-1510.

Upcoming

Veterans Resource Day

U. of Maryland at Southern Maryland
44219 Airport Rd, California
November 7, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

The Department of Aging & Human Services is proud to host Veterans Resource Day on Friday, Nov. 7. There will be more than 20 organizations serving Veterans and service members on-site. Disabled American Veterans (DAV) will be on-site from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to answer questions and assist with claims processing.

Free lunch will be provided at noon by

Mission BBQ.

This event is free and open to the public. Veterans, all service members, their friends and their families are all welcome to attend Veterans Resource Day.

Want to skip the registration line? Register online at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/veterans. Online registrants will be eligible for a special prize.

For more information, please contact Community Programs & Outreach Manager, Nicoletta Pollice, at 301-475-4200, ext. 1074, email nicoletta.pollice@stmaryscountymd.gov.

SOMD Pride: Existence is Resistance *New Date

Lexington Manor Passive Park
21675 Coral Dr. S., Lexington Park
November 8, 11 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

After the weather tried to steal our sparkle, we're back and better than ever. Join Southern Maryland Pride as we celebrate our 8th Annual Pride Festival! This year's theme, "Existence is Resistance" underscores the importance of visibility and resilience within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Our festival will feature a diverse line-up of attractions, including LGBTQIA+ small businesses, community resources, a variety of vendors and independent creators, delicious offerings from food trucks and food stalls, a dedicated Kid's Zone, live entertainment from a DJ, captivating drag performances, aerial artists, inspiring speakers, a silent auction and more!

Let's stand together and continue building a safe, inclusive community where everyone belongs and is celebrated.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS

Dia De Los Muertos: Day of the Dead Celebration

Learn about the holiday Dia De Los Muertos or Day of the Dead, a Mexican holiday celebrating family and heritage with activities and crafts. Leonardtown Library on Saturday, November 1, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Dia De Los Muertos is a holiday about family and culture, celebrating and remembering those who have passed on. We will do some crafts and activities to recreate some traditional ways in which Dia De Los Muertos is celebrated. If you would like to bring pictures of family or loved ones to include we will be making collage *ofrendas* or alters to honor passed loved ones. No registration.

Amazing Apples: Cider-Making Demo

Learn about the life cycle of apples from seeds to trees and fruit, see how a cider press works, then get hands-on and help make a batch of fresh apple cider! Two sessions on Saturday, November 1. Cecil Park from 10 - 11 a.m. and Charlotte Hall Library from 1 - 2 p.m. Register for either session on www.stmalib.org.

Seed-Saving Smarts: How to Harvest & Save Native Seeds

Learn the tricks of the trade for collecting, cleaning, and storing native plant seeds for your home garden or to share at our free Seed-Saving Smarts Workshop. Leonardtown Library Makerspace on Saturday, November 1, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Harvesting your own seeds saves you money and gives you more variety in your garden. Some seeds will be used to restock our SEEDS library for spring distribution and you will be able to take some seeds home with you as well. We welcome beginners as well as experienced seed collectors. Register on www.stmalib.org to receive a reminder email; walk-ins welcome.

Renaissance Revelry: A Day of Crafts, Games, and Merriment

Immerse yourself in the fascinating Renaissance era through engaging crafts, entertaining games, and cultural exploration. Lexington Park Library on Saturday, November 1, 2 - 4 p.m. Registration is required on www.stmalib.org.

ib.org. Test your knowledge of the Renaissance era with trivia challenges; indulge in Renaissance themed word games and puzzles; create science-themed crafts; and unleash your creativity with Renaissance art projects. Games and puzzles are designed for adults and teens.

Friends of the St. Mary's County Library Fall Book Sale

Gently used books and other materials for all ages, great for gift giving! Leonardtown Library on Saturday, November 8.

- Members Only: 10 a.m. - 12 noon
 - Open to the Public: 12 noon - 3 p.m.
- Memberships available at the door or online in advance on www.stmalib.org.



FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Financial steps to prepare for Alzheimer's

More than 7 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, according to a 2025 report from the Alzheimer's Association. The emotional toll of watching a loved one struggle with the memory loss, depression, anxiety and cognitive decline is already overwhelming — but the financial burden can be significant too. Hopefully this disease will never touch your family, but it's important to be financially prepared just in case. By planning to cover long-term care costs and creating a financial strategy for caregivers, you can help protect your family's financial well-being.

Expenses related to Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia can be extensive. Families often face ongoing medical treatment costs, medical equipment purchases, home safety modifications, prescription drugs and personal care supplies. Long-term care represents one of the largest health care costs not covered entirely by traditional Medicare, making advanced planning crucial.

Here are a few essential planning steps to consider:

- **Plan for care costs and identify insurance coverage.** Start by understanding your family's health insurance options, including Medicare, supplemental policies and veteran's benefits if applicable. Determine coverage for adult day care services, in-home care services, full-time residential care and other long-term care options. Confirm whether you or your loved ones have long-term care policies or other insurance with long-term care riders. In some states, Medicare offers Special Needs Plans (SNPs) for people living with dementia, including Alzheimer's. These plans specialize in care and coverage for beneficiaries with dementia, and only those diagnosed can enroll.
- **Identify assets and debts.** Create a comprehensive picture of your family's financial position, including bank accounts, investments, property and debts such as credit cards, mortgages or lines of credit. You'll need this if you take over financial management for a loved one.
- **Ensure legal documents are in place.** Work with an attorney to establish crucial documents like a durable power of attorney for finances and health care decisions. These documents should be created before someone is diagnosed or when they're just starting to show early signs of Alzheimer's, so they can understand what they're signing. Waiting until cognitive ability declines makes the process more challenging and may require court procedures for conservatorship.
- **Consider a living trust.** A living trust can hold financial assets and property while a successor trustee, like trusted family member, manages money and makes investment decisions. While complex, these trusts can provide valuable protection for families dealing with a parent or older relative experiencing dementia.
- **Look for tax benefits.** Caregivers who pay care costs out of pocket may qualify for tax credits and deductions. These benefits vary by state, so consult with a tax advisor about your eligibility.
- **Consider protective measures for early stages.** If a loved one is showing signs of Alzheimer's or other dementia, you may want to set up auto-pay for bills, open joint checking accounts, freeze credit reports at major bureaus, consolidate or cancel credit cards, and monitor financial activities closely. This can help keep financial responsibilities flowing smoothly and prevent exploitation by scam artists.

A qualified financial advisor can help evaluate your family's overall situation and recommend appropriate strategies to prepare for potential dementia-related costs. They can work with your legal and tax professionals to help you put comprehensive protection in place.

While an Alzheimer's or dementia diagnosis will change everyone's life in your family, taking proactive financial steps can help ease the burden and provide greater confidence for the journey ahead. For more information, visit www.alz.org.

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

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

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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.

Fran Vinson, 89



Sara Frances Shlemon Vinson (Fran) passed peacefully surrounded by her loved ones in her home on October 20, 2025. She was 89 years of age.

Fran was born June 22nd 1936 to Nathan Bailey and Mary (Woods) Bailey of Olive Branch, Mississippi who preceded her in death.

Fran was one of ten siblings, and the only one to leave her hometown of Mississippi. She met and married Joseph Shlemon in 1951. They traveled to many places during his time in the Navy before settling down in Southern Maryland in 1964. Together they raised 5 children, one daughter and four sons. They were blessed with 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren who all knew her as Memau. Joseph preceded her in death in 1986.

Fran was a beautician and later became manager of Mei's Hair Salon for many years. After that she worked as a department manager for Kmart before retiring after a

long career.

Fran was blessed to have found love again and married Al Vinson, another Navy man in 1995. Al also preceded her in 2013.

Fran enjoyed antiques, thrift shopping and Christmas with family around the tree. She is survived by her two sons, Lawrence and Kenneth Shlemon.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, October 30, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, Maryland.

After a full and well-travelled life, Fran will finally be returning home to Olive Branch, Mississippi to be laid to rest at the family cemetery. Family will receive loved ones on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, in the Brantley Funeral Home. The funeral service will take place on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 2:00 PM, at Brantley Funeral Home followed by the burial at Lebanon Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's County or a charity of your choice.

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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The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Great reports of rockfish from the bay and the rivers.

The stripers are breaking in the main stem of the bay from Sharps Island south to Hooper Straights. The fish are on the surface at daybreak for about an hour. Sunset can bring them up, too. The rest of the day is productive but instinct and side scan sonar are needed to find them. There are enough feeding fish that blind trolling will work. The fish can be jigged on light tackle. The fish are ranging from 23 inches to 35 inches. Finding fish short enough to fit the slot can be difficult.

There are consistent fish at Cedar Point on the rocks and in the rip. Troll, cast, jig, it all works.

Both the Patuxent and Potomac have and abundance of rockfish. Reports from the Potomac have fish breaking at Dolly Parton and Ragged Point at dusk and dawn and biting all day on the edges of the oyster bars. The same goes for St. Clements Island and St George Island. There are fish scattered from the mouth of the St. Mary's River to Cornfield Harbor on the St. Mary's side and from Vero Beach to Lewisetta on the Virginia side. The Patuxent has scattered fish from Benedict to Cedar Point with Sheridan Point, Broome Island, Sea Breeze,



Captain Bernie Shea is limiting out on beautiful rockfish trolling in lower Patuxent. There are plenty of oversize fish making the reel drags sing!

St. Leonard's lump, Half Pone Point, and Sotterley all producing fish.

This is the fall season that turns on the rockfish. This year the fish are very active and plentiful. Try and take advantage now. There may be a storm developing that would close out a week and cloud the waters for several days after. Go get them now while conditions are perfect.

There have been some very good perch catches lately in the Patuxent. Jiggers seeking rockfish have caught big perch mixed with the rock in the Patuxent in many areas. Hawk's Nest and Captain's Point are some specific areas.

A View From The BLEACHERS



Just A Matter Of Time

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

A dozen or so middle age "studs" huddled at a local sports bar a few weeks ago to toast a mutual friend's completion of another lap around the sun. Birthdays begin as a legitimate celebration of getting older and reaching critical milestones of human existence – 1, 13, 16, 18, 21, etc. At some point they transition to acknowledging, hopefully in an immature and entertaining way, surviving another year on this planet as a carbon dioxide producing organism. When that transition precisely occurs is a mystery but, suffice to say, a quick scan around the bar clearly indicated this gathering was most definitely a celebration of survival and not another exciting year on the odometer.

Three guys broke off from the larger group and seamlessly launched into a safe, familiar conversation about American football. Given their shared vintage, there was nostalgia for the more physical game they had known as kids, but an understanding of why football has evolved. Then the topic shifted to gambling. Betting on sports was a faux pas at best during their youth – point spreads and over/under amounts were statistics buried deep in newspaper sports sections and were only relevant to people in Las Vegas or if you happened to be connected to an offshore bookie. Gambling existed but was carefully kept from the spotlight. Now, gambling locations and apps are readily available, even advertised during sporting events. ESPN peddles its own betting app without an ounce of shame. The amount of pre-game, in-game, prop and parlay bets at the disposal of any fan with a credit card and a smartphone is limitless. It is... sheesh... I have a lot of adjectives in mind, many unflattering...

With a collective total of over 150 years of time on Earth and a keen understanding of human tendencies, the three acquaintances considered this new gambling-friendly environment and arrived at this unanimous conclusion: It's just a matter of time until something bad happens. "Bad" didn't mean bad betting beats that defy logic or spikes in gambling addiction; the former is an unfortunate consequence and the latter is sad personal reality that capitalists couldn't care less about. What we concluded that afternoon was that very soon we would be forced to question the integrity of the competition we love.

Fast-forward a few days and here we are. Imagine being NBA Commissioner Adam Silver last week. You're on the cusp of the league's opening weekend – so many juicy storylines and matchups. And in a snap, everything on the court was secondary to this: a Hall of Fame coach (Chauncey Billips), current player (Terry Rozier) and more than 30 other people being arrested by the FBI and charged with fixing poker games and leaking non-public information on NBA games in the 2023 timeframe. At present, the reach of this is unknown but it would naïve to assume it was limited to a few games three seasons ago. Everything since then and at present is in question.

Recent years have brought much wrestling with and massaging of the truth. What is now accepted as undeniable fact is moored less to reality and more to creative marketing, manipulative use of artificial intelligence and individual whims. In this environment, sports have been an important respite, a sanity-boosting space where trustworthy on-field competition produced an undeniable winner and loser. In many ways, it is...or was...the quintessential example of democracy.

Foiled once during MLB's steroid era and triggered by the proliferation of sports betting, I am left with reasonable doubt – about everything. I sit in these bleachers deeply troubled by that statement but unable to create a comfy world of make believe where sports are somehow completely immune from humans' tendency toward ethical corruption. Much of what we see on the court, on the field, and on the ice is completely legitimate and beyond reproach. But some is not and there is no way of knowing the difference. That was the crime of the steroid era and is now the sad consequence of this episode in the NBA. The sports betting era, and its intoxicating play to human ego and personal wealth, promises more of the same.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

VETERANS DAY SALUTE

In honor of Veterans Day 2025, The County Times invites you to submit the names of family members who have served in the Armed Forces. The names will be published in The County Times Veterans Day Salute on November 6th.

Email names to timescalendar@countytimes.net no later than Monday, November 3rd.

Local businesses are also invited to join in our salute to local veterans. Call us at 301-373-2131 for details

County Times
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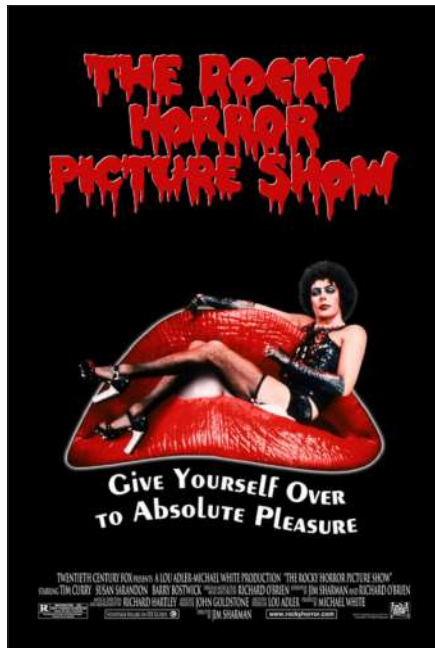
The Newtowne Players Celebrate *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*

It's time to do the Time Warp again! The Newtowne Players are thrilled to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the cult classic *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* with two special film screenings at Three Notch Theatre — October 31 at midnight and November 1 at 8:00 PM.

This outrageous, genre-bending film has captivated audiences since its 1975 release with its unforgettable songs, eccentric characters, and delightfully over-the-top energy. Join fellow fans for an immersive movie experience filled with audience participation, costumes, and interactive props — a perfect way to mark half a century of Rocky Horror madness.

In this beloved cult classic, sweethearts Brad (Barry Bostwick) and Janet (Susan Sarandon), stranded during a storm, stumble upon the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter (Tim Curry) — a “sweet transvestite” scientist. Their night spirals into chaos as they meet a houseful of wild characters, including a leather-clad biker (Meat Loaf) and a sinister butler (Richard O'Brien). Through rock anthems and outrageous dance numbers, Frank-N-Furter unveils his latest creation: a muscle-bound man named “Rocky.”

Audience participation is highly encouraged! Fans are invited to dress as their favorite characters and join the fun. Adult general admission is \$20 and official prop bags — including rice, newspaper, rubber glove, noisemaker, confetti, toilet paper, toast, party hat, and playing cards — will be



available for purchase at the theatre for \$10. Tickets available now at newtowneplayers.simplertix.com.

The Newtowne Players are a volunteer-based group that enhances the surrounding business communities through theatrical events, cultural activities, and educational programs. Donations, volunteers, and community support are graciously embraced and appreciated.

Press release from The Newtowne Players

Rotary Clubs Host Workshop on Disagreeing Better

The Rotary clubs of St. Marys County, including Leonardtown Rotary, Charlotte Hall Rotary and Lexington Park Rotary, are pleased to host Braver Angels, an organization focused on training people to develop the tools needed to respectfully embrace disagreements and develop strong civic partnerships. As part of Rotary International, the Rotary clubs of St. Mary's County have been committed for 65 years to promoting goodwill and peace through the fellowship of its members, all of whom are dedicated to serving the county and its residents.

To further that commitment, the clubs will host Braver Angels, a citizens' organization focused on uniting red and blue leaning Americans in a working alliance to depolarize America, for a community wide workshop on the skills and tactics needed to move past disagreement and find com-

mon ground.

“In today's hectic, and often fragmented culture, it is so easy to become mired in our differences. Focusing on these differences breaks down communication and makes it difficult to find and implement solutions for our community,” said Melissa Rodriguez, President of Leonardtown Rotary. “One of the core principles of Rotary is to value diverse opinions and build camaraderie - doing that requires all of us to listen more and communicate better, even when we disagree.”

The workshop will be held Saturday, Nov. 1 at the Leonardtown Public Library in Meeting Room 2 at 1:30 p.m. It is open to all community members regardless of political affiliation.

Press release from St. Mary's County Rotary clubs

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MEET HEGGIE

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



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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Pax River Hires First Child and Youth Programs Registered Nurse

NAS Patuxent River is well known for its groundbreaking work in the field of naval aviation. But not far from the airfield and hangars, Pax River's Child and Youth Programs (CYP) has made history as well, hiring the Navy's first CYP registered nurse.

The new position is a part of a two-year pilot program which would provide the program with a medical administrator for the approximately 640 children enrolled in the Pax River CYP.

Stefania Hoover, RN, joined the Pax River CYP team after gaining skills through a variety of nursing positions, including clinical, emergency room, and ambulatory nursing. And while she found the work rewarding, she was looking for something more.

"I started clinical, and I loved it, then started going into school health, and loved it," said Hoover. "Then I did some case management in school health – school nursing. But what really drew me to CYP was I grew up on military bases. My dad was Air Force, and I really wanted to get back into that community. So when this job came available I was like, 'it would be a good chance to work with the community

I'm really comfortable with', and the job description sounded great."

As the sole registered nurse for Pax River CYP, Hoover provides a medical professional's expertise on matters pertaining to medical forms, allergies, medications, and other children's health matters at the three CYP buildings on base. Hoover added that the additional quality assurance of having a medical professional's oversight on medical administration also prevents mistakes, and allows teachers and caregivers in the program to focus more on the kids.

"All the teachers and caregivers are educated and make sure no mistakes happen in that regard, but just having a nurse's eyes on these medical forms means you'll notice more details," said Hoover. "I'm actually very honored to be given this chance. There's a lot of room to build onto this program, so I'm just really excited to see what we do with it."

Hoover said one of those goals is to hopefully expand enrollment of higher-need children into Pax River's CYP.

"Things can change for the program, but hopefully as the CYP nurse program

expands and develops, we'll be able to include children with any type of disability, any type of medical need," said Hoover.

CYP leadership is also enthusiastic about building the program. Jamie Lee Curtis, Installation Child and Youth Program Director for Patuxent River, said that Hoover's involvement provides an additional level of care to the children supported by CYP.

"Bringing a registered nurse onto the CYP team will foster greater trust with families when making critical decisions such as whether a child needs to be sent home or seen by a medical provider, because we'll have expert medical guidance available on site," said Curtis. "Stefania is a real force multiplier when it comes to staff training and support on the things she's an expert in. They're still ready to act if needed, but she's an added level of authority and expertise when it comes to medical advice and care in CYP."

Pax River CYPs are open to children of active-duty service members, active reservists, Department of Defense employees, and DoD contractors. CYP professionals use the Creative Curriculum and Teaching strate-



Stefania Hoover

gies to provide developmentally appropriate activities that nurture children socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually to reach child development milestones and school readiness skills. For more information, visit www.navymwrpaxriver.com/child-youth.

Pax Navy Lodge Wins Award for Service

NAS Patuxent River's Navy Lodge was recognized by Naval Supply Systems Command and installation leadership Oct. 22 with the 2025 Edward E. Carlson Hospitality Award in a ceremony at the Pax River Navy Exchange.

The Edward E. Carlson Award is awarded to the Navy Lodge that has the highest scores in guest and associate satisfaction, operations, quality assurance assessment and financial performance. The award is named for Navy officer and hotel executive Edward E. Carlson, who served in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps during World War II.

"The Carlson Award is the gold standard in both operational achievements and premier guest service," said retired Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi, Chief Executive Officer of NEXCOM and guest speaker at the award ceremony. "It takes hard work, dedication, and team work to be named 'best of the best' and earn this award."

Bianchi explained that the Navy Lodge is more than just a Navy hotel; the service provided by Navy Lodge staff has a far-reaching impact on the quality of life of many Navy families, who often see Navy Lodge personnel as their first command representatives when transferring to a new duty station. This sentiment was reiterated by Capt. Mark Zematis, NAS Patuxent River Commanding Officer, in his remarks to the crowd.

"Pax River is the premier research, development, test, and evaluation base for the



Retired Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi, Chief Executive Officer of NEXCOM, speaks to guests at the Edward E. Carlson Award presentation to NAS Patuxent River Navy Lodge..webp

Navy, and when our service members have the peace of mind knowing that they have a comfortable place to stay with a friendly and dedicated staff working for them while they get settled, it has a real-world positive impact on the mission," said Zematis. "The work you're being recognized for today matters and is greatly appreciated."

The NAS Patuxent River Navy Lodge and its staff were rated on a number of metrics for the Carlson Award; they received a

quality assurance score of 95 percent, an occupancy rate of 75 percent, a guest comment card satisfaction rating of 85 percent, and an associate satisfaction rating of 91 percent, all while maintaining the lowest operating-expense-per-occupied-room rate in the Navy.

Several of the Pax Navy Lodge staff were recognized personally by Bianchi for their exceptional work leading to the award:

- Shamika Ferguson, NAS Patuxent

River Navy Lodge General Manager

- Nathaniel Coward
- Shirley Chase
- Treasha Dove
- Datavis Berry
- Bernadette Barnes
- Scott Robery
- Morgan Calvo
- Jamie Gough
- Oxana Schroeder

"Looking ahead, I know Navy Lodge Patuxent River will continue to set the standard for excellence in hospitality and service," added Bianchi. "Your commitment to continuous improvement and your dedication to meeting the needs of our military community ensures this Navy Lodge will remain a beacon of excellence for years to come. This may be your first Carlson Award, but I'm sure it won't be your last."

Navy Lodges are available for active duty personnel, reservists, retirees, veterans and DoD personnel on official duty travel, official guests of the command, and NEXCOM associates, with priority given to relocating families. Navy Lodges offer patrons oversized guest rooms and family suites with onsite amenities such as vending machines, guest laundry area, fitness room, and children's outside play area. For more information, visit <https://www.navy-lodge.com/>.

Press release from NAS Pax River

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Letters to the Editor

'The rot within us'

Our party system of government is divisive. In particular the Republicans and the Democrats who rarely work together. In fact, a person can see pure hatred between people of opposite parties. This can be from people that are in politics or friends or even family members. The negativity between people of opposite parties serves only one purpose. As a country, united we stand. divided we fall. Communist pountries are acutely aware of this. If there is anything I learned in psychology, it is that the vast majority of the population is "easily brainwashed". Most people are followers. Few are leaders. People become brainwashed believing what they are told is the only true and correct answer and everyone else is wrong regardless of what the actual truth is. So long as the person carries the party line, it is the only thing that counts. Whether it is supported by truth or not, it doesn't matter. Furthermore, if the person is shown how he or she is wrong by being shown the actual facts, the person will become irritated, angry, disgusted, etc. (ODD) in psychology is an Oppositional Defiant Disorder that occurs normally in childhood but has been seen increasingly in adults which is characterized by negative, defiant, disobedient and often hostile behavior where it is usually placed toward adults or authority figures by children. But in adults it has been seen increasingly often toward each other when talking about politics. When this occurs, hate and disgust often become part of it.

Here is something for you to think hard about: What if over the last 30 years foreign bought influence has gained a stronghold in our politics by using any means necessary? Imagine a country that has a governor of a state which received millions of dollars, all supposedly for the good of his state. But,

hundreds of thousands of it went to "special programs". Then the governor runs for a higher office. The money continues to family members, friends or various special interest groups. And then to higher education. The universities feel obligated to enroll thousands of students in our elite universities which has studies on the cutting edge of technology of everything from A to Z. What if millions more over 30 years, piece by piece go toward our media in order to manipulate the truth using all forms of media? What if it covers every single way the people of this country receives their information? What if for whatever reason politicians at the highest level of government felt obligated to employ what they think are innocent students or aides but turn out to be Communist spies? And what if, even after discovered, nothing is done about it?

What if indoctrination from grade school through to our college and universities become common place? What if it is done very slowly but patiently over 30 years so that it isn't noticed as it would have been over a short period of time? What if a country over many years inserts its gradual mental conditioning along with financial incentives?

Think about the Constitution of the United States. Think about the first three words that are clearly intended to stand out. They are WE THE PEOPLE. This is intended to show that the "government's power comes directly from the citizens". But, if over a long period of time like a termite chewing on wood, a foreign country inserts division at every level. Wouldn't it eventually lead to the rot of even the strongest country? Is the division of our country the rot within us?

Roy Fedders
Dameron, MD

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor, please include your name & town of residence.

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Publicly Accessible AED Cabinets Installed at County Facilities

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County are pleased to announce a new public safety initiative to improve access to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) parks and facilities.

The St. Mary's County Department of Emergency Services has partnered with Recreation & Parks, Aging & Human Services, and Public Works & Transportation to install 13 secure AED cabinets across 12 County parks and at the Garvey Senior Activity Center near the Pickleball Courts.

This initiative comes as part of a broader effort to enhance the "chain of survival" for victims of sudden cardiac arrest, one of the leading causes of unexpected death in the United States. According to the American Heart Association, more than 356,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur each year, and nearly 90% are fatal. Local data from the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) shows that the second most frequent location for these events is public spaces, including sports fields and recreation areas.

"Citizens are often the first to respond in a cardiac emergency," said Jen Utz, Director of the Department of Emergency Services. "This program empowers our community to take immediate action when seconds matter most and emergency responders are on the way."

The new AED cabinets are designed to provide 24/7 access to lifesaving equipment. In the event of a cardiac emergency, residents should always call 911. The 911 dispatcher will provide a secure access code to unlock the cabinet, allowing bystanders to retrieve and use the AED before emergency responders arrive.

Early defibrillation has been shown to increase survival rates by 50%–75% when an AED is available on-site. In St. Mary's County, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responds to an average of 217 cardiac arrest calls each year, and the enhanced accessibility of AEDs at these locations is expected to improve outcomes countywide.

The initiative replaces a previous model where AEDs were secured inside staffed park offices, limiting access to operating hours. Now, devices are available at any time, bridging the critical minutes before EMS arrival, which can average 8–10 minutes depending on location and call volume.

"Our parks and recreation spaces welcome thousands of residents and visitors each week, and safety is always our top priority," said Ray Bivens, Director of Recreation & Parks. "Publicly accessible AEDs at our parks ensure that lifesaving tools are available when they're needed most in the event of a cardiac emergency."

In recognition of October as National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month, the County encourages all residents to take proactive steps in preparedness by learning CPR and AED use. Community members are encouraged to sign up for a CPR class to gain the skills and confidence needed to help save a life in an emergency.

As part of this effort, the Second District Volunteer Rescue Squad will host a free Community CPR class in the Company 6 Training Room, located at 19330 Piney Point Road in Valley Lee, on Friday, October 24, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Registration is required, and the class will be limited to 15 participants. Those interested in attending should contact EMS Assistant Chief Kim Collins at EMSCchief@sdrvfrs.org to reserve a spot.

The St. Mary's County Health Department also provides American Red Cross adult and pediatric First Aid, CPR, and AED certification to members of the community. For more information, please visit smchd.org/cpr.

For more information about the AED initiative or CPR training opportunities, please contact the Department of Emergency Services at EmergencyServices@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Press release from St. Mary's County Government

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will conduct a public meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., located at the Calvert Marine Museum's Waterfront Lounge, located at 14200 Solomons Island Rd. S., Solomons, MD 20688. The purpose is to discuss a proposed amendment to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) for the Areawide Congestion Management Project, which reflects a shift in funding and the addition of a new project phase, and review the Public Participation Plan Update with changes to the public notice period and improved readability of the Plan. The agenda can be viewed at <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

The Meeting ID is 881 5571 1494, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88155711494>

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

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before Friday, November 14, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov. All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization TAC at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

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

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

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO) Council will conduct a public meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Calvert Marine Museum's Waterfront Lounge, located at 14200 Solomons Island Rd. S., Solomons, MD 20688. The purpose is to discuss the proposed amendments to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) to the MD 5 Great Mills Study Project, which reflects an increase in funds and changes in funding sources, changes to the Areawide Congestion Management Project, which reflects a shift in funding and the addition of a new project phase, and review the Public Participation Plan Update with changes to the public notice period and improved readability of the Plan. The agenda can be viewed at <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

The Meeting ID is 430 427 6617, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4304276617?omn=83110085666>

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

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before Friday, November 14, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov. All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization Council at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

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Deputies Investigating Fatal Shooting in Lexington Park

On Monday, October 27, 2025, at approximately 6:40 p.m., deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence in the 21000 block of Bellevue Court in Lexington Park for a reported assault in progress. While deputies were en route, dispatchers advised that shots had been fired and that one individual appeared to be suffering from gunshot wounds.

Upon arrival, deputies located a deceased male near the driveway of the residence with apparent gunshot wounds to the head and upper body.

A male, identified as David Scott Jones, 58, a resident at the location, was found holding a handgun. When confronted by deputies, Jones released the weapon and was taken into custody without incident.

Through the preliminary investigation, detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division determined that Jones and the victim had been involved in a verbal altercation immediately before the shooting.

Jones has been charged with the following offenses:

- First-degree murder
- Second-degree murder
- First-degree assault
- Second-degree assault
- Use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence



David Scott Jones

• Loaded handgun on person
Jones is being held at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown pending a bail hearing.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone with information who has not yet provided a statement is asked to contact Detective Andrew Burgess at 301-475-4200, ext. 8041, or by email at Andrew.Burgess@stmaryscountymd.gov

Officer Involved Shooting Under Investigation

On Thursday, October 23, 2025, at approximately 7:52 p.m., deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to a welfare check at a residence in Lexington Park after receiving a report that a female had left the home and had taken the caller's gun. Deputies began searching the area and, at about 9:11 p.m., located the female suspect in a vehicle parked at MedStar Health on East Run Drive.

Preliminary indications are that, after several minutes of attempted communication, the suspect exited the vehicle, fled across the parking lot, and later pointed a handgun at deputies. Two deputies discharged their agency-issued firearms, striking her.

Deputies immediately rendered aid until emergency medical personnel arrived. The suspect, identified as Paige Taylor Hartness, 34, of Lexington Park, was transported by

MedStar Aviation to an area hospital, where she remains hospitalized in stable condition. No other injuries were reported.

Corporal Tyler Payne, a 9-year and 11-month veteran, and Deputy Ian Flaherty, a 1-year and eight-month veteran of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, are identified as the deputies who discharged their weapons.

Pursuant to agency policy, both deputies have been placed on administrative leave pending investigations by the Sheriff's Office's Office of Professional Responsibilities and the Criminal Investigations Division.

This case remains under investigation. Anyone who may have witnessed the incident and has not yet provided a statement is asked to contact Detective David Lawrence at 301-475-4200, ext. 8130, or by email at David.Lawrence@stmaryscountymd.gov.

St. Mary's Sees Spike in Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease

Ongoing reports of illness to the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) have shown a significant increase in hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD) and associated outbreaks in the county. SMCHD advises community members to practice preventative measures, especially families with young children in child care facilities and schools. Adults can also be affected by HFMD.

HFMD is commonly caused by different viruses in the Enterovirus classification. Symptoms of HFMD often appear like a common cold with a rash, such as painful sores that blister, especially in the mouth, on the fingers/hands, and/or on the feet. Most children who experience illness have mild symptoms for 7 to 10 days, but the virus can still be spread for several weeks after illness. Serious complications from HFMD are rare.

Though HFMD spreads mostly in the summer and fall in the United States, it can still occur any time of year. It can spread quickly at schools and child care centers. You can get HFMD from:

- Contact with droplets that have virus particles after a sick person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- Touching an infected person or making other close contact, like kissing, hugging, or sharing cups or eating utensils.
- Touching an infected person's stool, such as by changing diapers, then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Touching objects and surfaces that have the virus on them, like doorknobs or toys, then touching your eyes, nose,

or mouth.

HFMD can spread easily. To help prevent and control the spread of HFMD, it is recommended to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after changing diapers, using the toilet, and coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Help children wash their hands and keep blisters clean.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and shared items, including toys and other objects that may have saliva on them.

HFMD can usually be treated at home with over-the-counter medications to relieve fever and pain caused by mouth sores.

Children can return to child care and school as long as they:

- Are fever free without the use of fever reducing medications for at least 24 hours
- Feel well enough to participate in class and activities
- Do not have uncontrolled drooling from mouth sores. Sores on the body must be covered and no longer draining.

If your child is sick or you're unsure when it's appropriate for your child to return, talk with your child's healthcare provider and school or child care facility.

For more information, visit smchd.org/hfmd.

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County Organizations Highlight Local Food Resources

Thousands of Residents Face Potential Lapse in SNAP Benefits

St. Mary's County organizations are alerting residents that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may not be distributed on November 1, 2025, due to the ongoing federal government shutdown. This potential interruption could impact more than 11,000 county residents who rely on SNAP benefits for access to food and groceries.

The County recognizes the hardship this situation may cause for community members and is working closely with community partners to ensure that residents have access to available local resources.

During this time, we encourage those who are able to donate to county food pantries to help support neighbors in need. Every contribution, whether food, funds, or time, helps strengthen our community. The St. Mary's County Libraries will serve as a centralized drop-off point for donations to be distributed throughout the community. Donations can also be made directly to local pantries or through Feed St. Mary's.

Community members affected by the lapse in benefits can access the following resources and supports:

- Local food pantries – find a flyer of local food pantries in St. Mary's County, organized by town, at healthystmarys.com/foodsecurity
- The Healthy St. Mary's Partnership Food Security Text Program allows residents of St. Mary's County to receive weekly texts that include information on free food distribution events, food pantries, and healthy, low-cost recipes. Sign up for this free program at mailchi.mp/healthystmarys/kgieef6724.
- Maryland Access Point (MAP) provides a single point of entry to

information and referral services, long-term care planning, and connecting caregivers of older adults and adults with disabilities to services offered by the Department of Aging & Human Services. Contact the St. Mary's County MAP Coordinator at 301-475-4200 ext. 1057 or view the Resource Guide for Older Adults at stmaryscountymd.gov/docs/dahs-resource-guide.pdf?202406270929

- The St. Mary's County Public Schools Free and Reduced Lunch Program will continue to provide meals to those students already enrolled in the program.
- St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Community Outreach: Members of the Sheriff's Office COPs Unit will host food drives on Thursday, November 6, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Food Lion on Merchants Lane in Leonardtown and Giant on First Colony Way in California to help replenish local food pantries and support families in need.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office also urges residents to be vigilant for potential scams related to SNAP benefits. Scammers may pose as government representatives or assistance providers to collect personal information, PINs, or EBT card numbers. Residents should never share personal or account information over the phone, by text, or online unless they have verified the source.

For more information on food security and local resources available at this time, please visit healthystmarys.com/foodsecurity.

Press release from St. Mary's County Government

Democrats React to Commissioners' Shutdown Letter

The St. Mary's County Democratic Central Committee has reacted to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County sending a letter regarding the government shutdown to Senators Chris Van Hollen, Angela Alsobrooks and Chuck Schumer. The release says:

To help St. Mary's Countians struggling during the government shutdown, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County sent a letter to Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD). The letter states the government shutdown "is being driven purely by politics" before asking the Senators to "cross party lines and reopen our government." The letter continues, "we do not want to see the impacts on our residents worsen." We agree, and urge the Commissioners to advocate within the Republican Party as well.

Where is the outreach demanding Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) to bring the House back for negotiations and put working families first?

Why not ask Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) to reinstate food stamp benefits and healthcare subsidies that will keep premium costs down?

What about protecting jobs and Social Security benefits?

The Commissioners could also request that President Trump prioritize American's healthcare over sending \$40 billion to bail out Argentina or tearing down the White House East Wing to build a \$300 million ballroom.

The Republican Administration's slashing of federal spending has cost Maryland over 15,000 jobs this year. Under the

Republican's current plan, nearly 9,400 St. Mary's County residents face losing their healthcare benefits. Those on private insurance will pay more as the uninsured seek care at the emergency room rather than accessing preventative care with their doctor.

In June 2025, the Comptroller of Maryland released a report on federal spending in Maryland. Data from the report shows 22 percent of adjusted gross income in St. Mary's comes from federal jobs; \$5 billion in federal funding was spent in St. Mary's in FY24, with \$24 million in grant funding for local programs. Our local economy will worsen with the FY26 cuts, impacting businesses and working families, making it even harder to get by financially.

Delegate Matt Morgan (R-29A), Chair of the Maryland Freedom Caucus, is closely associated with Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD), Chair of the House Freedom Caucus. Both represent rural counties and know the impacts on our local economies.

Have the Commissioners explained the unpopular decisions they will have to make, to the detriment of our community, because of Federal funding cuts? Or are the Commissioners silent because they're afraid of losing Republican votes or favor?

Commissioner Colvin said there's "not much we can do from the local level." That limited vision is emblematic of the Commissioners' status quo—deflect challenges, pass the blame, and act performatively. Meanwhile, our community is bearing the brunt financially, mentally, and emotionally. We should all expect our County Commissioners to do more than signing a partisan-based form letter.

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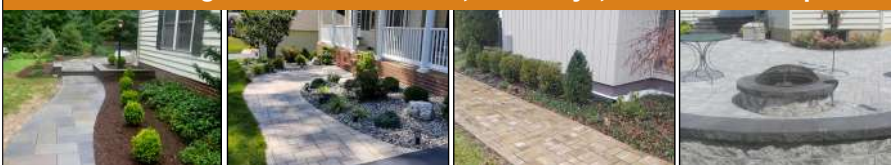
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School System on Target for Blueprint, Says Superintendent

By Tim Flaherty
 Contributing Writer

At a joint Board of Education / Commissioners of St. Mary's County meeting on Tuesday, St. Mary's County School Superintendent J. Scott Smith updated the commissioners on the public school system's progress in implementing the state's Blueprint for Maryland's Future education initiative, which is designed to improve the public school experience for students statewide.

"We are very much up with all of our homework. We have submitted on time. We have gotten back thumbs up for the majority" of the paperwork submitted, Smith said.

St. Mary's County schools have some achievements relating to the first "Pillar" of the Blueprint program, according to Smith. "We are offering full-day pre-K for all income-eligible students up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. In fact, we are able to offer that to up to 360 percent of the federal poverty level, something that's not required for multiple years ahead. We are in good stead.

Smith did report that the Blueprint asks jurisdictions to offer full-day pre-K for three-year-olds. "No one is going to be able to do that, he explained to the commissioners. "No one (statewide) is moving forward on that. Ultimately, that's something that the blueprint is going to have to reconsider. They (Blueprint administrators) believe that there would be this great opportunity for public-private partnerships and that private (daycare) providers would be interested in doing it.

"What they found is that with the onerous amount of regulations and requirements, no one is really being drawn to that work. People who provide daycare, they are not looking for more. They are good to go. They don't have any vacancies, they have waiting lists."

Another of the Blueprint program's "Pillars" is aimed at increasing pay for educators and attracting better qualified teachers, statewide.

"We have," Smith told the commissioners, "for the first time in the history of St. Mary's County Public Schools, a competitive pay scale that has a starting salary and range that is aligned to both of our neighbors, Charles and Calvert. We're competitive, but we're also competitive with Anne Arundel County, (and we are) close to Prince George's. We're not having a problem recruiting down here. Our teachers feel heard and valued, and that's demonstrated by your support for the Board of Education. We are ahead of our implementation. We are in good stead."

The Blueprint program mandates that all public school systems in Maryland offer a starting teacher's salary of at least \$60,000 beginning July 1st, 2026. "There are multi-

ple school systems that still have a bit to go to meet that measured mark," Smith said. "When you consider all the things that they're going to be struggling with as far as funding, that's going to be a real hard measure to meet. We, down here, are in very good stead."

Superintendent Smith went on to thank the commissioners for their support with increasing teachers salaries.

Smith addressed the Blueprint's third pillar, college and career readiness. "We're working with all of our secondary students to make sure that by the end of 10th grade, they are on an appropriate path, that they are ready for whatever post-secondary thing that they wish to pursue.

"Of particular note, with college and career readiness, we pay for the PSAT, the SAT, and all AP level tests that the students take if they are college and career ready by the end of 10th grade. We also pay all of their enrollment costs for College of Southern Maryland coursework. We have a very robust number of students who are attending the College of Southern Maryland, or taking College of Southern Maryland courses in the comprehensive high school, and being awarded a direct transcript credit."

The fourth pillar of the Blueprint deals with resources for student success. "We currently have five community schools that have extra resources," Smith explained. "They have extra social-emotional learning coaches, success coaches, and social workers who are there. But they also have more resources for intervention and time-out-of-school programming to extend the school day academically for kids who need it."

The fifth and final pillar of the Blueprint is titled Governance and Accountability. Smith addressed this by saying, "This is all the incredible complexity of the blueprint." He explained briefly the challenges in figuring funding for each child depending on their needs, then added, "We are one of the best-positioned counties in the state of. We are in complete compliance with every expectation for the 25-26 school year. We are not writing for a waiver."

Smith did note the only worry for him was the issue with declining enrollments that was discussed with the County Commissioners earlier in the morning. "We're going to have a lot of work ahead of us to talk about how to bring (home school) students who are in St. Mary's County back into the public schools by making attractive options for them."

Commissioner Hewitt asked Smith how the county was doing with the Blueprint's funding formula.

"Well, again, Smith exclaimed, "you have consistently, in my 12 years as superintendent, always funded over maintenance of effort. Maintenance of effort was actually above local effort, the blueprint calculation. So you're in fantastic stead."

School Enrollment Drop and Redistricting Dominate Joint Meeting

By Tim Flaherty
Contributing Writer

School redistricting and enrollment were the biggest topics on the agenda Tuesday morning, as the members of the St. Mary's County Board of Education met with the Commissioners of St. Mary's county in Leonardtown. The joint meeting took place before the Commissioners regularly scheduled October 28th meeting at the Governmental Center.

School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith addressed the issue of declining enrollment in local public schools, reminding the commissioners that state funding for schools is dependent on enrollment. "When enrollment goes up, funding goes up," Smith stated. "When enrollment goes down, funding goes down. Following the pandemic, we find ourselves with declining enrollment. Two years ago, it was about 150 fewer students than the year before. Last year, we saw an over 300 student decline. And this year, we find ourselves once again with declining enrollment."

Smith displayed charts outlining the enrollment trends across localities and grades. The biggest drops this year over last, according to the charts, was in the county's elementary schools. Hollywood Elementary School saw a modest increase of 39 students. Lexington Park Elementary School saw an increase of enrollment of about 21 students this year, and Green Holly Elementary School has 16 more students attending. The other 15 schools remained flat or saw drops in enrollment, with Evergreen Elementary seeing 51 fewer students than last school year. Carver, Dent, Mechanicsville, Ridge, and Town Creek elementary schools all had between 20 and 22 fewer pupils.

"We see that we have special-ed 3K and special-ed 4K programs that are seeing an increase," Scott explained to the commissioners as he summarized the chart. "Pre-K is about where it was. A hopeful measure is we do see more kids enrolling in kindergarten; that's up 49 students. But then first grade is down 11; second grade is down 67 students; third grade, 28; fourth grade, 65, and fifth grade up 43. So across all of our 18 elementary schools, we have 142 fewer students enrolled than we did last year."

Smith displayed a second chart showing this year's enrollment at the county's five middle schools and three high schools. Chesapeake Charter School and Leonardtown Middle School had very slight increases in enrollment, while Esperanza, Margaret Brent, and Spring Ridge middle schools all had drops. There are a total of 53

fewer middle school students enrolled in St. Mary's County Public School this year over last. Curiously, the 8th grade saw a decrease of 81 students while 6th and 7th grades saw modest increases.

At the high school level, the chart showed all three school with fewer students: Great Mills is down 22 pupils, Chopticon has 52 fewer, and Leonardtown has 62 fewer kids than last year. In all, 136 fewer students now attend public high school in St. Mary's than the previous year.

Scott noted that much of the large decline at Leonardtown came on the heels of a large senior class that graduated in 2025. "That means that 267 fewer students will be in our per-pupil allocation," he said. "That represents about a little between four and five million dollars in decreased state and local funding based on maintenance of effort and the state funding formulas. So that will be a very large conversation, certainly, as we go through November and December, and then we build our budgets moving forward."

Smith went on to indicate that future conversations on enrollment will need to include talk about school boundaries and facility utilization. "This is certainly a troubling trend," he added, "and this is something that we all need to be discussing, not only as a school system but as a county and a larger community."

When questioned by Commissioner Eric Colvin of Commissioner District 1 about the situations in neighboring counties, Smith said that Charles County is seeing a pupil increase of two-to-three percent. He said this is mainly due to Charles' increase in high density housing development. Calvert County, Smith said, "is mirroring us almost exactly. They're seeing a 1 to 2% decrease in enrollment, and they've seen it for the last four years as well." He went on to note that the decrease in public school enrollment is being seen across the state.

"It's not overly dramatic, but a 1 to 2 decline in enrollment means a 1 to 2 decline in per pupil funding for each one of the school systems. So, we're all watching this together."

Smith also said the school board would be discussing ways to increase numbers within the system. "One of which," he said, "is trying to reach out to parents who have historically homeschooled their kids, and engaging them in a conversation to see if there might be a way to offer virtual academy options that are attractive to them so we can draw them back into the school system." He told the commissioners that home-schooling pupils numbered

at about 1,600 during the peak pandemic year, dropped to about 1,200 students, but is now trending upwards again. "It's not at one grade level; it's across the board. Parents are just choosing that as an option."

After questioning by Commissioner Mike Hewitt of Commissioner District 2, the school system's chief financial officer, Tammy McCourt, came to the dais and clarified that the county may lose up to \$9,700 for each of the 267 students, on average, lost during the previous three years.

Later in the meeting, Kim Howe, Director of Capital Planning for the school system, addressed how the dip in the number of students is affecting future decisions about school redistricting and facilities. A big part of the challenge is the fact that some schools are at capacity or even over capacity, while other buildings are underutilized. She cited Leonardtown High School's current enrollment of 2,056 students, which puts it over capacity, while Great Mills and Chopticon high schools are under capacity.

A fluctuating birth rate is also making it difficult to predict future needs for schools.

"As Dr. Smith talked about, we're seeing decline across the system," said Howe, "but there was that (increase) that showed up this year in kindergarten, and that is what our projections have been showing: is that in the short term, we will see a decline, but in the next five to six years, we should start to see an increase in birth rate, and then hopefully the potential of returning students back into our system."

"What that can be attributed to is COVID-19. During the period of COVID and the several years after, the birth rate declined, but it is starting to come back up. For us, from the day a child is born, it's five years before they enter into our school system. So if you look at where we are and you look at FY 2031, you're going to start to see that that's when we see a return in student enrollment."

Howe referred to the CannonDesign firm, a consulting organization hired to advise the school board on redistricting and facility issues, saying their representatives have told her the situation here is replicated throughout the state and the country. She said that CannonDesign is in the process of analyzing data from St. Mary's, and will collect more input from the public at community forums scheduled for next month. CannonDesign will spend the remainder of this calendar year developing a draft plan that will be presented to the school board in January, recommending what boundaries need to be redrawn, and what school buildings need to be better utilized or repurposed.



School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith

Public hearings on a final plan proposal are expected to be held in February, according to the graphics Howe displayed for the commissioners.

The Board of Education is tasked with approving any final plan.

Michael Watson, the school system's Chief Operating Officer, talked to the commissioners about efforts to inform the public of hearings and to gather input. He cited Facebook posts, Instagram, YouTube, email solicitations, press releases, and the St. Mary's County Public Schools website (www.smcps.org/redistricting) as effective means by which the information has been gathered and disseminated.

Watson added that each school principal has a SMORE newsletter that has detailed information on redistricting.

The first round of community forums on this issue has already taken place. Watson said added that more than 3,400 public surveys on redistricting have already been returned to the school system, and he said the consulting firm told him those are excellent numbers. CannonDesign "indicated that our numbers rivaled school districts 300 times our size in Las Vegas."

Watson spent several minutes answering commissioners' questions about future rounds of forums and their locations.

The next of three forum sessions will be held November 12th at Carver Elementary School, with another held at Chopticon High on November 13th, and the third on November 14th at Leonardtown High School. Watson said he suggests registering to attend a session through the county's public school website. All forums will begin at 4pm and will wind up at 7pm.



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3RD PLACE: BLUE SCARAB TATTOO



Best by a Leonardtown Business or Organization

BLUE SCARAB TATTOO

2ND PLACE: THE HAIR COMPANY

3RD PLACE: FRIENDS OF GARVEY SENIOR CENTER

Best by a Visiting Business or Organization

THREE MULES WELDING

2ND PLACE: FLORA CORNER FARM

3RD PLACE: SOMD BMX



Best Town Council Member
NICK COLVIN

Best Family/Individual
SCHMALZ FAMILY

Most Creative
GIBSON STEEL & POWDER COATING

Best Represents the Business
BUDDY LEE LANDSCAPING

Commissioners Air Frustration as Shutdown Threatens SNAP Benefits

By Tim Flaherty
Contributing Writer

"We, as commissioners in St. Mary's County, are required to pass a balanced budget every year, and I don't see why our Congress and our federal leadership cannot do the same thing. So, they need to figure this out."

County Commissioner Scott Ostrow, again this week, voiced frustration over the continuing federal government shutdown during his turn during "commissioner's time" at the Tuesday morning County Commissioners of St. Mary's County meeting in Leonardtown.

The shutdown has entered its fifth week. "There are a lot of people in this community that are feeling a very serious direct result in their finances," Ostrow continued after explaining how the shutdown was affecting his own family. "And they are very concerned with how are they going to feed their families? How are they going to pay their rent, their car payments?"

Ostrow, who represents Commissioner District 4, also expressed displeasure over the political nature of the shutdown and added that national political leaders need to come to terms. "So they need to get this solved. So please do so."

The comments on Tuesday come just days before the deadline for the federal government to fund SNAP cards on November 1st. SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program) provides financial assistance to buy food for nearly 42 million qualifying people nationwide.

Also on Tuesday, a joint press release was distributed by several St. Mary's County

agencies advising county residents on where to find food assistance if their SNAP funds become exhausted in November. The release said more than 11,000 county residents rely on SNAP benefits to help put food on their tables.

Commissioner Mike Alderson, representing Commissioner District 3, noted that the pause in SNAP benefits will have an impact on the local school system, as school nutrition programs will feel extra stress.

"My big takeaway from this is, (speaking to Congress) just get to work. It's not that hard," Alderson said. "Sit down in the room and get to work, you have to go get a couple pizzas, and you know, if you got to have a beer or whatever, sit down because, and just relax and do it. Stop worrying about your little personal kingdom you're trying to build through reelection and worry about the people who put you in that position in the first place."

Commissioner Eric Colvin of Commissioner District 1 said, "I'm happy to see that the county and the health department, and several of our partner agencies and community groups, have met to discuss the problem."

"There's not a lot we can do at the local level. My understanding is that in St. Mary's County, there are six-thousand, eight-hundred and thirty adults on SNAP benefits. And four-thousand, five-hundred and fifty-five children on SNAP benefits." Colvin expressed hope that the government "actually gets back to work and this gets rectified, but if it doesn't, then I think at the county level we should declare a state of emergency."

Commissioners to Host Public Forum on Nov. 4

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) will host a Public Forum on Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the CSMC meeting room in the Chesapeake Building, located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown.

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

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

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

The CSMC are dedicated to ensuring equal access and participation for all residents.

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

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

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

Press release from CSMC

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“THEY NEED TO GET THIS SOLVED.”

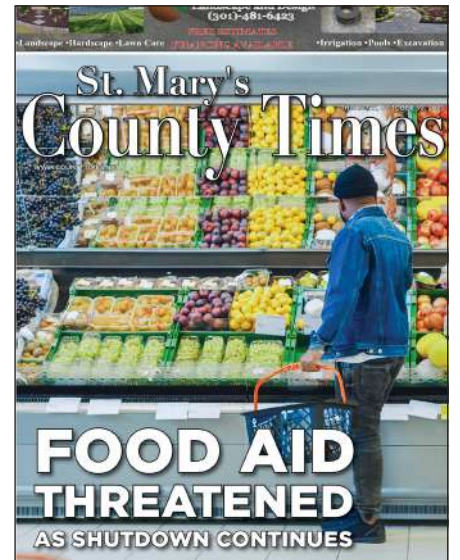
COMMISSIONER SCOTT OSTROW ON THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN
AND THE THREAT TO SNAP BENEFITS



LOCAL 5
Joint meeting tackles redistricting, enrollment



COMMUNITY 13
The Newtowne Players to screen *Rocky Horror Picture Show* for 50th anniversary



ON THE COVER
St. Mary's residents face lapse in SNAP benefits amid government shutdown

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 30	FRI, OCT 31	SAT, NOV 1	SUN, NOV 2
AM Thunderstorms Hi: 67° Lo: 49°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 62° Lo: 45°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 64° Lo: 43°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 62° Lo: 42°
MON, NOV 3	TUE, NOV 4	WED, NOV 5	THU, NOV 6
Mostly Sunny Hi: 65° Lo: 46°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 62° Lo: 41°	Sunny Hi: 64° Lo: 42°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 59° Lo: 45°



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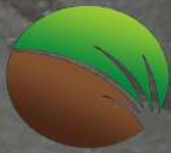
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FOOD AID THREATENED AS SHUTDOWN CONTINUES