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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

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**Amazon Proposes Data
Center at Calvert Cliffs**

**Soil Conservation District
Pilots Oyster Reef Project**

**Calvert Residents
Turn Out for No Kings**



CALVERT CELEBRATES ITS DOCTORS

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“IT’S NOT SIGNED, SEALED, AND DELIVERED.”

AMAZON WEB SERVICES OFFICIAL BECKY FORD ON THEIR DATA CENTER PROPOSAL



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Soil Conservation District pilots oyster reef project



LOCAL 5
Calvert Cliffs wraps up refueling outage



ON THE COVER 5
Reconstructive surgeon finds a home in Calvert

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, APR 2 Partly Cloudy Hi: 67° Lo: 51°	FRI, APR 3 Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 64°	SAT, APR 4 Partly Cloudy Hi: 81° Lo: 66°	SUN, APR 5 Rain Hi: 71° Lo: 44°
MON, APR 6 Mostly Sunny Hi: 60° Lo: 45°	TUE, APR 7 Partly Cloudy Hi: 57° Lo: 39°	WED, APR 8 Sunny Hi: 53° Lo: 42°	THU, APR 9 Mostly Sunny Hi: 65° Lo: 51°

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'Potential' Amazon Data Center Plan Unveiled

Campus Would Be Next to Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Amazon Web Services (AWS), a division of online giant Amazon, at a March 26 community meeting at Calvert Middle School, unveiled "potential" plans for a data center complex on property owned by Constellation next to the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant.

Company officials emphasized that no site plan request had been submitted and final design was not available, thus a drawing was also not available.

The presentation comes two days after the county commissioners were presented with a plan for a four-building data center complex on land owned by the county just south of Calvert Cliffs.

Becky Ford of AWS, said, "We're here to talk about a potential project with Constellation Energy at a site adjacent to their existing facility here in Calvert County. We've spent a considerable amount of time in conversations with multiple members of our team and the Constellation team to find out if there's an opportunity for us to work together."

She said "The reason we've not had more public engagement is that there's a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes. A lot of time that we spend evaluating requirements, looking at the state's regulations, looking at county regulations, looking at our own requirements for a site, and looking at different aspects of the property and how we would design and construct data centers."

Ford observed, "We're at a point where we have some preliminary site plans. I know folks have seen some of this information online, but I want to reassure you that we've not submitted any site plans to the county. There are no existing agreements in place between Amazon and Calvert County, and this is still very much a project. It's not a done deal. It's not signed, sealed, and delivered. It's a potential project that we are eval-

uating as part of our initiative to support our customer requirements."

Ford said her presentation was in response to hundreds of questions submitted online by the public.

She explained, "Data centers power our everyday lives. They contain information that helps support our financial needs. It helps to process data, provide educational opportunities for our children, for our schools, for our universities, and we are actively working to help support cloud services and the infrastructure associated with that."

"We have millions of customers all across the world and have constructed campuses in a number of states in and around this area," Ford said.

She added, "When we talk about why Calvert County in partnership with Constellation, we have evaluated the existing opportunity and currently zoned industrial property. So, there will not be any rezoning required to support this project. It's all within the existing property that's zoned heavy industrial (where) data center use is allowed. Data centers are not new to Maryland, not new to Calvert County.

"In the due diligence that we've conducted, we've been through the county ordinance and requirements. They are among the highest standards that we've seen in any of the communities where we're considering development or actively developing."

She noted that a site plan submitted to the state for wetland permitting due diligence "shows eight buildings on the site and is reflective of what we are currently contemplating. What I will say is that as we get further along in our due diligence, in our design work, it's likely that this picture will change and shift a little bit. We may have one building added or others taken away or moved depending on how the site itself meets our requirements."

She observed, "A lot of the questions submitted through the portal were focused on

water use and concerns related to cooling water. We use water in a few key ways on our site, and that includes potable water, so sinks and toilets that employees will use in everyday activities similar to any other business. And then we use water for cooling.

"And in this particular case, one of the biggest benefits of this project is that there is no new water required to cool our data centers. We'll use water from Constellation's existing process. Once it's been through their cooling system, it'll come over to our facility and be used to cool our data centers. And then it'll be sent back through the same process and at the same standards that currently exist."

Ford said, "In regard to cooling water, 96 percent of the year we cool our data centers with free-flowing air from the outside. The other four percent of the time we'll use that cooling water to help cool down the air, and that air will cool the equipment in the data center itself."

Mike Fredette, AWS's energy team head, said, "We're seeing significant electricity growth globally as well as the US through many factors, whether it be electrification of industry, shoring of manufacturing adoption, as well as the digitalization of the global and US economy, much of which is empowered and enabled by data centers. Data centers require highly reliable, scalable electricity to power the servers that store the data to deliver the services that our customers use."

He added, "As we think about that electricity that we consume, we like to break it down to three core principles. One, we're committed to continue paying our full share for electricity costs to power our data centers and provide the services to our customers. Two, we're committed to continue to operate more efficiently, and we're committed to operate more sustainably."

Fredette said, "The overall cost of service to provide electricity to those data centers was lower than the overall revenue received by those data centers. And what that results

in is called a, a revenue surplus. That revenue surplus can be used by the utility for multiple factors. It can be used to continue the electricity grid, to harden the electricity grid, to digitalize, modernize that electricity grid, or it can go against existing and future fixed costs that existing rate payers are already bearing.

"And at this particular site, this campus, we've been working very closely with our stakeholders... Baltimore Gas and Electric, Constellation and SMECO to ensure that we study and that we're ensuring that this facility can be both served reliably, but will not negatively impact the surrounding community."

He said, "This campus is unique in that it's located directly adjacent to an existing nuclear power facility. It's cross cut by three different extra high voltage transmission lines, which provides a good opportunity for data centers to come in and secure highly reliable, scalable power to both continue to scale up the overall generation capacity in the region as well as to serve that load for data center purposes."

Ford said, "We work with organizations like College of Southern Maryland, high schools, and community colleges in order to provide programming for the skills that are necessary to construct, operate, and maintain data centers. This project in particular, based on the site plan that we looked at earlier, is likely to create at least 250 new jobs. And that does not count the construction phase where there will be thousands of construction workers involved in helping to construct those facilities and develop the site plan throughout that process. The folks that we hire are typically in the \$80 to \$100,000 pay range."

After the presentation, attendees were able to go into a separate room to discuss various aspects of data centers with experts provided by AWS. Two sessions were held at the middle school.

dickmyers@countytunes.net

Calvert Residents Participate in Nationwide No Kings Protests



Crowds gathered in Solomons, Prince Frederick, and Dunkirk on March 28 as part of the nationwide No Kings movement protesting the Trump administration. Photos by Ceandra Scott.



Soil Conservation Efforts Move Offshore

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

An agency noted for its work on the land is embarking on a pilot oyster reef project designed to help save Calvert County's 33-mile Chesapeake Bay Shoreline. Those Calvert cliffs are eroding at a rate of two feet a year.

Calvert Soil Conservation District Manager Jason Leavitt explained the idea at the March 24 county commissioner meeting. He said, "The Soil Conservation District in the county plays a direct and measurable role in improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay by reducing the flow of sediment and nutrients from the land into local waterways through conservation practices such as covered crops, repairing forest buffers, grass waterways, shoreline stabilization, and livestock exclusion fencing. The district helps limit nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment before it reaches streams, rivers, and ultimately the Bay.

"Speaking of shoreline restoration, Calvert County shoreline was previously lined with oyster reefs. Current Bay-wide abundance is estimated at about one percent of historic levels."

Leavitt said, "Traditionally, soil conservation district improvements have been primarily land based. The agricultural industry specifically has been the primary focus and initial priority for nutrient reduction efforts



because of the cost effectiveness of installing best management practices. However, significant strides made by agriculture alone have not yet proved sufficient to demonstrate meaningful water quality improvements in adjacent tributaries for the Chesapeake Bay. As a result, the Calvert Soil Conservation District is seeking to expand its sphere of influence to include oyster restoration and shoreline stabilization projects.

"Oysters naturally filter water, removing excess nutrients and suspended sediment while living shorelines and other stabilization efforts reduce erosion and nutrient run off by

the water's edge. By complimenting land-based conservation practices with in-water and shoreline strategies, the district aims to accelerate water quality improvements and strengthen the overall health and resilience of local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay."

"The Great Shellfish Bay" was how the Chesapeake Bay was historically known, observed Soil Conservation Assistant District Manager Ryan St. Laurent. "Not so much today, but we're hoping to get that back."

The pilot project involves installing three mile-long oyster reefs along the shoreline, with the first being in North Beach.

The reefs not only provide habitat for oyster "spat" to mature to adult oysters, they also provide stabilization for the cliffs by helping to prevent the undermining of the cliffs (at their toe) along the water's edge.

St. Laurent noted that those who enjoy eating the remaining oysters should not feel guilty because those discarded oyster shells also can be panted to provide hard surfaces for that spat to settle on and thrive.

St. Laurent noted, "In some areas like down south in Florida, North Carolina, they can grow in the intertidal column, meaning like between mean low water and mean high water and sometimes they'll be up on the shoreline. But in Maryland, they primarily act as a toe structure... what's called a perched beach. Whether that toe structure is riprap or oyster reef, physically it's serving the same purpose. But historically that's what oysters did because they were the physical foundation. They hold sediment near shore, and they filter sediment out of the water column. They physically do that."

The project is costing \$1 million per mile and is being funded with grants. But that's only three miles for the three projects and there's 33 miles to protect. St. Laurent said it obviously will take more money. But he's optimistic that with enough funding the entire shoreline can be protected in 20 years and expanded to encompass the entire Bay area.

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Chesapeake Beach Appears Ready to Junk Sidewalk

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The majority of the town council members of the Town of Chesapeake Beach appear poised to reject an attempt to continue to go after state grant funding for a sidewalk that would connect Chesapeake Village with Beach Elementary School. The funding would have come from a program called "Safe Routes to School." But the majority of the council feel the sidewalk would not be used by students because the subdivision is too far from school. The school system sends school buses into the neighborhood because their regulations require it for any students living more than a half mile from school. The nearest home in Chesapeake Village is more than a mile.

The program, that has long been on the town's agenda, was 30 percent complete in its design, tantamount to a feasibility study.

At the March 19 town council meeting, Town Manager Samelia Okpodu urged the council members to let the state know what it intended to do. Although it is clear the council wants to relook at connecting the subdivision and the rest of town with perhaps a trail or path instead of a sidewalk, at the end of the meeting the council still had not formally voted.

Okpodu wanted to "get council feedback on the Safe Routes to School project." She said she provided council with "options based on what has been presented. So, it outlines

where we are currently with the project, how much of investment the town has already invested in it. And the decision point now is critical, primarily because all of the work that was done before under the 30 percent grant was specifically for the sidewalk that would run the distance of Chesapeake Village to Beach Elementary along Route 261. The 30 percent design has already been completed."

She added, "When you do a feasibility study, if you decide you can move forward or not move forward, you don't have to pay anything back. Where we are right now is with the 100-percent design money. If the town chooses to sign off on it, then you are committing to build, to construct the project. So right now we don't have any grant funds for the construction of the project."

The issue proved extremely contentious at the February council meeting, with Councilwoman Laura Blackwelder, who supported the sidewalk, criticizing several other members, most notably Council Vice Chair Jamie Shuls, over apparently wanting to pull out of the project.

That back and forth continued at the March 19 meeting. Shuls said, "I am not for moving forward with this because this needs to be put to rest. There's too many unknowns with this, and it's a very expensive project. I'm in support though of looking at the alternative options and figuring out how we can still look to connect the neighborhood. I committed to that the last time. There's still a lot of due diligence that has to be done regarding that,

but specific to this SHA piece, I think we're doing a disservice to not only the state, but to our town residents by continuing to pretend that we're actually going to move forward with this when the last council consensus was not met to even move forward."

Blackwelder said, "I have a question for you, Councilman. Just to clarify, if there was a design that was amenable to the council, you would support a project in this area or you support no project to connect Chesapeake Village?"

Shuls responded, "I think it'd be a disservice for me to play in hypotheticals because I think I can't commit to something that spends taxpayer dollars without understanding the totality of the project and the impacts and looking at all the other ones. So, I am open to the conversation for sure."

Shuls said that at the March work session council considered multiple options. "There's some additional conversations that need to occur. I'd like to understand what grant opportunities (there are).

Blackwelder pressed. "You understand the numbers. You, see the numbers. That's how much the project costs."

Shuls responded, "There is no plan placed in front of me right now that says to build a sidewalk, or to build a trail from Chesapeake Village to anywhere in town, it would cost this much other than estimates. So again, you have to allow me to do my due diligence and understand what we're committing the town funds to do. So, I'm in support of the



Councilwoman Laura Blackwelder

conversation, but as of the 19th of March at 6:43 PM there is nothing in front of me that says we are committing to X number of dollars, and this is how much we would get from grant funding. This is a timeline and it is a feasible project."

Blackwelder told Shuls, "So the question is whether you have a project in front of you or not, do you support connecting Chesapeake Village? Because supporting connecting Chesapeake Village is going to cost money. Right now we have a grant. I also believe that there are opportunities to come up with the right project, but the right project is not going to be free."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Dr. Wilfred 'Bud' Ehrmantraut: Finding a Home and a 'Great Career'

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

National Doctor's Day, which just concluded on March 31, is a time to honor all the doctors who care for us every day. One of them, Dr. Wilfred "Bud" Ehrmantraut, a board-certified plastic and reconstructive surgeon, has been at CalvertHealth for more than 20 years.

CalvertHealth says of the doctor, "With nearly 30 years of surgical training and experience, Dr. Ehrmantraut is a well-respected surgeon with an outstanding reputation for providing exemplary results and patient care. A compassionate and caring physician, Dr. Ehrmantraut takes his time with each patient to compose a treatment plan tailored to their individual needs.

"Dr. Ehrmantraut has been a long-time member of the medical staff at CalvertHealth and has chaired the department of surgery at CHMC and served on the operative and invasive committees as well as the leadership team of the Sheldon E. Goldberg Center for Breast Care at CalvertHealth.

"He also served as the Chief of Medical Staff for many years.

"Dr. Ehrmantraut is a graduate of George Washington University Medical Center and completed his general surgery training at St. Agnes Healthcare in Baltimore and his specialty training at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. He has been performing breast reconstruction for 15 years."

Dr. Ehrmantraut said, "I've been through a lot of growth with the hospital, with the community. It's changed so much over time. My wife and I moved down here, it was probably 2002, and we've raised four children here who are now, two in college, ones graduated from college and still have one little one here. So, it's been a great run here. I've really enjoyed life."

None of the children have pursued their father's medical profession.

One is pursuing environmental science. He said it "was really because of the environment here, the Chesapeake Bay and growing up on it."

He is a Marylander, having grown up in Rockville and attended the University of Maryland. At St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, he did five years of general surgery and then went on and did a plastic surgery fellowship at Penn State for two years.

"And I moved down here and it was the water and I'm really familiar with the community," he said. His grandfather had "a small little beach place down in Clements: in nearby St. Mary's and they visited all the time. "We had a lot of fun. We'd go fishing together."

When did the light bulb go on that said he wanted to become a doctor? He said "I was pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, and I was rotating with a professor, actually volunteering with him, and I was doing a lot of work with forensic anthropology and was doing rotations at the Smithsonian Institute. Basically, we were reconstructing skeletal remains. And through the reconstruction of skeletal remains, we were able to determine sex, age, and some of the races and some of the causes of death. And I was extremely interested in that. He really encouraged me to pursue a career in medicine, which was already kind of in the back of my mind to begin with. And at that point I decided that I was going to medical school. So, during my rotations in medical school, I did a rotation in plastic and reconstructive surgery. And during that time it was once again putting together body parts that were broken and fixing things that were taken away from people. And I knew that's what it was that I wanted to do. And everything kind of came together right at that point."

He now works on all body parts "all the way from head to toe. So, I'm a board-certified plastic surgeon by the American Board of Plastic Surgery, and I'm certified to treat

people and reconstruct body parts from the head to the toe."

It's a varied practice. "It's very. So, reconstructive surgery can be cosmetic and reconstructed. There's a huge overlap, so I do all of that range from suturing, treating lacerations, treating skin cancer, reconstructing people after they've had tumors removed. Reconstructing patients after they've had bariatric surgery with massive weight loss. It's a lengthy career because it's so diverse what you see every single day that really is just a wonderful thing. So, there's never a boring day."

What does it take to become a doctor? He replied, "You really need to be able to communicate properly. There's a lot of communication amongst professionals and also with the patient.

"I think you really need a very strong work ethic to be able to pursue a career in medicine. Medical school can be a fun challenge, but it's a lot of work."

He added, "Empathy, definitely for patients — compassion.

"And I think one of the biggest things for somebody who is going into a surgical subspecialty is ability to use their hands, and eye and hand coordination. Dexterity is certainly a really important thing to be able to do."

He said, "When I went through a bunch of different rotations, and through medical school and some of which are surgical subspecialties, in those surgical subspecialties, they really try to see how you're with hand-eye coordination. And there's some individuals that are very skilled at that set. And there are other individuals that aren't as skilled with that. So, they really do kind of focus in to see who's going to be best at it, and I think they encourage those residents and medical students."

Dr. Ehrmantraut noted, "Way back years ago, in order to become a plastic surgeon, most of the individuals had to complete a five-year residency in general surgery before



Dr. Wilfred "Bud" Ehrmantraut

you went into plastic surgery. Now it's a little bit different. So, what they do now is you do a couple years in general surgery and then finish out several years in plastic surgery."

He said about being at CalvertHealth, "It's a wonderful place to be. As far as doctors go, we really work kind of as a team, I would say with not only our fellow colleagues, the physicians, but also the allied health providers like nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and nursing, and all the ancillary staff we have. I think one of the most important things that we have at the hospital is a really strong support with our administration and the board of directors. They really, really emphasize patient safety and patient care.

"And the other thing we have is we have a lot of support from the Calvert County Commissioners too, and the emergency medical services that we have.

"It all works together."

When he was chief of staff, he saw, "It was just unbelievable watching how everybody was able to work as team, just year after year, better and better."

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Calvert Cliffs Refueling Outage Delivers Close to \$90 Million in Upgrades

The Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center recently wrapped up another successful, safely executed spring refueling outage, investing nearly \$90 million in equipment upgrades and bringing significant economic impact to the Calvert County area.

"Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center reliably powers the equivalent of more than 1.3 million homes with emissions-free energy, while creating thousands of jobs and economic opportunity locally because of the annual maintenance and refueling outages," said Pete Moodie, Site Vice President. "This year's 27-day outage focused on multi-million-dollar equipment upgrades that will ensure the continued safe and reliable operation of Calvert Cliffs Unit 1."

The outage brought more than 1,500 skilled electricians, pipefitters, welders, carpenters, laborers, steamfitters and other tradespeople to Calvert County for close to a month, filling area hotels, restaurants and

other shops to capacity. The workforce also raised \$30,000 dollars that will be distributed among selected local charities.

"We are very fortunate to have Constellation here in Calvert County," said Kathryn Maney, President and CEO, Calvert County Chamber of Commerce. "Traditionally, the winter months are a slower season for hospitality, retail and restaurants. The influx of personnel during the outages brings increased consumer activity that delivers an economic lift to local businesses. This increased spending drives growth and encourages reinvestment within the community when it's needed most."

"The outage at Calvert Cliffs is a lifeline for Springhill by Marriott Prince Frederick during the lull between the winter holiday season and the spring," said Manager Kim Mina. "Springhill PF is one of the top performing Marriotts in the area specifically because of the outage. Our rooms are filled, translating to significant revenue for the hotel."

Many types of businesses look forward to the outage, including local eateries.

"For us here at Adam's Ribs, the best part of the winter is knowing that the outage is coming," said Jaime Padilla, owner of the Prince Frederick restaurant. "They are great people. They support us all the time. We are happy to have them and hate to see them go."

"The staff looks forward to everyone coming into town," said Brandon Harrington, owner of Buckets in Lusby. "It's a very active three to four weeks. We have been happy to extend our hours while they are in town, and we hope to keep doing it."

Located on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, the Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center is Maryland's only nuclear energy facility and one of the largest economic engines in the state. It contributes \$21 million annually in property taxes and employs more than 800 full-time employees. The station is home to two pressurized

water reactors capable of delivering 1,756 megawatts, which is roughly 40 percent of Maryland's total power generation and 80 percent of the state's clean power generation.

The thousands of tasks performed during the outage included the installation of a new \$4.8 million, 151-ton transformer transported to Maryland from Alabama. The transformer is responsible for adjusting voltage so electricity can be delivered safely and efficiently to the grid. A \$14.9 million upgrade to the unit's electrical equipment was also performed. Skilled workers also inspected, replaced, refreshed or overhauled various pumps, valves and systems that will keep the unit operating safely for the next 24 months. These investments support longterm grid reliability and reinforce Constellation's role as a cornerstone of Maryland's energy infrastructure.

Press release from Constellation Energy Corporation

CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of March 9, 2026 –March 15, 2026, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,234 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 48
- Disorderly: 19
- Domestic: 33
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 47
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 992
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 29
- Traffic Complaints: 45
- Traffic Stops: 292
- 911 Hang-Ups: 41
- ARRESTS: 53



Denzil Marquet Bonner

CDS Violation: 26-23955 On March 13, 2026, at approximately 2:29 p.m., Deputy McIntosh conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle after observing multiple traffic violations along Southern Maryland Blvd. and Ferry Landing Road in Dunkirk.

Upon making contact with the driver, identified as **Denzil Marquet Bonner**, 29, of Lusby, deputies detected a strong odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle. During the investigation, deputies observed several medium-sized glass jars containing individually packaged baggies of suspected marijuana in plain view. A subsequent search revealed four large glass jars containing approximately 4,034 grams of suspected marijuana, with an estimated street value of \$46,520. Bonner was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Possession with Intent to Distribute Cannabis and Possession of Cannabis Over the Civil Use Amount.



Jennifer Marie Thomas

CDS Violation: 26-24300 On March 14, 2026, at approximately 7:40 p.m., DFC Huy initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for a traffic violation in the area of Route 260 and northbound Route 4. Contact was made

with the driver, identified as **Jennifer Marie Thomas**, 29, of Lothian, who was found to be operating the vehicle without a valid driver's license. Further investigation revealed that Thomas was possessing a white, rock-like substance suspected to be crack cocaine, as well as a glass smoking device containing white residue, also suspected to be crack cocaine. A subsequent search of the vehicle uncovered an additional improvised smoking device with white residue and a clear plastic bag containing white residue, both suspected to be cocaine. Thomas was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. During transport, Thomas spat throughout the prisoner compartment, defacing the police cruiser.

Thomas was charged with Driving Without a License, CDS: Possession – Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, and Malicious Destruction of Property (value under \$1,000).

Damaged Property: 26-23933 On March 13, 2026, DFC Hill responded to Charley's Cheesesteaks & Wings, located at 823 Prince Frederick Blvd. in Prince Frederick, MD, for a report of property destruction. The complainant reported that an unknown suspect carved words into the drywall. The estimated value of the damage is \$300.



Kendall Mitchell Oliver

Disorderly Conduct: 26-22663

On March 9, 2026, at approximately 5:11 p.m., DFC Sylver responded to the area of Hilltop Road and Comstock Drive in Lusby for the report of an unresponsive male lying in the roadway. Upon arrival, deputies made contact with **Kendall Mitchell Oliver**, 23, of Lusby. Oliver appeared disheveled and was observed lying in the roadway. Oliver became irate and made multiple threats of violence toward deputies on scene. Neighbors exited their homes and observed Oliver yelling and using profanity. Due to causing a disturbance in the neighborhood, Oliver was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with Disorderly Conduct.



Ishmael Shaquan McNeal

Fleeing and Eluding: 26-24378

On March 15, 2026, at approximately 3:25 a.m., DFC Huy initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for speed while traveling 80 mph in a posted 45 mph zone in the area of Rt. 4 and Ward Rd in Dunkirk. The suspect vehicle accelerated and continued southbound at a high rate of speed (150 mph in a posted 55 mph zone), running red traffic lights and turning its headlights off. Deputies successfully deployed stop sticks, and the vehicle ultimately pulled into the Walmart parking lot in Prince Frederick. Upon making contact with the driver, **Ishmael Shaquan McNeal**, 27, of Philadelphia, PA, a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was emitting from his person. A vehicle search revealed numerous open alcohol containers and multiple cannabis packages. McNeal was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Fleeing and Eluding, DWI, DUI, Reckless Driving, Negligent Driving, and other traffic-related offenses.

Mail Tampering / Theft: 26-23016 On March 10, 2026, Master Deputy Burgraff responded to the 2000 block of Crows Nest

Lane in St. Leonard for a reported mail tampering/theft complaint. The complainant reported receiving a greeting card that had been ripped open. After contacting the sender, she determined that \$20 in cash that had been included in the card was missing.



Yafred Santos Jeronimo

Theft: 26-23129 On March 11, 2026, at approximately 3:14 a.m., DFC Campbell responded to Giant, located at 655 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for a reported theft in progress. An investigation revealed that three members of a floor cleaning crew were observed on store surveillance attempting to steal merchandise. The individuals were seen concealing grocery items in a black trash bag and a black backpack. The suspects were identified as **Yafred Santos Jeronimo**, 19, of Baltimore, **Victor Ariel Bermudez Ventura**, 33, of Baltimore, and **Enrique Elias Bermudez Ventura**, 31, of Baltimore.



Victor Ariel Bermudez Ventura



Enrique Elias Bermudez Ventura

The total estimated value of the stolen property was \$182.30. All three individuals were charged with Theft: \$100 to Under \$1,500.



Derek Isaiah Mackall Mitchell

Trespassing: 26-24274 On March 14, 2026, Senior Deputy Idol responded to the Oakland Hall subdivision in Prince Frederick for a traffic complaint. The complainant reported two individuals operating dirt bikes on the roadway at an estimated speed of approximately 60 mph. Upon arrival, deputies heard dirt bikes operating near the powerline easement within the subdivision. As deputies approached, both riders attempted to leave the area. One rider, identified as **Derek Isaiah Mackall Mitchell**, 19 of Prince Frederick, exited the powerline area and was taken into custody. A second rider, a juvenile, was issued a citation and released to a parent. Mitchell was operating a 2022 Kawasaki KLX300 dirt bike that did not display a current registration and lacked the required safety equipment in accordance with Maryland law. He was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center

and charged with Trespassing: Private Property, Malicious Destruction of Property, Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, Failure to Obey a Lawful Order, and Off Road Vehicle on Private Property.



Evan Michael Franklin

Trespassing: 26-24549 On March 15, 2026, at 4:13 p.m. DFC T. Bowen responded to Safeway, located at 80 W. Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of trespassing. The complainant advised **Evan Michael Franklin**, 27 of no fixed address, was inside the store and had been previously trespassed indefinitely from the property. Franklin was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Trespassing: Private Property.



Qui Mirr Tajee Heyward

Weapons Violation: 26-24373 On March 15, 2026, at approximately 2:42 a.m., DFC Campbell initiated a traffic stop in the area of Traskers Boulevard in Prince Frederick for an equipment violation. The vehicle was slow to stop and was observed making aggressive furtive movements toward the floorboard and glove compartment. The driver's movements were so abrupt that he jerked the steering wheel, nearly causing the vehicle to strike the curb. Further investigation revealed the driver, **Qui Mirr Tajee Heyward**, 28, of Richmond, Virginia, was operating the vehicle on a suspended license. A search of the vehicle resulted in the recovery of a Sig Sauer P365 handgun with a magazine inserted containing 10 rounds of 9mm ammunition. Located next to the firearm was a magazine carrier holster containing two additional magazines, each loaded with 10 rounds of 9mm ammunition. Heyward did not possess a valid Maryland handgun permit. He was taken into custody and charged with Handgun in a Vehicle and Loaded Handgun in a Vehicle.

The driver's movements were so abrupt that he jerked the steering wheel, nearly causing the vehicle to strike the curb. Further investigation revealed the driver, **Qui Mirr Tajee Heyward**, 28, of Richmond, Virginia, was operating the vehicle on a suspended license. A search of the vehicle resulted in the recovery of a Sig Sauer P365 handgun with a magazine inserted containing 10 rounds of 9mm ammunition. Located next to the firearm was a magazine carrier holster containing two additional magazines, each loaded with 10 rounds of 9mm ammunition. Heyward did not possess a valid Maryland handgun permit. He was taken into custody and charged with Handgun in a Vehicle and Loaded Handgun in a Vehicle.

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

Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to call the Sheriff's Office at (410) 535-2800 and reference the case number provided. Citizens may remain anonymous thru the 'Submit a Tip' feature on the Calvert County Criminal Arrests 0 Criminal CDS Arrests 0 Civil Citations 2 5 Sheriff's Office mobile app. To download, visit <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a39520678>. Tipsters may also email ccsotips@calvert-countymd.gov

Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Apr 2

Awful Artworks: Bookworm

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
6-7:45 p.m.

Have you ever looked at an art project and thought "I could do that," but you in fact could not do that? Let your creativity flow without worrying about an end product! This Awful Artworks will be all about creating a piece of art based on your favorite book! We will provide the art materials (if you have art supplies gathering dust, bring them to share), you provide the creativity! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Apr 3

Annamarie After Hours – Opening Reception for Fairies in the Garden

Annamarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
5-7p.m.

Family-Friendly Evening. Celebrate the opening of Fairies in the Garden with a special Annamarie After Hours event designed for all ages. Fairy houses built by members of our community will be displayed around the exterior of the Arts Building before being placed throughout the sculpture garden. Both galleries in the Arts Building will remain open until 7:00 pm, along with the sculpture garden and walking trails. Guests are invited to enjoy live music, explore the new exhibit, stroll the grounds, and experience an evening of art and nature. Food trucks available. Admission is \$5/adults, \$3/kids; 2 & under free; . Reservations are not required. Learn more at www.annmariegarden.org.

Saturday, April 4

Spring Fling Market

Annamarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Spring is here! Celebrate the season, where shoppers will find everything needed to fill Easter baskets and prepare for the holiday, from small-batch treats to unique handmade gifts. This festive market features a wide selection of handmade, homemade, and homegrown items made by local artists and vendors. Food trucks will be on site. Admission to the market area is free. Market is pet-friendly (must be leashed and friendly); no smoking or vaping permitted. Learn more at www.annmariegarden.org.

Garden Smarter: Seed Saving Workshop

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

Never buy seeds again! Come learn how to

harvest, process, and preserve seeds from your favorite garden vegetables, herbs and flowers to use next year. Hands-on activities included! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

On Pins and Needles

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

If you knit, embroider or crochet, or would like to learn, join us. Get together with other fiber crafters to learn or develop your skills. Registration requested. BYOY! (Bring Your Own Yarn!) 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Easter Party and Egg Hunt

St. Paul UMC
11000 HG Trueman Rd., Lusby
10 a.m.-12 Noon

Join us for Easter fun with games, crafts, and snacks. with...of course, an Easter Egg Hunt. All ages welcome! Call 410-326-4475 for more information stpaulumc-lusby.org/

Mon, Apr 6

Judy Center Early Learning Hub - Saint Leonard

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
9:15-11:15 a.m.

Representatives from Judy Center SLES are on site to answer questions about their services. For more information contact: Kim Paishon: The Judy Center Early Learning Hub at SLES Family Service Worker, 443-550-9752; 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Prevent T2: Proven Program to Prevent or Delay Diabetes

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

Take charge of your health! Join our free, fun and supportive year-long diabetes prevention program for those at risk of diabetes or looking to lose weight. Learn how small changes in eating, activity, and mindset can lead to big results. . Please register. To register or learn more information, call 410-535-5400 x514. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Book Discussion

Calvert Pines Senior Center
1-2 p.m.

"The Serviceberry" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Join us to discuss this short but inspiring book about centering our lives around gratitude, reciprocity, and community, all based on lessons of the natural

world. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Bilingual Conversation Hour: Spanish-English

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

30 minutes in English and 30 minutes in Spanish! We will get to practice our English and Spanish Conversation Skills! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Apr 7

Kindergarten Gear Up

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

Join us for an 7-week program designed to help prepare kids and their caregivers to start school in the upcoming year. Through instruction and play, kids will learn social and academic skills while caregivers will learn how to better support their children. This program is intended for children not receiving formal childcare. Registration is required, and it is asked that you attend all sessions. This program is a partnership with Calvert County Public Schools. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tea and True Tales

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
2-3 p.m.

Each month we will enjoy tea, have treats and discuss non-fiction titles, memoirs, biographies or fiction based on real people. This month's title is a classic Lisa See story—one of women's friendships and the larger forces that shape them—The Island of Sea Women introduces readers to the fierce and unforgettable female divers of Jeju Island and the dramatic history that shaped their lives. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Apr 8

Job Seeker Resources

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

MD Labor Workforce—Veterans Services will be available (in person) to meet with those seeking employment-related support and community service information. This event focuses on Veteran's Services, but all jobseekers are welcome! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

JobSource Mobile Career Center

Calvert Library Prince Frederick

850 Costley Way
1-4 p.m.

Stop by for your job search needs! Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. w 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
3-4:30 p.m.

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

Bilingual Conversation Hour: Spanish-English

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

30 minutes in English and 30 minutes in Spanish! We will get to practice our English and Spanish Conversation Skills! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Veteran Services Program

Southern Pines Senior Center
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Are you a veteran or close family member looking for assistance? ServingTogether will be on hand to provide support for Calvert County service members, veterans and military families. Walk-ins are encouraged. No appointment is necessary. Write dwilliams@everymind.org for more information. To learn more about ServingTogether, visit everymind.org/servingtogether.

On Pins and Needles

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thu, Apr 9

Open House

Calvert County Health Department
Prince Frederick
3-6 p.m.

We will be opening our doors to give you a tour of what we do for our community. Meet our staff, learn about our services, tour our Destination Wellness van, play games and test your health-related knowledge, enjoy a food truck, watch a cooking demonstration, take home giveaways and more!

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Apr 2

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

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

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

Fri, Apr 3

Drive Thru Fried Shrimp Dinner

Seventh District firehouse
21660 Colton Point Road
5-7 p.m. or until sold out.

The menu includes 8 fried shrimp, fries, coleslaw, apple sauce, corn bread and dessert. \$25 per meal. Carryout only. Sponsored by Auxiliary.

April Show Opening Reception

North End Gallery
41652 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown

5-8 p.m.

North End Gallery's April show opening Friday, April 3, 2026, features a solo show for artist Kennie Mauche. Active both en Plein Air and in the studio, Kennie "paints to see, to connect and share the beauty of the light that surrounds us all."

Show runs through April 26, Sundays 11-4pm, Tuesdays thru Saturdays 11-5pm

For more information about Kennie and her art: <https://www.kenniemauche.com>
Show lead contact: Bea Poulin, president.northendgallery@gmail.com

Sat, Apr 4

Band of Brothers and Sisters

Showtime Deli
21905 Three Notch Rd., Lexington Park
9 a.m..

PTSD/Suicide Prevention Group of So. Maryland, offers support for all Veterans in need of our services, as well as support for the local community. We provide help with VA Military Compensation Claims by appointment. Our method is derived from our military experiences when we were sur-

rounded by others who think and dressed as needed to work together to survive. Our members are supported by text, phone or personal interaction and are available at a moment's notice. For more information call 301-481-6752.

Easter Bake Sale

Across from Chaptico Market
9 a.m. until sold out.

Delicious homemade desserts, brownies, cupcakes, cookies, cakes, candies and pies. Sponsored by Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad Auxiliary.

Park Days

Point Lookout State Park
11175 Point Lookout Rd., Scotland
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Each year, history enthusiasts, community-minded citizens, families, and local organizations come together in an effort to help keep our nation's heritage not only preserved, but pristine. Join us at Point Lookout Fort #3 to complete needed clean-up activities, such as raking leaves, painting signs, and general maintenance of this living history site.

TEXAS Holdem Tourney

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
2-11 p.m.

\$150 buy in (includes Bounty). Starting stack 30,000 chips. Registration opens at 1pm. Cards in the air at 2pm. There are no rebuys for this event. Blind levels will change every 20 minutes.

Food available for additional cost. There will be a 50/50 raffle and cash wheel separate from tournament entry. For more information please contact James Dean, 240-577-0828 or jdeanjunior@gmail.com

Upcoming

Car Show

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department
24801 Three Notch Rd., Hollywood
April 12
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Entry fee \$20. Beer, food trucks, raffles, door prizes, music.

Dash plaques for first 50 entries.

Top 30 Trophies awarded and Best in Show winner.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

UPCOMING EVENTS



Songwriting Made Easy (for kids!)

Explore the basics of songwriting, covering topic, rhyme, form, and recording with music educator Nathan Earley. We'll work together to create a finished song by the end of the session. Participants are welcome to bring any instrument they have experience with, or we can learn a quick instrument on the fly! Lexington Park Library on Friday, April 3 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Registration required on www.stmalib.org Please use the Add More People button when registering to register every child who will be participating.

Cyanotype Printing

Cyanotype printing is the art of printing using sunlight! This historical technique is a way to make a photograph without a camera by laying objects on your canvas and letting the sun activate the chemicals in the paint to reveal your masterpieces! This program

may be messy, so please wear clothing you don't mind getting dirty. Leonardtown Library on Friday, April 3 from 2 - 3 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Adult Spelling Bee & Trivia

Gather your friends and join us for an exciting evening of wordplay and friendly competition! Test your vocabulary and trivia skills in a unique event that combines the classic fun of spelling bees with the thrill of theme-based challenges. Compete for the top spot in this one-of-a-kind community event that celebrates learning, literacy, and camaraderie! Teams of 2-4 participants will compete in 3-4 timed rounds. Each round has a specific theme, with words related to the chosen topic. Teams earn points for correctly spelling words and guessing the theme. Bonus points can be awarded for quick answers or challenging words. The winning team is determined by the highest combined score from all rounds. Lexington Park Library on Tuesday, April 7 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register

on www.stmalib.org.

Genealogy Research for African Americans

Learn about the some of the nuance and special considerations needed when undergoing genealogical research for families of color. Join us for an overview of resources that will help beginners conduct genealogical research of persons of African American descent. Examples of resources to be covered include the Black Newspaper Archives, Ancestry Library edition, Fold 3 Library edition, Freedmen's Bureau Records, the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland website and more. This is a virtual event held over Zoom on Wednesday, April 8 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org to receive the link.

Expungement Day

Williams, McClernan & Stack LLC will offer free legal help to those seeking Maryland expungements of criminal

records. Appointments will be at Lexington Park Library on Friday, April 10 from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Appointments will last approximately 20 minutes. Please bring any paperwork relating to the case if the case was dismissed because the lawyers will be unable to see it on CaseSearch. Please note: registration information will be shared with Williams, McClernan, & Stack so that the attorney can assist you during your appointment. Register on www.stmalib.org. Maryland expungements only.

Life-Sized Board Games

Celebrate National Board Game Day at the library! Play life-sized versions of your favorite board games, including Jenga, Sorry, checkers, Uno, and more. Feel free to drop in and out of the meeting room during the program time; no registration required. This event is for all ages. Charlotte Hall Library on Saturday, April 11 from 2 - 4 p.m. No registration.

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

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



County Times

ST. MARY'S • CALVERT

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

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.

John Norris, 95



John Abell Norris, lovingly referred to as Sprout, Abell-Toots, Pop Pop, and Dad, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at his home in Hollywood, Maryland on March 29, 2026, at the age of 95.

John was born September 29, 1930, to the late William Richley and Mary Catherine Abell Norris. On April 11, 1955, he married Lillian Farr Norris. Together they built a home on the Norris family farm.

John attended St. John's Catholic School followed by Margaret Brent and for employment held several jobs throughout his lifetime. He was a full-time farmer and while farming held several part-time jobs. He drove the school bus for St. John's Catholic School, was a truck driver for Mokley Mattingly, and performed lawn work for Lester Mattingly. He transitioned to full-time employment with Dean and Beavers until he found his professional calling working for the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA). John began work with the SHA as a laborer, advancing to a heavy equipment operator, and retired after 31 years on June 30, 1992, as a Facilities Maintenance Technician III. Throughout all of this he maintained his commitment to farming.

John was a devoted son, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and friend. He will be remembered by his hours spent in the lattice house swing listening to music, sitting on the porch resting, or visiting with family, and his love of dancing and listening to live music weekly at Cryer's Back Road Inn. The family will cherish memories related to his love of Honey Nut Cheerios for breakfast every morning (his secret to a long life), his dedication to mowing the lawn until it shined green to perfection, and his always dependable nature.

He is survived by his children, Bonnie Jean Lemonds and Mary Lillian Wise (Raymond), his grandchildren, Joshua Wise, Crystal Sexton, and Jennifer Wise, and his

great-grandson, Kevin Bates, Jr. He is also survived by his sisters, Dolores Wheeler and Betty Jean Guy (Lenny). He is preceded in death by his wife, brothers, Dickie Norris, Bobby Norris, Charles Norris, Philip Norris, and George Norris, and his young daughter, Grace Ann.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, with prayers recited at 6:00 PM, in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 10:00 AM at St John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD, with Rev. Ray Schmidt officiating. Interment will follow at the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Joshua Wise, Kevin Bates, Jr., Tommy Wheeler, Phil Norris, Glenn Norris, Steven Norris, Ricky Guy, and Len Guy. Honorary pallbearers will be Crystal Sexton and Jennifer Wise.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, St. John's Catholic Church, HVRS, or HVFD.

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.

Joseph Cullison, 97



Joseph Patrick Cullison passed away peacefully on March 25, 2026, and was undoubtedly welcomed by angels at Heaven's gate. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, companion, and friend whose kindness, wisdom, and unwavering love left a lasting impact on all who knew him.

Born on Saint Patrick's Day, March 17, 1929, in Ridge, Maryland, Joseph lived a life defined by faith, devotion to family, kindness, and hard work. His quiet yet thoughtful presence was a comfort unlike any other.

Affectionately known as "Joe Pat" or

"Poppop," he spent much of his life in Virginia, where he built a life centered around family and his business ventures, including Heshman BMW and First Choice Auto Body Shop in Arlington.

Joseph shared 55 blissful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Dorothy Ann (Farrell) Cullison, until her passing in 2012. He returned to Maryland full time in 2016, where he enjoyed time with family and friends in Bushwood.

He was known for his steady presence, his willingness to show up for others, and his genuine interest in the lives around him. He found joy in storytelling, fishing, boating, working on cars, and spending time with loved ones and friends, especially during his daily McDonald's morning coffee meetups.

He is survived by his sister, Varrina "Tink" Yost; his son-in-law, M. Phillip Kalnitzky; his granddaughters, Victoria DeFruscio (Dominic), Amanda Kalnitzky (Dalton Rose), and Mackenzie Kalnitzky (Tyler Kowalski); his great-grandchildren, Carson Patrick Kalnitzky, Audrey DeFruscio, Charlotte DeFruscio, and soon-to-be great-grandson, Braeden Joseph-Taylor Rose; as well as several beloved nieces and nephews, including "Joe's Three Amigos," who were devoted and offered exceptional care and support. He is also survived by his longtime companion, Nita Knott, whose love and care meant so much to him and his family.

Joe was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Ann; his daughter, Pamela Ann Kalnitzky; his parents, Anna Maria (Peacock) and Francis Chester Cullison; his sisters, Sister Mary Rita Cullison, Sister Marie Francis Cullison, Carolyn Clark, and Anita "Betty" Raley; and his brothers, Edward Cullison and John "Jack" Gregory Cullison.

Joseph's life was a testament to faith, family, and love. He often said he had "no regrets" and truly enjoyed every moment. Though he lived 97 full years, it would never have been enough for those who loved him.

Visitation and Mass will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 16566 Three Notch Road, Ridge, MD 20680. Visitation will be held at 10am with Mass at 11am. Interment will follow at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bushwood, Maryland. The family invites you to join them for a celebration of life meal following.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Michael's Catholic Church in Ridge, Maryland, the church that stood across the street from where he was born and remained the foundation of his life or Hospice of St. Mary's in Callaway, Maryland.

Condolences to the family may be left at www.brinsfieldsfuneral.com.

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

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For details and to place your notice of remembrance, call 301-373-4125 for assistance.



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Maintaining a Lawn Roamed by Pets



Vibrant, green lawns can draw attention to any landscape. Many homeowners toil for hours each week to ensure their lawns are pristine, or invest in lawn care services to help maintain a yard if they do not have the time to do so themselves.

While many treatments can be applied to lawns to help them thrive, animal waste is not among them. Pet owners who aspire to have beautiful lawns will have to take a few extra steps to ensure lawns can persevere despite the presence of furry companions.

Reseed with a damage-resistant grass. There are many different types of grass, and some are more resilient than others. Tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and Bermuda grass are just some of the grass varieties that can capably handle pet traffic. If replacing the entire lawn is not possible, consider reseeding or addressing the areas that pets frequent.

- Strengthen the root system. It may be tempting to cut the lawn short, particularly if dogs or cats like to nibble on longer blades of grass. But that approach could be doing the lawn a disservice. According to The Home Depot, letting the lawn grow to at least three inches will help keep moisture in the soil and prevent evaporation. That moisture will strengthen the roots, creating a healthier lawn for pets and people.
- Create pet paths. Various materials can be used in these high-traffic areas to minimize the sights and signs of pet

traffic. Mulch or crushed stone can establish these pet highways and look like intended features.

- Set boundaries. Pet urine contains high levels of nitrogen, which can burn grass and turn it brown. It's not possible to water down urine or pick up solid waste immediately every time a pet goes outdoors, so designate a pet-friendly spot for potty time. Use fencing or a dog run to separate this area and help mitigate "land mines" all over the lawn. Fencing also can keep pets out of vegetable gardens and away from potentially toxic plants.
- Avoid chemical lawn treatments. When pets use the yard and rest on the lawn, you'll need to eliminate products that can be harmful to them. Choose all-natural fertilizers and weed and pest preventatives.
- Look for pet-friendly alternatives. If maintaining a lawn with pets seems like an uphill battle, consider swapping out your landscape with a variety of materials. Scale back on grass, and incorporate groundcover, hardscape materials like pea gravel, or extend the patio. Artificial turf also is an option, as it won't brown and wither. Some turf products can even be quickly and thoroughly cleaned with water.

It can take some trial and error for pet parents to protect their lawns from the effects of having furry friends playing in the yard.

Did you know?

A fenced-in space gives pets an opportunity to run around off-leash and enjoy time outdoors, but pet owners must recognize that inquisitive dogs can get into trouble even in seemingly safe yards. One potential danger is ingestion of potentially toxic mushrooms. It is essential for homeowners to check their yards for mushrooms all year long, but especially during wet springs and in the fall. Mushrooms can pop up overnight. Depending on the type of mushroom and the size of the dog, ingesting even a small amount can result in gastrointestinal distress or more dire circumstances, like liver failure. Certain mushrooms give off a

fishy smell that may entice dogs who are prone to indiscriminate eating. According to the animal care resource Preventative Vet, signs of mushroom toxicity include vomiting, salivating, yellowing of the skin and "whites of eyes," coma, seizures, and loss of balance. Other dogs may experience diarrhea or refuse to eat. Any pet owner who has suspected a dog has eaten wild mushrooms should consult a veterinarian. Early treatment can help and prevent more serious organ damage or death.



The Pros and Cons of Irrigation Systems



Maintaining a lush, green lawn and thriving landscape that includes shrubbery, flowers and trees requires time, money and often some sweat equity. However, the beauty that results from such effort compels many homeowners to take on the landscaping challenge.

Forgetting to water the greenery or getting hit with a drought can cause a lawn to deteriorate rapidly. An irrigation system may seem like a smart investment, but homeowners should weigh the pros and cons of such systems before having one installed.

Irrigation systems are installed to protect landscaping so plants can thrive year-round. Irrigation systems come in various forms, from sprinkler to drip to surface irrigation systems. No system is necessarily better than another. That's because each is designed to address specific watering needs.

Here's a look at various irrigation systems and the pros and cons of each.

Sprinkler system

Sprinklers are popular because they tend to be very affordable and easy to set up. Manual sprinkler systems utilize a hose and sprinkler head, while automatic systems are programmed and do all the work once they're installed. Sprinklers cover a lot of ground and can irrigate large spaces quickly. However, that same benefit can be a disadvantage as well.

Sprinklers are indiscriminate in their watering, sometimes hitting pavement or driveways. Also, the Gardening Channel says that water from sprinklers is lost due to evaporation on hot, windy days. In fact, as much as 80 percent of the water used may not make it onto the grass or plants.

Surface irrigation system

Sometimes called gravity irrigation, these systems use channels or furrows throughout the cultivation area. Once the water runs through these channels, gravity distributes it accordingly.

Surface irrigation systems require minimal effort but are best suited for farms and commercial enterprises because they require a large reservoir or pond to accumulate water. Also, uneven terrains could divert the water.

Drip irrigation system

This type of irrigation system is used primarily in arid regions. It is made up of lateral lines of flexible or rigid polyethylene pipe. Drip irrigation allows homeowners to focus watering on a particular garden area. It provides moisture directly to the soil. Therefore, there is no water waste from runoff or evaporation. Drip irrigation waters plants slowly and can cause less soil erosion and reduce nutrient leeching.

While easier and more effective than some other irrigation methods over the long haul, a drip irrigation system has a substantial startup cost. In addition, the system can get clogged at times. When gardening season is finished, a drip irrigation system will need to be drained and dismantled.

Irrigation systems can help care for plants and lawns. However, they can be costly and some require significant maintenance. Weather and pests also can reduce the effectiveness of yard irrigation systems by damaging equipment or directing water in directions homeowners did not intend. Customers are urged to do their research regarding which system, if any, is best for their properties.



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Nine Signs of Pest Infestation

Individuals want a home that is welcoming and comfortable. Unfortunately many conditions that people find appealing also appeal to pests. Pests may be more problematic at certain times of year, such as when weather is extreme and pests like rodents or even raccoons seek refuge in a home. During times of year when temperatures are mild, certain insects may begin to hatch or swarm, becoming problematic around the home.

Some signs of pests taking up residence may be readily apparent, while others may be less obvious. The following are nine signs of pest infestation in or around a home.

1. Droppings: Small droppings may indicate that pests are nearby. Droppings will vary depending on the insect or rodent. It's good to familiarize yourself with the appearance of various droppings, from mice to termites to bed bugs.
2. Footprints: Footprints are another sign of pest infestation. Footprints left in dirt around a home, or in dusty areas in the attic or basement, may show that pests are tracking in and out of the house.
3. Sawdust piles or trails: Sawdust could be indicative of termites or ants. Insects like carpenter bees also may burrow into areas of wood and leave sawdust behind.
4. Shed wings, skins and casings: Many insects molt and, during this process,



will shed certain parts of their anatomy to grow larger. Roaches, bed bugs and beetles are some pests that might be scattering sheds or egg casings in a home. Termite wings are discarded once the swarmers choose a new location for the colony.

5. Foul odors: Musty or foul smells, particularly in hidden areas, may indicate pests are nesting nearby.
6. Unexplained noises: Scratching or scurrying in walls or floors often indicates pests are present.
7. Bites: Waking up in the morning with welts or red areas on the skin might indicate the presence of bed bugs or

other biting insects.

8. Presence of nests: Those who can see nests in corners or undisturbed areas of the home likely have pests present. Rodents often use chewed cardboard, insulation, paper, and other scavenged items to create nests, according to exterminators.
9. Increased number of beneficial insects: An influx of spiders and other predatory insects may indicate there are plenty of food sources in the home for them to feast on.

Pests can be problematic, but homeowners who recognize signs of infestation can take prompt action.

Did you know?

Many pest control methods don't only target pests — pollinators can often get caught in the crossfire. Without pollinators, more than 100 crops grown in the United States would not be able to thrive. Plants, including various fruits, vegetables, nuts and more, rely on pollinators to ensure to transport pollen. Though many plants are self-pollinating and others are pollinated by the wind or water, many others rely on insects and animals to become pollinated. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says birds, bees, bats, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, and small mammals all can work as pollinators. Examples of crops pollinated by pollinators include apples, squash and almonds. Animals and insects help pollinate more than 75 percent of the world's flowering plants, and nearly 75 percent of all crops, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Unfortunately, pesticide use can diminish the number of natural pollinators. Natural gardening and pest control can help protect the habitats of pollinators.



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How to Prepare Your Landscape for New Plants



New plants can add much to a landscape. Whether they're replacing plants that are no longer thriving or being added to supplement an existing landscape, new plants are an affordable way to give a home's exterior a whole new look.

Much consideration is given to which plants to add to a landscape. That's understandable, as homeowners want to choose plants that will thrive and won't compromise the health of surrounding plants and trees. Before planting or even choosing plants, it's important to plan for new additions to a landscape. Preparing the landscape can inform homeowners about which plants to purchase and can ensure they thrive after planting.

- Document sunlight exposure. Plants have different needs, and one of the biggest differences between species is the amount of sunlight they need to thrive. According to Penn State Extension, plants characterized as "full sun" require six or more hours of sunlight per day, while those considered "partial sun" need between four and six hours of sunlight per day. Plants designated as "partial shade" need two to four hours of sun per day, while "shade" plants need less than two hours of sunlight a day. Documenting sunlight exposure in advance gives homeowners an idea of which plants should be planted and where they should be planted. Jot down these observations in a journal over several weeks and then choose plants that will thrive in each area.
- Test the soil. A soil pH test is a simple and quick way to determine the acidity

of soil. Soil pH levels will indicate how likely a plant is to thrive in a given spot. High levels won't necessarily mean an area should be avoided, as some plants thrive in acidic soils. Additional soil tests can determine other characteristics, such as the nutrient levels of soil and the amount of organic matter it contains. Each of these variables can help homeowners make the right choices as they introduce new plants to their properties.

- Consider local wildlife. If local wildlife makes its presence known on a property, homeowners may want to take proactive steps prior to planting anything new. A new fence might prevent animals like deer from getting in, but that likely won't do much to repel smaller animals like squirrels, rabbits or foxes. If wildlife is a concern, homeowners can seek advice at their local garden center about which plants certain animals are likely to ignore. Homeowners who want to attract wildlife can do the same in reverse, choosing plants wildlife will be drawn to. Homeowners who want to deter wildlife should erect fencing or other barriers prior to planting.
- Clear space if necessary. Plants grow up and out, and cramped quarters can make it hard for new plants to thrive. Some may thrive but only at the expense of other plants. If necessary, clear space prior to planting to ensure plants have ample space to grow. Some pre-planting landscape preparation can ensure new plants thrive.



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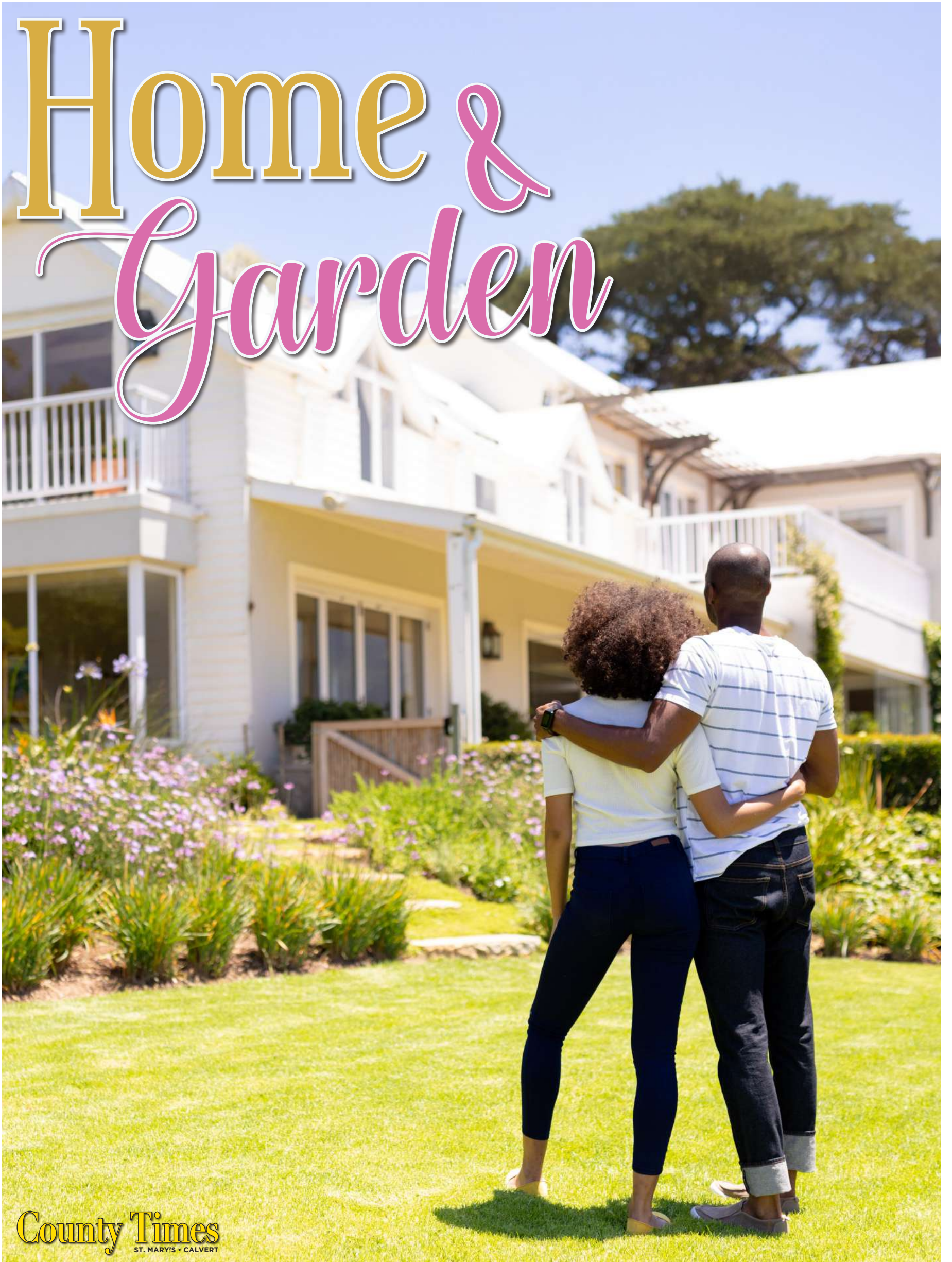
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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind



Room to Room Communication

By Shelby Opperman
Contributing Writer

Remember when you were a kid and you used plastic cups or tin cans tied together to make a simple phone? I feel like that is something Robert and I should try. The only problem is that you can't text with the tin can phone method. I always wonder how many other couples text each other or message silly things from different rooms in the house. I hope we are not the only ones. The other method we could try is using an old fashioned bull horn to yell to each other, but then we also need those ear trumpets to hear each other's responses.

My husband will ask a question from the bedroom while he's watching whatever TV show he's watching, and I'll respond, "What?" then he will try and say it louder which really shouldn't be a problem since he is a loud person anyway. I say, "What??" one more time and then wait to see if he will come out of his lair into the living room where I am watching what I like to watch and tell me what he wanted. But no, I wait a couple minutes, then get up with a sigh and walk back there to check, usually missing some critical clue in a mystery I'm watching. And no, it doesn't matter if it's a Hallmark mystery that I have seen 30 times, I normally forget who the murderer is anyway. So, I get to the bedroom to find out that he wants to know if a certain website, usually for '65 Mustang parts, lawnmower parts, or something he has seen on Facebook, is legit. I go back to get my phone to check the site along with reviews and see where it's from, etc. and then we go through the whole order process. By the time I'm done and go back to my command center in the living room the only thing I hear is the ending music of my TV show.

There are many times, especially on the FBI show nights or the Wednesday night One Chicago shows of Chicago Med, Chicago Fire, and Chicago PD that we are watching the same programs from different rooms. The problem is that the bedroom TV and the living room TV are quite a few seconds different from each other. The living room TV is first. He will hear me yelling AHFFF! or NOOOO! at the gory scenes when the Firefighters and Paramedics of Chicago Fire come across a really grizzly accident where someone is impaled with a telephone pole or something worse. Then I hear him yelling the same things a few seconds later. I know he has his eyes closed at that point. Chicago Med can sometimes be worse than Chicago Fire with all the ER mishaps and the surgeries. My husband was a tough, strong Firefighter in his day, but now I don't think he likes to see all that. My father was the same way later on. I suppose I could go watch the shows in the bedroom with him, but if I have my head on the pillow, that's all she wrote. When we do watch TV shows together, which we actually do quite often, one of us is sure to make a bag of popcorn to share, and then we can both yell and close our eyes at the same time.

Since our sweet dog Mindy passed, my husband's new thing (plus several other friends and family) is texting or messaging pictures of dogs from all over the East Coast to my phone. Of course I want them all, but I am not ready yet. I think my husband must be ready. I finally just put Mindy's dog food bowl set up downstairs yesterday. Her doggie bed and blankets I took downstairs two weeks ago. The only thing left upstairs is her large Rubbermaid 2 part dog food and treat container. It is empty and cleaned out, maybe that will go in the laundry room today. So, no, I am not ready for a dog at present, but who knows if I will see another pup with lots of soul in her eyes. For now, I will have to be happy with receiving lots of adoptable dog photos from everyone. And what's not to love about cute dogs... besides, I check all the adoption sites too. Happy Easter to everyone! I need to find my bunny ears again.

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Hospice Run Honors Local WWII Hero

By Vada Mercer
Contributing Writer

Hundreds of runners and walkers will take the streets of historic Leonardtown on April 11 in support of Hospice of St. Mary's.

The 29th Annual Run and Fun Walk for Hospice will start at 8 a.m., featuring a 5K run or fun walk, a 10K run, and the Defender's Cup 5K team race.

Since its start in 1996, the annual fundraiser has raised more than \$1 million for Hospice of St. Mary's, and is expected to bring in over \$125,000 this year alone.

"Facing death and dying is the most difficult thing any of us will ever do, and we will all have to do it," said Jim Dicus, event founder and hospice volunteer of more than 30 years. "But no one has to face it alone. That's the message and function of the Run and Fun Walk for Hospice."

Hospice of St. Mary's provides end-of-life care to community members, including those with little or no ability to pay. Their services range from daily personal and spiritual care to support for patients and families, as well as coordination of medical supplies and medication.

Dicus founded the event in 1996, inspired by his experiences with hospice patients. He hoped to raise both awareness of hospice's importance and funds to support those unable to afford care.

"I realized an auction at the firehouse could attract 250 patrons," he said. "But a run or walk could attract 2,500."

Over three decades, the event has grown into a major community tradition, drawing participants from around the nation and beyond. This year, runner Michael Wardian,



Runners participate in the 2024 Run and Fun Walk for Hospice. Photo courtesy of Jim Dicus.

who has been recognized with 27 awards including multiple Guinness World Records, will participate in support of hospice.

One of the event's most meaningful traditions is the Defender's Cup, a team-based 5K established in 2000 to honor veterans in St. Mary's County. Dicus was inspired to create this cup after caring for courageous veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Every year, the Defender's Cup is dedicated to a different veteran from St. Mary's County. This year, the Defender's Cup has been dedicated to Sgt. William Francis Yorkshire, a St. Mary's County local who served in the 784th Tank Battalion and was killed in action during World War II.

Sgt. Yorkshire was among the few Black Americans recognized for their service

in World War II, posthumously earning a Silver Star for his bravery. When his tank commander was severely wounded, Sgt. Yorkshire dismounted under heavy enemy fire and carried him to safety. That same day, Sgt. Yorkshire helped evacuate five men from a burning tank despite the danger of imminent explosion.

He was mortally wounded the following day and died at 27. For decades, Sgt. Yorkshire's grave went largely forgotten, buried under four inches of soil, until Veterans Day 2025, when Dicus uncovered his marker and received permission to restore it to ground level.

This year the Defender's Cup will be renamed in honor of Sgt. Yorkshire to ensure his memory endures.

Teams competing for the Defender's Cup

must be either active or retired, reserve or National Guard personnel, Department of Defense civil servants, or defense contractor employees and their immediate family members, and must have at least one female participant.

The winning team holds onto the trophy until the next race is held the following year.

Participation in the event costs a \$50 donation, or \$60 for the 10K. Children 6 and under can participate for free, and strollers are allowed. Pets are also allowed to join the event, with Furever Safe providing on-site pet support.

The race will conclude with a locally catered brunch, featuring tastings such as stuffed ham from Chief's, sliders from Mission BBQ and fresh fruit.

Registration closes April 9 at 4 p.m.

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Please consider donating to Hospice of St. Mary's, an organization that means the world to our family and supports countless others during their hardest moments. On April 11 we'll be walking in the Hospice of St. Mary's Run & Fun Walk for the 11th year in memory of our daughter, Sofie. Hospice cared for her with extraordinary compassion and dignity, and this walk is our way of honoring her life while giving back. Thank You. The Turbush Family









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Friday, April 3

- 10 am - 2 pm** The Easter Bunny is Hopping into Town!
- 10 am - 2 pm** Popcorn Friday at Sneades
- 10 am - 7 pm** Shepherd's Old Field Market's "Spring Fling" weekend sale
- 10 am - 7 pm** Visit the Old Jail Museum for a Free tour of this historic building
- 2 pm - 7 pm** Oysters and Craft beer at Everyday Saint Brewhouse
- 4 pm - 7 pm** Bowl 29 at Shepherd's Old Field Market
- 5 pm - 8 pm** First Friday Opening Reception - Unity Art Show at the St. Mary's County Arts Council
- 5 pm - 8 pm** Live Music with Latric Carr at Port of Leonardtown Winery
- 7 pm - 10 pm** Music Bingo at Leonardtown Cigars
- 8 pm** DJ Night at The Rex



Saturday, April 4

- 9 am - 4 pm** First Saturday Vendor Market at Town Market LLC
- 10 am - 2 pm** The Easter Bunny is Hopping into Town!
- 10 am - 7 pm** Shepherd's Old Field Market's "Spring Fling" weekend sale
- 2 pm - 5 pm** Live Music with Nightcap at Port of Leonardtown Winery
- 3 pm - 7 pm** Kids Easter Party at Brudergarten
- 9 pm** DJ SammySammz at The Rex
- 9 pm - 1 am** Easter Party with Public Domain at Brudergarten

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Navy's 'Magic Carpet' for H-60 Successfully Demonstrated in Flight



For the first time, engineers from the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) successfully demonstrated assistive landing technology designed for the military's fleet of H-60 helicopters during a flight test on Feb. 27.

The technology, Low-Speed Precision Control (LSPC), was designed by the same warfare center who brought tactical aviation Precision Landing Mode – commonly called MAGIC CARPET – and was designed to assist pilots when landing, improving safety and operational capability for the Navy's largest community of aviators, as well those flying H-60 helicopters for the Army and Coast Guard.

"Low-Speed Precision Control is an important step forward in advancing aviator safety and operational readiness," said NAWCAD Commander Rear Adm. Todd Evans. "This milestone reflects NAWCAD's commitment to delivering solutions that address the most challenging conditions our warfighters face."

Among the most dangerous tasks for any rotary-wing pilot are landings in difficult conditions, from low-visibility environments in dust, fog, or snow to the pitching deck of a ship at sea. While newer aircraft like the CH-53K King Stallion feature

built-in augmented landing technology via fly-by-wire designs, this milestone represents a critical advancement in bringing similar capabilities to thousands of older helicopters across the military, addressing a longstanding challenge that has contributed to several Class A mishaps.

LSPC is a modular hardware and software system that integrates directly into the cockpit controls, improving flight stability and precision and reducing pilot workload during shipboard landing or landings ashore. The system's modular design allows for rapid installation across all H-60 variants, making it a versatile upgrade for joint and allied forces.

NAWCAD's rotary Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (HX) 21 will continue Navy testing of the system through summer 2026, further proving its performance and operational impact.

NAWCAD employs military, civilian, and contract personnel to operate test ranges, laboratories, and aircraft in support of test, evaluation, research, development, and sustainment for all Navy and Marine Corps aviation platforms. Based in Patuxent River, Maryland, NAWCAD also has major sites in St. Inigoes, Maryland; Lakehurst, New Jersey; and Orlando, Florida.



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Two Arrested in Drug Trafficking Investigation

Firearm, Suspected Narcotics Seized

Detectives from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division arrested two individuals on Thursday, March 26, following an investigation into suspected drug trafficking.

Search and seizure warrants were executed at a residence in the 20000 block of Spring Hill Road in Lexington Park.

Tavoy Kelly Summerville, 47, and Shadona Rockele Reed, 40, were taken into custody after detectives located suspected drugs, drug paraphernalia, and a loaded unserialized .12-gauge firearm.

Seized narcotics included 40.3 grams of suspected fentanyl, four unidentified white tablets, seven individually packaged quantities of suspected fentanyl, and 3.5 grams of suspected cocaine.

Summerville was charged with 12 counts, including

- CDS possession with intent to distribute
- CDS possession of a large amount: fentanyl
- Possession of a regulated firearm after having been convicted of a disqualifying crime
- Possession of a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime
- Wear/carry/transport a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime
- Possession of ammunition after having been convicted of a disqualifying crime
- Possession of a firearm without a required serial number



Tavoy Kelly Summerville Shadona Rockele Reed

- Possession of CDS: fentanyl
- Possession of CDS: cocaine
- Keeping and maintaining a dwelling where controlled dangerous substances or controlled paraphernalia are manufactured, distributed, dispensed, stored, or concealed illegally
- Possession of a digital scale and baggies adopted for the production of a controlled dangerous substance: fentanyl
- Use of an assault weapon magazine with a capacity of more than 10 rounds of ammunition in the commission of a felony

Reed was charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance and possession with intent to use paraphernalia.

Both were transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center. Reed was released pending a future court date. Summerville is being held pending a bond review.

Press Release from SMCSO.

Legal Notice

LEONARDTOWN ELECTION AND DEADLINE FOR FILING AS A CANDIDATE

Election of three (3) Council Members of the Town of Leonardtown will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026

The candidate deadline for filing is Monday, April 13, 2026 at 4:30 PM.

To obtain forms or for any questions, please call 301-475-9791 or go online at <https://leonardtown.somd.com> or email leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov.

Deadline for submitting a completed application for an Absentee Ballot is Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at the Town Office by 4:30 pm.

Deadline for Obtaining Emergency Ballot is Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Deadline for registration to vote is Friday, April 17, 2026 at 4:30 pm.

Visit the Board of Elections office at 23250 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650, Monday through Friday, between the normal business hours of 8:00 am through 4:30 pm or call 301-475-4200 ext. 1625 or <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/SupervisorOfElections/>

The polls open Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at the Town Office 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, Maryland, between the hours of 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm, on said date, for voting.

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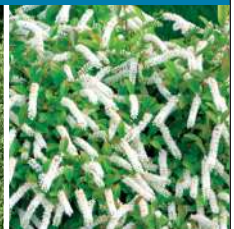
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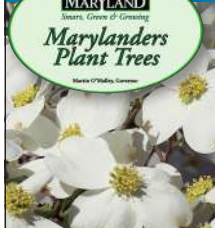
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Repeat Violent Offender Sentenced for Attempted Kidnapping

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that William Francis Dixon, 53, of Mechanicsville, was sentenced to 53 years in prison for attempted kidnapping, armed robbery, and dangerous weapon charges.

"This was a predatory and horrifying attack by a convicted felon with a demonstrated history of extreme violence against women on an innocent victim who was a complete stranger to him," said Sterling.

On March 17, 2025, Dixon targeted a woman after seeing her at a shopping center and followed her vehicle to her child's school bus stop. While she waited for her child, Dixon, armed with handcuffs and a knife, attempted to kidnap her by dragging her towards his vehicle. The victim fought back, escaped to her car, and called 911, providing a detailed description of the attack and her assailant. Following an investigation, officers identified and located Dixon. A subsequent search of his home led to the recovery of the victim's personal belongings.

Dixon was previously convicted for a brutal 1994 offense in which he stabbed a St. Mary's County woman approximately 50 times with a screwdriver, raped her, and left her for dead. The victim survived.

Dixon was subsequently sentenced to life in prison, with 40 years of active incarceration. He was released with good time credit after serving just under 25 years.

"With this new sentence, the Defendant will likely spend the rest of his life behind bars. This victim and the previous victim, along with every potential victim, are now safe from him," said Sterling. "I want to



William Francis Dixon

sincerely thank the detectives, the incredible prosecution team, and especially our office's Evidence Review Unit. I am certain these results would not have been possible without their endless hours of investigation, dedication, and brilliance."

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Alena Mosier and Assistant State's Attorney Holley Hickman prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Detective Andrew Burgess of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

The Honorable Timothy J. Doory presided over the case.

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

Stolen Vehicle Recovered, Three Juveniles Charged

A Kia Carnival reported stolen in Lexington Park was recovered, and three juveniles have been charged with unlawful taking of a motor vehicle and theft of property valued between \$25,000 and \$100,000.

On Sunday, March 29, the victims told deputies the vehicle was missing from outside their residence.

On March 30, a citizen reported suspicious activity on Old Missouri Street in Lexington Park. When deputies arrived, they located the stolen vehicle, and witnesses said four individuals had exited it moments earlier.

Deputies identified and located the suspects. Three suspects, ages 15, 16 and 17, were taken into custody and released to their guardians after being charged. A fourth juvenile was not charged.

Juveniles are not publicly identified due to legal protections.

If you see something, say something.

Tips can be submitted anonymously through tip411:

- Text 847411: start your message with "SMCSO", add a space, and then your tip.
- Online: Submit a tip through the Sheriff's Office website at www.FirstSheriff.com/tips.
- App: Send a tip directly through the SMCSO app. Download the free app from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.
- Phone: For those who prefer to make a phone call, tips can also be shared through the Crime Solvers line at 301-475-3333.

With Crime Solvers, you never have to give your name. You may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.

Press Release from SMCSO

Funding Cut for Fourth Circuit Court Judge

Annapolis Conference Committee Removes New Judge

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Funding for a fourth circuit court judge in St. Mary's County appears to have stalled in the Maryland General Assembly. Deputy County Attorney John Sterling Houser delivered the news to the county commissioners on March 31 during his regular briefing on happenings in Annapolis.

Houser said the funding of the new judge passed the House and then when it did not prevail in the Senate, went to a conference committee.

Houser noted, "Based on the budget that was announced last night and adopted,...it appears that the conference committee did reject the additional funding in the budget for the fourth circuit judgeship. So, if there's any intention at all of passing the bill to create the position, they have no means of paying for it in the budget, which is probably a good indicator that it will not move forward."

He added, "That is what it's looking like right now. Again, it's not over until it's Sine Die (last day, April 13) and things can happen at the very, very last minute. But the additional money that the House put into the budget appears to have been taken out by the conference committee between the House and the Senate and the budget that



Deputy County Attorney John Sterling Houser

was passed yesterday evening."

Houser also reported that the county bill to regulate panhandling on roads deemed dangerous is moving through the Maryland General Assembly apparently without opposition. The bill was heavily amended to require State Highway approval before the county designates those roads.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

County Government Easter Operations

St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) administrative offices will be closed on Friday, April 3, 2025, in observance of the Good Friday and Easter holidays.

Offices will resume normal operating schedules on Monday, April 6, 2025.

The April 3 closure includes:

- All three Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler, and Northern), and there will be no home-delivered meals.
- The St. Mary's Transit System (STS), including ADA and SSTAP.
- St. Mary's Soil Conservation District

The following SMCG operations will be open on April 3:

- All three St. Mary's County Libraries (Charlotte Hall, Leonardtown, and Lexington Park).
- St. Mary's Animal Adoption & Resource Center.
- The six Convenience Centers and the St. Andrews Landfill.
- St. Clements Island Museum*, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, and the Old Jail Museum.

- The Wicomico Shores Golf Course and the Riverview Restaurant.
- Department of Recreation & Parks programs and facilities.

Additionally, the following SMCG operations will be CLOSED on Sunday, April 5:

- Department of Recreation & Parks programs and facilities (excluding museum locations, which are OPEN).
- St. Mary's Animal Adoption & Resource Center.
- The Lexington Park Library.
- The six Convenience Centers and the St. Andrews Landfill.
- The St. Mary's Transit System (STS), including ADA and SSTAP.

*Note: the St. Clement's Island Museum is operating on a limited basis due to construction.

For more information on SMCG programs and operations, visit: www.stmaryscountymd.gov or follow St. Mary's County Government on Facebook, X, and Instagram for regular updates.

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No Kings Rally Held in Leonardtown



Photos courtesy of St. Mary's County Indivisible

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Hundreds of St. Mary's County residents on March 28 joined millions nationwide in thousands of No Kings rallies against President Donald Trump.

The Leonardtown rally was part of a nationwide day of nonviolent protest as part of the third No Kings National Day of Action. Local organizers with St. Mary's County Indivisible hosted the rally from 2 to 4 p.m. at the intersection of Route 5 and Hollywood Road.

According to a press release, community members "gathered to call for accountability, defend democratic norms, and reject authoritarianism."

The St. Mary's County event is one of more than 3,000 coordinated actions nationwide, "reflecting growing grassroots momentum across the country."

"This is bigger than political disagreement," said Andy Wilson, organizer with St. Mary's County Indivisible. "We're bringing together local residents from all walks of life who recognize that this administration has defied our courts, harmed American cit-

izens, and undermined essential services, all while prioritizing the interests of billionaires. We're not going to stand by and watch it happen; we're pushing back."

According to the press release, "The No Kings movement is a mass, nonviolent coalition effort that has already mobilized millions of participants nationwide. Previous days of action drew over five million participants in June 2025 and more than seven million people across 2,700+ events in October 2025, spanning all 50 states and Washington, D.C. Organizers say the movement continues to grow as communities unite to defend civil liberties, uphold the rule of law, and push back against concentrated power."

"All No Kings events are rooted in non-violence and community safety," Wilson added. "We are committed to peaceful protest and ensuring that everyone who shows up can participate safely and meaningfully."

The nationwide effort included participation from a broad coalition of organizations, including civil rights groups, labor unions, environmental advocates, and grassroots networks.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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MedStar St. Mary's: Care Close to Home

Hospital President Gives an Update

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Care close to home and services in all parts of the community were the highlights of the message from MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in a March 31 report to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. St. Mary's Hospital President Mimi Novello delivered the briefing to the commissioners.

During the presentation Commissioner Eric Colvin observed, "I really like in your mission, it says it's a community hospital. And that's what I always go back to, that I think there was a lot of nervousness among the community when MedStar came in because this hospital was built by the community," adding "I think you've done a really good job of not losing sight of that."

Novello, who has been in the position for four years, said, "We are part of MedStar Health and our vision and values are consistent with the rest of the system to be the trusted leader, caring for people in advancing health. And then we live by the values, we call them our spirit values."

She added, "Our mission in St. Mary's County is to provide a community hospital that upholds our tradition of caring by promoting, maintaining, and improving health through education and services, while ensuring high quality patient safety and fiscal integrity."

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital is one of ten MedStar hospitals.

"I would say even more significantly in the last five to 10 years, (we are) into a less hospital-centric delivery system to one that encompasses many ambulatory access points," she said. That includes urgent care, imaging centers, ambulatory surgical sites, physical therapy, and rehab.

Even with the main anchor hospital in Leonardtown, Novello said, "I would say that group also spends more of their time out in the community rather than in the office."

"We are also very proud of our hospice services. We have a Hospice of St. Mary's in Callaway (see separate story about upcoming hospice walk/run), which is the Hospice House. But our hospice services actually extend far beyond that house. We have some in the inpatient area at the hospital when needed. But primarily our hospice access is throughout the ambulatory space in folk's homes, in the nursing homes or the skilled care facilities."

"Our outpatient pavilion is on our campus as well, that serves our MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute, which is an ambulatory cancer institute and infusion center," Novello explained. "So, for chemotherapy and other therapeutic agents like iron or magnesium or some of the immunotherapies. And then we also house several of our specialty physician offices in that building."

In north county they have two different sites. "We have an urgent care in that area, and then we have several different specialty care services to address issues that our patients need."

In Leonardtown they have OB/GYN, Orthopedics, physical therapy, breast center. They have urgent care in California and the Bean Center. "a jewel, which has multiple different subspecialties."

In south county "in the Great Mills area, we have an urgent care that we just opened there in August of 25, which is doing great. And we at the same time added another access point, an Ob/Gyn office that complements the primary care office there."

She touted the hospital's leadership. "It benefits the county having such talent here."

Novello observed about the county demographics, "I do think it's worth noting that we have a very young age, median county age of 38 years, which is unusual. But in addition, we do have that 65 and older population that is growing in this county, more folks retiring and staying, which is fantastic. And then we also have a very unique pop-

ulation that we care for. And we take great joy and pride in being able to meet the needs of these different groups of folks, including our Amish folks, the defense industry at Pax River, the colleges, etc."

Novello said when she arrived in the county "I was so struck by the range of services that we provide here in this community hospital. It is quite extraordinary," adding, "You don't see this in every community hospital. We do have acute care. We have a full intensive care unit, a busy emergency department. We have behavioral health services in both our inpatient treatment and our intensive outpatient day hospitalization treatment. And just coming the women's health and family birthing center services. Our interventional radiology program is also growing significantly... along with cancer care and infusion services."

She added, "We also have a wound healing center complete with two hyperbaric chambers... and we're proud to deliver those services here to our community. We also have a palliative care and inpatient dialysis."

So, she said, "I think as we look to see healthcare expanding beyond the four walls of the hospital, is really developing these advanced, minimally invasive services that are convenient, appropriate to care in the community with outstanding outcomes."

The result, she observed, "We like to be able to have services that before you would've had to travel to a tertiary or quaternary center. But now you get to come to MedStar, St. Mary's Hospital and receive this care close to home."

One way they expanded services is through e-visits. She said, "We were early adopters of this technology right before COVID started. So, we've been doing this a while and have served a large number of folks with the telehealth platform."

They also have Community Health Advocates (CHA) "who actually go out into our community and work with individuals

who are challenged both from social needs and from chronic medical illness. We have one now that we have a partnership with the soup kitchen. We lease a space there so that we have a CHA who can interact with their clients as well."

After the presentation, Commissioner Scott Ostrow said. "I hear it a lot and see on social media here and there, and I've had a lot of questions about it in the community about overcrowding at the hospital. Can you expand on that? Let us know, are there any plans to expand the hospital and what is actually the real situation?"

Novello responded, "Our current hospital and emergency department are sized appropriately to care for the community that we serve. You know hospital volumes do ebb and flow. It's the nature of our business."

She said size is determined by the state and that there are no current expansion plans.

"We are staffed to care for our community at every ebb and flow of that volume. I would say that, as the community continues to grow, we are committed to continuing to serve the community, in accordance with policies from the state and the regulatory agencies that govern our business," she said.

What if there isn't an available bed. She said, "Borders is something when a person comes into the hospital, needs a hospital bed, comes into the hospital emergency department, largely needs a hospital bed, and there's not a hospital bed that's open at the time. They end up boarding in the emergency department. And we call that boarding. It is something that is probably in almost every hospital in the country. It's not unique to us. But I will say I'm really proud of the work that we've done to support our boarding patients. And so, we've done a lot of work to get them a hospital bed and provide them the same menu of options to be able to eat as though they were on the floors."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Commissioners Send Budget to Public Hearing

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) have approved the budget for the next fiscal year that will go to public hearing on April 21. The commissioners can then make changes before formally adopting the budget.

Flush with additional projected income tax revenue, the commissioners have bypassed the usual fight over education funding by fully funding the school board's request for \$8.4 million more than they received this year.

Chief Financial Officer Vanetta Van Cleave told the commissioners at their March 31 meeting, "We bring forth to you a balanced budget, which includes \$78,000 in a public hearing reserve to allocate after the public hearing to be held on April 21st. The budgeted expenditures amount to \$360,099,861. In addition, unassigned fund

balance of \$16,908,163 are budgeted to be used for non-reoccurring expenditures.

"CIP (Capital Improvement Program) is in the amount of \$76,466,830 for FY 27 and in the years 28 through 33, (it is) \$396,925,899."

She added, "Total new positions are budgeted at 13, eight of which are included in emergency services in the enterprise funds. Five are in the general fund, three of which are in countywide support departments and two in the state's attorney's office."

The public hearing, in addition to the budget, will include the request by the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department for a fire tax rate increase.

Commissioner Eric Colvin observe, "This is a good budget. It's balanced budget as we always do, but it's not our final budget. This is our recommended budget that goes to public hearing. There's still time afterward that changes can and most likely will be made. So, there's still an opportunity that we can

meet more of the requests, especially the sheriff's office salary request, potentially."

A release after the vote said, "The CSMC will hold the annual Budget Public Hearing to present the FY27 Recommended Budget and receive public comment on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Chopticon High School (CHS), located at 25390 Colton Point Road in Morganza.

The hearing will take place in the CHS auditorium. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and sign-up sheets for those wishing to speak will be available in the school foyer.

"Community members are encouraged to attend and share their feedback on the proposed budget. Those wishing to address the Commissioners may participate in person or provide feedback via:

- Email to: csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov
- Mail to: PO Box 653 Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

"The deadline to submit public comments is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

All submissions will be considered by the CSMC at the Public Hearing and for up to seven days following the hearing. Additional details regarding the Public Hearing are available at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/publichearings.

"The FY2027 Recommended Budget Book will be available for public review online by the close of business on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/budget.

"Appropriate accommodation for individuals with language or other special needs will be provided upon request. To support these needs, we respectfully ask for one week's prior notice. Please contact the Public Information Office at (301) 475-4200, ext. 1340 or via email to pio@stmaryscountymd.gov by April 14, 2026, to arrange."

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10 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and St. George Island

44720 Lighthouse Road, Piney Point, MD 20674 • 301-994-1471

Rebels & Redcoats: A Southern Maryland Revolutionary War Family Event honors America's Semiquincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation.

Interact with the members of The First Maryland Regiment, costumed history reenactors who will be staging an encampment demonstrating Colonial era drilling, weapons, cooking, living quarters, music and more.

This event/program is part of the Southern Maryland 250th Semiquincentennial, Maryland 250th, and America 250th celebrations, commemorating Southern Maryland's contributions to our nation's founding.



www.museums.stmarys.com

Start planning your trip at VisitStMarysMD.com/SOMD250

ALL AGES!! FOOD, FUN, VENDORS, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND MORE!

BOTH DAYS

- Military Drills in camp
- Narrated Boat Tour (ticket required)
- Story Time with Leonardtown Library
- Musket and cannon firing demonstrations from the beach
- 18th century brewing and other demonstrations
- 18th century music by David & Ginger Hildebrand
- Distaff cooking in Military camps | Period vendors
- Modern Exhibitors and Food trucks
- Games and other 18th century activities
- MPT Video Excerpts from The American Revolution by Ken Burns
- Continuous bus service from parking lot to both event sites
- Meet Lord Dunmore
- Cannon firing demonstrations from shipboard
- Exhibit of 18th century objects found on St. George Island

SATURDAY ONLY

- 18th century music by Music of the Regiment
- 18th century Tavern Night (ticket required)

SUNDAY ONLY

- DAR Marker dedication

Items in **BLUE** take place at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
 Items in **YELLOW** take place on St. George Island
 Items in **WHITE** take place on both sites



SOUTHERN MARYLAND
 NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



Visit **ST. MARY'S**
 MD



SCAN FOR FULL EVENT INFO!



This event is made possible by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area.

bit.ly/Rebels2026

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“NOW YOU GET TO COME TO MEDSTAR ST. MARY’S HOSPITAL AND RECEIVE THIS CARE CLOSE TO HOME.”

MEDSTAR ST. MARY’S HOSPITAL PRESIDENT MIMI NOVELLO ON THEIR SPECIALTY CARE



LOCAL 5
MedStar shares updates on the state of healthcare in St. Mary's



LOCAL 7
Almost 600 protestors turn out in Leonardtown for No Kings rally



ON THE COVER
The 29th annual Run for Hospice is next weekend

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, APR 2 PM Showers Hi: 72° Lo: 54°	FRI, APR 3 Partly Cloudy Hi: 80° Lo: 64°	SAT, APR 4 Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 66°	SUN, APR 5 Rain Hi: 72° Lo: 45°
MON, APR 6 Mostly Sunny Hi: 61° Lo: 45°	TUE, APR 7 Partly Cloudy Hi: 61° Lo: 39°	WED, APR 8 Sunny Hi: 55° Lo: 42°	THU, APR 9 Mostly Sunny Hi: 67° Lo: 51°

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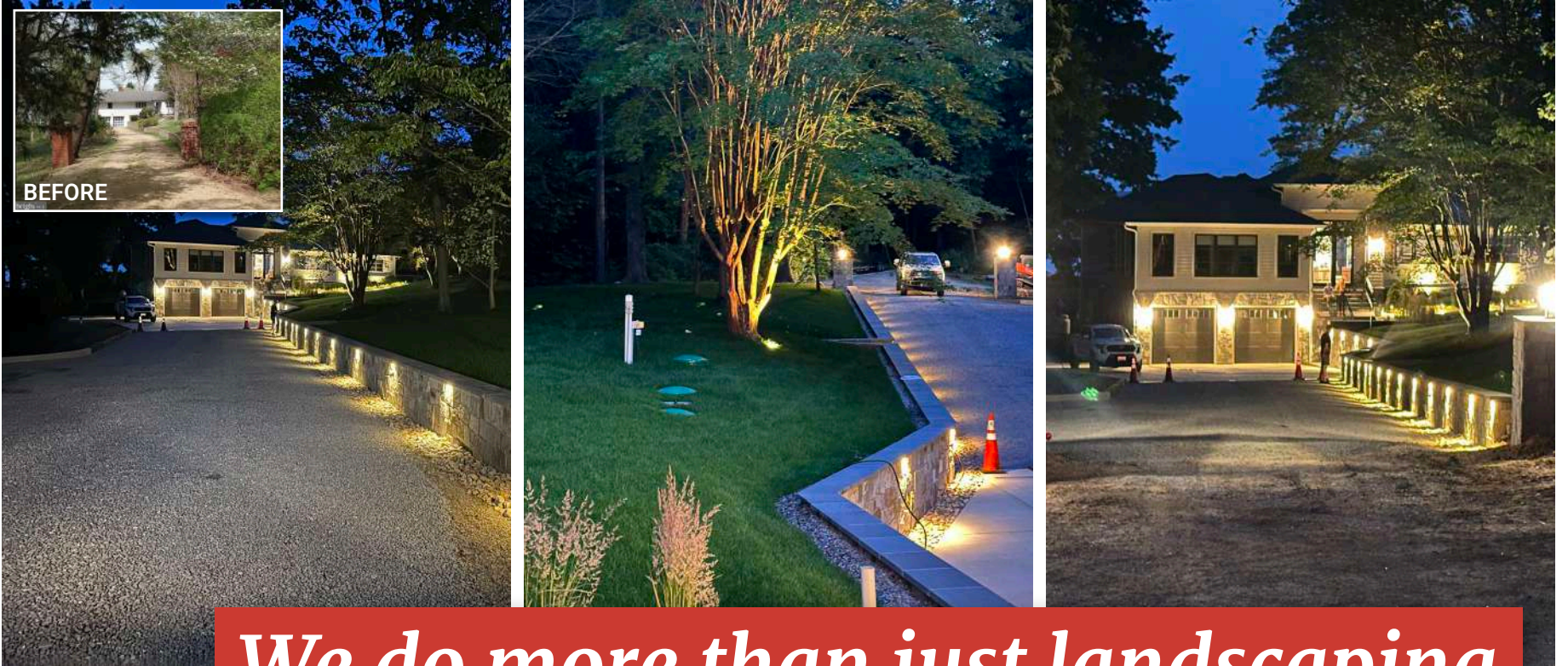
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In 1776, history was made when Marylanders repelled the British Army on St. George's Island. Relive history at this special semiquincentennial event.

April 11 & 12 • 10am-4pm
Piney Point Lighthouse & St. George's Island



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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

WWW.COUNTYTIMES.NET



RUN FOR HOSPICE, RUN FOR HOPE