

COVID-19
UPDATE

Prepared for the Surge?

County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 9 2020

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**Sign of the
Times**

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MedStar St. Mary's Prepares for COVID-19 Surge



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in St. Mary's County has reached more than 70 cases and county health officials are looking for space to put other patients if coronavirus-related cases surge and overwhelm the local hospital.

Steven Walker, director of the Department of Emergency Services, said the county is already working on an agreement with the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department to use their facility for patient overflow care.

"They're worried about the surge," Walker told The County Times of health care professionals' concerns. "They're anticipating that's going to happen."

Walker said other sites around the county were being considered for patient overflow with a focus on county owned property to help rein in costs.

As MedStar St. Mary's is preparing to deal with a COVID-19 surge, it is continually seeking donations of medical equipment and supplies.

The hospital needs unopened containers of hand sanitizer, containers of bleach wipes, procedure masks, N95 masks, examination

gloves as well as gowns for patients in isolation or for medical personnel performing procedures.

MedStar has also set up an on-line donation site that benefits the hospital personnel on the front line of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Dr. Stephen Michaels, Chief Operating Officer at MedStar St. Mary's, said the hospital has been preparing for the predicted surge in coronavirus patients.

"The models are predicting that cases in the Washington and Maryland area are going to go up," Michaels told The County Times. "We hope St. Mary's County will not have as an intense surge."

The hospital's plans for dealing with a patient surge are detailed, Michaels said, which include its plans for extra beds in the facility as well as sending other non-COVID 19 patients to overflow facilities such as the Hollywood volunteer fire company.

"It isn't far enough along yet to settle on a site," Michaels cautioned, however.

The hospital also has a tent facility where they can house and treat emergency patients who require care other than for coronavirus, Michaels said.

The hospital is also well stocked with ventilators, he said, which have taken on national prominence in treating coronavirus patients who are in intensive care and have lost the ability to breathe on their own.

The hospital received three additional ventilators from the state on Monday, Michaels said.

"Our ventilator capability is very, very

good," he said. "We have enough ventilators to supply our entire intensive care unit and beyond."

The hospital also has negative pressure rooms available to isolate infected COVID-19 patients, said Michaels.

Supplies of personal protective equipment for hospital staff, such as masks, face shields and gowns are strong now, Michaels said, but could be strained in the event of a heavy surge in COVID-19 patients.

"We're looking at ways we can reuse PPE," Michaels said of the gear, which was initially designed to be disposable. "We're not running short at the moment; the supply chains are strong and are being filled." Michaels said the St. Mary's community had poured support out to hospital staff in numerous ways, including protective gear, medical supplies and even food.

Just as helpful were the many technically skilled residents here, Michael said, who provided help in keeping medical machines functioning.

They have kept busy reverse engineering critical parts of such machines and fabricating plastic replacements for repairs, Michaels said.

He said the community has provided "amazing help" in supporting the hospital's efforts to fight COVID-19.

Drive up testing continues at the hospital, Michaels said, as well as at other physicians' offices around the county; the hospital also has the ability to run the COVID-19 tests internally to determine results and was the first

of MedStar facilities to provide the drive-up testing option.

"There have been hundreds of tests for sure," Michaels said. "Only a small percentage [of positive cases] are being hospitalized and an even smaller number are being admitted to the ICU (intensive care unit).

"If there is a surge most people will likely be able to recover at home."

Kevin Emerson, an evolutionary geneticist at St. Mary's College of Maryland and a member of an advisory board assisting the county health department, said the county would not likely have a surge such as the kind expected in metropolitan area, but it would come.

So far, Emerson said, St. Mary's had avoided such high infection rates as seen in Prince George's and Montgomery counties because of its more rural nature and lesser population density.

"Rural areas like this are going to see peaks later than the big cities," Emerson said. "It just takes more time to spread.

"We'll have a peak; it will be big relative to the size of the community."

Emerson said social distancing was key to keeping the size of the surge down.

"That will certainly slow things down and reduce [infection] numbers," said Emerson.

"It's critically important for everyone to maintain the precautions ordered by the governor [Larry Hogan]," Michaels said of people limiting contact to avoid infection. "I know it does work and that's what we have to do.

"This is akin to fighting a war; it is a war."
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CalvertHealth Ready for COVID 'Surge'

By Dick Myers
Editor

It is predicted that the Baltimore-Washington corridor will be the next coronavirus hotspot. Just as has happened in other parts of the country, suburban areas have been affected in a second wave. Governor Hogan has said that 12 counties in Maryland, including Calvert, will now be considered as needing "urgent federal attention."

With the potential of a "surge" hitting Calvert County, we reached out to the communications department of the county's only hospital, CalvertHealth Medical Center, to find out how prepared they were for it. The following are the questions we posed and their responses, unedited:

Q: Do you anticipate a surge? Worst case scenario?

A: Yes. We do anticipate a surge of patients. The timing is debatable, but CalvertHealth is always preparing for any type of emergency so we are consistently ready when a crisis arises. We're also hopeful that the efforts of Governor Hogan are successful in helping to 'flatten the curve' meaning that everyone isn't sick all at once. Whatever the outcome, we are here to serve our community, and we continually collaborate with the Calvert County Government and their Emergency Management team, the state and at the federal level to treat our community.

Q: How are staff holding up? Are they being required to work extra hours? Can you use more people, for instance retirees willing to return to service?

A: According to Chief Operating Officer Tony Bladen, "Everyone is pulling together as we have always done when faced with challenges. Teams are working round-the-clock and leveraging others in our care team from across the health system. Our COVID-19 patients require more intensive treatment, so we've expanded our ICU and staffing in those areas as the needs of our patients change. We've already started redeployment of nurses and technicians to other areas, and we'll continue these efforts as long as our community needs us."

In addition, CalvertHealth has already had a number of community physicians offer their services, and we appreciate their dedication and commitment to treat those in our beloved community. We have weekly medical staff conference calls with our community providers to collaborate, field questions and talk about best practices and surge planning at the hospital.

Q: Is the hospital operating at capacity? What percentage?

A: The hospital is adjusting based on the needs of our patients. The Emergency Room has seen a decline of those needing care, but we want to caution people not to wait if they need emergent care. President and CEO Dean Teague stated, "Our Emergency Room team is here when you need us. If anyone is having heart issues

or any other emergent healthcare need, you should seek immediate care. Everyone coming into the Emergency Room can expect to be treated in a safe manner. All patients coming into the Emergency Room are masked whether they are suspected of having the coronavirus or not."

Of course, if residents don't require the level of Emergency Room care, we urge everyone to stay home and self-monitor symptoms.

Patients who are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients, do require more intensive care, so we've expanded Intensive Care Unit capabilities to accommodate additional patients who need this level of care. Persons under investigation for COVID-19 or those confirmed also tend to have a longer length of stay at the hospital.

Q: Are there plans for emergency beds, if so, where?

A: CalvertHealth has already implemented strategies in its surge planning process to address an influx of patients both in the Emergency Room, as well as hospitalized patients.

Q: You issued a call to the community for supplies. Has that been successful? Do you have enough surgical masks, gowns and respirators?

A: The community has responded with an overwhelming outpouring of support. We've already begun deploying more than 1,500 cloth masks and we know many others are on the way. Per CDC guidelines, we've asked all employees who are NOT in direct patient care to mask with the cloth masks.

Of course, like all hospitals, we are pursuing every avenue to secure additional personal protective equipment, such as N95 masks, surgical masks and gowns. We've received many donations from construction companies, hardware stores and others for which we are extremely grateful.

At this time, with the conservation measures we've put into place, we have sufficient supplies to meet our current patient demands; although, we will continue to pursue all options for PPE including donations from the community.

Q: If the surge occurs, what are the plans for additional supplies. Have you been promised backup from the state?

A: We've been implementing conservation measures following CDC guidelines for contingency and crisis levels. We've implemented strategies to use and reuse PPE appropriately and safely. That focus on numbers and logistics is essential. Our focus remains on trying to ensure adequate numbers for supplies and equipment in the right places at the right times as the demand grows.

We know many hospitals have a shortage of supplies and the state has many requests, so we are doing everything we can do here locally and working with the state for additional resources as allocated.

Q: What has the state's role been so far?

A: The state has been collecting data

for weeks regarding hospital capacity while also trying to contain the spread of this infectious disease within the community.

The state continues to work to develop models to assist all hospitals in their planning efforts for a surge of patients.

Q: What message would you like to get out to the community about the job everyone at the hospital has been doing during the crisis? Also, to the role of the first responders.

A: CalvertHealth is prepared and ready to meet the growing needs of the community. We have an exceptional, experienced care team who have prepared for this. "You will not find a more dedicated and professional team ready to care for its patients than those here at CalvertHealth," said President and CEO Dean Teague. He continued, "I want to personally thank our team and our community should be proud of the care team at CalvertHealth and their continued commitment to serve the people of our community."

With the community adhering to the stay-at-home orders from the Governor and self-monitoring their health, we hope to contain the surge of patients and provide the critical care to those that need it the most.

Q: Is there anything more the community can be doing to help?

A: The community has been wonderful. We've created a web page that is updated multiple times of day with our needs. Community members can visit, <https://www.calverthealthmedicine.org/Ways-You-Can-Help>

Q: Is preparation paying off or were there curve ball you've had to deal with?

A: The uncertainty of the virus has posed many challenges although we've been preparing for the impact of this virus since January when we first learned of the virus.

We've learned from others and we've been carefully following best practices and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Maryland Department of Health. We've also learned from those across the country about the treatment of these individuals and will continue to monitor emerging studies.

We have an innovative healthcare team comprised of several physicians and clinicians who are constantly researching the latest Coronavirus studies to determine what will have the greatest impact on our patients. We've seen continued progress with the treatment of our COVID-19 patients, and it gives us hope for the future ahead of us and for our community.

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St. Mary's to Pay for Quarantine, Isolation Lodging

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county's law enforcement, first responders and medical personnel are at far greater risk of exposure to the novel coronavirus than most, Dr. Meena Brewster told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County April 7, and has issued an order requiring the county to pay for single lodging if they must isolate or quarantine themselves from their homes and families.

In a later interview, Brewster told The County Times that the order means the county would likely be paying for hotel and motel space for police, medical and first responder personnel to fulfill the non-congregate lodging requirement.

The order, she said, is also a prerequisite for the county to receive federal reimbursement funding for the lodging expenses.

"Health workers, law enforcement and first responders need this resource to isolate and quarantine when they can't return to their homes and families," Brewster said.

During the regular meeting of the county commissioners, Department of Emergency Services Director Steve Walker requested and received an additional appro-

priation of more than \$850,000 to aid in the COVID-19 response; the funding increase is for extra personal protection equipment and cleaning supplies as well as to help pay for the non-congregate lodging and a monitored site for the homeless living in tents in the former Flat Tops/Lexington Manor passive park in Lexington Park.

A portion of the Three Oaks homeless shelter will be converted into an eight-bed quarantine facility, according to county documents, with the tents of the homeless being spaced apart to comply with social distancing guidelines.

Toilets, sanitation, twice-daily meals and temperature monitoring are also part of the homeless assistance plan.

"This is specifically a homeless response," Walker said of the tent encampment, which is projected to cost \$48,000.

The non-congregate housing is expected to cost \$22,500 a month, Walker said.

The commissioners also approved a public hearing to be held April 21 to take \$3 million from the county's unassigned fund balance to pay for COVID-19 response expenses that go beyond the fiscal 2020 budget.

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Rescue Squads Struggle To Find Protective Gear

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

First responders have personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, gowns and face masks, especially the precious N95 masks, to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic but they say the stockpile is quickly diminishing.

And it is becoming increasingly difficult to find replacements as the gear is designed to be used once and then disposed of.

"It's a struggle right now," said Terry Van Asdlen, supply officer at the Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad we still have some, I wish we could get more."

The squad just took delivery of some PPE Apr. 8, Van Asdlen said, but the squad has had to seek out non-traditional sources to replenish their stockpile.

"We've gone around to dentists' office looking for any gowns and masks they may have," Van Asdlen said. "Nail salons have masks but they're closed right now so we've been asking them if they can donate."

The race to replenish the stockpile comes at a time when health professionals are expecting a surge in COVID-19 cases.

"I'm concerned... at some point we won't have everything we need," Van Asdlen said. "We're using masks, surgical masks, on every call now."

If a rescue crew goes on a call where the patient could be positive for COVID-19, she said, they switch to wearing the N95 masks, protective gowns and gloves.

They also give the potential COVID-19 patient a surgical mask, she said.

Every time they don those items, she said, it further diminishes the stockpile.

"We're seeing more [potential COVID-19 calls], we're seeing an uptick," Van Asdlen said.

Mandy Purdy, chief at Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad, said her crews are keeping a close watch over their own PPE supplies.

"Right now, we're using it very conservatively," Purdy said. "We're not going out on calls with nothing, but the stockpile is low."

Purdy said the squad has received donations of PPE "from friends of friends and friends of members," and squad members are busy searching the internet for hard-to-find gear.

The county has been supportive though, Purdy said.

"If we need something, they give it to us," she said of the Department of Emergency Services. "Our regular suppliers don't have them; we're getting them wherever we can find them."

County officials, according to internal documents available on-line, are also concerned about local responders being able to deal with increasing patient volumes.

"We also have areas of concern that we should be prepared to respond to if the need arises," documents from the latest county commissioner meeting stated. "There is concern regarding the EMS providers ability to adequately handle the virus surge, which is the rapid increase of people that become infected and requiring hospitalization."

"When this occurs, will we have enough Paramedics and EMT's to handle this projected increase in demand for services?"

The same documents stated the county was assessing the potential issue and coordinating contingencies.

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Officials Worry Over Crowds at Store

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

St. Mary's County Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron said that groups of more than 10 people congregating despite continued warnings and orders from Gov. Larry Hogan to desist are still a problem in the struggle to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic.

And those groups can now be found mostly at the most essential of businesses, Cameron said, including big box retailers and grocery stores.

"It's a problem at the larger stores," Cameron told The County Times. "There's great potential for it [the novel coronavirus] to be airborne in these places."

Cameron said his deputies have answered a few complaints of people gathering in numbers greater than allowed by the governor's orders while they were out on patrol, but so far businesses have been left to their own judgement as to how many customers they allow entry.

Certain local businesses have placed signage in their establishments, Cameron said, to remind customers to maintain social distancing practices.

In his recent conversations with Dr. Meena Brewster, county health officer, Cameron said she shared his concerns over prohibited gatherings at large stores.

On April 5 Hogan issued an executive order that delegated authority to local health officers to compel businesses and facilities

to ensure social distancing at their establishments; barring that, the local health officer could declare any place they deemed as unsafe be shutdown.

The order includes organizations that are not business entities as well as construction sites.

Under the order's language, the local health officer can also establish rules that limit access and occupancy of a building or a part of that building.

The executive order posits a penalty of up to one year in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000 for violating it, or any order given by the local health officer.

Brewster issued an open letter to the business community Apr. 7 pressing them to create social distancing plans.

"Our agency is working with local law enforcement to inspect retail establishments for compliance with social distancing practices," Brewster wrote. "Should lack of social distancing be observed within your retail facilities due to a failure of adequate process and oversight, then your establishment may be deemed unsafe and will be issued an Order for Immediate Compliance."

In a later interview, Brewster said, closing a business was a last resort.

"The purpose is not to shut down businesses, it's to ensure people are safe while accessing these emergency services," Brewster said.

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Tech Port Fosters PPE Sterilization Machine

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's business incubator, in cooperation with a new non-profit group and a metal fabrication company have produced an experimental machine that they have designed to sterilize precious N95 face masks that are a critical part of personal protective gear guarding against COVID-19 infection.

Tom Luginbill, director of the St. Mary's County Tech Port, a University System of Maryland operation at the county's airport, said the unit is being tested this week at the University of Maryland's hospital center in Charles County.

The unit was constructed by Triton Metals in partnership with Southern Maryland Loves You, a non-profit dedicated to producing goods for the coronavirus fight, and is the brainchild of the non-profit's founder, Matt Hayes, Luginbill said.

Regional hospitals had asked entrepreneurs for ways to produce either ultraviolet light-or-hydrogen peroxide-based machines to do the job, Luginbill said, but Hayes had a different idea.

"We shared our opinion that that wasn't the best option," Luginbill said. "That's because we're running out of ultraviolet bulbs; it's harder and harder for hospitals to use this technology."

Hydrogen peroxide is likewise in short supply since it has mostly been diverted to

making much-needed hand sanitizer.

"So, we decided to use probably one of the oldest solutions known to man: heat," Luginbill said. "It's a very fancy oven, is what it is."

Using oil as its fuel, the oven can sterilize N95 masks over an hour's time, Luginbill said, by getting to a temperature of 157 degrees Fahrenheit.

"We can sterilize about 7,000 masks per hour," Luginbill said.

Hayes said that Burch Oil was also a key partner in the building the chamber as it was powered by heating oil; the local company helped to design the control system the sterilization chamber uses.

"They did an incredible job," Hayes said of Burch Oil. "Without their help we wouldn't have been able to do this."

Another project underway at Tech Port is to retrofit breast pumps into ventilators; Luginbill said the incubator had received 100 donated pumps Apr. 7.

The retrofits, which cost between \$250 to \$500 according to Luginbill, work but the technology still needs FDA approval.

Flush with material donations, Luginbill said, such as pumps and other items, Southern Maryland Loves You is now in need of monetary donations to pay for build materials that have been incurred by volunteers.

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Calvert Extends Local State of Emergency



By Dick Myers
Editor

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted April 7 to extend the declaration of a local State of Emergency for an additional 30 days. The declaration now expires May 16, 60 days from the original March 16 declaration. The local declaration followed the governor's March 5 declaration for the state.

In a press release following the vote, Commissioner President Kelly McConkey said, "We are doing everything in our power to protect our citizens and to support the healthcare community and first responders. This action enables us to remain at a heightened state of readiness, with the flexibility we need to respond swiftly as this crisis evolves. We thank the citizens of Calvert County for their support and call on everyone to continue to stand together in this challenging time."

The decision came during a live-streamed BOCC meeting, their first in two weeks. During the time set up for commissioner comments, several noted it was Holy Week and Passover and urged prayer for everyone's safety.

Commissioner Tim Hutchins said unity is the community's strength. "One Nation, Under God, Indivisible," he reminded the county.

Commissioner Buddy Hance reminded about the front line first responders and those working in grocery and drug stores to keep everyone supplied and urged prayers for them. "Through adversity comes our strength," he said.

Commissioner Mike Hart said he cringes when he hears types of people being called essential. "Everyone is essential," he said.

In the relatively brief meeting, the

BOCC handled several other matters:

Kellam's Field in Chesapeake Beach

The BOCC ratified the transfer of Kellam's Field, a park in Chesapeake Beach, to the town. It would revert to the county if it ceased being used for recreation.

Tax Differential for the towns

With both North Beach and Chesapeake Beach proposing to hold their tax rates the same in the next fiscal year, the BOCC approved that the current tax differential of \$.336 would be the same next year. That would peg the rate town residents pay to the county at \$.596 per assessed \$100.

The differential is a recognition that the towns provide services to their residents that the county provides to those living outside the town.

For instance, Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney, in a letter to the BOCC, put that amount paid by town taxpayers at \$2.7 million. That includes:

- Planning & Zoning -- \$90,000
- Police Protection -- \$1,229,551
- North Beach VFD -- \$50,000
- Recreation Operations and Park Maintenance -- \$200,000
- Snow removal 40,000
- Community Outreach Activities -- \$140,000
- Street Lighting & Maintenance -- \$426,112
- Trash & recycling removal and disposal -- \$550,000

North Beach Mayor Mike Benton, in a separate letter, said, "The Town of North Beach appreciates the county's acknowledgement of services provided by the town and the reduction in county taxes to its residents and property owners in the form of a tax differential in the amount of .336 as a result."

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Calvert Water, Sewer Rate Hike Proposed

To be Included at County Budget Hearing

By Dick Myers
Editor

A proposed increase in water and sewer fees will be included in the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) recommended budget that will go to public hearing next month. The BOCC agreed to add the first water and sewer rate hike in three years to the budget. The increase would become effective January 1, 2021.

The decision at the BOCC's April 7 meeting, which was streamed online, would increase the revenue to the Department of Public Works Division of Water and Sewerage by \$256,745 and would be based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). That was the lower of two potential models presented to the BOCC by B. Julie Paluda, deputy director of the division.

The other model, based on historical usage, would have raised \$410,203. But it would have included a 25 percent increase in sewer rates, from \$111.35 per quarter for the base rate to \$140.29. The CPI model is a much more modest increase to \$119.03.

Under the CPI model, Paluda said more revenue would be generated for

the water division reserve, which she said was in the most need of replenishment. The reserve is available to cover emergencies, such as water main breaks.

With the proposed increase, each equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) would pay \$88.52 yearly more, or 24 cents per day.

Paluda said the objectives of the rate modeling used to make the fee increase proposals were:

- To create a balanced budget; revenues = expenses
- To fund a planned reserve; used for unexpected non-budgeted costs
- To fund new initiatives, new staff requests, capital outlay / equipment / vehicles
- To identify when usage rates should be adjusted.

In making the motion to increase the water and sewer fees using the CPI model, Commissioner Tim Hutchins noted it has the lowest impact on the customer and the highest impact on replenishing the water division reserve, which had been depleted to just \$11,000, compared to a \$5 million reserve in the sewer division.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Hoyer Holds Phone Town Hall on Covid-19

Thousands Hear Health, Economic Concerns



Rep. Steny Hoyer

By Dick Myers
Editor

It was like a light switch being turned off. That was how Dr. Josh Sharfstein of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health described the almost overnight societal changes that occurred from the coronavirus pandemic in Maryland – businesses and public offices closing, sheltering in place and exponential increases in positive tests and even deaths.

The state and nation will return to normalcy slowly, like someone turning back on the lights with a dimmer switch, he told the more than 11,000 people who dialed in to Rep. Steny Hoyer's telephone town hall meeting on April 2.

One caller from Prince Frederick said she had family in an unnamed nursing home whose staff were not wearing protective equipment. Dr. Sharfstein said that was an unfortunate consequence of the nationwide shortage of that equipment.

At his press conference the following day, Gov. Larry Hogan announced additional orders including the requirement that all nursing home staff wear protective gear. Forty nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the state have at least one tested-positive case within their walls.

Before taking calls, Hoyer said, "We are in this fight together." The Democratic congressman praised Maryland's Republican governor Larry Hogan. "He has done an excellent job," Hoyer noted, particularly for his call for Marylanders to stay at home. Hoyer said he too was working from home -- in

Mechanicsville.

Questioners talked about economic and health concerns. In response to a caller from Bowie, Antonio Doss, district director of the Small Business Administration's Washington Metropolitan Area District Office talked about the assistance to small businesses (see separate story) that was anticipated to launch the next day, although some banks had difficulty getting their loan origination up that quickly.

The loans of up to four months become grants if employers keep all of their employees on the job. "We are trying to incentivize employers to keep people on the job," he explained.

Hoyer noted he had been asked if watermen, many of whose incomes had been decimated by the closure of restaurants, would be eligible. Michael Harrison of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation said, "They are eligible for benefits under the federal bill," as are all who are self-employed.

The head of a non-profit agency in Charles County which provides services to the homeless said she had to lay off 21 of her staff. She was told her agency would be eligible to have the cost of her employees covered so she could hire them back.

Hoyer said someone from his office would call her to assist in working through the process.

Those who were unable to ask questions during the one-hour telephone town hall were invited to record their questions for follow-up from his staff.

At the end of the telephone conference call, Rep. Hoyer encouraged Fifth District residents to contact one of his offices if they have any questions or need help from a federal agency. "My offices are still working hard to assist Marylanders during this pandemic," he said. Calvert County residents are encouraged to call 301-843-1577 and St. Mary's residents can call 301-843-1577. Or you can complete a casework intake form on his website at <https://hoyer.house.gov/help/federal>

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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Calvert County Times



Committed To Serving You



We are committed to Serving You

Our team here at McKay's has been working hard over the past month to provide our community with products you need during these difficult times. We just want to thank you for your patience and to let you know we are going to continue to be here for you. Please try to help us maintain social distancing (6' apart) as you shop. And we will do all we can to keep everything clean and sanitized.

McKay's Markets

- 1) New Hours:** Our regular store hours will be from 8 am until 8 pm each day. (Except Tuesday and Thursday, general public hours will begin at 10:30 am on these two days.)
- 2) First Responders and Medical workers:** Special shopping times remain available from 7 am until 8 am Tuesday and Thursday. We appreciate the tremendous job you are doing and wish to extend to you a 5% discount during these times. The stores will open at 10:30 am on these two days for the general public.
- 3) Senior Shopping Time:** Special shopping times remain available from 8 am till 10:30 am Tuesdays and Thursdays. During these hours we offer exclusive access to seniors over the age of 60. Additionally, we will offer a 5% senior discount during these hours. The stores will open at 10:30 am on these two days for the general public.
- 5) Hand Sanitizing:** We are asking that everyone entering our facilities please sanitize your hands. We are striving to provide sanitizer at our front doors as long as supplies are available.

We thank you for your patience during these times. And we thank you for your business as we look forward to serving you now and always, stay well.

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40845 Merchants Lane.
Leonardtwn, MD 20650

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Charlotte Hall
37670 Mohawk Dr.
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

Phone:
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Farmers Market Goes Drive Thru



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Home Grown Farm Market south of Lexington Park had its opening day April 4 and it was the first time customers could not get out of their cars and peruse local meat, produce and other goods in the nine years of its operation.

Instead, patrons had to wait in a queue seated in their vehicles and give their orders to vendors, who picked out their items and delivered them after getting paid.

It was the new way of doing business in the time of COVID-19; many customers as well as vendors wore protective masks during the four hours the market stayed open.

Despite the inconvenience the market's manager said the opening day was successful.

"We had an extremely large crowd," said Barry Roach. "It was well attended."

When the market opened the line was so long, Roach said, that it extended back out to Route 235.

The staff had to rearrange the traffic pat-

tern to two incoming rows of cars to get the jam off the main road, Roach said.

"We're going to work on ways to get people through faster," Roach said.

Roach said the farmers market will continue to run this season as long as it is safe enough to do so; not as many vendors were open for business there as in prior seasons but the market is continuing to reach out to get them to come in.

This past week local meats were available for sale as were many green vegetables, canned goods and palettes of flowers.

"Next week we should have cheeses and local ice cream," Roach said.

Customers are particularly interested in knowing where their food comes from now that the COVID 19 pandemic has hit locally, Roach said, and they are keen on supporting local producers of farm goods.

"This is our ninth season and the market continues to grow," Roach told The County Times. "Each week we're open there will be more available."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Seafood Restaurant Destroyed by Fire



Captain Pat's Seafood in Lexington Park was engulfed in fire the morning of April 3, Maryland State Fire Marshal investigators reported, and they have since determined that the blaze was accidental.

The fire occurred at approximately 7 a.m. and it took 35 minutes for 50 firefighters from the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department to stop the blaze. Investigators said the fire started in the boiler of the business. According to fire marshals the fire was discovered by a passing motorist; the damage estimate was totaled at \$300,000.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

St. Mary's Man Gives Out Free Toilet Paper

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Martin Ghersi, a Lexington Park resident and assistant general manager a restaurant in Waldorf, decided last week to buy a case of toilet paper that had been sitting at his job site and give it out gratis Apr. 3 at the intersection of Three Notch and Chancellors Run roads.

"I had been looking at this case of toilet paper for about a week-and-a-half," Ghersi, 42, said. "I see the frustration and anxiety of people who can't find it, so I thought I could buy it and start giving it out."

At first, he tried to give it away at his apartment building on Forest Park Road and when that didn't work, he went to the main intersection at Three Notch Road.

There were no takers.

"People were just driving by, maybe they thought it was a prank or something," Ghersi said, I don't know."

So, he took his operation to Three Notch and Chancellors Run and nearly handed out every last roll, he said.

Starting out with 96 rolls, he gave a dozen away before leaving work and



only had eight rolls left after about three hours of giving it away on the county's main road Saturday.

He said this was probably a one-time offer of free toilet paper to the community.

"I just saw an opportunity to do something and that was it," Ghersi said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Help Available for Local Job Seekers

By Dick Myers
Editor

Believe it or not there are employers hiring in Southern Maryland. The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) Workforce Division has a listing of 111 companies that are hiring in the area. Even though many stores are shuttered by order of the governor, others are considered essential and are in the hiring mode. They include "retail and hospitality, healthcare, construction, IT and professional services and of those, the first four are our key focus industries that are thriving and were thriving and growing in Southern Maryland," said Ruthie Davis, TCCSMD Workforce director.

Those hiring, she said, include supermarkets, Walmart, Costco, Door Dash and Tractor Supply.

In TCCSMD Workforce Division, Davis said, "We have a service delivery arm that we call Southern Maryland Job Source. Job Source is a vehicle to deliver services to residents, job seekers and businesses concerning workforce development. Normally we do this through our American Job Centers. We have four locations throughout Southern Maryland, but we have had to close those to the public for obvious reasons." They also have a mobile unit that also has been grounded due to the pandemic.

So, like many other services, Job Source is switching to online. Job seekers can go to the TCCSMD website, <https://tccsmd.org/>, and sign up to receive weekly email listings of local job availabilities. The website also has source material for filing unemployment claims and federal and state programs. Counselors are available on the phone to answer questions.

Some workers are hoping their employers will hire them back with the new federal program that gives eight weeks of loan forgiveness. "I think that a lot of people are in the waiting game right now to see how some of these provisions that the federal government has supplied will affect them," Davis said.

The Southern Maryland economy was humming along before than coronavirus pulled the plug. Davis said, "I would think a lot of our industries in Southern Maryland are very resilient. Unfortunately, it's the small businesses that are taking the blunt of this. They're not in many cases able to stay open or retain their employees. So, I have a question in my own mind about how soon small businesses will be able to bounce back. Hopefully the provisions in the CARES Act are going to be useful and helpful to those small businesses."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

ST. MARY'S SHERIFFS OFFICE CRIME REPORT

Hollywood Man Charged with Theft

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office has received several reports of an individual knocking on doors in the Hollywood area, claiming to need money for a family emergency or to visit a hospitalized family member. Many citizens provided this individual with checks or money. An investigation has determined the suspect was providing false information to citizens in order to obtain money and checks. The individual was described as a white male, operating a white Hyundai sedan.



Carroll Norris Jr.

The suspect has been identified as Carroll Ignatius Norris Jr., age 46 of Hollywood. On March 23, 2020, Norris was charged via a criminal summons for the reported thefts. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking any additional victims who wish to report a theft involving Carroll Norris, to contact Deputy First Class Dale Smith at (301) 475-4200 extension 78098 or by email at Dale.Smith@stmarysmd.com.

Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at (301) 475-3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

Resist/Interfere with Arrest/Obstructing and Hindering- On April 4, 2020, Dep. Burgess attempted a vehicle stop in the 19300 block of Three Notch Road in Lexington Park. The vehicle failed to stop and continued at a high rate of speed and struck a utility pole wire and also a mailbox. The operator of the vehicle, later determined to be Clinton Maurice Gantt, age 43 of Prince Frederick, fled from the vehicle on foot into woods. Gantt was observed in the woods, and failed to follow commands from deputies on scene and continued to flee further into the woods. Deputies pursued Gantt, and he was subsequently taken into custody. Gantt was charged with Resist/Interfere with Arrest, Obstructing and Hindering, Driving Motor Vehicle on Highway Without Required License and Authorization, Driving Motor Vehicle on Highway on Suspended License and Privilege, Attempt by Driver to Elude Uniformed Police by Fleeing on Foot, Attempt by Driver to Elude Police by Failing to Stop, and Failure of Driver to Stop After Property Damage Accident.



Clinton Gantt

Drug Arrest- On March 29, 2020, Rajahn Delmon Hampton, age 40 of Prince Frederick, was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center for a outstanding child support warrant service. Upon arriving at the detention center, a folded dollar bill was located in Hampton's belongings. Inside the dollar bill was a white powdery substance (suspected Oxycodone). Hampton was charged with Possess Contraband at Place of Confinement.



Rajahn Delon Hampton

Maryland State Police Report

April 6, 2020

Traffic Complaint / DUI / Warrant Service -On 04/01/2020, Trooper Brown responded to the 200 block of Village Center Drive, Lusby, for reports of a traffic complaint in that area. Trooper Brown located the vehicle and conducted a routine traffic stop. The driver, Jacob John Joseph Mishou, and passenger, Deandra Vonzell Claggett, were positively identified. Through a wanted check, it was shown that Claggett had an active warrant (Forgery) through Calvert County Sheriff's Office. The Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene and took custody of Claggett. Mishou was put through field sobriety on scene and was arrested for Driving Under the Influence.

Warrant Service - On 04/01/2020, Trooper First Class Rucker responded to the Maryland State Police, Prince Frederick Barrack to make contact with Braden Jerome Allen, who had an active warrant (FTA - Driving While Suspended) through the Maryland State Police, Prince Frederick Barrack. Allen was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where the warrant was served without incident.

Press Release from MSP Barrack U - Prince Frederick

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NOTICE OF LEONARDTOWN ELECTION AND DEADLINE FOR FILING

Election of one (1) Mayor and two (2) Council Members for the Town of Leonardtown will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020.

Notice is hereby given that an election of one (1) Mayor and two (2) Council Members for the Town of Leonardtown shall be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, and that the polls shall be open at the Town Hall, 22670 Washington St., Leonardtown, Maryland, between the hours of 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm, on said date, for voting.

The deadline for candidate filing is Monday, April 20, 2020 at 4:30 pm. Candidates may file at the Town Office, 22670 Washington St., Leonardtown, Maryland.

In order to hold elective or appointive office as Mayor/Council Member, one must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the Town for at least one year, and at least twenty-one (21) years of age. Property ownership alone does not qualify for election or appointment as a Mayor/Council Member.

VOTING QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify to vote in a Town Election one must be registered. To register, one must be a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen (18) years of age, and have resided in the Town for at least thirty (30) days immediately preceding the election.

VOTING REGISTRATION

Deadline for registration to vote is Friday, April 17, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Registration shall be at the St. Mary's County Board of Election Monday through Friday, between the normal business hours of 8:00 am through 5:00 pm, located at 41650 Tudor Hall Road, Leonardtown, MD.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT: TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 AT THE TOWN OFFICE BY 4:30 PM.

DEADLINE FOR OBTAINING EMERGENCY BALLOT: TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020 AT THE TOWN OFFICE BY 7:00 pm.

Emergency ballots are for any voter who, becomes unable to go personally to the polls because of illness or infirmity or condition of employment that occurred after the deadline for submittal of application for Absentee Ballot, (April 28, 2020).

To obtain forms or for any questions, please call 301-475-9791 or email leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov.

SMECO Nominating Committee to Meet

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's (SMECO) Board of Directors has appointed 10 members to the 2020 Nominating Committee scheduled to meet on Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at SMECO's headquarters in Hughesville or via teleconference. The committee will select a slate of candidates for the five Board positions to be elected this year. Elections will be held to fill one position in Calvert/Anne Arundel counties, one position in Charles County, one position in Prince George's County, and two positions in St. Mary's County.

The 2020 Nominating Committee members follow:

Calvert County: Kimberly Freeland, Prince Frederick; and Terence N. Gibson, Prince Frederick.

Charles County: Joseph L. Gardiner Jr., La Plata; Edward Holland III, Waldorf; and William B. Young Jr., Waldorf.

Prince George's County: Charles E. Clagett, Accokeek; and Ernest H. Riess, Brandywine.

St. Mary's County: Edith M. Bell, Chaptico; George A. Brown, Loveville; and Catherine Brenda Coates, Lexington Park.

SMECO members interested in being nominated should complete a Board of Directors Candidate Application. Candidate applications may be accessed online at smeco.coop/annualmeeting. To obtain a printed application, contact Terrie Barringer at 240-528-9747 or Terrie.Barringer@smeco.coop. Completed candidate applications should be sub-

mitted by 4 p.m., Friday, May 8, 2020. Applications may be submitted online, mailed to P.O. Box 1937, Hughesville, Maryland 20637, or delivered to Terrie Barringer at 15035 Burnt Store Road in Hughesville.

In addition to nominations made by the committee, any 15 or more SMECO members acting together may make other nominations by petition by 4 p.m., Friday, May 29, 2020. Members running by petition should also complete and submit a Board of Directors Candidate Application.

SMECO's Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, August 27, 2020; however, the election will be conducted by mail and online. Co-op members will receive ballots in the mail. Members may vote online or return their completed ballots by mail prior to the Annual Meeting. The meeting, which will be strictly a business meeting, will be held at Middleton Hall in Waldorf. Election results will be announced at the meeting, but no voting will occur on-site.

Selection of the Nominating Committee members is in compliance with SMECO's bylaws. For more information regarding the committee, nominations, and qualifications of directors, refer to Article IV, Sections 4.02 and 4.03, of SMECO's bylaws. Bylaws may be obtained from a SMECO office or online at www.smeco.coop.

Press Release from SMECO.

Harvey Appointed Calvert State's Attorney



Robert Harvey Jr.

On March 27, 2020, Robert H. Harvey, Jr., was sworn in as the State's Attorney for Calvert County. Harvey was selected by the Judges of the Circuit Court to replace Jennifer L. Morton, who resigned to accept an academic position in Delaware.

Harvey is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law. He previously served as the Deputy State's

Attorney in Prince George's County. Recently, he maintained a private law practice in Prince Frederick where he focused on criminal defense cases. He has over 40 years of legal experience.

Harvey has been a resident of Calvert County for 36 years. He is married with four children, four grandchildren, and one more grandchild on the way.

Harvey wishes to thank Judges Chandlee, Carmean, and Rappaport for the confidence they have placed in him. He looks forward to working with his staff and his law enforcement partners to promote a fair, effective, and efficient criminal justice system in Calvert County.

The State's Attorney's Office is committed to taking all necessary measures to protect the safety of the people of the State of Maryland and the citizens of Calvert County.

Press Release from Office of Calvert County State's Attorney

CCPS Adds Meal Distribution Location

The Child Nutrition Program of Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) was recently awarded a grant through the No Kid Hungry organization that will enable the school system to add a meal distribution site at Windy Hill Middle School. The Windy Hill location will be the fourth meal distribution site that CCPS is utilizing during the statewide school closure resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak.

Beginning Monday, April 6, meal kits were offered to all children between the ages of 2-18, regardless of where they live or attend school. These kits will be similar to those being provided at the current sites, which are jointly sponsored by Calvert County Public Schools and the Maryland State Department of Education. Meals will be distributed utilizing a grab 'n go method to maximize social distancing.

To minimize exposure for families, staff, and volunteers, the Windy Hill Middle School site will operate on the same schedule as the as other locations, currently Mondays and Wednesdays, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. On Mondays,



children will be provided with two meal kits. On Wednesdays, children will be provided with three meal kits. The address of Windy Hill Middle school is 9560 Boyds Turn Road, Owings, MD 20736.

Meal service will continue at the Elks Lodge in Prince Frederick, the Chesapeake Ranch Estates clubhouse, and the White Sands clubhouse on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Children will receive multiple meals each day to see them through the week.

All sites remain open to all children, so families may select whichever site is most convenient.

Press Release from CCPS.

Councilman Receives Climate Change Designation

The Town of Chesapeake Beach announce this recent designation obtained by Councilman Larry Jaworski of Certified Climate Change Professional (CC-P) by the Maryland Climate Change Academy. Mayor Patrick J. "Irish" Mahoney commends Councilman Jaworski for his continued efforts to expand his impacts within the Town, stating that, "Councilman Jaworski is a true asset to the Town and a dedicated public servant congratulating him on his efforts to obtain the prestigious Maryland Climate Academy designation."

The designation builds upon Councilman Jaworski's professional Engineering background further expanding his ability to advise the Town to ensure best practices are followed, as the Town develops long range plans to maintain recreational areas and mitigate risks of sea level rise. "Since our town is located immediately on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay, I felt it was critical to acquire additional resources on the potential impact of climate change on our community. I plan to utilize the expertise gained from the Climate Change Academy and my experience during over 45 years as a civil engineer specializing in water-related issues to



Chesapeake Beach Councilman Larry Jaworski

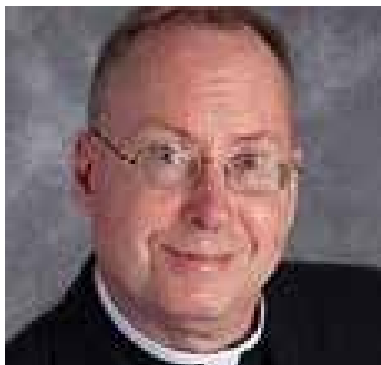
work with our town staff to mitigate the impacts of climate change." stated Councilman Larry Jaworski.

Established in 2018 by the State of Maryland in partnership with the Association of Climate Change Officers, the Maryland Climate Leadership Academy is positioned to advance the capacity of state and local government agencies, infrastructure organizations and businesses to develop and implement sound climate change initiatives thus ensuring current and future public health, security and economic prosperity.

Press Release from Town of Chesapeake Beach.

New Pastor Connects His Flock

Technology Overcomes Social Distancing



By Dave Spigler
Contributing Writer

As Christians everywhere prepare for Holy Week and the happy celebration of Jesus' resurrection once more on Easter Sunday, our world of today is anything but joyous. We are suddenly confronted with many unforeseen difficulties severely impacting our comfortable, normal way of life in ways unimaginable just weeks ago.

History shows these conditions create opportunities for humans to rise to the occasion and find answers to the issues at hand. Misfortune tends to bring out the best in us and can produce those people who bring us together during times of conflict. These leaders are able to perceive problems and initiate actions to remove huge obstacles or create workarounds to permit progress as necessary.

One such individual is Father Ken Gill, the new Pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Solomons, who has initiated changes in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic that have affected parishes all over the state.

Father Gill arrived last July knowing he had big shoes to fill with the retirement of Monsignor Mike Wilson who was well known and beloved throughout Southern Maryland for having led two of the largest Catholic parishes in St Mary's and Calvert counties during the past 30 years.

A relatively new priest only five years out of the seminary and in his mid-50's, Father Gill brought much enthusiasm, maturity and passion for this work in administering his flock of 1200 plus families.

One of the burdens he inherited when accepting the job of pastor, an issue faced by all pastors today, is how to keep the parish solvent and balance the books in face of

declining church attendance with the continuing rising expenses of running a parish school. This problem has been further exacerbated by the recent closing of all churches by the Archdiocese of Washington until the coronavirus threat subsides, an unfortunate byproduct of this current crisis.

Recognizing the need to stay connected with his parish, Father Gill met with his staff after the Archdiocese announced there would be no public celebrations of the Mass at any church after March 14. Canvassing the thoughts of this small group as to what they can do, they determined with the right equipment they could livestream the Masses and various weekly activities to the parish. With that, he set out for the local Best Buy store with \$750 to purchase a laptop, a camera and a microphone and, with the help of a talented IT parishioner, had the system up and operating in time to broadcast Daily Mass in just two days. His efforts caught the attention of the Catholic Standard, the newspaper of the Washington Archdiocese and were highlighted in "CRUX," a national Catholic news website. He stated, "We are using this opportunity to foment and create a stronger bond of community." He did say he was somewhat nervous at first "since it is one thing to preach a daily Mass for the parish and another thing to have the words of your homily going out to the world."

When he spoke with the Catholic Standard, he said he was surprised by the feedback he received following his first streamed Mass. Evidently, a lady commented on her ability to watch the Mass from Pakistan! And an old high school friend who graduated with him in 1980 told him "Ken, it's the first time I have heard your voice in 40 years!"

His most recent streamed Sunday Mass was seen by friends all over the country and was witnessed by his mother and family in Florida. He dedicated the Mass to his father Don Gill on the 10th anniversary of his death.

Father Gill's creativity has been an example for other parishes to explore the opportunity and learn the ease in using social media to offset the problems of staying connected with their members. It has been especially well received by many during this period of "social distancing" protocol now

enforced to help hold down the spread of this devastating virus. He now broadcasts a noontime holy hour praying the Angelus, the Rosary, the Divine Mercy chaplet, and Benediction. On March 19, streaming live from the Our Lady Star of the Historic Church, he led the Rosary concurrently with Pope Francis in Rome who was encouraging the Catholics of Italy to do so too in an effort to conquer this plague that is sweeping both of our countries. Further, Father Gill has instituted a children's and an adult's "Stations of the Cross" service that may be accessible on the Parish's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/olssofficial.

Father Gill explained that having never visited the Solomons area, he decided to sneak a peek and get a look at the area and so drove around the church campus to see what he could see from his car. He dressed in civilian clothes so as not to blow his cover. He truly liked what he saw at first glance, but it wasn't until he went into a local restaurant and had a plate of oysters and Grouper fingers washed down with a cold beer that he knew this is where he wanted to be.

He said the beautiful scenery of Solomons reminded him of his youth in central Florida where he was raised in a strong Catholic family. And he was never able to find "Grouper Fingers" anywhere besides home. He revealed a little twinkle in his eye thinking back to his youth.

Father Ken went on to Florida State University and earned a Baccalaureate in Economics. He then entered the business world and spent nearly 30 years in various positions mostly in the DC area where he even did a stint in the U.S. Department of Justice. He smiles when he says his role there was to go around the country after 9/11 "getting federal, state, and local officials to play nice together in their sandboxes."

We went on to say he absolutely was in awe with the beauty of Solomons and the church campus. He was especially thankful for the amazing kindness and welcoming given to him by his new parish. He has an "attitude of gratitude" for the way he has been treated by everyone. Knowing he was following in a "Legend's footsteps" he says he intends to build on the foundations of his predecessors and leave things better than he found them. His immediate attention with

the support of the various parish councils is to navigate the parish and school through this current crisis.

He believes in the power of collaboration and working with all stakeholders within the local community. He collaborates with Rev. Charles Harrell, the director of Pastoral Care at Asbury Solomons, the Solomons Business Association, and the Southern Maryland Youth Orchestra and Choir, which use the parish facilities to practice and offer concerts. He recognizes that Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish is a leader in the community and wants to continue its reputation as a good neighbor!

Father's path to the priesthood was different than most men seeking to serve the Lord as a member of a religious body. When asked what took him so long to make this leap of faith, he stated with a certain smirk that it was his own stubbornness in wanting to follow his own plans. However, little things along the way kept hinting the Lord was wanting him. For example, he received his grandfather's Rosary from his mother as a gift in Christmas of 2005. He has prayed it every day since. He began attending daily Mass at St Matthew's Cathedral in DC near where he lived and worked. He eventually became a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister serving Communion. He found himself looking for Catholic churches first whenever travelling to new towns. He began to question his call to the priesthood and credits Monsignor John Enzler, president & CEO of Catholic Charities for the Washington Archdiocese, who was his spiritual director, as the individual that opened him up to the possibilities of one day entering the seminary.

As Fr. Ken discerned, he prayed for signs. The first came in 2007, while visiting the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. While waiting to enter to the tomb where Jesus was laid, and praying the Rosary, he had the distinct impression of hearing Jesus say to him, "come and follow me," bringing tears to Fr. Ken's eyes. The second and convincing sign occurred during a visit to the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi in Italy when he looked up and saw carved on the wall, a profile of Pope John XXIII, and the words, "on October 4th, 1962, Pope John XXIII celebrated Mass here to call down the Holy Spirit for the opening of Vatican II." Well, October 4, 1962 was the day he was born, and John XXIII was the name of the seminary the Archdiocese said they would send him to. There's your sign, he thought to himself, the email you were asking for, carved in stone. Fr. Ken entered seminary at St. Pope John XXIII in Weston, MA, during the fall of 2009.

Finally, Father Ken was asked about his constant smile he exhibits to everyone. Can it be possible he is always that happy? He answered, "Of course, He is Risen! This is the Good News of the Gospel, the possibility of a personal relationship with Jesus now, and eternal life with God for all eternity. What could be greater than to live in this reality!"



Our Lady Star of the Sea Church Pastor Father Ken Gill. Submitted photos.

Healthy Hand Hygiene Habits



Protect yourself against COVID-19 and other diarrheal and respiratory illnesses, and help prevent the spread of germs to others, by following these simple hand hygiene guidelines:

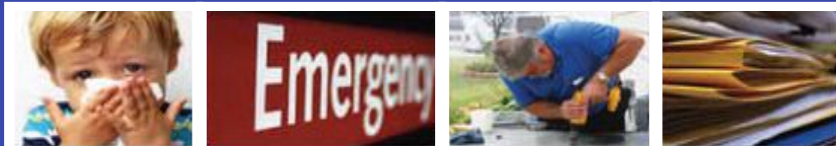
1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water, lathering for at least 20 seconds.
2. If soap is unavailable, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol to clean your hands.

Wash your hands throughout the day, and particularly under these circumstances:

- Before preparing food
- Before eating
- After using the toilet
- After changing a diaper or helping a child use the toilet
- Before and after exposure to someone who is sick
- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
- After touching an animal or picking up animal waste
- After handling pet food or treats
- After handling garbage or garbage cans
- Before and after attending to a cut or wound

Information resource: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Proper handwashing helps all of us stay healthy, so remember to be aware and do your part to help protect yourself and others!



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Chesapeake Village Given a Chalk Challenge

Chesapeake Village residents got creative over the weekend, to Be a Light during this difficult time and to thank those that are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It all started with Milisa Brzuska asking her neighbors to write inspiring messages to decorate the neighborhood. The Chesapeake Beach community responded in a way that kept everyone safe, while still making the community feel connected. "We all need positivity and light right now. Just remem-

ber, no matter what - #BeALight with #aworldofhearts," stated the Brzuska family.

The Town of Chesapeake Beach posted on its website: "Thank you, Chesapeake Village, for inspiring all of us to take a moment and Be a Light."

View a video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_i-5pWwdN9Q&feature=youtu.be

Press Release from Town of Chesapeake Beach.



In Remembrance

Charles Wood



Brielle, Ethan, Madelyn, and Ella, and great-grandchildren: William, Blakelyn, and soon another baby girl. He is also survived by his sisters: Evelyn, Julie Ann, Jacqueline, Janice, Margaret Mary, Beverly, Linda, Melva Rita and brother, Zach.

He was loved immensely and will be missed every day. He will always live on in our hearts. The family would be grateful and appreciative of any donations made to any of the following organizations that assisted with his care: ACTS of Avenue/Bushwood, Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, or Hospice of St. Mary's.

Mary Elizabeth Smith

Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Smith, 88, of Waldorf, MD formerly from Abell, MD passed away on April 1, 2020 in La Plata, MD. She was born on December 16, 1931 in Abell, MD and was the loving daughter of the late Ida Ellis and Gilbert Ellis. Betty was the loving wife of the late Kenneth Smith, who preceded her in death in July, 2002.

Betty is survived by her children Glenn Dale Smith (Joan) of Forestville, MD, Pamela Quinn (Kenneth) of McLean, VA, 7 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren. Along with her sister Frances Long of Mechanicsville, MD.

Betty is preceded in death by her daughter Deborah Smith and sister Agnes Neach. She graduated from Margaret Brent in 1950. Betty was an Administrative Assistant for an insurance company, retiring in 1984. All Funeral Services will be private this time.

Michael Joseph Alvey



Michael "Mike" Joseph Alvey, 52, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away after a long battle with Leukemia on April 1, 2020 at his home surrounded by his loving family. Born on July 18, 1967 in Leonardtown, MD, he was the loving son of Margaret Ann (Peggy) Alvey of Charlotte Hall, MD and the late James Daniel Alvey, Sr. and his in laws Barbara Tippet and James Tippet, Sr. of Hollywood, MD.

Mike is survived by his loving wife Barbara Jean Alvey whom he married on September 11, 1993 in St. John's Catholic Church Hollywood, MD. He is survived by his son Jared Alvey, nieces; Rachel Mor-

Charles "Baby Brother" Wood of Oraville returned to his heavenly home on April 5, 2020 (Psalm Sunday) after complications from Parkinson's disease. His 82 years were filled with love, faith in God, and a wonderful sense of humor. Due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, funeral services and the interment at St. Mary's Queen of Peace in Helen, MD must be held privately.

Charles was born on November 4, 1937 to the late Melvin and Margaret Wood. He was their first-born son in a family of 14 children. He grew up both on a farm in Forrest Hall and in an old schoolhouse that was renovated in Oraville where he had fond childhood memories of the sounds of the train coming down the railroad tracks and hunting adventures took with relatives. At the age of 23, he was drafted in to the United States Army, serving as an infantry tank specialist in Germany. After serving in the Army, he joined the National Guard where he served an additional 2 years. Before completion of his military service, he met the love of his life, Teresa, at a dance held at the local "Pennie's" Restaurant and Bar. They later married and were blessed with 5 wonderful children during their 55 years of marriage. Charles worked as a master carpenter for the St. Mary's County Public School Facilities Department for over 23 years. His great passion and talent for woodworking lead to many family members being blessed with beautiful furniture that expressed his love for them. He further showcased his talents when he helped St. Joseph's to bring the church bells back to life. Every time the bells toll, we think of him. Dancing, golf, train rides, playing pitch, strumming a banjo/guitar, tinkering with a harmonica or a piano, and chatting on the side porch with family and friends were things he enjoyed doing through the many wonderful years of his life. But above all, he loved being in the Oraville home he built surrounded by his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He was a very sweet man and loved by so many.

Charles is preceded in death by his parents, Melvin and Margaret Wood, his sisters: Rae, Imogene, Joyce, and brother, Richard. He is survived by his wife, Teresa, his children: Lisa (Tom), Gary, Rosie (Steve), Jessie (Tim), and Charles (Marilen), his grandchildren: Christie, Sophie, Mason, Kassi, Grace, Grey, Evan,

The County Times runs complimentary obituaries as submitted by funeral homes and readers. We run them in the order we receive them. Any submissions that come to guyleonard@countytimes.net after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

In Remembrance

gan and Autumn Tippett, nephews; Kenny Gillingham, Brett Gillingham, and James Tippett, III (Trey), siblings; Patty Alvey of Colonial Beach, VA, Carolyn Jean Gillingham (Stephen) of Hartsdale, NY and brother in law James Tippett, Jr of Hollywood, MD. He was preceded in death by his brother James Daniel Alvey, Jr.

Mike graduated from LaPlata High School in 1985 and earned his Bachelors of Science Degree in Engineering from Pacific Western University in 1997.

Mike served in the United States Navy Reserve from 1987 to 1995. He earned the Overseas Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal and the Navy Achievement Medal. Mike was stationed in Guam during Operation Desert Storm.

Mike worked as an engineer for Man-Tech at Webster Field, St. Inigoes, MD. He also worked at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren, VA, as well as having worked for various contractors including at Patuxent River, MD. He was a member of the American Legion in LaPlata Md and the American Society of Naval Engineers. He enjoyed history, classic cars and he owned and operated Ark and Dove Drywall.

All Funeral Services will be private.

Shirley Marie Strine



Shirley Marie Strine, 72, of Leonardtown, MD passed away on March 29, 2020 at her home. She was born on September 1, 1947 in La Plata, MD, and was the loving daughter of Viola Stonestreet and Thomas Stonestreet, Sr. Shirley is survived by husband Jimmy Strine whom she married on May 20, 1976 in the Leonardtown Courthouse. She was devoted to her husband Jimmy of 43 years. Shirley is survived by her children Bonnie Quinn (Thomas) of Hollywood, MD, Becky Hill (Robert) of Clements, MD, 1 grandchild Devin Coleman, and 2 step grandchildren Lily and Cheyanne. Along with her siblings Tommy

Stonestreet, Jr, David Stonestreet (Casey), Richard Stonestreet, Donald Stonestreet, Mary Ann Padgett, Jean Stonestreet, Jane Stonestreet, Ruth Flerlage (Tony), Dorothy Gardiner (Pat), Barbara McLaughlin (Mike), Delores Goldsmith (Sam), Theresa Boteler (Brian), Sandy Boteler (Timmy), and Carol Turner (Richard). She graduated from La Plate High School in 1965 and moved from Charles County, MD to St. Mary's County, MD in 1976.

Shirley was a Jury Clerk for St. Mary's County Government for 14 years, retiring in July, 2019. After retirement, they enjoyed the opportunities to spend time together.

Shirley had the sweetest soul and was one of the most selfless people you could ever meet. She enjoyed family gatherings, cooking, shopping, planting flowers, playing cards, slot machines, and bingo. She enjoyed watching Devin grow up and was so proud of the man he has become. She thought the world of him and his girlfriend Megan. When she could, she enjoyed spoiling her grand dogs; Jake, Brewski, and Holly.

She will be missed by many and our lives will never be the same without her.

A Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 1:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD with Father Rob Maro officiating. Interment followed in Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery Helen, MD. Serving as pallbearers were Bonnie Quinn, Becky Hill, Devin Coleman, Thomas Quinn, Robert Hill and Gary Friess.

crafters who made gorgeous silk flowers arrangements and many other crafts. She was a gambler at heart and loved to play the slot machines. A die-hard sports fan, she never missed watching her Washington Nationals on TV. Christine was employed many years as a dedicated store manager at the Navy Exchange until her retirement in 1984.

Christine is survived by her children David Boyer (Becky) of Great Mills, MD and Sharon Boyer of Lexington Park, MD, her sister, Joan Kobolis of Edison, New Jersey, her grandchildren: Kyle Boyer, Sarah Faust (Nate), Kristen Pierce (Lance), Brayden Harms, and Mathew Harms; and many extended family and friends. In addition to her parents, she is also preceded in death by her husband, Donald Eugene Boyer, and her siblings: Mary Mace, Elmer Faust, and Terry Faust.

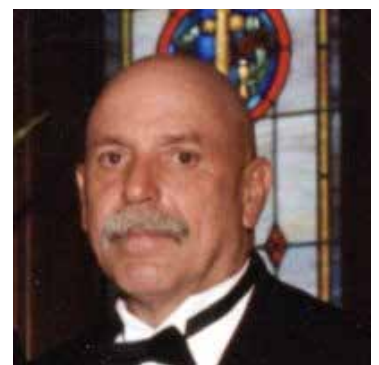
A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 22375 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Due to COVID19 Pandemic all services will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital or Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 339, Lexington Park, MD 20653.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

John Anthony Cardello



John Anthony Cardello, 74, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away due to cardiac arrest on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at his home.

He was born on January 6, 1946 to the late John Francis Cardello and Marie Edna (Rodriguez) Cardello.

John was married to Pauline Isabelle Cardello; together they have celebrated over 53 years of marriage and expanded their family with three loving and kind children, twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

An adventurous, fun-loving, charismatic, and inspiring man, John served his country honorably in the United States Navy then began a career as a firefighter for Prince George's County, Maryland. He cared for his community and felt it was an honor to protect and serve his fellow citizens. He made many wonderful friends

Christine Ann Boyer



Christine Ann Boyer, 81 of Lexington Park, MD passed away April 2, 2020 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD with her family at her side. She was born on May 6, 1938 in Shamokin, PA to the late Elmer Faust and Cecilia Burns Faust.

Christine was an amazing mom and "Grammy" who continually took an active role in her family's lives from the time they were little into adulthood. She was a wonderful friend to many people and the words sweet, caring and giving were words often used to describe her. She loved the holidays especially Christmas and her house was always decorated inside and out. She took great pleasure in hosting her annual Christmas Eve parties. She was an incredible



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throughout his career and he considered them family.

He was an avid golfer and a day spent on a golf course brought him peace while he putted around the greens. He was a talented, award-winning waterfowl carver and enjoyed constructing and flying model airplanes. John was a member of The Ward Brothers Foundation and Ducks Unlimited.

Whether you knew him as John, Dad, Pop, or a friend he made a long-lasting impact on anyone who met him.

John is survived by his wife, Pauline Cardello of Mechanicsville, MD; children, Joseph Anthony Cardello (Julie) of Fredericksburg, VA, Jeffrey Francis Cardello (Jessica) of Hollywood, MD and Michelle Ann Chandler of Bowie, MD; twelve grandchildren; and two (2) great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Michael John Cardello (Denise) of Mims, FL; many other family members and numerous friends. John was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will hold a Celebration of Life for John at a later date. Interment will be private.

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

All Arrangements have been made by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A.

Harry Michael Faber, Jr.



Harry Michael Faber, Jr., 73, of Lexington Park, MD, passed away at Calvert Memorial Hospital on March 27, 2020 with his family at his side.

Born in Washington, DC on November 11, 1946, he was the son of the late Harry Michael Faber and Mildred Hayden Faber.

On June 10, 1978, Harry married his wife, Mary Christine Faber and together they celebrated over 37 wonderful years of marriage. He spent his entire career as a skilled and dedicated diesel mechanic in the automotive industry with his last employer being Keller Bus Company, where he was also a bus driver for them, before his retirement in June 2007. He enjoyed family gatherings and taking vacations to Folly Beach, SC and Ocean City, MD. He kept a meticulous yard which he enjoyed working in. He loved to do jigsaw puzzles. He also enjoyed working on antique cars and going to car shows. He was a fan of the Washington Redskins and enjoyed listening to country and oldies music. Harry was a member of Calvary Baptist Church of La Plata for 25 years and an avid reader

of the bible, which he read three times in its entirety.

In addition to his wife, Harry is also survived by his children, Sherri Rose Curtis (Francis) of Great Mills, MD and Harry Michael Faber III (Sarah) of Abell, MD, his siblings: Barbara Smith of Alliance, OH, Rose Stephens of WV, and Jackie Presley of Frederick, MD; his grandchildren, Ethan and Archer Faber of Abell, MD and extended family and friends.

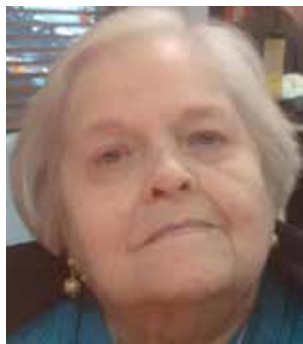
In addition to his parents, Harry is also preceded in death by his daughter, Katie Faber, his sisters: Pat Trego, Delores Reynolds, Marsha Petersburg and Izetta Loesberg; and his brothers, Steve Faber and Michael Faber.

All services will be private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Ruth Joanna (Riley) Tippett



Ruth Joanna (Riley) Tippett, 92, of Dunkirk, passed away April 4, at Anne Arundel Medical Center, in Annapolis, MD. Born November 12, 1927, in Jewell, Maryland, to William Ramsey Riley and Ruth Elizabeth (Johnson) Riley. Ruth was raised in Anne Arundel County and Calvert County, Maryland. She graduated in 1944 from Southern High School. Ruth married Henry Walter Tippett, on July 4, 1945, at St. James Church, in Lothian, MD. They lived in Tracy's Landing and later moved to Deale and then Croom and settled on their family farm in Dunkirk in 1960. Ruth worked for the telephone company upon completion of her graduation from high school. She later was a true homemaker, raising seven children, and working with Henry on their tobacco farm. Good food was always enjoyed at her home, because Ruth was a very good cook. She loved her flowers and enjoyed caring for them even into her '90's. She was a member of St. James' Episcopal Church for most of her life, until she was not able to attend due to health issues, even teaching Sunday school in her younger days. Music was much enjoyed by Ruth. She listened to country and Christian music.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, and her brother, William Russell (Buddy) Riley. She is survived by her brother, Joseph R. Riley and wife, Patricia A. (Mauck) Riley; seven children, E. Joanna Mauck and husband,

John W. Mauck; Henry W. Tippett and wife, Melissa Tippett; C. Russell Tippett; David R. Tippett and wife, Victoria Tippett; Mary E. Veit and husband, Karl Veit; Beverly A. Imhof and husband, Roger Imhof; and J. Steve Tippett and wife, Mary (Dee) Tippett. She had 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Immediate family will hold a private graveside interment at Southern Memorial Gardens in Dunkirk, MD.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Harold Stamey Liddle



Harold Stamey Liddle, USN Master Diver, 88 of St. Leonard, Maryland passed away peacefully on the early morning of April 3, 2020 in his home surrounded by family.

Mr. Liddle was born in Galax, Virginia on December 9, 1931 to Heath J. and Ella Mae Liddle. His parents and brothers Nelson and Rudolph preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Betty Lee Liddle, daughter Yvonne Johnson, son and daughter in law, David H. and Virginia Liddle. Grandchildren Alison Apel, Lauren Liddle and David Liddle, Jr.; two great grandchildren, Jordan and Jaxon Hunt, brother Larry Thomas Liddle, Galax, VA. and a nephew HN Liddle, Blue Ridge, VA.

Mr. Liddle joined the US Navy in 1947 and lived the Navy's motto of "It's not just a job, it's an adventure". He graduated

from US Navy Diving School in 1954 and became a US Navy Master Diver in 1963. Among the ships he served on were the USS Greene, USS Cone, USS Sperry, USS Chanticleer and USS Tringa. He crossed the international date line twice and the Arctic Circle. He was a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars and loved the time spent when deployed to the Mediterranean. Among various accommodations were one for raising a chemical filled barge in Louisiana in the Mississippi River and one for expert salvage and guiding of the USS Seawolf (SSN 575) submarine which ground off the coast of Maine in 1968. He remained active in the ASR ARS Association and the US Navy Divers Association.

He met his future wife Betty, while assigned to the Naval Ordnance Laboratory Test Facility at Solomons, MD. He often joked that he had walked across the Patuxent River, of course, on the bottom and shared many tales of rescues. Subsequent assignments were in San Diego, CA.; the Diving School at the Washington, DC Navy Yard and finally his second tour at New London, CT. He enjoyed lifelong friendships with his Navy Diving friends including Trotter, Brown, Garvin, Luke and many others.

After retiring from the US Navy in 1968, Mr. Liddle started commercial diving business in the mid-Atlantic region. For the following 20 years, Harold Liddle Divers was the preeminent diving company in the region servicing customers such as PEPCO and BG&E along with many pipeline and bridge projects.

In 1988, Mr. Liddle decided to retire, which lasted approximately one month, before he started Harold Liddle Welding. For the next 20 years he provided welding services to many Calvert County businesses and agencies, but his true passion was in providing welding services to the local farmers and citizens of Calvert County from his shop in Barstow, MD.

Mr. Liddle was also a member of the Southern Maryland Corvette Club, Solomons Island Yacht Club and proud of being a Freemason of Thomas J. Shyrook Lodge 223, Hollywood, MD since 1988. In addition, he and Betty enjoyed the many

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In Remembrance

relationships and friends in Calvert County and was very proud of his family.

Due to the COVID-19 situation there will be a private ceremony. In lieu of flowers, if desired please send donations to Calvert Hospice, P.O. Box 838, Prince Frederick, MD 20678, 410-535-0892; Link: <https://calverthospice.org/>

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Alice Renea Edwards Gordy



Alice Renea Edwards Gordy, known by many as "Renea", passed away on Friday April 3, 2020. She was surrounded by her loving family until she took her last breath and returned home peacefully to be with her savior. Renea was born in Twin Falls Idaho on January 10, 1939 and later relocated with her family in California where she graduated from Chula Vista High School. Renea then moved with her family to Anchorage Alaska where she met the love of her life Russell, whom she married on March 10, 1958. The couple returned to his hometown of Calvert County, Maryland, where they created a beautiful life together. Renea was a wonderful, nurturing and loving mother to 6 children, 25 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren. She was the matriarch of her family instilling many of her values, talents and constant generosity. Renea loved her family unconditionally, especially her "Sugar

Babe" Russell of 62 years. She wouldn't leave his sight without giving him a kiss first. He was her everything and never left her side even through her long battle with Dementia. The two were a living love story, admired by all who knew them.

Renea was a proud, humble and loyal servant to her church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, located in Sunderland, Maryland. She was one of the first members of the church in the area and over the years served in many ways including teaching the little ones in Primary, becoming a Sunday school teacher and Relief Society President. Renea never missed the opportunity to make one of her fabulous homemade meals for the Missionaries.

Renea loved volunteering her time for church hospitality events and celebrating Pioneer Day. Renea was an exemplary leader for all to follow. Service work for others and doing what was right was her main purpose in life.

Renea enjoyed the simple things in life as you could always find her sitting on her back porch taking in whatever nature had to offer. She enjoyed volunteering for girl scouts and brownie troops while her daughters were young, she had a love for horses and writing heartwarming poetry, growing fruits and vegetables in her beloved garden, sewing quilts and making baby blankets.

Renea always made each holiday special with her many traditions and variety of homemade gifts that always came from her heart. There wasn't anything worth buying at the store that she couldn't make better herself. Renea enjoyed singing church Hymns and good ole' country music. She had a love for traveling as she never turned down the opportunity for a good adventure. Often times she would get together with her two sisters that she so cherished, DeJuan and Sharon. The sisters loved to meet in Salt Lake City, Utah, for women's conference through their church. Renea always returned home with a beautiful story to tell followed by lots of laughs. Renea loved to tell stories of her childhood and the family owned Mexican Café, El Juan's, when her

family lived out in California.

Above everything else, Renea had a passion for being in her kitchen, cooking and baking for all to enjoy. You never left her house without a full belly and a smile on your face. Renea welcomed everyone who crossed her path and made them feel as if she were your best friend. She had a special way about her to say the least.

Renea was the perfect wife, mother, grandmother and friend. Her blessings of love, faith and the many life lessons that she bestowed upon us will forever live in our hearts. Renea's beautiful legacy will surely live on through the many hearts that she has touched.

Renea was preceded in death by a son Ronald Wiley Gordy. She is survived by her husband Russell Warren Gordy, a son Russell Warren Gordy, Jr. and wife Laurie of Clearfield, UT, and daughters Donna Renea Dement of Jacksonville, FL, Alice Danette Marshall of Lusby, MD, Lorian Rae Sloper and husband Mark of Mechanicsville, MD, and Sharon Lynn Bryant of Huntingtown. She is also survived by 25 grandchildren and over 35 great-grandchildren, and sisters DeJuan Tracy of Palmer, Alaska, and Sharon Anne Hubb of Anchorage, Alaska. She was preceded in death by a brother Hugh Edwards.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Mae Irene Adams



On Wednesday April 1, 2020 Mae Irene Adams, 94, passed away at Virginia Hospital Center comfortably with assistance from her granddaughter Taryn during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mae was born in Scituate, Rhode Island September 11, 1925, the youngest of nine children. She married her beloved husband 'Shorty' (Oliver Raymond Adams) in 1949 in Warwick, Rhode Island. Mae was a jewelry stone setter and very proud of her work. Shorty's job moved the family to Maryland in 1964 where she primarily was a homemaker and occasionally worked outside the home. She was a wonderful and loving mom to her son Raymond and daughter Debbie. Mae and Shorty spent ten years in Bethany Beach, Delaware after Shorty retired. Mae loved lying on the beach while Shorty looked for 'Treasure' with his metal detector. She loved having the grandchildren come for their summer visits at Bethany Beach and she and kids shared so many crazy stories of their adventures. Mae and Shorty returned to Maryland in 1997 to be

closer to their family. They were always the cutest couple and inseparable until Shorty passed in 2010, they shared love of family, the beach, slot machines, travelling, and watching sports together.

Mae was always feisty, strong, and devoted to her character and love of people. She was adventurous in life and loved spending time talking with friends and family. Growing up she rode her horses; Baby and Vick and drove motorcycles, the only vehicle she and Shorty had when first married, but they always kept a motorcycle for fun. Later in life she loved riding in her daughter's convertible, just to feel the wind in her face like she was riding on a motorcycle again. Mae's memory always amazed us, the details and accuracy stunned and jogged our memories to relive the past with her. Those who had the pleasure to know Mae, knew she was unique, she had a deep sense of knowing, to recognize people and situations for who and what they were, and without hesitation she acted upon it and let them know. Mae was given laughter, love, and special meaning to life by her family and friends. In return we were given the same from her. She lighted up when her dog companions and best friends, Revly and Dakota (deceased) were by her side. They took great care of her as she did of them.

Mae struggled with physical aging later in life with not being able to walk, it was very difficult for her not to take care of herself. She was always a very proud woman, wife, and mother. She is gone in body, but not her soul, thoughts, heart, or memories we share. Her family and friends love her and will miss her very much. She will always hold a special place in all our hearts.

She is survived by her son, Raymond G. Adams, wife Lynne; daughter, Deborah J. Sargent; Grandchildren, Joseph D. Sargent, wife Corbett; Taryn E. Adams, husband Robert; Heather R. Harding, husband Ryan; Lori M. Adams; Great Grandchildren: Cooper V. Sargent, Beckett O. Sargent, Elliot S. Overman, Wyatt G. Overman, Carson A. Harding, and Baby to be Overman.

Mae will join many she loved who have preceded her in death especially her beloved husband Oliver R. Adams and grandson Steven R. Sargent, may they all 'Rest In Peace'.

Due to COVID-19 a 'Celebration of Life' for Mae will be held at a later date.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Susan Elizabeth Austin

Susan Elizabeth Austin, 52, passed away March 29, 2020 at home with loved ones. Susan was born May 27, 1967 in Oyster Bay, Long Island, NY. Her parents, Eleanor Cristine Austin and Ernest Wilfred Austin, Jr. of Boonton, NJ, brought her home seven weeks after.



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She graduated from Boonton High School in 1985. By continuing her education, she graduated from the Katherine Gibbs School with an Associate's Degree. There she learned professional secretarial skills like taking dictation using steno, which led to several job opportunities.

Susan loved her family, as well as her pets and all animals. She enjoyed vacations with family to the Jersey shore and, like many Boontonites, enjoyed attending the annual Boonton Fireman's Fair to see old friends and family.

Susan was a loving mother who gave the world to her children, always gave help to those in need, a fighter of all life's trials and tribulations, and had a passionate spirit with a genuine heart. She made anyone she came into contact with laugh with her witty sense of humor. Never at a loss for words, she made friends easily. Often, she would turn strangers into friends with stories, humor, and motherly nature.

Susan is survived by her daughter Samantha Eleanor Kerlin, son Kyle Ernest Kerlin, and brother Ernest Wilfred Austin, III.

Services will be held in Boonton, NJ at a later date.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Rudolph (Rudy) Marinelli



Rudolph (Rudy) Marinelli, 84, of Lusby, MD passed away April 4, 2020 at his residence, surrounded by family. Rudolph was born June 25, 1935 in Ancona, Italy to Emilio and Bianca Marinelli.

He is survived by his wife Ada of 55 years and Daughters Gina Basile (husband Al) from Saint Leonard, MD and Marisa Harper (husband Brian) from Broomes Island, MD along with his 3 grandchildren Elisa Shiflett (husband Cameron) and Christina and Jack. He is also survived by his three other siblings in Italy (Marcella, Eugenio (wife Anna), and Margherita (husband Gianfranco) along with several nieces and nephews. Rudolph was preceded in death by his Mother and Father and brother

Marcello (wife Maria).

Rudy emigrated to the United States at 18 years old and served in the Army and Merchant Marine. He worked for the US Postal Service as a Letter Carrier and operated his own restaurant RUDY'S PIZZA in Camp Springs, MD. Rudy was a licensed taxidermist, enjoyed hunting, fishing, making wine with his brothers-in-law, and is the author of a book entitled, The Adventures of an Illegal Alien. Rudy loved his family and moved to Calvert County in 2002 to be near his daughters and grandchildren. He had an infectious personality that was loved by all.

Services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Calvert Hospice online at: <https://calverthospice.org/make-a-gift/> or by mail at PO Box 838 Prince Frederick, MD 20678 or to Holy Rosary Catholic Church online at: <https://www.holyrosarychurchdc.org/giving/> or by mail at 595 Third St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

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

Robert Ryan "Bobby" Jones



Robert Ryan "Bobby" Jones, 75, of Huntingtown, MD, and formerly of Spaulding Heights, MD, passed away on April 3, 2020 at the Burnett Calvert Hospice House.

Born November 5, 1944 in Washington, DC he was the son of the late Eugene Jones and Lillian Altemus.

Bobby graduated from Suitland High School. He married his wife Eileen (Caffrey) Jones on April 5, 1964 in Forestville, MD. Bobby moved to Calvert County from Prince George's County in 1972. He was an electrician for the Metro Washington Airport Authority, Union #26 (IBEW) until his retirement in 2006.

Bobby is survived by his wife, Eileen Caffrey Jones; his children, Robin Lynch (Don) of St. Mary's County, MD and Steven Jones (Sue) of Solomons, MD; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and brother, Gerald Jones (Suzanne) of FL. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Genie Robirette, Owen Jones, Arthur Jones, and Theresa Christianson.

Services will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to Calvert Hospice, P.O. Box 838, Prince Frederick, MD 20678; 410-535-0892; Link: <https://calverthospice.org/> or

American Cancer Society, 405 Williams Court, Suite 120, Baltimore, MD 21220;

800-227-2345; Link: <https://www.cancer.org/>

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Shannon A Jackson

It is with heavy hearts that the fam-



ily of Shannon A Jackson announces his passing on April 3, 2020. He was born May 29, 1976 at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia. Shannon leaves behind his wife of 22 years Heather (Dittmar) and children Jett (16) and Jalen (13), parents Charles & Sharon Jackson, brother Casey and wife Lori-Ann (Cline) Jackson, mother-in-law Kathy Meyer and brother-in-law Tate Dittmar. He was "Uncle Banana" (a name affectionately given to him by his then 3 year old niece, Myla) and Merida. He also leaves behind many loving aunts, uncles and cousins and dogs Apollo and Brooklyn.

TSGT Jackson was employed at the 459th Air Refueling Unit at Andrews AFB. Although he helped to keep the Air Force flying, in his earlier years, his passion for automotive customization led to his owning and operating Strictly Modified Customs in Westover, WV. Shannon's creativity and skill set enabled him to excel in his craft which led to his involvement in several spectacular vehicle builds, some of which landed in print magazines. Shannon shared his love of hockey as a teammate on the District Warriors Veteran's Ice Hockey team and coached numerous youth hockey teams most recently as coach of the Maryland Student Hockey League high school team, Chesapeake Lightning and assistant

coach of the Metro Elite U18 Maple Leafs, in Odenton, Maryland. Shannon's huge heart provided him the grace to be a "father figure" to many of his players and was given the nickname "Big Shan" or "Coach Banana".

We don't know why Shannon decided to leave us so early, but we find comfort in the knowledge that above all family was always #1 to him.

A memorial service will be held at a later date to be determined.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

John Warren Parks



John Warren Parks, 63 of Broomes Island passed away on April 3, 2020 at Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis. Warren was born on October 24, 1956 to Carroll Thomas Parks and Edna Eleanor Railey Parks of Broomes Island. He is survived by his sister Carolyn Goad.

Warren volunteered for the Prince Frederick Rescue Squad in his earlier years and was a Past Chief of the Squad. Warren was a DJ with Sound Innovations.

There will be a memorial service held at a later date.

Funeral arrangements were by Rausch Funeral Home.

Duane Henry Hintz

Duane Henry Hintz of Hollywood, 76, passed from this earth to his eternal home on April 4th. A full obituary will follow at a later date.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Mattingley-Gardner Funeral Home.

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Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann
Contributing Writer



“Time for Fasting”



No more cookies! I am not baking any more cookies. Over the weekend I made 3 batches of peanut butter cookies (making a total of 5 batches in the last few weeks) with the intention of giving tins to grandkids, and a batch of dark chocolate Toll House cookies for my husband, Robert (per a sad-eyed puppy look). And somehow during this time, my scale must have broken, because there cannot be any way that my weight has stayed the same through all of this baking during “stay at home time”. I weighed this morning and was very surprised and happy. No, I am absolutely not going to try and fix or recalibrate that scale.

Last night, after my husband finished his last Toll House cookie, he started eyeing the tin of cookies set to go to his son and his family. I yelled at him to stop, because they were for his son. But all my husband said was “No, did my son give me any of the pie or German Chocolate cake he made?” He was saying this with a smile; a smile filled with cookie. Now the damage has been done. There is no way my step-son and his four boys are going to see that tin of cookies now, especially since once Robert opened that tin, he might have well have opened Pandora’s Box. The smell wafted out and floated on the breeze from the open window to my nose. That was all she wrote. Amazingly, there are still some cookies left, but I doubt they will make it through tonight. I guess I will be baking yet another batch of peanut butter cookies soon...and hiding them well until I can do another cookie drive by/ drop off sometime soon.

I am also on the look-out for more breakfast egg recipes. I have made sunny-side, scrambled, cheese omelets, quiches, bacon, egg and cheese biscuits, and the latest on Sunday was a pan scrambled mushroom, parsley, tomato, and cheese frittata then broiled with parmesan and Italian cheeses on top. Plus, there was bacon on the side. I might have to tackle a souffle again. I have been searching all the recipe sites for something I haven’t made. We don’t

eat eggs everyday thank goodness.

This morning we watched a segment on GMA about fasting and how it can be good for your immunity and help you lose weight. Yeah, I’ll get right on that after we finish the last few cookies. Actually, I am going to look into that and try and find out about the book that was mentioned.

Today, amongst other things, I am going to finish organizing my arts and crafts closet. I did write “I am going to finish” so let’s see how that goes. I didn’t realize how hard it could be to sort similar items in arts and crafts supplies. So much of it overlaps. My doll repair tools also tend to work with jewelry making and repair. And my paints work both for crafts and shabby-chic’ing furniture besides for my traditional artwork. The list goes on and my brain scrambles just like the eggs. There is just way too much time spent on thinking through these normally simple things.

I think I must be on 250 craft and home organizational Facebook pages to help me figure all this out. It just seems like a never-ending process. Anytime I think, “Well, I organized that area”, something in the back part of my mind says, “Okay, well what about all the filing sitting next to the file cabinet, or the bottom half of the china cabinet, or the Jenga pile of cleaners, etc. under the kitchen sink????? Help me oh Goddess of Organization, I need you now! Apparently, even she has a stay at home order. Well, I guess I better get back to organizing and my mile-long list of projects, but first there is a lonely peanut butter cookie calling my name in the dining room. Yes, the fasting may just have to wait.

I hope even though Easter and Passover will not be “the way we are used to” that each of you finds some joy and connection with loved ones in a new and special way. Happy Easter!

To each new day’s adventure, Shelby
Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook



Letters TO THE Editor

No, Governor -- Seeds, Plants and Gardening Supplies are not ‘Nonessential’

To the Editor:

The unprecedented shut down of Main Street America over the past few weeks has exacerbated existing “just in time” supply chain issues. Already, store shelves are not being fully restocked. The US State Department has halted processing work visas for Mexican nationals who seek employment in American agriculture and fisheries. Last year’s harvest was poor, as much of the Midwest suffered extensive flooding. All indications are the price of food is going to go up, perhaps dramatically.

Enter Mr. Hogan’s executive order.

A March 30th news story on WUSA9 - <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/technically-youre-not-allowed-to-buy-gardening-or-painting-supplies-during-marylands-stay-at-home-order/65-e49bb9a8-b773-4f76-9fbf-6ce7c9a130a9> - explained that the governor issued his order in an effort to curb the crowds at the big box

stores. The inclusion of plants, seeds and gardening supplies in the order should concern every Marylander. This is the very time that people should be working to improve their food security. Bring on the Coronavirus Victory Gardens!

In these unprecedented times, elected officials must steer a reasonable middle course between protecting public health and ensuring citizens’ long-term well-being. Governor Hogan should immediately revise his executive order to remove gardening supplies from the list of “nonessential” items. This citizens of St. Mary’s County deserve the option to take all steps necessary to provide food security for their families. Hopefully, Mr. Hogan acts in time to reverse the growing perception that his executive orders are not adequately meeting the needs of Marylanders.

Cynthia L. Jones
Valley Lee

To All St. Mary’s Residents

This week is National Public Health Week - a time to reflect upon the collective work across our community in addressing public health. The COVID-19 pandemic has made public health a front and center priority over the past several weeks. We have seen unprecedented actions in our state and county to keep our residents safe and to prepare our community for the threat of COVID-19. Across all sectors of this community and in every home, we have come together to respond. I know you are making many sacrifices to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your neighbors. Thank you to all of you for what you are doing to control the spread of this illness.

I especially want to recognize the incredible bravery and dedication of my fellow public health professionals, health care workers, first responders, and law enforcement in their response to this crisis. We have a common ethos - one that calls us to serve, to protect, to heal. We step forward and act because that is our calling, because we are honoring the oaths we have taken, because our community is relying upon us. Now, more than ever, we need to hold steadfast and true to our mission. We need each other. Thank you for answering your calling, for all that you are doing, everyday, selflessly.


St. Mary’s - This is an extraordinary time for all of us. But we are an extraordinary people. We have been pulling together for centuries in this county. We have the grit, the compassion, and the creativity needed to conquer challenges that face our community. COVID-19 will impact us, it may impact us hard. The road ahead is tough, and long...but we are already together in facing this crisis.

Thank you, please be safe, and stay well. May God bless our community.
Sincerely,


Dr. Meena Brewster, County Health Officer

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4.58 Ea.



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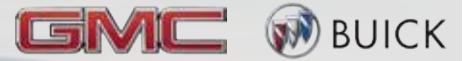
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ST. MARY'S
County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

REVIVAL

WEEK I

Hello, Southern Maryland! It seems that we are all home and wondering when our lives are going back to normal, be it going to work, watching basketball, or going to church, just to name a few. However, let us take a minute and realize, the Coronavirus involves the entire world, and most of us haven't gone through this before. Consequently, I have seen much FEAR, and panic with my friends and family.

The command "fear not" or "do not be afraid" is the most repeated command in the entire Bible. Life can be scary, and God acknowledges that. Jesus himself promised, "***In this world, you will have trouble***" (John 16:33). God repeatedly assures us not to be afraid.

As followers of Christ, we know there is hope beyond this world. We must choose to have an eternal outlook and shout down the cries of this world.

As a former Marine, I will never forget the fear of going through water survival training in bootcamp, knowing, I couldn't swim. I thought I may not live through this! The Marine Corps gave each recruit a Bible. I remember, in the midst of being so scared of the uncertainties, that I open my Bible and started to digest the truths. I remember how it encouraged me. I remember Psalms 27.1 so clearly, "***The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall, I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?***". We can apply these words to COVID19, for the same God that took the fear from me and allowed me to be strong, is the same God that can get us through this uncertain time.

I want you all to know I survived the swim survival training. From that day forward I put all my confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ. To this day I serve him, knowing, I have no idea what the future looks like. However, I do know who holds my future. I want to encourage you, to have faith, and be comforted, in the fact that the Lord is in control. God has the whole world in his hands and is trying to get our attention. Let's take the time and listen. If you desire, to seek more, the below scriptures will guide you to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

- **Everyone needs Salvation (Rom 3:23)**
- **Jesus Died for Our Sins (Rom 5:8)**
- **Salvation is a Gift (Rom 6:23)**
- **We are saved by Grace (Rom 11:6)**
- **Salvation Comes through Faith (Rom 4:5)**
- **God Saves all who call upon him (Rom 10:13)**

Anyone, who wants a Bible, Prayer or just wants to talk about what's in this first week's message please call:
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Until Next Week, may the Lord bless you.
Pastor, Rob Myers, The Mission

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