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# St. Mary's County Times

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## “SUCCESSFUL ADOPTIONS ARE OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE HERE.”

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR PAT RICHARDSON ON THE NEW COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER.



**LOCAL** 6  
Royal Farms deal could be in the works



**7**  
Volunteer Stephanie Walden of SMAWL at the new animal shelter in California, MD.



**COPS AND COURTS** 10  
Sheriff Somerville to be honored

### WEEKLY FORECAST Provided by www.accuweather.com

THU 9/1	87° /65°	Plenty of sunshine	MON 9/5	88° /72°	Very warm with sunshine
FRI 9/2	86° /68°	Mostly sunny	TUE 9/6	86° /70°	Brilliant sunshine
SAT 9/3	88° /71°	Partly sunny and very warm	WED 9/7	88° /70°	High clouds and very warm
SUN 9/4	90° /71°	High clouds and hot	THU 9/8	85° /69°	Times of clouds and sun




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# More Security to be Enforced at After School Events



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Attendees at after school events in St. Mary's will be subject to increased security measures starting with fall sports, Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith announced last week.

Law enforcement officers and school security personnel overseeing these sports events and others will be on the lookout for contraband such as weapons, laser pointers, drugs, alcohol, tobacco products and electronic cigarettes.

More than contraband, outside food, drinks and non-service animals will also be prohibited.

The new policy encourages attendees to carry clear bags for their personal items, an announcement from St. Mary's schools said.

Spectators who are carrying bookbags or other totes will be cordoned off in a separate line entering the event to be searched with a magnetometer.

All attendees will be allowed to have one clear bag, the policy states.

Binoculars, cell phones, cameras and tablets are still allowed, the policy states, but must be readily viewable in a clear bag.

There are certain exceptions to the policy such as for medically necessary items; also small clutch bags would not be subject to search.

Bags carried by media or students participating in the event do not have to be clear, the policy states, but they are still subject to search.

In a later interview, Smith said that the times in St. Mary's County — particularly when it came to youth gang violence at public events — had changed and the school system had to change with it.

"The peace was bro-

ken at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department carnival," Smith said. "We want to ensure the safety of people attending our events.

"We all have two do extra measures."

A fight between two rival youth gangs in the parking lot at the Hollywood firehouse left a 16-year-old dead as a result of a shooting the night of July 15, causing widespread panic and the shutdown of the carnival.

The carnival was finally reopened earlier in August after new and greater security measures were put into place.

Schools security chief Mike Wyant said the recent tragedy at Hollywood was just part of the rationale behind the enhanced security measures.

"This has been under consideration for a while," Wyant said. "What happened at Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department wasn't the only reason we did this.

"We've looked at our security and are bringing it up to the industry standard."

*guyleonard@countytimes.net*

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## Health Officer Updates Leaders on COVID-19

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

A total of 229 St. Mary's residents have died from COVID-19 since the pandemic began in March of 2020, St. Mary's Health Officer Dr. Meena Brewster, told the Commissioners of St. Mary's this week, noting that community transmission of the disease is still high.

Brewster, who continues to wear a facemask while making public presentations indoors, said that the burden on hospitals locally has swung between low to median levels in the past several months and the burden currently remains low on the health care infrastructure of St. Mary's.

"Over the past several months we've seen the emergence of several variants of concern," Brewster said at the Aug. 30 commissioners' meeting. "One of them is the BA. 5 variant of the Omicron version of the virus.

"It has taken over, globally, essentially."

Brewster said the viral variant has resulted in a surge in cases locally.

"We feel these numbers are an undercount of the actual cases in our community," Brewster said. "That's because of the use of take-home antigen tests that usually do not get reported."

The latest data from the county health department shows there are 179 known cases of COVID-19 in St. Mary's for the week of Aug. 27.

"We continued to experience some additional fatalities over the summer due to COVID-19," Brewster said.

She recommended that residents get and stay up to date with vaccinations and booster shots and wear more effective masks when



in close quarters environments such as health care and congregate living, and crowded indoor public settings.

"This is especially important for health care workers and essential workers," Brewster said.

Being up to date on vaccinations meant having the full primary course of shots and any recommended boosters, Brewster said.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt said he attempted to get updated booster shots only to find out from health department staff that none were available.

Brewster said the supplies were indeed lower than before when the health department was running the public vaccination efforts at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department.

"That's partly because we had to cut back on a lot of our staff and really condense our operations," Brewster told Hewitt.

A new vaccine was approved for distribution over the summer — Novavax — which does not use mRNA technology, Brewster said, but is a more "traditional" vaccine that has a primary course of two doses.

It has an emergency authorization use approval for patients 12 years old and above, she said, and doses are available at the health department headquarters in Leonardtown.

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are also being updated to deal with the latest strains of the disease, said Brewster.

*guyleonard@countytimes.net*

## Appellants, Royal Farms Coming to Terms on Tulagi Place

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Citizens who opposed the approval of a Royal Farms convenience store and gas station and had taken their case to the county Board of Appeals May be ready to relent if a tentative agreement they have made with the developer holds.

Christopher Longmore, attorney for Royal Farms, and Michelle Rosenfeld, attorney for the appellants who opposed the project told the appeals board the night of Aug. 25 that they wanted to postpone the hearing for another meeting to be held on Sept. 8.

This delay would give the two parties time to finalize the deal, they said, which would allow the construction of the new convenience store if Royal Farms agrees to fund an in-depth historical documentation to include oral histories of Tulagi Place, provide relocation assistance for Linda's Café, owned by Linda Palchinsky, make improvements to the Elmer Brown Freedom Park to mitigate traffic impacts and also help fund a community garden there.

The county planning commission approved the Royal Farms application for a concept site plan by a 4-to-3 vote April 25 over strong community objections that the razing of the structure now at Tulagi Place would eliminate a historical piece of old Lexington Park as well as create even greater traffic problems at the intersection of Route 235 and Great Mills Road.

This intersection sits immediately across from Gate 2 of Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

Support for the popular and long-lasting Linda's Café figured prominently in the community's opposition to the Royal Farms, whose construction would necessitate the vacating of all the businesses currently leasing space at the Tulagi Place center.



Two private citizens filed appeals against the Royal Farms project and Palchinsky as well as the Unified Committee for African American Contributions (UCAC) both joined those appeals.

Royal Farms argued that the appellants did not have legal standing to pursue their appeal against the project; the appeals would be dismissed if the board ruled that the appellants had no standing.

"Rather than risk this possible outcome the appellants have agreed in principle to withdraw their appeals in exchange for financial support from Royal Farms to help offset some of the community impact concerns," Longmore told appeals board members this week.

Longmore said the finalized, written agreement on the terms of the deal have yet to be completed.

For her part, Palchinsky said she was surprised and dismayed by the events of that night.

"I'm not happy at all," the restaurant owner told The County Times. "I think they slipped something underneath the door."

Palchinsky said she was informed by Rosenfeld that Longmore had spoken to Royal Farms about offering a compromise between the two parties.

Palchinsky said the first offer was \$10,000 to \$20,000 which later rose to \$50,000 to be split between the all of the appellants and intervenors.

"I would've asked for a lot more than \$50,000," Palchinsky said. "I think it's a joke.

"I think Royal Farms was scared."

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# New Animal Shelter Offers Support for Pets and Pet Owners

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

By Sept. 12 the new St. Mary's Animal Adoption Resource Center (AARC) will be open to the public and it represents a paradigm shift in how the community views animals in need and how it deals with them.

Gone is the concept of warehousing lost, stray or otherwise unwanted animals for a certain time and then euthanizing them, now the new facility located on FDR Boulevard near the First Colony Shopping Center is focused on low-to-no-kill care for cats, dogs and other animals with a premium placed on community outreach to ensure the animals staying there can get loving homes.

But that relationship works both ways, said Dr. Patricia Richardson, chair of the Animal Control Advisory Board that helped shape the new facility the county celebrated opening this week.

She said one of the key missions of the new facility is to support the adopters of pets and not just the pets themselves.

"Successful adoptions are our primary purpose here," Richardson told The County Times. "Animals need to be prepared to be adopted and the adopters need to have support, too.

"They can learn how to train dogs and how to deal with cats."

Steve Walker, director of the Department of Emergency Services, said there will also be limited assistance for adopters or those who already own pets but who are having difficulty providing for their animals.

That aid could be in the form of food and other pet care supplies, Walker said, for new adopters.

Walker emphasized the change in culture locally in the treatment of shelter animals with the advent of this new facility.

"That concept of the dog pound is no longer here," Walker said. "This is a community resource."

Walking into the facility, it is bright and well lighted with visi-



Animal Services employee Darlene Mund and Ivy.

tors greeted immediately by an administrative counter to their front but a large, spacious and comfortable room set up to the left for kittens to stay and play.

Nearby there is a kennel area where dogs are kept waiting for adoption — their indoor enclosures leading to outdoor spaces through a small door — where visitors can decide who they might want to take home.

There is also a room for other pets such as guinea pigs to be kept safe for adoption.

The facility is also now the new home of animal control division employees as well as the St. Mary's Sheriff's Office K-9 division.

Joy Wilson, chief of the animal control officers, said her employees were "elated" after having made the move from the Department of Emergency Services headquarters in Leonardtown to their new headquarters in California.

The animal control officers have their own office they share with Ivy, a rescued female feline who lives part-time at the shelter.

Ivy routinely gets special attention from the animal control staff

and others who come to visit her.

Their morale had also increased, Wilson said, since they would no longer have to take animals to the aging and soon-to-be-defunct Tri-County Animal Shelter.

"For the first time in 45 years they won't have to take animals all the way to Charles County," Wilson said.

The tri-county facility is aging and cramped compared to the new facility in St. Mary's and the one that has been operating in Barstow in neighboring Calvert County for the past several years.

The Linda R. Kelly Memorial Animal Shelter was built in response to Charles County's stated intent more than five years ago to build their own shelter and remove their portion of funding for the tri-county facility.

Shortly after Calvert moved to build its own shelter, St. Mary's began the process to part from the tri-county facility.

Theresa Marlowe, the manager of the new animal shelter, said the community will figure heavily in its success.

Leading up to the opening of the

facility, Marlowe said anyone she spoke with locally about the shelter either did not know about it or was excited to see it finally open.

"The community outreach has been humbling," Marlowe said. "The community support we've received has been wonderful."

The St. Mary's Animal Welfare League has partnered with the new shelter and Marlowe said residents can come by and find out what volunteer opportunities are available to them.

"Everyone can be part of the shelter," Marlowe said. "If you can't adopt, you can foster."

"If you can't foster, you can donate your time. We will have lots of volunteer opportunities; we want the community to be involved."

Walker said the opening of the animal shelter marked a new day in St. Mary's County.

"It's a very exciting time, it's been five years in the making," Walker said. "This is something that's never happened in our county before."

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Paid Advertisement by Parents Opposing Child-Endangering Pro-Marijuana Public Policies

# Mass Shooting Massacres: Continuing Marijuana's Vicious Legacy

**SCIENCE BASED EVIDENCE OF MARIJUANA HARMS**

Patriotic author Alex Berenson boldly reveals the frequently-ignored **vicious violent legacy of marijuana** in his 5/25/22 article "Cannabis Causes Psychosis. Psychosis Causes Violence," see at link: [Cannabis causes psychosis. Psychosis causes violence. \(substack.com\)](https://www.substack.com). In that article, Berenson reveals that the **murderer in the horrific slaughter of innocents in the Uvalde Schoolchild Massacre was a known marijuana user**, which is a common characteristic of many the nation's other numerous mass murderers.

Berenson's article adds to existing **valid Science-based research verifying marijuana's malignant impact on families and communities**. Which is the solid basis for the **federal government's designation of marijuana as ILLEGAL!**

Additional examples of marijuana violence are documented in the Journal of Addiction Research and Therapy 1/17/17 research paper, "**Marijuana Violence and Law**", see at link: <https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/marijuana-violence-and-law-2155-6105-511-014.php?aid=84736>

Numerous additional examples are seen in Accuracy in Media's reporting on **major marijuana-related violence**. See at link: [The Media's Embrace of "Fake News" About Drugs - Accuracy in Media \(aim.org\)](https://www.aim.org)

Also see the 7/8/22 New York Post article revealing **marijuana use by the massacre-shooter at the Highland Park 4th of July parade**, at link: [Did reefer drive Highland Park parade shooter Robert Crimo to madness? \(nypost.com\)](https://nypost.com)

A 6/23/22 Associated Press article, "After Year of Violence, US Schools More Endangered" cited growing widespread "emotional behavioral crises" (read marijuana-impaired) as behind school-house horror stories of vicious violence by **psychotic youths terrorizing and assaulting helpless schoolchildren and teachers**. See at link: [After year of violence, US schools try to tame tensions \(registercitizen.com\)](https://registercitizen.com) **THUS, OUR TEACHER SHORTAGES!**

**PRO POT POLITICIANS ENABLE MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING**

Meanwhile, wealthy, armed and violent drug traffickers have successfully influenced **drug-money-addicted government officials to enable and allow** their profitable and corrupting marijuana industries. Such as by **suspension of enforcement of federal law against federally-illegal marijuana**. And by unconstitutionally enacting state authorization of "medical marijuana" and "vaping" businesses which corrupt officials protected as **"essential"** under emergency Pandemic rules that closed normal businesses under threat of prosecution.

Such drug-trafficker-friendly policies also include **opposition to health-based drug testing of schoolchildren to prevent students' use of behavior-impairing marijuana**. Which is a **primary source of** much of today's terrorizing school violence including fighting and bullying often leading to student depression and suicides. (See QR code, link below)

In Narco-State Maryland (governor Larry Hogan's characterization), drug-trafficker-friendly lawmakers have **unlawfully designated marijuana as "medicine" in violation of all FDA and CDC federal requirements for approval of real medicines**. They accept the **Cheech and Chong certification of marijuana as "medicine."**

Non-corrupted public officials, honest journalists and innocent citizen-victims of terrorizing vicious violence, should all rise up and demand that **forensic oral swab drug test results** of violent crime suspects be publicized ASAP after the crime to identify the **"unknown motive"** which in most cases is actually **marijuana psychosis**.

The inscription on the cornerstone at the CIA Headquarters Building at Langley, VA states, "Ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make ye Free." Therefore, we must widely publicize this **TRUTH: EVEN MARIJUANA-INDUCED PSYCHOSIS IS THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF THIS NATION'S MASSIVE MERCILESS SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS, AND ENSLAVEMENT TO DRUG ADDICTION.**

## New 2021 Record High Youth Marijuana Use Reported by NIH

*Edited excerpts with commentary follow; See full report at link: Marijuana and hallucinogen use among young adults reached all-time high in 2021 | National Institutes of Health (NIH)*

Marijuana and hallucinogen use in the past year reported by young adults 19 to 30 years old **increased significantly** in 2021 compared to five and 10 years ago, reaching **historic highs in this age group since 1988**...

Past-month **marijuana vaping**, which had significantly decreased in 2020, rebounded to pre-pandemic levels in 2021. Since 2017, when marijuana vaping was included in this study, **past-month prevalence**

**has doubled - from 6% in 2017 to 12% in 2021...**

Results from the related 2021 MTF study of **substance use behaviors and related attitudes among teens** in the United States was released in December 2021, and 2022 results are upcoming in December 2022...

## Gateway Marijuana

From St. Mary's Co. Health Dept. "Opioid Education Course for Parents and Guardians", Lesson 3, titled: **Gateway Drugs and Teen Vulnerability**. See at following links: [https://rise.articulate.com/share/FZE\\_maaB-164NGPq\\_3aduTrZyk\\_TWEzj#/#/lessons/LJ1zxygF8YtjvL4h-VbxtKOutFwk3ckv](https://rise.articulate.com/share/FZE_maaB-164NGPq_3aduTrZyk_TWEzj#/#/lessons/LJ1zxygF8YtjvL4h-VbxtKOutFwk3ckv)

Opioid addiction is life threatening, but **parents need to be concerned about all alcohol, tobacco and drug use**. In addition to having their own negative impacts on the body, **these substances can be "gateway" drugs, increasing the risk of addiction to more dangerous substances later on.**

...Research suggests that **marijuana use is likely to precede use of other illicit substances and the development of addiction...** Children's brains do not fully develop until about their mid-twenties. Partly because of immature brain development, poorer impulse control, less life experience,

and a developmental need to explore, children may be more likely to beginning drug use. Also, teen brains may be more susceptible to the effects of drug use, including the risk of developing addiction... This effect is more severe in teens and can impact their ability to function in school, maintain healthy relationships and manage their cleanliness and health... They may also have greater difficulty recovering from addiction because of the **changes in their brain chemistry from early drug use.**

SAMHSA study: **Know the Risks of Marijuana | SAMHSA**

CDC Study: **Health Effects of Marijuana | Health Effects | Marijuana | CDC**

BROOKINGS INSTITUTE Study: Pot, water theft, and environmental harms in the US and Mexico (brookings.edu) Vanda Felbab-Brown discusses the widely unacknowledged negative environmental impacts, particularly as it relates to its large **use and depletion of water**, citing cases in California.

## How We Citizens Can Take Action

The below displayed QR link contains a half-hour video of the **White House Office of Drug Control Policy's (ONDCP) national press conference** of 8/29/2002, kicking off their promotion of Random Student Drug Testing (RSDT) as a **new (then) federally supported drug prevention program available for local school boards to adopt to effectively end drug-related violence and addiction among drug-endangered students**. In that presentation, parents, teachers, and education officials from throughout the nation were recognized and commended for their long-term difficult role in developing and gaining government approval for this compassionate health-based effective drug prevention strategy.

This welcome additional school program has now been in use nation-wide for over 20 years since its introduction at that national forum. In schools utilizing this now-proven drug prevention program, **student drug use and its consequent destructive impact on education, health and safety, are essentially eliminated- in schools that fully utilize its proven effective methods**. And are roaring out-of-control in communities that fail to adopt them.

We parents paid \$700 for this **full page ad publicizing this horrific drug problem and publicizing its available ,solution**. We hope that you, reader will become partners with us to help distribute this message to public officials and friendly local media nation-wide as an effective strategy to help **violence-terrorized families protect against the current evil rush to legalize enslaving, and endangering marijuana.**

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**Petitioning Government to Redress the Grievance of Illegal Drugs Endangering America's Children**



# Excise Tax To Supplant Impact Fee as Revenue Source

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

When county government found that a recent reduction in school student enrollment numbers forced a downward recalculation of the impact fees due on new construction in St. Mary's, elected leaders decided to shift to an excise tax that would be a more reliable source of income.

That time is coming and a consultant will conduct a study on how the excise tax will be promulgated.

County commissioners were briefed on the study for the excise tax this week by their Chief Financial Officer Jeanett Cudmore.

Cudmore explained that the reduction in student enrollment meant less money from impact fees for school construction and that money had to be dedicated to new school buildings and not renovations or other improvements.

The public school system has embarked on an extensive renovation and repair schedule for aging facilities but plans no new school construction projects.

The impact fee, which was arrived at in 2018 in time for the fiscal 2019 budget was \$10,446 to be phased in over a five-year period, Cudmore told commissioners, but that number quickly deflated to \$2,175 for the 2023 operating budget.

"We were not having any new schools in

our CIP (Capital Improvement Plan)," Cudmore said. "For new [school] seats is how we were using the impact fee."

A bill passed in the 2021 Maryland General Assembly — HB 0528 — authorized the building excise tax.

It is set to begin July 1, 2023.

Carson Bise of consulting firm Tischler-Bise, Inc. has been awarded the contract to calculate the new excise tax for the county.

Bise said the study proposes using the excise tax to fund parks and recreation, roads and schools, which are currently funded by impact fees.

"And we are proposing to look at a fourth category called public safety," Bise told commissioners, which he defined typically as law enforcement, emergency medical and firefighting. "It could be a catchall."

The study process would consist of six phases, Bise said, to include gathering data, projecting land use assumptions, finding capital facility needs, conducting a cash flow analysis, preparing a final report and finally a public hearing.

Bise said the process could take approximately five months to complete.

"This is complex stuff," said Commissioner Eric Colvin, who supported an excise tax. "I think we definitely need to have potentially multiple public hearings."

*guyleonard@countytimes.net*

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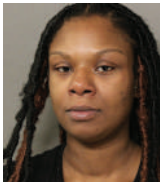
## ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

**Violate Protective Order-** On August 17, 2022, Dep. Katulich responded to the 20900 block of Coronet Place in Lexington Park, for the reported protective order violation. Investigation determined **Deandre Holness**, age 26 of California, sent numerous text messages to the victim, violating a valid court order. Holness was arrested and charged with Violate Protective Order.



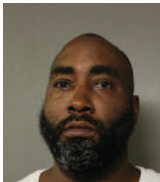
Deandre Holness

**Assault-** On August 18, 2022, DFC. Fenwick responded to the 22000 block of Orchid Bloom Way in Lexington Park, for the reported assault. Investigation determined **Camilliha Lashay Somerville**, age 28 of Lexington Park, assaulted the victim by punching the victim in the head numerous times, causing visible injury. Somerville was arrested and charged with Assault 2nd Degree.



Camilliha Somerville

**Assault-** On August 18, 2022, Cpl. Pontorno responded to the 30200 block of Charlotte Hall Road in Charlotte Hall, for the reported disturbance. Investigation determined **Donte**



Donte Curtis

**Christopher Curtis**, age 42 of Charlotte Hall, scratched the victim during an argument, causing visible injury to the victim's wrist. Curtis was arrested and charged with Assault 2nd Degree.

**Abduction-** On August 20, 2022, Dep. C. Hill responded to the 28600 block of Hancock Drive in Mechanicsville, for the reported disturbance. While deputies contacted the victim, **Kristine Doreen Dean**, age 56 of Mechanicsville, left the residence with the victim's juvenile child. Deputies located Dean, who refused to tell deputies where she had taken the child. The child was quickly located at a nearby residence and returned to the victim. Dean was charged with Child Abduction and Obstructing and Hinder- ing an Investigation.



Kristine Dean

**Assault-** On August 23, 2022, Dep. Morgan responded to the 45000 block of Knokeyon Lane in California, for the reported assault. Investigation determined **Eric Javon Thomas**, age 40 of California, strangled and struck the victim in the ankle, causing visible injury to the victim. Thomas was arrested and charged with Assault 1st and 2nd Degree.



Eric Thomas

## Hit-and-Run Death Trial Moved to September

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

After a mistrial in May and another postponement earlier this month, Ryan Cherrico — the man accused of stealing a truck and striking and killing an Menonite man who was in a horse-and-buggy near the intersection of Point Lookout Road and Loveville Road last year — is set for another trial in September on a litany of charges, including negligent homicide, court records show.

Circuit Court Judge Joseph Stanalonis approved the postponement Aug. 24.

Two new potential dates have been set, court records show, either Sept. 6 or Sept. 27.

Four days have been allotted for the trial.

Members of the States Attorney's Office said after the first mistrial that the prosecutor in the case was not allowed to discuss the reasons for the initial outcome in May.

Cherrico was under suspicion by police almost immediately after the incident on Oct. 27 of last year, court papers show.

The man killed in the early morning crash was Henry Stauffer, a produce manager at the Loveville Produce Auction, who was travelling on his way to work.

According to an application for a state-

ment of charges against Cherrico, sheriff's deputies found him at the Third Base store just about one-half mile away from the incident just minutes after it had occurred.

The crash occurred at about 7:30 a.m. and witnesses said they saw the operator of the red 2000 Chevrolet Cavalier run away from the scene.

Officers questioned Cherrico and documented their encounter with him but said they did not detain him for lack of evidence.

But they noted that Cherrico, 31, of Mechanicsville had a strong smell of alcohol on his breath and exhibited "slow, slurred, deliberate speech."

Surveillance video from several shops and stores in the area clearly showed Cherrico walking to Third Base, court papers showed, but the defendant gave police a false alibi to avoid being suspected of causing the crash.

Law enforcement officers were also able to obtain text messages between Cherrico and his mother which showed he had been the operator of the stolen truck and knew he had caused a fatal crash; law officers also found that Cherrico's family was attempting to send him to Colorado to avoid apprehension, charging papers stated at the time

guyleonard@countytimes.net

## County To Dedicate Highway Section to Sheriff Somerville

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

More than a year after his passing, the county is set to dedicate a portion of Route 5 to Sheriff Joseph Lee Somerville, the first black sheriff of St. Mary's County and Maryland.

The dedication will take place Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> in Leonardtown at the sheriff's office on Leonard Hall Drive, the office of Sen. Jack Bailey announced this week.

Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron confirmed that the portion of Route 5 to be dedicated would be in Loveville, which is the home of former sheriff Somerville.

Commissioner John O'Connor, speaking in April of last year at a Commissioners of St. Mary's County meeting, said residents were welcome to come forward and propose a county road to be renamed in Somerville's honor.

O'Connor had proposed renaming FDR Boulevard in honor of Somerville's legacy.

"I do agree with some of the sentiments of the community," O'Connor said last year. "I'm hoping that what



we can do is recognize his service and legacy in another form.

"This community loves its law enforcement."


Somerville was a lieutenant in the sheriff's office in 1977 when he was appointed by then Gov. Marvin Mandel to serve out the term of then Sheriff George Sanger, who died in office.

He then ran for the office and handily won the local election to serve another four years.

Throughout the county, Somerville, the patriarch of a large, extended family in St. Mary's, was known as a gentleman and well-liked by almost everyone who knew him.

After serving as sheriff, he went on to work as a bailiff in the St. Marys' County Circuit Court.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



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**Gabriel Lee Garner, Jr.**



Gabriel Lee "Dinks" Garner, Jr. 73, of South Boston, VA. passed away peacefully on August 24, 2022 at home, surrounded by his loving family.

Lee was born on June 12, 1949, in Washington, D.C. to the late Gabriel Lee Garner, Sr. and Florence Evelyn Garner, oldest of seven children. He served two years in the United States Marines. Lee loved and enjoyed his career as an auto mechanic but above all he loved his family first. He enjoyed watching football and NASCAR (Tony Stewart was his favorite). Lee found pleasure in putting model cars together and collecting them.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Carol Elizabeth Garner, his daughter, Vera Lea Garner, granddaughter, Alyssa Nicole Good (Zack), and great granddaughter, McKenna Marie Good, sisters, Leona Fowler (Peewee), and Annette McGee, brothers, Mike Garner (Linda), and Gene Garner.

In addition to his parents, Lee was preceded in death by his daughter, Carolyn Marie Garner, granddaughter, Carolyn Marie Keats and his brothers, Timothy Garner and Donald Garner, Sr.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association P. O. Box 96011 Washington DC 20090-6019.

**Keith Allen Waddle**



Keith Allen Waddle, D.O., 66, of Leonardtown, MD, formerly of Huntingdon, PA and Bethel Park, PA, passed on August 21, 2022 at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda,

MD.

Born a true Irishman, on St Patrick's Day, March 17, 1956, he was the son of the late Grace and Jack Waddle, both of Bethel Park, PA. Keith married the love of his life and partner of 45 years, Nancy McGowan, on August 6, 1977. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his loving children, Nicole Magee (husband Mike) of Leonardtown, MD and Sean Waddle (wife Meghan) of Roanoke, VA, his grandchildren Lilly Magee, Liam Magee, and Everett Waddle, his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Linda and Mark Brzezinski of Washington, PA, as well as his nephews and niece. He was preceded in death by his sister-in-law Kathy McGowan Neal.

Keith earned the Eagle Scout rank in the Boy Scouts of America. He graduated from Bethel Park High School class of 1977. Keith went on to Washington and Jefferson College, where he was awarded an ROTC scholarship, graduating in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He was commissioned in the United States Army, serving first as a Field Artillery Officer, then after completing flight school at Fort Rucker, AL where he served as a helicopter pilot until his discharge in 1984. Keith earned his Doctor of Osteopathy degree in 1988 from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine where he specialized in Gastroenterology.

He and his partner Dr. Michael F. Gaugler, DO owned Huntingdon Gastroenterology Associates together for 20 years in Huntingdon, PA. Keith retired from medicine on July 31, 2020. He was a devoted Christian who lived his faith by serving and helping others with extraordinary bedside manner.

Keith never met a stranger. He was loved instantly by everyone who knew him. He was an awesome conversationalist, who could carry on an intelligent and informed discussion about virtually any topic, with anyone. Keith had an infectious smile and an extraordinary sense of humor. He enjoyed outdoor activities. He especially enjoyed grilling and hiking.

The family will receive friends on Monday, August 29, 2022 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held on Tuesday, August 30, 2022 at 3:00 PM. Interment with military honors will be held at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA on Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 1:00 PM, with Rev. Jason Hefner officiating.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com). In lieu of flowers and in the spirit of Keith, if you feel moved to console, give to a verified and deserving charity of your choice in his honor. He made the world a better place and we can all learn and benefit from this.

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

**James Harvey Morgan**



James Harvey Morgan, Sr., 79, of Mechanicsville MD Peacefully passed away at home on August 22, 2022.

Harvey was born on June 25, 1943, to John Mitchell and Elizabeth Morgan in Orville, MD.

In 1944 he met Elizabeth (Anna) Morgan, his childhood friend who later became his wife. Harvey and Anna were married on April 20, 1963, and went on to have four children: James Harvey, Jr (Linda) of Mechanicsville, MD, Debra Tippet (Andy) of California, MD, Rebecca Norris of Mechanicsville, MD, and Wendy Veney of California, MD.

Harvey was always a hard worker. He left school at an early age to help in his father's barn building business during the summers and would work in the winter oystering with Bunny Morgan. Later he went on to work for J & T homes for several years until opening his own business, James H Morgan Building Contractors in 1971. A business he was well known and respected in. Harvey retired in 2021 after 50 years in his field.

While retired, Harvey had time to enjoy his favorite hobbies: watching NASCAR, football, and westerns, playing cards, taking trips to the mountains, and spending time with his family, who he loved very much. Harvey enjoyed spending the fourth of July with all his friends and family. Every year for 30years he looked forward to throwing a huge party at his home on Queentree Rd that everyone enjoyed. This was a tradition started by his father that Harvey proudly carried on. Seeing and spending time with his fam-

ily was the most important thing to him.

Harvey was someone you could always count on, he was always there with a helping hand for his family and friends, whom he loved deeply. He never asked for anything in return, except for togetherness and love.

Harvey was preceded in death by his parents, John and Elizabeth Morgan. Siblings, John Mitchell Morgan Jr, William Clifton Morgan, Imogene Summers, and Melissa Morgan. As well as, son in laws, Frankie Norris and Eric Veney.

He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Elizabeth Anna Morgan of Mechanicsville, MD, his four children; Debra Tippet (Andy), Rebecca Norris, James Harvey Morgan Jr (Linda) and Wendy Veney, his grandchildren; Shannon Morgan-Huffman (Katrina), Amanda Dufour, Billy Ridgell (Brittney), Tiffany Beall (Rob), Allen Ridgell, James Harvey Morgan III, Morgan Veney, Ryan Veney, and Daniel Morgan. As well as, 13 great grandchildren and his siblings; Leonard Morgan (Audrey) of Mechanicsville, MD, Stephen Morgan (Margaret) of Mechanicsville, MD, Lewis Morgan (Dottie) of Clements, MD, Donald Morgan (Christy) of Mechanicsville, MD, Ronald Morgan of Mechanicsville, MD, David Morgan of Lexington Park, MD, Pearl Pfuhl (John) of Mitchellville, MD, Marlene Tippet (Robert) of Tappahannock, VA, Ambrose Morgan of Mechanicsville, MD, and Wayne Morgan (Barbara) of Mechanicsville.

Pallbearers will be: Jimmy Morgan, Billy Ridgell, Andy Tippet, Joe Huffman, Jay Quade, and Jamie Abell.

Honorary Pallbearers are: Allen Ridgell, Joshua Dufour, James Morgan III, Ryan Veney, Joey Huffman, Daniel Morgan,

Richard Staley, Kevin Bellere, and Eric Fleming.

**John Ignatius Armsworthy, Sr**



John Ignatius Armsworthy, Sr. "Johnny", 81, of California, MD, passed away on August 14, 2022 at his residence. Born on October 22, 1940 in Great Mills, MD,

he was the son of the late Evelyn Anna Mae Armsworthy and the late William Ignatius Armsworthy, Jr. Johnny was the loving husband of Dorothy Lorraine Armsworthy, whom he married in St. John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD, on June 12, 1965. He is survived by his son, John I. "Jay" Armsworthy, Jr. of California, MD and his daughter-in-law Michelle Armsworthy of California, MD. In addition to his parents, Johnny was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Ann Adkins, and his brother-in-law Jimmy Adkins.

Johnny was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and attended Great Mills High School, Great Mills, MD. He was a genuine man who loved everyone, and everyone loved him. There was nothing fake about him. He was a family man who worked hard for what he had. In 1965, he married the love of his life, Lorraine, who stood by his side until the end. He loved his son, Jay, and daughter-in-law, Michelle. There was nothing in life that he loved more than to be with the three of them. He enjoyed his grand-dogs, Billy and Odie. He worked for Safeway for 30 years, retiring from his posi-



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tion as Dairy Manager in 1990. After a brief retirement, he went to work at the St. Mary's County Government as the first attendant to open the St. Andrews Transfer station. He later transferred to Building Services and always said it was the best job he ever had. Unfortunately, a work injury forced him to retire on disability in 2000. He enjoyed camping and going to Bluegrass festivals, hanging out with his Bluegrass friends, riding around on his golf cart and drinking his Miller Lite beer. He was proud of his son and supported everything he did in Bluegrass music. He loved to watch westerns on TV, and everyone loved the way he talked and would laugh at the countless stories he would tell of his life experiences. He could tell you a story from the beginning to the end, and could remember things from long ago, back from his younger days. Johnny got to attend one last family vacation with a cruise to Alaska just before he passed away.

The family will receive friends on Monday, August 22, 2022 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM, followed by Moose Prayers at 7:15 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 10:00AM in St. John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD, with Father Ray Schmidt officiating. Interment will follow in the Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Troy Jones, Jim Bailey, James Woodburn, Walley Abell, Chucky Thompson, and Woody Norris. Honorary pallbearers will be Johnny Adams, Honky Johnson, and Bucky Readmond.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's and Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

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

### Bernard Alexander Wathen

Bernard Alexander Wathen, 83 of Mechanicsville, MD passed away peacefully on August 26, 2022 at St. Mary's Nursing Home.

He was born on October 15, 1938 in Loveville, MD to the late George Wathen and Dorothy Gertrude Joy Wathen.

Bernard attended St. Joseph's School and shortly after married Bertha Ann Farrell on June 23, 1961. Bernard was a tobacco and wheat farmer for 65 years. He was an avid history reader, enjoyed playing cards, pitching, farming, gardening, attending car shows, NASCAR racing, wrestling and boxing. Bernard loved his grandchildren dearly and enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

He is survived by his children Randal A. Wathen of Mechanicsville, MD, Sandra L. Tennison (Tom) of Warsaw, VA, Cheryl Wood (Tommy) of California, MD and Perry M. Wathen (Nikki) of Mechanicsville, MD, brother Dr. George Wathen (Lucy) of Welcome, MD and grandchildren Jonathan Tennison, Joseph Tennison, Austin Wathen, Christina Wathen, Megan Wathen and Samantha Wathen, great grandchildren Levi Wathen. He was preceded in death by his

parents, wife, sister Edna Burch and grandson Christopher Wood.

Family will receive friends on Tuesday September 6, 2022 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm with a Funeral Service at 12:00 pm officiated by Deacon Ammon Ripple, at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will follow at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery Morganza, MD.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's County Food Bank, First Saints Community Church 2550 Point Lookout Rd. Leonardtown, MD 20650. Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

### Phyllis Martha-Lynn Dixon



Phyllis Martha-Lynn Dixon, 75, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on August 22, 2022 at Hospice House of St. Mary's with her loving family by

her side.

"Lynn" was born on March 12, 1947 in Leonardtown, MD to the late Leonard Thomas Dixon and Phyllis Martha (Graves) Dixon.

Lynn worked as a Logistics Analyst for a Department of Defense Contractors for most of her career; the most recent and longest tenure was with CACI. Lynn said her fondest memories were of the time spent with her sister and their horses. Lynn also loved her various dogs. She was a good cook and a great baker. Lynn always honored family birthdays by baking each person's favorite cake. Lynn enjoyed sitting down and relaxing to a great movie, a glass of wine, and loved seafood. She enjoyed spending time with her friends, family, and reminiscing over her childhood adventures. Lynn had a great sense of humor, and we'll always remember her smiling.

Lynn was especially close with her niece, Denise Guy, nephew-in-law Ricky, and grand-nephews Kyle and Garrett. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by sister Ellen Carolyn Woodburn and her brothers Leonard Thomas Dixon Jr. and Daniel Floyd Dixon. She is also survived by sisters, Cheryl Ann Dixon and Lisa Wood both of Maryland.

Family will receive friends Wednesday, September 7, 2022 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 28297 Old Village Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659 with a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 a.m. celebrated by Father Michael Tietjen. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice House of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 and Mechanicsville Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 15, Mechanicsville, MD 20659.

Condolences to the family may be made at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## TRUE OR FALSE - PROBATE

Contributing Writer:  
Lynda J. Striegel

I have often heard from clients that they have a Will so their loved ones will not have to go through probate. True or false? False. When you die, if you are holding property in your sole name, that property must go through the probate process to be distributed to your loved ones. It doesn't matter whether you die intestate (without a Will) or with a Will.

What does holding property in my sole name mean? For real estate like your house or for cars and trucks, for example, the title to the property is in your name alone. If you hold any property this way and you die, then the property has to go through the probate process to be distributed to your loved ones.

The probate process in Maryland takes between 8-12 months. Why so long? One reason is that under the process, creditors are allowed 6 months to come in and claim against an estate. Another reason is pure chaos. When a person dies and a probate proceeding is required, the personal representative or executor has to find all of the person's property in order to report on it to the Register of Wills. Since many people are not at all organized about what they own, the personal representative has to reconstruct the estate before they report on it. One of the filings is called an "Inventory". This is a listing of all the property held by the deceased when they die. If the deceased has not been an organized person it can take a long time to figure out what they owned when they died.

For example, if the deceased has not left a detailed list of investments they have, often the only way to know for sure what the deceased owns when they die is to wait for the mail for at least 3 to 6 months for quarterly or semi-annual reports on dividends or interest. Keep in mind that all filings made during the probate process are publicly available.

What does the probate process require? It is a process where filings are made detailing the assets and liabilities of the estate, the expenses of the estate and the monies left over to be distributed to the beneficiaries of the estate.

There is administrative probate, which is where the executor of the estate makes filings with the Register of Wills, or judicial probate, where the filings are made with the Orphan's Court. If a beneficiary challenges the Will or any filings made by the personal representative, the matter goes to judicial probate where the Orphan's Court judges decide on the challenge. Without challenges, most probates are administrative. To find out what filings are necessary in a probate proceeding, go to the Register of Wills website.

Some clients say that the personal representative has no liability for making filings in a probate proceeding. False. The personal representative is a fiduciary—that means they are under a duty to settle and distribute the estate in accordance with the terms of the Will and the law. Fiduciaries cannot act in their own self-interest. They must make sure investments are reasonable and monitored and they must make full and accurate reports to the Register of Wills or Orphan's Court.

Most people faced with the duties of a personal representative consult an attorney and ask them for help to prepare the reports for filing. This costs money in legal fees, but gives the personal representative some comfort that they are correctly performing their duties.

What about "registering" your Will with the Register of Wills. Clients have said that

their Will is not effective because it has not been "registered" with the Register of Wills. False. A Will doesn't have to be filed with the Register of Wills or the Orphan's Court to be effective. If you think you will lose your Will, then paying a small fee to the Register of Wills office to keep your original on file is a convenience to you. Otherwise, the effectiveness of a Will depends on whether it is properly executed, not whether it is filed somewhere. You can keep your Will in a safe place. But, the original Will is necessary to open the probate proceeding so make sure your loved ones can find it.

Some clients have said "I don't need a Will because everything will go to my spouse when I die." False. If you die without a Will and you have a spouse and children, then the estate (property held in your sole name) will go 50-50 to the spouse and the children. The only way your estate will go solely to your spouse when you die is if you have said so in your Will.

If all of your property is held in joint name with your spouse and you die then your spouse will take sole ownership of the property. And, there will be no probate because you have not held any property in sole name when you die. So, with a married couple, it is not unusual for one spouse to die and leave everything to the other spouse and have no probate. However, when the surviving spouse dies holding all the property in their sole name there will be probate.

If your Will says your personal representative doesn't have to file a bond, that means no bond is required. False. Even if the Will says no bond, the Register of Wills requires a nominal bond be filed, usually costing the estate \$100.

The only clear alternative to probate is a Living Trust. True. With a Living Trust, all property of the deceased has been placed into the name of that person's trust so that when they die there is no property held in sole name, so no probate. The person creating and funding the trust is called the Grantor and the Grantor may also be the Trustee. When the Grantor/Trustee dies, a successor trustee is appointed under the trust to take over. Having a Living Trust is the only way to avoid probate. But, the Living Trust provides other benefits. First, it is private, transfers to beneficiaries are immediate (no waiting 8-12 months) and there are no legal fees upon such transfers. With a Living Trust all property is accounted for when creating the trust so there is no chaos trying to figure out what a person owns when he or she dies—it's all set forth in the trust.

The Living Trust also offers protection is a Trustee is incapacitated. In that event, the successor trustee simply uses all the assets in the trust for the benefit of the incapacitated person without having to do more. Can there be probate even if a person has a Living Trust? Yes, if the person has forgotten to place property into the name of the trust, that property must go through probate. However, a different form of will, called a "pour over" will is used in the probate process. This will states that the Living Trust is the guiding principal for the disposition of assets.

The probate process needs to be understood by anyone considering whether or not to create a will or a living trust.

Join us for our free seminar on Wednesday August 15th at 11am our offices at 8906 Bay Avenue in North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to save your spot. See you there.

# Fall Home & Garden

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## HOME IMPROVEMENTS OVER THE WEEKEND

Home improvement projects ramp up when the weather warms up, as homeowners channel the rejuvenating feelings of spring and tackle their home to-do lists. Large-scale renovations can greatly affect a home, but smaller projects can yield impressive results and be completed over the course of a single weekend.

If time is of the essence, these weekend or one-day projects may satisfy homeowners' desires to fix up their homes.

- **Create an accent wall.**

Painting a focal wall in a home can create a serious impact. The bonus is it will not take as long or require as many materials as painting an entire room. Accent walls frequently feature a bold color, so decide on placement and tackle this project in less than a day.

- **Install stair runners.**

Dress up hardwood stairs with decorative carpet runners. Runners come in elongated pieces of carpeting or individual pieces that can be placed on each step. If carpeting doesn't fit with the home's design, painting individual stair treads also can create visual appeal.

- **Dress up the entryway.**

An entryway is a guest's first impression of a home. Many entryways can use a minor overhaul, both inside and outside. Paint the front door a different color so it pops from the curb. Install a new mailbox or decorative house numbers. A new welcome mat can change the look as well. Inside, consider laying a new floor. Resilient vinyl tiles come in many different patterns and can mimic the look of wood, travertine or marble. Installing a floor can take a day or

two.

- **Install a new faucet.**

Instantly improve a kitchen or a bathroom with new fixtures. New faucets can provide aesthetic appeal and low-flow faucets can help conserve water.

- **Create a gallery on the staircase.**

Gather and arrange framed photos, artwork or wall accents so that they ascend the wall of a staircase. This creates a designer touch and can dress up an often barren area of wall space.

- **Install a fresh light fixture.**

Improve drab spaces with a little illumination. Better Homes & Gardens suggests replacing an existing fixture with something new and vibrant. If hanging a new fixture is not within one's skill set, free-stand-

ing table or floor lamps also can cast a new glow on a space.

- **Add molding.**

Molding can add instant aesthetic appeal to a room. Molding is appropriate near the floor, at the top of walls where they meet the ceiling, or even mid-wall as a chair rail. Some homeowners like to create framed molding on walls in formal living spaces.

- **Update kitchen or bathroom hardware.**

Replacing hardware is a fast and easy project, but one that can have immediate impact. Swap out tired or outdated hardware for newer brushed metals and more impactful shapes and designs.

Home renovations do not need to take weeks or months. Many projects can be completed over the course of a weekend.

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# Prepare Your Deck For Winter

Homeowners often take steps to winterize the interior of their homes in the weeks before winter's arrival, but such efforts should extend to the outside of a home as well.

Decks make for great gathering places when the weather permits. Decks are where many people spend their free time and eat their meals come spring and summer, when the temperatures climb and the sun sets well into the evening. But as summer turns to fall, homeowners must take measures to protect their decks from potentially harsh winter weather.

- **Inspect the deck for problems.**

Decks tend to be used more often in summer than any other time of year. That makes fall and early winter an ideal time to inspect for wear and tear and any additional issues that may have cropped up throughout the summer. Damaged boards and loose handrails should be fixed before winter arrives, especially for homeowners who plan to use their decks in winter. Fixing such issues in winter and even into spring may be difficult thanks to harsh conditions, so make good use of the relatively

calm autumn weather to fix any issues on the deck.

- **Clear the deck of potted plants.**

Even homeowners who intend to use their decks in winter should remove potted plants from the deck in the fall. The home improvement experts at HGTV note that moisture can get trapped between deck boards and plastic, wood or ceramic containers in cold weather, and that can contribute to mildew, discoloration or decay.

- **Store unnecessary furniture.**

Home owners who like to sit on their decks in winter will no doubt want to leave some furniture out over the winter. But those with lots of furniture for entertaining guests can likely move the majority of that furniture into a garage or shed for the winter. HGTV notes that doing so will prevent the potential formation of blemishes on the deck that can result from inconsistent weathering.

Homeowners who take steps to protect their decks throughout the winter months can ensure these popular areas are ready once entertaining season returns in the spring.

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# Stay safe around power lines

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

- Never climb power poles or trees near power lines.
- Keep equipment away from overhead lines when carrying ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning tools.
- If you are doing work close to power lines—such as trimming trees, working on your roof, or doing exterior renovations—keep yourself, your ladder and anything you are handling a safe distance from the power line.

Most neighborhoods have underground electric lines. Call **Miss Utility** at **811** before you dig.

- Contact SMECO to disconnect power if you are doing work that requires close contact with overhead lines attached to your home.

- Use a licensed electrician for all electrical work.
- Plant trees away from overhead and underground power lines.

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# Did You Know?



Gardening enthusiasts recognize that fall is not a time to rest on their laurels. In fact, fall is a great season to spend time in the yard. The Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment at the University of Massachusetts Amherst indicates fall is the ideal time to improve the soil for next season. Amending the soil in the fall allows it to react accordingly over time and reap the benefits in spring. UMass suggests getting an accurate soil test to see what is needed in the garden. Samples should be taken from various areas. Avoid doing so when the soil is very wet. At-home kits can test for nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous and determine the

soil's pH. Gardeners should till the soil and add compost or manure, which will counteract many nutritional deficiencies. Worm castings also are good to add, particularly for summer vegetable gardens. The gardening company Park Seed says that worm castings are high in minerals and effective at holding water – so much so that they even can be used alone in place of potting soil. Crushed egg shells, coffee grounds and banana peels also can be added in the fall, even if they are not part of a compost pile. The nutrients will break down throughout the fall and winter, and be available just in time for summer plantings.



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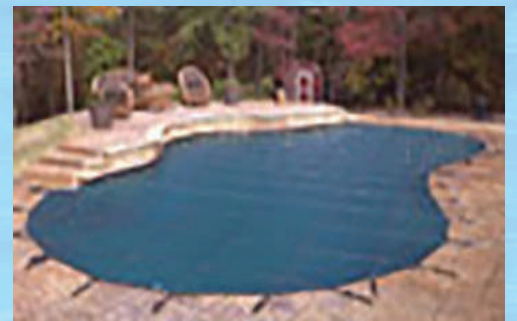
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September  
2-4

## Friday, September 2nd

**10 a.m. – 7 p.m. The Old Jail Museum & Visitor's Center** will be open with extended hours for First Friday – facebook.com/theoldjailmuseum

**10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Pax Adventure Center** - Canoe & Kayak rentals at Leonardtown Wharf or McIntosh Run First Pick Up 10am Last Pick Up 4pm - pacpaddle.com

**10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Shepherd's Old Field Market** specials throughout the Market - shepherdsoldfield.com

**10 a.m. – 7 p.m. The Good Earth Natural Foods Co.** – extended hours and Art Walk inspired “Blue & Gold” smoothie – goodearthnaturals.com

**5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Board & Brush** – First Friday Make & Take - boardandbrush.com/leonardtown

**5 p.m. – 8 p.m. St. Mary's County Arts Council** – Dog Days of Summer Community Art Show (show extended for September) and free activities & spray paint art demo (no drum line until next year)– stmarysartscouncil.com

**5 p.m. - 8 p.m. North End Gallery** – 35th Anniversary Butterfly themed Show - northendgallery.com

**5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Local Businesses** – Art Walk 2022 - stmarysartscouncil.com

**5 p.m. to 10 p.m. FREE Trolley Rides from Patuxent Transportation** - visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtowntrolley

**5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Leonardtown Square** – Leonardtown Summer Music Festival Presents: Higher Standards Jazz Trio performs for A&E FF – visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownmusicfest

**5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Port of Leonardtown Winery** – Music provided by Unfinished Business, Food provided by Calvert Crabs, the S'More the Better, Finer Sweets Bakery – facebook.com/portoftownwine

**6 p.m. – 7 p.m. St. Mary's County Arts Council** - Drum Circle in the grass outside the Arts Council Building - stmarysartscouncil.com

**6 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. eliv8** – “A&E” First Friday cycling event - facebook.com/eliv8somd

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Wine & Design** - Kids Open Studio - facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Yellow Line Studio** – Silkscreen & printmaking class (this activity is open to all ages) – facebook.com/theyellowline.co

**7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. Alice in Leonardtown Ribbon Cutting & Movie Festival** - LTown Alley at the Alice in Leonardtown Mural on Park Avenue – visitLeonardtownMD.com/leonardtownae

**8:00 p.m. – 11 p.m. The Rex Restaurant & Bar** – Live music featuring Levi Stephens Performance - facebook.com/therexleonardtown

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## Saturday, September 3rd

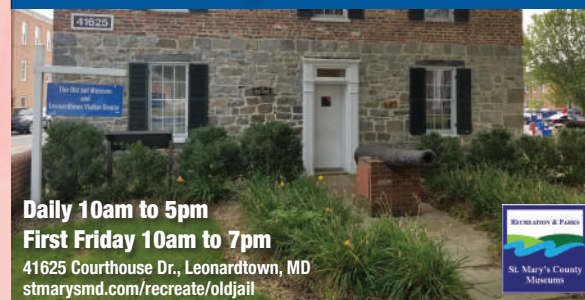
- 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. 1st Annual Sidewalk Art Contest**, Leonardtown Wharf - visitLeonardtownMD.com/leonardtownae
- 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Wine & Design** – Sip & Paint Open Studio – choose your own artwork - facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd
- 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Old Jail Museum & Visitor's Center** will be open Saturday – facebook.com/theoldjailmuseum
- 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Pax Adventure Center** - Canoe & Kayak rentals at Leonardtown Wharf or McIntosh Run First Pick Up 10am Last Pick Up 4pm - pacpaddle.com
- 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Shepherd's Old Field Market** specials throughout the Market - shepherdsoldfield.com
- 2 p.m. – 8 p.m. FREE Trolley Rides from Patuxent Transportation** - visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownrolley
- 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Earthwise Pets** - Pet Adoptions – facebook.com/earthwisepetleonardtown
- 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. Southern Maryland Seaplanes** – Seaplane rides at the Wharf – southernmarylandseaplanes.com
- 1 p.m. Pick Your Own Project Workshop, Board & Brush** - boardandbrush.com/leonardtown
- 3p.m. – 6 p.m. Port of Leonardtown Winery** - Live Music at POL Winery featuring Justin Allen, food provided by Heidi's Eats & Sage's Treats - polwinery.com
- 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. On the Water's Edge concert** Featuring Robbie Boothe, John Zimmerman and Billy Breslin, Leonardtown Wharf - visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownmusicfest
- 5:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. Sunset Cruises at the Wharf with Captain Phil of Fish the Bay Charters** courtesy of Visit St. Mary's – visitstmarysmd.com/cruises

## Sunday, September 4th

- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Old Jail Museum open Sunday** - facebook.com/theoldjailmuseum
- 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Pax Adventure Center** - Canoe & Kayak rentals at Leonardtown Wharf or McIntosh Run First Pick Up 10am Last Pick Up 4pm - pacpaddle.com
- 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Shepherd's Old Field Market** specials throughout the Market - shepherdsoldfield.com
- 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Burdergarten at Shepherd's Old Field Market** - Viking Axe Throwing in the beer garden- brudergarten.com
- 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Wine & Design** – Sip & Paint Open Studio – choose your own artwork - facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd
- 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Kids Open Studio** – choose your own artwork - facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd
- 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. Port of Leonardtown Winery** – live music featuring Jazz Trotters Food provided by Chaptico Market food truck. - polwinery.com
- 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. Southern Maryland Seaplanes** – Seaplane rides at the Wharf – southernmarylandseaplanes.com

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## The Old Jail Museum



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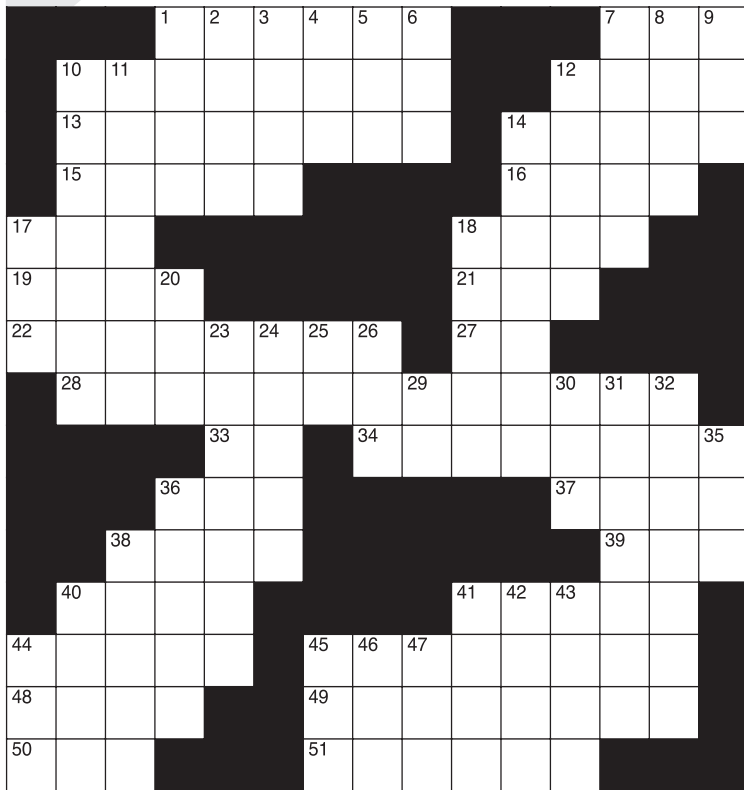


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# GAMES & PUZZLES



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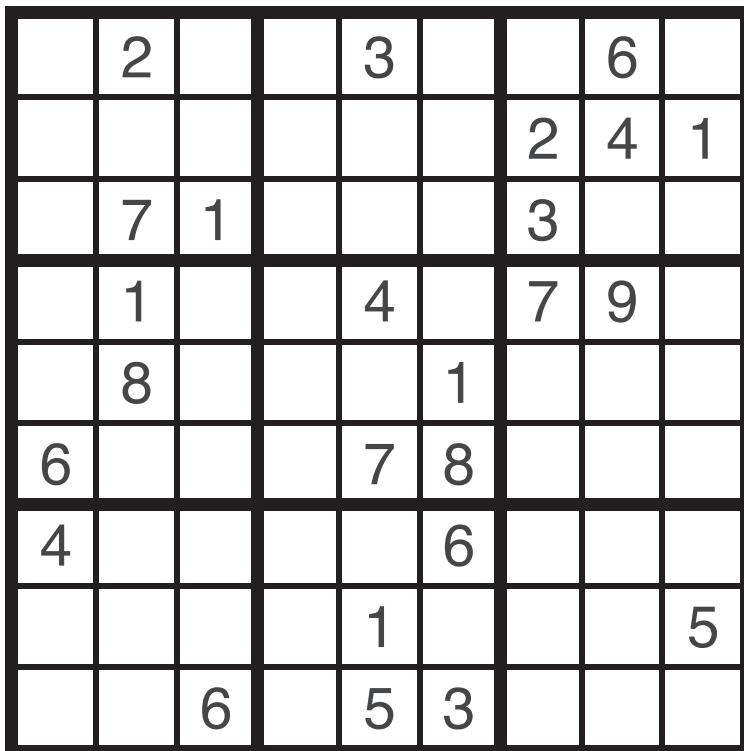
- 1. Grievous
- 7. Queens ballplayer
- 10. Honorable title
- 12. Created
- 13. Grillmasters do it
- 14. Wartime German cargo ship
- 15. Cocoplum
- 16. Hebrew calendar month
- 17. British thermal unit
- 18. Brews
- 19. One of Thor's names
- 21. Decorative scarf
- 22. Clothes
- 27. -\_\_\_: denotes past
- 28. A way to address a lover
- 33. Commercial
- 34. Utters repeatedly
- 36. Google certification (abbr.)
- 37. Taxis
- 38. Belgian village in Antwerp

- 39. Talk excessively
- 40. Broad volcanic crater
- 41. Surgical instrument
- 44. Listens to
- 45. Revelation of a fact
- 48. Paddles
- 49. Heard
- 50. Tooth caregiver
- 51. Metric capacity units

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Protein-rich liquids
- 2. Musician Clapton
- 3. Wine
- 4. When you hope to arrive
- 5. Something one can get stuck in
- 6. Midway between east and southeast
- 7. Mothers
- 8. German river
- 9. Israeli city \_\_\_ Aviv
- 10. Discharged
- 11. Areas near the retina
- 12. Greek mythological sorceress
- 14. Very unpleasant

- smell
- 17. "\_\_\_ Humbug!"
- 18. White poplar
- 20. Journalist Tarbell
- 23. Teachers
- 24. One older than you
- 25. Long Russian river
- 26. Run batted in
- 29. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 30. Holiday (informal)
- 31. Furniture with open shelves
- 32. Argued
- 35. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 36. Cars have them
- 38. Volcanic craters
- 40. Made of fermented honey and water
- 41. Shelter for mammals or birds
- 42. One who utilizes
- 43. Moves swiftly on foot
- 44. Builder's trough
- 45. Architectural wing
- 46. 12
- 47. Pacific Standard Time



**LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**



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

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



**County Times**

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# Christ Church Jousts for 155<sup>th</sup> Time



Old Glory led the jousting tournament opening parade.



Christ Church, Port Republic Pastor Rev. Christopher Garcia donned colonial garb in honor of the parish's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



The Calvert County flag was prominent in the opening parade.



Horses and riders participated in four classes: professional, semi-professional, amateur and novice.

## Samuel "Jack" John Hammett



Samuel John Hammett, 92, better known as Jack, of Prince Frederick, Maryland passed away peacefully with his family by his side on August 28, 2022. Jack was

born on March 6, 1930, in Prince Frederick, Maryland, to Samuel Biscoe and Mattie Lyle Lusby Hammett.

He worked at a very young age on the family farm in Bowensville, and worked many jobs while attending Calvert High School to help support his family. He worked for Abe Goldstein and George W. Dorsey Company before joining Amos Bowen in Bowen and Hammett Construction Company. Later, he founded Hammett's Building Services. His successful company of fifty plus years built many beautiful homes and buildings seen throughout Calvert County.

Jack was very busy, but over his lifetime he took time to serve his county well. He was a founder of The Calverton School, a sixty-year member of the Calvert County Lions Club and served on the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative for thirty years. He was a life member of the Calvert County Historical Society. He was a member of the Calvert County Fire and Rescue Commission as well as the Maryland State

Fire Prevention Commission and many other commissions and boards. He served in the Maryland National Guard. He attended Trinity United Methodist Church in Prince Frederick.

Jack did enjoy his life, especially flying his airplane, boating, crabbing and sharing his catch every Sunday with his family. He enjoyed people and keeping in touch with his friends.

He is survived by his wife, Faye, of seventy-two years, his daughter Lonnie Frank, son-in-law Jon, his son Gary, daughter-in-law Marcia, grandsons Chas Frank (Jennifer), Ben Frank (Joanna), Jesse Hammett (Kirsten), Adam Hammett (Sarah), great grandchildren Sam Frank, Lucy Frank and Summer Hammett as well as many nieces and nephews.

Jack is preceded in death by his parents, his sisters, Betty Dorsey and Virginia Pararan, and brothers, Oscar, Clay and Bill, and his daughter, Tamara Bowen Hammett.

The family will receive relatives and friends from 4:00 to 7:00 on Friday, September 2, and on Saturday, September 3, 10:00 to 11:00, at Trinity United Methodist Church, Prince Frederick, Maryland.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, September 3, at 11:00 at Trinity United Methodist Church, officiated by Reverend James Swecker. Interment will be at Central Cemetery, Prince Frederick, Maryland.

Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church, 90 Church Street, Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678, or to a charity of your choice.

## Pet OF THE WEEK



## MEET CLAUDIA

Time spent with cats

Is never wasted.

-Sigmund Freud

Hello, my name is Claudia. If you are looking for a MELLOW COMPANION then I'm the girl for you. My dear TCAS pals report that I'm 4 YEARS OLD, good with kids, other cats, and I REALLY ENJOY AFFECTION! If you are in need of some SERIOUS LOVING then we will be the perfect fit! I will compliment any size family and bring plenty of LOVE with me. Don't you wait, hurry and email [animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov](mailto:animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov) to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Tri-County Animal Shelter Southern MD or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/tri-county-animal-shelter>

## TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

# Big Conversation Asks 'Why Trauma?'

The Annual Big Conversation Forum is Sunday, Sept. 11 online from 2-5 p.m. The title of the forum is: Living and Coping with Trauma: The Unseen Force.

Pre-registration is through our partner Calvert Library at <https://calvertlibrary.libnet.info/event/7018570>

The forum will follow the format of a panel of two internationally renowned experts, followed by small breakout groups, led by trained facilitators, to discuss what was heard and how this topic impacts our local communities.

So why focus on trauma? How does trauma affect me and my community? Here are some reasons based on what the Big Conversation committee has learned from its year-long study of the topic.

- According to the American Psychological Association, approximately one half (50 percent) of all individuals will be exposed to at least one traumatic event in their lifetime and many survivors will experience long-lasting problems.
- Approximately 8 percent of survivors will develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- In the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, global prevalence of trauma triggered by anxiety and depression increased by a massive 25%, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), March 2022.
- The report cites that young people, women and people with pre-existing health problems were disproportionately affected.
- These statistics are more severe when one looks at the data for the marginalized. 60% of Black Americans will experience at least one incident of racial trauma in their lifetime.
- Native and Indigenous Americans report higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder than any other ethnic/racial group.
- Racist physical and verbal attacks on Asians and Pacific Islander people have spiked worldwide since the start of the Covid outbreak



- Research suggests that up to 43 percent of children have experienced at least one traumatic event in their lifetime. This percentage has risen considerably with the impact Covid.
- Black, Native American, and Latinx communities are impacted at disproportionate rates. COVID-19 is a "crisis on top of a crisis" that compounds the experience of racism and law enforcement discrimination, stigma, and implicit bias. The pandemic exacerbates gaps in quality of and access to technology, education, and health care and the demands of the workforce creating more trauma.

With Covid, we all have experienced some degree of trauma, but some experience racial trauma daily. How do we: recognize trauma, identify the stressors, understand how it affects the body and mind, cope, prevent it and stop the cycle of trauma in our culture? What do we need to know to address it in our southern Maryland community? What is our role? What community agency or services are tasked with addressing residents experiencing trauma? What training do they receive? How many suicides could be prevented if we addressed trauma correctly? How do our schools support children who experience a traumatic event? Or is trauma the "Unseen Force" in our lives and community?

This forum is in response to participants' requests to learn about racial trauma, prevention and healing.

*Press Release from Big Conversation.*

## CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of August 15, 2022 – August 21, 2022, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,275 calls for service throughout the community.

### Property Destruction: 22-46919

On August 15, 2022, Cpl. Y. Bortchevsky responded to the 500 block of English Oak Lane in Prince Frederick, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised sometime between Aug. 6 and Aug. 7, an unknown suspect (s) caused damage to four front windows of the residence and one screen using a suspected BB gun. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$570.

### Theft: 22-46837

On August 15, 2022, DFC Huy responded to the 1400 block of Skinners Turn Road in Owings, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between July 30 and August 13, an unknown suspect (s) stole the rear registration plate from the victim's vehicle. The estimated value of stolen property is \$50.

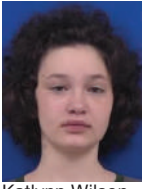
### Theft: 22-47309

On August 17, 2022, Master Deputy Flynn responded to Spa 1 Nails located at 352 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick, for the reported theft. The complainant advised the theft suspect received services to include a pedicure, exited the store without making payment, and stole the tip jar containing \$30 USD. The suspect is described as a black female with short yellow hair, 5'3" to 5'4" tall, approximately 20 to 30 years old, with a thin to medium build. The total value of stolen property is \$60.

### ARRESTS

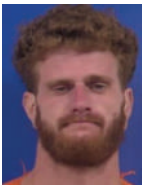
On August 17, 2022, DFC Krueger responded to the intersection of Pine Blvd. and Cathy Ct. in Lusby, for the report of an unoccupied vehicle in the roadway. Deputies arrived on the scene and located an unoccupied vehicle partially in a ditch with significant property damage. Investigation revealed, that the damaged vehicle matched the description of a suspect vehicle in a burglary that had occurred in the 500 block of Planters Wharf Road in Lusby, moments earlier. The operator, **Katlynn Renee Wilson**, 18 of Lusby, was later located at her residence and taken into custody. Wilson

was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with Burglary-4<sup>th</sup> Degree, Driving/Attempting to Drive a Motor Vehicle without a License, and Failure to Return/Remain at Scene of Accident.



Katlynn Wilson

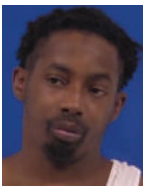
On August 19, 2022, Deputy Newton and DFC DeLeon responded to a traffic complaint for a vehicle all over the roadway. Upon making contact with the driver, **Zachary James Krenik**, 28 of Huntingtown, DFC DeLeon observed a plastic tie-off containing suspected crack cocaine on the driver's seat in plain view.



Zachary Krenik

A vehicle search revealed a glass pipe with freshly burnt ends containing a white powdery substance (suspected crack cocaine). Krenik was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Reckless Driving, Negligent Driving, and several other traffic-related charges.

On August 15, 2022, Deputy DeSantis conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for multiple traffic violations in the area of Stamper Court and Old Field Lane in Prince Frederick. A vehicle search revealed a measuring spoon containing a white powdery substance and a broken piece of glass with suspected crack cocaine residue. The passenger, **Lionel Mackall, Jr.**, 40 of Prince Frederick, was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Lionel Mackall Jr.

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# Retired Union Leader Reflects on Labor Day

## Talks About Changed Local Political Landscape

By Dick Myers  
Editor

Steve Zimmerman was the epitome of a union man for 47 years before his retirement from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 26, headquartered in Lanham with a satellite office in the industrial park on Route 231.

The Calvert County resident said of the upcoming Labor Day and its holiday weekend that people should think about “what labor’s given them. Labor is the one that brought on a 40-hour work week that goes back to the 1800’s.”

He added, “I want to thank labor on this holiday, because we wouldn’t have what we have today. The life we live, the conditions, the way we’re treated, they really need to look at that.”

“I came from a big labor family,” Zimmerman said. “My father was a sheet metal worker. He was a superintendent for a union company.” He was also involved in politics where they grew up in Prince George’s County and that interest in politics carried through to his son.

“My sister took dancing lessons with Gladys Spellman’s daughter,” he reminisced about the late Prince George’s political leader and congresswoman.

“I was 12 years old then,” he said, “and we had to go with my mom and knock on doors and deliver stuff for her. And that’s where it all started with me.”

He picked the electrical trade because, he said, “My father said that’s probably one of the easiest trades, the smartest trade to work out of. Sheet metal workers, you’re

beating and banging all the time. He said they (electrical workers) are a real intelligent trade and that’s what I got into.”

“I started out as summertime helper in 1968 at Watergate Apartments. Then I moved into the residential field for Local 26, wiring houses. And back then, you weren’t allowed to work in DC. All the residential people had to work out in Maryland wiring houses or three-story apartment buildings.”

Then he spent four years in an electrical apprenticeship and got his journeyman’s license, and “that’s how I moved up.”

“Back then, it was a real fraternal organization,” he said, adding, “you were told you had to vote Democratic or had to do this or that. I mean, it was just there were no question.”

So, Zimmerman was a lifelong Democrat, until recently. He admits he’s now registered Unaffiliated,

Out of his apprenticeship, at the age of 23, he was a subforeman at Chalk Point Power Plant and then moved up to general foreman. He was business agent in Southern Maryland for 12 years before his retirement.

“I really liked joining our membership up with good people. I really got involved heavy in politics then.”

Zimmerman mentioned all the loyal to labor Democrats he worked with, including the late Senator Mike Miller, Delegate Peter Murphy and Senator Barbara Mikulski.

Local 26, Zimmerman said in Calvert County, “We’re one of the largest building trades. Membership here in Calvert County is probably close to 600 members.”

“The problem is, not like it used to, we can’t get people to register to vote,” Zimmerman said.

“I headed up the Cove Point project for my local and the building trades,” he explained. “And I was vice chair of Democratic Central Committee down here. I went to them and said, look, I need people to come down and testify at these scoping hearings.”

“They wouldn’t represent us,” he said. “They wouldn’t come down there and help us.” He was told the environmentalist organizations were against it.

He said, “Since then, I’ve got a listing of all the members in Charles, St. Mary’s and Calvert County, and, with the exception of Charles County, everything’s swinging over.”

Now he said the majority of the rank-and-file union members in Calvert County are Republican.

He’s been friends with Buddy Hance for years. Hance told him he was running for county commissioner as a Republican (he too had been a long-time Democrat)

“I said, well, Buddy, I know how you feel. I’m getting the same thing with my members,” Zimmerman said.

He’s working on Hance’s reelection bid this year and the incumbent commissioner has IBEW’s endorsement.

“He still got the same morals that I have, the same feeling,” Zimmerman said. “He felt like the party’s left him and believe me, I feel bad.”

Zimmerman said when he first started in the union there was solidarity and members



Steve Zimmerman

refused to buy non-union products. They bought Fords, but then, he said, “these younger people from Calvert, Charles, St. Mary, they come in and they’re driving a Toyota car or Toyota truck.” He criticized them and a lot took offense.

“It’s getting harder and harder to recruit people to come in and spend five years in a thing,” he said. There’s a reluctance to make a commitment.

He said young people don’t care about a pitch for the benefits in being in a union, like health care. “When they’re 17, 18 years old, the kids are bulletproof. They didn’t care about that. They want to know how much you’d make in it.”

There’s a labor shortage. “We’ve reached out to everybody,” he said, including women. “When I went through apprenticeship, there weren’t any women,” he said, but over the years many excelled in the trades.

He doesn’t think, however, that labor unions are in jeopardy. But, he said, “I think it needs to be taught a different way.”

They need to go back to their roots, he said, how things were when he started. “They need to look back at what made this thing, the greatest labor movement in the world, and they’re not doing it. They’re just sitting there going, nah, we can’t do that anymore.”

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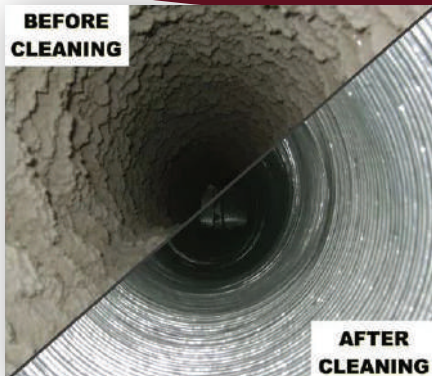
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## Calvert Country Has a Beagle Invasion



Beagles arriving in Calvert County

By Dick Myers  
Editor

They are the definition of cute. And the Humane Society of Calvert County (HSCC) has them. Twenty to be exact. They are beagle puppies, part of the 4,000 rescued from a “mass breeding facility that has received multiple violations for issues such as inadequate veterinary care and insufficient food,” according to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

The national organization effected the rescue from the facility in rural Virginia and is partnering with humane organizations across the country, like HSCC, to take them in and find new homes for them.

“We’re one of the Humane Society of the United States partners,” said HSCC President Tanya Gott. “So, when we saw they were looking for rescue partners to take some of the beagles, we immediately stepped up and said we would love to help.”

Gott said she and the shelter manager of their Sunderland facility talked about their space availability, and “we told them how many we thought we could take.” They arrived on Aug. 23 and have been spread out among foster homes and at their shelter.

“They’re absolutely adorable,” Gott said. They arrived in travel crates in a van. “We went in and got all 20 of them and put them in one of our big play yards and they ran and played and just had the best time.”

Gott said all of the puppies were born this year, so they are all less

than a year old.

Some people may think that beagles are hunting dogs, not suitable to be companion animals, living in homes. Gott said, “I’d say that is the farthest from the truth. I think they’re a very fun, loving, personable breed, a great family dog. Their personalities just are playful. She added, “They do like to have their noses to the ground, but they are very friendly, a very docile type of dog.”

“They’re an easy, low maintenance dog, just an all-around, well-rounded breed.”

“We have gotten a few adopted,” she said, “We have several applications coming in and several foster failures coming through.”

If you’re interested, Gott said to go to their website, [www.humane-societyofcalvertcounty.org](http://www.humane-societyofcalvertcounty.org) and fill out a beagle application. “We will call you and have you come in and meet them?”

Since COVID the HSCC shelter at 2210 Dalrymple Road in Sunderland is only open by appointment. Call 410-257-4908.

“Beaglemania has kind of taken over, but we do have some other longer-term residents there that are just great dogs. So, we want people to take a look at our website and look at some of our other dogs as well,” Gott said.

And they’re always looking for volunteers. There’s a link on their website to apply. “You can volunteer to do dog walking. You can volunteer to do transports to vets or appointments, help clean up. There’s always something to do down there.”

*dickmyers@countytimes.net*

# Changes Proposed to County Ethics Code

*Most Mandated by the State*

By Dick Myers  
Editor

A proposal for 14 changes to the Calvert County Ethics Ordinance will be headed to public hearing after a presentation at the Aug. 29 county commissioner meeting. Eleven of the changes are mandated by the state and the other three are optional.

County Attorney John Norris wrote in a memo: "The importance of the role of the Ethics Commission cannot be overstated. The General Assembly wrote '... our system of representative government is dependent on maintaining the highest trust by the people in their government officials and employees, finds and declares that the people have a right to be assured that the impartiality and independent judgment of those officials and employees will be maintained'."

Norris went on to write: "The Calvert County Ethics Commission has delegated authority to implement the local Ethics Code and recommend actions to uphold the public trust. The Ethics Commission



seeks amendment to the local Ethics Code required by changes to State law, and some that have been recommended by the State Ethics Commission."

Norris advised, "The State Ethics Commission has reviewed and approved the proposed amendments subject to a future public hearing and your subsequent approval."

At the Aug. 29 meeting, Associate County Attorney Pamela Lucas made the presentation and Norris was available on Zoom.

The optional amendments include:

- Excluding exchange-traded

funds and mutual funds from the definition of an "interest." The rationale: "exchange-traded funds and mutual funds are not under sufficient control of a filer to warrant diluting the financial disclosure statement with this extraneous information."

- Requiring that "lobbyists who serve on county boards and commissions and are disqualified from participating in a specific matter, to file a statement of recusal."

- "To begin to plan for the public being provided internet access, through an online registration system, to the financial disclosure statements submitted by lo-

cal elected officials, candidates for office, and heads of principal departments."

The proposals include a "mandatory amendment (that) creates a 'reverse' post-employment restriction of one-year for lobbyists who become officials or employees. This does not apply to uncompensated or minimally compensated (less than \$10,000) board or commission member or elected official."

Another amendment prohibits the acceptance of gifts from associations engaged in representing counties or municipal corporations.

Still another amendment prohibits "retaliation against an individual for reporting or participating in an investigation of a potential violation of the Calvert County Ethics Code."

A complete description of the 14 amendments is available in the presentation on item VII.1 on the Aug. 29 agenda on the county website.

[dickmyers@countytimes.net](mailto:dickmyers@countytimes.net)

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# Election Locations to Remain the Same

Officials Hope for Early Vote Counting

By Dick Myers  
 Editor

The 20 polling precincts in the primary election, down from 24 in previous years, will remain the same for the November General Election. That was the word from Elections Administrator Gail Hatfield in an Aug. 29 update for the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

The number of precincts shrank in the 2022 primary because several schools were not available, due to construction, as they had been in the past. But Hatfield said with the increase in the use of mail-in ballots and the success of early voting, the 20 locations might be enough going forward.

And Hatfield said she is an advocate for a smaller number of conveniently located polling centers. Where currently individuals should come to their precinct to vote, with polling centers, anyone in the county would be allowed to vote anywhere. Hatfield mentioned 10 such centers as a possibility.

Currently, if someone shows up to vote at a place that is not their precinct, Hatfield said they can vote a provisional ballot which will be tallied during the provisional vote count after the election.

Of the total of 20,408 votes cast on July 19, 5,861 were by mail-in ballot, compared to just 482 in 2020. Commissioner Mike Hart said, "I never saw that coming," but Hatfield responded, "I did." She said she anticipated twice that number in November and twice as many overall votes cast, based on past experience.

Even though that total vote count eclipsed the 15,630 cast in 2020, it was still a smaller percentage, 30.11 versus 31.07.

The vote count trickled in over a 10-day period following the July 19 primary because the mail-in ballot count could not begin until after election day.

Hatfield said, "Members of the Maryland State Board of Elections voted to file an emergency petition in circuit court to seek approval to canvass mail in ballots prior to Election Day (similar



to 2020 process). Maryland is currently the only state that forbids any kind of processing of mail in ballots until after Election Day."

Hatfield said she hopes the initiative will prevail.

Because of the non-partisan board of education race, Unaffiliated voters were allowed to cast ballots, but just 9.25 percent did so, or 1,511 votes, Hatfield reported.

As expected, Democrats took more advantage of the mail-in ballots than Republicans, while the GOP voters were more apt to appear in person on election day.

Both parties took advantage of early voting. The traditional early voting location in Prince Frederick was the most used, followed by the new location in a trailer behind Fairview Library. The location at Southern Community Center in Lusby had only 790 total voters. Hatfield feels the numbers will pick up in Lusby when people become aware of it.

The five drop box sites will also remain the same.

The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 18. Early voting will be Oct. 27 to Nov. 4. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot is Nov. 1. Election Day is Nov. 8.

Hatfield noted that the Nov. 8 ballot will contain five constitutional amendments, including the legalization of adult use and possession of marijuana.

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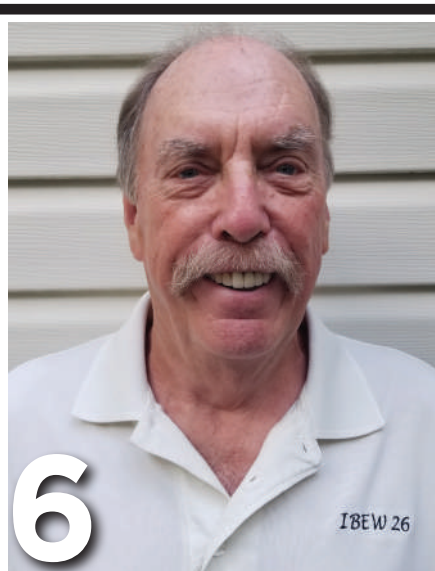
“THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF THE ETHICS COMMISSION CANNOT BE OVERSTATED.”  
 COUNTY ATTORNEY JOHN NORRIS ON PROPOSED CHANGES.



**LOCAL 5**  
 Humane Society of Calvert County has 20 beagle puppies available for adoption.



**COMMUNITY 8**  
 Christ Church hosts 155th jousting tournament



**6**  
 Steve Zimmerman reflects on Labor Day.

## WEEKLY FORECAST Provided by www.accuweather.com

THU 9/1	87° /65°	Plenty of sunshine	MON 9/5	88° /72°	Very warm with sunshine
FRI 9/2	86° /68°	Mostly sunny	TUE 9/6	86° /70°	Brilliant sunshine
SAT 9/3	88° /71°	Partly sunny and very warm	WED 9/7	88° /70°	High clouds and very warm
SUN 9/4	90° /71°	High clouds and hot	THU 9/8	85° /69°	Times of clouds and sun

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