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**VOTERS**  
\*\*\*\*\***GUIDE**\*\*\*\*\*

# St. Mary's **County Times**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022

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**“** We’ve seen some massive amounts written on these intercepted checks.”

Jason Babcock, spokesman for the county sheriff’s office on theft of checks from the mail.

Quilts of Valor



**LOCAL 4**  
Weech suspends comShots Fired in California Shopping Centemissioner president campaign.



**COMMUNITY 9**  
Quilts of Valor honors veterans



ON THE COVER

Postal Service, sheriff’s office investigating rampant check theft

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU 10/20	62° /41°	Brilliant sunshine	MON 10/24	71° /54°	Mostly cloudy
FRI 10/21	65° /45°	Plenty of sunshine	TUE 10/25	75° /52°	Plenty of sunshine
SAT 10/22	68° /48°	Plenty of sunshine	WED 10/26	75° /56°	A thunderstorm in spots
SUN 10/23	64° /51°	Times of sun and clouds	THU 10/27	69° /48°	Occasional rain

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# Shots Fired, One Hurt at Shopping Center



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

St. Mary's law officers responded to reports of shots being fired at the Patuxent Crossing Shopping Center, formerly known as San Souci Shopping Center, on MacArthur Boulevard Oct. 18, police reported, and later found a victim shot in the leg on Columbus Drive in Lexington Park.

The shooting occurred at the site of the shopping center that contained the post office, residents reported, at about 12:45 p.m.

Jason Babcock, sheriff's office spokesman, said the victim was transported to a hospital with non-life-threatening wounds.

There were multiple shots fired but just one shooter, Babcock said of what early reports indicated.

"There were a lot of witnesses and the investigation is continuing," Babcock said.

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

# Great Mills Post Office Moving

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The U.S. Postal Service has announced that it has decided to close the existing post office in Great Mills on Route 5 near the intersection with Great Mills Road, though it has yet to say exactly where the new post office will be.

In a letter to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, the postal service would only say that the new office would be in a "location as close as reasonably possible to the former location."

The post office located at 20210 Point Lookout Road has been in operation there for more than 40 years but now the landlord of the property has decided not to renew the lease, the missive to county leaders stated, which means the postal service must find a new retail site.

The letter to the commissioners was dated Sept. 27 but elected leaders received it Oct. 13.

The postal service plans to keep the current site open and operational for

customers, the letter stated, until the new site is opened.

"While the postal service is sensitive to the impact of this decision on its customers and the community, the postal service properly considered community input and this decision is consistent with postal service objectives," the missive reads. "Postal service operations are not supported by tax dollars.

"To be self-sustaining, the postal service must make decisions that ensure it provides adequate and affordable postal services in a manner that is as efficient and economical as possible."

The letter confirmed that the decision of the postal service to leave its current site in Great Mills was final and that no further appeals would be reviewed.

In March of 2021 the postal service communicated that they intended to move the facility to a new site of approximately 3,800 square feet in size.

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# Cameron to Lead Western Law Enforcement Agency

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

After approximately 16 years as Sheriff of St. Mary's County, Timothy K. Cameron has decided to take a position as Colonel of the Wyoming Highway Patrol.

Sgt. Jeremy Beck, spokesman for the Wyoming agency, said Cameron will begin leading the organization starting in January of 2023.

Cameron has spoken in recent months of seeking another law enforcement job, possibly out of state.

Capt. Steve Hall recently won the GOP primary to succeed Cameron as sheriff; there are no Democrat challengers

"I am honored to have been selected as the Colonel of the Wyoming Highway Patrol and am eager to assume the Administrator's duties," said Cameron in a prepared statement. "My appreciation to Governor [Mark] Gordon, Director Reiner, and all those involved in the selection process for the opportunity to live and work in Wyoming and be part of such an exemplary, storied agency."

In a later interview Cameron said past trips to the state made a significant impression on him, so much so that he wanted to find a way to live and work there.

"I was taken with the beauty, the grandeur and how huge it was," Cameron said of the Cowboy State. "It's all about a new adventure for me and for my wife."

Cameron said he envisioned this would be a "last post" for him in his long law enforcement career.

Cameron said he was impressed with the capabilities of the agency and found that citizens there hold it in high regard.

"It's not a huge agency but it has huge responsibility," Cameron said.

There are just 208 troopers in Wyoming, he said.

There are about 580,000 residents in Wyoming in an area of 98,000 square miles.

Wyoming Highway Patrol troopers are primarily focused on traffic enforcement, crash investigation but also provide physical security for the governor



and the state house.

The highway patrol also focuses on drug and human trafficking interdiction, Cameron said.

"It's going to be a complete learning curve for me," Cameron said. "I'm going to be learning all of this and doing it."

Wyoming officials said Cameron was selected after a lengthy process.

"Cameron's commitment to training and education are attributes that will help him succeed in his service to Wyoming," said Luke Reiner, director of the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT). "He has the demonstrated skillset, experience, and character to lead the best highway patrol organization in the nation."

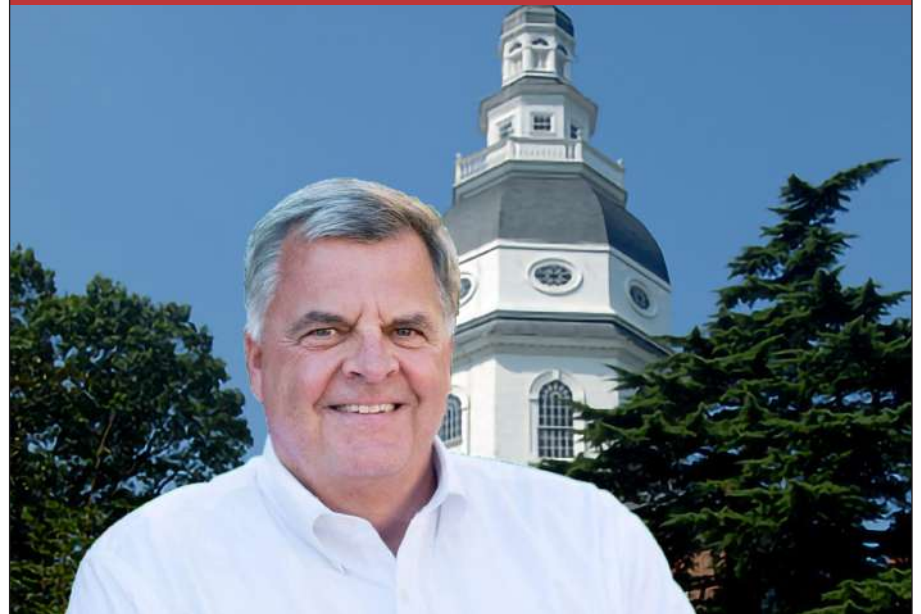
Cameron earned an undergraduate degree at Johns Hopkins University and a postgraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. In addition to his degrees, Cameron is a graduate of the National Sheriff's Institute, the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development course, the Maryland Police and Corrections Training Commissions Leadership Challenge, the Executive Leaders Program at Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security in California, and the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management in Policing Course at Boston University.

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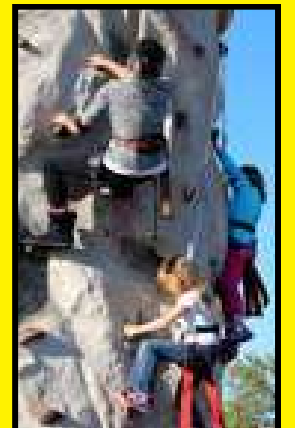
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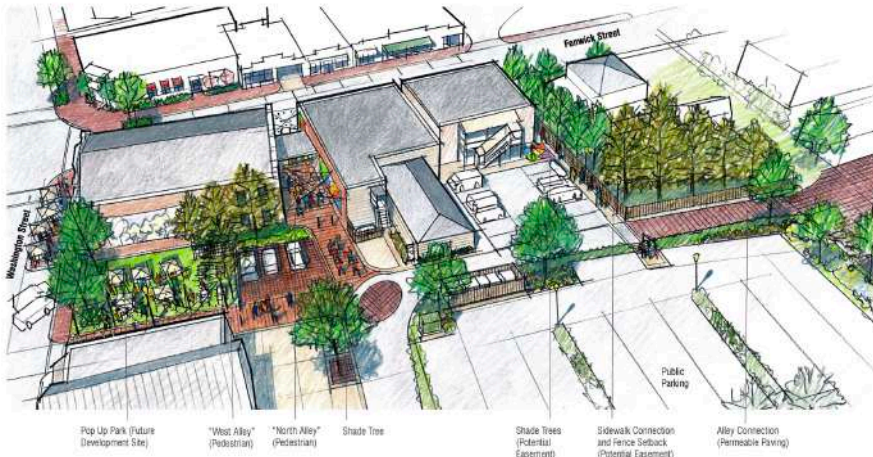
**www.KCAeagles.org ♦ Rain Date: November 12**

# “L’town Alley” Mural Project Nearing Completion

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

A public art project designed to bring even more attention to the downtown center of Leonardtown and its businesses is almost complete; the final mural of the L’Town Alley effort is set for a Nov. 3 ribbon cutting, said Town Administrator

Naluai. The second mural unveiled was in September — the “Alice in Leonardtown” mural — painted on the town-owned storage building situated across from the Good Earth Natural Food Store, painted by by artists Dan Ropp and Tom Rogers has many hidden Leonardtown objects



Laschelle McKay. “It’s designed to create a gathering space where people want to be,” McKay said. “It’s to connect people to the town square and to the businesses on Fenwick Street.”

It’s one of the next major steps in the far-reaching plan of the town to revitalize the town square in keeping with the town’s state designation as an official Arts and Entertainment district.

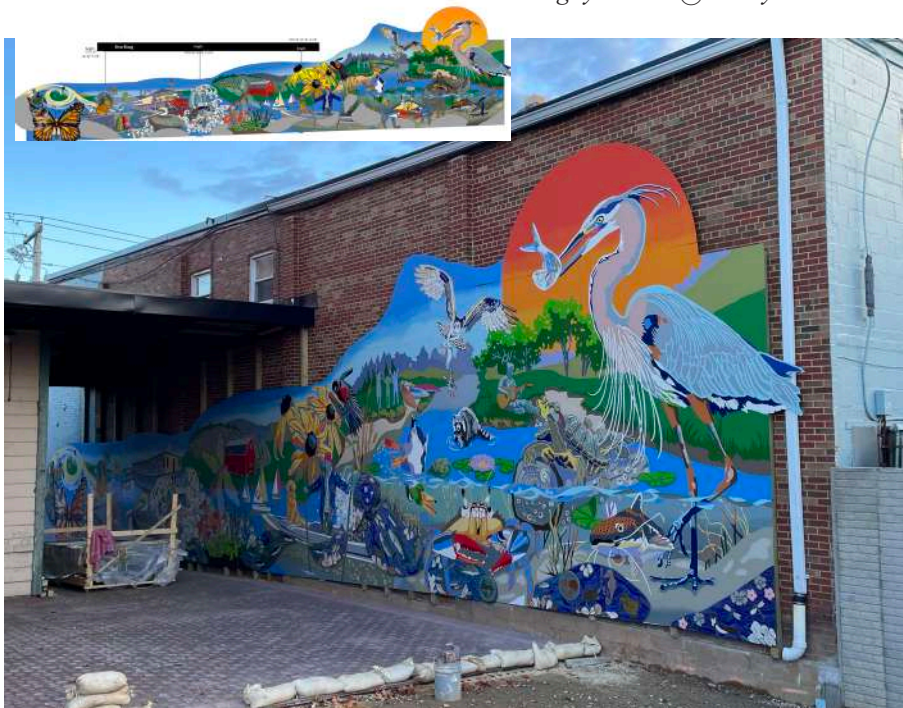
The murals in alleys surrounding the town square provide public-friendly gathering spaces but also sites for town-sanctioned public events, McKay said, which is another feature of the town’s push for more community activities centered in the down town.

The first mural was officially unveiled in June at the New View Fiber Works building; it was the “Where Art and Agriculture Meet” mural painted by Jamie

contained within. The final mural is “Bay Life: Legends and Lore” painted in the Duke Street alley This double walled mural project was conceived and created by a team of artists from North End Gallery: Toni Wolf, Sarah Houde, Jeanne Hammett, Denise Breitburg, Parran Collery, and Diana Manchak, with help from over 50 volunteers andfeaturing glass additions by Mary Ida Rolape.

The artwork is comprised of two mural panels “an 80-foot-long artistic love letter to the natural beauty of the St. Mary’s region on one wall, with a 20-foot-long celebration of Leonardtown history on the facing wall,” a town press release reads. “The design combines brightly painted scenes with undulating ceramic mosaic panels, creating a multi medium visual and tactile experience.”

guyleonard@countytimes.net



## Final Month to Ride the St. Clement’s Island Water Taxi

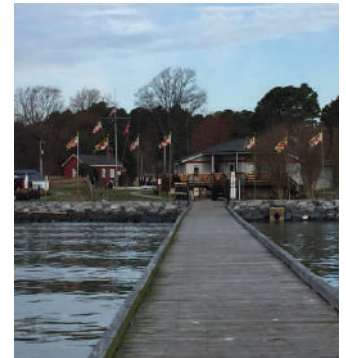
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# ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

## Identity Needed for Attempted Burglary to Motor Vehicle Suspect



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the person pictured in an attempted burglary to motor vehicle investigation. On Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022 at 3:33 am, the suspect attempted to gain access to several vehicles in Heard's Estates in Great Mills. The suspect appears to be a white female with shoulder-length hair.

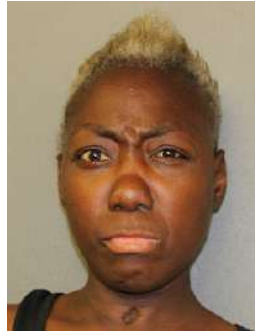
Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to call Deputy Zachary Jerew at 301-475-4200, ext. 78154 or email zachary.jerew@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case # 53102-22

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

### On View Arrests:

**Drug Arrest-** On October 6, 2022, Dep. Kirscht made contact with Vicki Marie Curtis, age 45 of Lexington Park, in the 21600 block of Great Mills Road in Lexington Park. Curtis had an out-

standing warrant for her arrest for the charge of Trespassing. Curtis was taken into custody and located in Curtis' possession was a suspected CDS smoking device containing suspected cocaine residue. Curtis was served the outstanding warrant and charged with CDS: Possession- Not Marijuana and CDS: Possession-Paraphernalia.



**Assault-** On October 8, 2022, Dep. Kril responded to the 21600 block of Great Mills Road in Lexington Park, for the reported fight in progress. As Dep. Kril was approaching



the scene she observed Thomas Lamont Harris, age 44 of Lexington Park, in the roadway attempting to assault the victim. Harris was impeding traffic and vehicles were forced to come to a stop in the roadway, to avoid striking Harris. Harris ultimately struck the victim, and was arrested. While in custody he continually pulled away from deputies on scene and continued to try and assault the victim. Harris was charged with Assault 2nd Degree and Disorderly Conduct.

**Trespassing-** On October 13, 2022, DFC. Wimberly responded to the 22700 block of Three Notch Road in California, for the reported trespassing. The employee requested Nadezda Valadinovhol Osipova, age 37 of no fixed address, be issued a no trespass order and leave the business property. Osipova was issued a no trespass notice and refused to leave the property. Osipova was arrested and charged with Trespassing: Private Property. (No Photograph Available)

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## Editor's Note

The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated.



# Firefighters Respond to St. Mary's College Fire



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

A fire at Calvert Hall at St. Mary's College of Maryland appears not to have injured anyone, college officials said Oct. 17, the same day the fire occurred. Calvert Hall housed many administra-

tive functions at the college but had been vacated by students and staff for several months for renovations.

The call for smoke in the building first went out at about 1p.m. Monday.

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

# Resident Continues Demand for Action on Air BNBs



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Since October of 2020 Ellyne Brice Davis has complained of the continual operations of Air BNBs on her waterfront street in Leonardtown with apparently no satisfaction from the county government.

Davis, who ran this year for a seat on the Orphan's Court as a Republican, continued her call for action.

She lives with her husband, school board member Jim Davis, on Waterside Drive.

"At that time [Oct. of 2020] two Air BNBs operated in a 13-house span on our vintage, residential waterfront street in the critical area," Davis told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County at a Oct. 18 evening public forum in Leonardtown. "Now there are four of them."

Davis said it was "inevitable" that the Marriott hotel chain would partner with Air BNB to take the reservations for those guest stays.

"Once that happens will the commissioners finally agree that I live 15 feet away from a commercial motel?" Davis asked. "When one of the world's largest hotel chains... recognizes Air BNBs as commercial motels and the St. Mary's County attorney has ruled that Air BNBs are taxed as commercial then Air BNB must be a duck."

Davis has long argued that the Air BNB operating next door to her has negatively impacted her quality of life and her property; she said Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy walked her property with her two years ago to view her issue first hand.

She said at the forum that Guy had told her he might be able to propose a text amendment to the zoning ordinance to address the problem, specifically limiting stays at such establishments to one, month-long stay each.

Davis asked for restrictions on Air BNBs in St. Mary's in January of 2021 similar to what has been done in Chesapeake Beach in Calvert County, she said.

Davis said further communication from the commissioners has stated they need more time to study the issue before taking action.

Outraged residents of Abell got a zoning text amendment to regulate any further buildout of cannabis growing, processing and distributing facilities in rural areas of the county, Davis said.

She was waiting for similar results, she said.

"There's clearly a double standard here and I'm disappointed my issue has been treated in such a dismissive manner by the current commissioners," said Davis.

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## Josephine Green Lawrence



Our Sister, Mother, Grandmother, Great-grandmother, Great-great grandmother, Cousin, Aunt and Friend Josephine Green Lawrence transitioned to meet Our Heavenly

Father on Oct 9, 2022. She was born Josephine Ramage Cowan Holmes live upon the land; not at sea, on August 4th 1938 in Richmond Virginia to her loving parents Clifford Faxton Holmes Sr and Bertha Ilene Holmes also known as Ilene Holmes. Josephine's Nationality is American Chickahominy which is part of the Iroquois Nation.

At approximately 6 years old, the family moved to Washington, D.C. where she attended the public schools. Josephine was an athlete in high school.

She met Milton Ellsworth Green Sr at a dance. Years later the two entered into Holy Matrimony. This Union Created seven children: Deborah Joan, Milton Ellsworth Jr, Linda Denise, Antonio Tyrone, John Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Valiska, and Adrienne Ezell our blood cousin, lovingly cherished as our dear baby sister.

We have many wonderful memories of Josephine. She was a fantastic dancer. She enjoyed singing happy birthday to you on your birthday. She enjoyed creating delicious baked goods for friends and family. She loved going to bingo. And she enjoyed attending her church, where she frequently performed

solo hymns for the congregation.

Josephine remarried after her children left the nest to David Lawrence. And enjoyed many years of happiness.

She was preceded in death by her parents Clifford and Ilene Holmes; two brothers, Clifford Holmes Jr and Thomas Holmes, two sisters, Eileen Ezell and Naomi Teasley.

She is survived by two sisters and two brother n laws. Miriam Welch, Mary and Eugene Gleaton and Wilbert Teasley.

She leaves to mourn Milton Ellsworth Green Sr, seven children: Deborah (Charles) Small-Bey, Milton Green Jr, Linda Green, Antonio Green, John Green, Elizabeth Green, and Adrienne Ezell.

Grandsons: Joshua, Victor, Antoine, Elijah; Grand-daughters: Melody, Valiska, Naomi, Latoya, Taniqua, Tanea, Anna, Makayla; Great-grandsons: Preston, Dontrell, Noah, Antoine Jr; Great-grand-daughters: Valinda, Asia, Raylynn, Sharon, Melony, Harmony, Symphony, Alise, Aubree; Great-great-grandson Seption Faheem, as well as a host of cousins, nephews, nieces, and many great friends.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, October 20, 2022 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM, in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held on Friday, October 21, 2022 at 1:00 PM. Interment will be private.

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.

## Charles "Mark" Corbin



Charles "Mark" Corbin, 62, of Fayetteville, NC, formerly of Abell, MD, passed away in Fayetteville, NC on October 6, 2022 after a brief battle with cancer. Born on January 2, 1960 in Washington, D.C., he was the

son of the late Audrey Lucille Coffren Corbin and the late Charles W. Corbin. Mark grew up in District Heights, MD, and met his sweetheart and future wife, Sheila Rae Irvin Corbin, in 1975. They wed on September 8, 1979, and just recently celebrated their 43<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children Randy (Christine) Corbin of Martinsburg, WV, Megan Riley (Christopher) of Fayetteville, NC, and Dixie (Paul) Deehan of Honolulu, HI, five grandsons, Zakk (Alejandra) Corbin, his namesake, Jacob Charles Corbin, Gabriel Riley, Jackson Riley, and another namesake, Charles "Charlie" Deehan, and a great number of other family and friends. Mark was preceded in death by his brother and best friend, Kenith Laverne Corbin, Sr., in 1984.

## Frederick Norman "Freddie" Gass

Frederick Norman "Freddie" Gass, 81, of Colton's Point, MD passed away on October 11, 2022 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital.

Born July 31, 1941 in Leonardtown, MD, he was the son of the late Joseph Norman Gass and Mary Helen (Fauce) Gass. Freddie graduated from Holy Angels School, Margaret Brent High School, Charles County Community College and the School of Bank Management at the University of Virginia. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve and the Maryland Army National Guard from 1960 to 1966.

Freddie was employed in the finance and banking industry for over thirty years. His career began with G.A.C. Finance Corporation and ended as a vice president of Maryland National Bank (now known as Bank of America).

Freddie was a member of the American Legion Post 221 in Avenue, MD. His favorite hobby was restoring and refurbishing antique furniture. Freddie was an avid reader and history enthusiast, spending many hours at the library. He also enjoyed researching and documenting his family's ancestry.

Freddie is survived by his sisters, Linda A. D'Ambrosio (Louis "Lou") of East Islip, NY and Patricia C. "Patsy" Mattingly (Joseph G. "Mussie") of Chap-

Mark graduated from Suitland High School in 1978. He was an Account Manager for Mattos Pro Finishes, and was a past member of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Optimist Club. Mark loved boating, and he and Sheila would go out most every weekend. They also enjoyed taking family and friends on the boat. Mark was so proud of his three children and five grandsons, and he loved spending time with his family. He had a wonderful support network while battling his cancer, and he will be truly missed.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, October 18, 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 Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM in the funeral home chapel. Pallbearers will be: Randy Corbin, Jake Corbin, Paul Deehan, Chris Riley, Bruce Coffren, and Keith Coffren.

Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Cancer Society, your local hospice, or the Wounded Warrior Project.

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.

tico, MD; nieces and nephews, P. Lynn Trehern of Chaptico, MD, J. Christopher "Chris" Mattingly (Sheila Cullins) of Colton's Point, MD, M. Lisa Mattingly (Keith Fairfax) of Drayden, MD, Kelli M. Boswell (Michael "Mike") of Chaptico, MD, Karen M. D'Ambrosio (Bobby Gilmore) of East Islip, NY, Michele A. Ruggiero (Steven "Steve") of Selden, NY and Louis F. D'Ambrosio III (Jennifer "Jen") of East Islip, NY.

Family will receive friends on Monday, October 17, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at Holy Angels Catholic Church, Avenue, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Rev. Ryan Pineda at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Bushwood, MD.

Serving as pallbearers will be Chris Mattingly, Keith Fairfax, Mike Boswell, Louis D'Ambrosio III, Steve Ruggiero and Steve E. Gass, Sr.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 7, Avenue, MD 20609.



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# Check Theft Plaguing St. Mary's, Southern Maryland

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

For months county residents, businesses and community organizations have been victimized by check theft, being taken for sometimes thousands of dollars time and again.

Local law enforcement agencies have been investigating and warning residents to avoid sending checks in the mail but the thefts continue.

Officials with the U.S. Postal Inspectors Service have received local investigations begun by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office but have not released details of how the thefts are committed or if there are any potential suspects.

According to law enforcement and victims, the thieves are intercepting the checks, either at a postal center or from individual mail boxes and "washing" — or altering — the payee names and monetary amounts on the checks and then cashing them.

Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron said anyone using the mail to send checks should reconsider.

"Some habits die hard," Cameron said. "People would really have to consider the security of their sent mail with checks.

"This is clearly a focused ring of people doing this." "We've seen some massive amounts written on these intercepted checks," said Jason Babcock, spokesman for the county sheriff's office.

Dan Slade, a Leonardtown-based attorney, said several checks of his were stolen and altered in an attempt to bilk thousands from his accounts.

Only one check was fraudulently cashed, Slade said, but his bank was able to catch the rest.

"We were paying our monthly bills... and someone stole our checks," Slade told The County Times. "The next thing we knew we had checks being cashed all across the country."

The inconvenience of the thefts is coupled with paying a monitoring fee to the bank, Slade said — sometimes as much as an extra \$100 per month — to ensure against stolen checks being cashed.

"You get hit multiple times," Slade said. "You don't

consider that when you put your mail in the U.S. Postal Service."

One employee of a local federal contractor said their business had been taken for many checks that they had sent out to vendors, who went unpaid for a time because of the theft.

They said the check thefts meant the company had to shut down multiple accounts, reopen them and pay back those vendors who had gone without remuneration.

The company effectively had to pay double, they said, because of the theft scheme.

"What we've been told is it's unsafe to put checks in the mail," the employee said. "It's [check thefts] been bad in the area, there's a lot going on."

The theft has hurt their employers credit rating, they said, and even resulted in bounced checks.

"It's been a tremendous amount of work and a great deal of strain," the employee said.

The employee said they had heard reports that there was a theft ring operating out of the postal hub in Waldorf or elsewhere nearby; they had heard reports of local victims' checks being cashed as far away as Florida and Ohio.

The U.S. Postal Inspector's Office has not confirmed this.

Jeff Dronenberg, a Lexington Park resident, said two checks he sent out from the California and Lexington Park post offices to two separate destinations — Baltimore and Delaware — had only two things in common his name and the Waldorf postal facility.

"They never made it to their destinations," Dronenberg said. "They hit me for \$13,000; they hit accounts hard and they hit them quickly."

His money was insured by the federal government and he didn't lose a dime, Dronenberg said, but he will never send a check through the U.S. Postal Service again.

"I've stopped," Dronenberg said. "I will not send a check in the mail.

"The postal service is broken."

"The US Postal Inspection Service is currently investigating theft of US mail in St. Mary's County and the surrounding area," said postal inspection represen-

tative Michael Martel in a prepared statement. "The US Postal Inspection Service is investigating these incidents along with our local law enforcement partners and the US Postal Service Office of Inspector General.

"Unfortunately, we are unable to share any details at this time, as the investigation is active and ongoing."

Both Calvert and Charles county sheriff's offices have warned residents of the trend in thefts.

"The [Charles County Sheriff's Office] encourages citizens to use alternative means of money transfer, such as paying bills online or electronic transfers, as this crime trend remains active," one notice stated.

"It is imperative that citizens and businesses track the checks they have written and ensure that they have been cleared appropriately.

"By using these steps and remaining diligent, citizens can assist law enforcement in curbing this crime trend."

Charles warned their citizens last week while Calvert made their warning in mid-September.

The St. Mary's Sheriff's office released just a short list of recent check thefts.

In recent weeks deputies have taken reports from:

- a business at 44000 block of Airport Road
- an individual at 25000 block of Morganza Turner Road
- an individual at 28000 block of Three Notch Road
- an individual at 21000 block of Primrose Place
- an individual at 20000 block of Clarence Gass Road
- a business at 26000 block of Friendship School Road
- an individual at 43000 block of Redmond Road
- an individual at 21000 block of Morris Drive
- an individual at 43000 block of Airport View Drive
- an individual at 22000 block of Three Notch Road
- a business at 44000 block of Commerce Avenue

These instances are from the month of September alone, sheriff's officials said.

If you suspect you are a victim of mail theft you can report it to the US Postal Inspection Service by calling 1-877-876-2455 or online at [USPIS.gov/report](https://www.uspis.gov/report).

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✓ Partner w/ Sheriff & States Attorney to Address Gang Influence.

✓ Foster Strong Relationship with Navy & DOD at NAS Pax + WOLF

✓ I want to Fully Fund Schools, Sheriff's Office & First Responders

# Commissioners Push for Better Cell Service at Fairgrounds

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Cellular phone service at the St. Mary's County Fair Grounds has been lacking over the years but a new lease agreement authorized by the Commissioners of St. Marys' County this week with Verizon could help solve that

problem.

The agreement, which county commissioners unanimously approved at their Oct. 18 meeting, will allow Verizon to install commercial cellular reception equipment on the tower owned by the fairgrounds at no cost to the telecommunication magnate, which means an abatement of lease payments

for the next 12 years.

Commissioner Todd Morgan initially asked why the county would allow use of the publicly owned cell tower without paying what would come to \$250,000.

Bob Kelly, director of the Department of Information Technology, said the county was not in the "strongest

negotiating position."

"Verizon has a five-year plan and a 10-year plan," Kelly said. "This location was not in their five-year plan."

But the enhanced communication, and hence security, capability that would be afforded to the nearby cluster of Leonardtown middle and high schools as well as the Dr. James A. Forrest Technical Center as well as first responders and citizens at the fairgrounds outweighed the cost to the county, said Commissioner John O'Connor.

"I think we're actually making out on the deal economically," O'Connor said.

After 12 years the agreement calls for payments to the St. Mary's County Fair Board of \$24,000 a year for use of the cell phone tower.

Kelly said that the agreement should provide even better service as it moves ahead year over year.

"It'll be even better coverage next year as the antennae won't be 15 feet off the ground but about 140 feet high," Kelly said.

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



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By Authority Friends of Mike Hewitt, Chris King Treasurer

## Clements Convenience Center to Temporarily Close

The Department of Public Works & Transportation announces the Clements Convenience Center will be closed beginning Monday, Oct. 24, 2022, for approximately four weeks for renovation.

Residents may use the Charlotte Hall Convenience Center located at 37707 New Market Turner Road, or the Oakville Convenience Center at 26600 North Sandgates Road, during the closure.

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience while we upgrade the facility.

For information on convenience centers or the landfill, please visit <https://www.stmarysmd.com/dpw/Recycling-Solid-Waste/>



Pictured left to right:  
 Front Row: Alvin "Mick" Schmidt (Air Force - 4 years), Richard Hill (Navy - 20 years) and Marsha Kowlesaar (Navy - 6 years).  
 Back Row: Adam Miller (Navy - 22 years), Julian Nunez (Navy - 22 years), Joshua Massey (Navy - 7 years), Thomas Aven (Navy - 23 years), Purple Heart Recipient James Williams (Army - 30 years), Joseph Krowitz (Navy - 26 years), Annabelle Sanders (Navy - 5 years), Andrie Pugay ((Navy - 21 years) and Robert Burrows (Coast Guard - 6 years).

PAX Sound of Freedom is the Southern Maryland unit for the Quilts of Valor Foundation. The foundation is a non-profit organization established and operated in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. To date the national organization has presented 323,574 quilts to active duty personnel and veterans.

PAX Sound of Freedom gathers on the second Saturday of each month for a "Sew In" at St. George's Catholic Church in Valley Lee. Group presentations are held on the third Saturday of each month at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park. Arrangements can be made in advance for personal presentations if recipients are unable to attend a group presentation.

If you, a family member or friend served in the U.S. armed forces, you are entitled to receive a Quilt of Valor. If you have any questions about Quilts of Valor or are interested in volunteering to help the local group produce quilts, please contact PAX Sound of Freedom group leader, Cecilia Cooney, at (240) 925-4243 for additional information.

# Veterans Resource Day

Mission BBQ will be donating lunch at 12 p.m. for Veterans Resource Day Attendees

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

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**Presentation:**

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**10:30 a.m.**

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**For more information, contact Sarah Miller**

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 9:30 AM in the Chesapeake Building located at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown, Maryland to consider public input on updates to the County's Comprehensive Solid Waste Management and Recycling Plan.

The draft update can be viewed at: <http://go.boarddocs.com/md/stmarysco/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CJXJ3L4AF420>.

Those wishing to address the Commissioners may participate in-person, or by email, written correspondence, or prerecorded video submissions. The public hearing may be viewed on SMCG Channel 95 or the SMCG YouTube Channel.

In lieu of appearance, comments may be submitted via:

- Email: [csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov)
- U.S. Mail: PO Box 653 Leonardtown, MD 20650
- Submit a 3-minute video clip to [publicmtgs@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:publicmtgs@stmaryscountymd.gov) no later than 5:00 PM, November 22, 2022.

All submissions will be considered by the Commissioners at the Public Hearing and/or seven (7) days following the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing Guidelines are subject to change.

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with special needs will be provided upon request. In order to meet these requirements, we respectfully ask for one week's prior notice. Please contact the County Commissioners Office at 301-475-4200, Ext. 1340. Proceedings are televised live and/or recorded for later broadcast on television. All content of these proceedings is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Photographic and electronic audio and visual broadcasting and recording devices are used during the Commissioner's meetings. These are public meetings and attendance at these meetings automatically grants St. Mary's County Government permission to broadcast your audio and visual image.

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
By: James M. Gotsch, P.E. Director

## Commissioners of Leonardtown Fair Summary of Ordinance No. 211 and No. 212

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners of Leonardtown have passed, and the Mayor has approved, Ordinance No. 211 – Development Impact Fees and Ordinance No. 212 – Late Fees for Delinquent Utility Accounts. A fair summary of the ordinance will follow:

Ordinance No. 211 – Chapter 62. Development Impact Fees. An ordinance for the purpose of: increasing the amount of wastewater impact fees payable upon the issuance of occupancy permits in the Town of Leonardtown

Ordinance No. 212 – Chapter 150 – Water and Sewer of The Code of The Town of Leonardtown. An ordinance for the purpose of amending § 150-18 (Payments and Charges) of the Code of Leonardtown to provide for a late fee for delinquent utility accounts.

Ordinance No. 211 and Ordinance No. 212 - will become effective October 31, 2022. Full text of this ordinance may be obtained at the Town Office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or on-line on the Town's website at [www.Leonardtown.somd.com](http://www.Leonardtown.somd.com)

By Authority:  
Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator

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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**

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

## ST. MARY'S COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION

## VOTERS



## GUIDE

## St. Mary's County Board of Education

What is the top challenge or priority facing the school system?

**Marsha Williams**

One of the top challenges facing the school system will be meeting the standards of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. SMCPS will need to work towards the implementation of the Blueprint by making sure that schools are in compliance with meeting its policy areas: (1) early childhood education, (2) high-quality and diverse teachers and leaders; (3) college and career readiness pathways; (4) more resources to ensure all students are successful; and (5) governance and accountability.

**Dorothy Andrews**

The top priority facing the public school system is to ensure parents/guardians that reading and writing literacy has been achieved. Whether someone attends college or chooses a career or trade after high school, they will be successful. The challenge is how to implement it. It should be based upon completion of the third grade. It is achievable, but there are challenges. As a matter-of-fact, the State Board of Education has not released reading and writing assessment test scores. Our local school board must act. Why take tests if they are not reviewed and implemented to strengthen areas needing improvement.

What policies would you advocate for or change if elected?

**Marsha Williams**

Not all students will attend college after graduation. More focus should be given to career readiness and learning skills. Not only do students need to

learn the fundamentals: reading, writing, and math, but they also need to learn essential life skills such as financial literacy, job readiness skills, etc. Additionally, I would work towards increasing community partnerships in order to increase internships and externship opportunities.

**Dorothy Andrews**

I will advocate for a Parental Rights Bill giving parents the assurance that they have a strong voice when it comes to their children's lives in all health decisions, curriculum that is focused on the core subjects, history taught based on historical facts, and any social justice or gender identity issues be left out of schools because it is the parents right to teach based on their morals and convictions.

What would you do about discipline problems in school?

**Marsha Williams**

Addressing the discipline problems in schools requires a multifaceted approach. I would review the SMCPS' student code of conduct and make sure that it is being followed consistently. I would advocate for School Resource Officers to be in every school, mental health counselors to be in every middle and high school, and increase the number of safety assistants in each school. Additionally, I would advocate for more parental and community involvement since the fights that occur in the high schools are often due to what has happened in the community.

**Dorothy Andrews**

The school policy manual reinforces good discipline as their first measure to correct behavior. I

get the best return possible. Education funding should follow the child so the parent can pick the best environment for their child's success.

**Brian Crosby**

Economic diversity, infrastructure, education. Continuing to augment our economy with diverse industries better positions us against future rounds of BRAC. Second, the Route 5 and Great Mills intersection is woefully inadequate for our region. We must expand the number of vehicles that can travel that intersection daily—I secured an additional \$10m for it and will work with the next administration to complete the project.



Marsha Williams



Dorothy Andrews

agree with this, but no matter the incident, I feel that the parents have a right to know immediately. If it continues, there must be guidelines to follow when other actions need to be pursued. All students deserve to learn and all teachers deserve respect.

Would you work to increase parent input and participation in the school system?

**Marsha Williams**

I would work to improve communication between parents and the board/schools. Parents need to know when curriculum is under review, the policies being proposed, programs that their child can apply for, how the Blueprint for Maryland's Future will be implemented locally, etc. I would advocate for disseminating information from the school board and schools in a consistent manner so that all parents know where to find information.

**Dorothy Andrews**

Yes, I would work to increase parental input and participation. I have already started helping parents see how important it is to be involved.

## District 29B

What are your top priorities if elected to the delegate's seat?

**Deb Rey**

Crime, Economy, and Education

We need laws that focus on deterring the criminal, such as a mandatory sentence for using a firearm when committing a crime. We also need to keep repeat offenders in jail longer. Our taxes are too high. I will not vote for any new taxes or tax increases. We need to decouple the gas tax from the inflation rate and decouple federal and state income tax deductions so people can



Brian Crosby



Deb Rey

Finally, I want to ensure that Maryland keeps its promise to fully fund the Blueprint, ensuring Maryland's schools are the best in the

## District 29B Continued

country. Preparing Maryland's children for global competition in tomorrow's economy is vital.

What infrastructure problems need the most attention in your district?

### Deb Rey

Rt 5 between Great Mills Road and Indian Bridge needs to be widened and the bridge replaced. I will work with the State Highway Administration and the county to complete planning and work to secure funding for the project. The Southampton neighborhood needs improved sewer and water lines and new sidewalks. County government is already working this, but I will keep an eye on the project and be an advocate for the citizens to ensure their needs are addressed. We need protected left turns at Shangri La and Great Mills and at the intersection of Hermanville Road and Rt 235.

### Brian Crosby

People come to St. Mary's County for its economic opportunity and enjoy its beauty. The top infrastructure projects in my district are the intersection at Route 5 and Great Mills, the light at Hermanville Road and Route 235, and the intersection at Buck Hewitt and Route 235. We secured an additional \$10m for the intersection at Route 5 and Great Mills and will work with the next administration to complete the project.

What would you do in the off months when the General Assembly is not in session?

### Deb Rey

When not in session, I will make myself available to meet with constituents and help them resolve issues involving federal, state or local government. I will work on drafting legislation and building support for the legislation requested by constituents. I'll work with State offices to ensure our infrastructure projects stay on track. I will also work with the University System of Maryland to bring more degrees to the Southern Maryland campus.

### Brian Crosby

I work full-time as a project management consultant on Webster Field. Additionally, while the legislature is technically part-time, we still work year-round to provide important constituent services such as helping businesses apply for loans, organizations apply for grants, and individuals apply for state aid. We also work with community stakeholders in the "off season" as we develop legislation and work to address issues facing the community.

What other issues do you feel need to be addressed in your district if elected?

### Deb Rey

The needs I hear most often from constituents are more activities for our kids, increased mental health services, lower taxes, and replacement of the Thomas Johnson bridge. I'll work with the commissioners, the Economic Development office and community groups to build a comprehensive list of youth activities, and mental health services. Then we can focus on encouraging other businesses to come to St Mary's to fill the gaps. I'll work to make Maryland a retirement friendly state by voting to lower taxes. And work with the Southern Maryland legislators to lobby for the replacement of the Thomas Johnson bridge.

### Brian Crosby

Four years ago, St. Mary's County received \$0.00 from Annapolis. Over the past four years, we have fought every day to ensure St. Mary's County received its fair share from the State budget. We've brought back over \$250m to the county in our first term. In four years, I became the Vice Chair of Economic Matters and am the first-ever freshman to hold a leadership position. Along with Chair CT Wilson from Charles County, Southern Maryland has a strong voice in how Maryland's economy is shaped over the next 50 years. I want to continue to serve, as my life is dedicated to my community and country. Truly, we've only gotten started.



Steve Tuttle has been fighting for St. Mary's County for long before he decided to run for office. It's time to elect someone who understands the changing needs of our citizens and is willing to fight for your freedoms.



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By Authority Friends to Elect Steve Tuttle, Maya Hoagland, Treasurer

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For more information, visit  
[www.electmarshaboe.com](http://www.electmarshaboe.com)





# District 29C

What are your top priorities if elected to the delegate's seat?

### Todd Morgan

1. Lower taxes for Maryland families. I will continue to be an effective steward of your taxpayer dollars and will fight to reduce taxes in Annapolis.
2. Support Law Enforcement and First Responders. I am a longtime supporter of law enforcement and first responders. I will make sure they receive the full support and funding they deserve as they put their lives on the line for us every day.
3. Champion Small Business. Small Businesses are the backbone of our community. I will continue to support them, work together to create new jobs, and ensure they receive our full support. I will be their voice in Annapolis.
4. Empower Education. I will always make sure parents and students have a voice when it comes to education. As your delegate, I will advocate for your tax dollars to go to the classroom.

### Bill Bates

**Infrastructure:** Solomons Bridge replacement construction to begin now. The replacement bridge must be designed to allow for pedestrian use, emergency pull-off lanes, and barriers to prevent suicide. Continue the installation of the internet.

**Education:** Maintain funding for, The Blueprint for Maryland's Future a program that provides voluntary Pre-Kindergarten for 3- and 4-year-old children.

**Entry Level Housing:** Develop programs to incentivize the building of homes that are affordable for entry level: teachers, nurses, law enforcement officers, engineers and other young people that want to work and raise families here.

**Emergency Services:** Increase tax credit for Volunteers. Funding for equipment and facilities.

What infrastructure problems need the most attention in your district?

### Todd Morgan

- I see the following as key infrastructure problems that will require my attention:
1. A new Thomas Johnson Bridge
  2. The redesign and build of the Great Mills Rd. / Rt. 5 intersection up to Rt. 249
  3. Highway safety initiatives including Rt. 235 and Rt. 231
  4. Funding for our regional parks including Dominion Park and greater waterfront access for our citizens.
- Through my long, extensive experience and working relationship with Federal and State officials I will work to identify sources and obtain funding for these projects.

### Bill Bates

Putting the Solomons Bridge replacement on a fast track to begin construction now, not years from now. The replacement bridge must be designed to allow for pedestrian use, emergency pull-off lanes, and barriers to prevent suicide. The bridge is vitally important to



Todd Morgan



Bill Bates


our local economy, and to the people who use it to commute to work daily. We must continue the installation of the internet / broadband to all our communities.

What would you do in the off months when the General Assembly is not in session?

### Todd Morgan

I will be available to my constituents on a continual basis and be responsive to their needs and concerns. I intend to open a local office and I would hire a local legislative assistant to ensure that citizens have access to me if I were unavailable. I will use social media platforms to promote communication. I will work with both sets of County Commissioners on issues where assistance in Annapolis is required.

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**DEB REY**  
State Delegate

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**Preparing our Students. Empowering our Parents.**


- ▶ Prevent students from being trapped in failing schools by expanding school choice.
- ▶ Promote curriculum transparency, providing parents with control over their child's education.
- ▶ Provide resources to ensure the retention of our most talented and capable educators.

**Strengthening our Economy. Fighting Inflation.**

- ▶ Commit to the revitalization of Lexington Park.
- ▶ Lowering taxes, including the gas tax, so families have more money in their pockets.
- ▶ Support small business owners by reducing burdensome regulations.

**Reducing Crime. Restoring Public Safety.**

- ▶ Reverse the liberal public safety policies that have failed our community
- ▶ Provide our police departments with the resources to hire and train qualified new officers
- ▶ **ENDORSED by the St. Mary's Fraternal Order of Police**



AUTHORIZED BY DEB REY FOR MARYLAND, JUDITH GWYNN, TREASURER

**VOTE FOR THE HELP PLAN**

**Healthcare** - expand healthcare access for all residents; attract mental health providers to our area

**Education** - meet Blueprint funding commitments; develop college/trade opportunities; implement life skills curriculum

**Land Use** - update zoning ordinances and the Comprehensive Plan so development is targeted - no commercial in residential areas; attract a variety of businesses to serve residents

**Public Safety**  
- Support recruitment & retention policies; consider a housing stipend for new recruits; support the Crisis Response Team plan; strong EMS program



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Authority: Brandon Russell for St. Mary's, Dana White, Treasurer



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Authority: Committee to Elect Scott Ostrow,  
Joshua Ostrow, Treasurer

## District 29C Continued

### Bill Bates

I will be a full time Delegate; I will not have any other employment. I will work on interim studies that might be assigned to my committee. I will hold Town Halls within the Counties. I will attend the County Commissioner meetings and hearings in both Calvert and St. Mary's counties. I will travel throughout both counties observing the activities and meeting with, and listening to, business owners, farmers, the residents, and government employees.

What other issues do you feel need to be addressed in your district if elected?

### Todd Morgan

I will continue to work at being the liaison between the leadership of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station to the contractors and to our community. I will work diligently focusing on job creation, lowering taxes, supporting small business, promoting clean and usable waterways, and supporting our law enforcement

officers and first responders.

### Bill Bates

Small Business - I will work with the counties to identify taxes that can be reduced or eliminated. I will develop legislation that will stimulate existing businesses and encourage new businesses in Calvert and St. Mary's Counties. Preservation and protection of Natural Resource. Funding for renovation and development of Community / Recreation Centers.

# CALVERT COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION

# VOTERS GUIDE



Catherine Grasso

Darrell Roberts

Jana Post

Tracy McGuire

Lisa Grenis

Camile T. Khaleesi

### Calvert County Commissioner District 3 (1)

What skills, talent or experience do you think you bring to the table that will help you be an effective county commissioner?

#### Catherine Grasso (R)

My work experience includes Manager of my agency's budget for five years.

I was known for conducting meetings that brought diverse individuals together while achieving positive outcomes.

It has been my honor to be President, Republican Women Leaders of Calvert as well as Chair, Calvert County Republican Central Committee. I consider this public service.

With the Calvert Memorial Hospital Foundation Ball Committee we raised funds for the hospital's expansion and upgrading.

As a member of the Calvert County Board of Library Trustee, I worked on the selection, layout and design of the new library in North Beach.

#### Darrell Roberts (D)

Father, Husband, Uncle and Friend. Worked on Uncles Farm growing up. Served with honor and integrity in two branches of the military. Deployed overseas for peacekeeping duties. Directed national nonprofit organization for almost 14 years, extensive knowledge in raising millions of dollars, creating, and managing budgets and employees. Helped tens of thousands of veterans and their families. Successfully worked across political lines. Union member, Sheet Metal Worker, BA in Business and Graduate Degree in Executive Leadership. Clarity on communications; approachable and transparent in my work. Common-sense approach to issues. I know who I work for- the residents of Calvert County.

What are the three most important issues facing Calvert County in the next year that should be addressed by the county commissioners.

#### Catherine Grasso

High-density, uncontrolled growth; abundant traffic and failing intersections; and school choice.

#### Darrell Roberts

Uncontrolled Growth, lack of transparency and accessibility of residents to attend public meetings given time and location. Safety and health of our citizens.

What changes if any would you make to the way things are currently operating in county government?

#### Catherine Grasso

My overwhelming responsibility would be to communicate with our taxpayers to obtain their comments and desire for the direction of our county. Keeping their feedback in mind, I would proceed strategically keeping in mind the cost/benefit.

#### Darrell Roberts

Move the Board of County Commissioners Day Meetings to Evening Meetings, so residents have a better chance to attend. Incorporate Town Hall Meetings periodically throughout the county. The town halls should be based upon a criterion of need and time frame.

How much growth should Calvert accommodate in the next 10 years?

### Catherine Grasso

Quality of life in Calvert County is under siege. Citizens moved to Maryland's smallest county for its rural character and quality of life that is afforded us in this county. High-density residences on top of commercial businesses will definitely exacerbate an overabundance of traffic and gridlock.

We need to pause development, reevaluate the best and most realistic way to move forward with Calvert's infrastructure while taking into consideration what our taxpayers have demanded since 2018. Then we proceed strategically.

We need to take a look at our zoning laws, ordinances and regulations that exist today. In any given scenario, the proposed fourteen residences per acre is too much.

#### Darrell Roberts

Calvert County should only accommodate growth that is well thought out, necessary, and strategically planned. Those growth plans should undergo the necessary steps to ensure that any and all environmental issues or concerns are addressed. Most importantly, that residents are aware of and approve of the proposed growth.

### Calvert County At-Large Board of Education (2)

What skills, talent or experience do you think you bring to the table that will help you be an effective school board member?

#### Lisa Grenis

My experience in public education spans 26 years. I

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for **County Commissioner**

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**TRICIA POWELL IS A RESIDENT OF CALVERT COUNTY FOR 25 YEARS**

**PRIORITIES**

- **Controlled growth.** Preserving the rural character means taking a hard look to determine what should be preserved and what should be developed, and the impact that both have on the environment and the community.
- **Pursuing the building of attainable housing** for all citizens of Calvert County including professionals, senior citizens, and families.
- **Evaluating, monitoring and reevaluating County budgets** to ensure funds are spent reasonably.
- **Taking a look at Calvert County's traffic conditions,** with focus on safety and reasonable commute times for our citizens.
- **Advocating and supporting our schools** in retention and recruitment of educators and their support staff. Ensure the schools obtain what they need to provide our children the best education.

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**BY AUTHORITY OF JOHN YOE - TREASURER**

have served as a teacher, learning specialist and parent volunteer. Throughout my career I have seen first-hand the benefits a strong partnership between parents and teachers bring to our educational system.

If elected I will focus on being a voice and advocate for both parents and teachers, with the goal of providing the best education possible for our students. This includes creating a safe and welcoming learning environment for students from all backgrounds and a common-sense approach to what is being taught in the classroom.

**Camile T. Khaleesi**

I bring experience in shifting culture, increasing retention and best practices I'm recruiting. Additionally, I bring objective critical thinking and active listening skills. I have experience leading organizations successfully through change. I also have direct experience and knowledge of Special Education programing and processes.

**Tracy H. McGuire**

I was a school classroom and office volunteer, was elected HES PTA President, served on NMS PTA executive board, was President of the CCCPTAs, served as Treasurer for the Cub Scout Pack and the Boy Scout Troop, Cub Scout Pack Treasurer again, a catechist at my Church, and a School Board member from 2008 to 2020.

I came to my decision to run for school board a 4th time because I believe my demonstrated dedication, experience and knowledge can continue to serve my community to address the challenges of teacher shortages, student learning and well being, and meaningful community engagement.

**Jana Post**

I have four children currently enrolled in CCPS and am an active member of my community. I have experience in human resources management, budget development, and knowledge of procurement/contracts. I have served on several boards over the last 20 years. I will work to bring an ideological balance to our current board to better represent our community and represent all constituents to the maximum extent possible.

What are the three most important issues facing the Calvert County Public Schools in the next year that should be addressed by the school board.

**Lisa Grenis**

Following the pandemic, we need to make sure students are academically back on track. At the state and county level, scores are down. It is important to ensure students are excelling in the basics and on a path to pursue their interests whether college or technical training.

Full transparency is critical. For parents, teachers and students, there should be no surprises in the curriculum. This means ensuring learning materials are age-appropriate, without personal and political points of view.

Safety is top priority. Every CCPS school needs a certified SRO, and teachers, staff and students should be trained and prepared.

**Camile T. Khaleesi**

Retention and Recruiting, Student mental health, and budget allocation.

**Tracy H. McGuire**

Teacher shortages, student learning and wellbeing, and meaningful com-

munity engagement

**Jana Post**

Learning loss (especially for elementary school children), educational resources/training, school safety, and curriculum.

How will you balance the concerns of some parents about Critical Race Theory with the desires for equity in the classroom. Are they mutually exclusive?

**Lisa Grenis**

Schools are a place for learning and thinking, not ideological conditioning. Diversity, equity and inclusion make our schools better places to learn where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Aspects of Critical Race Theory are creating levels of misunderstanding, distrust and division that do not belong in our schools. We want unity in our schools and equal opportunity for all students to reach their fullest potential.

**Camile T. Khaleesi**

I am always open and available to hear parent concerns and partner in finding solutions.

**Tracy H. McGuire**

Good news, parent concerns about CRT are unfounded. Equity in education can proceed without reference to manufactured concerns about something called CRT that is not part of the k-12 curriculum.

**Jana Post**

I would continue to educate the community about CRT and work to ensure that the efforts of CCPS are not focused on equal outcomes for every student. Instead of looking at everyone through a racial lense, the necessary resources each child needs to succeed. In addition, our policies reflecting discipline, etc. should be consistently applied and adhered to regardless of race.

Will you vote to change the policy limiting public comment to 10 speakers per meeting?

**Lisa Grenis**

Yes. The Board of Education is accountable to the citizens of Calvert County, and it is essential we provide an open forum for everyone to be heard. We want all points of view, so the Board is well informed and able to make decisions in the best interest of the parents, students, teachers and staff we serve.

**Camile T. Khaleesi**

Depending on when and how this comes to a vote yes, but it is not a pertinent question when there hasn't even been 10 commentators requesting to speak. This request has been a bullying tactic and could have been resolved through conversation and collaboration with fellow board members. I support any number of commentators who wish to speak on relevant topics.

**Tracy H. McGuire**

If the motion is to have unlimited public comment without any boundaries, i.e., comments limited to BoE policy, budget, decisions, I will vote no. If the BoE members want to modify current practice around public comment, I am happy to have the discussion with fellow Board members.

**Jana Post**

I would vote to lift the 10-person limit for public comment at BOE meetings.

# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## HOW SHOULD YOU PAY FOR SHORT-TERM FINANCIAL GOALS?

# Rotary



As you go through life, you will likely have long- and short-term financial goals. But how will your strategies for meeting your long-term goals differ from those needed for your short-term ones?

If you're like most people, your biggest long-term goal is achieving a comfortable retirement. And for this goal, a common strategy is putting away money in tax-advantaged retirement vehicles, such as your 401(k) and IRA.

So, how should you go about preparing for shorter-term goals, such as a family vacation, home renovation, wedding or major purchase?

For starters, determine what your goal is, how much you can spend on it and when you'll need the money. Even if you can't pinpoint a precise amount, you can develop a good estimate. Of course, the sooner you start this process, the better off you'll be, because you'll have more time to save.

Your next decision involves the manner in which you save for your short-term goal. Specifically, what savings or investment vehicles should you use? The answer will be different for everyone, but you need to make sure that your investments align with your risk tolerance and time horizon. And you'll want to ensure, as much as possible, that a certain amount of money is available for you at the specific time you'll need it.

If you aren't able to save enough to reach a short-term goal, you have other options — you can borrow what you need, or you can potentially sell investments to cover the cost. How can you decide which choice is best?

To help make up your mind, you'll first want to consider some of the most common borrowing options: credit cards, home equity loans, personal loans and margin loans. (A margin loan lets you borrow against the value of investments you already own). How might each of these loans fit into your overall financial strategy? Will the repayment schedule work with your cash flow and budget?

You'll then want to compare the costs and benefits of borrowing, in whatever form, against selling investments. For example, if you can borrow at a lower interest rate compared to the return you think you can get from your investments, borrowing might be a reasonable choice. You'll also need to consider other factors, such as your credit score, taxes, fees associated with selling investments and time needed to repay debts. If, for instance, selling investments will trigger a large amount of taxes, borrowing might be preferable. You'll also want to consider whether there's a penalty or high costs associated with selling investments. In addition, if you have a long time horizon for a loan, you may want to sell investments to avoid paying interest for a longer period of time, and thus driving up the overall cost of borrowing. Finally, keep in mind that you may have built an investment mix designed to align with your goals and risk tolerance. If you were to sell any of these investments to meet short-term needs, you would want to consider the need to rebalance your portfolio to maintain your desired asset allocation.

As you can see, there's a lot to think about when it comes to paying for short-term goals. But by carefully evaluating your options, you can make the choices that are right for your needs.

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



CountyTimes

# Letters to the Editor

## To The Editor:

Brandon Russell has my support for County Commissioner. He has spent time meeting with various agency and department heads to learn what their needs and concerns are. He has come up with a very thoughtful and responsible set of plans to move our county and its citizens forward. We need this kind of proactive leadership, rather than

the reactive and thoughtless (absence of thought or any kind of concern for the future of citizens) place keeping we have had for years. Vote for Brandon as though your future depends on it—because it does!

Diana Donahue  
Mechanicsville, MD 20659

## To the Editor:

Four More Years?

For the last 12 years, Todd Morgan has been Commissioner for Lexington Park and Great Mills. He ran unopposed twice. This year, for the first time, there are two new faces vying to replace term-limited Morgan.

Scott Ostrow is a businessman. He works as a defense contractor and moved here from out of state. He believes his business experience will provide him with the skills to hold office. Mr. Ostrow serves on the Tri-County Council, has raised his children in St. Mary's County, and is active in his church and community organizations. Todd Morgan is...

Actually, that entire paragraph describes him too. In fact, Mr. Morgan is the chair of the Tri-County Council, to which Mr. Ostrow was recently appointed. As far as this voter can tell, the only difference between Morgan and Ostrow is Ostrow supports the YMCA—something Morgan repeatedly voted against. Note, however, that the final vote for fully funding that project will lie with the new commissioners elected in November. Can we count on Ostrow to continue supporting the YMCA if he is elected?

Steve Tuttle is a Navy Veteran. He is currently working for a contractor on base, but he doesn't sit behind a desk in a suit. Every morning, Mr. Tuttle puts on his uniform and reports to a hangar on base where he spends his days as a self-described "wrench-turner." He is a proud member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. Steve has worked diligently to support his community. This voter found videos from 2020 where Mr. Tuttle specifically asks the county commissioners for pay parity for our police

officers.

"In order to have a safe and healthy community and society, you need to pay your police officers, your teachers, and your bus drivers...what they are due," he said.

During the October 3rd candidate forum, Mr. Tuttle outlined quite deliberately that he absolutely supports our volunteer rescue squads. I've seen him at various rescue squad and fire department fundraisers, and I can tell he has a deep respect for these individuals.

At the same candidate forum, Mr. Ostrow agreed with Mr. Tuttle when saying he trusted educators to make the best decisions possible for the children they teach. More often than not, Mr. Ostrow said he agreed with what Mr. Tuttle responded. He even made a joke about it at the end of the debate!

So what is the difference between Ostrow & Morgan? This voter isn't sure, but I can tell you there is a difference between Ostrow and Tuttle. Mr. Tuttle has shown care and dedication to his community through acts of service.

Mr. Tuttle has worked with the WARM program for several years, directly helping our homeless population. He serves on the Animal Control Advisory Board, which recently celebrated the opening of the new St. Mary's County Animal Shelter. I would say he is more than ready for the job.

You can't run the government like a business—governing is about the people. This November you have a choice. Scott Ostrow will be four more years of Todd Morgan. Vote for Steve Tuttle and elect someone who focuses on people and who believes in strength in community.

Mike Pecota, Lexington Park, MD

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor  
include your name & town of residence.  
Email: [DickMyers@countytimes.net](mailto:DickMyers@countytimes.net)

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# School Board Punts Chance for Communication

## Fails to Deal with Commissioner Concerns

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

“What we’ve got here is failure to communicate.”

That’s one of the most famous and most quoted lines in movie history. It comes from the opening scene of the 1967 flick “Cool Hand Luke,” in which

the authoritarian prison captain played by character actor Strother Martin advises Paul Newman’s title character after he is beaten into submission.

Failure to communicate has been a mantra in this year’s Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) races and by the current commissioner board when criticizing the current Board of Educa-

tion members.

At a recent BOCC meeting, the school board was chastised once again, this time for charging the county to use school facilities for recreation when the county doesn’t charge the school system for the use of the aquatics center and golf course. The county also maintains outdoor athletic fields.

When the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that extends the existing arrangement was brought before the BOCC several weeks ago, Commissioner Chris Gadway said, “It appears that we, as the county government, are using the taxpayers’ dollars to pay the board of education twice for the same facility, once to build it and maintain it and then again to use it for something outside of students or possibly even during the school activities.”

Commissioner Mike Hart added, “We’re all supposed to be on the same team at the end of the day. They’re all our kids.”

Hart said, “I don’t want to sound petty, but it feels petty to me because we do a whole lot,” adding, “I know this is always such a touchy subject, but it just feels petty that we would get a bill when we don’t send a bill.”

Hart said, “We hear it all the time, we need better fields,” adding the money paid to the school board could be used for upgrades.

Gadway said, “The bottom line is any of these dollars are coming from the taxpayers, every single one of these dollars.”

Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, “We pay for 60 percent of the construction costs this year. We’re going to write them a check for \$140 million, and they’re concerned over collecting \$7,000 from us for using beans. Just think about that, ladies and gentlemen.”

At a school board meeting member Dawn Balinski observed the flap as reported by The County Times and asked for a report back from their staff.

At the Oct. 13 school board meeting, Chief of Operations Anthony Navarro presented the report on the MOU as if everything was fine between the two boards.

Hitting at the crux of the issue, Navarro said, “The board requires a custodial representative to be present

when parks and rec indoor activities are held at schools are when our school offices are closed. The board representative shall be responsible for scheduling this representative. And this representative shall remain on site and available for custodial support of parks and rec activities. And a parks and rec representative will remain on site to enforce the rules and policies as set forth in the MOU and ensure the safety of the use.”

He noted the school system is billing the county \$17,000 for the use.

But Balinski was perplexed. She said, “There were comments in the paper, I believe. Do you know what the complaints were on behalf of the county as far as their having to pay us?”

Navarro responded, “I do not Miss Balinski, but I can find out. I can ask Mrs. Vassallo (deputy county administrator), at the county level.”

Balinski said, “I was reading through, I thought that’s what this would be answering.”

Navarro responded to an inquiry from board member Pat Nutter if there had been any problems with the arrangement: “There are no issues that (have) come to my attention.”

He added, “I did review this with Mrs. Vassallo this week and she said she had some suggestions. So, she knew in advance what was going to be presented today.”

The commissioners decided to approve the MOU for a one-year extension instead of the requested five years in hopes of working things out with the school board in the next year, or at least with the new school superintendent, Dr. Andrae Townsel.

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



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Chief of Operations Anthony Navarro

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CountyTimes

# County Prepares for State Transportation Visit

## What's Planned for the TJ Bridge?

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) annual visit to Calvert County is scheduled for Oct. 25 at 10 a.m. The visit is part of the department's tour of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City in advance of the legislative session to report on what is included in the Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP) presented to the legislature. Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary James F. Ports, Jr., and the heads of MDOT's five business units and one authority are expected to attend.

Ahead of that meeting the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) got a staff briefing on Oct. 18 on what to expect from the state officials.

The only major project expected is billed as "Study to Upgrade MD 4 between MD 2 and MD 235 including the IJ (Governor Thomas Johnson) Bridge. The bulk of the study limit is in St. Mary's County.

Transportation Planner Jessica Gaetano told the BOCC, "In March 2022, U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen worked to allocate direct federal investments for local projects across the Southern Maryland region within the fiscal year 2022 omnibus funding legislation: \$1 million was secured to support the project design for the widening of MD 4 and the Thomas Johnson (TJ) Bridge replacement. The FY23 CTP draft allocates an additional \$1 million to the TJ Bridge replacement study."

The amount of funding allocated for a project expected to cost upwards of \$1 billion, elicited a quip from Commissioner President Buddy Hance, "What are you going to do with \$2 million? It won't fill a

pothole."

Gaetano said she has been led to believe the study might include suicide prevention measures for the bridge.

Gaetano noted, "In addition, Calvert County is to receive funding for resurfacing and road rehabilitation projects at various locations throughout the county. Safety and spot improvement funding is to be awarded to Calvert to improve multiple intersections on Hallowing Point Road (MD 231), plus funding for sidewalk upgrades for Bayside Road (MD 261) for Safe Routes to Schools via the Transportation Alternatives Program. The draft includes funding for various replacement and maintenance equipment via the System Preservations Minor Projects Program. Phase 4 of the MD 2/4 widening project in Prince Frederick remains on hold."

Hance said he has been led to believe the Route 231 study will include improvements to the intersections at Eden Lane, Adelina Road and Skipjack Road. He said the Skipjack Road project at the industrial park might be the most problematic because of wetlands and right-of-way restrictions, but he hoped that would be included.

In June, the county presented the following priority list to MDOT:

#### Highway:

- Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge and MD 4
- MD 2-4 (Phases 3A and 3B) north of the current Phase, north of Fox Run to

north of Stoakley Road

- MD 231 Corridor Improvements

#### Safety:

- MD 231 Corridor
- MD 4 in Anne Arundel County
- MD 261 at Beach Drive

#### Transit:

- Service Expansion
- Transit Transfer Station

#### Community Safety and Enhancement Program:

- Safe Routes to school
- Richfield Station Intersection
- Lusby Town Center Streetscape

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### Calvert County Prescription Medication Take-Back Day

**Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
No questions asked!**

- Remove unused and expired medications from your home.
- Keep prescription medications from being abused.
- Prevention, treatment and recovery information will be available.
- Syringe disposal and Narcan training will be available at Northeast and Southern Community Centers.
- Detera medication drug disposal packets will be available free of charge for county residents. The packets allow medications to be deactivated and thrown in your household trash. Limit of three packets per family, while supplies last.

#### Drop Off Locations:

- Calvert County Sheriff's Office  
Prince Frederick
- Maryland State Police, Barrack "U"  
Prince Frederick
- Northeast Community Center  
Chesapeake Beach
- Southern Community Center  
Lusby



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For more information, call 410-535-3733.

## Report Shows Improvement in Groundwater Source

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The aquifers underlying Calvert County provide a source of water for residences and businesses. The most used aquifer for water supply is the Aquia, which runs from 100 to 48- feet below ground.

"The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have had a Joint Funding Agreement in place for several years for the real-time collection of water levels in the Aquia Aquifer," according to Department of Public Works Water & Sewer Division Chief Chris Hall at the Oct. 18 BOCC meeting.

In June the commissioners had requested a briefing on the status of groundwater and Jeff Raffensperger of USGS did just that at the meeting.

Raffensperger explained that in addition to the Aquia, parts of Calvert have underlying it the following:

**Upper and Lower Patapsco** Greater than 800 feet below ground level)

Limited information due to scarcity of wells

- Significant supply capacity is available

- Increasing use (Lower Patapsco) as a supplement to the Aquia aquifer for larger users since 2015

**Magothy** (around 700 feet)

- Only present in the northern part of the county

- Rarely used for water supply

- Limited wells in the southern part of the county

**Aquia** (100-480 feet)

- Generally good water quality

- Water levels declined significantly between 1970 and 2000

- Water levels have remained near constant or recovered since 2000

- Shifting a portion of public-supply withdrawals from the Aquia aquifer to the Patapsco aquifers could result in an increase in available drawdown

**Nanjemoy-Piney Point** (75-230 feet)

- Generally good water quality

- Reliable long-term water supply

- Water levels remain substantially above Aquia (greater than 800 feet below the surface)

With the precipitous drop in the Aquia Aquifer over the last 20 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, some wells were being drilled deeper into the Patapsco. But Raffensperger said the leveling off and in case cases slight rebound in the Aquia may cause a rethinking of that.

Commissioner Chris Gadway said the briefing was a good indication of the quantity of available groundwater, but he wanted to know about the quality of it, particularly in light of the PFAS contamination at the Navy base south of Chesapeake Beach.

Raffensperger said that wasn't in his bailiwick and suggested the commissioners ask Maryland Geological Survey to provide then with that information.

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Outline

One of the sampling locations showing the drop in the Aquia Aquifer and then recent leveling off.

CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of September 12, 2022 – September 18, 2022, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,769 calls for service throughout the community

During the week of October 3, 2022 – October 9, 2022, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,418 calls for service throughout the community.

**Burglary: 22-57846**

On October 5, 2022, Deputy Tavares responded to the 5300 block of Williams Wharf Road in St. Leonard, for the report of a burglary that had already occurred. The complainant advised sometime between 11 a.m. on Oct. 4 and 7:15 a.m. on Oct. 5, an unknown suspect (s) forced entry into a shed on the property and stole a blue and yellow 2001 Yamaha Banshee. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$8,000.00.

**Damaged Property: 22-58283**

On October 7, 2022, DFC Ward responded to Mount Harmony Elementary School located at 900 W. Mt. Harmony Lane in Owings, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised that 12 concrete patio stone pavers had been damaged. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$200.00.

**Damaged Property: 22-58641**

On October 8, 2022, Deputy Daley responded to Dunkirk Park located at 10750 Southern Maryland Boulevard in Dunkirk, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised sometime between 4 p.m. and 9:15 p.m., an unknown suspect (s) destroyed a urinal, a paper towel dispenser, and a soap dispenser in a bathroom at the park. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$700.00.

**Theft: 22-57880**

On October 5, 2022, Deputy Ashley responded to the 1000 block of Adelina Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between 6 p.m. on Oct. 3 and 4:45 a.m. on Oct. 4, approximately 400-500 feet of copper wire was stolen from the bed of the victim's work truck. The estimated value of the stolen property is between \$500-\$1,000.00.

**Theft: 22-57952**

On October 5, 2022, Deputy Ashley received a report of a theft. The complainant advised two handicap placards were stolen from an unlocked vehicle that was parked outside the Walmart located at 150 N Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$90.00.

**ARRESTS**

On October 5, 2022, Deputy Sylver responded to the Giant located at 655 North Solomon's Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of trespassing and theft. The complainant advised **Robert Allen Rice**, 56 of no fixed address, entered

the Giant with a pushcart to gather groceries. After grocery shopping, Rice left his cart at the front door and proceeded to get on a handicapped mobility scooter and left the area. Investigation revealed Rice had previously trespassed from the property. Rice was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Theft: \$1500 to Under \$25,000 and Trespass: Private Property.



On October 5, 2022, Deputy Huy responded to the Starbucks located at 55 Harrow Lane in Prince Frederick, for the report of trespassing. The complainant advised **Marvin Wayne Thomas**, 56 of Prince Frederick, was inside the Starbucks and had been previously trespassed from the establishment. Thomas was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespass: Private Property.



On October 6, 2022, Deputy Claggett responded to the 3800 block of E. Chesapeake Beach Road in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a theft. Investigation revealed **Nathan Oliver White**, 40 of Chesapeake Beach, entered the establishment and grabbed a black leather backpack (containing: 1 Apple Air Pod Pro, 1 Apple Air Pod, 1 Set of Keys, and \$20 US Currency) on the counter and placed it underneath his hoodie,



and exited the store. White was identified as a suspect from video surveillance and later admitted to the theft. The total value of the stolen property was \$802.04. White was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Theft: \$100 to under \$1500.

On October 6, 2022, Cpl. Robshaw initiated a traffic stop on a motorcycle in the area of Rt. 4 and Lower Marlboro Road. The motorcycle was observed splitting traffic, driving down the center line causing vehicles to swerve out of the way. The motorcycle accelerated as Cpl. Robshaw approached with lights and sirens. The operator of the bike was traveling at speeds of 123 mph in a 55-mph zone during rush hour weaving in and out of traffic with no regard for other drivers on the roadway. The driver of the motorcycle, **Brad Allen Lafley**, 36 of Dunkirk, was stopped southbound Rt. 4 at Walnut Creek in Huntingtown and placed under arrest for Reckless Driving, Negligent Driving, and Fleeing and Eluding as well as other traffic offenses



On October 7, 2022, Cpl. Livingston initiated a traffic stop in the area of Town Square Drive and H.G. Truman Road in Lusby, for a traffic violation. During the course of the traffic stop, a probable cause search was conducted and revealed a glass pipe with a copper filter, two "caps" containing a white rock-like substance (suspected crack cocaine), and a single mid-size white rock-like substance (suspected crack cocaine). The driver, **Michael Stephen Gallow**, 60 of Lusby, was placed un-



der arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.

On October 8, 2022, Cpl. Kelly responded to the Tiki Bar located at 85 Charles Street in Solomons, to assist the Fire Department evacuate and secure a portion of the bar that had smoke and a potential fire coming from the ceiling area. During that time, patrons were asked to move a safe distance away or leave the Tiki Bar. **David Wayne Chance**, 40



of Preston, MD, started arguing about not leaving. Chance was asked multiple times to move to a safe spot away from the smoke and potential fire, but refused and continued to argue causing a disturbance and distraction for other customers to see. Once again, Chance was instructed to leave the property but failed to comply. Chance was escorted off the property and was actively resisting arrest. Chance was placed in custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Arrest.

On October 8, 2022, Deputy R. McCourt Jr, was on routine patrol in the area of the Big Lots located at 765 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick. Dep. McCourt observed **Robert Allen Rice**, 56 of no fixed address,

walk onto the Big Lots property. It was confirmed through the Calvert County Control Center that Rice had been previously trespassed from the property. Rice was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespass: Private Property.

On October 9, 2022, Deputy Mister responded to Abner's Crabhouse located at 3748 Harbor Road in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of trespassing. Investigation revealed **Dexter Erwin Holland**, 40 of Owings, was asked to leave the establishment by restaurant staff. Deputy Mister arrived on scene and observed Holland sitting at the bar refusing to leave. Holland had a cup in his hand from another establishment. It is a rule of Abner's Crabhouse to



not have any outside food or beverage in the restaurant. Deputy Dymond advised Holland he was being trespassed and had to leave to which he failed to comply. Holland continued to yell causing a disturbance, drawing the attention of Abner's patrons. Holland was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespass: Private Property and Disorderly Conduct.

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

THE CALVERT ALLIANCE AGAINST SUBSTANCE ABUSE PRESENTS

**22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL STEP-BY-STEP 5K Fun Run/Walk**

**Saturday, Nov. 5 | 9 a.m.**  
**Early registration and check-in at 8 a.m.**

**STEP-BY-STEP 5K RACE**

The 3.1-mile course (MD 12024JS) begins and ends at the Calvert Marine Museum covering scenic Solomons on hard roads and through residential areas. No dogs or pets. Strollers allowed. Refreshments provided to all participants. Free T-shirts provided for the first 100 paid participants. Awards for runners in all age categories.

**REGISTRATION FEES**

\$30 in advance, \$40 day of race  
 \$25 CAASA and CBRC members  
 \$20 students 21 and younger

Event held in memory of Mike Blackwell, a runner killed while jogging on Broomes Island Road. All proceeds to benefit CAASA programs.

**For More Information:**  
 410-535-1600, ext. 8806 / 410-535-3733 Relay for Hearing Impaired: 800-735-2258

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## Woman Killed in Dunkirk Crash

On October 15 at approximately 2:07 a.m., deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau and Crash Reconstruction Team responded to the area of Southern Maryland Boulevard and Ward Road in Dunkirk, for a serious motor vehicle crash.

Upon arrival, deputies located a single vehicle, a blue Toyota Camry southbound on Southern Maryland Boulevard which had run off the roadway and struck a light pole.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Kerri Ann Balsler, 38 of Huntingtown, MD. Balsler was pronounced deceased on the scene.

The passenger of the vehicle, Christina Marie Hall, 38 of Huntingtown, was transported to University of Maryland Capital Regional Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries.

Preliminary investigation has revealed speed and alcohol were contributing factors to the crash. The crash remains under investigation.

Anyone with information about this incident or events leading up to the crash, is asked to contact S/DFC. J.M. Hardesty with the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Crash Reconstruction Team at 410-535-2800 or Jeffrey.Hardesty@CalvertCountyMD.gov.



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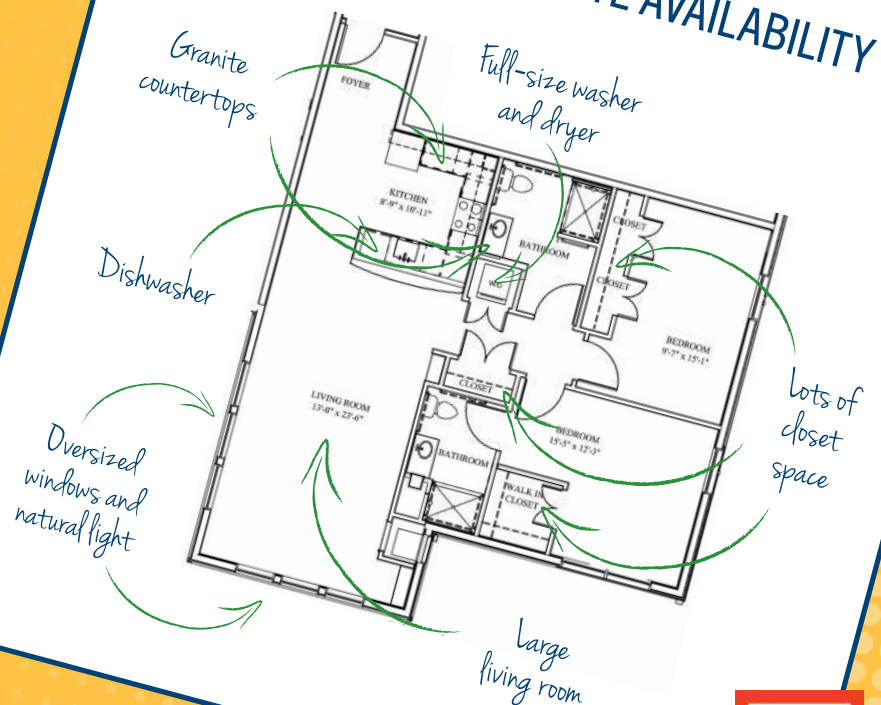
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# Health Officer Touts New COVID Booster Shot

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

COVID-19 is still around, and vaccinations are still the best preventative, according to Calvert County Health Officer Dr. Laurence Polsky during his latest report to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) sitting as the board of health at their Oct. 18 meeting.

“As we head into what will almost certainly be another wave of Covid as we reach late fall and into the winter, it’s really important for people to keep up with their vaccinations,” the health officer said.

Showing a graph that highlighted the dramatic difference, Polsky said, “For people who were unvaccinated, they were about four and a half times more likely to be hospitalized during peaks of waves.”

And regardless of the type of Covid, he said, “Whether Alpha, Delta, Omicron, unvaccinated people were 10 to 12 times more likely to need to be hospitalized than people who were fully vaccinated.”

Polsky touted getting the new Bivalent Covid Vaccine. “Those are a combination of the original vaccine and a new component that targets the BA.4 and BA.5 strains. And that’s very important because we’ve seen with the last wave that more people who were vaccinated with the original vaccination were ending up getting sick.” He explained. He said 90 percent of infections are in one of the two strains.

He said the original vaccine has “really good antibody response against the original strain, pretty good against Beta and Delta, but not a great response against the Omicron strains.”

As to the vaccine formulated for Omicron, it had good response to that strain but not so good against the earlier ones.

But the new vaccine, he said, has “across the board, very good responses.”

He said he and his family have all gotten the Bivalent booster.

Polsky said there’s also an emphasis on getting that new booster more sooner than later because of the upcoming flu season and the potential for another Covid wave.

He said the earlier vaccinating will save lives and money.

Commissioner President Buddy Hance noted that Commissioner Weems was not at the meeting because his son was home sick with the flu. Polsky said, “Nationally, there’ve already been some high schools shut down because they’ve had over 50 percent of their students out sick.”

Polsky observed that flu hasn’t been as prevalent over the last few years, perhaps because people weren’t going out as much and social distancing.

With flu, the advice to parents, “just making sure people stay home when they’re not feeling well, which is what a lot of people did very well during the early days of Covid. If they were feeling sick, they stayed home. We’ve kind of gotten out of that habit, I think a little bit.”

Polsky also reported, “Calvert’s overdose fatality rate is about half of the rate in our surrounding counties and less than half the rate for Maryland as a whole.”

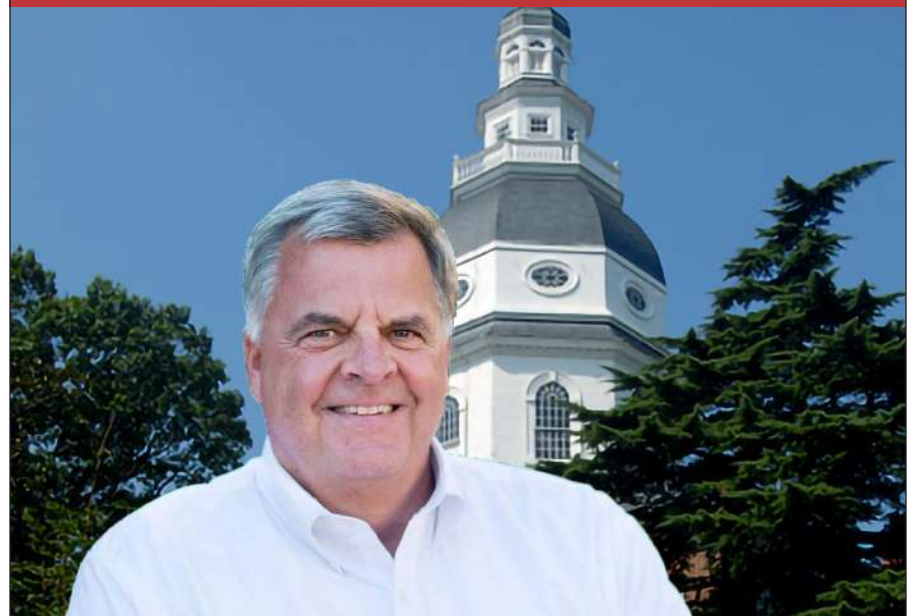
He said, “We know that overdose deaths are not going away completely. It is incumbent on all of us to collectively pull together as a community, to do what we can to minimize the impacts, help those that are ready to get help, and lots of prevention efforts.”

He said of the significant improvement in the fatality rates, “It’s in part because of the work we do with the health department, but very much a collective effort with agencies across the county. And we hope to keep all those efforts up.”

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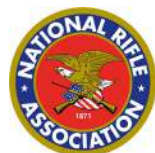
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*“We’re all supposed to be team at the end of the day. They’re all our kids.”*

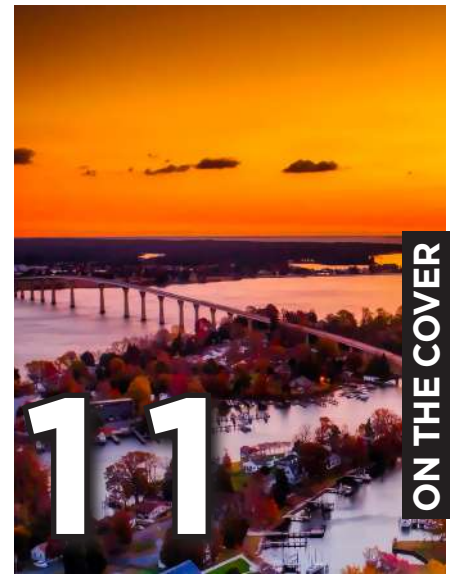
*Commissioner Mike Hart on conflict with the Calvert Board of Education*



**LOCAL** 4  
Fatal crash in Dunkirk under investigation



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FRI 10/21	65° /45°	Plenty of sunshine	TUE 10/25	75° /52°	Plenty of sunshine
SAT 10/22	68° /48°	Plenty of sunshine	WED 10/26	75° /56°	A thunderstorm in spots
SUN 10/23	64° /51°	Times of sun and clouds	THU 10/27	69° /48°	Occasional rain

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VOTERS

\*\*\*\*\*GUIDE\*\*\*\*\*

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THE TJ BRIDGE?