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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

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House Fire**

**Crosby Bills Stall
in Legislature**

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**REPORTS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT
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“IT BASICALLY AMOUNTS TO TAXPAYER-FUNDED CHILD MUTILATION.”

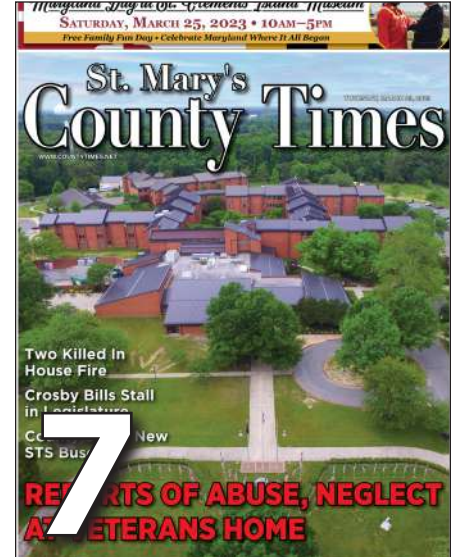
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Crosby Bills Stalled in Legislature

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Two key bills introduced earlier in the General Assembly have yet to make it out of their first committees where they had their first hearings in February, records from the state's governing body show, diminishing their chances that they will make it to a final vote come the final day of the legislative session.

John Houser, assistant county attorney, told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County this week that March 20 was the traditional "crossover day" when bills introduced in either chamber of the assembly had to pass into the opposite body for hearings and debate and several votes during the amendment process before being voted on in a conference committee of both chambers.

Bills that did not make the crossover deadline could still become law but would face a much steeper procedural climb, Houser explained.

Crosby's bill that would fundamentally change the at-large voting system in St. Mary's and several other counties for the election of county commissioners has not passed second reading as of March 21, records show, putting it several steps away from even passing into the Senate for debate.

There is no companion bill for HB 447 filed in the Senate, as is the usual procedure.

Under HB 447 county residents could only vote for county commissioner candidate living in the same district as them; this would ensure they could only vote for one commissioner and a candidate for commissioner president, who has always run at-large.

Under the current voting plan each registered voter has the opportunity to vote for all five county commissioner candidates running throughout St. Mary's.

A bond bill for \$56 million of bonding authority for the county commissioners has also not moved forward; it would have authorized commissioners to borrow money for a long list of public construction projects including \$15 million to begin construction on a YMCA to be built on Great Mills Road in Lexington Park.

Instead, two bond bills introduced by Sen. Jack Bailey have crossed into the House of Delegates; these bills authorize \$41 million for capital projects for St. Mary's but holds conditions on the \$15 million such that the YMCA has to fulfill its obligations to raise \$4 million in private funds before the county can draw on the public funds.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Memory Care Facility Gets Final Planning Approval



1. FRONT ELEVATION (FACING ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH ROAD)

Architect's rendering of the proposed facility

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Leonardtown's Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved plans for a new senior living and memory care facility to be built in the town limits along St. Andrew's Church Road.

The facility itself will be 31,995 square feet in size, according to concept site plan documents, and has been called the only facility of its kind in the region outside of the greater Washington, D.C./Baltimore metropolitan area.

The facility is proposed to include 53 beds. Most of the site, just over 14 acres, will remain forested and about five-and-a-half acres will remain in a conservation easement.

The building itself will have 32 bed units with about 15 staff members; 27 parking spaces would also be included.

Laschelle McKay, town administrator, said

the state's Critical Area Commission, which oversees and governs development on land that is within 1,000 feet of the watershed had given final approval to the growth allocation necessary on March 1 which allowed for the final approval of the project by the town's planning commission this week.

The town commission approved the initial concept site plan for the facility in December of 2021.

The facility will be constructed on land close by the intersection of Route 5 and St. Andrew's Church Road but farther back from the latter road, McKay said.

"This was the final site plan approval," McKay said of Monday's vote.

The project is an extension of the St. Mary's Nursing Center's operations closer to the center of town.

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Gender Treatment Bill Passes House

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A bill that would allow minors to access medical gender-changing treatments through Medicaid passed the House of Delegates March 18 on a largely party line vote; Dist. 29 B Del. Brian Crosby was the only member of the St. Mary's County delegation to vote for the measure.

Both District 29 Delegates Todd Morgan and Matt Morgan voted against it, as did District 27 Del. Mark Fisher who tried to amend the bill on the house floor during debate on March 17 in an attempt to keep the gender assignment treatments and medications available to only those over 18 years of age, but that amendment failed.

During debate Fisher said the bill allowed for the use of "irreversible puberty blockers for children" as well as surgeries that would alter "genitals and gonads" of minor children.

"And the tax payer pays for it," Fisher said.

The bill is now in the Senate where it is expected to pass.

According to the bill's language access to such gender reassignment surgery would be less difficult to attain.

The bill states that Medicaid may not deny or limit coverage for gender-affirming treatment based on the recipient's gender identity or exclude gender-affirming treatment on the basis that the treatment is a cosmetic service.

Matt Morgan said the bill "basically amounts to taxpayer-funded child mutilation."

The bill as written now sits in the Senate; it also provides for laser treatment of scars from "gender affirming surgery" as well as revisions and reversals to gender affirming surgery.

"It is the intent of the General Assembly that the program provide gender affirming treatment to all program recipients for whom gender-affirming treatment is medically necessary, including transgender, nonbinary, intersex, two-spirit and other gender diverse individuals," the bill currently reads.

Hollywood Man Held On Assault, Carjacking Charges



Isiah Denziel Washington

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A 20-year-old Hollywood resident faces a litany of charges after he allegedly attacked a woman at a CVS pharmacy in the same community and stole her purse and car before being arrested by St. Mary's sheriff's deputies.

Isaiah Denziel Washington remains incarcerated at the county adult detention center in Leonardtown following a March 20 arraignment in District Court.

According to an application for a statement of charges filed by police, the victim

said she saw two "suspicious" black males in the parking lot of the pharmacy when one of them wearing a black sweatshirt with the hood up and wearing a brown-colored mask "approached her, slammed her on the ground and stole her purse and keys and left inside her vehicle."

The second male did not participate in the assault, police stated in charging documents.

Surveillance footage from the pharmacy parking lot showed the assailant grabbed the victim by the "neck and throat" and "tripped her leg" to slam her to the ground, court papers said.

The suspect "aggressively yanked the purse off her shoulder and out of her hand," the charging papers stated.

When the victim was on the ground, the assailant "threw her on her right and left sides looking for more items" charging documents stated and then he "dragged her by her left arm on the ground" before driving away.

A brief police chase ensued when a sheriff's deputy saw the suspect car driving northbound on Three Notch Road and followed them down Harpers Corner Road; the suspect was driving "as if he was attempting to evade police," charging documents stated.

When the suspect drove down a dead-end road, court papers stated, he stopped and was confronted by deputies and identified himself as Washington.

According to court papers Washington admitted that he stole the victim's purse and vehicle.

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Reports Detail Abuse, Neglect at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Medicare reports dating back to 2017 detail instances of “abuse, neglect and exploitation,” according to the state’s Department of Veterans Affairs, at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

“The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs is moving with speed and urgency to address the situation at hand and looks forward to conducting a review of what led to this point,” said Dana Burl, outreach coordinator at the state oversight agency. “We will provide more information as it becomes available.”

The state is currently seeking a replacement for the management company there — HMR Veterans Services of South Carolina — and has ceased allowing any new residents there.

The latest report details complaints that took place in August of last year.

One incident was noted as causing actual physical harm to a patient through abuse.

In this incident, which was said to have occurred on May 27 of last year, a resident and their roommate told facility management that a geriatric nursing assistant “bent [a resident’s] thumb back.”

A later medical diagnosis showed that the thumb had been dislocated, the report stated.

The resident who allegedly sustained the injury said the GNA came into their room “and questioned what he/she was doing

with the pillows.”

The report continued: “The resident stated he/she wanted to have someone to put his pillows in the closet.

“According to the resident, the GNA began to yell at him/her because the resident did not want the pillows on the bed. The resident further stated the GNA was very mad and grabbed the resident’s right thumb, twisted, and pulled his/her thumb back.”

The report goes on to state that the GNA in question — who as identified only as GNA No. 74 — was suspended and later fired after an investigation.

Another incident saw a resident placed into a whirlpool who did not want that sort of treatment for bathing.

“The resident stated he/she was fearful that he/she would have slid under the water because of his/her lack of muscle strength,” the report reads. “The resident stated he/she yelled for help, the staff came and removed him/her from the whirlpool bathtub.”

The report went on: “After viewing camera footage, the facility determined GNA #88 left [the resident] in the whirlpool bathtub for 8 minutes and the GNA was immediately terminated.”

A psychiatric review stated that the resident was “anxious and tearful” following being left in the whirlpool for an extended period of time.

The patient in question had a genetic condition, according to the report, called ataxia, which impairs muscle coordination

and worsens over time to include impaired speech, hearing and vision.

The report shows that staff there also failed to stop aggressive residents from harming each other.

In one incident a staff member observed one resident “stomping on the head” of another resident.

“Review of [the two residents’] care plans both included interventions related to a history of aggressive behaviors documented towards staff and other residents requiring routine checks and monitoring,” the report stated. “However, no staff were aware of either residents’ status at the time of the incident according to the interviews provided in the facility investigation.”

Some of the deficiencies noted go to the dignity of each of the residents there, such as one resident eating with plastic utensils when other residents were furnished with metal ones. The patient had been made to use the plastic utensils, the report stated, because they had been identified as a self-harm risk, but still were made to use them even though “s/he was no longer deemed unsafe.”

One patient who had been admitted in 2018 with stroke, muscle spasms and mobility problems called a geriatric nursing assistant

Health Inspection Summary			
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home			
29449 Charlotte Hall Road Charlotte Hall, MD 20622 (301) 884-8171			
Deficiency Category	Inspection Date: 6/15/22 Complaint Reporting Period: 9/1/22 - 1/31/23	Inspection Date: 12/4/18 Complaint Reporting Period: 9/1/21 - 1/31/22	Inspection Date: 8/10/17 Complaint Reporting Period: 9/1/20 - 1/31/21
Freedom from Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Deficiencies	2	1	0
Quality of Life and Care Deficiencies	1	5	1
Infection Control Deficiencies	0	0	0
Resident Assessment and Care Planning Deficiencies	0	3	3
Nursing and Physician Services Deficiencies	2	0	0
Resident Rights Deficiencies	3	1	1
Nutrition and Dietary Deficiencies	2	0	0
Pharmacy Service Deficiencies	2	3	1
Environmental Deficiencies	1	0	1
Administration Deficiencies	0	1	0

(GNA) several times within a span of hours to have their diaper changed, which occurred.

But on the final request to have their diaper changed two GNAs left the patient’s room without doing so; this resulted in one of the GNAs being suspended and retrained.

The complaint report called this incident a “dignity issue.”

These issues were considered to not cause actual harm to the residents in question, according to the report.

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Elected Leaders Say They Were in the Dark on Veterans Home Neglect



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Local elected leaders, including those who are involved in oversight of veterans issues, say they were unaware of allegations of inadequate care, neglect and even possible abuse at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home until Gov. Wes Moore announced last week he would be terminating the contract of the management company there.

"I'm the chairman of the Veterans Regional Affairs Committee [of the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland] and I was shocked at the one-star rating," said County Commissioner James "Randy" Guy at the March 21 county commissioners meeting.

Last year Guy issued a warning about a wing at the home being closed down because there was insufficient healthcare staff there.

Commissioner Eric Colvin said much the same, though he added that he had learned that fines that had been assessed against the facility in 2021 and 2022 somehow had gone unreported to both the state and county.

ProPublica documents show that the facility had been subject to several monetary fines over the years; the heaviest being in 2021 for \$164,195 for 13 deficiencies found there.

In 2022 the facility was fined for similar deficiencies in the amount of \$100,389.

At the March 15 Board of Public Works meeting Moore decried the conditions at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home and pledged to

put the state's power into bringing more nursing staff and other resources to bear on the problems there.

Since 2002, HMR Veterans Services has held the contract to operate the facility, Moore said, but that was about to change.

He said last month the state notified HMR — based in South Carolina — of its intention to terminate their longstanding contract.

"Within hours of our administration

taking charge we heard things were not going well at Charlotte Hall," Moore, who is also a veteran, said. "In fact, the situation happening at Charlotte Hall is a moral failure of government."

Moore said his administration learned of several allegations of abuse and neglect at the facility ranging from "minor incidents to severe infractions that impacted the health and welfare of the residents."

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in January gave Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, which was founded in 1985, a one-star rating out of a possible five stars for quality, according to a notice from the state Veterans Affairs department.

"That means Charlotte Hall is among the nation's worst performing nursing home facilities," Moore said.

Moore said his administration was working with the local St. Mary's County Health Department to get more patient care and nursing resources to the facility.

Moore said the government had a "solemn obligation... to protect those who are our most vulnerable citizens."

Dr. Meena Brewster, county health officer, said the county health department was aware of a pending change because of worries at the facility last month.

"At the end of February 2023, the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) was notified that there would be a transition in management companies due to con-

cerns about quality of care at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home," Brewster responded to The County Times' questions. "[The health department] immediately began collaborating with Charlotte Hall Veterans Home leadership and the Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs to assist with transitional support."

That support comes in the form of the health department "helping identify nurses from within the community, through our community surge network, who may be able to provide temporary onsite staffing support to complement the health and wellness assessment emergency nursing contracts at Charlotte Hall," Brewster said. "Second, because [the health department] regulates Charlotte Hall's food service facility license, we are ensuring that any staffing transition does not compromise food safety practice."

"Our SMCHD team is also proactively keeping communication open with Charlotte Hall to be able to respond quickly and to provide assistance in the event that a public health matter of concern, such as an infectious disease outbreak, should arise during the course of transition."

Moore said his administration would correct the wrongs present at the facility.

"We will right this ship," Moore said. "We will find out what led to this crisis."

A notice from the state's Department of Veterans Affairs stated that the one-star rating had come from the federal government in January and a subsequent state-level inspection confirmed the finding that "the facility was not in quality compliance."

The state's own annual report on Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, included in the annual report for the entire state veterans' administration for 2022, made no mention of the allegations of abuse and neglect but made much of the impacts of COVID-19.

"The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the home," the report reads. "Responses to mitigate the transmission of the virus have drastically changed daily operations."

"Compared to pre-pandemic levels the census is considerably reduced and the home continues to see outbreaks resulting from community transmission."

Local elected leaders expressed dismay at learning of the alleged problems at the veterans' home.

"I am very saddened to learn that the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home has dropped to a 1-star rating by Medicaid," Del. Matt Morgan said in a social media post. "I was made aware of this at a meeting... with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Woods."

"As a result, the state is terminating the contract, and Charlotte Hall will be placed under new stewardship."

Morgan said he had heard nothing of the complaints.

"Before this meeting, my office had not received complaints about Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for nearly ten years, so news of this surprised me," Morgan said. "Unfortunately, many nursing homes have suffered due to the covid precautions over the last few years."

"By barring access to visitors, the connection between caregivers and family members who usually would bring any issues to light has been profoundly weakened."

Until a new management firm has been found to take over operations there, the state has decreed, no new admissions to the home will be allowed.

"When a new management contractor is in place and we feel sufficient progress has been made in improving performance, we will revisit opening admissions," the veterans affairs department notice stated.

Sen. Jack Bailey said he, too, was never made aware of the problems there while he was working with management of the facility.

"Over the past several years, I have advocated for additional state funding for the veterans' home, including an ambulance to serve their residents," Bailey said. "As part of these efforts, I have spent a substantial amount of time working with representatives of [the veterans' home]."

"I am incredibly disheartened that they did not bring any of these concerns to my attention sooner."

Bailey continued: "All Marylanders deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, especially those who were willing to risk their lives fighting for our freedoms. I know that this is not a reflection of all who work at CHVH and appreciate those who have advocated and cared for our veterans."

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County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

Two Identified in Fatal Lexington Park Fire



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A team of investigators from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, are investigating a dwelling fire that claimed two lives in the 21700 block of Cabot Place in Lexington Park.

The deceased have since been identified as 59-year-old Jerome Garcia Barnes and

62-year-old Mary Jacqueline Queen, according to Deputy Fire Marshall Oliver Alkire.

Alkire said that a man who was in the residence and sleeping on the first floor awoke to the smell of smoke and found the fire in the basement.

Alkire said that the fire appears to be accidental in nature and not incendiary.

"There's no evidence that anyone started a fire," Alkire said. "There's still a few loose ends before they [investigators] can make a final determination" about what caused the fire.

The man who awoke to the smoke was able to alert two others to escape with him, however Barnes and Queen perished apparently from smoke inhalation, Alkire said.

"Unfortunately, they were not able to escape the house," Alkire said, noting that the fire spread quickly throughout the structure.

The first 911 call was received at 1:19 a.m. March 20.

It took 40 firefighters from the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department and surrounding departments to control the one-alarm blaze.

A joint investigation between the police agency having jurisdiction and the Office of the State Fire Marshal is standard operating procedure whenever a fatal fire occurs.

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Bicyclist Injured in Vehicle Collision

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Sheriff's office reports state that a 61-year-old bicyclist was in the crosswalk at the intersection of Chancellor's Run Road and Route 235 when he was struck by a vehicle that was moving on a green light, according to witness statements.

Sheriff's office spokesperson Jason Babcock said deputies responded to the

crash at approximately 2:30 p.m. March 20 and found the bicyclist had been injured; he was subsequently flown out by helicopter to the University of Maryland Capital Regional Trauma Center in Largo with non-life-threatening injuries.

"He was proceeding when he should not have proceeded," Babcock said of the bicyclist.

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Boat Procession Set For Maryland Day



Times. "It's something fun for people to come out and do."

In a social media post, event organizer Terri Raley said that the boaters would meet at 9:30 a.m. March 25 and take their vessels out to the island, move into the Potomac River and come back to troll around the island for about two hours.

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A group of local boaters are planning to start a new tradition this Saturday during Maryland Day celebrations in Colton Point when they take a procession of vessels from Fitzie's Marina out to St. Clements Island all while flying the Maryland flag.

St. Clements Island was the first landing site of English Catholic settlers in Maryland in 1634 before moving on to establish their main settlement and first capital in St. Mary's City.

County Commissioner Mike Alderson said he was working with the organizers of the event in hopes of making it a success.

"It's just to drum up some spirit for Maryland Day," Alderson told The County

The procession is designed to celebrate the landing of the Ark and the Dove centuries ago, Raley said in her social media post.

"We're expecting anyone to come," Raley said in a telephone interview.

She said the event is to be the genesis of something much larger in preparation for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Maryland in 11 years.

By then, she said, the hope was that enough boaters would be participating to make it a major part of the 400th anniversary celebration.

"We hope it will be a huge celebration for Maryland Day," Raley said. "All we're doing is try to get a spark and the we can get the fire."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

2023 Seasonal Perc Testing Suspended in St. Mary's County

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) is suspending wet season perc testing effective Friday, March 24, 2023. The suspension is due to declining groundwater levels, made clear by observing conditions within a network of monitoring wells in the county.

All perc test applications that were not scheduled and evaluated will be suspended and rescheduled first when groundwater levels are adequate for the next wet sea-

son, expected in 2024. Applicants may also request a refund; however, they must then reapply when the wet season returns and will lose their place/priority for scheduling during the next perc testing season.

For more information, please contact the Environmental Health Division at (301) 475-4321 or via email at smchd.env@maryland.gov. For additional information about perc testing, please visit smchd.org/perc-testing.

Sell it - Buy it at Auction

Tri County Livestock Auction
1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the Month – Auction begins at 4 PM
Located Off MD Rt. 6 West – Charlotte Hall, MD

20th Annual "Millwood" Auction
Friday, March 17th – 2 pm
Groceries, Flowers/Plants, Box Lots, Misc. Items

Saturday, March 18th – 8:30 am
Farm Equipment/Machinery, Shop/Garage Items, Building Materials, Antiques/Collectibles, Tools, Lawn/Garden Items, Furniture & Crafts, Buggies, Hunting & Sporting Items, Toys, More

27429 Thompson Corner Rd. – Mechanicsville, MD



Tri County Livestock Auction
Special Lamb and Goat Auction – March 29, 2023 - 6 PM
Located Off MD Rt. 6 West – Charlotte Hall, MD

Anne Arundel County Young Farmers
Public Consignment Auction
Farm, Lawn & Garden Related Items
Saturday, April 1, 2023, 8 am
241 Farmhouse Lane, Lothian, MD

For more information call: 240-825-9509 or 240-486-6592

So. Md. NWTF Hunting Heritage Banquet & Auction
Saturday, April 1, 2023, 4 pm
Charles Co. Fairgrounds - 8440 Fairground Rd, LaPlata, MD
Tickets Required. For more information call go to:
www.NWTF.org/events or call 301-752-4292

www.FarrellAuctionService.com
301.904.3402

Commissioners Approve Grant Application for STS

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Each year the county's Department of Public Works and Transportation applies for grant funding from the Maryland Transportation Authority to help support its STS bus program.

This year is no different, with public work's chief Jim Gotsch telling the Commissioners of St. Mary's County that his department's application is for \$3.6 million.

Alison Swint, Gotsch's deputy, told elected leaders that the grant request would go towards purchasing new STS buses and two bus shelters.

"We have six buses that are going past their useful life," Swint said, noting that the funds would be used to purchase four small new buses and two new medium-sized ones.

The funds would also go to preventive maintenance for the fleet, Swint said.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt, who has long complained of the county not having enough bus shelters for STS customers, pressed the issue.

"These shelters, we've been on these

things for a while," Hewitt said. "They just take forever.

"What's going on?"

Swint said that the county was following the lead of its counterpart to the north.

"Charles County is spearheading this, we are piggybacking on their [work,]" Swint said. "They've done the leg work with the applications, the [requests for proposals] ... and moving it through the [Maryland Transportation Authority.]"

Once that approval comes from the state, Swint said, the county could proceed with getting bids for the construction of the shelters and their eventual installation.

The county is attempting to get more designated stops for its STS bus fleet to move away from the practice known as "flagging" where a resident can have an STS bus stop virtually anywhere along its route to board it.

This practice has been questioned recently due to safety concerns for passengers and drivers surrounding the bus.

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the grant application.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Navy Receives Final JPALS Unit Delivery



The U.S. Navy accepted delivery of the final Joint Precision Approach and Landing Systems (JPALS) unit March 16 marking another on-time or ahead of schedule delivery for increased capability at sea.

JPALS is a ship-relative GPS-based system that provides aircraft carriers and amphibious assault ships with precision approach and landing capability, surveillance, and over-the-air inertial alignment in all weather and mission environments.

"This is a significant milestone for the JPALS team, and highlights the incredible efforts of hundreds of our teammates over the past decade who developed and now have fully delivered these critical sys-

tems that our Warfighters and International Partners need," said Capt. Kevin Watkins, Naval Air Traffic Management Systems (PMA-213) program manager. "This team overcame many barriers over the past several years, successfully achieving the required outcome to deliver all of the capabilities needed, on time and affordably."

JPALS is currently being deployed on all U.S. Navy aircraft carriers and amphibious assault ships, and is on the United Kingdom Royal Navy's HMS Queen Elizabeth and the Italian Navy's ITS Cavour. Japan became the third foreign military sale customer in December and is scheduled to be deployed on the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's JS Izumo in 2024.

JPALS has been supporting F-35B deployments on U.S. Navy LH-class amphibious assault ships since 2016 and F-35C deployments on U.S. Navy aircraft carriers since 2021. Initial operational capability was reached in May 2021 with full operational capability scheduled for fiscal year 2026.

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Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

CASE NO: C-18-FM-23-000015

Brian Beidleman
4817 Coyle Rd
Owings Mills, MD 21117,
Plaintiff

Ashley N. Smith
27386 N. Sandgates Rd
Mechanicsville, MD 20659
Defendant

NOTICE—ALTERNATE SERVICE (Md. Rules 2-121, 2-122)

Brian Beidleman, the above named plaintiff, has filed a petition/complaint titled Petition to Modify Custody in which he/she is asking the court to grant custody of a minor child.

The Circuit Court for St. Mary's County may grant that relief unless Ashley Smith, above named defendant, can show reasons why the court should not grant the relief. Ashley Smith must file a response to the petition/complaint/motion on or before May 10, 2023.

If Ashley Smith fails to respond within the time allowed, the court may enter a judgement by default or grant the relief sought, as long as a copy of this Notice is:

- published in a newspaper in this county/city at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks on or before April 12, 2023
- other: Complaint and related documentation mailed to Defendant's last known address.

After the time period in the judge's order has passed, you may ask the court for a default judgement or to move forward with your case.

Debra J. Burch
Clerk of Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland
March 10, 2023

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

CASE NO: C-18-CV-23-000145

SINAN CESUR
19805 Center Avenue
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971
Plaintiff

v.

STEVEN BROWN
4701 Sargent Rd., NE
Washington, DC 20017-2722

-and-

MATTIE L. BROWN
4701 Sargent Rd., NE
Washington, DC 20017-2722

-and-

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
P.O. Box 1
Leonardtown, MD 20650

-and-

CHRISTINE L. KELLY, Treasurer
P.O. Box 642
Leonardtown, MD 20650

and

Unknown owners of property known as Lt 10 & 11, Longview, 07-002955 the unknown owners, heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and their or any of their heirs, devisees, executors, administrators, grantees, assigns, or successors in right, title and interest

Defendants

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property located in St. Mary's County, Maryland, sold by the Collector of Taxes for the County of St. Mary's and the State of Maryland to the Plaintiff, in this proceeding:

Account Number 07-002955, *UNASSIGNED, LT-10&11, LONGVIEW

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amount necessary for redemption has not been paid.

It is thereupon this **27th** day of **February**, 2023, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland, **ORDERED**, that this notice be given by the insertion of a copy of this Order in some newspaper having a general circulation in St. Mary's County, Maryland, once a week for three (3) successive weeks, warning all persons interested in the property to appear in this Court by the **27th** day of **March**, 2023, and redeem the property above described and answer the Complaint or thereafter a final Judgment will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title free and clear of all encumbrances.

If you would like to submit a legal notice,
please contact the County Times at:

301-373-4125

aldailey@countytimes.net

P.O. Box 250 Hollywood, MD 20636

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ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

Identity Sought for Attempted Burglary Suspect



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the person pictured in an attempted burglary investigation. On Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023, at 7:12 am, the suspect attempted to gain entry to an unoccupied residence in the Suburban Estates neighborhood in Lexington Park. While the suspect was attempting to open the door, another suspect dressed in light colored clothes stood watch from behind a neighboring shed.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspects or this incident is asked to call Deputy Christopher Palmer at 301-475-4200, ext. 78162 or email christopher.palmer@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case # 4754-23

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

Identity Needed for CVS Theft Suspect



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the man pictured in a theft investigation. On Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 9:09 am, the suspect entered the CVS at Buck Hewitt Road in California empty handed. A few minutes later, the suspect was seen leaving the store with a large green bag full of merchandise that was not paid for. The suspect left by unknown means and unknown direction of travel.

The suspect is described as a black male, wearing blue jeans, black jacket, a gray hoodie and a black mask.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect or this incident is asked to call Deputy Darrell Stewart at 301-475-4200, ext. 78113 or email darrell.stewart@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case # 13807-23

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

Beware of Scammers Posing as Sheriff's Office Employees

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office reminds the public to beware of scammers posing as agency employees making demands for money.

Scammers will make telephone calls claiming to work for our agency, threatening citizens with arrest, claiming they have missed jury duty or that a family member has been jailed and will be moved out of state.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office will not call you about jury duty, to threaten you with arrest or to move a loved one from the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center unless payment is made.

The Sheriff's Office will not call you seeking funds, gift cards or bitcoin.

In a recent report of fraud, the scammer claimed to work for the Sheriff's Office Corrections Division and told the victim that a loved one was jailed at the detention center and would be moved out of state unless the victim paid by bitcoin.


Some of the scams may seem legitimate as the numbers calling appear to be from St.

Mary's County Government or the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office. This is known as caller ID spoofing and it is the where the caller deliberately falsifies the information received on your caller ID to disguise their identity.

In another ruse, the scammer provides the name of an employee, and advises there is a warrant for the recipient for failure to pay civil fines and instructs the individual to bring cash to the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office. But to avoid being arrested on the way to the Sheriff's Office, the individual is advised to pay a portion up front to the caller.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office reminds citizens that no law enforcement agency will attempt to collect money in lieu of serving an arrest warrant and will not request payment with a gift card of any kind.

If you have been the victim of a scam and wish to file a report please contact the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office at 301-475-8008 or online at <https://www.firstsheriff.com/citizenreport/>




Philip H. Dorsey III
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Wanderings

of an Aimless Mind
by Shelby Oppermann



“March”ing By Too Fast



March and the spring holidays are zooming by too quickly. St. Patrick's Day is already a memory...well, just about a memory for my husband Robert who in an unusual spurt of St. Patrick's Day zeal decided to go to new extremes last Friday. He and some of his siblings and daughter were going to the Caps game that night. Friday morning my husband said in passing that he might dye his mustache green; he is a retired Federal Firefighter and has the firefighter style mustache also seen on many bikers as well, so it is a bit longer than the average 'stache. I thought he was kidding at first.

In the meantime, I had pulled out my green food safe dye and dark green Crème de menthe extract for the des-

serts I was making for our St. Patrick's Day dinner at church last Saturday. I was busy gathering what I needed to bake with from the downstairs fridge and making trips up and down the steps, when I walked past the bathroom upstairs in time to see the side of my husband's face covered in green. He wasn't kidding. And instead of just his mustache being green it was also a shape of a beard in green too. It was bright and it was sure a surprise I didn't expect to see. It was then I noticed that he was using my Crème de Menthe extract. I couldn't think of much to say except, “Well, at least you will smell good too”.

My husband then went over the area again with green dye besides the Crème de Menthe. I, of course, did think to run and get my phone to take a photo, same as when our bedroom ceiling caved in on him. Some things like incriminating photos come first before Safety First. All I can figure is that the years of dressing up as a Clements Cutie for the children fighting cancer has changed how easy it is for him to do crazier things than normal. He did wash some of the brightness out before they left for the game.

On the bright side, Robert was still tinged with green for the St. Patrick's Day dinner on Saturday. The green mustache was actually becoming on him. It was still nice on Sunday at church and on Monday, too even though it had just about faded away. I told him he could probably use peroxide to bleach it out like all of us girls did on our hair in the 70s. He didn't seem to care.

We have another large event coming up this coming Saturday at our church with the Installation of our new Priest, Rev. Peter K. Ackerman, as the 46th Rector of Christ Episcopal Church Chaptico, King and Queen Parish. Our church was built in 1736 with roots of worship in Chaptico going back as far as 1640 in congregant's homes. Quite a legacy, and a history, to be proud of in a small rural parish. The Rite Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde of Washington DC's National Cathedral will be presiding over the service. This should be an amazing service for our beautiful church and all who come.

Our church members are known for making great food for all of our events, and this Saturday will showcase some of the best from everyone for the reception after Father Peter's Installation. I'll be making quiches for this Saturday, but I also will make another dessert. I am thinking a trifle filled with the delicious, soaked fruit pound cake, and lots of fruits in all the layers, all the pudding layers, and a whipped topping to set it off. But what if I dyed the whipped topping purple, known as a majestic color; worn by royalty as well as high priests. Or what about red dye in the whipped topping since we are close to Easter and red is synonymous with Jesus the lamb of God and the blood he shed for all of us. Or...what if I just think better of it and leave all the dye in the kitchen cabinet...just in case.....

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Should you consolidate retirement accounts?

One of the rewards for working over several decades is the ability to contribute to tax-advantaged retirement accounts, which can help provide needed income for you when you do retire. As the years went by, you may well have accumulated several retirement accounts, such as IRAs and 401(k)s or similar employer-sponsored plans. But you might find it advantageous to consolidate these accounts with a single provider.

Consolidating them can provide you with several potential benefits, including these:

- *Less confusion and clutter* – If you have multiple accounts in different locations, it may be difficult to keep track of tax documents, statements, fees, disclosures and other important information. Consolidating accounts could help provide clear, simplified account maintenance.
- *Less likelihood of “lost accounts”* – It may be hard to believe, but many people abandon their retirement accounts, leaving thousands of dollars behind and unclaimed. In fact, at the end of 2021, there were nearly 25 million forgotten 401(k) accounts, worth about 20% of all 401(k) assets, according to an estimate by Capitalize, a financial services company that helps individuals roll over retirement plan assets into new accounts. It's possible that employers can even move small, old accounts out of their 401(k) plans and into an IRA on behalf of their former employees, thus increasing the chances that savers will lose track of their money. By consolidating your retirement plans with one provider, you can ensure you don't lose track of your hard-earned money.
- *Ability to follow a unified strategy* – With multiple retirement accounts, and different investment portfolios, you might find it difficult to maintain a unified financial strategy that's appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance. But once you've consolidated accounts with a single provider, you'll find it easier to manage your investment mix and to rebalance your portfolio as needed. The need to rebalance may become more important as you near retirement because you may want to shift some of your assets into investments that aren't as susceptible to swings in the financial markets.
- *Possible improvement in investment options* – Often, 401(k)s may have limited investment selection, so consolidating accounts with a full-service firm may allow for a wider array of products and strategies. This broader exposure can potentially help you improve your overall retirement income strategies.
- *Greater ease in calculating RMDs* – Once you turn 72, you will need to start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar plan. If you don't take out at least the minimal amount, which is based on your age and account balance, you could face a penalty. If you have several accounts, with different providers, it could be cumbersome and difficult to calculate your RMDs — it will be much easier with all accounts under one roof.

So, if you do have multiple retirement accounts, give some thought to consolidating them. The consolidation process is not difficult, and the end result may save you time and hassles, while also helping you manage your retirement income more effectively.

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

*Contributed by David McDonough
Financial Advisor at Edward Jones
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Leonardtown, MD 20650
301 997 1707*

Rotary Club of Charlotte Hall Awards \$10K to Support Suicide Lifeline

The Rotary Club of Charlotte Hall and Community Bank of the Chesapeake have awarded the St. Mary's County Health Department with a \$10,000 grant to promote the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death among young people age 15-44 in the United States. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline connects anyone in crisis - via call, text or chat - to a trained call specialist who will provide support and connect them to local resources as needed.

"The Rotary Club of Charlotte Hall's members recognize that suicide is a fight that can affect anyone, and we are proud to partner with the St. Mary's County Health Department and Community Bank of the Chesapeake to help with the County's 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline initiative," said Theresa Dorsey, President, Rotary Club of Charlotte Hall. "I have experienced the tragedy of losing coworkers to suicide. Our Club feels that it is important for the citizens of St. Mary's County to know there are resources to help with suicide crisis intervention, whether they call the Crisis Lifeline, or if they are treated at a nearby medical facility or emergency room. We are thankful to St. Mary's County Health Department for caring about its citizens in their time of need."

"We're proud to support the St. Mary's County Health Department's 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline initiative. We hope the funds contributed to this cause help build community awareness of suicide prevention and assist those in their time of need. With suicides on the rise, it is vital to have resources and support readily available. Thank you, St. Mary's Health Department, for leading this initiative," said Jimmy Burke, President and CEO at Community Bank of the Chesapeake.

"The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is important to getting immediate support to people when they are in the vulnerable moments of a crisis related to mental health or substance use," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "We greatly appreciate this grant from the Rotary Club of Charlotte Hall and Community Bank of the Chesapeake. The funding will connect residents to the new 988 resource and other community services that can help get them through their time of crisis."

For more information about the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline or to find local resources for behavioral health support, please visit smchd.org/crisis.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a behavioral health crisis, call or text 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org.

Pet OF THE WEEK



MEET SAHARA

When a large dog licks your tears away, then tries to sit on your lap, it's impossible to feel sad!

-Kristan Higgins

Hello, my name is Sahara. My Shelter Pals say I'm PHOTOGENIC but you really have to meet me in person to appreciate my good looks! I'm just a SWEET BIG GIRL who thinks I should be in your lap or at least leaning up against YOU! I'm about 4 YEARS OLD and I seem to like other dogs. I'm a REALLY SMART GIRL and I would LOVE to learn some new tricks. Extra training would also help me to polish my overall manners so I can become the VERY BEST VERSION of myself for YOU! If you would like to meet me or any of my other dog pals, please come in during our adoption hours, Monday-Saturday 12:30-3pm or email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! Adopt don't shop!

To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



3rd annual **First Landing Wine & Arts Festival**

Saturday APRIL 1ST, 2023 10AM - 5PM






Sample wines from the First Landing Wine Trail at St. Clement's Island Museum on the shores of the beautiful Potomac River.

**ART & CRAFT VENDORS • WINE BY THE GLASS OR BOTTLE • WATER TAXI RIDES
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FOR MORE INFORMATION: 301-769-2222 OR FACEBOOK.COM/SCIMUSEUM

St Mary's Recognizes Sustainability Award Winners

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Commission on the Environment are pleased to announce the winners of the 4th annual St Mary's County Sustainability Awards:

- The Southern Maryland Sierra Club
- The Environmental Division, Department of Public Works, Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS Pax River)

The Sustainability Awards recognize outstanding students, restaurants, businesses, non-profits, and farms in St Mary's County for their environmental stewardship, resource conservation, innovative best practices, and pollution prevention efforts. All nominees for the 2022 calendar year demonstrated impressive commitment to improving local environmental impacts.

The Southern Maryland Sierra Club has continued their 1,000 Trees initiative that began in 2018. In 2022, Club volunteers planted 162 native trees in local parks and sports complexes to rebuild the native tree canopy. Additionally, they planted 27 shrubs at Lexington Manor Passive Park in a 7,500 square foot Native Exhibition Garden, showcasing information on native plants and alternatives to invasive species. The Club also demonstrated a commitment to sustainable and healthy foods by completing buildout of 36 gardens at eight locations. These pollinator-friendly gardens provide vegetables to local food pantries and opportunities to teach the benefits of sustainable, local gardening. Get involved at: sierraclub.org/maryland/southern-maryland-group.

The Environmental Division of NAS Pax

River's Public Works Department completed a shoreline restoration project along their Fishing Point shoreline. This project stabilized 960 linear feet of shoreline from further erosion. Rather than merely restoring the shoreline, the Environmental Division worked to create a living shoreline that offers protection and provides habitat for several aquatic organisms using structural materials (rip rap, cobbles, etc.) and vegetative materials (grasses, shrubs, and wetland plugs). Additionally, low marsh, high density plantings of *Spartina alterniflora* will accelerate the establishment of the marsh vegetation. High marsh and coastal species were planted for further sediment stabilization, and to encourage establishment and future resilience of shoreline habitat. Living shorelines have several benefits to aquatic organisms, including the Diamondback Terrapin, which have a large presence at NAS Pax River. Living shorelines allow aquatic organisms to adapt to rising sea levels resulting from climate change and shift their habitats inland as sea levels rise. Living shorelines help limit erosion, provide habitat for native species, purify water, buffer floods, store carbon, protect community infrastructure, and they perform better in major storms when compared to hardened shorelines, as they can adapt to changing water levels and intense storms.

Selection of the Sustainability Award winners was based on outstanding demonstrated efforts to improve the environment and for initiatives and projects exceeding business norms and requirements. For more information on the Commission on the Environment, please visit stmaryscountymd.gov/coe.

St. Clement's Island Museum to Host Wine & Arts Festival

On Saturday, April 1, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Clement's Island Museum will host all four St. Mary's County wineries, as well as local crafters and artisans for the 3rd annual First Landing Wine & Arts Festival.

Community members and visitors are invited to enjoy this full day of fun on the waterfront lawn of the museum. Attendees can purchase locally grown and produced wine by the glass or bottle from the Port of Leonardtown Winery, Generations Vineyard, Corteau Vineyards, and Xella Winery & Vineyard.

This event also features food trucks, live music, local crafted items and art, activities for kids, and more – right on the scenic shores of the Potomac River. Visitors are encouraged to learn the story of the first landing and the beginnings of Maryland in the museum or to take a water taxi boat ride over to the St. Clement's Island State Park to explore the site where the original "First Landing" took place in 1634.

"We have had an amazing response from

the public regarding this event over the last few years, so we decided to make it an annual experience," said Karen Stone, Manager for the St. Mary's County Museum Division. "This year, we are excited to welcome Corteau Vineyards to the event as our fourth winery. Hosting all our First Landing Wine Trail wineries, as well as local artisans, at the location of the original 'First Landing' in 1634, just makes sense!"

Event admission is free for all guests. There will be various costs for wine, food, museum admission, water taxi rides, and vendor purchases. Don't miss your chance to purchase special edition First Landing Wine Trail wine glasses from the museum store as a souvenir!

St. Clement's Island Museum is located at 38370 Point Breeze Road in Colton's Point. Please call (301) 769-2222 or visit [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum) for more information about this event.

Forward Together: The Legacy of John Hanson Briscoe



Join us virtually on Wednesday, April 19th, for the second of our two connected events featuring two individuals who were transformative in shaping Historic Sotterley, their communities, and our State. April was the birth month of Trustee Emeritus John Hanson Briscoe, former Maryland Circuit Court Judge, Maryland Speaker of the House, and staunch advocate for Historic Sotterley. This event will feature a panel to discuss his life, his work, and the impact he had on Sotterley and our community. Our panel for the evening will include Jan Briscoe, Sam Baldwin, the Honorable James Kenney and Michael Whitson. Senator Ben Cardin has

also been invited to join the event to share his remembrances of the man he knew so well.

John Hanson Briscoe was born on April 10, 1934. In his lifetime as a St. Mary's County resident, he served as a Member and Speaker of the House of Delegates and County Administrative Judge, and served on many County, State and National commissions and boards for the betterment of our communities and their citizens. He always advocated the need to remember our past with historical preservation, to protect and conserve our natural resources and environment, and was instrumental in the passage of state civil rights laws. In his time on the Historic Sotterley Board of Trustees, he advocated strongly for the preservation of Sotterley so that it could continue to share its history with the world.

John worked closely with Agnes Kane Callum, who was honored in part one of our series in February, and their friendship and mutual respect laid the foundation for Historic Sotterley's Decendants Project today. Together this extraordinary pair created a powerful duo who helped to save Sotterley, but just as importantly, worked to ensure that this irreplaceable site tells an inclusive and honest history.



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To schedule an obituary in the County Times, submit text and picture to aldailey@countytimes.net by noon on Tuesdays for publication on Thursdays. Any submissions received after this deadline may run in the following week's edition.

In Remembrance

Patsy Oxley-Stone, 84



Patricia Ann "Patsy" Oxley-Stone, 84, of Budds Creek, MD, passed away peacefully at her home on March 15th, 2023. Patsy was born on November 22nd, 1938 to Thomas and

Genevieve Stone at their home in Budds Creek, MD. She attended St. Mary's Academy from 1st through 12th grade and graduated in 1956. For many years she worked in the hospitality industry before taking over the family business, "Stone's Store" in Budds Creek, MD, where she made many friends young and old. She never hesitated to lend a helping hand and always welcome everyone with open arms. Patsy was an excellent cook, who provided family and friends with many delicious meals over the years. She had a profound love for gardening, which was showcased by her three "yard of the month" awards that were won for her meticulous and detailed arrangements of flowers. On Friday nights you could count on finding Patsy at Potomac Speedway cheering on her grandson PJ and in her most recent years she spent her nights awaiting the return of the boys (PJ, Justin & Jayden) to find out their nightly racing results. After selling the family business in 2012, at which she retired, she spent her remaining years enjoying life in her new home with her grandson PJ, his wife Katherine, and great grandsons Justin and Jayden. She always looked forward to family gatherings with her children and other family members. Patsy was predeceased by her son Michael "Mike" Hatcher, her parents Thomas and Genevieve Stone, her siblings Mary Lingeman and Robert "Bobby" Wise. She leaves behind to treasure her memory of three children Joe Hatcher (Roxanne), Patricia Hanson (Frankie), and Emily Wheatley. Patsy is also survived by her seven grandchildren, Kim (Jerry), PJ (Katherine), Matthew, Danielle, Dalton, Genevieve and Cheyenne. She also had nine great grandchildren, Justin, Josh, Justice, Jayden, Carys, Serenity, Mike, Autumn and Cole.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 from 5:00PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 10:00 AM in Our Lady of the Wayside Church Chaptico, MD with Father Stephen Wyble officiating. Interment will follow in Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery Bushwood, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Patrick Hatcher, John Frankie Hanson, Justin Hatcher, Jayden Hatcher, Josh Oliver, and Danielle Wheatley.

Patsy was a devoted Catholic and in lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to Catholic Charities. Donations may also be made to Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire & Rescue.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com. Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and

Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Pat Hockenberry, 84



Natalie "Pat" Hockenberry, age 84, of California, MD passed away on Saturday, March 18th, 2023- surrounded by her loved ones. Pat was born April 15th, 1938 in Baltimore,

MD. She graduated from Seton High School, and received her Associate's Degree from University of Maryland. She married her husband, Larry E. Hockenberry, May 25th, 1979. They lived a beautiful life together, often loud, but full of laughter, love, family gatherings, and trips of a lifetime. Their strong marriage was the cornerstone of their blended family.

Pat was a businesswoman, and held many jobs throughout her life that provided her with a sense of accomplishment and success. She was integral to the success of the Wildewood housing development, having played a role in Sections 1 and 2. She also worked for Seafarers International Headquarters in Marlow Heights, MD. While these endeavors brought her success, her true calling was accounting and tax preparation. Pat enjoyed running her tax preparation business, which allowed her to connect with people from all walks of life. Pat was sociable and enjoyed the conversations she shared with clients. From her in-home tax preparation business, Pat welcomed her clients into her home and introduced them to her Wall of Pride- the many photos she kept of her family in her office.

Pat enjoyed many hobbies, including reading and watching sports on television- especially NASCAR and golf. Some of her favorite TV shows were Wheel of Fortune and Jeopardy, both of which she watched religiously every evening; and cartoons when her great-grandson Hallum was visiting. Pat and Larry were well-traveled, having taken many vacations aboard cruise ships- one of her favorites was an Alaskan cruise. She always brought back little souvenirs for family members, just to show that she was thinking of them. Pat enjoyed getting manicures and pedicures, especially if it was for a family wedding or event. She got a kick out of playing card games with family and friends. If you ask her neighbors, they will probably tell you that Halloween was important to Pat, because her yard was always decorated the most, and she loved seeing the trick-or-treaters in costume! Many of her grandkids and great grandkids all have fond and funny memories of "Halloween at grandma's." Pat adored being with her family, especially her great-grandchildren.

More than anything, Pat loved her family. She is survived by her husband, Larry; brother, John "Bill" Stroh of Texas, and her children: Eileen Bildman (Steve), Anita Sullivan (Kenny), Howard Dorsey (Antoinette), Michael Hockenberry (Pam), and Kim Plank (Terry). She is also survived by 12 grandchildren, plus their spouses, and

9 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her mother, Margaret Rykoski; her father, John Stroh; her son-in-law, Robert "Mike" Sullivan; and her grandsons, Kevin Clarke and James Morgan.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, March 23, 2023 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, March 24, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the Funeral Home Chapel with Father Ryan Braam officiating. Interment will follow in Charles Memorial Gardens Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be: Josh Burch, Connor Plank, Brandon Swartz, Richard Aud, Jeff Ryan, and Travis Tarleton. Honorary pallbearers will be Brandon Aksteter, and Chris Romero.

Contributions may be made to the Hollywood Vol. Rescue Squad P.O. Box 79 Hollywood, MD 20636 and Leonardtown Vol. Rescue Squad P.O. Box 299 Leonardtown, MD 20636. Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com. Arrangements provided by the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home and Cremation Services, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Lou Pullen, 90



Luther "Lou" Daniel Pullen, Commander, U.S. Navy, age 90, of Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina passed away on Wednesday, March 15, 2023. He was

born February 18, 1933 in Woodville, Virginia, son of the late Alice Atkins Pullen and Ennis Daniel Pullen.

Lou was the loving husband of Susan Yvonne Wood Pullen, whom he married at Immaculate Conception Church in Mechanicsville, Maryland on March 22, 1980. Together they enjoyed 43 wonderful years.

Lou proudly served in the United States Navy for 29 years in the aviation arena. While in service, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal and the Antarctica Service Medal. After retiring from the Navy as a Commander in 1982, he continued his

career in the private sector for an additional 15 years, retiring from Lockheed Martin.

In his free time, Lou was an avid golfer. Hard working and compassionate, he also dedicated time to volunteer work, enjoying giving back to the community. He was a member of the Ocean Ridge Veterans Association and the Military Officers Association of America.

Most importantly, Lou loved and was loved by his family and friends near and far. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be missed deeply and remembered fondly by all.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Wood Pullen and his children: Terry Pullen (Cathy) of Poplar Branch, North Carolina, Kimberlee Pullen Spires of Suffolk, Virginia and Jeff Pullen (DeDe) of Mechanicsville, Maryland. Two grandchildren: Amanda Pullen-McGrath (Sean) and Danielle Tate (Matthew). Six great-grandchildren: Carter Pullen-McGrath, Amelia Tate, Finnegan Pullen-McGrath, Simon Tate, Oliver Pullen-McGrath, and Ambrose Tate.

Lou was preceded in death by his sister and brother-in-law, Kathleen Adams and Odell Adams, his brother and sister-in-law, Bryan Pullen and Barbara (Kite) Pullen and his son-in-law Elmer Spires.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Mechanicsville, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12:00 PM with Father Michael Tietjen officiating. Interment will follow at Our Lady Queen of Peace Cemetery, Helen, MD.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to: Ocean Ridge Veterans Association, P.O. Box 8101, 1587 Seaside Road SW, Ocean Isles Beach, NC 28469 or Lower Cape Fear LifeCare Veterans Programs 1414 Physicians Drive, Wilmington, NC 28401 or online: LifeCare.Org/donate.

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

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

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

REMEMBRANCES
IN PRINT & ONLINE

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St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

Programs and Activities

Loffler Senior Activity Center 301-475-4200, ext. 1658
Garvey Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4200, ext. 1080
Northern Senior Activity Center, 301-475-4002, ext. 3101

Unless otherwise specified, all activities are open to Senior Activity Center participants ages 50+. Please call your local Senior Activity Center or visit StMarysMD.com/aging for the most up-to-date information.

Dungeons & Dragons

Are you a fan of storytelling? Have you ever wanted to be a character in Lord of the Rings?

Are you looking for something new to try out? Have you been playing D&D since the 70s and want a new group to adventure with? Join Peter Friesen to learn about D&D and play a series of one-shot campaigns! D&D will be meeting at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Mondays, at 5 p.m. For more information, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1080.

Open Art Studio Hours

Do you want to work on an arts or crafts project but have no room to do so at home? Would you like to socialize with other crafters and share ideas? Every Thursday we will have open studio time at the Garvey Senior Activity Center for you to come in and work on anything you would like to work on. No instruction provided. The studio hours will be from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1080.

Beginner Fine Arts Acrylic Class

Do you have an interest in Fine Arts and would love to learn more? Come join us in the Art Studio at the Garvey Senior Activity Center on the last Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. You will learn the basics of acrylic painting and have fun while doing so! Class is beginner friendly, and no prior experience is necessary. All materials will be provided, and the cost of the class is \$15. You can now use the online registration at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs". Call the Reservation Request Line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1075, if you need assistance with registration.

Watercolor Butterfly

Come have fun with watercolors with T.L. Ford at Northern Senior Activity Center on Monday, April 3, from 1-3 p.m.! T.L. Ford is an experienced artist and published author from the area. Using professional grade supplies, learn wet-in-wet and other techniques for the soft, feathery effect that is the trademark of watercolors. You can also learn color mixing and blending. No experience necessary. All supplies provided. To register for this event and pay the \$25 fee, click on the "View and Sign Up for Activities and Programs" button at www.stmarysmd.com/aging. Accommodations can be made for those requiring registration assistance by leaving a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

Fraud & Scams with Lt. Douglas Mills

Unfortunately, folks are being scammed and defrauded out of their life savings at alarming rates. Don't let it happen to you! On Thursday, April 6, from 2-3 p.m. at Northern Senior Activity Center, Lt. Douglas Mills of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office will provide crucial information on recognizing fraud/scams (bank, computer, mail, phone) & how to prevent these attacks. To register for this free event, click on the "View and Sign Up for Activities and Programs" button at www.stmarysmd.com/aging. Accommodations can be made for those requiring registration assistance by leaving a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

Cycling Without Age - 4 Rides Available

On Thursday, April 6, Christina Allen will provide four 45-minute covered rides (with blanket if needed) on Three Notch Trail leaving the Northern Senior Activity

Center. This is an exceptional opportunity for those who cannot or have not been able to enjoy the Trail or cycling activity. A waiver is required by the Cycling Without Age association before the ride departs. To register for this event, visit www.stmarysmd.com/aging. Accommodations can be made for those requiring registration assistance by leaving a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115. Learn more about Cycling Without Age at www.cyclingwithoutage.com.

Community Shred & Medication Take Back Day

Do you have paper documents with personal information that you'd like to purge? Or do you have unused, unwanted, or expired medications in your cabinets? This is your chance to dispose of them safely at the Community Shred & Medication Take Back Day! This event will be held on Saturday, April 8, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Department of Aging & Human Services, located at 41780 Baldrige St, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

This event is a cooperative effort between the Department of Aging & Human Services, St. Mary's County Health Department, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, and the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works & Transportation. Shredding services, medication collection, and safe disposal of medical sharps will be offered, all free of charge!

For more information, contact Community Programs & Outreach Manager Sarah Miller at sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov or 301-475-4200, ext. 1073.

Watercolors with T.L. Ford: Chickadee

Theresa Ford will be at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, April 12, at 1 p.m. to teach you how to paint a small watercolor painting. This month's subject

will be a sweet little chickadee. Cost of \$25 includes the use of professional grade supplies and materials, plus instruction, and a completed project you can take home. Classes are suitable for beginners as well as advanced students. Advance registration and payment is required. Register and pay for these classes at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging or leave a message on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660.

Nutrition Education

A Nutrition Presentation by Donna Taggart will take place at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Monday, April 11, at 10 a.m. This topic will be The Sleep-Nutrition Connection. Register for this free talk by going to www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging or leave a message on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660. Additionally - Donna offers free personal nutritional education at 11 a.m. on the day she is here if you make an appointment with her by text message or calling 240-538-6539.

Insurance 101

The Maryland Insurance Administration will offer a free presentation- Insurance 101- at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, April 12, at 10 a.m. The primary role of the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) is to protect consumers from illegal insurance practices by ensuring that insurers and producers that operate in Maryland act in accordance with State insurance laws. Find out what you need to know about insurance and the many types available from the agency that is designed to protect you. Register for this presentation at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging or leave a message on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660. Limited seating available.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



Talking and Walking Common Ground: with Descendants of Historic Sotterley

Join us to view the film Talking and Walking Common Ground with Historic Sotterley and join our Q&A with filmmaker Merideth Taylor, descendants of Historic Sotterley, and Historic Sotterley staff. This is a virtual event on Wednesday, March 29 from 7 - 9 p.m. Register to receive the link on www.stmalib.org.

Family Learning Fair: STEM Fun!

Share an evening of math & science fun, games, crafts & food for families on Wednesday, March 29 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Leonardtown Library. Dinner will be provided. Presented by the Early Childhood Organization of Educators for St. Mary's County, the Promise Resource Center, & the Early Childhood Advisory Council, with grant funding from the Maryland State Department of Education. No registration required.

Button Making in the Makerspace

Join us in the makerspace for some fun button making at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, April 1 from 2 - 3 p.m. You can bring your own or use some of our pre-cut designs. If you want to make sure that the button designs you create at home fit the button maker, use our template to create your design (PDF). Due to makerspace policies, children under age 14 must be accompanied by an adult to use the space. No registration required.

Introduction to Boating Safety Presented by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Learn the most critical components of boating safety for new boaters at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. The seminar includes the importance of life jackets, how to get a free boat safety check, navigating on the water, navigation rules, safe fueling, anchoring, and knots. This is a classroom course, not an on-the-water course, and does not provide actual underway experience. Register on www.stmalib.org.

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, Mar 24

Barrel Cellar Tasting & Pairing

Port of Leonardtown Winery
1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

A special tasting in the barrel cellar at Port of Leonardtown Winery to celebrate March Maryland Wine Month! A sit-down pairing with delicious bites that are expertly paired with 5 not-yet-released wines. Taste and learn the basics of wine in a casual environment while surrounded by barrels and tanks of wine. \$35 per seat.

www.polwinery.com/Store/Events

Lenten Fish-Shrimp Dinners

St. George Catholic Church
19199 St. George's Church Road
Valley Lee
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Every Friday evening. Menu is Shrimp or Fresh Catfish with Pancit, French Fries, Fritters and Soup. \$20 per dinner, we hope to see you again this year!

SMTMD Concert feat. The Empty Bottle String Band

37497 Zach Fowler Road
Chaptico
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Empty Bottle String Band, one of the finest string bands in East Tennessee, will be coming to Chaptico on Friday, March 24th. Check out their website, social media accounts, and bios all linked on the SMTMD Concerts Page, www.smtmd.org/#/concert/. SMTMD is grateful to our sponsor, The Inn at Leonardtown, for their generous support of this concert.

Tickets are officially on sale! \$15 SMTMD members; \$20 Non-members. You can purchase them in advance on TicketLeap or pay at the door via check, cash, credit card, Zelle, or Venmo. As a reminder, SMTMD is a 501 (c)(3) organization.

Sat, Mar 25

Yard Sale-Community@St. Mary's Fairgrounds-Sup. 2nd DVFD&RS

St. Mary's County Fair Grounds
42455 Fairgrounds Road
Leonardtown
7 a.m. to Noon

Event will occur rain or shine! Spaces available inside or outside (if weather permits).

A great way to get rid of unwanted items or find some bargains! Reserve a space for \$20.00—includes 1 table (6 ft) and 2 chairs. Additional fee of \$10.00 will be charged for each additional table. Can bring your own table as long it fits in space"

For more information or to reserve a table contact: Becky at dbksk@atlanticbb.net or 301-904-1656 or Agnes at agnes.birch54@gmail.com or 301-904-0946

Fundraiser benefits the 2nd District Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad in Valley Lee, MD.

Sponsored by the 2nd DVFD & RS Auxiliary

SMCPS Teacher Job Fair

23595 Hayden Farm Lane
Leonardtown
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Come meet reps from all of our St. Mary's County Public Schools. You can set up interviews ahead of time and during the fair.

Our students can't wait to meet you! Register at cfplus.page.link/dgkv.


Sun, Apr 2

Easter Egg Hunt

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd.
Mechanicsville
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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26th Run & Walk for Hospice

Saturday, April 15th, 2023 | Leonardtown, MD | Register/sponsor at runforhospice.org

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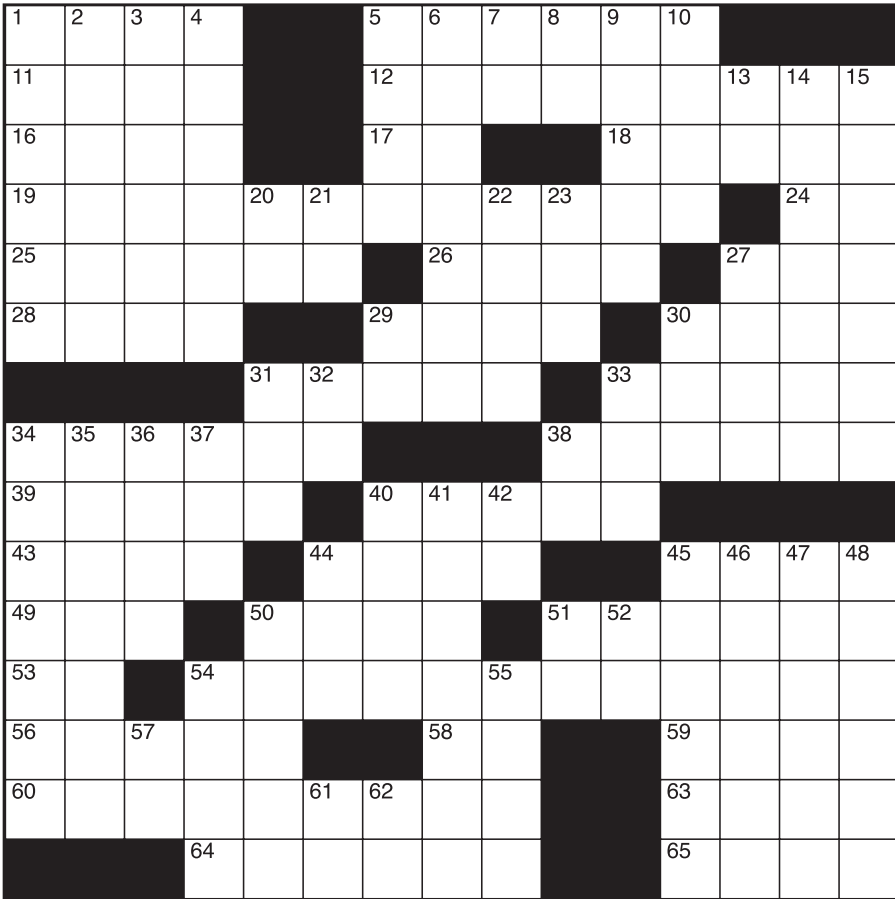
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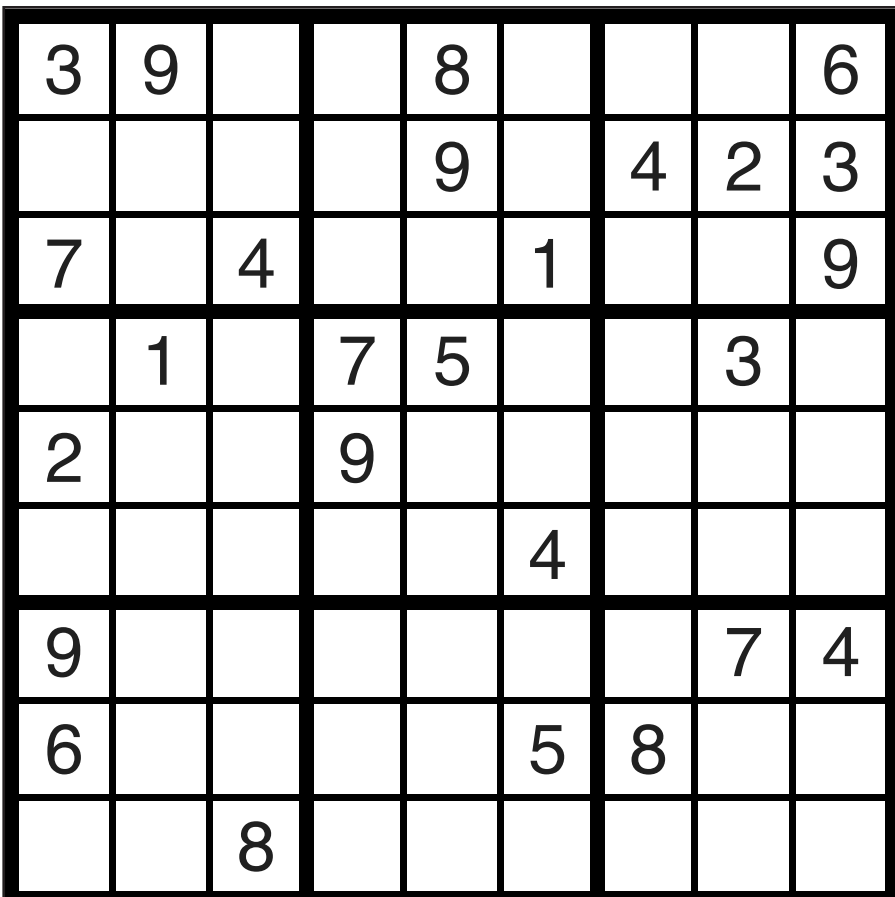


CLUES ACROSS

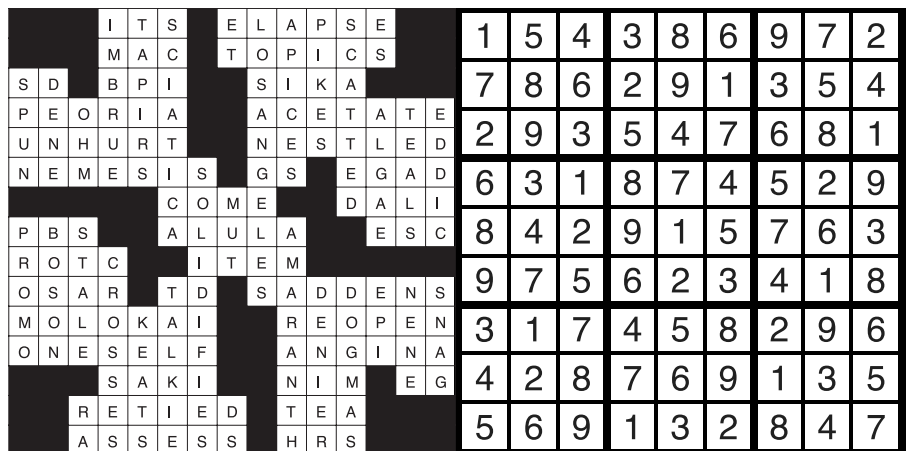
- 1. Influential American political family
- 5. ___ Chantilly, ___ de Menthe
- 11. Within
- 12. Pleasure seekers
- 16. Computer manufacturer
- 17. Home to college sports' Flyers
- 18. Fungal disease
- 19. Sleepwalk
- 24. Spielberg sci-fi film
- 25. Seasonable
- 26. Taxis
- 27. Radio direction finder (abbr.)
- 28. Thin, narrow piece of wood
- 29. "Mystic River" actor Sean
- 30. Ingenuous
- 31. Musical composition
- 33. Turkish surname
- 34. High or hilly area
- 38. Wilco frontman
- 39. Pour it on pasta
- 40. Electric car company
- 43. Sea eagle
- 44. Walk with difficulty
- 45. Sign of healing
- 49. Boy
- 50. Protein-rich liquid
- 51. Washington city
- 53. Individual portion of TV series (abbr.)
- 54. Thought over
- 56. Scads
- 58. News agency
- 59. Standard
- 60. Deadlock
- 63. Pre-Columbian empire
- 64. Removed
- 65. French commune

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Large, dangerous animals
- 2. Straighten out
- 3. Family tree
- 4. Large stinging paper wasp
- 5. European river fish
- 6. Cut down in size
- 7. Denotes past
- 8. Larry and Curly's partner
- 9. Samoyedic ethnic group
- 10. Male parent
- 13. Specific gravity
- 14. Demeaned oneself to
- 15. Rigidly
- 20. Yankovic is a "weird" one
- 21. Belonging to me
- 22. Path
- 23. Airborne (abbr.)
- 27. Level
- 29. Atomic #94
- 30. Born of
- 31. Midway between northeast and east
- 32. Northeastern bank
- 33. Defunct airline
- 34. Having no purpose
- 35. A low wall
- 36. Swedish city
- 37. Earn a perfect score
- 38. Atomic #81
- 40. Beginner
- 41. Give off
- 42. Incorrect letters
- 44. Telecommunication service provider (abbr.)
- 45. Idyllic
- 46. Popular beer
- 47. A way to fine
- 48. Evildoer
- 50. More withered
- 51. Seventh note of a major scale
- 52. Commercial
- 54. Abnormal breathing
- 55. Moved more quickly
- 57. City of Angels
- 61. Partner to Pa
- 62. Equally



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Mar 23

Lawyers in the Library

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way, 12-2 p.m.

Need help with an expungement? Have civil legal questions? Meet briefly with an attorney at the library to get hands on help. We will also be offering JobSource help with resumes and job searching and information about treatment, recovery, healthy lifestyles, conflict resolution, youth intervention, vocational training and more. Partners include MD Legal Aid, SoMD JobSource, and Healthy Beginnings from Calvert County Health Department and Calvert County Community Mediation Center. No cost. Registration is not required but if you provide information about the charges you wish expunged, the process may go more quickly, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Studio in the Stacks: Spring Paint Night

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach
6-7:30 p.m.

Step into spring by joining us for a night of painting, connection, and food! Registration is required for this teen program-ages 13-18. Bring your creativity as we will paint a whimsical design on canvas. Enjoy pizza and time to connect in this creative community! Be sure to register as this event has a limited number of seats, 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Fri, Mar 24

Teen Takeover

Annemarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center, 7-10 p.m.,

Free event for high school teens. Join us for a special evening of teens only at Annemarie with live music and karaoke, creative photo ops, interactive art, teen art exhibit, fire pit and games, food, and more! Rain or shine event. Teens only! Reservations are not required, just come! Details: www.annemariegarden.org

Maritime Performance Series: The Eastman String Band

Calvert Marine Museum, 7 p.m.

Soaring harmonies, high energy instrumentals, and heartfelt originals punctuate each performance of The Eastman String Band. Tim and Savannah Finch began playing music together at the Friday night jams once held at Tim's music store, "Good Deale Bluegrass" in Deale, Maryland. Their band consists of a cast of some of the finest players in music, which prominently includes renowned fiddler Jon Glik. Performance is

in the museum's Harms Gallery starting at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online at bit.ly/MaritimeConcerts and \$25 at the door.

Pub Quiz

Calvert County Fairgrounds
5:00pm-10:00pm

Friends of Calvert Library Fundraiser. For one night only, the library won't help you find the answers. But that won't stop us from asking plenty of tough questions. Pre-register for \$120 per team of up to 6 adults. Cash prize to the top three teams! Limited space-pre-registration required. Doors open and food trucks will be on site at 5pm. Contact Pat Hofmann if interested. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Mar 25

Ottermania!

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Celebrate everyone's favorite museum mammal during OtterMania! Enjoy "otterly" outrageous activities, a craft, and meet the otters: Chumley, Chessie Grace, and Calvert. Museum admission applies: FREE for CMM members.

CAWL Spring Fling

Calvert Animal Welfare League
1040 Prince Frederick Blvd.
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pictures with the Easter Bunny (family and/or pets), Vendors, Calvert Crabs Food Truck, Thrift Store, Raffle Baskets and Bake Sale.

Mon, Mar 27

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way, 9:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

VITA provides free federal and state tax preparation services for households whose total household income is \$57,000 or less. Tax services are provided by IRS-certified tax preparers. For requirements call 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Grooving and Moving: Ages 3-5

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach
10-10:45 a.m.

Fans of Storytime will enjoy dancing, singing, and playing as they learn about music. For ages 3-5. Join us for Grooving

and Moving Mornings where we will use music and movement to start the day! This program features opportunities for children to explore music elements such as rhythm, tempo, and dynamics. Registration is required for this program, 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Homeschool Meet Up: Construction Zone!

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
1-3 p.m.

Come build with us as we use blocks, fort builders and more to explore engineering! Drop-ins welcome! For kids in grades K to 5. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Astronomy Night

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
7:30-8:30 p.m.

Come see what the night sky has to offer in the field behind Fairview. Learn about the equipment used to view the sky from the Astronomy Club of Southern Maryland. All ages welcome. Outdoor only event, weather permitting, 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Mar 28

School Readiness Series – Math

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Help your child make sense of the numbers and categories all around them. Open to children birth-PreK and their families. Spots are limited! Snacks, take home materials, and door prizes provided for all registered families, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Women's History Month Book Discussion

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way, (Zoom), 7-8 p.m.

Join us this month for a lively discussion of "what Girls Are Made Of" by Elana K. Arnold. Deeply thought-provoking literary novel about what it means to be a girl. Place What Girls Are Made Of on hold, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Wed, Mar 29

Conversation with Author Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai

College of Southern Maryland La Plata
1 p.m

A reading and conversation with award-winning author Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai who was born in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and through her writing explores the conflict and its aftermath. Gives attendees the opportunity to reflect on how this period of history echoes through communities at home and abroad.

The conversation will take place at the Community Education (CE) Building, Room 101 on the La Plata campus. For more information, visit <https://www.csm.edu/calendar/2023/03/author-que-mai-29.html>.

Thu, Mar 30

Little Minnows: Seahorses

Calvert Marine Museum
10:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

For preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Join us for story time and a takeaway craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Cost is free with admission.

Reading Buddies

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Children that need some extra help with reading build confidence by reading with teens! With snacks, games, and reading incentives! A program for K-5 graders to practice reading in a relaxed and welcoming group space! A fun event that inspires a love of reading, offers great social activities for shy or anxious children and teens, and promotes positive interactions between children of all ages. Teens get to participate in a meaningful experience by encouraging children and helping them with their reading skills. They can also earn a service hour for school. No need to register, just email Jess if interested in being a Reading Buddy: jess.swain@calvertlibrary.info 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Upcoming

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

St. Leonard Polling House
5095 St. Leonard Road, St. Leonard
Saturday, April 1, 11 a.m.

Hunt eggs, decorate a cupcake and have a snack. Easter Egg Hunt for children 10 years and younger. Sponsored by the St. Leonard Vision Group. Contact Nancy Zinn, 410-586-0682. Weather date, Sunday, April 2, 3 p.m.

CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

Theft: 23-18170

On March 15, 2023, DFC Aley received report of a theft. The complainant advised a pair of Maryland registration plates were stolen from the victim's residence in the 9800 block of Golden Russet Drive in Dunkirk. The estimated value of stolen property is \$100.00.

Theft: 23-18710

On March 17, 2023, Deputy Smith responded to the Planet Fitness located at 865 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of multiple thefts from members' lockers. The complainant advised the suspect entered the business, proceeded to the locker rooms and stole 3 locks off lockers and stole \$210 in cash. The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 35 years old, 5 feet 11 inches tall, with a tattoo under his left eye and a goatee. He was last seen wearing a white shirt and a skull cap.

Theft: 23-19210

On March 19, 2023, Sgt. McCarroll responded to the Smoke King located at 4955 St. Leonard Road in St. Leonard, for the report of a theft. Investigation revealed an unknown suspect entered the business and took items out of the display case then fled the store. The suspect is described as a black male with a medium complexion, between 5'8"-5'10" tall, weighing 180-200 lbs., wearing a white colored hoodie style sweatshirt, a black face covering and dark jeans. The stolen items were two smoking devices described as: clear glass with pink colored accents and the other was described as a small "Banger Kit" in a tin case. The total value of stolen property was \$115.00.

ARRESTS

On March 15, 2023, at 1:52 a.m., members of the Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) Stop Team initiated a traffic stop in the area of Armory Road and Main Street in Prince Frederick. Upon approaching the car, deputies detected a strong odor of raw marijuana emitting from the vehicle. Further investigation revealed a significant amount of marijuana (107 grams), a digital scale, and a large amount of U.S. Currency (\$960). Both the driver, Marques Ciantae-Jaleel Griffith, 18 of Lusby, and passenger, Adam Joseph Holland, 20 of Prince Frederick, were arrested and charged with CDS: Possession of Cannabis 10 grams +, CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute, and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

On March 18, 2023, Deputy Claggett responded to the Calvert County Detention Center located at 325 Stafford Road in Prince Frederick for recovered prop-



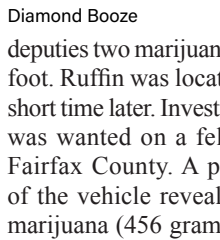
Daniel Proctor

erty. Investigation revealed a routine search of a jail cell was conducted and multiple tabs of Suboxone wrapped inside a paper towel were recovered. Inmate Daniel Matthew Proctor, 55 of Upper Marlboro, was charged with Possession of Contraband in a Place of Confinement, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, and Possession/Receiving CDS While Confined Other Dangerous Drugs.



Khamari Ruffin

On March 18, 2023, DFC Savick conducted initiated a traffic stop in the 3700 block of E. Chesapeake Beach Road in Chesapeake Beach after observing a traffic violation. Upon making contact with the occupants, a strong odor of raw marijuana was emitting from the vehicle. The passenger, Khamari Michael Ruffin, 21 of Fort



Diamond Booze

Washington, handed deputies two marijuana cigarettes and fled on foot. Ruffin was located and apprehended a short time later. Investigation revealed Ruffin was wanted on a felony warrant through Fairfax County. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed 6 Ziplock bags of marijuana (456 grams total), 1 paper sheet containing 36 LSD tabs, 2 marijuana joints, 1 loaded Glock 19 9mm, and an extended magazine with 21 rounds in it. A scale, rolling papers, and multiple Ziplock bags were also recovered. A search of Ruffin's person revealed \$704.00 in US currency and a spring-loaded knife. Further investigation revealed the driver, Diamond Jean Booze, 24 of Washington D.C., was wanted by the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office. Both Ruffin and Booze were taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where they were served all subsequent charging documents. Booze was charged with CDS: Possession of Cannabis 10 GM+, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, Loaded Handgun in a Vehicle and Handgun in a Vehicle. Ruffin was charged with CDS: Possession of Cannabis 10 GM+, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, Illegal Possession of a Regulated Firearm and Illegal Possession of Ammunition, and Handgun in a Vehicle.

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

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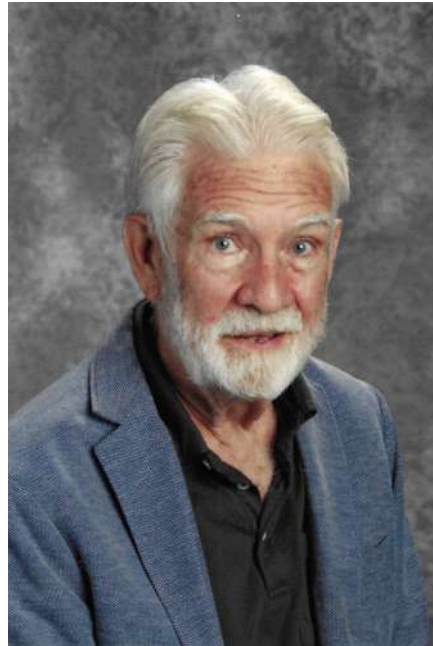
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CCPS' Leadership Announces 2023 District Employees Of The Year



John Allen



Keren Tuck

Superintendent Dr. Andraé Townsel and district leaders revealed the Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) 2023 District Employees of the Year at surprise visits to each recipient's school on March 15, 2023. Mr. John Allen was selected as the CCPS 2023 District Teacher of the Year and Ms. Keren Tuck was selected as the CCPS 2023 District Educational Support Professional of the Year.

"Our staff at Calvert County Public Schools is the best and our 2023 Employees of the Year represent the best of the best," stated Superintendent Dr. Townsel. "It is an honor to work every day alongside our dedicated, hardworking staff who wholeheartedly support our students."

Mr. Allen, Journalism teacher at Huntingtown High School, began working for Calvert County Public Schools in 2019. Prior to working for CCPS, he taught English at New Trier High School in Winnetka, IL; worked in commercial film production in Chicago, IL; and worked for the American Red Cross as a writer, producer, and director of documentary and educational films. From 1982-2015, Mr. Allen and wife Rhoda Allen owned Signature Communications, a film production company based in Huntingtown, MD. Their production company produced films and related educational materials for PBS, U.S. Peace Corps, National Science Foundation, and the National Park Service. Mr. Allen received his BA from Dartmouth College in English, MA in Teaching from Wesleyan, and an MA in Radio, TV, and Film from Northwestern University. He has also been an international volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

"I believe that just as important as subject matter content, our goal as teachers should also be to model respect, collaboration, and

a love of learning," said Mr. Allen.

Ms. Tuck, Instructional Assistant II for Sunderland Elementary School, has been working for Calvert County Public Schools since 2021. Prior to joining CCPS, Ms. Tuck worked as a nurse at Kingsmead College in Johannesburg, South Africa; as the Associate Director for the Salvation Army in Columbus, OH; and as the Director of Star Lake Camp and Conference Center in Bloomingdale, NJ. She is an active community volunteer and has led several initiatives that have benefited youth such as the Journey for Change Salvation Army after school learning center's program, Bloomingdale Children's Choir, Hand's On teen support program, as well as summer programs for the Salvation Army. At Sunderland Elementary School she has served in a variety of roles from a Special Education Instructional Assistant to most recently working with students with individualized education plans in both the classroom and in small groups or one on one.

"As an educator, my dream is to help children reach theirs by removing the obstacles of limited confidence and the barriers of learning difficulties, enabling them to soar above the clouds and thrive now and into bright futures," shared Ms. Tuck.

Mr. Allen and Ms. Tuck, along with all the building 2023 Employees of the Year, were honored by the Superintendent, Calvert Board of Education, the Calvert Foundation, and other special guests at a dinner held at the Calvert Marine Museum. Many thanks to the numerous businesses and organizations whose generous donations made this celebration possible.

Additionally, Mr. Allen will be recognized by the Maryland State Board on May 23, 2023. The Maryland Teacher of the Year will be announced on October 13, 2023.

April Events At The Calvert Marine Museum

Spring is in the air at the Calvert Marine Museum! Immerse yourself in spring break programming, fossil events, a musical performance, and more! For more information, please visit: www.calvertmarinemuseum.com

**Wednesday, April 5 – Spring Break
Programming: Birds of the Marsh
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Join one of our educators for a guided marsh walk at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., or 2 p.m. to explore and observe the birds that make their home in our salt marsh. Learn how to identify birds by their tracks and feathers. Play the Migration Game to discover just how difficult it is for our feathered friends to make their seasonal journeys! Activities planned for ages 4 – 10 (children must be accompanied by an adult). Programming is included with museum admission.

**Thursday, April 6 – Spring Break
Programming: Predator/Prey Day
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Join in some fun activities as we learn about predator/prey relationships between the animals in the museum's exhibits. Discover the many ways that animals avoid falling prey to a predator, and the adaptations that help predators catch their prey! Activities planned for ages 4 – 10 (children must be accompanied by an adult). Programming is included with museum admission.

Friday, April 7 – Spring Break

**Programming: Learn About the
Lighthouse Keepers 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Step back in time and learn about Mr. and Mrs. Goeshy, the keepers of the Drum Point Lighthouse from 1930 – 1931. Special tours at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. will highlight the aspects of life at the Drum Point Lighthouse during the early 1930s. Appropriate for all ages. Programming is included with museum admission.

**Friday, April 7 – First Fossil Friday!
1 – 4:30 p.m.**

Fossil hunters, bring your fossil finds from the Calvert Cliffs or other local areas from to be identified! This service is provided for free; however, admission fees apply for access to CMM exhibits.

**Saturday, April 8 – Spring Break
Programming: Fossil Egg Hunt
10 a.m. – noon**

Participate in our annual fossil egg hunt! Look for eggs with real fossils inside, hidden around the museum. Participants will be given a container for egg collection and fossil identification guides; no baskets are needed (limit: 4 eggs per child)! A follow-up activity (ages 5+) allows you to "excavate" fossils from matrix. For ages 3 – 10. Programming is included with museum admission.

**Thursday, April 13 – Sea Squirts 10:15
a.m. & 11:15 a.m.**

This month's theme is Wacky Weather.

Children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25 - 40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Programming is included with museum admission.

**Thursday, April 20 – CMM Members
Save 20% in the Museum Store
10:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

CMM members enjoy a 20% discount in the Museum Store today and on the 20th of every month. Purchases can be shipped via USPS, Priority Mail, or held at the store for curbside pickup.

**Thursdays, April 20 & 27 – Little
Minnows 10:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.**

This month's theme is Wacky Weather. For preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Join us for story time and a takeaway craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Programming is included with museum admission.

**Sunday, April 23 – CMM Fossil Club
Meeting & Public Lecture 1:30 p.m.**

The quarterly CMM Fossil Club Meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m., followed by a FREE public lecture at 2:30 p.m. Our guest

speaker is Dr. Dale Greenwalt, a Resident Research Associate in the Department of Paleobiology at the Smithsonian. He has been affiliated with that department since 2007. Dr. Greenwalt's work centers on the description of the amazing fossil insect fauna of the Coal Creek Member of the Middle Eocene Kishenehn Formation in northwestern Montana. His presentation is entitled: The Purple Fossil. The meeting and lecture will be held in person in the museum's Harms Gallery and also virtually via Zoom. Find the link to attend on Facebook or the Fossil Club web page.

**Friday, April 28 – Maritime
Performance Series: Lulu's Fate
6 – 9 p.m.**

Lulu's Fate performs a mix of music from the Appalachian, southern string band and country blues traditions, as well as early swing, gospel, original tunes and covers ranging from Hank Williams to Tom Waits. Comprised of Tom Espinola on mandolin and guitar, Kristen Jones on cello, and singer Kara Bolling, the trio blends virtuosic instrumentals with lush three-part vocal harmonies to create new interpretations of traditional tunes. Performance is in the museum's Harms Gallery starting at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online and \$25 at the door.

To have your business featured in the Home Improvement Guide, contact us at 301-373-4125

County Government Merges HR, Financial Management Systems

Calvert County Government is upgrading and consolidating its human resources and financial management systems to a single cloud-based software application called Workday. While the new system will officially go live for county employees on March 27, 2023, the transfer of data and user training is taking place now through early April. County government services and operations will continue as usual, though minor interruptions may occur.

The Workday system will integrate tools for employee data, compensation, recruiting, training and finance information. In order to facilitate a seamless transition to the new system, vendors doing business with the county have been notified that any invoices received between now and Friday, April 7, will be held for processing until after Monday, April 10. Vendors may contact the Department of Finance & Budget at FinanceAP@calvertcountymd.gov or 410-535-1600 with any questions.

"This has been a major undertaking with intense collaboration between departments to

modernize the tools our employees use every day," said Board of County Commissioners President Earl F. "Buddy" Hance. "We are bringing together business components that are currently managed through different systems into a single tool. While the direct impact of this change will be on county employees, we are certain the public will reap the benefits of more streamlined procedures and accountable business practices."

The software launch is the culmination of a 12-month, \$2.4 million implementation effort spearheaded by the Technology Services, Finance & Budget, Human Resources and Communications & Media Relations departments to design, develop, test and train users on the integrated system.

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov. Stay up to date with Calvert County Government on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd and YouTube at www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

Final Show in SoMD Bluegrass Series to Feature 'Hi-Fi Bluegrass'

Southern Maryland Bluegrass at the Elks will feature High Fidelity, a group of young performers that has the heart of '50s and '60s style of traditional Bluegrass music draws much of their inspiration from bands like Reno & Smiley, The Stanley Brothers, The Louvin Brothers, and Jim & Jesse.

California, MD, March 18, 2023 — Jay Armsworthy and the Calvert Elks #2620 announces the last concert in the "Southern Maryland Bluegrass" concert series that is held at the Calvert Elks Lodge #2620 at 1015 Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, MD.

Many folks can remember the Bluegrass records from the 50's and 60's bearing the words, "high fidelity". The power and soul of that music won the hearts of people across the globe. But today, only a few bands have come along that directly draw their influence from that classic era of the music's history. High Fidelity, whose love and devotion to that music is unsurpassed. The name alone says it all: HIGH FIDELITY. Herein lies the heart of what this group of young performers is all about.

Performing since 2014, the group received its first achievement with a first place win in the International Band Championship at the 40th Annual Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America (SPBGMA) Awards in February of 2014. In 2019, they were nominated for International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) "New Artist of the Year".

The band consists of five outstanding musicians and singers who are steeped in the sounds of tradition. Jeremy Stephens, guitarist and lead vocalist for the group, has worked for the world famous gospel

group, The Chuck Wagon Gang, on the television show Ray Stevens' Nashville, and most recently with Jesse McReynolds & the Virginia Boys. Jeremy's wife, Corrina Rose Logston is the groups fiddle player and harmony vocalist who also has worked with a who's who of today's traditional-based bluegrass performers. Kurt Stephenson handles banjo duties and harmony vocals and Vickie Vaughn is the groups upright bass player and contributes vocals to their smooth gospel quartets. Vickie has worked with Patty Loveless and Ricky Skaggs. And rounding out the band is Daniel Amick, who is a recipient of IBMA's 2019 Instrumentalist of the Year Momentum Award.

Many have described High Fidelity as the new Johnson Mountain Boys, interpreting classic era bluegrass through the fresh, young perspective of today's generation. They draw much of their inspiration from bands like Don Reno & Red Smiley, The Stanley Brothers, The Louvin Brothers, Jim & Jesse, and a host of artists from the same era. Maybe it is this quality that makes High Fidelity so warmly received and widely loved by every audience they perform for.

The Southern Maryland Bluegrass Concert Series will start up in the fall with another award-winning line up of Bluegrass acts.

Tickets for the show will be available at the door for \$20.00 per person. Under twelve are admitted free with a paid adult. Food and beverages will be available for sale and there will be a 50/50 raffle as well as door prizes. The doors open at Noon and the show will begin at 2:00 pm. For more information go to: www.somdbluegrass.com or call 301-737-3004.

COMEDY INVASION

For Project Graduation

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023

Doors Open at 7:30 p.m. Show Starts at 8 p.m.

Huntingtown High School Auditorium, 4125 Solomons Island Road, Huntingtown

For more information, contact the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse at 410-535-3733.



CHRIS FRANJOLA is a writer and comedian who can currently be heard hosting his highly successful podcast, "Cover To Cover With Chris Franjola." He's a frequent contributor on Heather McDonald's wildly successful podcast, "Juicy Scoop." Chris was a regular panel guest on "Lights Out with David Spade" on Comedy Central and on Fox's gameshow "Punchline." Chris was also a writer and a regular performer on E!'s hit show "Chelsea Lately" for eight years. Together with the talented writing staff, Chris wrote more than 1,500 episodes while performing on the show. Before "Chelsea Lately," Chris wrote for other shows, including "Family Guy," the MTV Video Music Awards and the original "Chelsea Handler Show." He also starred on the critically acclaimed scripted comedy series "After Lately," which aired for three seasons on E!. He was the host of the "Sons of Anarchy" aftershow "Anarchy Afterword," airing live on FX.



MATT BERGMAN has been honing his comedy craft since he was in college pursuing a degree in criminal justice. After graduating, he realized he was afraid of criminals and decided stand-up comedy was the way to go. Bergman is easily relatable and versatile, a skillset that has opened the door to tv appearances on Gotham Comedy Live, Comedy Central Live and a Dry Bar Comedy Special. His recent album "Approbation Constante" was called "really tough to purchase" by his mother who still doesn't quite understand iTunes.



TIM D. MILLER is a master at engaging audiences and crafting a stand-up set that is a guaranteed good time for all. Tim's material is based on his life experience from Waco to the Army to the White House, trying to raise a daughter and his unique ability to find the funny in everyday life. Tim has appeared on TRU TV and in 2019 he performed at Comedy Central's Clusterfest. He is the producer and host of "Read the Room," a crowd work showcase.

TICKETS

\$35 in advance
\$45 at the door
(cash and check only)

\$25 for CAASA members
and students 13-18

Available for purchase at:
(cash and check only)

CAASA Office
Prince Frederick
Floral Expressions
Owings

Tickets may also be purchased online at:
CAASAcomeyinvasion2023.eventbrite.com



Hospice Affiliates Announce Brand Consolidation Plan

Hospice of the Chesapeake and its affiliates, Calvert Hospice and Hospice of Charles County, will consolidate all brands under the Hospice of the Chesapeake external brand starting April 1, 2023. This unification under one name will allow for greater consistency across the Hospice of the Chesapeake service area, which includes Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties.

The brand consolidation will not impact patient care – patients and their families can rest assured they will continue to receive the high-quality, compassionate care they expect from the independent nonprofit's team members in all four counties. Supportive care patients and grief support clients will continue to receive care from Chesapeake Supportive Care and Chesapeake Life Center, umbrella services of Hospice of the

Chesapeake.

Since the acquisition of each affiliate, residents of Charles and Calvert counties have benefitted along the entire care continuum that includes supportive, hospice and grief care. These benefits include community-based palliative care, community education and awareness, increased options for grief support, and more help in navigating the journey of advanced illness. Hospice of Charles County became an affiliate in October 2020 while Calvert Hospice became an affiliate in June 2022.

Calvert Hospice and Hospice of Charles County are proud to be part of the Hospice of the Chesapeake family and look forward to contributing to the future success of the organization.

CSM Partnership Meets St. Mary's Nursing Center's Workforce Needs



GNA Olivia Ayres

The College of Southern Maryland's (CSM) Continuing Education and Workforce Development team and the St. Mary's County Nursing Center (SMNC) mark a three-year partnership in 2023 that outlasted the crisis that inspired it.

The partnership started as COVID 19's effects were rippling across the country in 2020 and it became clear that the nation's nursing homes were facing potential crisis. CSM and SMNC collaborated to create solutions that resulted in upskilling of the SMNC staff, the creation of solid workforce pipelines for the center, and the two organizations now celebrating its third cohort of student-employees who continue to provide focused patient care.

The partnership launched in 2020, when SMNC began hiring entry-level employees as Residential Care Assistants (RCAs), a role that allows them to perform many tasks of a Geriatric Nursing Assistant (GNA) that don't directly touch the nursing home residents. While in that role, employees entered into CSM's GNA program with support from CSM's Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship. With the financial support from the scholarship, student-employees were compensated to study and attend class, as

well as receive mentoring aimed at honing their skills in the classroom and in the workforce.

"This program has helped to eliminate the barriers that students face and encourage their success with mentoring," said Kelly Winters, executive director workforce development for CSM. "It's a win for everyone, and especially for the most vulnerable population among us, the residents of long-term care."

"There isn't just one significant piece of the program that gets students to the finish line," said CSM Healthcare Program Manager Sarah Butler. "This partnership is a true team effort."

Staff Development Coordinator at SMNC Sharon Nicholson said that mentoring students from the moment they begin their education helps to grow them into a high-caliber employee who can make a big difference in the lives of nursing home clients.

"For a lot of these students, this is the first college class they've ever taken, but if your heart is in the right place, we can work with you to help you complete this program," Nicholson said. "They're learning how to plan, how to balance their time, what expectations are and what happens when expectations aren't met. We are building a caregiver that has integrity, honesty and professionalism."

For CSM Alumna Olivia Ayres '22, the program has been a lifeline.

The single mother of three from Callaway said she was struggling when she first arrived in Nicholson's office. Within an afternoon, Nicholson had helped her secure public assistance, including funds for rent and childcare, and in doing so created the stability she needed for her educational journey. Ayres recently completed the GNA program and is now working toward her goal of becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse and a Registered Nurse.

"Becoming a GNA is a step toward my goal to better understand the field from a caregiving perspective rather than just a nurse," Ayres said. "I feel like it will make me a better nurse, so that once I reach my

goal, I can better help my GNA's and residents and be the best nurse that I can be,"

Nicholson said that the CSM/SMNC partnership has been a huge success for nursing home residents, too; having staff on hand to do everything from hand out ice water to help paint resident's fingernails has a compounding effect on health and happiness.

She noted that guiding students through the program is ultimately more efficient than constantly recruiting new workers in a field with historically high turnover in a tight labor market. Students who complete the program receive the same hiring bonus as other new GNAs and the benefit of a close cohort who go through the program and work days together.

"You have to grow new people into these roles," she said. "If you want to keep people, you have to mentor and coach them so that you're at a different level than someone who just offered them a job. Our GNAs have established this relationship of working together and are invested in each other's success."

Winters said that the trust between CSM and SMNC to do right by the students while following the myriad regulations that govern nursing assistant training is what has made the program a success. The close relationship between the two institutions also allows them to work with students more effectively. For example, CSM Financial Aid Advisor

Frances Raynes keeps Nicholson up to date on whether students have completed their scholarship applications so that they can work together to make sure that students receive all the funds they are eligible for.

"Typically, a hurdle for students is completing the whole application and gathering the specific documents they need," she said. "We want everyone to complete their scholarship applications and complete them on time, so the fact that the students are getting reminders from both me and their employer is a great part of this partnership."

This partnership, with its emphasis on working with local stakeholders to creatively solve problems and meet the needs of the local workforce, is a model for the kind of role CSM strives to play in the community.

"Collaboration is key and a vital part of watching our students grow from the classroom to contributing to the healthcare needs of the community they live and work in," said Butler. "It is our hope to continue to build our partnerships locally resulting in a stronger community network."

And aside from benefitting the broader community, this partnership is improving lives, one at a time.

"I would have not been able to do this on my own," Ayres said. "There is always a light at the end of the tunnel and for me, and for my children, this was that light."

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Health Department Starts New Senior Centers Program



North Beach Senior Center

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved an agreement with the health department that will extend a new program to the county's senior centers.

According to Office on Aging Division Chief Ed Sullivan, "The Department of Community Resources, Office on Aging division collaborates closely with several community health partners. At present, the Calvert Health's Community Wellness Department (CWD) is hosted by the Office on Aging at all three senior centers. CWD delivers blood pressure checks and fitness classes, as well as provides a pharmacist for medication management and registered nurses for health education. The CalvertHealth Mobile Health Unit provides services to older adults once a month at each senior center. During the pandemic, the senior centers were transformed into vaccine clinic sites where over 1,000 seniors were vaccinated with the help of CalvertHealth staff. Additionally, the Office on Aging offers space to Hospice of the Chesapeake in our senior centers. Hospice provides bereavement counseling and facilitates support groups for veterans. Finally, the Office on Aging collaborates with the Calvert County Health Department (CCHD) staff to provide diabetes self-management classes that are evidence-based to equip citizens with the best tips to manage their health. Calvert County Health Department staff provides behavioral or mental health counseling at all three senior center locations."

Sullivan went on to explain the new program: "The Highway to Health program, initiated by the CCHD, aims to extend its services to senior centers in Calvert County. This program will offer access to blood pressure and A1C screenings, which can detect diabetes, and case management services with follow-up support. Seniors can receive assistance in finding transportation services, locating health classes, or identifying physicians without the need to travel to the Health Department. The program will be hosted at the Office on Aging's North Beach, Calvert Pines, and Southern Pines locations, which are conveniently situated near senior housing."

Sullivan said, "The Department of Community Resources, Office on Aging division will not incur any fiscal impact. The CCHD has secured grant funding to provide the Highway to Health services."

Sullivan noted the impact of diabetes on the senior population. He said since the aging office is already providing education sessions about diabetes, the new program will be a perfect adjunct to that.

Director of Community Resources Jennifer Moreland observed that having the new program at senior centers might afford the opportunity of showing what the centers have to offer to people coming there for the first time for the health department offerings.

The commissioners enthusiastically endorsed the new program for the senior centers.

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Chesapeake Beach Unveils State of the Town

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Chesapeake Beach Mayor Patrick “Irish” Mahoney presented the 2022 State of the Town during the March 16 town council meeting.

- A press release listed the highlights as:
- Reduction of taxes for the sixth year in a row with a total general property tax reduction of \$516,765—as unanimously approved by this Town Council.
 - Debt reduction in FY22 of \$508,715 with total debt reduction of \$7,074,538—as unanimously approved by this Town Council.

On the video Mahoney said, “Today, community is more important than ever. In order to conserve community, we must conserve small town values. I have chosen the theme of this year’s state of the town as conserving small town values. In my second term as mayor, working alongside a town council, also primarily serving it in their second term, we have collectively benefited from our shared values in the very preserving of small town values. Although Chesapeake Beach is a bustling town, we’re fortunate to continue to experience such a powerful sense of community.”

He added, “But this is not by chance. While the meaning of community may be

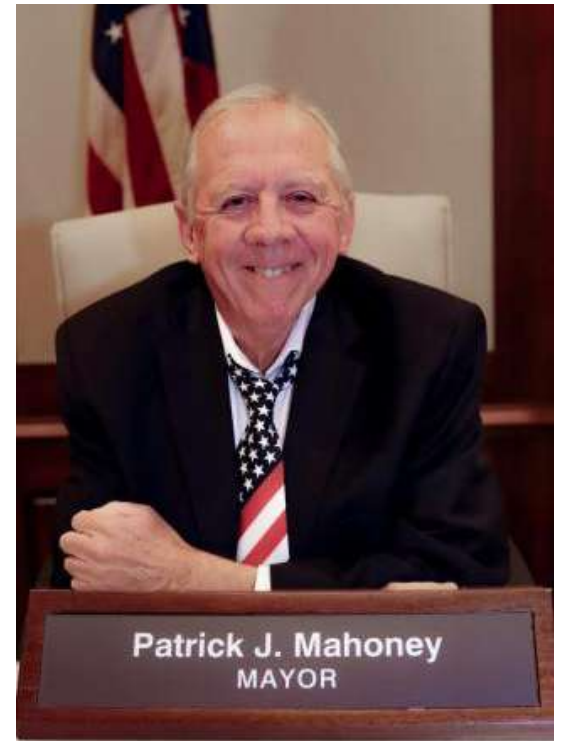
experienced differently by each of us, the sense of our community is strong. Thanks to our residents, our values can be seen in a large group of residents searching for the critically missing young man until the late hours of a very cold December, 2022 evening, through the vigilant citizens who directed first responders to a person who needed help and was in distress along our railway trail, bringing him to safety in April of 2022, and our Beach Elementary students demonstrating through their artwork the importance of kindness. Yes, community not only serves as an important source of social connection, but it also brings a sense of belonging and ensures the safety of you and your neighbors.”

Mahoney asserted, “As your mayor, I recognize my great responsibility in contributing to the sense of community we have all come to expect. It requires a responsive town staff, adequate coverage by the Twin Beach deputies, continual improvement of critical infrastructure, clean recreational amenities for citizens to enjoy with their neighbors, friends and family, and a mayor that hears your concerns. We continue to be positioned well to provide the foundation needed to conserve small town values and look forward to serving the great citizens of Chesapeake Beach in 2023.”

On the video Town Administrator Holly

Wahl said, “Property taxes have decreased during this administration six years in a row, the total tax reduction has amounted to over half a million for town citizens. This administration has also focused on debt reduction. Debt was reduced by over \$7 million over the last six years. The net position of the town has also increased by \$4.1 million in FY 22 and assets exceeded liabilities by \$47.9 million.”

Jay Berry, town public works director, said, “We strive to keep older infrastructure maintained up and running and at the same time focus on the inspection, proper installation and oversight of all new infrastructure. We still own and maintain over 50 miles of water and sewer lines, three water towers, 13 sewer pump stations, one storm water pump station to keep all of these facilities up and running when the power grid is down. We also maintain 17 generators and four backup diesel dry prime pumps. Bottom line is the town’s in great shape, and we strive to move forward with a continuing infrastructure investment to keep it that way.”



Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney

To view the entire State of the Town presentation go to <https://www.chesapeake-beachmd.gov/home/news/2022-state-town>

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Fee Reinstated for Semi-Annual Tax Payments

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has reinstated the service charge for semi-annual real property tax billing. The service charge had been waived for the last several years because of the economic effects of the pandemic. The commissioners made the decision on a 4-1 vote at their March 21 meeting, with Commissioner Catherine Grasso opposing.

Accountant I Kay Zinn explained to the BOCC in a memo, “The county is required to allow certain taxpayers to pay their annual real property tax bill in two installments, provided the property is their principal residence. One installment is due September 30, 2023, and the other is due December 31, 2023. The county may charge a service charge on the second installment. The service charge has two components; one is to recoup three months of lost interest due to the delay in receiving the revenue and the other is to cover administrative costs incurred as a result of processing two payments instead of one. The administration charge will be calculated at 10 percent of the lost interest charge. As in prior years, the maximum service charge allowed by law is 1.65 percent. This maximum was calculated when the semi-annual legislation was approved; it assumes a 6

percent lost interest rate.”

Zinn went on to say, “The county currently earns 0.042 percent annually on its operating cash. This interest rate and the administration charge of 10 percent (0.0042 percent) would result in an annual charge of 0.0462 percent. Since the delay in receiving the revenue is three months, the service charge added to the second tax payment for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, if approved, would be 0.01155 percent.”

Director of Finance and Budget Sharon Strand explained that the county used to send out two bills, but several years ago decided to save money by just sending out one tax bill with two payment stubs. But she said it still costs the treasurer’s office extra to process the second payment.

Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart, noting all taxpayers have to pay for processing the second tax payment, said, “I have always said don’t take anyone’s bill out on someone else.”

The commissioners decided to go along with the 0.01155 percent charge. Zinn said, “This fee generates approximately \$5,688 for the county on an annual basis and adds about \$0.21 to the second installment tax bill for the average property owner.”

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Hearing Held on Staff Recommended Budget

Speakers Criticize Level Education Funding



Calvert Education Association President Dona Ostenson

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The public hearing on the Calvert County Staff Recommended Budget for the next fiscal year was almost sure to draw criticism. That's because the budget proposed flat funding for Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) and ignored the fact that the state mandated funding for the Blueprint education reform. That requires \$10 million more from the county and is included in School Superintendent Dr. Andre Townsel's budget that asks for an historic \$22.4 million more from the county.

So, when the hearing took place on March 21, there were only 10 speakers, but they represented a large number of people, including the teachers and support staff, asking why they were left out when others, such as law enforcement, were being proposed for raises.

Calvert Education Association (CEA)

President Dona Ostenson, representing the teachers, said, "I get the whole song and dance game that is played during the budget process, but Calvert County staff does know that we will be in the fourth year of our contract with CCPS that provides a step and a one-percent Cola. Calvert County staff have been meeting monthly with CCPS and various community stakeholders regarding the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Staff does know that to meet the requirements outlined in the law, each county must raise their overall teacher salary by 10 percent from 2019 to 2024. Because of this, it resulted in CCPS and CEA signing an MOU (memorandum of understanding) in December for an additional 2.75 percent Cola in August and in February. Why would these items not be referenced in the Calvert County Staff Recommended Budget for FY 24 when both have fiscal implications on this budget? Why would these salary increases not be included in the FY 24 budget for Calvert County Public School employees like they were for county employees?"

Ostenson observed, "Calvert County used to have the highest starting salary, but as of July 2023, Calvert will have the lowest starting salary of the five surrounding counties. How will we be able to attract the best of the best when we pay the least and have no affordable housing? How will we be able to retain our current workforce when they see a proposed Calvert County Staff Recommended Budget to the county commissioners for FY 24 that recommends for Calvert County Public Schools level funding

compared to FY 23, or in other words, no steps, no Colas, no additional staff."

Jenna Lyons, a support staffer at Windy Hill Elementary and recent Support Staff Perso of the Year, said, "I am an employee that is not included in the Maryland State Blueprint. It's a tough reality to face really and truly." Townsel in his budget did include comparable salary increases for educational support staff.

Lyons said, "My husband is our main breadwinner. Without him, there is no way I could work for this county that I love. I make \$50 a day. I pay babysitters more money or when I go out to Washington DC to eat and watch a show. I make \$17.90 an hour. I do get the wonderful insurance benefit, which I think we all appreciate, but the insurance does not pay my bills and the insurance does not put food on my table."

School Board Vice President Antoine White, wearing a red tee shirt in support of the teachers, and carrying blue tee shirts for support staff and yellow for bus drivers, said, "I'm also the father of a middle schooler. I know these folks. When I look out in this crowd, these folks and the folks downstairs, you know what they deserve. They need to be respected. They need to be paid. They need to be taken care of."

White added, "If we're going to spend money on things, why not invest it in our kids? Because they're going to be the ones who are taking care of us. So why not give them what they need now to make sure that they have that."

In contrast, Calvert FOP Lodge President Steven Moran thanked the commissioners

for working towards parity with neighboring counties, although he observed, "The recommended budget has a 7 percent Cola and one step, which will put us at 5.5 percent behind the regional average."

Moran said, however. "Due to financial restrictions and the climate facing our county, we understand there's only so much we can do, and we find that that 5.5 percent gap is reasonable at this time."

According to the staff presentation before the public hearing, the \$373,987,159 budget includes \$41.3 million in revenues not allocated, largely a carryover fund balance from the current year. But Director of Finance and Budget Sharon Strand said normally the county does not like to use fund balances for recurring expenses.

In his presentation, Townsel explained the \$22.4 million more being asked of the county includes:

- Blueprint related costs -- \$10 million
- Fixed charges (negotiated and mandated employee benefit costs) -- \$4.2 million
- Special Education costs -- \$2 million
- Student transportation costs -- \$1.5 million
- Other contracted service costs -- \$2.5 million
- Equipment costs -- \$1.5 million
- Facility costs -- \$1.3 million

Earlier in the day, Commissioner President Buddy Hance noted the budget process had just begun for them and urged everyone to be patient.

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County Solidifies Transportation Priorities

Letter to be Sent to State Agency Head

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The continuation of the widening of Routes 2/4 in Prince Frederick, north of where the work by the state stopped, continues to be Calvert County's top transportation project for the state. That is the same as what was transmitted to the state last year and what was told to state officials at their annual visit

to the county last fall.

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), at their March 21 meeting, affirmed consistent priorities will be sent to the state in a letter approved at the meeting.

The other major transportation priorities (defined as costing more than \$5 million) are the Thomas Johnson Bridge planning and design and transit transfer station site development.

Acting Planner III Jessica Gaetano in a memo to the commissioners noted, "Regionally, Calvert and St. Mary's counties received \$1 million from the Federal Omnibus funding legislation (FY2022) for design improvements to MD 4 between MD 235 and the Thomas Johnson Bridge. For the next budget cycle, FY2024-2029, the Departments of Planning & Zoning, Public Works, and

Community Resources will continue to ask MDOT to support previously prioritized projects that remain underfunded or on-hold."

Recognizing the fiscal challenge of the state moving forward with a new bridge without federal funding, considering its almost \$1 billion price tag and absent it being in the state transportation plan, the commissioners will be pressing for widening of Route 4 in St. Mary's County to help alleviate backups on the bridge and into Calvert County.

In their letter to the state transportation secretary, the BOCC will say, "As a temporary reprieve, we would like to show support for St. Mary's priority to improve existing traffic conditions; the extension of the northbound merge lane from the intersection of MD 4 and MD 235 to the north end of South Patuxent Beach Road. This project would be performed concurrently with the bridge replacement project to alleviate current and future congestion at the MD4/MD 235 intersection."

The next phase of the widening of Routes 2/4 in Prince Frederick would be from Fox Run Blvd. to Stoakley Road. The next phase after that would be north of Stoakley Road to an as yet to be determined end point.

The letter to the state will also include

the following minor projects (Less than \$5 million):

1. Level of Service Intersection Studies – MD 2/4
 - MD 4 at Ward Rd
 - MD 2/4 Split
 - MD 2/4 at Cox Rd
 - MD 2/4 at Stoakley Rd
 - MD 2/4 at Dares Beach Rd
 - MD 2/4 at Sixes Rd
 - MD 2/4 at Calvert Beach Rd
2. MD 258 and MD 4 intersection – Shoulder Improvements
3. MD 765 Sidewalk Extension – Between Old Field Rd and Calvert Towne Rd
4. Cross Walk Installation at MD 2/4 and Sherry Lane
5. Lusby Town Center Streetscape

The state currently is studying the bus transfer station and also three intersection improvements along Route 231. Commissioner President Buddy Hance said the state is also working on synchronizing the traffic lights along Routes 2/4 in Prince Frederick which should be complete in about 18 months.

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“I GET THE WHOLE SONG AND DANCE GAME THAT IS PLAYED DURING THE BUDGET PROCESS.”
 CALVERT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT DINA OSTENSO



LOCAL 3
 Calvert solidifies transit priorities



LOCAL 5
 Chesapeake Beach State of the Town



ON THE COVER
 Schools budget debated
 Pictured: Antoine White, Vice President of Calvert County Board of Education

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAR 23 AM Showers Hi: 74° Lo: 55°	FRI, MAR 24 Showers Hi: 58° Lo: 44°	SAT, MAR 25 Showers Hi: 63° Lo: 50°	SUN, MAR 26 Sunny Hi: 64° Lo: 43°
MON, MAR 27 Partly Cloudy Hi: 58° Lo: 43°	TUE, MAR 28 PM Showers Hi: 55° Lo: 38°	WED, MAR 29 Partly Cloudy Hi: 53° Lo: 38°	THU, MAR 30 Partly Cloudy Hi: 57° Lo: 40°

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**Chesapeake Beach
Unveils State of the Town**

Tax Fee Reinstated

**County Sets
Transportation Priorities**

**WHERE'S THE MONEY
FOR THE SCHOOLS?**