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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

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FIRE STRIKES IN TALL TIMBERS

Plans Revealed for
Millison Plaza Renewal

Sheriff Promises Crack
Down on Dangerous Drivers

Wildfire Smoke
Blankets St. Mary's



Photo Credit: Cedar Cove Marina



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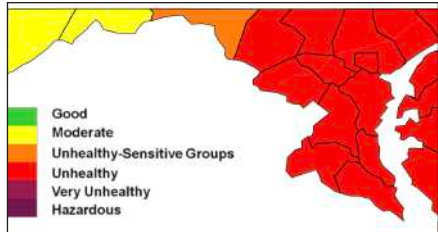


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 SUPERINTENDENT DR. J. SCOTT SMITH ON AGING SCHOOL FACILITIES.



LOCAL 7
Smoke chases St. Mary's



LOCAL 9
New look coming for aging shopping center

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St. Mary's County Times

FIRE STRIKES IN TALL TIMBERS

Plans Revealed for Millson Plaza Renewal
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 Wildfire Smoke Blankets St. Mary's

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ON THE COVER
 A fire destroyed several boats and a pier at Tall Timbers Marina

WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, JUN 8</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 76° Lo: 54°</p>	<p>FRI, JUN 9</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 73° Lo: 55°</p>	<p>SAT, JUN 10</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 61°</p>	<p>SUN, JUN 11</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 87° Lo: 67°</p>
<p>MON, JUN 12</p> <p>Scattered Storms Hi: 80° Lo: 63°</p>	<p>TUE, JUN 13</p> <p>AM Showers Hi: 81° Lo: 62°</p>	<p>WED, JUN 14</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 82° Lo: 63°</p>	<p>THU, JUN 15</p> <p>PM Thunderstorms Hi: 83° Lo: 63°</p>

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FRIDAY, JULY 7

FRIDAY, JULY 14

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SATURDAY, AUG. 5

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Fire Strikes Tall Timbers Marina



Photo courtesy of Seventh District Volunteer Fire Department

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A fire that occurred after noon July 7 at Tall Timbers Marina devastated a large boat overhang and a pier according to initial first responder reports, with up to 10 boats on fire.

A person answering the phone at Tall Timbers Marina said only: "Significant damage but no one was injured."

Joy Bowes, who witnessed the fire from Cedar Cove Marina, said the Reluctant Navigator restaurant was undamaged and as

were other piers at the Tall Timbers facility.

A statement from Tall Timbers Marina reads: "As many have seen and heard, the marina experienced an unfortunate event today. While we lost a few boats and a pier, everyone is safe."

"We would like to thank the many organizations that helped put out the fire and prevent further loss of property."

Tall Timbers Marina has served local the local boating community for the past 55 years.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Sheriff Speaks Out On Fatal Crash

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Last week a Calvert County woman lost her life in a three-car crash after she became inadvertently embroiled in what police believe to be a drag race on Route 235 in Mechanicsville.

Condolences have poured in for Jaleisa Wilcox, 33, the mother of four children, who was killed in the crash.

According to a GoFundMe account established in her memory, Wilcox was a small business woman who started her own cleaning company first in Massachusetts and then in Maryland.

Sheriff Steve Hall, who started off his first term in office with a focus on curbing aggressive driving, said the senseless death had to stop.

"The privilege to drive doesn't supersede another's right to drive on our roadways without fear of being seriously injured or worse," Hall said in a statement released from his office. "These are roadways; they are not raceways."

When the sheriff's office Collision Reconstruction Unit responded to the scene to continue the investigation on May 31, they determined the 2020 Corvette, operated by Michael Anthony Carlucci, 48 of Waldorf, was traveling southbound on Three Notch Road near Laurel Grove Road

when the vehicle struck the rear driver side of the 2000 Toyota 4Runner, operated by Jeamine Eugene Barnes, 50 of Hollywood, then the Toyota Camry, operated by Jaleisa Wilcox, 33 of Lusby, sending all three vehicles into an earthen berm.

The Corvette and Camry rolled over after the impact with the berm and the 4Runner crossed into the northbound lanes.

Wilcox was declared dead on the scene by first responders; sheriff's officials say that the investigation is ongoing.

The sheriff's office is seeking information about a dark gray or black newer model Ford Mustang with stripes that may have been in the area before the crash as well,

"This selfishness has got to stop," Hall continued. "Our actions, especially as drivers on our roadways, impacts others. This flagrant disregard for the safety of fellow travelers is disgusting."

Hall pledged that the sheriff's office would intensify traffic enforcement initiatives to include combined operations with the Maryland State Police.

"In partnership with the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office, we will ensure that drivers charged with impaired, distracted, reckless or aggressive driving are held accountable within the parameters of the law," Hall said.

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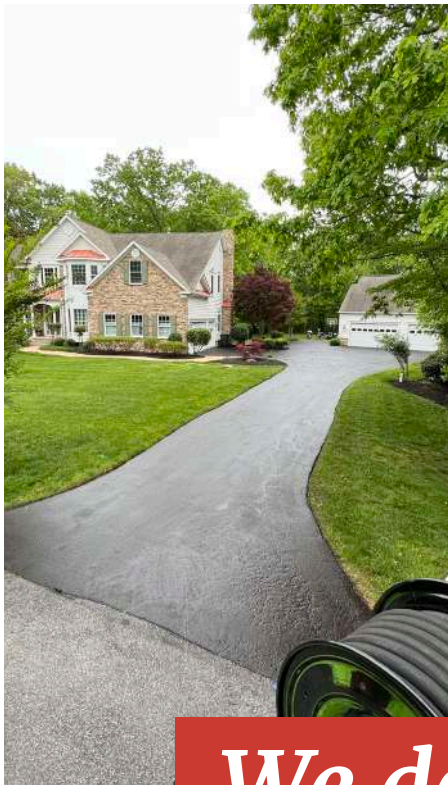


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School Board Briefed on Construction Master Plan

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The school system will continue to focus on refurbishing and renovating the facilities it has, said Kimberly Howe, director of Capital Planning, but the system must still prepare for an increase in student enrollment.

Howe briefed the St. Mary's County Board of Education on the updated school capital construction master plan at their June 7 meeting.

Relatively flat enrollment in county schools has precluded the need for additional schools presently.

But, Howe said, the school system had to remain vigilant for the impact new home building projects would have, namely the recently approved Stewart's Grant planned unit development which will bring in 1,122 residential units of varying types over the next decade or so.

"We are primed to grow again," Howe said. "The question is when does that start? What does that look like?"

"A lot of it is going to be based on the economy."

The state has begun using a new formula for funding local school renovation proj-

ects; under it the state pays for 58 percent of the project but if each school meets certain criteria, they can get a state funding increase.

Schools that have a concentration of impoverished students between 55 and 80 percent receive an additional five percent of the project cost; schools with a 80 percent or greater poverty concentration get an additional 10 percent over the project cost.

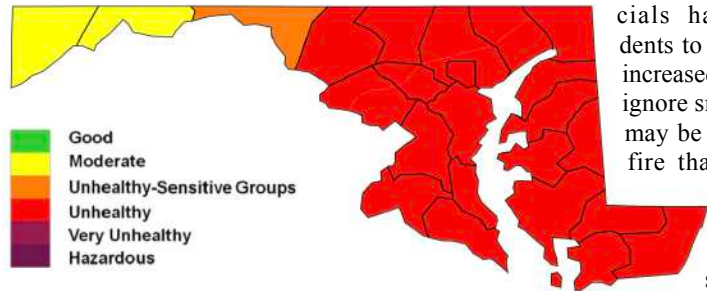
Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said keeping facilities up to par beyond their industry standard lifespan, which many of the system's buildings are, also got projects an additional five percent of funding.

"They're being well maintained," Smith said. "They [the state] wants to see we're getting all we can get out of them."

In 2025 the system plans the modernization of Lettie Marshall Dent Elementary, a partial roof replacement at Great Mills High School, a heating and air conditioning renovation at Piney Point Elementary as well as designing limited renovations for Chopticon High School among other projects in the 2025 to 2030 construction schedule.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

St. Mary's Suffers From Wildfire Smoke



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Canadian wildfire smoke that has wafted down to the U.S. has put most of the state in the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) "red zone" for air quality—meaning breathing outside air has been deemed unhealthy.

All of Southern Maryland, including St. Mary's County, is included in that red zone.

"Fires over Quebec continue to produce prodigious smoke which is being continuously funneled on northerly flow towards the Mid-Atlantic," information from the MDE stated. "As winds slacken further into Thursday, additional...unhealthy air quality conditions due to fine particles may be expected. A front on Friday will bring some reprieve to fine particle concentrations, but due to continued light northerly winds."

County emergency management offi-

cial have asked residents to be mindful of the increased smoke and not to ignore smoke they believe may be caused by a local fire that requires emergency response.

"If you notice smoke or the smell of smoke and believe it may be

caused by a local fire, please call 9-1-1 to report," the county's emergency management department has asked.

The county health department warned that air pollution can exacerbate asthma symptoms and trigger attacks, even for individuals who do not have asthma. The signs of such an attack include coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, and chest tightness.

Residents who experience these symptoms should not hesitate to take action, the health department urged.

"Consider taking a break, engaging in less intense activities, or seeking an indoor environment," a notice from the department stated. "Follow any prescribed quick-relief medication as directed.

"If symptoms persist or worsen, seek medical attention as soon as possible."

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- Circuit Court Judges and Volunteers.



Plans Show Major Changes for Former Millison Plaza

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

About a year ago a county commissioner announced that a redevelopment company had purchased the aging Millison Plaza Shopping Center in Lexington Park, one of the oldest of its kind in St. Mary's, and that major changes were on their way.

Planning documents filed at the county's Department of Land Use and Growth Management as late as last month show those changes may come true.

Filed only as a concept site plan for now, plans for the newly named Patuxent River Village Center, show new businesses, such as a proposed Aldi grocery store at more than 19,000 square feet in size, a Harbor Freight hardware vendor and an Ollie's discount store.

Overall, the proposal calls for the addition of about 9,400 square feet of retail space to what already exists at the shopping center.

David Ross, one of the owners of Atlantic

Realty, the new owners of the property, said the businesses shown in the renderings were not party to any negotiations as to who would stay at the site.

They were just examples of possible tenants, Ross said.

Ross would only comment on the status of the potential grocery store.

"There really isn't anyone we plan to give walking papers to," Ross told The County Times. "We want to keep everybody as best we can. But the Aldi's, we hope we can make that happen."

The documents and artist renderings detailing the possible changes to the shopping center have existed since November of last year.

The concept site plan was up for discussion last month at the meeting of the county's Historic Preservation Commission.

The plan, though, calls for the demolition of the hotel in the plaza, what was once the Belvedere Motor Inn.

The hotel that remains today is only a

fraction of the size as much of it had already been demolished after years of decay had led it to become blighted.

Ross said he was glad to have purchased the property where the hotel now sits so it can be demolished.

This is part of the developer's plan to attract new businesses, keep existing ones but keep the footprint of the entire property in keeping with the Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) mandated by the Navy at Patuxent River Naval Air Station that restricts certain growth so close to naval aviation testing activities.

"The AICUZ is very important here," Ross said. "Our plan is to reduce the building density, not increase it."

Ross said he also plans to keep as much of the existing structure of the shopping center as possible but make changes to make it more accessible and noticeable to customers.

He said unless customers deliberately walked from the main parking lots further into the back portions of the center, they

might never know other smaller businesses existed there beyond the main anchors.

"We're laying out the uses in a better way than they are now," Ross said, adding that the entire center was desirous of improvement.

"It really has been in need of that for some time," he said.

Howard Thompson, chair of the county planning commission, said he was aware of the case but it had yet to come before the members of the commission.

"I'm anxious to have that come before us to help revitalize Lexington Park," Thompson said of the proposed project. "A project of this size will require a lot of attention to detail and work."

The 17.8-acre site is valued at \$8.6 million, according to state land records but the sale price was listed at \$10.3 million.

The shopping center was first constructed in 1974, nearly 50 years ago.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Publisher Thomas McKay
Associate Publisher Eric McKay
General Manager Al Dailey aldailey@countytimes.net
Advertising Jen Stotler jen@countytimes.net
Staff Writers Dick Myers dickmyers@countytimes.net
 Guy Leonard guyleonard@countytimes.net
Contributing Writers Ron Guy, Shelby Opperman, Dave Spigler

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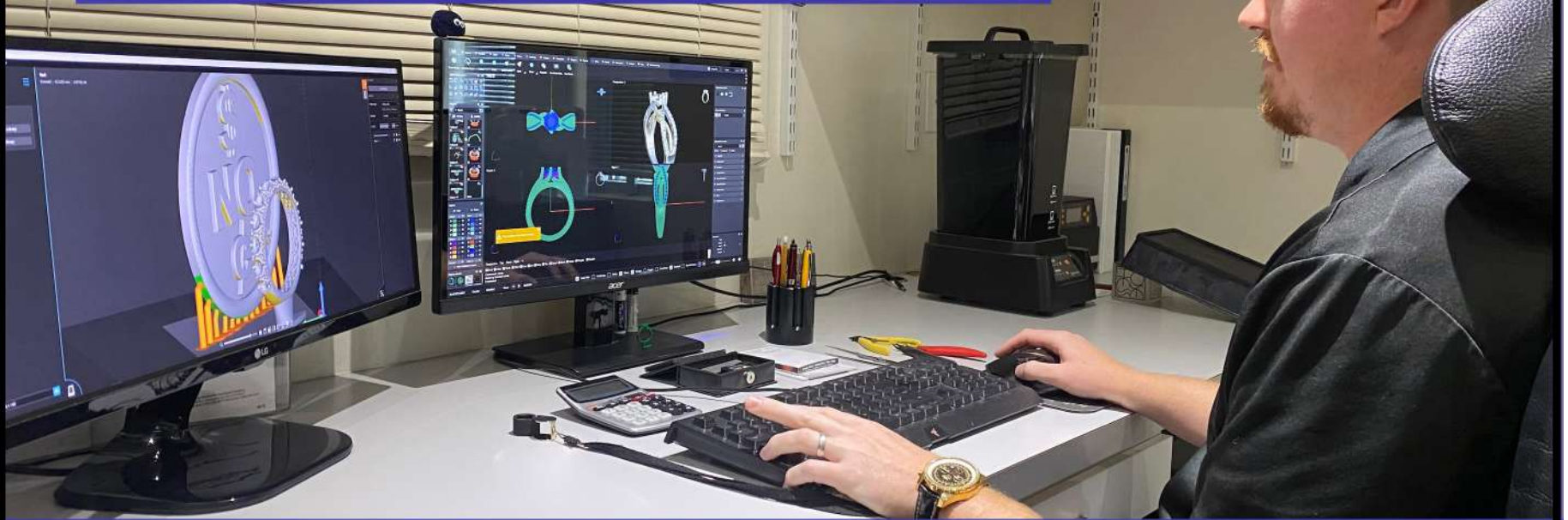
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GOP Firebrand Preaches to MAGA Crowd

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, of Florida's 1st Congressional District, told members of the St. Mary's County GOP last week that he continues to admire his state's Gov. Ron DeSantis but still favors the beleaguered but defiant Donald Trump for the presidency in 2024.

Gaetz received a rousing welcome from the local Republican activists at their annual Lincoln/Reagan dinner at the Elks Lodge of FDR Boulevard in Great Mills June 3.

"For this mission, for this time bring me back President Trump," Gaetz said near the end of his more-than-20-minute speech at the end of the evening.

The crowd of about 100 party members resoundingly agreed with the Freedom Caucus member of the House of Representatives.

Gaetz spoke on a host of topics, from the debt ceiling fight to woke ideology in the military to what he said was endemic corruption in Washington, D.C.

Gaetz is often lionized on the political right for his stalwart support for cutting federal spending, reeling in military involvement abroad and countering what is perceived as the infiltration of national institutions by left-leaning cultural Marxists.

"It's America or bust for me and all of you," Gaetz said. "I'm not going back to the days of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan

"The rudder that drives us must be from the return of Donald Trump."

Gaetz said that the combination of what he called the administrative state—the bureaucracy—and moneyed lobbyists contributed to Washington, D.C. being an "explicitly corrupt place."

"Members of both parties have been valets to the special interests presiding over the rot of the country," Gaetz said.

Gaetz said that congressional hearings into woke ideology at the Pentagon resulted in a national conversation over whether the military was focused more on politics over readiness.

This was especially critical, Gaetz said, as the military was struggling to meet its recruitment goals.

"Members of the military don't want to be part of a weird social experiment," Gaetz said. "The leadership of Gen. [Mark A.] Milley [Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] and Secretary [of Defense Lloyd] Austin are more interested in wokeism than winning at the top." Gaetz did say the hearings resulted in the defense department leaving off its "crazy snipe hunt for white supremacy in the military."

He said he wanted to see Ukraine win militarily its war against Russia, which invaded its territory in 2014 and again in February of last year, but was wary of the billions of dollars in tax payer money being used to bankroll the effort.

Gaetz said the recent, but temporary, resolution to the debt default issue did nothing to reduce spending and even removed work requirements for welfare recipients and introducing reforms that actually make those programs more costly in the long run.

Gaetz voted against raising the debt ceiling.

"It was straight up failure threatener," Gaetz said of the Biden-McCarthy debt ceiling deal. "There's not a lobby in D.C. for less spending

"They're willing to do that to you to continue to feed the system."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Rep. Matt Gaetz

Abandoned House Fire Under Investigation

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

State Fire Marshals are investigating the cause of a fire at an abandoned house on southbound Route 235 just before Hermanville Road in Lexington Park.

The fire occurred in the late-night hours of June 1.

Bay District Volunteer Fire Department Chief Joe Gould said that approximately 35 firefighters responded to the blaze and took about 20 minutes to extinguish it.

Gould said that the house had been the site of a similar fire several years ago, which had been caused by a homeless person starting a fire during the winter months in an attempt to stay warm.



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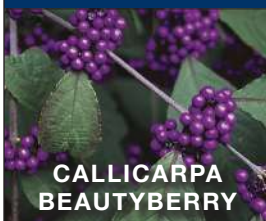


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Warrior Run/Walk Benefits Local Veterans



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Rain or shine this weekend runners, walkers and even those pushing strollers will converge on Lexington Park Passive Park to help the community's veterans.

The Warrior 5K Fun Run/Walk raises funds for the local Patuxent Habitat for Humanity, so they can use it to repair homes of veterans who simply cannot afford to or are otherwise unable to do it themselves.

The top three racers will get medals and gift bags that include gift cards from local businesses, everyone will be able to get a t-shirt commemorating their participation but above all they will know they helped those who served their country.

The funds raised from the race this June 10 will go to the critical home repair program Patuxent Habitat for Human runs.

The emphasis is on critical for the program's mission, said Sharon Farbizio, local director.

"It has to be something that will improve their lives," Farbizio said.

That can range from building and repairing handicapped access ramps to fixing leaking roofs and repairing collapsing floors.

Despite St. Mary's being full of veterans,

not all of them live as well as many would expect, Farbizio said.

That means there are plenty of them, many older and from the Vietnam War era, who need help maintaining a decent living standard.

"It's more than you expect," Farbizio said. "These are proud people."

Laurie Walker, logistics coordinator for Patuxent Habitat for Humanity, said volunteers, some of them veterans who want to help others, often report homes in significant disrepair since their owners were so loathe to ask for help.

"It's really sad they've come to live that way," Walker said. "It's really bad."

These veterans are even reluctant to get help once it arrives.

"A lot of them will be negative towards us," Walker said, noting having veteran volunteers helps.

"They know no one's going to judge them."

Patuxent Habitat typically completes two to three critical home repairs for veterans a year; since the 5K event began 10 years ago they have completed more than 100 repair jobs.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

County Government Operations for Juneteenth Holiday

All St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) administrative offices will be closed on Monday, June 19, 2023, in observance of the Juneteenth holiday. Offices will resume normal operating schedules on Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

The June 19 closure also includes:

- All three St. Mary's County Libraries (Charlotte Hall, Leonardtown, and Lexington Park)
- All three Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler, and Northern), and there will be no home-delivered meals
- The St. Mary's Transit System (STS)
- Department of Recreation & Parks school programs and facilities
- The Riverview Restaurant

The following SMCG operations will be

open on June 19:

- The six Convenience Centers (9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- The St. Andrews Landfill (8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
- Great Mills Pool (11 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- Wellness & Aquatics Center (6 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
- The St. Clements Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, and the Old Jail Museum (open for visitors from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- The Wicomico Shores Golf Course (open 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.)

For more information on SMCG programs and operations, please visit: stmaryscountymd.gov.

Hollywood Carnival Returns This July



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department's annual summer carnival is returning to its normal seasonal dates in July this year, said company president William Mattingly.

"Everything is back on track," Mattingly told The County Times this week. "We need the general public to support us."

The carnival will reopen starting July 13 through July 16 and then again during the following week from July 20 to July 23.

For years the carnival has been the chief fundraising event for Company 7 but last year it was cut short when a fight between two groups of young men, some wearing masks, erupted in the parking lot of the carnival space and one produced a handgun and shot and killed a 19-year-old youth.

The carnival grounds quickly became filled with panic and videos of attendees posted on social media showed them running for cover.

Police quickly arrested and charged a suspect in the killing but the carnival was shut down immediately and did not reopen until August.

Residents came back to the festivities but not in the same numbers; carnival hours were also restricted to daylight hours as a security measure.

The two factions, which police believed were tied to violent youth gangs in Lexington Park, both arrived well after dark at last year's opening carnival.

Extra security, including uniformed and plainclothes sheriff's deputies, was on hand at the August carnival and Mattingly said security would be present at this year's carnival.

The carnival features rides, games and food and drink vendors for attendees as well as prizes for young children in the community but it will not be having fireworks this year.

"The price of fireworks has gotten so out of control," Mattingly said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

'Warmline' Crisis Service Available to Community Members

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) has launched a Community Behavioral Health "Warmline", a service that provides community members with supportive assistance. This service is being offered in collaboration with the Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency Crisis Response System.

The warmline serves as a single point of contact for people in St. Mary's County who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis or need resources. The Warmline is available 24/7 to help with non-emergency calls and assists with mental health, substance misuse, grief counseling and referral services, including linkages to resources within the community. To access this service, community members should call 410-768-5522. The Warmline coordinates calls as needed with police, fire, EMS and other community agencies that address crisis matters.

"The Warmline is a resource for anyone seeking a supportive voice during a mental

health struggle," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "The Warmline is staffed by trained phone counselors. These unique and understanding individuals understand callers' needs and can direct them to the appropriate community resources."

"We're excited to build on the success of our Crisis Response System by collaborating with St. Mary's County Health Department on this important project," said Jen Corbin, Crisis Response System Director, Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency, Inc. "'Someone to talk to' is the first tenet of a well-developed crisis response system and our Warmline stands ready to serve St. Mary's County."

To find out more about this service, visit smchd.org/crisis/.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis, please call or text 9-8-8, Ayuda En Español.

Legal Notices

THE COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN 2022 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)

The 2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) will be available July 1, 2023 to Town residents and the public at the Town Hall office, 22670 Washington St. Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and at the Leonardtown Post Office, 22735 Washington Street and is also available online at <http://leonardtown.somd.com> under Town Government, Water Quality Reports.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Date: Tuesday, June 13th, 2023
Address: 45840 Highway To Heaven Ln, Great Mills, MD 20634
Time: 11:00 AM Local Time

By virtue of default by Cardinal Multi Services, LLC (Individually and collectively "Client"), under a Negotiable Promissory Note and Security Agreement(s), Security Agreement(s) Promissory Note(s), Lease Agreement(s) and related documents dated December 30, 2019, April 19, 2021 and June 18, 2021, payable to Commercial Credit Group Inc. ("CCG"), which obligation is secured by the property described below (the "Equipment"), CCG will sell at Public Auction, to the highest bidder, AS-IS, WHERE-IS, WITHOUT ANY REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES, EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR ANY WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, all of its right, title and interest to the following Equipment:

- One (1) 2016 Case SR240 Skid Steer Loader S/N: NGM420637
- One (1) 2016 Case SR240 Skid Steer Loader S/N: NGM420782
- One (1) 2018 Takeuchi TB290 Compact Excavator with 24 in. Bucket S/N: 185105240
- One (1) 2018 Takeuchi TB290 Compact Excavator with 24 in. Bucket S/N: 185105358
- One (1) 2021 Ram 1500 TRX 4X4 DT Crew Cab Pickup VIN: 1C6SR-FU92MN685838
- One (1) 2019 Sakai SW354 Smooth Drum Roller S/N: 4SW78-30199

Terms:

Successful bidder must pay 25% of purchase price at time of sale via cash, certified or acceptable bank check, with the balance payable in good funds on the next business day, unless:

1. The bidder has pre-qualified by presenting CCG with a written non-contingent, lending commitment from a source and in a form acceptable to CCG in its sole discretion, in which case we will entertain bids up to the amount of such written commitment; or
2. The bidder has obtained from CCG written credit approval in advance of the scheduled public sale.

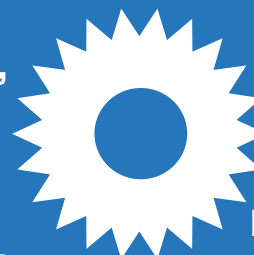
CCG reserves the right to bid at the sale. Contact Adam Clough at (716) 353-7537 for additional information or to arrange an inspection of the Equipment.

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Sweet Athena Cantaloupes
3.68

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1.18

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Wines of the Month



750-ml
Boordy Wine

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EXPLORE Leonardtown



Leonardtown Summer Events

- Coastal Arts Market at the Wharf, 6/17
- Havana Nights Dance Night at Leonardtown Cigars, 6/17
- Salsa on the Vine at Port of Leonardtown Winery, 6/23
- On the Water's Edge Concert at Wharf Featuring Latrice Carr, 6/24
- R&B Line Dancing at the On the Water's Edge Concert at Wharf, 6/24
- Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival Weekend Celebration and Jazzy First Friday All Weekend, 7/7 - 7/9

View More Exciting Events & Happenings at:
www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/EventsCalendar



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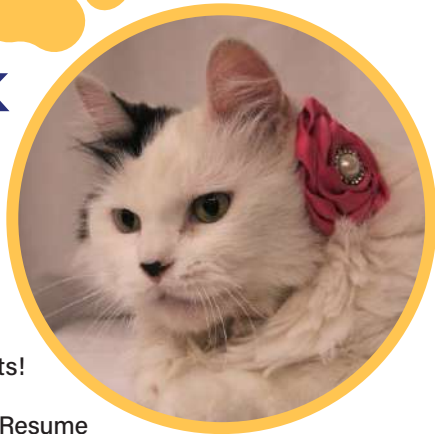
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Hi, my name is Peaches. My Shelter Resume states that I'm a PASSIONATE couch potato who enjoys a sunroom and warm blankets from the dryer. In my 9 years, I've seen and heard a lot of stuff, but now I'm at that point in my life where I just want to RELAX and enjoy being catered to. You see, I'm an EASY GOING GIRL, I always use my litterbox, I like dry kibble, and I've lived with DOGS and CATS. Now, I'm so hoping someone LOVING like YOU will adopt me soon! When you do, you'll be in PAW-SESSION of someone who will LOVE you FUREVER! Please come meet me during adoption hours Monday-Friday 11am-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm or email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! And remember, ALWAYS OPT TO ADOPT, please 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>



The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Rockfish, perch, and speckled trout were eager to bite on the first of June in all of southern Maryland.

The trout news was good in the Hooper Island area where one experienced fisherman landed six and missed another two at the boat in about an hour and a half last Saturday. The specks were reported on the rocks at Point Lookout Marker along with some rockfish in the 22-inch range. The trout are also in the mouth of Smith Creek a little further up the Potomac and in the St. Mary's River. Most of these trout are in the 18-to-24-inch range.

Good striper fishing was reported up the Patuxent on the 15-to-20-foot edges for trollers. As the water warms the rockfish will come into the shallows to feed on crabs and baitfish.

The bay water temperature on Tuesday morning was 68 degrees, which is a record low temperature for June 6 according to the Sea Temperature info website. The old record was 69.4 degrees on this date in 2007. Every day has been a new record low since April. June average temperature is 75.4.

The cold water is slowing the advance of cobia, spot, and redbfish.

Perch are not bothered by cool water and are eager to bite bait and lures on moving tides. I have found perch by the singles in most of my favorite holes in the creeks. Working hard will get a mess for dinner. Good times are coming when I can get three to five good ones in each spot visited.

The cow nosed rays (skate) are plentiful.



Catfish are loving the cool water up the Potomac and Patuxent and are eager to bite cut bait.

Fresh water fish are very active. Catches are made daily of bass, bluegill, crappie, and pickerel in St. Mary's Lake and local ponds.

Crabs are in the creeks for dock owners using crab pots and for recreational crabbers using chicken necks and hand traps. Remember, if you are using hand traps or rings you must purchase the recreational crab license add-on to your fishing license, a \$2.00 fee. If you do not have a fishing license, the crab permit is \$5.00.

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A View From The BLEACHERS



RETURN TO FORM

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

The trained eye of an experienced sports fan can tell immediately. The athlete is in motion, plants hard to alter direction and, without contact, crumples to the ground clutching a knee. The replay delivers the damning evidence: as the athlete's foot slams to the ground and body pivots, the knee buckles and collapses inward.

The athlete knows too. It feels like disaster. A movement they've done a thousand times is suddenly greeted with a disturbing pop, as femur slams into tibia, and the stomach-turning sensation of a major joint moving in a foreign and damaging way.

When you see it, you see it. When you experience it, you experience it. The only question is the extent of the collateral damage – a medial collateral ligament tear or meniscus implications. The primary verdict is known: a torn Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL). A season ends and a team's and an athlete's future are now uncertain - and it happens just like that (writer snaps finger).

Modern medicine being the totally awesome thing it is, a torn ACL is more of a career-pausing than the career-altering/ending injury it was years ago. But it's still no joke. Due to poor blood flow in the area and the fibrous nature of the ligament, ACLs don't heal well on their own. They usually require reconstructive surgery using either harvested soft tissue from the patient's patella tendon or hamstring, or a cadaver. Return to activity is somewhere in the nine-month range; return to pre-injury form is more in the 12-to-18-month range. Doable, but not great.

In an April 2021 game against the Golden State Warriors, Denver Nuggets rising star point guard Jamal Murray penetrated the lane, planted his left leg, fell and slide in a heap under the basket. The replay told the story. The subsequent MRI confirmed the obvious: torn ACL. The injury ended Murray's season, cost him the next one too, and complicated the growth of one the NBA's best young teams.

Have you seen "The Super Mario Bros. Movie"? It is a blast of irresistible nostalgia for anyone who grew up in the 1980s playing Nintendo or parents who reared kids in this millennium and battled Bowser on the Wii game console. I am both of those things; so, when my 16-year-old asked if his old man wanted to jump in the way-back machine and catch the flick, our tickets were punched.

The movie checked all the expected blocks. There was much to absorb and many emotions were stirred. But one message dominated our conversation on the way home: perseverance. In many scenes, Mario faced doubts about his abilities (beware of fault-finders!) and seemingly insurmountable odds. There were questions about his plumbing skills and chances in thwarting Bowser's attack. Without spoiling too much, he overcame them all with persistence, bravery and a palatable belief in himself.

Of course, happy endings are Hollywood's greatest and most predictable trick. Murray, in his rehab and return from an ACL injury, was guaranteed no such conclusion. There was no script writer on standby to pen a fairy tale ending. No matter... Murray is in the process of writing his own.

Murray returned to the court this season and, along with all-world center Nikola Jokic, led the Nuggets to the best record in the Western Conference. The Nuggets charged through the playoffs, into the NBA Finals and are, as of this writing, just three wins from the franchise's first NBA title. Jokic deserves much credit, but in crunch time, it is often Murray who has taken the lead role.

Suffice to say, Murray is a long way from that night in April 2021 when he laid under the basket, grasping a wounded knee, his once clear path to stardom now cloudy. His return to form is a credit to him and his medical team; it is also a reminder that the tonic for any adversity is faith, hard work and perseverance. Murray doesn't have the hops of Super Mario - he isn't leaping Koopa Troopas or Goombas - but his determined comeback would certainly prompt a tip of the cap from our favorite mustachioed video game and movie hero.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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We offer two annual family days to promote camaraderie, food, and fun for everyone.

Additional information provided by Dave George, via email at dc_george@comcast.net or direct cell 240-682-9695.



In Remembrance

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

Peggy McCabe, 94



Ellen Margaret ("Peggy") McCabe died on May 14th, 2023 in Olney, Maryland at the age of 94. Family members were at her side. With her love and kindness,

Peggy enriched the lives of family, friends and all others with whom she came in contact. She was widowed in 2010 after 61 years of marriage to her husband Jerome McCabe, a retired Army officer. Peggy set up households in Japan, Spain and 6 states in the US in her role of "Army wife." She was a founding member of Hospice of St. Mary's and served as its first Volunteer Trainer and Coordinator. She owned and operated a historical tour company in St. Mary's County called Terra Mariae Tours.

Peggy is survived by her 5 children: Mike McCabe, Pat Ruppert (Craig), Tim McCabe (Mary), Mark McCabe (Kathleen), Pete McCabe (Jenny), 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren whose names are Ellen, Ada and Boden Bluey, Cordelia, June, Kael and Daphne Felts, JamesCate, Julien and Tobin McGehee, Natalie and Carl Ruppert, Everett and Eva Boyle, Owen and Avery McCabe, Arya Samantello, and Ella Niles.

Viewing and Catholic Mass on June 12 at St. Paul Catholic Church, Damascus begin-

ning at 10:15 AM. Reception afterwards at Pat and Craig Ruppert's home. Graveside service on June 13 at 11 AM at St Aloysius Cemetery in Leonardtown.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Peggy's memory may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's. <http://www.hospiceofstmarys.org>

Ron Ely, 85



Ronald William Ely, "Ron", 85, of Leonardtown, MD, formerly of Baltimore, MD, passed away on June 4, 2023 in Callaway, MD. Born on March 12, 1938

in Baltimore, MD, he was the son of the late Rita Zeller and the late Wilson Ely. Ron was the loving husband of Mary L. (Pritzi) Klear Ely, whom he married on June 10, 2005. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children Michael (Connie) Ely of Lusby, MD and Mark Ely of Richmond, VA, as well as his brother Wayne (Muriel) Kopacki of Baltimore, MD. Ron was predeceased by his daughter Patricia Ely of Hollywood, MD.

Ron joined the Maryland State Police shortly after High School as a Patrol Officer and eventually became involved with the Legislative Branch of the MSP. Ron retired as a Detective Sergeant for the MD State Police Legislative Division. He then stayed

local, assisting the St Mary's County Sheriffs Department for several years. To relax, He enjoyed following Professional Football, Baseball and Hockey. His favorite teams were the Orioles, Capitals and Baltimore Colts (back in the day). Ron also enjoyed admiring the flowers he loved to plant—especially Camellias. He had them everywhere.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, June 8, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 11:30 AM in the funeral home chapel with Father Karl Chimiak officiating. Interment to follow at the Charles Memorial Gardens.

Contributions may be made to Special Olympics Southern Maryland and The Center for Life Enrichment, Hollywood, MD.

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.

Mary Norris, 90



Mary passed away on May 28, 2023 at home surrounded by her loving family. She was born on October 23, 1932 to Walter and Nellie Raley. Mary was married to her husband Dicky for 73 years. They would have celebrated their 74th wedding Anniversary on June 8, 2023

Mary graduated from St. Mary's Academy and worked at St. Marys Hospital for approximately 20 years

A lifelong St. Mary's County native, Mary was well-loved by her family and friends. Mary was the mother of nine children. Despite her large family Mary always made time for everyone. She always provided support and love for her family. She and her husband Dicky worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for their kids. She would proudly boast about all nine of her children.

She is survived by her loving husband Dicky and her children Cathy Creech (Eddie) of Benham, KY, Vicky Russell (Carl) of Warminster, PA, Becky Tennyson (Thomas) of Great Mills, MD, Barbara Tennyson (Donnie) of Hollywood, MD, Billy Norris (Wendy) of Mechanicsville, MD, Michael Norris (Shawna) of Mechanicsville, MD, Debbie Karr of Clements, MD, Sue Ryce (Johnny) of Clements, MD and Steve Norris of Hollywood, MD; she is also survived by her 15 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren; her sister Juanita Johnson and brother Joseph K. Raley. She is preceded in death by her parents Walter and Nellie Raley, an infant son, her brothers Leonard Raley, Louis Raley and Al Raley, her sisters Shirley Hewitt and Margaret Curry and her grandsons Kevin Tennyson and John Ryce III.

The family will receive friends on Friday, June 2, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., with a Mass of Christian

Burial celebrated by at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church, 43927 St. Johns Road, Hollywood, MD 20636. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Serving as pallbearers will be: Bobby Norris, Brian Dunlap, Steven Norris Jr., Johnny Ryce Jr., Daniel Norris and Richey Creech. Serving as honorary pallbearers will be Andrew Norris, Scott Tennyson and Eric Creech.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 79, Hollywood, MD 20636.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Tommy Breslin, 64



Thomas "Tommy" Breslin, Leonardtown's preeminent collector of old motorcycles, guitars, broken hearts and broken boats, died Monday June 5 after an illness that—despite its mystery, severity, and length—never dampened Tommy's biting wit and his love of his family.

Tommy was born June 15 1958, the fourth child of Fred and Anne Breslin, and it's sometimes a wonder that they had more after him. His siblings would tell stories about his youthful antics, often punctuated by Tommy throwing in a correction or—more often—an embellishment. He attended Father Andrew White S.J. School, and St. Mary's Ryken High School, where he was involved in Boy Scouts and played basketball.

In high school Tommy started playing guitar, and music became his most consistent love, the one that loved him back the hardest, the one he hated to walk away from. Throughout his life he enjoyed joining his siblings on stage at local bars and restaurants, or singing with his nieces and nephews at family gatherings. Tommy had an assortment of amps in his basement, and on each amplifier the volume knob only went one direction—UP. If people in Calvert County couldn't hear you from Tommy's basement, you were doing it wrong.

At family Christmas parties—regardless of the venue—Tommy would show up with an arsenal of Nerf guns for the kids, many of whom never aged out of the tradition. If the weather wasn't too bitterly cold, he'd disappear outside to wash all the guests' cars, listening to music and enjoying conversation with his family.

Tommy enjoyed his work testing and fixing equipment on naval ships, and enjoyed the camaraderie of his coworkers. He took pride in "never using a day of leave," and traveled extensively throughout his career. His favorite places to visit were Savannah and New Orleans.

We all want our children to be our greatest accomplishment—and in his daugh-

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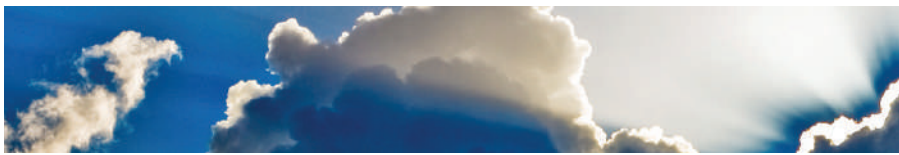


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ter Stephanie, Tommy succeeded beyond measure. Stephanie took from Tommy the incisive mind and keen sense of humor, and softened them with a generosity and kindness Tommy possessed and shared sparingly, but lovingly. Stephanie remained by his side to the end.

And, Tommy will be deeply missed by his BFF, the one who could do no wrong, granddaughter Leah. They spent countless hours together, and whenever a decision needed to be made, he was always deferential: "Do whatever Leah wants."

Tommy was preceded in death by his sister Kathy Easom, and his parents Fred and Anne Breslin. He is survived by siblings Patrick Breslin, Michael Breslin, Margie Dunn, Billy Breslin, Nancy Paul, and Joanne Jones; his daughter Stephanie and son-in-law Bill Thomas; and his granddaughter Leah Thomas; and a small army of nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, in-laws and out-laws whose lives Tommy enriched.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:15PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday June 15, 2023 (Tommy's birthday), at 9 AM, St. Aloysius Church, Leonardtown MD with Father David Beaubien officiating. Interment to follow at Queen of Peace Cemetery, Helen, MD.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Tommy's memory to Hospice at St. Mary's (Medstar Health), or A Community that Shares (ACTS).

If Tommy could make one request, it would be that all in attendance remember his cardinal rule for life: "If you can't find it in St. Mary's County, you don't need it, and you probably shouldn't have it."

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.

Kenny Petrie, 80



Kenneth C. Petrie, "Kenny", 80, of Charlotte Hall, MD, formerly of Chesapeake Beach, MD, passed away May 30, 2023 in Charlotte Hall, MD. Born on June 14,

1942 in Reidsville, NC, he was the son of the late Wilford C. Petrie, Sr. and Sallie Scott Beaver. Kenny is survived by his children Michelle Armsworthy (Jay) of California, MD and Brian Petrie of Alexandria, VA, his siblings Wilford C. Petrie, Jr. of Tower City, PA and Raymond Petrie of Sutter Creek, CA, as well as two grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister, Betty Erickson.

Kenny graduated from Calvert High School in 1962, and served in the United States Navy for four years, from April 7, 1964 to February 6, 1968, during which time he sailed on the U.S.S. Austin. He was a truck driver for Flippo Construction Company, Forestville, MD, for 25 years, retiring in July 2010. Kenny loved Bluegrass music, camping, and police TV shows.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held in the funeral home chapel at 11:00 AM with Father Ray Schmidt officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Memorial Gardens, Great Mills, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Brian Petrie, Jay Armsworthy, April Daniels and James Woodburn.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's at P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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.

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This project was supported, in part by grant number 90MPPG0001-05-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Sacred Heart Church ANNUAL JUNE Drive-Thru Dinner

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Sunday, June 25, 2023

11:00 a.m. 'til Sold-Out

MENU:

Crab Cakes	Fried Chicken	Country Ham
-----------------------	--------------------------	------------------------

**Potato Salad, Cole Slaw,
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Cake Table Available
Drive-Thru---Carry-Outs Only
\$30.00 (Make Checks Payable to: Sacred Heart Church)

Cash or Checks Only
(Sorry, No Credit Card Service Available)

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CountyTimes

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.

Sat, Jun 10, 2023

Blue and Grey Days—Point Lookout State Park

Point Lookout State Park
11175 Point Lookout Rd, Scotland
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event will represent the occupation of Point Lookout by Union forces, creation of Hammond Hospital and the establishment of the largest prison camp in the North. Costumed interpreters will present small arms and artillery demonstrations as well as static living history exhibits depicting military and civilian life at Point Lookout during the Civil War.

growingSTEMS—Combat Robotics Summer Camp

The Hive—A growingSTEMS Center
Commerce Avenue, Hollywood
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

growingSTEMS is happy to offer a Combat Robotics summer camp focused around Termite Class Combat Robots! Competitors in grades 3-7th are able to

participate in this 2-day camp. Each camp will run on Saturday and Sunday, 10-3PM each day.

Camp sessions will be available for the following dates:

- June 10-11th
- July 8-9th
- July 29-30th
- August 5-6th.

There will be 12 slots per camp and each camp will be limited to 3 of each robot design.

All competitors must pre-register for the event, walk-ins are not accepted. Registration and more information can be found on our website—www.growingstems.org/product/termite-class-combat-robot-summer-camp/

\$20.00 Per Person. Blind Draw Partners. Double Eliminations. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Limited Vendor spaces will be available at \$30.00 per space. Cut off for vendors is June 1st. Vendors supply their own table, tent and chair. For Tournament information or Vendor space information contact -

Becky Goddard at 443-717-0488 or email her at beckygoddard83@gmail.com

Food and Drinks will be available to purchase from Hills Country Store. 50/50, Money Board & More

non-profit organization devoted to philanthropic quilting projects and promoting the skill of quilting. New members of all skill levels are welcome. For questions, email: prqgsomd@gmail.com

19th Annual Juneteenth Celebration

John G. Lancaster Park
Lexington Park
Sat, Jun 17
12 p.m to 6:30 p.m.

The Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions will hold its 19th annual Juneteenth Celebration at John G. Lancaster Park in Lexington Park on June 17, 2023 from noon to 6:30. The event will open with a presentation of the colors, official proclamations, special awards, a wreath-laying honoring U.S. Colored Troops, including local Medal of Honor recipients, and will include a living history performance by Shemika Renee. There will also be entertainment, food vendors, retail vendors, non-profits, etc. This is a free family friendly community event.

Upcoming

Pax River Quilt Guild Meeting

Good Samaritan Lutheran Church
20850 Langley Rd., Lexington Park
Mon, Jun 12
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Pax River Quilters Guild will host its monthly meeting which will include a demo night of quilting skills. Meetings are the second Monday of every month and feature guest speakers, show and tells, and other fun activities. Pax River Quilters Guild is a

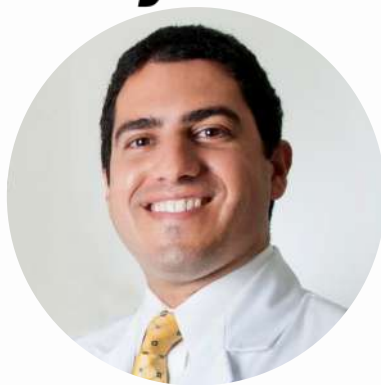
Sun, Jun 11, 2023

Seventh District VFD Auxiliary Horseshoe Tournament

Hill's Store
29933 Point Lookout Rd., Mechanicsville
12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Registration starts at 12:15 PM with first round starting at 1:00 PM.

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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, Jun 8

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way and Zoom
6:30-8 p.m.

Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Jeannette Findley and JC Hooker. Please register to receive the Zoom link. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.
<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Jun 9

On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.
<https://CalvertLibrary.info>

NDCTheater 'Til Beth Do Us Part

Long Beach Community Center
5845 Calvert Blvd, St. Leonard
7 p.m.

Whether you're married, single, rethinking your divorce or currently being controlled by someone up to no good, you're sure to enjoy this family-friendly, laugh-out-loud comedy.

Website: www.ndctheater.org
Phone: 443.624.4484

Rooftop Car Show

Rod 'N' Reel
4165 Mears Ave, Chesapeake Beach
4- 8 p.m.
Free

On the rooftop of the Rod 'N' Reel parking garage by the Chesapeake Bay. Every 2nd Friday of the month thru October. FREE car magazines. Three restaurants, boating, fishing, gaming, hotel & spa.
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Sat, Jun 10

NDCTheater 'Til Beth Do Us Part

Long Beach Community Center
5845 Calvert Blvd, St. Leonard
7 p.m.

Whether you're married, single, rethinking your divorce or currently being controlled by someone up to no good, you're sure to enjoy this family-friendly, laugh-out-loud comedy.

Website: www.ndctheater.org

Phone: 443.624.4484

Dragon Boat Festival

North Beach
9 a.m.

Enjoy a family friendly atmosphere, the dragon boat races, and more while supporting End Hunger in Calvert County. Please see <https://endhungercalvert.org/events/dragon-boat-festival/> for registration information. 301-855-6681

6th Annual Mud Day

Annamarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Road, Solomons
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$10 for non-members; \$5 for members (\$12 at the gate, if not sold out); kids 2 & under free.

Celebrate International Mud Day with an afternoon of family-friendly muddy mayhem. Explore squishy art projects, play in the mud kitchen, create a terrarium, paint with mud - and have fun in the giant mud pit! Advance timed-entry tickets required. Food trucks will also be on-site. 410-326-4640.

Summer Reading Kickoff

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

Groove back to the 70s as we kick off this year's #calvertREADS summer reading challenge. Enjoy lots of hands-on activities for the whole family, snag your free #calvertREADS t-shirt (while supplies last) and don't miss the big finale, the best family disco party Calvert Library has ever had! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.
<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mon, Jun 12

JobSource Mobile Career Center

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Rd, Owings
1-4 p.m.

Stop by for your job search needs! Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Jun 13

Social Security: Ask an Expert

Calvert Library on Zoom
En Español: 12 p.m.
In English: 1-2 p.m.

In this open forum, community residents

will have the opportunity to ask questions about Social Security benefits. Presentation by Diana Varela, Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration followed by Q&A. This event will not be recorded. If you'd like to use the wifi and library computer to participate in this Zoom event, please choose "in-person" registration. Call the library if the Prince Frederick location is not the most convenient for you 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.
<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Jun 14

Job Seeker Resources: Skill Builders

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

Maryland Department of Labor, Veterans Program, Senior Community Service Employment, and Job Service representatives will be in person to meet with those seeking employment or career change. Walk ins welcome on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. -535-0291 or 301-855-1862.
<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.
<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Resumes and Cover Letters

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center, this is an interactive workshop for resume and cover letter writing help. Looking for a new job or career? Don't miss this free class. Registration recommended by the Monday before event. Registration for the event is highly recommended, but some walk-in assistance can be provided on a first-come basis after the workshop materials have been covered. For additional information or to request one-to-one assistance, please contact AJC Job Service Specialist Gayle Howe at: gayle.howe@maryland.gov.

JobSource Mobile Career Center

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
1-4 p.m.

Stop by to visit the JobSource Mobile

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

Affordable Connectivity

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
1:35-4 p.m.

The Affordable connectivity Program (ACP) is a federal government program that helps households pay for home internet and connected devices. National School Lunch Program, SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Lifeline, Federal Pell Grants, WIC, and other benefit program recipients are eligible. Come to the library and drop into one of our ACP sign up and info sessions to learn more about the program, how to tell if you qualify, and how to get signed up. Librarians and internet service providers will be in attendance ready to answer questions and assist you with any concerns. Please bring your identification and benefit documentation. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.
<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

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

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

Thu, Jun 15

Browser Basics Using Google Chrome

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 5-7:30 p.m.

Please join us for an interactive workshop on getting comfortable using Google Chrome! This workshop will be an introduction to browsing the internet using google chrome. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.
<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sea Squirts: Trees

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

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. The cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

Two Zoning Text Amendments Proposed

Includes Gas Stations in Parts of Lusby

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Even though the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is considering a proposal for a moratorium on new zoning text amendments until the rewrite of the zoning ordinance is completed, two proposed text amendments that were already in the pipeline are advancing to consideration by the planning commission.

One would allow for gas stations as a conditionally permitted use within the Village Commercial Sub-district of the Lusby Town Center.

The second would allow indoor recreational facilities in Public Recreational Areas.

According to a memo from Zoning Planner Rachel O’Shea, “The Department of Planning & Zoning staff received a text amendment application from Kevin M. Elden, Esq. on behalf of his client Weis Markets, Inc. requesting a text amendment to allow for automobile filling stations as a conditionally permitted use within the Village Commercial Sub-district of the Lusby Town Center. The applicant states that the location of the property and the increased traffic necessitate a fuel station and that the growth in the area and customer base will support a fuel station at the location. The applicant states that since the adoption of the current Zoning Ordinance (ZO) fuel stations have become a typical accessory used to grocery stores, by accommodating certain daily necessities at one location, thereby possibly reducing overall traffic trips on certain roadways.”

O’Shea says, “Currently, this is a conditionally permitted use already in the Neighborhood Commercial and Village Edge sub-districts of the Lusby Town Center, but not where the Weis Market is located within the Village Commercial sub-district. Staff agrees that allowing automobile filling stations in the Village Commercial is within the scope of the sub-district when

equated to the other uses already permitted in the Village Commercial compared to the Neighborhood Commercial and Village Edge sub-districts.”

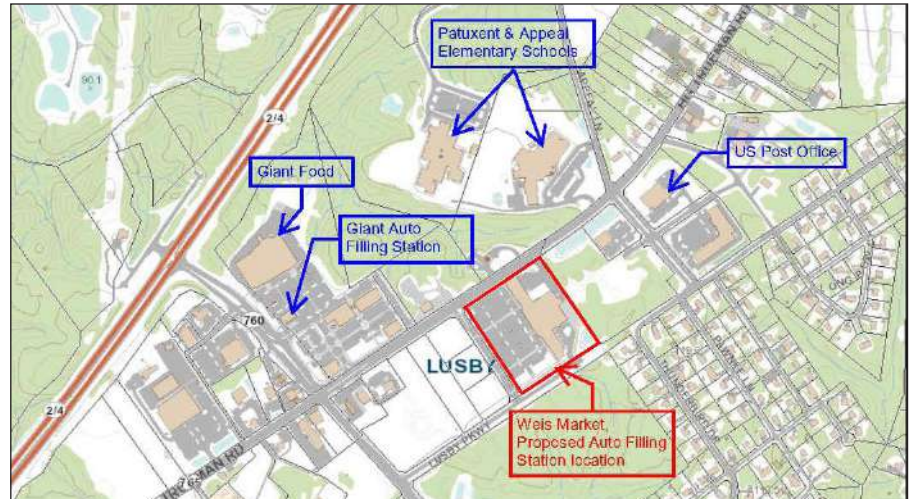
Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart, who has a liquor store across the street in another shopping center, wasn’t sure, noting there was only one way in and out of Weis shopping center and it means the potential for many more gas stations in the town center.

“I have learned the hard way in that college of hard knocks, we set up the work session, it goes to the planning commission, planning commission goes, well it’s nothing illegal or nothing out of bounds. Boom. Then, next thing you know, how did this happen? So, this is where I’m at, my cautionary thing.”

Director of Planning and Zoning Mary Beth Cook reminded Hart that anything proposed would be subject to the county’s new Adequate Public Facilities regulations for roads.

In the end Hart agreed to allow the proposal to go to the planning commission as it received unanimous approval at the June 6 BOCC meeting, as did the second proposal.

O’Shea noted for that one, “The Department of Planning & Zoning staff received a text amendment request from the Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation (CCPR) to expand accessory uses permitted at Public Recreational Areas. To serve the needs for pickleball, CCPR is interested in building an indoor recreational facility; pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports in the State of Maryland. Calvert County has experienced an increased need for pickleball facilities. The indoor facility will also allow for other indoor recreational sports activities at public parks. Hallowing Point Park is full of recreational activities, but the ZO currently restricts indoor recreational facilities at public recreational areas. This restriction limits public use of the park during certain times of the year when the weather is not conducive to outdoor recre-



Location of proposed Weis gas station

ational activities. The Department of Parks & Recreation is already in the process of putting out a request for proposals to update the Hallowing Point Park Master Plan and to include the design of a Multi-Sport Indoor Recreation Facility.”

O’Shea said, “In the current Zoning Ordinance, Public Recreational Areas is a permitted use by special exception within the Farm and Forest District, meaning it must be approved by the Board of Appeals and meet the listed conditions. Hallowing Point Park is zoned as Farm and Forest District. However, the listed condition lim-

its permitted buildings to those accessories to primary use such as restrooms, equipment storage and ground maintenance. The condition is proposed to include recreational facilities and community centers for any building that is associated with or accessory to the primary use. After discussion with staff from both departments, it was clear that the wording in the existing condition was unintentionally limiting and the proposed text amendment still meets the intent of the definition of a Public Recreational Area.”

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Double Fatal Fire in Huntingtown Under Investigation

A team of investigators from the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Calvert County Sheriff’s Office continue investigating the origin and cause of a house fire that claimed two lives in Huntingtown overnight.

Just after 3:00 a.m., Huntingtown Volunteer Fire Department and surrounding fire departments responded to the 1600 block of Maurham Court after a neighbor discovered the house engulfed in flames. Upon arrival, they were told two people might still be trapped inside the home. It took firefighters nearly two hours to control the one-alarm blaze; however, the home

eventually collapsed.

After several hours, with the assistance of heavy equipment, from the Prince Georges County Fire Investigation Unit and investigators with the City of Annapolis Fire and Explosive Services Unit, two adult victims were located within the remains of the home.

The victims were transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore to determine the exact cause of death and where they will be positively identified.

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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George Clark - Acting Director

PO Box 745 • Hughesville, MD 20637

gclark@tccsmd.org • www.tccsmd.org

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Bid Approved for New County Administration Building

Montgomery County Builder Beats Out Local Firm

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has awarded the bid for construction of a new county administration building in Prince Frederick. The base bid of \$38,759,888 goes to Forrester Construction Company of Rockville.

According to Director of Finance and Budget Sharon Strand, "This project consists of the construction of a new, approximately 102,000 square-foot, four-story County Administration Building with a parking garage. The work shall include, but is not limited to, site/civil, general construction, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, technology, and security."

The new building is at the site of the old County Services Plaza on Main Street, which has been demolished.

The winning bidder beat out Scheibel Construction Company of Huntingtown, with a bid of \$39,122,000. There also was a third higher bidder.

Strand explained, "The lowest apparent bidder, Forrester Construction Company, lists its principal office as being in Montgomery County, Maryland which allows a 10 percent local preference, and the second lowest apparent bidder, J.A.

Scheibel, Inc. t/a Scheibel Construction, lists its principal office as being in Calvert County, Maryland. The Code of Public Local Laws (Article 5) requires that a preference be given to a resident bidder over a nonresident bidder that is equal to the preference given by the county or state in which the nonresident bidder has its principal office, but not to exceed \$25,000. With the reciprocal preference applied, Forrester Construction Company is still the lowest apparent bidder and meets all requirements of the specifications. Reference checks provided satisfactory comments."

Strand said, "During the weeks of March 26, 2023, and April 2, 2023, advertisements appeared in two local newspapers, the E-Maryland Marketplace website, and the Calvert County Government's Facebook page, soliciting bids for the referenced contract. Three bids were received and opened on May 19, 2023."

In addition to the base bid, the award allows for, if required and approved by the County:

1. Emergency Responder Radio Communication System Allowance in the amount of \$75,000;
2. Conference Room Audio Visual in the amount of \$100,000;
3. Contingency in the amount of \$3,875,989; and

4. Unit pricing, if required and approved by the county.

Amid inflationary concerns, the commissioners were pleased with the bid price, having been warned it could have gone much higher.

"You scared us to death with what engineers were projecting this building was going to cost over \$500 or \$550 a square foot," said Commissioner President Buddy Hance. "So, I think we were all very pleasantly surprised when the bids were opened last week, and it came in at \$350 or \$360 a square foot. So, it's like \$12 million less than what we were scared it was going to be, I think."

"I'm hoping this trend is to get back to a more normal numbers," Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart said.

Hance observed, "I'm just glad to get the project off the ground, getting all you staff back in one central location where they can serve the citizens of this county. Because it's been very frustrating for us and for the citizens with staff being distributed in so many different places and unavailable. So, we're very happy right now."

The bid was approved by unanimous vote.

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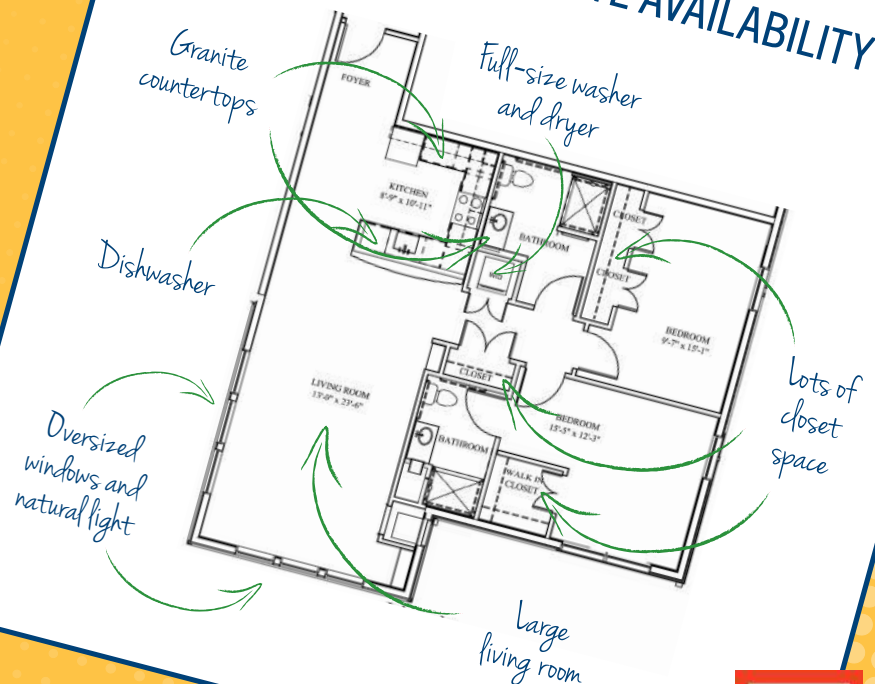
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Commissioners Approve \$381M Budget

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BICC) on June 6 adopted a \$381 million fiscal year (FY) 2024 general fund operating budget. The FY 2024 begins July 1.

As reported two weeks ago, the commissioners approved adding \$13.4 million to the school board budget out of the more than \$22 they requested. In addition, the BOCC also added a new assistant state's attorney that was not in the budget presented at the public hearing, for a cost of \$165,000.

Director of Finance and Budget Sharon Strand told the BOCC at the June 6 meeting that the budget was balanced with the addition of \$32,130,000 in personal and real property taxes

Based on a request from The County Times for clarification on the source of the additional tax revenue, Public Information Officer Sarah Ehman supplied the following statement from the county: "The \$32.1 million increase is funded, in part, by the use of \$18.6 million from prior year fund balance to pay for one-time capital projects. The remainder is anticipated new revenue from the planned reassessment of District 1, which will primarily be the two large utilities."

The utilities referred to in the statement are the Cove Point LNG plant and the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant.

The amount funded by the commissioners does not provide all to the school board required by the state's Blueprint education reform. Commissioner President Buddy Hance has promised they will revisit the budget at the end of the calendar year. He said at the meeting, "This ain't over. You know, we've told Dr. Townsel we're going to reconvene and do what we can do. But first we have to know what our revenue is, and we really won't know that for a few more months. And so, at that time, we'll reevaluate where we are. But the law is the law."

A release from the county after the budget approval said, "The general fund budget for FY 2024 is a balanced budget and reflects an increase of approximately \$38.6 million compared to the FY 2023 adopted general fund budget. The \$38.6 million increase includes \$3.2 million in additional income tax revenue, \$22.3 million in property tax revenue, and an \$18.6 million increase to use of prior year fund balance pay-go, as well as a \$5.5 million decrease to other revenue categories, including health insurance reim-



Commissioner President Buddy Hance

bursement. Of the increased revenues, \$32 million will be used to restore funding to the Capital Improvement Plan and provide additional funding to the Board of Education, Technology Services, the Sheriff's Office and Career Emergency Medical Services.

"Funding towards education remains the primary focus of the budget, comprising 41 percent of the general fund operating budget and 22 percent of the six-year capital projects budget. Education funding for operations of \$154.7 million is provided, which is \$13.4 million over the funding provided in FY 2023.

"The adoption of this budget shows the BOCC's continuing dedication to a fiscally responsible budget and accountability to our citizens, while supporting and financing valuable programs and services," said Hance. "The BOCC will continue to responsibly support the essential needs of Calvert County residents in order to ensure Calvert's sustainability."

The press release goes on to say, "The FY 2024 budget continues to address public safety as a priority with four new public safety positions. There are 14 new employees added to the budget as well as one salary step and a 3 percent cost of living adjustment for county employees."

For more information about the FY 2024 budget, contact the Calvert County Department of Finance & Budget at 410-535-1600 or email Dawn Wood at Dawn.Wood@calvertcountymd.gov.

To view the budget online visit <https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/2628/Fiscal-Year-2024-Budget-Development>.

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Pride Month Proclamation Draws Reaction

Commissioners' Sincerity Questioned

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Rarely does a proclamation from the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) draw as much emotion and angst as the one presented June 6 for LGBTQIA+ Pride Month. During the presentation, a representative of the LGBTQIA+ community refused to have those present have their pictures taken with the commissioners, which is typical. And the mother of a transgender child pleaded for understanding from the community.

The proclamation read by Commissioner Mark Cox and signed by all of the commissioners praised the contributions of the LGBTQIA+ community, which stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, asexual, plus.

The proclamation starts by saying: "Everyone should be able to live without fear of prejudice, discrimination, violence and hatred based on race, ethnicity, religion, class, mental or physical disability, gender identity, sexual orientation or age and to be supported by their peers, educators and community leaders."

But Paul Quade, president of PFLAG of Southern Maryland, questioned the commissioners' sincerity. The organization stands for Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Quade questioned the sincerity of the proclamation. He said of his members, "They do not feel safe. They do not feel welcome. In fact, students and parents declined to come with us today because last year they felt the proclamation was not upheld. They're worried that the words and actions of local government and party leaders are promoting hate speech and violence towards the LGBTQ plus committee."

He said they were particularly concerned about the initiative to control school library book selection. "It's important for students and members of the community to have windows and mirrors in our books, in our libraries. That means they can see themselves; they can also see other people that are not like them," Quade said.

Quade observed that "against these book-banning efforts and censorship, we are acknowledging the amazing family, students, teachers, and librarians that spoke out at the board (of education) meeting. Also, we're asking you all to emphasize that we need more. We need less performative politics and more action. Action is a verb, not a noun. We need leadership that's actively working to uphold the promises of this proclamation."

Quade said they would be speaking at the June 15 school board meeting.

"Rather than being limited by what might divide us, we need to be more vocal in our



support of community and the government organizations seeking to make Calvert County a safe welcoming place," Quade said.

Quade concluded his presentation by saying, "We are all respectfully declining a photograph today and invite the board members, if they'd like a photograph, to attend a PFLAG or a Pride meeting or reach out to schedule an appointment with us."

PFLAG member Jane Wynn said she was a business owner and proud parent of four kids in Calvert County. She said, "Five days past my daughter's fifth birthday, she came to me and said, mommy, I'm a girl. I don't want to cut my hair and I want to pierce my ears. As a heterosexual woman, I was shocked."

But, she said, "I'm the proud parent of a person. So, our family is part of the LGBTQ community. I'm so grateful that God saw it and to say, okay, you can't pierce your ears, but we won't cut your hair anymore. Instead of saying, no, that's not true. It's not okay. I took a breath. I prayed and then I started doing research and it was a very slow journey. She wants to be called a girl at home, a sister at home, that's fine. And it was about a year before she was comfortable sharing (it) with anyone outside of our four walls."

Wynn went on to say, "My beautiful daughter is 12 and a half, and not for one minute has she ever wavered from who her identity is. She doesn't understand. She doesn't get it. She doesn't understand why people hate her. We try to shield her from the news as much as possible. She is in social media. My oldest goes to a Calvert County

high school and in his health class last year, there was a cutout put up on the board and it was transphobic. He took a picture of it, sent it to me. After that, the classroom started chanting that there are only two genders. I know that there are other children in that classroom who were impacted by that."

Wynn added, "I know that this panel has some very strong opinions about people who allow their children to be who they are. I'm sure you have a lot of questions and feelings about my choice as a parent to allow my child to be who she is. I'm going to tell you this is a journey that no one would ever willingly or knowingly walk and do."

She said her husband said of their decision to affirm their child's decision was "we're throwing her to the wolves. And I have to tell you, I know, and I agree, but she is so steadfastly her and I'm not talking about medications and I'm not talking about surgeries, which is totally preposterous that someone would say that we would do that to a child. But what I'm saying is that I believe in leaning into love, I lean into listening to people when they tell me who they are. She's a human being, a heart that's just beautiful with tons of friends."

PFLAG of Southern Maryland is holding a Pride 2023 celebration on Oct. 8 in Lexington Park for the three Southern Maryland counties.

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“THIS AIN’T OVER.”

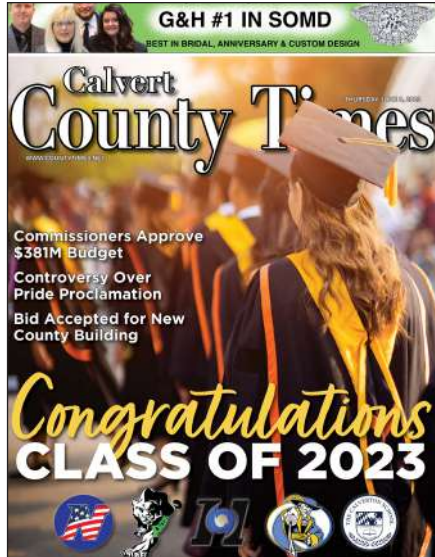
COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT BUDDY HANCE ON THE BUDGET PROCESS.



LOCAL 3
Controversy over Pride Month proclamation



LOCAL 4
Commissioners approve \$381 million budget



ON THE COVER
Calvert celebrates high school graduates

WEEKLY FORECAST

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<p>MON, JUN 12</p> <p>Scattered Storms Hi: 79° Lo: 64°</p>	<p>TUE, JUN 13</p> <p>AM Showers Hi: 80° Lo: 63°</p>	<p>WED, JUN 14</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 82° Lo: 63°</p>	<p>THU, JUN 15</p> <p>PM Thunderstorms Hi: 82° Lo: 63°</p>



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