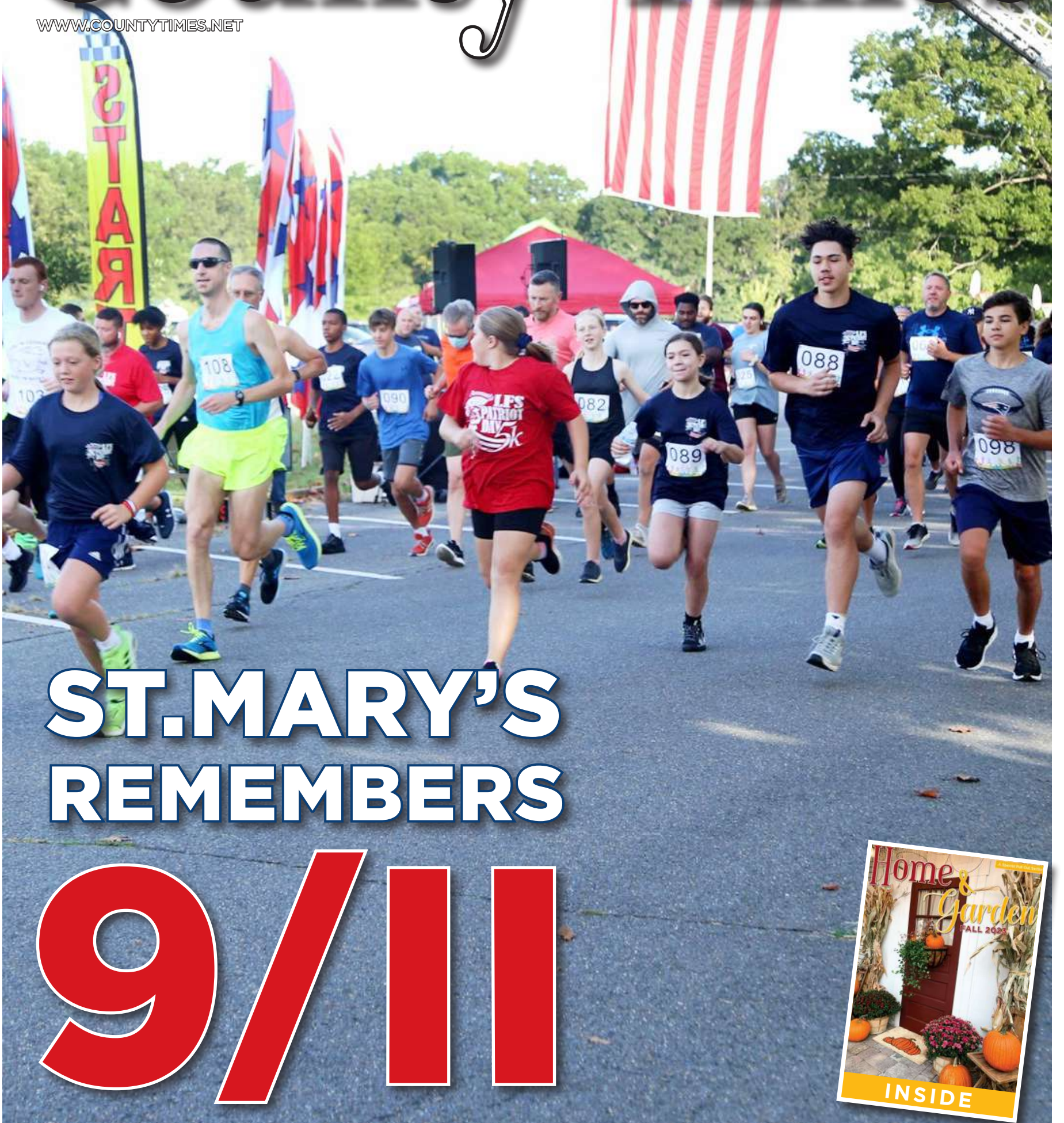


St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

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ST. MARY'S REMEMBERS

9/11



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“WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT ADDITIONAL INCOME ELIGIBLE CHILDREN ARE GOING TO APPLY.”

DR. KELLY HALL, CHIEF OF EQUITY, ENGAGEMENT, AND EARLY ACCESS WITH COUNTY SCHOOLS



LOCAL 3
Report shows details of pedestrian's death



LOCAL 7
Local lawyer files for Circuit Court judge



ON THE COVER
County residents remember the terror attacks of more than 20 years ago.

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, SEP 7 Mostly Sunny Hi: 94° Lo: 70°	FRI, SEP 8 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 90° Lo: 69°	SAT, SEP 9 Scattered Storms Hi: 86° Lo: 69°	SUN, SEP 10 Thunderstorms Hi: 84° Lo: 68°
MON, SEP 11 Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 66°	TUE, SEP 12 Mostly Sunny Hi: 84° Lo: 68°	WED, SEP 13 Scattered Storms Hi: 80° Lo: 62°	THU, SEP 14 PM Showers Hi: 77° Lo: 60°

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Report Sheds Light on Leonardtown Pedestrian Death

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

On July 29 of last year, a Leonardtown man who was disabled and used the county's STS bus to travel was killed after disembarking from one of those buses in Leonardtown and attempting to cross both southbound and northbound lanes of traffic on Route 5 in foul weather.

He was struck by an oncoming vehicle and was pronounced dead.

J. Harry "Jay" Norris IV, son of former Leonardtown Mayor J. Harry Norris III, who suffered from cerebral palsy, lived at Cedar Lane Apartments and was trying to walk home across four lanes of traffic in driving rain, an accident reconstruction report from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office shows.

The County Times Newspaper made a public information request to get the report after the deceased's father had made public outcries to see who would be held accountable for his son's death.

The report found that Norris himself did not yield the right of way to oncoming traffic in the northbound lanes of Route 5 and that he even tried to speed up to cross the road to reach home.

"There were multiple witnesses who advised that [the striking vehicle] was not speeding and the pedestrian failed to yield the right of way," the report stated, noting the rain might have been a factor in the driver of the vehicle not being able to see Norris trying to cross the road.

On board records from the STS bus show Norris got on at 3:15 p.m. that day wearing a grey shirt, dark colored shorts and a black backpack.

A little less than half-an-hour later, on board cameras show that the bus was travelling southbound on Route 5 when Norris pulled on the bus alert system and the driver pulled the bus over on the side of the road.

Norris went behind the bus and was shortly thereafter struck by the oncoming vehicle, the sheriff's office report stated, when he began crossing.

An interview with the bus driver revealed that "Jay," as Norris was often known, was a regular rider on the bus.

The driver, identified as Aaron Miles, told police his bus route directed him to enter the parking lot of the Cedar Lane Apartments on the northbound trip through the area, however, on the southbound trip he was directed not to enter the parking lot, rather he was to stop on the southbound shoulder.

The death of Norris after leaving a county bus led to calls from local elected leaders to review the service's safety procedures, including the possibility of curtailment or restricting entirely the ability of passengers to flag down a bus or call to get off anywhere other than a designated stop.

The report from the sheriff's office does not give a reason why Norris requested to be dropped off at stop other than the one at his home.

"We're getting real close," said county public work's chief Jim Gotsch regarding changes to the bus stop and drop off policies. "We've instituted a map with all the stops; some of them on state roads.

"That plan is now under review by the State Highway Administration."

Once approved the map will institute dedicated stops for the STS bus, which will mean one day the practice of flagging down a bus anywhere on the roadside or getting dropped off anywhere other than a designated stop will be a thing of the past.

"We want to go from flag stop to bus stop all at one time," Gotsch said. "But there will have to be a transition."

The State's Attorney's Office ruled that no one was criminally responsible for Norris' death as a result of the striking.

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Joseph Harry Norris IV

Armitage Files for Circuit Court Judge Race

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Sue Ann Armitage, a local attorney with 33 years of practice, wants to be the next elected judge of the St. Mary's County Circuit Court.

She filed this week to face off against sitting Judge Amy Lorenzini, who was recently appointed by former Gov. Larry Hogan to fill out the term of Judge David Densford, who retired at the age of 70 per state law.

Both Armitage and Lorenzini are county residents, but much of Lorenzini's law practice comes from working for a firm based in Calvert County, Armitage contends, while her experience has been entirely focused on St. Mary's County cases.

Specializing in family law, which, Armitage said, takes up 70 percent of the docket in Circuit Court, she believed she was the stronger candidate for the bench.

"We should have a judge who has that sense of community," Armitage told The County Times this week. "I've lived in this community all my life.

"I love it here."

Family law touches all aspects of the law, including domestic violence cases, Armitage said, but she also has strong experience in litigation and as such is familiar with rules of evidence and court room procedure.

"I think it's important for someone to have a more diverse background," Armitage said. "I feel I have the expertise to deal with these cases."

Armitage has been honored by her peers in the legal profession in recent years with several different accolades.

The Daily Record names her among the Top 100 Women of the Year in the state this year, while listing her in top 25 power attorneys in family law for 2022.

In 1997 she won an award from the state for her pro bono efforts in her practice.



Sue Ann Armitage

Cases can often take unpredictable and sometimes messy turns, Armitage said, and she said her experience in litigation and varied areas of the law put her in good stead to hold a seat on the bench.

"I love practicing law, I love to litigate," Armitage said. "I could make fair and impartial decisions.

"You need to have a judge that's going to listen and understand the complexity of these cases."

Armitage is the managing partner in the Lexington Park law firm of Armitage and Armitage.

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Little Flower 5K To Honor Fallen Firefighter



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Every year for the past several years coming upon the anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks Little Flower School in Great Mills holds a 5K Patriot race to honor local law enforcement, first responders and military and raise funds for local charities and first responder groups.

This year's event, the eighth of its kind, racers will be running, jogging or walking in honor of Brice Trossbach, a local firefighter who lost his life trying to extinguish a house fire in Leonardtown in June.

The main race begins at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 9 at Little Flower School with awards given out at just an hour later.

Patriot Day ceremonies open at 8 a.m. with a one-mile fun run for young people starting at 8:15 a.m.

Becky Clements, event organizer, said the race has brought in about 150 to 200

racers each year.

"We are up to about 100 registrants right now," Clements said in a Sep. 6 interview. "We tend to double that on race day because we have a lot of same-day registrations."

A Patriot of the Year will also be selected via popular vote and honored for their contributions to the community, she said.

The race day is not just for parents and students of Little Flower Elementary School.

"The race is for all patriots in the community," Clements said. "[One-quarter] of race proceeds go back into the community.

"And the Patriot of the Year gets to name a charity of their choice to get 10 percent of the proceeds."

In the past two years Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department has received upwards of \$10,000 in proceeds from the event, race organizers said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Lexington Park Man Sentenced For Student Loan Scheme

U.S. District Judge Theodore D. Chuang sentenced Randolph Stanley, age 44, of Lexington Park, Maryland, yesterday to four years in federal prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Judge Chuang also ordered that Stanley must pay restitution in the full amount of the victims' losses, which is at least \$5,648,238, the outstanding balance on all federal student loans that Stanley obtained on behalf of himself and others as part of the scheme.

The sentence was announced by Erik L. Barron, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland; Special Agent in Charge Terry Harris of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Inspector General (DOE-OIG) Eastern Regional Office; and Special Agent in Charge Christopher Dillard of the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General, Defense Criminal Investigative Service – Mid-Atlantic Field Office.

As detailed in court documents and his plea agreement, from about 2006 until approximately 2021, Stanley and his co-conspirators engaged in a scheme to defraud the U.S. Department of Education. Specifically, Stanley, was employed as a Financial Advisor at University 1, headquartered in Adelphi, Maryland, and his co-conspirators recruited over 60 individuals ("Student Participants") to apply for and enroll in post-graduate programs at more than eight academic institutions, including



University 1 and University 2 ("the Schools"). Stanley and his co-conspirators told Student Participants that they would assist with the coursework for these programs, including completing assignments and participating in online classes on behalf of the Student Participants, in exchange for a fee. As a result, the

Student Participants fraudulently received credit for the courses, and in many cases, degrees from the Schools, without doing the necessary work.

Stanley also admitted that he and his co-conspirators directed the Student Participants to apply for federal student loans. Many of the Student Participant were not qualified for the programs to which they applied. Student Participants, as well as Stanley himself, were awarded tuition, which went directly to the Schools and at least 60 Student Participants also received student loan refunds, which the Schools disbursed to Student Participants after collecting the tuition. Stanley, as the ringleader of the scheme, kept a portion of each of the students' loan refunds.

United States Attorney Erik L. Barron commended the DOE-OIG, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and the Defense Contract Audit Agency Office of Inspector General for their work in the investigation. Mr. Barron thanked Special Assistant United States Attorney Peter Cooch and Assistant U.S. Attorney Leah Grossi, who handled the sentencing.

Sue Ann

ARMITAGE

for JUDGE

THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR OUR COUNTY

Authority: Friends of Sue Ann Armitage; Eric Sweeney, Treasurer

School Board Approves Pre-K Space Expansion

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County public school system is experiencing a surge in applications from parents to put their children into pre-Kindergarten classes and officials told the school board last week that they want to use grant funding to expand space available to the youngest and often the neediest children in the county.

Dr. Kelly Hall, Chief of Equity, Engagement, and Early Access at the school system, told the St. Mary's County Board of Education last week that there have been 796 applications for pre-K so far this year but there are only 520 seats available.

"Applications for students up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level, we're seeing a big increase," Hall said, noting that there had also been 913 inquiries about pre-K registration as well.

The Pre-Kindergarten Capacity Building Grant has been awarded and will provide 60 additional spaces in three classrooms to be located at Park Hall, Lexington Park, and Greenview Knolls elementary schools.

These schools have a majority of the economically disadvantaged students — also known as Title I — in St. Mary's.

This grant provides funding for students up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level and also allows students with disabilities and English language learners to be admitted regardless of income, school system program documents show.

The grant will cover the cost of staffing, materials of instruction, supplies, equipment, and technology, those documents stated.

"We are confident that additional income eligible children are going to apply," Hall said. "We are already seeing that."

The only criteria for enrollment in pre-Kindergarten classes, under current state law, Hall said, was if they were income eligible.

With the program grant funds the capacity at Park Hall and Greenview Knolls elementary schools would double to 40 seats, while Lexington Park elementary's capacity would increase by half to 60 seats.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Jury Issues Murder Conviction for 2022 Shooting

Jaymi Sterling, State's Attorney for St. Mary's County, announced a St. Mary's County jury convicted Malcolm Carl Young, 47, of Forestville, Maryland, of second-degree murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence.

On August 9, 2022, at approximately 5:52 p.m., St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to the area of Lex's Laundromat on Great Mills Road in Lexington Park, Maryland, for a reported shooting. Upon arrival, deputies located victim Anthony Charles Wright, 53, in the parking lot to the rear of the business, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Despite lifesaving efforts, Mr. Wright succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital.

Multiple witnesses on-scene identified the shooter as Malcolm Young and advised that he fled in the direction of St. Mary's Square. Minutes later, officers located Mr. Young, who was then arrested.

"The swift response and thorough investigation by the Sheriff's Office led to the successful prosecution of the defendant," Sterling said. "I would like to thank Assistant State's Attorneys Ashley Sowls and Jeffrey Maylor, as well as lead



Malcolm Carl Young

Detective Warren Forinash, for their tireless efforts to bring justice to Mr. Wright and his loved ones."

The defendant faces a maximum sentence of up to sixty years in prison. He will remain held without bond pending the sentencing hearing.

The Honorable Joseph M. Staloni presided over the case.



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Shark Fest: Jaws at the Wharf

SEP 16TH:
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Feral Cats Focus of Animal Control Ordinance Changes

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county's Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB) is considering revisions to the local animal control rules, which were last updated in 2017 and one proposed change could make a significant impact on the county's feral cat population.

A new part of the ordinance specifically forbids anyone from providing food to cats living on county-owned property.

"It shall be a violation of this Ordinance for a person to feed any cat located in any park owned or operated by... St. Mary's County," the proposed change reads.

The ACAB was set to begin deliberating this change, and many others, at their Sept. 6 meeting.

The proposal goes into no detail regarding any fines or punishments for those who engage in such feeding.

St. Mary's County has long been the home for many feral cat colonies, their



needs spawning a local feral cat rescue organization to care for them in the wild.

Feral cats have also made a home in county owned park land, particularly in and around Lancaster Park in Lexington Park.

Each weekend, often at night, caretakers can be seen leaving out whole bags-worth of cat food for feral felines who come out of the woods, seemingly expecting it.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Legal Notices

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Leonardtown Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Office located at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD. The purpose of the hearing is to present for public review and comment a Special Exception request for the Splash in Carwash to be located at 40874 Merchants Lane in Leonardtown. Tax Map 0120, Grid 0018, Parcel 394, Recorded as Lot 2, Gordon Ragan Subdivision.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 4:00 p.m. on September 21, 2023 to the Board of Zoning Appeals, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority:
Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

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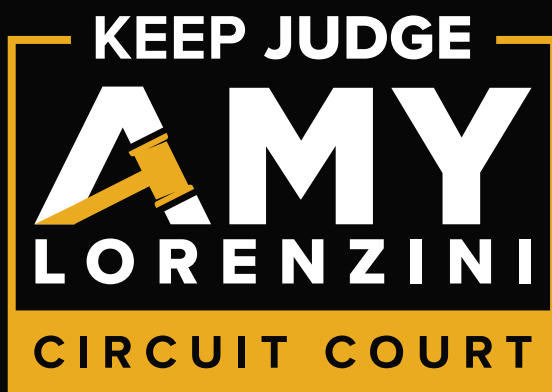
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By Authority: Keep Judge Amy Lorenzini, Alesha Boyd, Treasurer.

★★★ St. Mary's Remembers 9/11 ★★★

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

It has been 22 years since the terror attacks against the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

That fateful day in 2001 changed the country socially and politically and put it on the warpath for more than two decades in the Middle East and in Afghanistan with consequences that reverberate to this day.

The County Times asked residents of St. Mary's County their memories of that day and how it changed their lives.

Can you tell us where you were and what you were doing when you heard about the terrorist attacks on 9/11?

Retired U.S. Navy Commander Louis Dampier: I was at work preparing for the daily scheduled meeting at Joint Interagency Task Force East (JIATF-E), NAS Key West, Florida when word began to spread within the building that the Twin Towers had been attacked. I remember gathering with others in the staff briefing room to watch the news – live coverage of the devastation caused by the attack. We were all stunned. A few of those gathered were in tears.

Former U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Richard Young: I was at home in bed. I had just returned home from work. My wife came up and told me a plane flew into the world trade towers. I immediately went down stairs and watched the news to make

sense of what was happening . As I was sitting on the couch I actually watched the second plane fly into the other tower. it was the most surreal moment of my life up to that point. I had no words, and tears rolled down my cheeks. I knew immediately it was terrorism. I was just stunned. I knew this was bad.

Sen. Jack Bailey, retired Natural Resources Police: I was a police officer employed with the Maryland Natural Resource Police. That day, I was actually attending armorer's school at Beretta USA to learn to work on Beretta handguns that were issued to our department. We knew it was time to turn on the TV to see what was going on when we saw many Marine helicopters flying incredibly low overhead from Quantico into DC down Route 210.

Former State Delegate and Retired Air Force Major Deb Rey: I was serving in the US Air Force, stationed at Headquarters, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio as the Chief of the Logistics Plans Branch. It was a normal day of office work when one of my co-workers told us his wife just called and said a plane flew into the World Trade Center. I ran to tell my boss and we entered the Colonel's office in time to watch the second plane hit the second tower. I swiftly relayed the events up the chain of command, then located my husband, also a military member serving at the HQ, and coordinated the care of our children. Minutes later I returned to my team directing immediate action to gather additional

information, organize our battlestaff area and prepare for upcoming 12 hour shifts to support the recovery/response efforts. We maintained this battle rhythm for the next four months ensuring the warfighter had what they needed to operate successful missions.

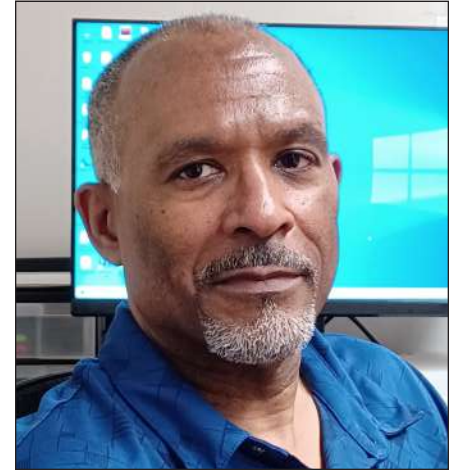
How did the terror attacks affect you?

Dampier: Like most, I was shocked that such a devastating attack had occurred on U.S. soil. Within the military, almost overnight, there was a pivot from the Post-Cold War era to a strong focus on the Global War on Terrorism. Concurrently, the term Force Protection gained much greater significance.

Outside of work, the biggest effect of 9/11 was on travel, especially air travel, as increased security at airports became, and still is the norm.

Young: They changed me greatly. The persona of America the untouchable was gone. The great America could be bruised. I became more patriotic for sure. But I knew that America was no longer untouchable. We were now and most likely had been a big target and prize for terrorist. To terrorism there is no one who is untouchable.

Bailey: The 9/11 attacks affected me in many ways, professionally, this changed the way policing worked for every officer across the country. On a personal level, events on this day truly changed my perspective on life itself; I became inherently aware of how



Retired U.S. Navy Commander Louis Dampier



Former U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Richard Young

Continued on pg. 12

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Sen. Jack Bailey, retired Natural Resources Police

Continued from pg. 11

short life truly is and could change in a second. I viewed and valued my relationships much differently and ensured I spent more time with my loved ones.

Rey: At the time of the attack, I focused on what needed to be done and set emotions aside. Since then, I've visited the memorials and pray for those who lost their lives and for their families. However, in 2017 when I toured the 9/11 museum in New York City, the full impact of the attack hit me and I became very angry as I walked through the exhibits. Even today, that feeling persists and drives me to advocate for secure borders and enforcement of our immigration laws.

After more than 20 years of the Global War on Terror are we better or worse off? Why do you think so?

Dampier: Better: because we are more aware of the threat of terrorism than prior to 9/11. Many of the "protections" instituted in the wake of 9/11 are still in place.

Worse: our open border is worrisome.

Young: I don't know if we are worse but we are certainly no better. I think our military is far less credible than it once was. I feel like the fiber of national pride as deteriorated. Our beliefs and what we tolerate are far more inviting for more terrorist activities. In a nut shell I thin America cares less about America as does the world than we did twenty years ago This opens us up as a greater target. Less people are willing to stand with us.

Bailey: I believe that these attacks on our homeland brought to light the amount of enemies that we had and think that from this experience we have grown a heightened

sense of awareness to dedicate more efforts to eliminate these threats and radical terrorist groups that we may not have pursued had these attacks not happened.

Rey: Unfortunately, I think we are worse off after 20 years. American citizens have lost freedoms in the name of safety or security, our debt has skyrocketed, and our country borders remain open while foreign invaders walk in unabated. At times, amazing strides are made towards world peace and stability. For example, President Trump negotiated the Abraham Accords and worked to stabilize our relationship with North Korea and China. But other times we take steps backwards. Today, under President Biden the Taliban is once again back in charge of Afghanistan with an abundance of US military equipment leaving the world less secure than before 9/11. We need to return to a peace through strength mindset.

What should the country be thinking about as we come upon this latest anniversary of the 9/11 attacks?

Dampier: We should remember those that lost their lives in that tragic attack, and those that bravely sacrificed – sometimes their lives- to rescue those trapped by the collapsed towers. Learn the necessary lessons in order to prevent potential future attacks.

Young: Why would we think no one would do it again? We are a weaker country. Don't get me wrong we are strong country. I love my country. America is still a great and fantastic country. But we have changed. We are more concerned with matters of the utter most foolishness than our national integrity. Political correctness has certainly replaced political preparedness.

Our military leaders are more concerned with keeping their records and career paths unblemished than making a cohesive, disciplined, and rock-solid military. So where does that leave us in the case of another terrorist attack. Is the government we have now capable of truly deterring that?

Bailey: The biggest reflection for every American should be a sense of unity. During this time, every American pulled together, people flocked to churches for a sense of comfort and community; some celebrated the fact that we live in a free democracy and I am confident that most people were thankful for the safety of their loved ones while others mourned their losses. Each anniversary and really every day; people should be proud to be an American and thanking our veterans for their service.

Rey: After we were attacked, I recall how the sense of community and patriotism soared. We cared for our neighbors, took steps to check on each other and make sure we were okay. We supported those who needed the support, prayed for each other, our nation and our leaders. We prayed for our nation to heal. We turned to God to be consoled and to find answers. We need to do this again. Today we are greatly divided by forces who want to destroy our way of life, take our freedoms and control our every thought and action. The same evil that attacked us on 9/11 is attacking today in a different form, but it is the same evil. We need to turn back to God, repent our sins, ask for forgiveness, and work to bring our families, communities and country back together. We need to remember, united we stand, divided we fall. Let us choose to stand united against the forces that want to destroy us.



Former State Delegate and Air Force Major Deb Rey

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A Beginner's Guide to Fall Planting and Maintenance

Spring and summer are perhaps the busiest times of year for gardeners. However, fall also is a prime time to tend to gardens.

The tree and bare root retailer Bower & Branch advises that soil temperatures in many regions of the country may still be warm enough to encourage root growth well into the start of winter. Furthermore, fall is often the ideal time to plant, fertilize and keep a garden going or to get a head start on next year's bounty.

Here are some tips to make the most of the fall gardening season.

- Think about fall annuals and bulb planting. Near the end of September, start planting cool-weather-loving pansies and violas for pops of color as summer flowers fade. Also, it's a good idea to stock up on bulbs that will bloom in the months to come before they sell out in stores. Wait until the temperatures really cool down before planting them in desired spots for spring sprouts.
- Sow salad seeds. Lettuce, spinach, radishes, and arugula tolerate cooler temperatures. Try new and interesting lettuce varieties and enjoy salads well into the fall season.
- Take inventory of the sun. Positioning a garden carefully means maximizing hours of sunlight, which begin to dwindle in the fall. Experts say gar-



dens grow best in sunny locations that receive six hours of direct sunlight each day. This is where container gardens can be helpful, as they allow gardeners to move plants into spots that will get ample sunlight.

- Fill in landscaping gaps. Some fall

plants can add color around the landscape and brighten up homes to add curb appeal. In addition to pansies and violas, asters, kale and chrysanthemums are fall blooms. Keep in mind that mums can come back year after year. So take them out of those

flower pots and get them into the ground. They can be enjoyed next year as well, sprouting in early spring and developing leaves and buds through late summer.

- Clean up unwanted growth. Fall is an ideal time to cut back spent vegetable plants and get rid of errant weeds. Rather than bagging leaves, mow them with a grass catcher and then add the mix to a vegetable garden as an excellent soil insulator. The nitrogen and carbon will fertilize the soil, enhancing growing possibilities and limiting weed growth.
- Propagate plants in the fall. As temperatures gradually begin to cool, start taking cuttings from perennials, gathering seed pods from azaleas and rhododendrons and dividing hardwood cuttings, says the resource Gardening Know How. Consult with a garden center or horticulturist on the proper ways to propagate stems using rooting hormone and other techniques.
- Continue to water plants. Water is essential in the fall and winter as roots can still be growing. Gradually reduce watering duration as plants go dormant.

Fall planting and maintenance can extend gardening season and improve the chances of growing a healthy spring garden.

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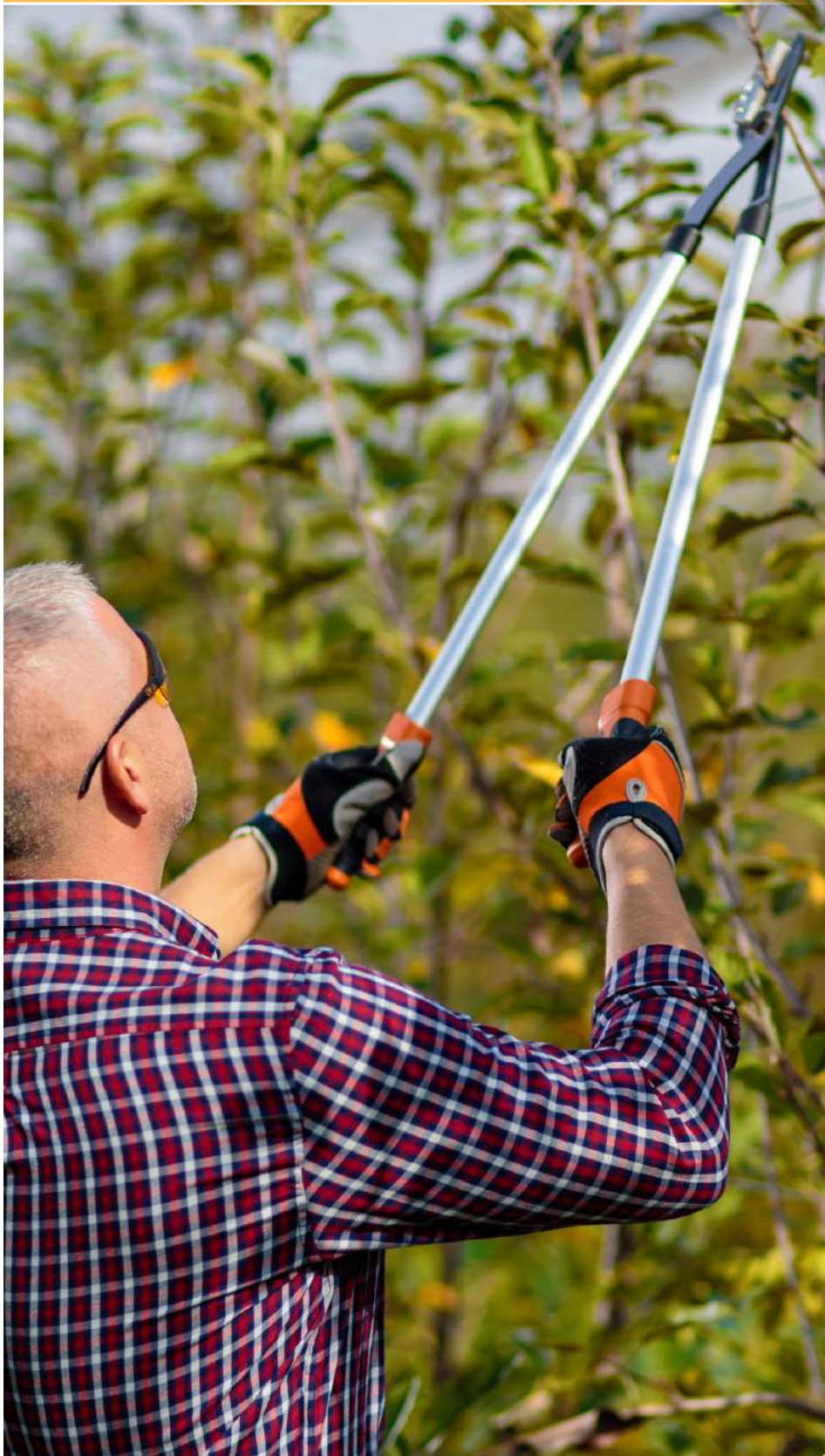


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- Never climb power poles or transmission towers.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- Keep equipment away from overhead lines when carrying ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning tools.
- If you are doing work close to power lines—such as trimming trees, working on your roof, or doing exterior renovations—keep yourself, your ladder, and anything you are handling a safe distance from the power line.
- Contact SMECO to disconnect power if you are doing work that requires close contact with overhead lines attached to your home.
- Use a licensed electrician for all electrical work.
- Plant trees away from power lines.



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Three Great Reasons to Replace Your Aging Windows



Windows in a home are easy to take for granted. Unless windows are showing signs of wear and tear or so dirty that it's hard to see through them, it's easy for them to go unnoticed. However, replacement windows can add value to a home and even save homeowners a substantial amount of money.

Much of the savings that can be attributed to new windows is related to energy efficiency. The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy estimates that as much as 30 percent of heating and cooling energy can be lost through heat gain or heat loss, and aging, inefficient windows contribute to such losses. Replacing those windows can save homeowners substantial amounts of money, with one expert at Angi estimating that installation of energy efficient windows can help trim energy bills by as much as 12 percent.

Cost savings are often noted when firms promote replacement windows, but homeowners should know that replacement windows also provide numerous additional benefits. In fact, the following are three great reasons for homeowners to consider upgrading their windows today.

1. New windows help reduce carbon footprint. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that replacing single-pane windows with ENERGY STAR® certified windows can help to reduce CO2 emissions by a significant margin. The EPA reports that such windows can save the equivalent of as much as 6,200 pounds of CO2 emissions thanks to reduced energy consumption associated with

the new windows.

2. New windows can brighten a home. Natural light brightens a room and can make it appear larger. Homeowners who have grown accustomed to old windows may not realize how little light such windows let into their homes. Aging windows can become foggy over time and prevent natural light from getting into a home. That can create a gloomy feel and force homeowners to turn up the thermostat on cold days. New windows brighten the home and the natural light that pours in on a cold day can help heat the home at the same time.
3. New windows cut down on noise. Window manufacturers are always on the lookout for ways to produce windows that make homes more comfortable. Noise reduction is one way to accomplish that goal, and Consumer Reports notes that triple-glazed windows can help to dramatically reduce outside noise. Homeowners who currently have single-pane windows may be astonished by the difference in outside noise levels when upgrading to triple-glazed windows, which contain a third layer of glass. That third layer of glass significantly reduces noise levels, making triple-glaze windows ideal for homes on busy streets or those in urban areas with lots of foot traffic.

Replacement windows pay numerous dividends. Homeowners can reap these rewards and others by replacing aging windows.

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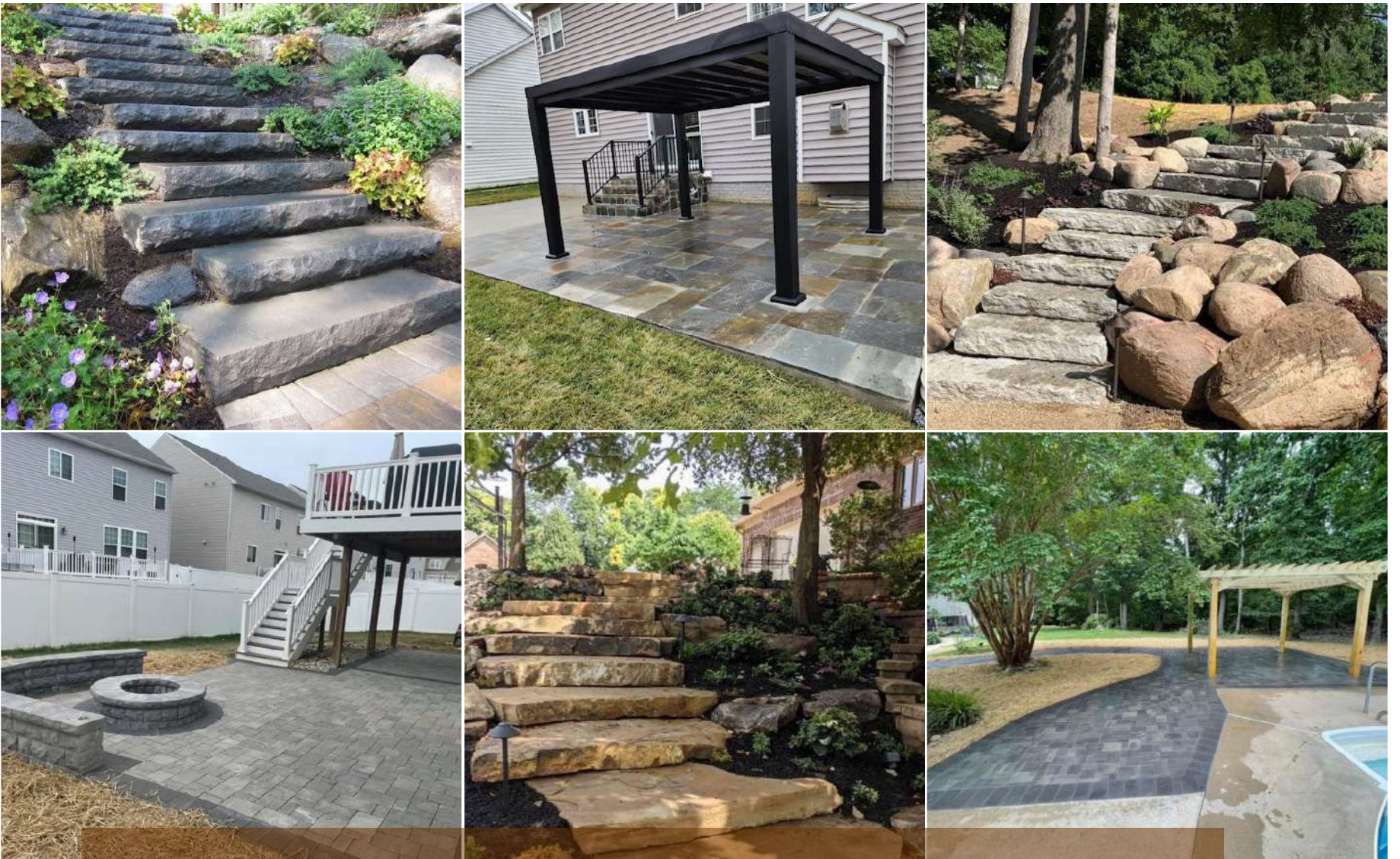
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Let the Outside In with All-Season Rooms

Many homeowners express interest in creating fewer barriers between the interior and exterior of their homes. Some may have backyards built for entertaining and want to facilitate the transition between the inside of the residence and the outside when guests arrive. In other instances, homes may back to a nature preserve that homeowners want to enjoy more readily. Whatever the reason for bringing the outside in, all-season rooms can serve as a welcoming bridge between indoor and outdoor spaces.

What is an all-season room?

Also known as a four-season room, all-season rooms are specially engineered spaces that provide a connection to the outdoors no matter the season. They are like sunrooms, but climate-controlled so that they will be comfortable throughout winter, spring, summer, and fall.

What is the difference between a three-season room and an all-season room?

The biggest difference between these two spaces is the level of usage and the capacity of the room to be heated and cooled. Individuals who reside in climates with moderate year-round temperatures may get by with a three-season room. However, those who experience all four seasons may need a more insulated space to make the room usable throughout the year.

Features of all-season rooms

One of the more notable features of an all-season room is an abundance of windows, which allow plenty of natural light to shine in. All-season rooms also can feature creature comforts like a reading nook, outdoor kitchen spaces and televisions. Retractable screens can be installed when privacy or shade is desired.

Maintaining a comfortable temperature

All-season rooms can be built with adequate thermal insulation and energy-saving features. Insulation will be installed in the walls and roof, and homeowners may have a choice of window ratings for efficiency. Some all-season rooms are specially equipped with HVAC systems that may or may not be tied in to the home's general heating and cooling system. Some people use portable heaters or air conditioners to control the temperature in all-season rooms. It's best to speak with an all-season room contractor to identify heating and cooling needs.

How much does an all-season room cost?

Prices vary by region and are contingent on the features homeowners desire. According to the outdoor resource Garden Center Care, a three-season room can cost anywhere from \$8,000 to \$50,000 to build. A four-season room can cost \$20,000 to \$80,000 to add. If there is an existing

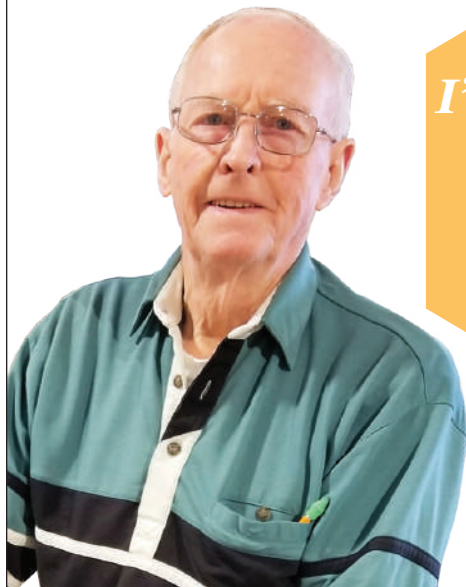


three-season room, it may be more affordable to upgrade the space into an all-season room, but an architect and contractor should inspect the space to determine the scope of the project.

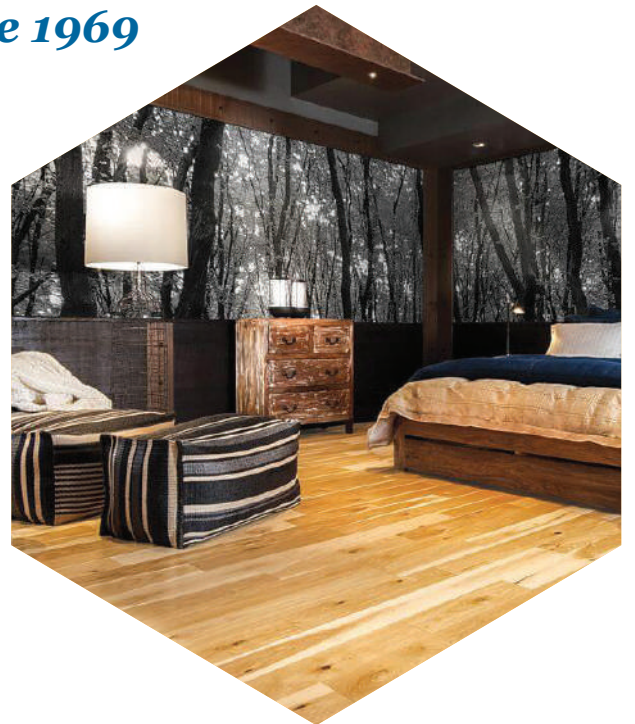
All-season rooms can be an ideal addition to a property, providing extra space for entertaining or lounging and a connection to the outdoors.

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Transform Your Home Into a Haunted House



Many transformations occur as fall rolls around. Leaves begin to turn various shades of orange and red, while the weather gets decidedly cooler. In the meantime, neighborhoods across the country begin to look quite different, with many homes decked out in the garish garb of Halloween.

The National Retail Federation together with Prosper Insights & Analytics reports that decorating one's home for Halloween is the second most popular way to celebrate the holiday. Only purchasing and sharing candy beats out home decor. Individuals spend billions collectively on Halloween each year, and one of the ways they can have some frightening fun is by transforming a regular, unassuming home into a haunted house. There are certain necessities to turn an otherwise typical home into a suddenly spooky abode.

- **Scene setter:** Start with a scene setter if you would like to decorate both inside and out. Scene setters are plastic or paper backdrops that can be tacked up on walls to make a house look completely different, particularly under low light. A scene setter is an investment of time and money, but it can be reused each year and really make a room take on a new look quickly.
- **Lawn graveyard:** Visitors to the home who have to step through a graveyard will know there are more scares ahead. It's relatively easy to make your own grave markers from wood or foam. If you're not handy, you can purchase them from a Halloween supply store.

Disturb the earth by the markers to make visitors believe each grave is fresh. A bony hand sticking out of the dirt or some wilted flowers placed by the graves also can set the scene.


- **Floating candles:** Simulate the look of levitating candles with an easy craft. Take toilet paper or paper towel cardboard tubes and use hot glue on the top to make it look like beads of dripping wax. Paint the tubes with white chalk paint, as this type of paint is thick and covers easily. Glue a battery-powered tea light to the top for the wick. Poke a hole through both sides of the tube and thread some fishing line through. Use your mounting device of choice to attach the fishing line to the ceiling indoors or outside to hang each candle. When the lights are dim, it's very difficult to see the fishing line and the candles will appear to be floating.
- **Haunted archway:** Make an arch using PVC pipes, and thread jack-o'-lanterns or papier mâché heads or masks through to create an ominous arch that greets visitors.
- **Handprints:** Use window-safe paint to create bloody handprints on the inside of windows. This is a design touch that will enhance both the interior and exterior of the windows.
- **Fog machine:** Use a fog machine to spread a creepy mist where you need it, whether on a front porch or indoors.

Haunted houses come together with various design touches that are easy to execute.


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How to Prepare Your Fireplace for Cooler Weather

As hours of daylight shorten and temperatures drop, thoughts shift to spending time cuddling under warm blankets and being cozy indoors. A fireplace can improve the ambiance of any room and help to create a warm and welcoming gathering spot.

Home fireplaces typically are wood-burning or gas. Though maintenance for these fireplaces differs, certain preparatory steps must be taken to prepare a fireplace for cooler weather.

Clear the clutter

Items can accumulate in areas that are not in use, and a fireplace is no exception. Take a few hours to remove any belongings from in front of the fireplace and clean the mantle thoroughly.

Have the chimney cleaned

Hire a professional chimney cleaning company to inspect the chimney and clean it thoroughly before winter. According to BobVila.com, a chimney should be cleaned once a year, or after about every 80 fires. The National Fire Protection Association says failure to properly clean chimneys is one of the leading contributors to home fires. That's due to creosote, a highly flammable residue that builds up in the flue that lines the chimney.



Inspect the interior

The interior of a wood-burning fireplace is likely lined with fire bricks. Check for cracks and loose joints. Hire a professional mason to make any repairs, as special materials are needed to withstand the heat of fires.

Install a chimney cap and screen

According to Family Handyman, a chimney cap is a protective covering that goes

over the top of the chimney. It is made of steel or copper mesh with a cap on top. This protects the chimney from rain and down-drafts and keeps animals and debris from getting into the chimney.

Prune overhanging branches

If there are trees close to the home and the chimney, cut them back, as they can be a fire hazard. Branches and leaves also can restrict

the proper draft of the chimney.

Assess the outdoor vent

Gas fireplaces typically emit exhaust through a vent in the home. Remove any blockages from the vent, including leaves, cobwebs and debris.

Check glass or other coverings

The glass or face of the fireplace helps regulate carbon monoxide exposure and protects people from the flames. Be sure the glass covering is intact.

Clean ceramic logs

Gas fireplaces use ceramic logs, rocks or beads that can become dusty. Clean them prior to use. Dirty ceramic logs can be a fire hazard and produce an unpleasant burning smell.

Check the blower and pilot

If the fireplace has an electric blower, clean and dust it so it doesn't become clogged. Inspect the pilot light for any wear and tear that includes wiring or structural issues.

It takes several steps to prepare fireplaces for cold weather seasons when they're most likely to be used with frequency.

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How Homeowners Can Turn Attics into Livable Spaces

Houses typically feature various areas that are traditionally designed for storage, such as garages, basements and attics. However, with some renovation, these spaces can be transformed into livable areas.

Homeowners who would like to convert attics into livable spaces need to take certain things into consideration before starting an improvement project. While the attic may seem like it has plenty of room and is structurally sound enough to walk in, that's not necessarily so. To be converted into usable living space, an attic must be brought up to the standards of modern building codes, according to the design experts at Board & Vellum. Retrofitting beams and insulation can eat up available space in an attic. Thus, it is best to consult an expert to see if an attic can be converted.

Furthermore, an attic that was not initially designed as a room when the house was built can add extra "load" upstairs if it is converted. That could present certain structural problems. That means a structural engineer also must be consulted to see if adding beams, flooring and drywall will necessitate other changes elsewhere in the home to accommodate the extra load.

In order to have a functional attic room, building codes will dictate that it needs to be accessible by a full-size staircase. Also, it will need to have another exit in case of an emergency so that will likely be an accessible window, according to the home information site The Fill. Homeowners' budgets and renovation plans will need to factor into these considerations. Homeowners also are advised to check local permits to determine what else may be required to go forward. It is best to follow the rules. Lack of a permit for work can affect the ability to sell a home



down the line.

Individuals also should plan for heating and cooling upgrades as the home will need to have ductwork installed in the attic, or at the least, a stand-alone heating and cooling unit. As heat rises, it can get quite warm in an attic, so ventilation and comfort should be considered. The attic will need to be wired for electricity for lighting and other needs. Air sealing and additional insulation can the attic space more comfortable as well. Consult with a qualified electrician and an HVAC technician and have an energy audit done to discuss needs.

Attic renovations can give homeowners more space in their homes, which can be used as offices, bedrooms or cozy corners. This is no small undertaking and all of the right steps need to be followed to ensure a legal, safe and successful renovation.



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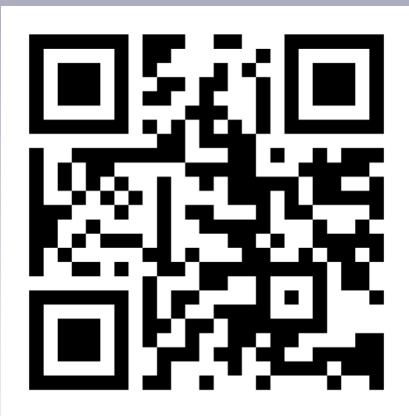
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The Benefits of Planting Native Species

When starting to plan for fall planting, it's easy to succumb to the temptation of exotic plants, but avid gardeners and eco-conscious planters recognize the significance of native plants.

Novices may not realize that native plants are much better for a landscape and the local ecosystem it calls home. Recognition of the many benefits of native plants can make for healthier lawns and gardens and a healthier planet as well.

- Native plants are built for local climates. One of the issues gardeners who plant exotic plants run into is keeping those plants thriving when weather turns harsh. For example, exotic plants may require extra watering in areas that experience drought or even long periods without precipitation in spring and notably summer. The United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that at least 40 states anticipate water shortages by 2024. Planting native plants can help to combat those shortages by reducing the need to water plants if conditions become dry in late spring and summer.
- Native plants save money. It's also important to note that native plants save homeowners money. Because they're capable of thriving in local conditions, native plants tend to require less watering, which can help homeowners reduce their utility costs. But native plants also require less upkeep, which means homeowners can save



on potentially costly, not to mention eco-unfriendly, pesticides and other amendments in order to maintain the look of exotic plants. And though it's not always the case, exotic plants tend to cost more at nurseries than natives.

- Native plants save gardeners time. In addition to saving money, native plants don't require as much attention. Though spring and summer is a great time to be in the yard, it's also a great time to be out and about. Because

native plants thrive in local conditions, gardeners won't need to spend much of their free time tending to them. Exotics tend to require a lot of extra attention and effort, especially when conditions become harsh. Spending more time outdoors in harsh weather does not appeal to most gardeners.

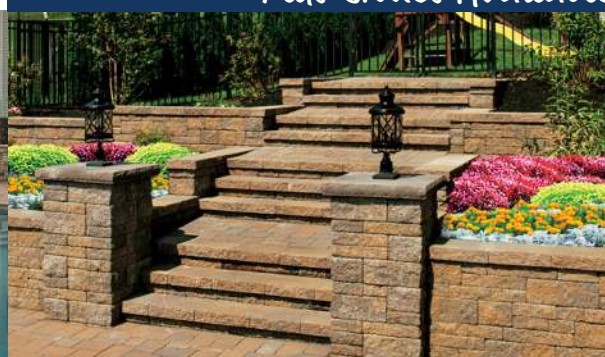
- Native plants blend in with an existing landscape. Native plants look natural within an existing landscape, adding some instant aesthetic appeal with-

out breaking the bank. When planting exotics, homeowners may feel a need to redesign their entire garden to create a certain look (think Japanese garden). That can quickly consume a budget and take up a lot of free time in both the short- and long-term.

Planting season marks a great time to revitalize a landscape. Choosing native plants when doing so pays numerous dividends for homeowners and the planet they call home.



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What does it cost not to have life insurance?

It's probably not on your calendar, but September is Life Insurance Awareness Month. And that means it's a good time to become more aware of the benefits of having life insurance — and the dangers of not having it.

Unfortunately, confusion about some of the basic elements of owning life insurance may be keeping people from getting the protection they need. More than half of uninsured Americans say they have put off purchasing coverage because they don't know what to buy or how much they need, according to Life Happens and LIMRA, two nonprofit organizations that provide research and education about life insurance.

Yet, while this confusion may be understandable, a delay in acquiring appropriate insurance can be costly in more ways than one. From a strict dollars-and-cents perspective, it's generally much more affordable to buy life insurance when you're younger. But there are potentially much greater costs involved in not having insurance when it's needed — and these costs are personal.

To be specific, what is it worth ...

... to know your family could stay in your home if something happened to you?

... to know your children could continue their education plans?

... to know your debts could be paid without burdening your family?

Clearly, if you were to assign these benefits a "price tag," it would be pretty high.

And that's the value of owning sufficient life insurance.

So, let's return to the issue of people putting off buying insurance because they don't know how much they need, or what type they should have:

- How much is enough? You might hear that you need life insurance equal to about seven to 10 times your pretax annual salary. That's not a bad "ballpark" figure, but not everyone is playing in the same ballpark. To get a true sense of how much of a death benefit you require from your life insurance, you'll need to consider a variety of factors, possibly including your current income, spouse's income, the size of your mortgage (in addition to other liabilities), number of children, educational expenses and final expenses for funeral arrangements.
- What type? You can essentially choose between two basic types of life insurance: term and permanent. As its name suggests, term insurance is designed to provide coverage for a designated period, such as 10 or 20 years. Generally speaking, term insurance is quite affordable for most people, especially when they buy policies as young adults. On the other hand, permanent insurance, such as whole life or universal life, is usually considerably more expensive than term insurance. This is because permanent insurance premiums, in addition to providing a death benefit, help build cash value, which you can typically access through loans or withdrawals, giving you additional flexibility should your financial needs change over time. In choosing between term and permanent insurance, you'll want to evaluate several issues, such as how long you think you'll need coverage and how much you can afford to pay in premiums.

Finding out about the benefits, costs and types of life insurance can help you make informed choices to help protect your family for years to come — so don't delay learning what you need to know.

This article was written by Edward Jones 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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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



The Clements Cuties: Raising Cain and Funds Again

I can hear in my head the words, "Get ready for the main event" as this year's Clements Cuties main event softball game approaches on Saturday September the 16th at 4 pm at Cryer's Back Road Inn in Compton. Has a year gone by already? I'm sure for the local children and families with cancer we sponsor each year time can seem to slip by all too quickly when you are worried that your child's health and future are in other hands, and also pass slowly as you watch your child endure endless hours of exhausting, and painful treatments each day.

All we can do in our Clements Cuties organization is to try and lessen unnecessary worries for the families with support, friendship, and funds to help with extra expenses and a special wish for the child for anything they have dreamed about, or of travel if they are able to do so. And we, and the kids and families, appreciate everything from Facebook shares of events, the donations, and the support at these events. We'd love for a cure for cancer, all of us would, but until then its groups like the Clements Cuties and other local and national groups that give help directly to the families who need it.

Our childhood recipients this year are Eleanor Sayers age 7 who is fighting B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), Finn Cusick age 10 diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG), and Jaylyn Almond age 10 diagnosed with Medulloblastoma Group Four. Please keep these children and families in your prayers. We also fund several local scholarships in previous recipient's names and in one late, great supporter's name.

Not only do we have the big game at 4, but there will be fun events the whole day, starting with The St. Mary's County Women's Softball League All Star Game which will be from 12 to 3 followed by this year's Men's Softball Hall of Fame inductees. If you want to get that feeling of what St. Mary's County used to be like before social media and cell phones took over the world then spend the whole day at the Back Road Inn ballfield remembering and honoring the softball players that played when softball was really big with lots of teams and packed audiences all the time, not just the tournaments. One thing though that has never changed in St. Mary's is everyone turning out for good causes. Many people are connected to our childhood recipients through family, organizations, and work. I've known Finn's maternal grandparents for many years.

I start crying the minute the parade comes down Bayside Road at 3:45 towards Back Road Inn. It's an impressive sight to see all the Fire Trucks leading the way, sometimes with our childhood recipients on board if they are able to do so. The Cuties come after that and always find a new way to please the crowd with their entrance — could even be a bit different this year I heard.

We have so many wonderful businesses and people who have donated great items to our Brown Bag auction. If you have been before then you know there are tables and tables of auction items. One of the auction baskets I'm making up today will be wine of course. The winners of each brown bag item will be drawn and announced at the end of the game. A live auction will be held at the mid-point of the big game, so far we have three ¼ beefs, a valuable Duck Decoy, 2 Fishing Charters, Pallet of Deer Corn, and a Nautical Pub Table. For the kids in the audience there will be a balloon artist this year, and I heard that a few kids may get called out on to the field between innings for some games and fun. Of course, there will be lots of food and drinks for purchase throughout the day. And I am excited to see Donald Quade and The Revival Band who will start playing at the Back Road Inn Pavilion right after the game. As I said, a full day of fun and good works!

My husband Robert aka Rockin' Roberta will of course be on the field with his big blonde wig along with the rest of the Cuties and their crazy antics and skits. I hope the Women's over 30 All Stars have some good tricks up their ball sleeves for the "guys". I look forward the women getting an edge. If you've never been before, make sure you watch how the two teams do a different take on the traditional beginning of game "coin toss". This is what makes St. Mary's County such a fun and wonderful place to live. I will be housed in the T-Shirt box like usual where I can keep this fair skin out of the sun. I know some readers of the column came by and visited last year, please come up and say hi again; food and water are always appreciated too.

To each new day's progress towards fighting cancer, Shelby

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

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.

Nelia Tyler, 65



Nelia Gonzales Tyler, "Nel", 65, of California, MD, formerly of Olongapo, Philippines, passed away on August 26, 2023 in Leonardtown, MD. Born on March 2,

1958 in Olongapo, Philippines, she was the daughter of the late Amanda Gonzales and the late Francisco Gonzales. Nelia was the loving wife of Pharis Tyler, whom she married in Virginia Beach, VA on December 14, 1984. She is survived by her children, Ian Tyler of California, MD and Ann Schneider of Solomons, MD, as well as her sister, Rosita Gonzales of Olongapo, Philippines, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. In addition to her parents, Nelia was preceded in death by her siblings, Julieta Toledo and Romea Gonzales.

Nelia graduated from Olongapo City National High School. She moved to St. Mary's County, MD from San Diego, CA in 1989. Nelia was a custodian for Patuxent River Naval Base for 15 years, retiring in 2012.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, August 21, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner

Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held in the funeral home chapel at 10:00 AM with Deacon Ammon Ripple officiating. Interment will be private.

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.

Charles Hancock, 86



Charles J. (Charlie) Hancock of Mt. Airy, MD passed away on June 14, 2023. Born December 18, 1936 in Loveville, MD, he was the son of the late Joseph M.

and Mary Alma (Long) Hancock. He is survived by his wife of 52 years Alice (Howes) Hancock, his children Chuck Hancock, Jr. (Heather), Amy Hands (David), Lori Curbow and Jeff Curbow (Darlene), 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Agnes Bailey, and his brothers Freddie, Billy and Reggie Hancock.

Services were held on June 24 in Mt. Airy.

Edward Washington, 38



Edward John Washington, 38, long-time resident of Lexington Park, MD died on August 22, 2023 in Baltimore Maryland. Born on 31 December 1984, he was the first son

of Chief Warrant Officer CW3 (Ret) Eddie and Mary Washington at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland. Edward attended First Missionary Baptist Church and St. Nicholas Chapel where his mother was the Director of Religious Education. Edward had a strong faith in the Lord and he never wavered in his Christian beliefs. He attended St. Mary's County Public School at Green Holly Elementary School, Esperanza Middle School and graduated from Great Mills High School in 2002. Edward had perfect attendance from first to twelfth grades. Edward is survived by brothers, Eric (Gina) and Duane, Sr. (Therese); his aunts Carolyn, Jan, Gail; Uncle Pastor J. Malcolm Phipps; his niece Charlee; nephews; Duane Jr., and James.

The Navy Base played a huge role in young Edward's life. He attended pre-kindergarten at the Child Development Center and flew his first kite there. Edward learned to swim through a Morale, Welfare and Recreation, (MWR) program. He spent summers flying kites and building sandcastles on the beach. Edward loved fishing and chasing stingrays from the T-Pier. Edward was a member of Cub Scout Pack 413 serving as WEBLOS, BOBCAT and BEAR Scouts of America. He embraced the Scout slogan: Do a Good Turn Daily which means doing something to help others each day without expecting anything in return. He attended Pinewood Derbies, Scout Sundays at the Base Chapel and Camporees aboard the Naval Air Station. Edward was an avid reader, musician, and researcher. He enjoyed C. S. Lewis, Stephen King, and playing his saxophone.

In the nineties, Edward learned and mastered most of the gaming hardware of the time, including Sega Genesis, Game Boy, Game Gear and Nintendo NES Console, which hosted his favorite game Duck Hunt. He really honed his skills on a Radio Shack computer which initially hosted two simple digital games: Attack Helicopter and Tooth Fairy. Then, Edward mastered the complex game of Wolfenstein 3D, a first-person shooter game.

While in Esperanza Middle School, Edward developed a passion for writing screenplays and making short movies. He learned to type early and combined that skill with his computer skills along with Final Draft, a software program for writing and formatting screenplays, to write his the most notable *Terror In The Woods*. While in Great Mills High School, he used a cheap video camera, scavenged props, neighborhood kids and fellow students and his backyard as the movie set, to turn *Terror* into a movie. That movie which Edward recorded on CD helped him win acceptance to then-Villa Julie (now Stevenson University) a private

university in Baltimore County, Maryland.

Meanwhile, showcasing his entrepreneurial side, Edward produced scores of hip hop beats and sold them to students and adult musicians alike. He also had a lawn care business.

Before graduating high school, Edward had the opportunity to visit Niagara Falls, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, New York, Montreal, Disney World and cruise the Big Red Boat.

After living in Florida, Edward returned to Maryland to finish his bachelor's degree. In 2013, Edward earned a BA in Communications (with an emphasis in Digital Media Productions) from Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland.

The family will hold a celebration of Life on Saturday, September 9, 2023 at First Missionary Baptist Church in Lexington Park, Maryland. Family will receive friends from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. with a funeral service beginning at 11 a.m. officiated by Rev J. Malcolm Phipps.

Clarius Clark, 83



It is with great sadness that the family of Clarius Tracy Clark announces her passing on September 2, 2023 at the age of 83. Born in Toms Creek, Virginia on February

14, 1940 she was raised by her mother and father, Rilda and Thomas Holbrook. Clarius will forever be remembered as a cherished wife, sister, mother, grandmother, friend, and member of the community.

Clarius married her high school sweetheart William (Bill) Clark on May 4, 1959 in Aurora, Illinois. After settling down in Mechanicsville, MD she started her career as a media specialist for the St. Mary's County Public School System. In her free time, she enjoyed raising her grandchildren, spending time with her family and friends, and shopping.

Clarius is survived by her husband, Bill Clark and her sisters, Orlies Dreas and Glada Hearn; her children David Alan Clark (Patti), Danny Edward Clark (Randy), and Tracy Clark Levine (Scott); her grandchildren Jennifer L. Clark, Alan T. Clark (Leah), and Clark T. Levine; and her brother-in-laws George Clark (Josie), Steve Clark (Margaret), and sister-in-law Sue Pierce.

The family will receive friends on Monday, September 11, 2023 in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, where a memorial service will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM. Interment will follow directly after at Queen of Peace Cemetery, Helen, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Alan Clark, Clark Levine, Scott Levine, Larry Hill, Pat Tennyson, and Francis Tennyson. Friends and family are invited to attend to pay their respects, share stories, and offer their support to one another during this difficult time.

Clarius' legacy of love, laughter, and kindness will endure, and she will always



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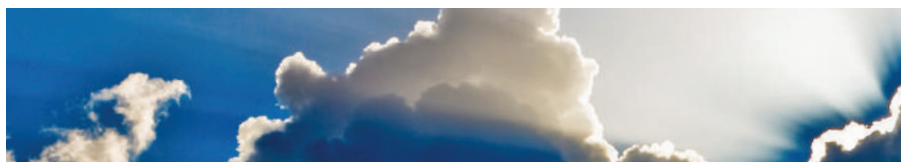
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be remembered as a beacon of light in the lives of those she touched.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Clarius' memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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.

Daryl Pilkerton, 71



Daryl Aloysius Pilkerton Jr., 71, of Hollywood, MD passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on September 3, 2023 at his home. Born February 26, 1952

in Leonardtown, MD, he was the son of the late Mary Esther Quade Pilkerton and Daryl Aloysius Pilkerton Sr. Daryl was the loving husband of the late Barbara Jean Pilkerton whom he married in Holy Angels Catholic Church in Avenue, MD on September 25, 1971. He is survived by his daughter Carole Jean Lundregan (Tommy); grandchildren Thomas Joseph "TJ" Lundregan and Madison "Maddie" Marie Lundregan of Hollywood, MD. Daryl is also survived by his siblings Richard Wayne "Dickie" Pilkerton (Connie) of Callaway, MD and Debra Jean "Debbie" Fedders (Roy) of Dameron, MD. He was preceded in death by his siblings Ann Darlene Cooper and Cecil Daniel "Donnie" Pilkerton.

Daryl courageously fought his battle against kidney disease for two years and most recently cancer. Despite spending much of that time in and out of the dialysis center and hospitals, he never lost his sense of humor. When the nurses would ask how he was doing his response would normally be "I am fit as a fiddle and can't play a tune".

Daryl was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. At a young age he worked on the

family tobacco farm in Clements, MD. He left the tobacco fields and worked at Chevron and Sunoco filling stations as a mechanic, tow truck driver and gas station attendant. He also worked as a mechanic for the family business, Triangle Garage. Later he worked for McKay's Implement Company, Bill Cairns Pontiac, and ParGas Inc. He finally started his long career at the Architect of the Capitol in Washington, DC for 33 years as a pipe fitter until his retirement in 2008. After retirement he worked with his father-in-law as a mechanic. Daryl could always be found in his happy place which was his garage behind is home. He was always willing to lend a helping hand and add his creative touch to things. Daryl, fondly known as "Grandpa Daryl", doted on his two grandchildren, TJ and Maddie. He was well known to his "Hollywood Coffee Group" as always having the coffee hot and ready, and was proud to spend time over a cup of coffee sharing stories with many special friends.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, September 10, 2023 in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD from 5:00pm to 8:00 pm where prayers will be recited at 7:00 pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 12:30 Pm in St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church with Rev. Raymond F. Schmidt officiating. Interment will follow in Charles Memorial Gardens in Leonardtown, MD.

Pallbearers will be TJ Lundregan, Jonathan Howsare, Roy Fedders, Timmy Quade, Guy Clarke and Timmy Tippet. Honorary pallbearers are Maddie Lundregan and The Hollywood "Coffee" Group.

In Lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad and Hospice of St. Mary's.

We find comfort knowing that Daryl is finally reunited with his beloved Barbara Jean.

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.



Ranked among the Nation's Top Individual Producers based on 2022 home sales in the RealTrends "America's Best"

Local agent Jimmy Hayden was recently recognized in the 2023 "America's Best Real Estate Professionals" rankings by RealTrends + Tom Ferry. The prestigious survey is made up of five categories for participating agents and teams in the U.S. based on 2022 numbers. The five categories are: individual producers, Small teams (2-5 agents), Medium teams (6-10), Large teams (11-20) and Mega teams (21+). Each category has two subcategories - one for transaction sides and one for sales volume. Hayden placed 107th in the individual rankings for 41 transaction sides and had \$16,599,002 sales volume.

"It's an honor to be included in this list of hardworking and dedicated real estate professionals across the country," said Hayden, Agent with RE/MAX 100. "I'm more grateful than ever for each client who trusted me to help them buy or sell a home in Southern Maryland over this truly unforgettable year."

Last year as well as this year are proving to be another monumental year. In 2022, Hayden achieved the Platinum Club award with RE/MAX for the third consecutive year.

"We are incredibly proud of these RE/MAX agents for being recognized as the best" said Nick Bailey, RE/MAX, LLC President and CEO. "This honor is a testament to their unwavering commitment to excellence and their dedication to providing exceptional service. It underscores our brand's ongoing position as the best option for productive professionals."

Ranking nearly 24,000 top producers, "America's Best Real Estate Professionals" is the industry's largest ranking of agents based on homes sold.

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RE/MAX 100 is a locally owned and operated full-service real estate brokerage located in Leonardtown, MD. Founded in 2018, the brokerage has 22 Realtors® and specializes in all types of real estate. RE/MAX 100 is a proud supporter of Childrens Miracle Network Hospital and Hayden is a proud supporter of Homes For Heroes and is located at 22845 Washington Street Leonardtown, MD 20650. To learn more, please visit www.ournexthouse.com. Each office independently owned and operated.



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SAT, OCT 21 / 4PM - 8:30PM **Ghostbusters at the Wharf / Halloween Movie Festival**

FRI, NOV 24 / 4:30PM - 8:30PM **The Grinch at the Fenwick Inn / Christmas on the Square**

SAT, DEC 2 / 5PM - 7PM **The Polar Express / Holidays at Town Market**

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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.

Thu, Sep 7

Lecture: SoMD Freedom Suits, Reckoning w/American Slavery

HSMC Visitor Center Auditorium
18751 Hogaboom Ln., St. Mary's City
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

FREE Lecture: Join Dr. William G. Thomas II, author & history professor, Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln to discuss the freedom suits and the families of Southern Maryland featured in his prize-winning book, "A Question of Freedom: The Families Who Challenged Slavery from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War."

For over 70 years and five generations, the enslaved families on the Western Shore of Md. filed hundreds of suits for their freedom against a powerful circle of slaveholders, taking their cause all the way to the Supreme Court. The story of these families and their freedom suits calls us to reckon with the moral problem of slavery in American history and its legacies today.

More info: [www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events/lecture-the-freedom-suits-of-south-](http://www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events/lecture-the-freedom-suits-of-south-ern-maryland/)

ern-maryland/
Info: 301.994.4370 or email info@hsmcdigshistory.org

This living history event will represent the Civil War artillery and infantry of Point Lookout

details, contact Geneva Leon at 301-884-5112 or visit the Web site at <http://www.narfe.net/site/chapter969/>.

Sat. Sep 9

LFS Patriot Day 5K Race

Little Flower School
20410 Point Lookout Rd, Great Mills
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

This annual event is held on the Saturday preceding Patriot Day, September 11, to honor our local "patriots" including military, firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical technicians. Participants can run or walk the 5K, and children 10 & under are invited to participate in our 1-mile Kids' Run on the school grounds.

Check out our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/patriotday5korg/

The Artillery at Point Lookout

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

Upcoming

NARFE Luncheon

Olde Breton Inn
Leonardtown
Friday, Sept. 15
11:30am

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) Chapter #969 of St. Mary's County invites current and prospective members to attend a luncheon meeting at 11:30 A.M. on September 15 at the Olde Breton Inn in Leonardtown.

Mr. John Richards, President of the St. Mary's County Fair, will give a presentation on the history of the Fair. There will also be a raffle of baked goods.

Luncheon will be served buffet-style at a cost of \$17.00. For reservations, which are required, contact Joyce Gentilo at 301-645-5006 by September 13. For membership

Yard Sale

Summerseat Farm, Inc
26655 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville
Saturday, Sept 16th
8am-2pm

Summerseat's annual yard sale is quickly approaching. Our volunteers have been busy collecting, organizing and pricing all the amazing donations we have received. This will be our biggest yard sale and we have something for everyone! Are you looking for a bike, toys, tools, home decor, books, furniture, holiday decorations, antiques, dishware? We have it and so much more! Don't forget to stop by the bake sale table so you can keep up your shopping energy!

Summerseat Farm is a nonprofit organization that is run by a dedicated group of volunteers.

For more information visit our website at Summerseat.org or Facebook @Summerseat Farm

Farmers Feeding St. Mary's



The second annual Farmers Feeding St. Mary's County Program will offer free, farm fresh produce at one more community event in 2023!

Saturday, September 16
U-Haul Parking Lot
46041 Signature Lane, Lexington Park, MD
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
While Supplies Last

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County, the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services, the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development, Feed St. Mary's, and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are pleased to offer these valuable community events!

For more information, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1050, or visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging

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Get Ready for Fall at Taste the Beaches

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The end of the Labor Day weekend usually marks the end of summer although the season has a few weeks left before it officially concludes. And the hot weather seems to be staying around for a while.

September is the beginning of a time when Calvert countians get outdoors to enjoy the weather and thus it's a time for the start of the fall festival season, with the county fair and Patuxent River Appreciation Day (PRAD) looming.

Although it's young by other festival standards, the Taste the Beaches in Chesapeake Beach, celebrating its 7th year on Saturday, Sept. 9, is becoming a staple for this time of year.

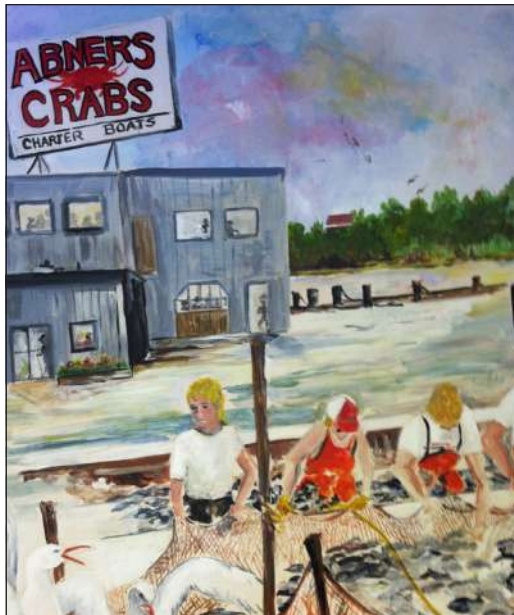
This year for the first time the Taste the Beaches will be held at a place where local residents' taste buds have been awakened for many years – Abner's Crab House.

The town has put made the trumpet call "Join us for a TASTE of all that the Twin Beaches has to offer at the 2023 Taste the Beaches on September 9, 2023, from 12 - 5 p.m. at Abner's Crab House. The FREE festival style event is sponsored by the Town of Chesapeake Beach in support of local businesses. From delicious local food and drinks to live music from Luskey/Ferro & Friends and Kenney Holmes, local vendors, and educational outreach - you won't want to miss this year's event!"

During the event the town will be sponsoring tastings from local restaurants while supplies last. From Baia's Burrata Toast and Limonata, Abner's sampler boat of fried shrimp, hush puppies, and a mini crab skin, Abner's fresh shucked oysters, steamed crabs, Taste the Tides, Railroad Pizza, Pinkey's BBQ, Baked by the Bay, and the Bakist there will be so much to taste.

Under the category of "Enjoy," the town says: "Join us for the interactive and educational Phillips Wharf Environmental Center Fishmobile, O'Grady Quinlin Irish Dancers, Abner's Oyster exhibit, Abner's Crab Derby featuring local face-offs & competitions, Abner's "Chesapeake Get 'Em", local beer from Green Spring Brewing Co., wine from Running Hare Vineyard and Whistlestop Winery, airbrush tattoos, balloon art, Little Tots Playground and more!"

Under the heading of "Shop" will be offered: "local vendors Ella's Whimsey



Clothing Boutique, Chesapeake Beach Candle Company, Oscar and Olive Osprey, Olly's Bracelet Business, Origami Owl, Chosen Moments, Be Adored Jewelry, Lilla Rose, Annie the Bag Lady, and more!"

And under the category of "Engage," the town says, "Hear what the town and other community partners are working on, find ways to volunteer and provide your valuable input. Town and community partners include the Chesapeake Beach Oyster Cultivation Society, Chesapeake Beach Green Team, Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Twin Beaches Opioid Abuse Awareness Coalition, American Legion, North Beach Volunteer Fire Department, Calvert Library, Arts Council of Calvert County, Bayside Baptist Church, Knights of Columbus Calvert Council and more!"

"Our town's Economic Development Committee invites everyone to join us at the 7th annual Taste the Beaches event. The mission of Taste the Beaches is to highlight our local businesses and acknowledge how integral our businesses are to our community. The town council joins me in looking forward to spending time with residents and guests of the Twin Beaches in our continued support of the Twin Beaches business community," stated Town of Chesapeake Beach Council Vice President Larry Jaworski. He founded the event and has been organizing it ever since.

You can follow the Taste the Beaches on Facebook for the most up to date information on the event.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Pedestrian Struck and Killed in Chesapeake Beach

Members of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau responded on Sept. 3 at approximately 4:48 a.m. to the area of Bayside Road and Research Lane in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a serious motor vehicle crash involving a pedestrian. Due to the circumstances, the Crash Reconstruction Team responded to assume the investigation.

Preliminary investigation revealed that a 2014 Chevrolet Silverado, operated by James Duncan, 59 of Chesapeake Beach, was traveling south on Bayside Road in the area of Research Lane. At that time, Patrick Brooks, 43 of Chesapeake Beach,

was walking north in the southbound lane. Brooks appeared to be walking in the center of the lane when he was struck by the Chevrolet. Brooks suffered life threatening injuries and was pronounced deceased on the scene.

Deputy First Class M. Lewis of the Crash Reconstruction Team is conducting the investigation. Anyone who may have witnessed this crash, is asked to contact DFC Lewis at 410-535-2800 or by email, mike.lewis.jr@calvertcountymd.gov. Please reference case #23-62542.

Press Release from CCSO.

LEGAL NOTICE - PUBLIC HEARING CALVERT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing on the 19th day of September, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room, 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick, Maryland. The Public Hearing time, date, and location may be revised by announcement of an emergency, such as inclement weather, without further publication and may be confirmed on the County website, or calling any number listed below on the date of the Hearing. At the Hearing, the Board will consider and receive comments regarding Budget Adjustment #BA2024-000069 to increase the FY 2024 Capital Improvement Plan Budget to include \$641,500.00 as a Library Capital Grant for the new Twin Beach Library.

Interested persons are urged to view the proposal in its entirety by either contacting the Department of Community Resources at 410-535-1600 x8801, Jennifer Moreland@calvertcountymd.gov or by viewing the local amendments on the County website at: <http://www.calvertcountymd.gov/publichearings>. Written comments will be made part of the record if received by close of business the day before the public hearing. This meeting will be streamed live at <http://www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov>. If you wish to listen or comment via telephone, please call: U.S toll free: 888-475-4499; Meeting ID: 899 4188 8251; ID or Passcode (if asked): #; Request to Speak: *9. The proposed provisions may be substantively modified, revised, amended or otherwise changed based upon comments received at the public hearing.

The Board of County Commissioners does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex (including pregnancy) (except where age or sex are essential bona fide occupational requirements), sexual orientation, marital status, ancestry or national origin, religion, race, color, genetic information, actual or perceived disability, or gender-related identity or expression. Any reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities or linguistic barriers should be requested by contacting the Board of County Commissioners office at (410) 535-1600 ext. 2202 or TTY: 1-800-735-2258.

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Commissioners Remember 9/11 on 22nd Anniversary

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It was a Tuesday morning, that September 11, 2001. The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, as usual, were meeting. David Hale was president and other members were Patrick Buehler, Barbara Stinnett, Linda Kelley, and John Douglas Parran. Stinnett, Kelley and Parran have since passed away.

On that tragic day, when the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, DC were hit, the commissioners continued the meeting in a somber tone, notes being passed to them by staff keeping them up to date on the ever-changing news flow as history unfolded. After a shorter than usual meeting everyone in the courthouse assembled on the front law for a prayer vigil.

Things had changed dramatically.

Now 22 years later, on September 11, 2023, the day of remembrance is now known as Patriot's Day and many people pause to remember where they were that day and what it all means. We asked the current commissioner board that question.

Calvert County Commissioner President Earl F. "Buddy" Hance said, "That day started out like any other but by sundown it was a reminder that freedom is not free and we must never forget the price paid by our fellow Americans."

Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart said, "The anniversary of 9/11 holds deep significance for our community as we remember those who perished and express our gratitude for the first responders and ordinary people who showed extraordinary courage. This remembrance is especially important as younger generations come into adulthood. I hope that they will lead us with the same unity, empathy, and commitment to supporting each other that we all felt in the weeks that followed that fateful day. By working together, we will create a safer, more resilient future for everyone."

Commissioner Mark Cox said, "9/11/01 is a day we will never forget. The devastation, loss of life and pure horror we faced as a country will never be forgotten. This

is such a tragic reminder of how life can change in the blink of an eye."

Commissioner Catherine Grasso remembers vividly what happened 22 years ago: "I was at work at the US Department of Agriculture, and I was going up to a meeting with my boss and people in the hallway were saying that a plane had crashed into the Pentagon. So, I went upstairs to my boss's office and the secretary had the TV on, and she said, her son-in-law is an air traffic controller, and they know it's terrorism. While I was standing there, the second plane crashed into the World Trade Center on TV. We could see it, and we were all told to go home. So, I went downstairs. People were very frightened that there was a bomb on the National Mall, that was a rumor, and we are, we are like a block away from there.

"Our daughter was trying to call us and our sons, but Marisa got through and she wanted to make sure her daddy and I were okay. And I let her know that I was walking over to meet him as he came out of the garage. So, she knew we were okay. So, I started walking in the streets, they were just so eerie. It was so surreal. People were not talking. You could see parents, moms and dads had picked their babies up from government daycare centers and were trying to get where they needed to get home. And as I walked to my husband's place of business, it was that way with everyone.

"People were considerate. Nobody was being disrespectful of anybody else. It was just an eerie silence. So, I waited for my husband to come out of the garage, and it was about another hour for him to get out, and finally he came out. I got in the car, and we headed home.

"And it was the same way with the traffic heading home. People were respectful of taking turns, letting you in, and there was just silence. And we got home, we watched it on TV and the next day when we went back to work, it was very eerie to see going across the South Capital Street bridge, the smoke coming up from the Pentagon. And on our lunch break, we went over to do a little bit of shopping. And there were so many people getting blankets from Target, getting



water from Target, from the grocery store to take back to the Pentagon for the workers.

"I talked to my friend whose husband is a DC police officer, and he described what they found when they went into the Pentagon. The whole thing was just horrific. You were in a state of disbelief. And, I had said to my husband when we were home, everything that Frank and I have built in this house, we've done ourselves. And we love it. We're proud of it. We're proud of the way we raised our children and what they've accomplished in this world. But I looked at my husband and I said, none of this matters. Nothing material was important with what had happened in this country and to other families.

"It had happened and what was happening, but by the same token, we all came together as Americans, and we pulled for each other. Those police officers and those firefighters, they ran to the problem, and they did what had to be done. And time and again, when you start to lose faith and the way Americans act when push comes to shove, they all came together that day and many days thereafter to their own peril.

And now, 22 years later, she said, "We've lost it. We've become fat and sassy. We've turned away from God. We think we can do everything on our own. The only thing we can do in this world is through him. I have to think with our division and with the fact that people are just so fat and sassy and they're out for themselves. They think they can do everything themselves. They're climbing the ladder. Our kids are very indulged, hardly ever get off of their gizmos. I have to hope and think that we would come together again when push came to shove. And the uniqueness in Calver County is we're such a small county and we know each other. And I, and I have seen since I was running for office and won my election, how the old families in the county are there for each other. And I know by becoming more closely affiliated with our firefighters and our police officers, I know they would run

towards a problem. You'd never see Calvert County running away from a problem."

Commissioner Todd Ireland was a member of the sheriff's office at the time. He remembered, "It's very ironic that we're even having this conversation because I actually had the radio on. I was at the light at Routes 4 and 231 and I heard on the radio that plane hit the tower. So, at the time I was with the sheriff's office. I shot down the road to Harold's Body Shop on 231 and I walked in there and I said, 'Harold turned TV on.' I said, apparently a plane just hit the World Trade Center. And as soon as he turned it on the second plane hit it. And I was like, this is no mistake. I said, you know, we're in trouble. Something's going on. So, I think I left there and went right to the sheriff's office.

"Once we got to the sheriff's office, of course, we had to start planning. Every parent was trying to get their child out of school. Nobody knew what to do. It was probably the closest thing to confusion that I had seen. And the only thing I've seen anywhere close to it was when Covid first came out and everybody was pretty much feeling the same way, same thing, it was unknown to everybody. Nobody knew what was going on or what was going to happen. So, I guess if I had one other thing to compare it to, that's what it would be."

Ireland said about remembering that fateful day on this year's anniversary, "You never forget history. It's always going to be, that's your forethought. A lot of people lost their lives that day. A lot of families were affected that day. This loss is permanent."

He said the people of Calvert "should remember those who lost their lives. Try to always be vigilant. Always pay attention to what's going on around you. If you see something, say something. These are uncertain times we live in without a doubt. You never know.

"The world's not the same place it was."

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Paid Family Leave Law is Looming County: How to Pay for It

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It's called the Maryland Time to Care Act and it provides for up to 12 weeks of paid leave to care for oneself or qualifying family member. It could have an impact of millions of dollars annually to Calvert County government and will also impact many local businesses.

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on Aug. 29 got a briefing on the bill passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2022 and was modified this year. While the commissioners are committed to following the law, several expressed displeasure at the initiative and its impact on private employers. Commissioner Mike Hart, himself a small businessman, was especially critical.

The briefing was conducted by David Johnson, vice president of Bolton, who is acting as a consultant on the bill to the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO). Bolton has also have been a consultant for the county.

MACO, which the county is a member, along with the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) and the Maryland Municipal League (MML) are joining forces to send out a request for proposals from a private vendor to handle the administration of the new paid leave program.

The BOCC at the end of the presentation voted to have staff prepare documents for the county to join that effort. They have until Oct. 1 to sign off on it.

Johnson explained, "It is a paid leave legislation. What's important, really important about this is it looks a lot like the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). It's important to note that it's different in sig-

nificant ways from FMLA. First off, it's paid family leave. So, if you think it's tough to get employees back to work from FMLA when they're not getting paid, well it's going to be even tougher when now they're actually getting paid something while they're off for this family leave."

Johnson said, "A second component that makes it different is that it is a very broad legislation in terms of who is covered. So, I like to say, think of everybody that comes to Thanksgiving meal. They're probably going to be covered under the legislation as family members."

Under the Act, "family member" is broadly defined and includes:

- A/an biological, adopted, foster, or stepchild of the employee
- A child for whom the employee stands in loco parentis, regardless of the child's age
- A biological, adoptive, foster, or stepparent of the employee or of the employee's spouse
- The legal guardian of the employee or the ward of the employee or of the employee's spouse
- An individual who acted as a parent or stood in loco parentis to the employee or employee's spouse when the employee or employee's spouse was a minor
- The employee's spouse or domestic partner
- A/an biological, adopted, foster, or step grandparent
- A/an biological, adopted, foster, or step grandchild TTCA
- A/an biological, adopted, foster, or step sibling of the employee

He said on January 1st, 2026, benefits will become available to all employees work-

ing in Maryland. But the state will start collecting premiums on October 1st, 2024. He explained, "The state of Maryland through this legislation is creating a new program whereby employers who do not opt out of the state plan will automatically default into the state plan. So, the state is requiring that this plan be self-sufficient. So, in order to make this plan work self-sufficiently, the state is collecting premiums from employers and their employees 15 months ahead of the program."

Employers covered are any organization employing at least one individual in Maryland. Employees covered are any individual who has worked at least 680 hours over the 12-month period immediately preceding the date on which leave is to begin," according to Johnson.

Johnson explained if the county joins the cooperative, they won't have to make the early contribution required if the state handles the plan for the employer.

The minimum weekly benefit is \$650, and the maximum weekly benefit is \$1,000 (adjusted for inflation after 2026).

The cost:

- Employers will be required to contribute at least 50 percent of the total premium costs.
- Total contribution cannot exceed 1.2 percent of wages (up to Social Security Wage Base).
- By October 1, 2023, the Secretary of the Department of Labor must publish total contribution rate; this rate will be in effect October 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026.
- Beginning in 2026, the Secretary of DOL must publish, by February 1st, the contribution rate for the 12-month period beginning on July 1st.



Commissioner Mike Hart

• Employers with less than 15 employees will not be required to contribute. "There's a lot about this thing that disturbs me to death," Hart said early on in the discussion and continued to complain about it throughout the meeting.

"Small business, they're just wiping them off the page," Hart said. "They've already destroyed them with minimum wage that doesn't compete with Virginia and Delaware on the border. The state of Maryland is horrible when it comes to this type of thing. They might as well say why even have a business in the state of Maryland. And this right here, this is a, this is a joke."

He added, "Can you imagine what a business would have to charge, a small business? The guy who turns wrenches or the restaurants or whatever would have to charge to finance this? This is so irresponsible."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

PRAD Coming to Calvert Marine Museum

Patuxent River Appreciation Day (PRAD), one of Southern Maryland's longest running festivals, celebrates its 45th year on Saturday, October 7, 2023 at the Calvert Marine Museum. All members of the family can enjoy the fun from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Museum admission is FREE all day.

This year's event will feature a week-end's-worth of fun, all in one day. Festivities include toy boat building, live music, boat rides, crafts, art vendors, and more!

Enjoy grabbing a bite to eat from a variety of food vendors on site. Beer and wine will also be available for purchase.

Performers will entertain visitors with live music from the Motto Mortgage Preferred and RE/MAX One Waterside Pavilion throughout the day. Here is the complete lineup:

- SOMD Jazz Orchestra: 11 a.m. – noon.
- Jay Armstrong & the Eastern Tradition: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Groove Span: 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
- Bush Mill Band: 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Explore the museum grounds to visit dozens of nonprofit and community groups that celebrate the Patuxent River in a variety of



ways. There will be exhibits, demonstrations and displays about oyster farming, native plants, local wildlife, and more that help keep our area a wonderful place to live and play. Be sure to check out animal adoptions, live reptiles, petting zoo, and world-famous fossils during PRAD!

Head over to the Drum Point Lighthouse

and surrounding boat basin for even more fun! Children can build their own toy boats, and the whole family is encouraged to enjoy free cruises aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*, *Witch of the Wave*, *Draketail*, and *Poe Skiff*. Take a ride in a rowboat or pedal boat, or even try your hand at navigating a remote-control sailboat.

There's more to discover inside the museum, with many exhibits offering additional interactive experiences for the day. Don't forget to stop at the Museum Store to meet Axolotl Jack or to get a head start on holiday shopping with new and unique items that celebrate the Chesapeake Bay. Be sure to say hello to North American river otters Chessie Grace and Calvert during your visit.

PRAD brings together and reflects the continuing commitment of the community, Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, Calvert Marine Museum, and other organizations that share a desire to preserve the Patuxent River and to celebrate its positive influence on the area's quality of life in the past, present, and future. By bringing these people together in a public forum, PRAD organizers hope to grow local support of the environmental programs and tourism activities surrounding the Patuxent River and its tributaries. PRAD would not be possible without the support of the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners.

Press Release from Calvert Marine Museum

Controversy Swirls Around Holiday Inn Rezoning

Solomons Property Owner Defends Project

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Two zoning text amendments that will allow the redevelopment of the Solomons Holiday Inn site have come under fire and the developer has put on a strong public relations campaign in support of it.

County Commissioner Mike Hart recently questioned the rezoning proposal and former commissioner now planning commission member Chris Gadway echoed those concerns at the Aug. 30 planning commission meeting.

Two zoning text amendments for conditional uses have been put forward by the developer. One would allow multifamily dwellings within several zoning subdistricts in the Solomons Town Center, including the property on which the now closed hotel sits.

The second would increase the density allowed from seven units per acre to 14.

The proposal would transform the slightly less than 10-acre piece of property from 326 hotel rooms to 140 apartments, 150 hotel rooms and a memory care facility. The apartment units would be age restricted for senior living.

The rezoning proposal covers several subdistricts in Solomons including the one on which the property is located. That caused Gadway to ask planning staff if there was vacant land in Solomons in the various subdistricts that could also be developed. He was told there were others.

Gadway noted the current zoning ordinance points out the subdistrict is for areas with “convenient transportation access and because it’s relatively isolated from residential uses and waterfront areas.” He said that wasn’t the case with the Holiday Inn site.

Noting that the 14 units per acre density would be the most south of Prince Frederick, he said, “You take and copy that, put that down in Solomons, that is going to fundamentally change the entire look of that area down there. It wouldn’t be the quaint Solomons that we all know and love.”

The zoning text amendments were before the planning commission on a preliminary matter, to approve sending the requests out for comments from other agencies. Once those are returned, the planners and county commissioners could schedule a public hearing if the votes are there to move forward.

Gadway attempted to derail the project by moving to deny the next step. But he was unable to get a second and the commission went ahead with circulating it for comments, with Gadway the sole dissenter.

During the public comment time at the end of the meeting, the subject came up again. Len Zuza, who lives in Solomons Landing near the Holiday Inn site, said he was “speaking on behalf of the concerned residents of Solomons.”

Zuza agreed with Gadway that the area’s quality of life would be changed. But he also asked for staff to quantify the project’s impact.



The now-closed Solomons Holiday Inn

Zuza said, “Given its location near the northern access point of the (Gov.) Thomas Johnson Bridge, maximizing the number of residences in this location would have a significant harmful impact on local roads.

“So, what we are requesting is that the planning commission require county staff to use strict adequate public facilities ordinance methodologies to identify the maximum impact on roads, public utilities, and schools if the requested text amendment were to be approved and to make these reports on the potential impacts available to the public. The point of our recommendations to put some numbers on the impact of the proposed changes to the zoning ordinance.”

Real estate consultant John Dixon, representing the developer, said his clients recommend an additional condition be added limiting the change to properties of ten acres or more. Director of Planning and zoning Mary Beth Cook said staff would check to see how many properties in Solomons fell into that category.

Dixon added, “With the 55 and over, there are no kids going to school. The hotel has no kids going to school. The memory care and assisted living facility has no kids going to school and the traffic is going to decrease because we’re going from 326 hotel rooms to 140 apartments, 150 hotel rooms and a memory care facility.”

John Simpson, who operated the Holiday Inn and is involved in the new development,

said of the existing facility, “It’s 326 hotel rooms, that’s 36 units per acre. Now suppose this goes to foreclosure and doesn’t happen. Somebody buys that existing building. You could operate it as a hotel and there’s no restrictions on long-term rental. So, somebody could rent those things. You could have a fly-past hotel in Solomons with a lot of traffic, a lot of issues, a lot of kids at school. And you’ve got a real problem. Or you’ve got an abandoned vacant building.”

He added, “This would be first-class development. It’s 55 plus. A lot of people can’t afford a waterfront home and have a boat. You’d be able to replace and have your boat right out back. It’d be a shame to let that building fall into some kind of disrepair or a use that is not consistent with going forward in installments.”

Simpson said, “There is a need for conference business in Solomons. Tourism dollars turn over seven times in a slow economy. That’s people coming to Solomons and spending their money, visiting liquor stores, grocery stores, everything with no impact on schools.”

“It’s just a really sensible use of this property.”

The manager of the now closed hotel said its 80 employees who lost their jobs have been promised jobs at the same salary when the new one opens.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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<p>THU, SEP 7</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 94° Lo: 70°</p>	<p>FRI, SEP 8</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 89° Lo: 69°</p>	<p>SAT, SEP 9</p> <p>Scattered Storms Hi: 84° Lo: 70°</p>	<p>SUN, SEP 10</p> <p>Thunderstorms Hi: 83° Lo: 68°</p>
<p>MON, SEP 11</p> <p>AM Thunderstorms Hi: 83° Lo: 68°</p>	<p>TUE, SEP 12</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 68°</p>	<p>WED, SEP 13</p> <p>Scattered Storms Hi: 80° Lo: 62°</p>	<p>THU, SEP 14</p> <p>PM Showers Hi: 75° Lo: 60°</p>

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