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# St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

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**Critical Area Case Called 'A Win'**

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## “WE DON'T TURN ANYONE AWAY.”

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Hewitt: County lacks Critical Area representation



**LOCAL 7**  
Construction company takes toll bridge idea to the public



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<b>MON, SEP 18</b>  Mostly Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 58°	<b>TUE, SEP 19</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 81° Lo: 62°	<b>WED, SEP 20</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 81° Lo: 62°	<b>THU, SEP 21</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 61°



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# Hewitt: St. Mary's Has No Voice on Critical Areas Commission

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The state's Critical Area Commission keeps a strict watch on any development within the 1,000-foot buffer of the state's waterways and shorelines, often making what would be the simplest of home improvement tasks, from removing a stump to building a shed, extremely difficult from a legal perspective.

The strict oversight is designed to protect the environmentally sensitive watershed from the impacts of too much development.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt, who had long represented the county on the critical area board but no longer has a seat there, said this week that the county no longer has a representative on the commission.

This makes looking after the balancing of environmental interests with the property rights of St. Mary's residents even more difficult, he said.

Making his comments during the regular business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County Sept. 12, Hewitt said Gov. Wes Moore's office has yet to make such an appointment.

Hewitt said he learned of the lack of representation after observing a Critical Area Commission meeting last week in which they asked for judicial review of a recent decision by the county's own Board of Appeals that allowed certain property owners to build a swimming pool within just 100 feet of the watershed's buffer.

"Our rules in St. Mary's County prior to last year were always to deny anyone asking for an application to put a pool in the 100-foot buffer," Hewitt said. "We were told we can't stop people from asking for a variance."

Hewitt said his term ended June 30 and an appointment has not been made to fill it.

"What concerns me is St. Mary's County is not represented on the Critical Areas Commission and we have over 400 miles of critical area," Hewitt said. "It's important that we are represented."



Commissioner Mike Hewitt

The property owners who want to build the pool, Hewitt said, found it particularly beneficial in aiding their recovery from a serious auto wreck that left them injured and in need of rehabilitation.

"So, they want to build a pool," Hewitt said. "The Critical Area Commission said 'No.' Our board of appeals said 'OK, you can do it.'"

The county had to defend the decision in court last week, Hewitt said, and the judge ruled in favor of the local board of appeals' decision.

"From this commissioner's perspective, it was a win," Hewitt said. "It was a win against government regulation that doesn't make sense."

Hewitt said when he sat on the critical area board, they never heard these types of cases because the staff there would not even allow such cases to come before them.

"I'm not condemning staff, I just think sometimes they live in an ivory tower and they don't like anyone telling them what to do or asking them to justify something," said Hewitt.

He besought Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy's support in sending a letter to the governor's appointment secretary seeking redress on the issue of St. Mary's County regarding the critical areas.

"That's not fair," Hewitt said of the lack of representation.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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# Family of Slain GMHS Teen Refiles Wrongful Death Suit

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

More than five years ago, at Great Mills High School, a 16-year-old sophomore, Jaelynn Willey, was shot by a classmate and former boyfriend just after classes began on March 20, 2018. She died two days later.

In the aftermath, Jaelynn's family twice sued several of defendants to include the county Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, members of the school's staff, and even the responding deputy for failing to act to keep their daughter alive.

Twice, in federal District Court, they failed, with a judge dismissing all the counts against the defendants except a few tort claims.

But the family refiled a wrongful death case in county Circuit Court back in July and opposing legal counsel has recently filed to have the lawsuit thrown out of court.

The parents of Jaelynn Willey continue to claim that the school system and other defendants involved knew of the danger her assailant posed to their daughter, but did nothing to stop him leading up to their daughter's death.

"Defendants knew that Austin Rollins... was likely to commit an act of deadly vio-



Jaelynn Willey

lence against Jaelynn Willey," the family's latest filing claims. "Not only did Great Mills High School and defendants fail to protect Jaelynn Willey in any way, Great Mills High School and defendants made informed decisions and took steps which actively increased the danger to her."

The shooter, Rollins, was alleged by

Jaelynn's family to have demanded sexual activities from their daughter, causing the relationship to sour; once she had broken off their relationship, the family alleged that he began to stalk, harass, bully and even assault her on several occasions leading up to her death.

Rollins then turned the gun — his father's

legally owned Glock 17 9mm semiautomatic pistol — on himself just as Cpl. Blaine Gaskill, the school's resource deputy, responded in seconds and fired his own weapon at Rollins.

Two young people were dead, another had been injured by Rollins' gunfire and the community was shaken to its core.

The family alleges that the school system, county, and others made "no effort... to take any meaningful action" to prevent Rollins' access to the school or to Jaelynn.

Jaelynn's plight and fears had been "repeatedly reported to school, defendants and agents and employees," the lawsuit alleges, with no redress.

The family is being represented by local attorney Kathleen McClernan.

Opposing counsel, representing the state and the defendants, has petitioned for dismissal on technical grounds.

"The plaintiff's claims against the board members, central office staff and Great Mills High School defendants must be dismissed because they are barred by the applicable statute of limitations," the motion for dismissal reads. "The plaintiffs seek to resurrect claims that were dismissed over two years ago."

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# Sheriff's Report: More Security Against Active Shooters at Libraries

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The county public libraries need upgraded security on the level of that recently installed at county public schools to prevent entry by active shooters, a recently released report commissioned by library leadership shows.

The reports, commissioned by county library director Michael Blackwell — with security audits performed by sheriff's deputies — show several weaknesses that could be exploited by an active shooter or other potential violent threat.

At the Charlotte Hall library, the deputy found that half of the security cameras in place there were used by library staff, while the other half were used by the staff of the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association, which is a completely separate entity headquartered in the same building.

The deputy discovered that library staff did not have access to library association camera footage and vice versa, which could prove to be a weakness in an emergency situation where all in the building need to be aware of a threat.

The Charlotte Hall branch should have more cameras installed, Cpl. Trevor Teague wrote in his assessment, and they should also be adjusted to ensure they get footage that captures facial features of those entering the library.

There was also a limited number of cameras inside the building, Teague noted; he recommended having more focused on the lobby to give advanced warning of any threats.

But what's worse is that staff generally did not monitor the cameras, Teague found, and did not have immediate access to the system without help from information technology specialists.

Perhaps the greatest weakness Teague noted in his report was the fact that all of the windows at the Charlotte Hall branch were glass that could be shattered or shot out to allow an active shooter entry even if the doors were locked.

The windows were tinted, he noted, which would deny an active shooter the ability to see targets from the outside but that advantage would be fleeting.

"The glass can still be shot or broken out and entry can be made," Teague wrote.

The deputy recommended seeking out "ballistic film" that can be laminated over the existing windows to prevent the glass from being broken in even if it was hit with gunfire.

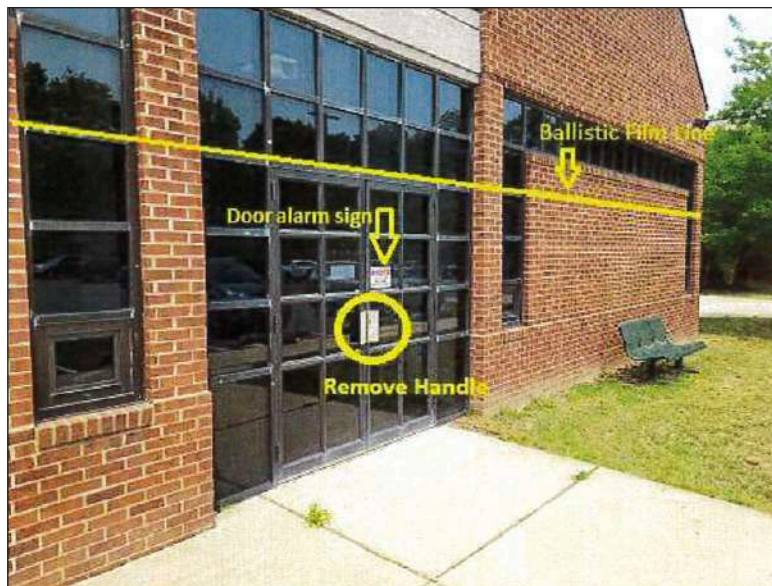
Several county schools have been outfitted with such material on their exterior windows to guard against such an assault.

"This is also a good option as it prohibits an assailant from gaining entry," Teague wrote of the benefits of the protective material.

Ballistic laminate should be added, minimally, to all glass below the height of a standard door frame, he added.

To stop an attacker from driving a vehicle through the exterior windows at the entrances, he said, bollards — or cylindrical posts of concrete reinforced by steel — should be positioned outside the glass in the parking lots and elsewhere.

This would also prevent accidental



Security upgrades recommended at Charlotte Hall Library



breaching of the building by an out-of-control vehicle, Teague's report stated.

Bollards can also be had in the form of what appear to be potted plants to make them blend better with the building and its surroundings.

Along with an alarm system that could be triggered by a panic button, the report stated that a security guard stationed at the Charlotte Hall branch could be a significant deterrent.

Teague had similar conclusions in his assessment of the Leonardtown Library which shares its building space with the Garvey Senior Activity Center on Hollywood Road.

Glass doors and windows should be laminated with ballistic film to help stymie active shooters and other unauthorized breachers, Teague's report recommended.

The library's security could also be improved by the installation of a panic button that could trigger the remote closure and locking of the sliding entrance doors to the facility.

An employee-only entrance was also a concern broached by employees since it was not serviced by an exterior camera; they could not identify who was on the other side of the door before allowing access.

Another swinging door behind the front desk in the library is another problem, according to the report, since it cannot be locked to protect against an assailant.

"The door of concern is equipped with locking mechanisms, however they do not work or have been intentionally deactivated," the report stated.

The report also stated the library should have a dedicated safe room in the event of a crisis, to include ballistic film over any windows and the ability to lock the room from inside against a threat.

The report also recommended adding mass casualty bags with trauma kits to provide medical aid in the event of an active shooting on top of the first aid kits already positioned around the library.

The staff should be offered training in the proper use of life-saving trauma kit materials, Teague said.

For the Lexington Park branch, Cpl. Daniel Holdsworth recommended com-

mensurate protections using ballistic film on glass windows but also called for a fence in the rear of the building for more secure activities during business hours and to guard against burglary.

Holdsworth's report also suggested the addition of a burglar alarm — the Lexington Park branch is not equipped with one — as well as motion detector activated exterior lights.

A security vestibule that could restrict

access from "unwelcome guests and recalcitrant juveniles" would also significantly boost security there, Holdsworth said in his report.

To discourage thefts "headgear, face coverings and masks — with the exception of provided medical grade masks — should be prohibited," the report stated.

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# Commissioners: Reconsider \$1M Limit on Non-Profit Funding

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

As the county commissioners begin to set their public schedule for upcoming work sessions on the fiscal 2025 operating budget, Commissioner Mike Hewitt asked the other four local leaders to "keep an open mind" moving forward about increasing the budget the Commissioners of St. Mary's County have set aside for funding non-profits from \$1 million to a figure more like \$1.25 million.

This extra funding would allow the commissioners to provide more to organizations — such as youth sports groups — who would in turn use that money to provide expensive equipment to players who otherwise could not afford it.

"People who have a vested interest in the community can usually do a better job because they are closer to the activity," Hewitt said of the value for services rendered that non-profit entities provide county residents.

The need was especially pressing in the youth football leagues, Hewitt said.

"For basketball, soccer and various other things it's a shirt, knee pads, shoes, and a ball," Hewitt said. "Football is a helmet, pads, and associated equipment is close to \$300."

Hewitt said in speaking with leadership of those football leagues that has many as one-third of their youth membership were struggling to pay the fees necessary to play.

Moreover, non-profits are having to pay more for security at events such as the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department's annual carnival, Hewitt said.

He said that he was told by members of the department that they were able to raise about \$34,000 to support the volunteer

operations but had to pay nearly \$9,000 for extra off-duty sheriff's office presence at the event.

Hewitt said Sheriff Steve Hall explained that deputies no longer feel the pressing need to volunteer for overtime or off-duty paid assignments since they have received several raises from the county government in recent years to make their earnings much more competitive with neighboring jurisdictions.

Commissioner Scott Ostrow echoed Hewitt's concerns with the same need being present for extra security at youth sports activities.

Police from the sheriff's office and state police barracks had to deploy in force several weeks ago to break up a brawl between parents and players between the local Pax River Raiders football league and a Prince George's County-based group at Lancaster Park in Lexington Park.

"The sheriff is required to have people there and it's becoming harder and harder," Ostrow said. "They're coming down to the wire; and again, they don't want to work the overtime."

Ostrow said he had been asked by constituents if the commissioners could help youth leagues bring on private security for those events.

Commissioner Eric Colvin said he fully supported funding for non-profits as long as the county could pay its own bills first.

As to funding security, Colvin said the county should proceed cautiously on providing more funding to aid in increasing that.

"The non-profits, they have the ability to fundraise in ways we the county government can't," Colvin said. "With extra security... where do we draw the line?"

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# Construction Magnate to Make Community Pitch on New Bridge



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

United Bridge Partners, the construction conglomerate that has made sales pitches to local governments in St. Mary's and Calvert counties that they could build a replacement for the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge in exchange for the rights to place a toll on access to it, is now taking their case to the public.

While political leaders and the public at large have expressed their opposition to having a toll on the bridge, it is the condition

United Bridge Partners have set for building the bridge at no upfront cost to the county.

"The company is hosting four meetings in the county where it will present, provide two-minute timeslots for direct public comment and questions, and offer a survey," a press release from United Bridge Partners stated. "The meetings in the county will result in a report to be presented to the [Commissioners of St. Mary's County]."

The first two meetings will be on Sept. 28 and then Oct. 3 at the Lexington Park Library and then again on Oct. 5 at the Leonardtown Library; each of the meetings

will be just one hour from 7 p.m. to 8p.m., the press release stated.

While local leaders have repeatedly besought the state to provide funds for a bridge replacement, the state has responded that the bridge, though functionally obsolete, is in good repair and not a priority for replacement.

United Bridge partners has claimed to have rebuilt and operate six bridges in five states that have been "chronically underfunded."

The replacement for the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge has been estimated to

approach between \$750 million to \$1 billion to replace; United Bridge Partners has claimed to have spent \$900 million in their combined bridge building projects.

Commissioner Eric Colvin's unscientific social media poll on the issue posted a few weeks ago showed that out of 1,395 respondents from St. Mary's County only 102 supported a toll.

Any toll would be set and administered by United Bridge Partners.

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# Man Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison for Domestic Violence

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Walter Crouse Prentiss, III, 43, was sentenced to a total of 30 years in the Division of Corrections, with 15 years of active incarceration to serve in prison for his involvement in a series of domestic violence assaults. Mr. Prentiss was convicted of assaulting a female victim in Mechanicsville, Maryland, over a span of several months in 2021.

Prentiss was sentenced as follows:

- Assault Second Degree - sentenced to ten years, suspend all but five years active incarceration;
- Assault Second Degree - sentenced to ten years, suspend all but five years, to run consecutive;
- Assault First Degree - sentenced to ten years, suspend all but five years, to run consecutive; and
- Violation of a Protective Order - sentenced to the maximum penalty of 90 days, to run concurrently.

Detective Joseph Bowling of the Criminal Investigative Division of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.



Walter Prentiss III

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Sarah Proctor, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

The Honorable Joseph M. Stalanonis presided over the case.

# School Board Mulls AP Score Data

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The number of high school students in St. Mary's who take advanced placement (AP) courses for college credit before they graduate has increased over the last five years, school system officials said this week.

And though the percentage of those students who take the advanced courses who get a score high enough to receive college credit has dipped slightly, the latest figures show, the overall numbers remain high.

Local board of education members seemed pleased when they heard the latest results of advanced placement testing from May at their Sept. 13 business meeting.

There were 1,847 students who took an AP test of some kind last academic year, said Heather Wysokinski, supervisor of Library Media, part of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Assessment and Accountability.

Of that number 307 earned a "5", the highest score, while 432 earned a "4."

A little over 520 earned a "3."

"Most colleges will take a '3,' depending on where you go," Wysokinski said. "I thought it [overall student performance] was excellent."

The report showed that 22.5 percent of students who took one or more AP tests scored at '3' or higher; 16.5 percent of seniors earned a passing grade or higher, while 19.8 percent of juniors earned that distinction.

Of sophomores who took an AP test, eight percent earned a passing grade or higher, the report stated.

The College Board, which administers the AP testing program, also awards students who achieve a certain distinction for achieving high marks on the test.

There were 40 students from Chopticon High School who attained some special distinction, while Great Mills High School had 90 such students.

Leonardtown High School had more than both the others combined with 159 distinguished AP scholars.

Colleen Gill, supervisor of Instructional Programs, said she was pleased with the performance but wanted to see it occur more evenly.

"I'd like to see a more even split across the board and that's a personal goal of mine," Gill said.

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



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**Shark Fest:** Jaws at the Wharf  
**SEP 22ND:**

Plein Air at the Wharf  
**SEP 23RD:**

Music Festival Concert at  
POL Winery Featuring  
Unfinished Business

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# Farmers Feeding St. Mary's for Free Saturday



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Any resident of St. Mary's County who needs fresh produce and protein, but normally might struggle to afford the necessities, can get what they need free of charge this Saturday, Sept. 16 when the group Farmers Feeding St. Mary's comes to Signature Lane in Lexington Park.

The event is going into its second year of providing fresh food and meat to the needy of the county, said board chair Dr. Linda Lymas of the partnering group Feed St. Mary's, which will be providing the free protein for the event.

"Feeding St. Mary's take every advantage of every opportunity to give food out," Lymas told The County Times. "Last year we had 700 people show up, this year our goal is to have 900."

Feed St. Mary's is joining the county government and the University of Maryland Extension Office for agriculture to sponsor the event, produce and protein will be available until supplies run out from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Protein in any form can be prohibitively expensive for the needy, Lymas said, and the Farmers Feeding St. Mary's team will continue to do it for as long as possible.

"We did it last year and we're happy to be

able to it this year... for our food insecure neighbors," Lymas said.

The past events have focused on the Lexington Park and Great Mills communities, but that doesn't mean others throughout the county in need of food should shy away of coming to the event, she said.

"It is open to the public and that's what makes it wonderful," Lymas said. "We don't turn anyone away."

The Maryland Cooperative Extension is working with farmers throughout the county to bring in the fresh produce; farmers working the land on Historic Sotterley Plantation are also donating to help the event.

The farmers on the plantation have been

growing food for their own Growing for Good program for the past 10 years, said executive director Nancy Easterling.

She said in the programs first nine years they were able to grow and distribute 150,000 pounds of food.

They continue to donate to local food pantries, she said.

"We'll bring some stuff over if there is a need," Easterling said of this Saturday's event. "We'll be there if they need us."

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# ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

## Arrest Made in Lexington Park Shooting

As a result of information obtained during the investigation into the Aug. 18 shooting of an unnamed 18-year old man in the Westbury neighborhood, Darmarion Donzell Warrick, age 18, was identified as responsible and involved in the shooting. A warrant was obtained for Warrick, as well as a search and seizure warrant for his residence.



Darmarion Warrick

On September 7, 2023, investigators with the Sheriff's Office's Criminal Investigations Division, along with the Emergency Services Team, and supporting personnel from the Patrol and Special Operations Divisions, executed the search and seizure warrant at Warrick's residence. During the search of the residence, a loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun was found among Warrick's possessions. A search of the firearm's serial number revealed the firearm had previously been reported stolen. Warrick was arrested and taken to St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center, where he was served with his arrest warrant and charged with additional firearms-related offenses.

When deputies arrived on scene nearly a month ago they located a residence and

multiple vehicles struck by gunfire. A short time later, an 18-year-old male arrived at the Lexington Park Rescue squad with a suspected graze wound from a gunshot. The individual was transported by Medevac to an area trauma center in stable condition. Detectives and Crime Lab Personnel responded to the scene and collected multiple items of evidence.

## Identity Needed for Theft Suspect

On Thursday, August 17, 2023, at approximately 9:55 AM, the subject pictured above walked out of the Big Lots on Great Mills Road in Lexington Park, failing to pay for several items.



The suspect fled in a white passenger car, possibly a Hyundai, with an unknown registration. There was a white female passenger in the vehicle, wearing a turquoise bonnet or head wrap.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspects and or this incident is asked to contact Dep. M. Schell #359 at Max.Schell@stmaryscountymd.gov or call 301-475-4200 ext. 8161. Case #43965-23

You can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or send a text to Crime Solvers at 274637.

Type "Tip239" in the message block and select SEND. After you get a response, con-

tinue your conversation.

Note: Tip239 is case sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown.

With Crime Solvers you never have to give your name. If your information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a cash reward.

## Sheriff's Office Conducts Tobacco Compliance Checks

On August 28, 2023, The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Alcohol Enforcement Unit conducted a succession of Tobacco/alcohol compliance checks within St. Mary's County. The covert compliance checks involved the use of an underage Sheriff's Office Confidential Informant hereafter referred to as CI. The CI is 18 years of age and was wearing jeans and an athletic shirt. The CI was informed to enter the store and request or retrieve a tobacco product from the business location in an effort to purchase said Tobacco.

Overall, (13) businesses were visited, of which (10) were found to be in compliance with Maryland law and required Identification from the underage CI. Consequently, three businesses failed to ask for identification and/or corroborate the CI's age. Therefore, the CI was able to purchase a tobacco product.

The following businesses successfully passed their compliance checks:

1. Fastop: 23952 Point Lookout Rd, Leonardtown, MD 20650
2. A&W Restaurant: 20815 Callaway Village Way #9, Callaway, MD 20620

3. Weis Markets: 20995 Point Lookout Rd, Callaway, MD 20620
4. 7-Eleven Store: 45955 E Run Dr, Lexington Park, MD 20653
5. Tobacco Hub: 21310 Great Mills Rd, Lexington Park, MD 20653
6. Weis Markets: 21600 Great Mills Rd, Lexington Park, MD 20653
7. St. James Deli & Spirits: 19343 Three Notch Rd., Lexington Park, MD 20653
8. Rod'N Reel: 18161 Three Notch Rd., Lexington Park, MD 20653
9. Dollar General: 13270 Point Lookout Rd, Ridge, MD 20680
10. Cloud Smoke Shop: 22811 Three Notch Rd, California, MD 20619

The following businesses failed their compliance checks:

1. Tobacco Hub: 46925B S Shangri-La Dr, Lexington Park, MD 20653
2. Cooks Liquors & Groceries: 18400 Point Lookout Rd., Park Hall, MD 20667
3. Tobacco Hut & Vape: 44920 St Andrews Church Rd B, California, MD 20619

## Legal Notice

### TOWN OF LEONARDTOWN WATER AND SEWER PLANT OPERATOR/TRAINEE

The Town of Leonardtown is accepting applications for the position of Operator/Operator Trainee. This position involves operations and maintenance work in the Town's Water and Wastewater facilities as well as the Public Works Department. A valid Maryland driver's license and flexibility to work some evenings, weekends and holidays are required. WWTP Operator 5A and Water 1 License preferred. Annual salary will start at \$38,171 and up based on experience. Excellent benefits.

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Application deadline is October 5, 2023



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# NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

## Aircrews Obtain Aerial Gunnery Qualifications Through Local Training Exercise

A unique training opportunity for H-1, H-60, H-53, and V-22 aircrew members provided a rare opportunity for aircrews to regain aerial gunnery qualifications in a cost-efficient manner. The multi-program training was completed on July 11 at the Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River firing tunnel, hosted by Air Vehicle Stores Compatibility (AVSC) H-1 Engineering Technician, Michael Hunt.

The low-cost, local exercise provided aircrew members with valuable training to maintain proficiency with the weapons they utilized in the fleet operating force. Conducting the evolution in the firing tunnel saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in flight, man, and range hours for the H-1 Light/Attack Helicopter Program Office (PMA-276) and the H-60 Multi-Mission Helicopters Program Office (PMA-299).

The training exercise provided AVSC, aeromechanics, propulsion, mission system, Naval Munitions Command (NMC), and firing tunnel branch employees with invaluable exposure, context, and appreciation for the operation of crew-served weapons in relation to the aerial gunnery mission. The

event also facilitated a safe, efficient, and mission-relatable test environment in concert with the project officers, delivering a highly technical and mission-focused test team. This opportunity was particularly valuable for a new external gun mount program planned for the H-60 aircraft.

“This training exercise proved extremely beneficial to the aircrew members and was completed at an extremely low cost to the involved program offices. Training exercises like this keep developmental test aircrew in tune with the mission sets exercised by their fleet counterparts and provide the engineers and subject matter experts hands-on experience and interaction with the systems and personnel



they support,” said Hunt.

As a result of the training exercise, the H-60, H-1, H-53, and V-22 test teams satisfied a total of 11 training and readiness codes for their aircrew. Forty-eight Air Vehicle Test and Evaluation (AVT&E)

employees were afforded the opportunity to shoot the weapons they may potentially test in the future and acquired a better understanding of real-world crew-served weapon employment and testing.



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**Boneless Chicken Tenders**

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**3.88** 4-Count Apple Fritters



**2.58** 6-Ct. Selected Toufayan Bagels



**4.48** 12-Oz., 4x4 Panera Ciabatta Rolls

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**17.99**



10-Oz. Cans 24-Pack Bud Light

**19.89**



12-Oz. Cans 18-Pack Miller Lite

**14.99**



12-Oz. Cans 18-Pack Coors Light

**14.99**



12-Oz. Bottles 12-Pack Michelob Ultra

**13.99**

1.75-L Crown Royal



**42.99**

1.75-L Captain Morgan Original Spiced Rum



**25.99**

1.75-L Jack Daniel's Whiskey



**40.99**

1.75L Tito's Vodka



**30.49**

1.75L Jim Beam



**28.99**



750-ML Ecco Domani Pino Grigio

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750-ML Boordy Wine

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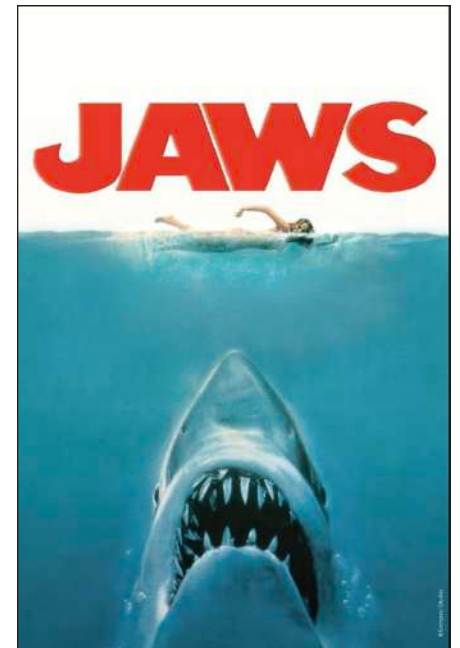
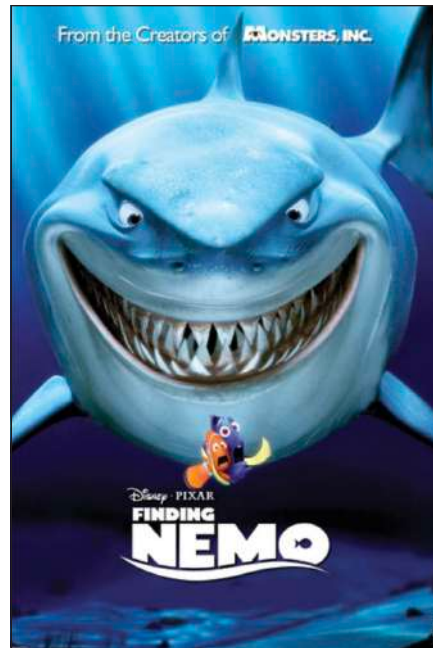
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## Leonardtwn Kicks Off 2023 Movie Festival with Sharkfest Weekend



Leonardtwn is excited to announce the launch of the Leonardtown Movie Festival with Sharkfest Weekend (Friday, September 15th – Sunday, September 17th). Enjoy the screenings of two popular Hollywood Blockbuster movies during this exciting weekend. First, join us in LTown Alley (at the Alice in Leonardtown Mural on Park Avenue across from the Good Earth) on Friday, September 15, 2023 for the screening of Finding Nemo (License #2098994), a heart-warming story about a lost fish who find his way home with the help of some colorful new friends. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy popcorn (kettle corn will be available for sale through Crabby Corn Kettle Corn) as you kick back and watch this sweet animated tale. Come early to enjoy games and art activities with Tape a Friend, Make a Friend from 7 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The movie screening is from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Then on Saturday, September 16, 2023, dare to join us for Jaws (License #2098994)

at the Wharf! Stay on land or if you're feeling brave, come by boat to watch the screening of the 1975 thriller classic directed by Steven Spielberg. Land lovers can catch FREE shuttle rides from the Leonardtown Trolley provided by Patuxent Transportation (courtesy of the Town of Leonardtown) from the Leonardtown Square down to the Wharf. The trolley is scheduled to run from 2 p.m. – 10 p.m. throughout the day. Land lovers, please bring your own lawn chair or blanket for your comfort.

In addition to this exciting movie, attendees will be able to purchase and enjoy tasty eats from the Brudergarten, award-winning wine from the Port of Leonardtown Winery, kettle corn from Crabby Corn Kettle Corn, and sweet treats from the Frog Town Ice Cream Shop.

This event is FREE and open to the public. Space is limited and available on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information visit: [visitleonardtwnmd.com/moviefest](http://visitleonardtwnmd.com/moviefest)

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# Night Flight Activities Scheduled at NAS Patuxent River



Communities surrounding Naval Air Station Patuxent River are advised that noise-generating nighttime testing events are scheduled to take place Sept. 12 through September 22, 2023. Flights will occur between 5 p.m. and midnight. Pilots at NAS Pax River will be training for realistic night flight scenarios including Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP). Night testing and training is essential for the precision and safety of military personnel and

the success of their mission. Residents may notice increased noise levels due to these operations.

As with all operations, NAS Patuxent River takes precautions to lessen the impact of testing activities on the community. For more information call 1-866-819-9028. To view all current NAS PAX noise advisories please click the following link: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/PaxRiverNoise>.

# Air Museum Donates School Supplies to Carver Elementary



On the morning of Thursday August 30, the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum donated over 1,000 school supplies to George Washington Carver Elementary School in Lexington Park. The museum began this school supply drive at the beginning of the summer as a way to give back to the community. Over the summer months, museum staff, volunteers, museum board members, visitors, and companies J.F. Taylor and Avian generously donated numerous amounts of pencils, crayons, dry erase markers, backpacks, and many other

supplies. As an incentive to donate to the supply drive, the museum entered participants into a raffle to win a swag bag from the museum's Aviation Gift Shop. Tara Strickland of Avian won the raffle.

The staff and teachers of Carver Elementary were incredibly excited to receive the immense amount of school supplies. The school plans to donate any remaining or unused items from the donation to other schools in need to continue to pay it forward.

# Registration Now Open for Community Health & Wellness Fair

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Aging & Human Services (DAHS) is excited to announce the annual Community Health & Wellness Fair, which will be held on Friday, October 13, from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland, located at 44219 Airport Road in California, MD.



This event is free and open to the public. Health screenings offered at this year's event include body composition, glucose, skin cancer, hearing, vision, and blood pressure. The Pharmacy at PJ Bean will be supplying flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. Please bring your insurance card - all insurance types are accepted!

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and St. Mary's County Health Department will be on-site to collect expired or unused medications for safe disposal, including diabetic supplies such as needles, lancets, and EpiPens.

DAHS thanks the many sponsors that support this event, including: Cedar Lane Senior Living Community, ClearCaptions, Fresenius Medical Care, Mid Atlantic Skin

Surgery Institute, Personalized Therapy, LLC, Southern Maryland Foot & Ankle, St. Mary's Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, The Pharmacy at PJ Bean, and Williams, McCleran, & Stack, LLC.

Want to skip the registration line? Pre-register online at: [stmaryscountymd.gov/healthfair](http://stmaryscountymd.gov/healthfair) Online registrants will be eligible for a special prize! Online registration closes at 12 p.m. on Thursday, October 12, 2023.

For more information, please contact Sarah Miller, Community Programs & Outreach Division Manager, at (301) 475-4200, ext. 1073, or via email to [sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov).

# Pet OF THE WEEK



## MEET PUPKIN

I'm a lovin' Pupkin cute and sweet  
Lookin for a new home so we need to meet  
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Hi, my name is Pupkin. I'm a CHARISMATIC 2-YEAR-OLD male hound mix who effortlessly combines HANDSOMENESS with a playful SENSE OF HUMOR. My STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL brown eyes and my infectious, ever-present SMILE, I'm an IRRESISTABLE canine companion seeking a loving new home!

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





# EXPLORE Leonardtown



*Leonardtown Summer Events*

Sharkfest Weekend Featuring: Finding Nemo in LTown Alley, 9/15  
Coastal Arts Market, 9/16

Sharkfest Weekend Featuring: Jaws at the Wharf, 9/16

Leonardtown Summer Music Festival Presents:  
Unfinished Business at Port of Leonardtown Winery, 9/23

The SM County Fair, 9/21-9/24, Taste of St. Mary's, 9/30

Octoberfest First Friday Weekend, 10/6-10/8  
The Octoberfest Parade, 10/7  
The Tractor Parade, 10/8

View the **LTOWN** EVENTS CALENDAR

For Event Details Visit:  
[www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/Events](http://www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/Events)



## The Old Jail Museum



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# A View From The BLEACHERS



## TIME WELL SPENT

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.  
Contributing Writer

The dog days of August deliver a recurring swoon on the sports calendar. The prior basketball and hockey seasons are trailing memories; the upcoming seasons remain months away. Baseball's playoff races are just starting to simmer. Golf's majors are done. Tennis has nothing to turn heads. Football is mostly about fantasy drafts, practice games and ridiculous predictions. To steal a phrase used to describe crappy albums, it's all filler with no killer. I actually caught myself watching a pickleball match and a Canadian Football League (CFL) game a few weeks ago. Nothing against pickleball or our pigskin hurling northern neighbors, but these were not proud moments.

Solace was found, as it often is for middle-age men, in a Taylor Swift song (epic sarcasm!). The appropriately titled "August" was the song and its soothing chorus, "But I can see us lost in the memory, August slipped away into a moment in time." It did indeed, and with it – September!

Pickleball. Canadian football. Therapeutic Taylor Swift sing-alongs. Yeah, maybe not my strongest opening to a "View." Whatever. I know this is a safe space, one without judgment. Nevertheless, with dignity evaporating, September's arrival was a welcomed tonic. And just two weeks in, September has exploded with real football, an itch for playoff baseball and an epic U.S. Open that officially marked the arrival of Coco Gauff to tennis' center stage.

Starting with football, perennial powers LSU, Clemson and Alabama already have losses. As do the defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs. Deion Sanders, a phenomenal source of fun and intrigue for college football, has backed up his bombast by leading Colorado to a 2-0 start. For Washington football fans, it's like spring has arrived, the windows in a cold, dank house have been opened and fresh air is pouring in. In baseball, the Yankees and Red Sox are "battling" for last place, the Mets stink and the Orioles appear poised for a deep October run – gimme all of that, all the time.

As for Gauff, what's to say? She was brilliant in winning the U.S. Open and in realizing the promise she has flashed; Gauff now sits on the throne of women's tennis.

What if it was suggested that these on-field/on-court accomplishments paled in comparison to the clarity, hope and power of what has happened off the fields of play? Remove the question: that is the suggestion.

First and last: what I'm about to say does not diminish the athletic accomplishment of team or individual. Scoreboards produce joy and anguish, they challenge, validate and build legacies. But in the end, the scoreboard is just the result of a completed competition; it is merely an aspect of sports and, arguably, a supporting storyline to a more significant narrative.

Hear me out.

What precedes the kickoff of every NFL game? The national anthem: a few moments to pause, breath and reflect on our nation's history, the state of our fragile democracy, our shared cause, threats to our freedom and the amazing place Americans call home. After games, players can be seen shaking hands, embracing, maybe even trading jerseys – all acknowledgements of a shared grind and an appreciation for the opportunity and elite competition.

As for Gauff, the incredibly simplistic reaction would be to laud her as the latest tennis phenom to validate the hype with a major championship victory. That conclusion would neglect the more profound: poise and maturity far beyond her 19 years, the inspiration she attributes to trailblazers Serena and Venus Williams, and the instant-influence she has on young girls nationwide, be they tennis players or not.

This all to suggest that when consuming sports, keep one eye on the scoreboard and another on the magic that happens on the periphery of the competition itself. After the joy of wins and the pain from losses fades, how sports bind, how they inspire, how they remind us of our shared human experience – this is the stuff that fascinates, that educates and informs, that makes us fans for life. And, I'd argue, it's why watching a pickleball match or a CFL game on a sleepy August night is time well spent.

Send comments to [RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com](mailto:RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com)

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# WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

# 2023 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	SCORE
<b>SEPT. 10</b>	<b>ARIZONA CARDINALS</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>W 20-16</b>
SEPT. 17	@ DENVER BRONCOS	4:25 PM	
<b>SEPT. 24</b>	<b>BUFFALO BILLS</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	
OCT. 1	@ PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	1:00 PM	
<b>OCT. 5</b>	<b>CHICAGO BEARS</b>	<b>8:15 PM</b>	
OCT. 15	@ ATLANTA FALCONS	1:00 PM	
OCT. 22	@ NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00 PM	
<b>OCT. 29</b>	<b>PHILADELPHIA EAGLES</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	
NOV. 5	@ NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	1:00 PM	
NOV. 12	@ SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	4:25 PM	
<b>NOV. 19</b>	<b>NEW YORK GIANTS</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	
NOV. 23	@ DALLAS COWBOYS	4:30 PM	
<b>DEC. 3</b>	<b>MIAMI DOLPHINS</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	
DEC. 17	@ LOS ANGELES RAMS	4:05 PM	
DEC. 24	@ NEW YORK JETS	1:00 PM	
<b>DEC. 31</b>	<b>SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	
<b>TBD</b>	<b>DALLAS COWBOYS</b>	<b>TBD*</b>	

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

# In Remembrance

## Sharon Teachout, 82



Sharon Lee Teachout, 82 of Leonardtown, MD passed away peacefully the morning of August 15, 2023, with loved ones by her side.

Sharon was born July 29, 1941, in Lowell, MA to the late John L. and Priscilla M. (Douglass) Martin. Sharon is predeceased by two brothers, John L. Martin 2009 and Daniel R. Martin 2002 and her great-granddaughter, Kayla R. Homsher 2013.

Sharon grew up in Massachusetts and graduated from Lowell High School in 1959. She was a fun and loving mother and a supportive military wife. She had a wonderful sense of humor and loved sharing laughs and playing games with her children, grandchildren, and friends. Alongside her husband Richard she moved many times before settling into life on their farm in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Sharon enjoyed watching and interacting with their horses and outdoor cats, but throughout her life her favorite pets were her canine companions, whether her "Magic Moments" AKC show and obedience champions or her many rescues.

Sharon had various talents and interests and touched numerous lives due to her per-

sonality, love of words, antiques, drinking tea, sewing, crafts and raising dogs. She owned The Upper Notch and Timeless Treasures antique shops and retired from the antique business on her 70th Birthday. She then spent her time designing and selling beaded jewelry, visiting friends and family, sewing, reading, plus creating whimsical greeting cards. She enjoyed sending her handmade cards and thoughtful care packages to family and friends.

Sharon is survived by her husband of 54 years, Richard M. Teachout; her six children, Shelley A. Bashaw (David) of Norton, MA, David L. Silva of Worcester, MA, Mark S. Silva (Christina) of Lucerne Valley, CA, Tracy A. Richardson of Lexington Park, MD, Jolie A. Homsher and Carrie A. Teachout of Great Mills, MD; brother Scott L. Martin of San Diego, CA; seven grandchildren, Christopher Homsher, Sarah Homsher, Zachary Bashaw, A.J. Bashaw, Stephen Silva, Tony Igo (Emmy), Brandon Igo and one great-grandson, Alexander Homsher.

At a later date, Sharon will be laid to rest with her grandmother Carrie P. Douglass, grandfather, and mother in the family plot at the Edson Cemetery in Lowell, MA and a private celebration of remembrance will be held at the Angel Oak tree in Johns Island, SC. Memorial Contributions may be made in Sharon's memory to the Angel Oak Preserve- <https://give.lowcountrylandtrust.org/fundraiser/4877665>.

Please leave Condolences at [www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com).

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## Wayne Alvey, 71



Kenneth Wayne Alvey, Sr., "Wayne", 71, of Hollywood, MD, passed away on September 3, 2023 in Leonardtown, MD with his wife and children by his side. Born on September

19, 1951 in Leonardtown, MD, he was the son of the late Mary Gertrude Tippet and the late Leonard Bartholomew Alvey. Wayne was the loving husband of Gloria Jean Cusic, whom he married on January 20, 1978 in Leonardtown, MD. He is survived by his children Cheryl Henderson (Jason) of Appomattox, VA, Dana Reynolds (Zachary) of Hollywood, MD, and Kenneth Alvey, Jr. of Hollywood, MD, his siblings Larry Alvey (Linda) of Mechanicsville, MD and Linda Summers (Chuck) of LaPlata, MD, as well as his grandchildren Brandon, Cameron, Dylan, Garrett, Kylee, Brooke, and Cate. Wayne was preceded in death by his siblings Jimmy Alvey, Johnny Alvey, Lee Alvey, Bobby Alvey, Hazel Summers, Irene Strickland, Bessie Proffitt, and Helen Stoneman.

Wayne was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduated from Chopticon High School in 1969. He worked in counter sales and was a manager for Brandywine Auto Parts for 40 years, retiring in February 2019. Wayne served in the United States Army, during which time he was deployed to Camp Stanley, South Korea. He enjoyed crabbing, cutting grass, wineries, going to thrift store, poker games, Young and the Restless, classic cars, and, most importantly, spending time with family and friends.

The family will receive friends on Monday, September 18, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 10:00 AM in the funeral home chapel with Father Ray Schmidt officiating. Interment will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM at Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery, Helen, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Brandon Henderson, Cameron Henderson, Dylan Henderson, and Garrett Reynolds. Honorary pallbearers will be Michael Dufour and David Meinhardt.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made toward the funeral expenses.

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

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

*In Memory of*  
**Mary Catherine Kane**  
Sept. 18, 1924 – Nov. 22, 2019

On September 18th would have been your birthday. On this day we will remember your smile and enjoying your day with us all. But for us now is the tears we wipe away and remembering all the joy and love you gave us.

Happy Birthday Mama,  
Ellen & Larry

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Honor the memory of your cherished one by sharing the story of their life with friends, neighbors and associates here in the community.

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

**REMEMBRANCES**  
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# St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

## Programs and Activities

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

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

### Farmers Feeding St. Mary's

From local farmers to your plate! The second annual Farmers Feeding St. Mary's program will offer farm fresh produce free to the community. The last food distribution even of this year will be on:

Saturday, September 16, 2023  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

U-Haul Moving & Storage parking lot  
46041 Signature Lane, Lexington Park

A variety of fresh produce, such as corn, tomatoes, squash, and more will be available at each event! In addition to produce, frozen meat will be available at the September 16 event.

Family units will be limited to one box of produce per event. **Food distribution will continue until indicated event end time or until produce runs out.**

For more information, please call 301-475-4200, ext. 1050, or visit [stmaryscounty.md.gov/aging](http://stmaryscounty.md.gov/aging).

### Cornhole Competition

Who doesn't love a good round of cornhole? Compete in this casual & fun competition at Northern Senior Activity Center on Monday, Sept. 18, from 1-3:30 p.m. Show off your skills or try it out for the first time. Keep in mind that this game requires good dexterity, throwing, and hand-eye coordi-

nation. The 1st and 2nd place winners of the tournament will receive a prize. This event will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Register and pay the \$2 fee by visiting [www.stmaryscounty.md.gov/aging](http://www.stmaryscounty.md.gov/aging) and click "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs." If assistance is needed, leave a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

### Bavarian Bazaar: Craft & Vendor Sale – Open to Public

Happy Oktoberfest! Get ready to shop. This Bavarian-themed indoor bazaar at Northern Senior Activity Center on Wednesday, Sept. 20, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. will feature local vendors selling handmade craft items & other goods. Enjoy festive decorations & music as you browse and buy. This is a perfect opportunity for early holiday shopping. The bazaar is open to the public. Please invite your friends and family! No registration needed to attend.

### Make & Take Project with Jamie

Jamie Naluai will offer a Make & Take workshop at the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Tuesday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The \$25 fee includes all materials required, and you will go home with a colorful Autumn-inspired acrylic painting on wood. Advance registration and payment required. Go to [www.stmaryscounty.md.gov/aging](http://www.stmaryscounty.md.gov/aging) to register.

### Book Club

During the month of September, the Loffler Book Club will be reading *Starry Messenger* by Neil deGrasse Tyson. Come to the Loffler Senior Activity Center on Friday, Oct. 6, at 2 p.m. to discuss. The Lexington Park Branch Library has been very helpful by holding several copies of the books for us. Contact Sheila.Graziano@stmaryscounty.md.gov to learn more about joining this casual group.

### Trip to the Waterford Fair

Shop, play and tour at the annual Waterford Fair- the mid-Atlantic's quintessential fall festival! Enjoy demonstrations by contemporary and traditional craft artisans, living historians, a juried art show, historic property tours, talks & workshops at the Waterford Craft School, plus entertainment for all ages. All this for only \$90! Bus departs Loffler Senior Activity Center on Sunday, Oct. 8, at 8:30 a.m.; Returns approximately 7 p.m.

Cost of this trip includes luxury motorcoach transportation, tickets to the event, snack and water on the bus, plus all taxes and gratuities. Meals consumed at the fair are on your own. Register online beginning at 8 a.m. on August 20, at [www.stmarysmd.com/aging](http://www.stmarysmd.com/aging). 50 seats available. For questions contact Sheila.Graziano@stmaryscounty.md.gov.

### Community Health & Wellness Fair

It's that time of year again! The 2023 Community Health & Wellness Fair, hosted by the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services, will be held on Friday, Oct. 13, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., in the University of Maryland - Southern Maryland, located at 44219 Airport Road in California, MD.

This year's screenings will include body composition, glucose, skin cancer, hearing, vision, and blood pressure. Pharmacy at PJ Bean will be supplying flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. Bring your insurance card - all insurance agencies are accepted!

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and St. Mary's County Health Department will be on-site to collect medications, including diabetic supplies such as needles, lancets, and EpiPens.

Do you want to skip the registration line? Register online at [www.stmaryscounty.md.gov/aging/healthfair/](http://www.stmaryscounty.md.gov/aging/healthfair/)! Online registrants will be eligible for a special prize! Online registration closes at 12 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Sarah Miller, Community Programs & Outreach Division Manager, at 301-475-4200, ext. 1073, or email [sarah.miller@stmaryscounty.md.gov](mailto:sarah.miller@stmaryscounty.md.gov).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Before Erie: Maryland's Susquehanna River Canals

During this virtual presentation, Dr. James Gibb will use an archaeological lens to discuss Maryland's Octoraro Canal on Monday, September 25 from 7 - 8 p.m. England's craze for canals spread to the Americas, prompting schemes by many of the new country's leaders, including George Washington. While the Erie Canal, built between 1817 and 1825, and the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal (1828) are the best known of the early canals, Maryland's Octoraro Canal, completed in 1803,

precedes both by a generation. This illustrated presentation describes the results of excavations of two of its locks and surrounding commercial sites. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org) with an email address to receive the Zoom link the day before the event.

### Silent Movie Watch Party

In honor of National Silent Movie Day (September 29th), we will be watching the original Hunchback of Notre Dame (1923) starring, the man of a thousand faces, Lon Chaney. Join us at Leonardtown Library

on Thursday, September 28 from 6 - 7:45 p.m. Snacks and drinks are permitted in the Meeting Room. Popcorn will also be provided. No registration required.

### One Maryland One Book: There There

Join us Monday, October 2 from 6 - 7 p.m. for a thoughtful virtual discussion of the 2023 One Maryland One Book Selection, "There There" by Tommy Orange. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org) with an email address to receive the Zoom link the day before the event.

### Intro to Google OS

This lecture will cover all that Google OS has to offer and will be especially beneficial if you are new to using a Chromebook or are interested in getting one. Lexington Park Library on Thursday, October 5 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. A Chromebook is not required, but if you would like to bring yours, please do! Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Fri, Sept 15

### WAG: Working Adults Group!

Patuxent Presbyterian Church  
23421 Kingston Creek Rd., California  
7p.m. to 8:30p.m.

September WAG (Working Adults Group)! Join us Friday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Joshua House (behind the church) and please bring a fall snack to share.

### Celtic Music Concert—Jocelyn Pettit and Ellen Gira

Christ Church Parish Hall  
37497 Zack Fowler Rd., Chaptico  
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

From Canada and the US, Jocelyn Pettit & Ellen Gira are a dynamic fiddle & cello duo. First meeting in Scotland in 2018, they joined their musical forces, and have since been gracing stages and captivating audiences in both North America and the UK. Fusing together traditional and contemporary influences, Jocelyn & Ellen create powerfully uplifting and soulful music. Their instruments weave a rhythmically driving and textured sound, with nuanced fiddle-cello interplay through delicate and fortissimo arrangements. They bring life and fire into their original melodies, and

high-energy tunes from Scotland, Ireland, North America, and Scandinavia -complemented by richly interwoven vocal harmonies, and lively Canadian stepdancing.

Performance highlights include Celtic Connections (Scotland), Niel Gow Festival (Scotland), Edinburgh Castle (Scotland), Northwest Folklife Festival (USA), and Folk Alliance International (USA). They have also performed for HRH King Charles, and been featured in live broadcasts on BBC Radio 3. Their debut album, "All It Brings", was released in Summer 2022.

\$15 SMTMD members; \$20 Non-members

Advance sales through TicketLeap—cash or check at the door

Go to [www.smtmd.org/](http://www.smtmd.org/) for online advance ticket sales and venue information.

## Sat, Sept 16

### Summerseat Farm's Annual Yard Sale

Summerseat Farm  
26655 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Summerseat's annual yard sale is this Saturday! 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, or dish-ware? 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 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is run by a dedicated group of volunteers.

### RetroFest on the Potomac

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum  
44720 Lighthouse Rd., Piney Point  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Enjoy live music, great food, beer truck, ice cream, vintage displays, variety of family activities & crafts, lots of "retro" activities and demos throughout the day and much more vintage fun at RetroFest on the Potomac. Admission is free for all.

INFO: [www.facebook.com/events/842540050370715/](https://www.facebook.com/events/842540050370715/)

## Sun, Sept 17

### East Coast Drifters Fall Classic Car Show

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge  
27636 Mechanicsville Rd., Mechanicsville  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All years Cars, Trucks & Motorcycles are welcome. Top 70 and several other awards. First 100 receive dash plaques. Pre-registration \$15 by Sept. 4. \$20 at gate. Spectators \$5 (under 12 free) Registration cut-off Noon. For more info call: Chuck 301-751-5602 or Rich 240-538-4266 east-coastdrifters.com (rain date Sept. 24)

### 2023 Revival

First Missionary Baptist Church  
46370 Pegg Ln., Lexington Park  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

It's time for Revival! First Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Roderick W. McClanahan, will host its 2023 Revival on September 17, 2023, during our 10:00 am Divine Worship Service, and on September 18 -19, 2023 at 7:00pm nightly. Our Guest Preacher will be Evangelist Manuel Scott, Jr, Manuel Scott, Jr. Ministries Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

The Revival will be held both In-House and Virtually. The virtual phone number is 617-691-8533 or virtual meeting ID: join.freeconferencecall.com/fmbc0. Masks are optional, temperatures will be taken upon entry, and hand sanitizer will be available.

For additional information please contact First Missionary Baptist Church at 301-863-8388.

# 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](http://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging)



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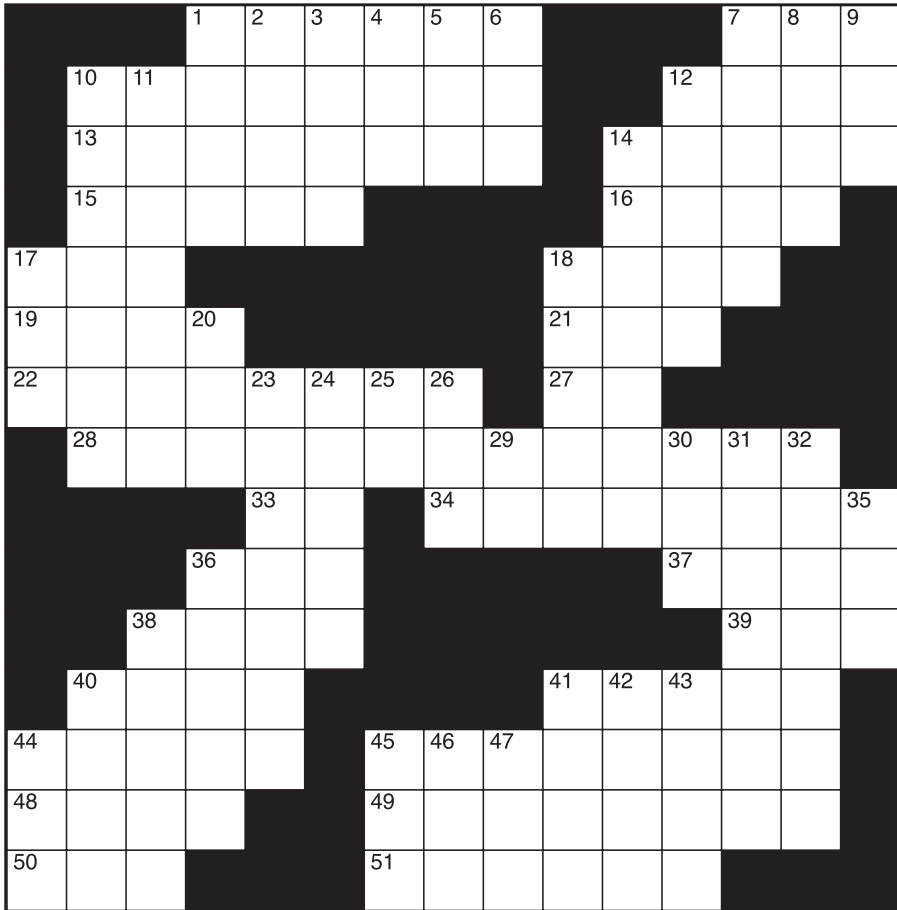
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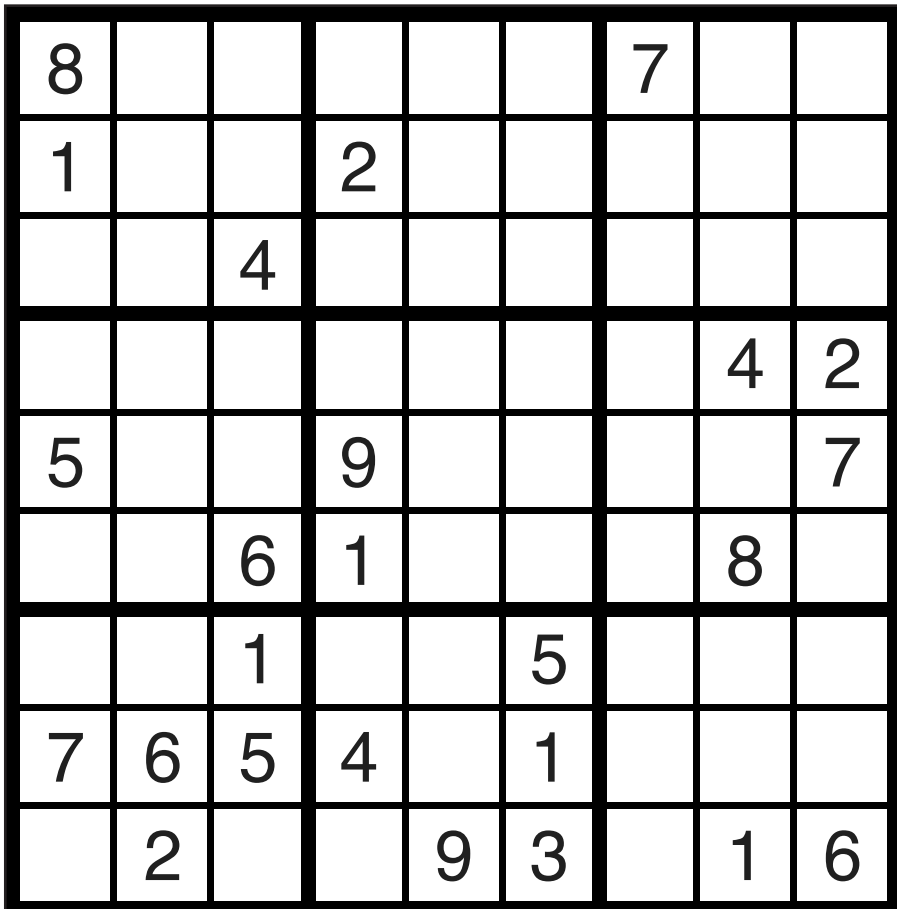


**CLUES ACROSS**

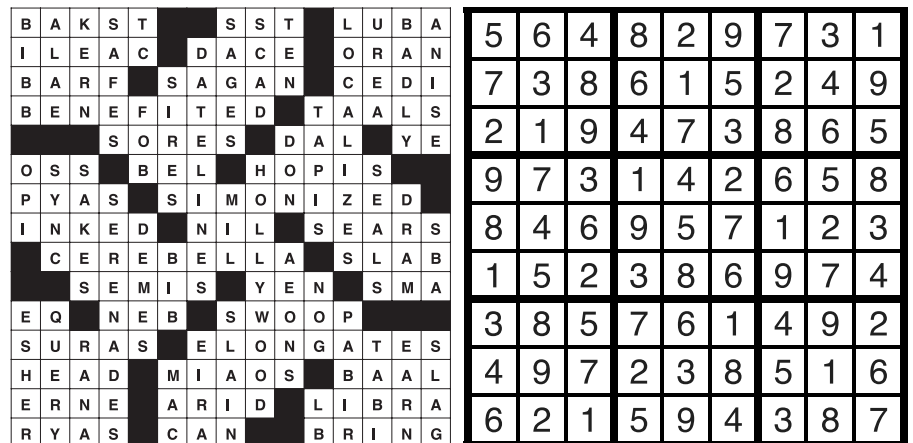
- 1. Type of crayon
- 7. Fashion accessory
- 10. Most cerebral
- 12. Incline from vertical
- 13. Dependent on
- 14. Broken in
- 15. Strongly desires
- 16. Mounted soldier
- 17. Ad \_\_: when necessary
- 18. Cattle
- 19. Ottoman military commanders
- 21. \_\_ student, learns healing
- 22. Composed in poetic meter
- 27. Promotional material
- 28. Where people live
- 33. Sodium
- 34. Embarrassing
- 36. Medical man
- 37. Mother of Hermes
- 38. One who saves the day
- 39. Tooth caregiver
- 40. Not clothed
- 41. Slope covered with loose stones
- 44. Used to cook
- 45. Praises enthusiastically
- 48. Rooney is a famous one
- 49. Beekeeper
- 50. Pigpen
- 51. Potato chip brand

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Living quarters
- 2. Horizontal passage
- 3. Attacks
- 4. Vietnamese offensive
- 5. Midway between east and southeast
- 6. Confined (abbr.)
- 7. Book of Esther antagonist
- 8. Port in Yemen
- 9. CNN's founder
- 10. Type of bulb
- 11. Prepare
- 12. Promoted
- 14. Dinner jackets
- 17. Partner to cheese
- 18. Nebraska city
- 20. Human gene
- 23. Pays no attention to
- 24. Lowland South American plain
- 25. Blood group
- 26. Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano
- 29. Atomic #37
- 30. Unit of electrical resistance
- 31. Jeweled crowns
- 32. Nastiest
- 35. Traditional cars need it
- 36. Bowler hat
- 38. Robust
- 40. Not straight
- 41. Stony waste matter
- 42. Have an interest in
- 43. Jacob \_\_, journalist
- 44. Maintains possession of
- 45. Swiss river
- 46. Average cost of market goods
- 47. Spanish soldier: El \_\_



**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS**



# Calvert Community Calendar

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

## Thu, Sept 14

### Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
And online via ZOOM  
6:30-8 p.m.

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

## Sat, Sept 16

### Artsfest '23 Fine Arts Festival

Annemarie Arts Center and  
Sculpture Garden  
Solomons  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Set amidst the spectacular backdrop of the 30-acre sculpture garden, Artsfest is truly a unique arts experience! Enjoy more than 125 artist booths, 35 performers on four stages, activities for kids in the Discovery Tent, Studio School, and the Zany Zone, along with great food, wine & beer, and much more! Street performers, including bubble artists and musicians, will be found throughout the festival! It's a fabulous weekend of visual and performing arts set amidst the beautiful Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center. Rain or shine event, no pets, no smoking. Advance tickets \$10 online, (\$12 at the gate, if not sold out); kids 11 & under free; members free. Reduced price admission tickets available for SNAP card holders. Rain or shine, no pets, no smoking. Details: [www.annmariegarden.org](http://www.annmariegarden.org)

### Pirate Day

Calvert Marine Museum,  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Ahoy Scallywags! Throw on your best pirate outfit and head to the museum for some jolly good fun. Make a pirate craft, build a toy pirate boat, get a pirate tat-

too, and walk the plank! Sing pirate songs at 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. Activities included with museum admission, with a suggested donation of \$2 per toy boat.

### Community Yard Sale

Throughout Drum Point  
8am-noon.

The Drum Point neighborhood in Lusby will be having a community wide yard sale. Many families throughout Drum Point will be participating. Maps will be available the day of the yard sale. For more information, contact Chris at [yardsalequeen@hotmail.com](mailto:yardsalequeen@hotmail.com)

### Free Tire Recycling

Appeal Landfill  
401 Sweetwater Road, Lusby  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, will host free tire recycling events for Calvert County residents.

All tires must be less than 5 feet in diameter, including rims, and clear of water and dirt. Up to 10 tires per vehicle will be permitted and residents are limited to one trip. Farm tires will not be accepted and no commercial vehicles will be allowed at this event. Proof of residency is required.

### Annual Free Health Fair

Middleham and St. Peter's  
Episcopal Church  
10210 HG Trueman Rd., Lusby  
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Info on diabetes, sleep apnea, strokes, colon cancer, smoking cessation etc. Vaccines, Vision and Hearing screenings for both adults and children & much more.

### Texas Hold'Em

St. Leonard Volunteer Fire Department  
6 p.m.

\$85 buy-in for \$20k in chips. Rounds are

20 minutes each. Doors open at 5 pm.

BYOB, food and sodas will be available for purchase.

See [www.slvfd.org](http://www.slvfd.org) or Facebook group [www.facebook.com/groups/500115481937635/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/500115481937635/) for more info.

## Sun, Sept 17

### Artsfest '23 Fine Arts Festival

Annemarie Arts Center and  
Sculpture Garden  
Solomons  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Set amidst the spectacular backdrop of the 30-acre sculpture garden, Artsfest is truly a unique arts experience! Enjoy more than 125 artist booths, 35 performers on four stages, activities for kids in the Discovery Tent, Studio School, and the Zany Zone, along with great food, wine & beer, and much more! Street performers, including bubble artists and musicians, will be found throughout the festival! It's a fabulous weekend of visual and performing arts set amidst the beautiful Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center. Rain or shine event, no pets, no smoking. Advance tickets \$10 online, (\$12 at the gate, if not sold out); kids 11 & under free; members free. Reduced price admission tickets available for SNAP card holders. Rain or shine, no pets, no smoking. Details: [www.annmariegarden.org](http://www.annmariegarden.org)

### Fossil Club Meeting & Free Public Lecture

Calvert Marine Museum  
1:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

The CMM Fossil Club meeting is at 1:30 p.m., followed by a free public lecture at 2:30 p.m., both in the Harms Gallery at the Calvert Marine Museum. Dr. Vince Santucci, National Park Service Senior Paleontologist, will detail his favorite fossil localities in the National Parks and talk about the stunning discovery of human footprints in the White Sands National Park in New Mexico that are about 23,000 years old.

## Tue, Sept. 19

### Books & Toys

Calvert Library Zoom  
8-9 p.m.

Join us this month for a discussion of "There There" by Tommy Orange. The whole state is being asked to read and discuss this book as the One Maryland One Book initiative. A wondrous and shattering award-winning novel that follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Wed, Sept 20

### Grooving and Moving

Calvert Library Southern Branch  
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons  
10-10:30 a.m.

Fans of Storytime will enjoy dancing, singing, and playing as they learn about music. For ages birth-5. Join us for Grooving and Moving Mornings where we will use music and movement to start the day! This program features opportunities for children to explore music elements such as rhythm, tempo, and dynamics. Registration is requested. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Thu, Sept 21

### Little Minnows: Rockin' Reptiles

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

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

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

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



# County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636



# County Seeks Grant for Free Computers

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners has applied for a more than half-million-dollar grant to provide free computers to 2,500 eligible county residents.

Office of Community Services Grants Management Program Specialist Danielle Russe explained to the BOCC at their Sept. 12 meeting: "The State of Maryland has appropriated \$30 million for the Department of Housing and Community Development to support the Office of Statewide Broadband (OSB) in its efforts to assist in digital equity and inclusion efforts in Maryland. As part of Maryland's plan to address the digital divide, the OSB has introduced the Maryland Connected Devices Program (CDP)."

Russe went on to explain: "The CDP provides grants of internet-enabled devices to counties and municipal governments to distribute to their eligible households. Eligible households are identified as a household with an income at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, households enrolled in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and/or households participating in certain government assistance programs. The period of performance for the program is six months upon receipt of devices and qualifying households may receive only one device per address."

She said, "Devices are valued at \$198.75 and a stipend of \$6 per device is available to the grantee to assist with the cost of distribution. During round one of the CDP application requests, 91,300 devices were awarded. Round two of the application requests will

award the remaining allotment of devices."

Russe said, "Calvert County government staff have coordinated and identified Calvert Library as a distribution partner and intend to apply for 2,500 devices. If awarded, the grant will provide up to the requested \$511,875 in devices (\$496,875 value) and stipends (\$15,000). There is no required match for this award."

She said working with human service agencies the county can identify persons eligible for the program, so she doesn't expect any extensive outreach program. It is expected the distribution through the libraries will be early next year.

The devices to be distributed are Chromebooks. They were purchased by the state using federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies.

Calvert did not get any computers in the first round of funding, but Charles and St. Mary's did. Russe said, "They did offer some devices to Calvert County residents since we did not get them in the first round. So, we want to make sure that if somebody comes over from St. Mary's or Charles, we can reciprocate that."

"We did miss the deadline for the first round," she admitted.

About 4,000 people in Calvert are eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and about 600 fall under federal poverty guidelines, so they expect the number of persons interested in computers may fall somewhere between those two numbers, Russe said.

*dickmyers@countytimes.net*

# Public Forums Scheduled on Private Toll Bridge Idea

As follow-up to United Bridge Partners' presentation before the Commissioners of Calvert County on June 27, where it demonstrated its track record of previously deploying over \$900 million across five states, and rebuilding, and operating six bridges in need that were perpetually unfunded, and how it could deliver a similar solution for the Thomas Johnson Bridge, the company is hosting public forums to hear directly from the community.

The company is hosting four meetings in the county where it will present, provide two-minute timeslots for direct public comment and questions, and offer a survey. The meetings in the county, covering each district, will result in a report to be presented to the County Commission.

The meetings will take place from 7-8pm at the following times and locations:

- Monday, September 18  
Southern Community Center  
20 Appeal Ln, Lusby, MD 20657
- Tuesday, September 19

Harriet E. Brown Community Center  
901 Dares Beach Rd,  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

- Thursday, September 21  
Northeast Community Center  
4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave,  
Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732
- Wednesday, September 27  
Southern Community Center  
20 Appeal Ln, Lusby, MD 20657

United Bridge Partners funds, designs, builds, owns, and operates private toll bridges across the United States. Its mission is to creatively deliver and operate transportation infrastructure for America's Communities. UBP is responsible for all long-term operations and maintenance, customer service, and tolling back office activities and integrates into the community by creating economic opportunities, opening a permanent local office and actively participating in local events – [www.unitedbridgepartners.com](http://www.unitedbridgepartners.com).

*Press Release from United Bridge Partners*

## Correction

The Calvert County Times incorrectly reported in our Sept. 7 issue that Pat Buehler was one of the county commissioners on Sept. 11, 2001. Buehler resigned from the Board of County Commissioners in June of 2000. Governor Parris Glendening appointed Bobby Swann to replace Commissioner Buehler that same month. Swann was thus one of the five commissioners on 9/11.

## 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 Pass-code (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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# Broadband Rollout Completion Delayed

## Problem: Securing Easements

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Calvert County's goal of becoming the first county in the state with 100 percent broadband access to whoever wants it is lagging somewhat because of problems securing right-of-way easements. Two hundred homes are affected, Special Projects Program Manager Ashley Staples-Reid told the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at a Sept. 12 briefing.

The original cost estimate for the effort was less than \$4 million and the county was committed to covering that cost. But now the project cost has ballooned to more than \$6 million, but the major difference is that state and federal grants have been secured to cover most of the cost.

Commissioner President Buddy Hance explained, "The board voted to extend cable service to every household in Calvert County. At that time, we had no assistance from outside revenue sources. We took that on, because COVID had just started and we identified a serious need, people trying to work from home, children trying to do their schoolwork on the internet. And we were getting numerous calls from parents sitting in fast food restaurant parking lots to get Wi-Fi so their children could do their schoolwork."

Staples-Reid said, "In August 2021, the BOCC temporality removed the customer contribution requirement between the customer and Comcast to any residence in Calvert County beyond the 300-foot requirement, outlined by the 2018 Comcast Franchise Agreement. Staff has since worked with Comcast to determine the homes that are in need of connection in an effort to achieve the BOCC's buildout initiative."

The buildout has been done in three phases since then. The first two phases were completed in the fall of 2022. In those two phases, 325 homes across the county were served.

The county put out a final call for anyone interested in getting the free connection, with a deadline of June 30.

Construction on Phase 3 began this spring,

with 409 homes/properties identified to connect. As of now, 98 have been completed, with 13.9 miles of infrastructure, 13.6 miles underground and 30 miles overhead.

Yet Staples-Reid reported over 200 properties have been identified as needing easement(s) in order to complete the build out, "causing major setbacks in predicted timelines," she said.

Completion by the original estimate of the end of this year thus appears to be in doubt.

She said, "It's really because citizens are completely just denying easements and we can't control that. We are trying to do outreach, we are educating, we are doing site visits, myself included with Comcast doing site visits to kind of remedy any questions that homeowners may have. But that is going to be a hurdle and that is going to bar some citizens from being able to receive connection if ultimately we do not get easements."

Meanwhile, she said, "Staff has identified additional unserved homes that can be integrated into current Phase III design work at variable additional expenses."

Hance questioned extending the deadline, but Staples-Reid insisted that these would not be new projects but only extensions of existing projects. For instance, if someone along a line being constructed who had not signed up for whatever reason decides to do so, they could be added to that existing project, she said.

The BOCC after discussion did give the county administrator's office flexibility to add homes to the schedule.

Staples-Reid said they still had monies for more homes, but some of the extensions are costly. For instance, she said, "A certain bill that they're doing this week that was quoted at \$80,000 10 years ago, and now we're talking about \$120, \$130, sometimes \$140,000 depending on how often they have to cut across the driveway. And it's to connect four homes."

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

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# Bill Proposed on Zoning Ethics

## One of 10 to Go to Legislators

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

A bill is being prepared for the next session of the Maryland General Assembly that is aimed at averting situations similar to what happened when former commissioner Kelly McConkey voted on zoning changes for properties he owns in Huntingtown. The bill is being drafted by Del. Mark Fisher (R: 27C) at the behest of Calvert Citizens United (CCU), the group that attempted to get the zoning ordinance update overturned due to McConkey's actions. That effort failed in Maryland Supreme Court.

Myra Gowans, president of CCU, explained to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (IBOCC) at their Sept. 12 meeting that the court's opinion was based on decisions in two historic cases known as Sugarloaf and Kenwood.

She said, "The seven Supremes said that they cannot overturn state law. There's no way that they can do it. They're not able to do it. They are limited in that manner."

Gowans said, "I believe we need to seriously look at these cases because these two case laws are inefficient and deficient when it comes to the code of ethics. So, this is what the Supreme's said to us in a 29-page ruling. They said, unfortunately, we cannot help you because of the law, but this needs to be done legislatively. And that was them telling our group that you need to work on

this because it does need to be changed."

She added, "Sugarloaf and Kenwood state that you can vote your own property in or vote even if you have a conflict of interest, don't worry about it. The ethics code does not apply in zoning. That's the nuttiest thing I've ever heard."

The CCU proposal is one of 10 bills that will be submitted to the county delegation at a meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Community Center, 901 Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick. The BOCC voted to support the four proposals that came from county staff. The other six, including the one from Gowans, were submitted by citizens and will in turn be handed over to the legislators for consideration without comment from the commissioners.

The four bills supported by the BOCC are:

### Request 1 – Local Preference

County Attorney John Norris said, "The county commissioners are again requesting authority to hold hearings and receive input from the public on the creation of a Local Preference when awarding bids. Local Preference occurs when a local firm is favored in a procurement over non-local firms for reasons unrelated to the procurement itself, typically to support the local economy.

"Submitted last Session, but not voted out of committee, this initiative was supported by: Board of County Commissioners; Calvert County Chamber of Commerce;

Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce; Calvert County Branch 7011 of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Calvert County Minority Business Alliance; Circle of Angels Initiative; State's Attorney Robert Harvey; and many others"

### Request 2 – Panhandling

Norris said, "By existing law, a person may not stand in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations of any kind from the occupant of a vehicle in Allegany County and Cecil County. An exception is made for representatives of a qualified organization. "Qualified organization" means a fire company or bona fide religious, fraternal, civic, war veterans', or charitable organization.

"In the interest of public safety, the county commissioners seek legislation authorizing the county to regulate the solicitation of money within public rights-of-way by adding Calvert to the existing law within the Transportation Article applicable in Allegany and Cecil counties."

### Request 3 – Raising the Formal Bid Limit

Norris said, "Current Public Local Law applicable in Calvert County requires that contracts equal or exceeding \$30,000 follow formal bidding procedures.

"Technology Services has requested that the formal bid limit be raised to \$50,000

and, thereafter, be adjusted annually by change in the Consumer Price Index without further State legislation.

"In support, the department cites the increased cost of all goods in the US economy, noting specifically that the software price inflation has been pegged at 24 percent. For background, this request was also made in 2018. At that time, the State approved an increase from \$15,000 to \$30,000 but rejected the requested \$50,000 threshold."

### Request 4 – Gaming Revenue for Parks

Norris said, "The state imposes an Admissions and Amusement Tax on certain forms of gaming. Anne Arundel County currently receives 2 percent more of the state tax collected in their jurisdiction than Calvert County receives.

"The Department of Parks and Recreation is requesting an amendment to Gaming Revenue provisions such that the State Admissions and Amusement Tax collected, and the percent distributed to Calvert County be the same as Anne Arundel. The requested change would generate approximately \$500,000 in additional revenue each year to support county parks and enhance recreational opportunities.

This request has been made several years in a row but has not made it out of the Committee."

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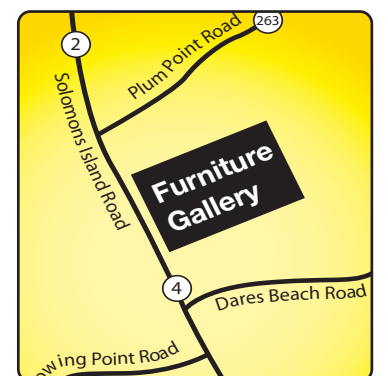
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# Ground Broken for New County Building

## Approval Given to Purchase a Second Building



Artist's renderings of the new county administration building

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Sept. 12 for the new county administration building on Main Street in Prince Frederick. And several hours earlier at their regular meeting, the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) voted to exercise the option to buy an existing office building just a few doors down from that.

The existing building at 110 Main Street had a purchase price of \$2,050,000, with a deposit of \$100,000 tendered at the time of signing the option agreement. Monies for the purchase will come from the county's fund balance, according to Department of Public Works Deputy Director Thomas Jones.

The decision to buy the property came after a public hearing at which no one spoke.

Before the decision, Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "We were approached by the owners of this property that they wanted to sell the property. We use a state approved process where we do appraisals and while some may say, where you are getting ready to build a new county administration building, why are you buying more office space? That county office building was built based on the funds that came into play and while it is going to hold the majority of our county services, it will not hold 100 percent of our county services. And we saw this as an opportunity

to acquire office space at what we considered a reasonable cost to fulfill our needs of those surplus places that we still would need after we build this new building.

"So, we looked at the property, it was deemed appropriate and adequate and in good shape and came to agreement with the owners."

The new county administration building's completed size will be 103,000 square feet and four stories high. The \$38.7 million construction contract was awarded to Forrester Construction Company of Rockville.

The county anticipates the building will be ready for staff move-in in the late spring of 2025.

The building construction followed the demolition of the County Services Plaza that housed several county agencies.

In addition to those in the County Services Plaza, the new building will house county staff in the Courthouse Annex, Albright Building, 131 Main Street, 30 Duke Street and the Circuit Courthouse.

The need for the circuit court staff and its judges to claim space in the historic courthouse, in addition to the desire for service consolidation, were the prime motivators for the county administration building project.

The project will be funded largely with general obligation bonds.

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

# Owings Shooting Under Investigation

Deputies with the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau responded on Sunday, Sept. 10 around 10:52 p.m. to the 2900 block of 5th Street in Owings for the report of a shooting. Deputies arrived on scene and located one adult male suffering from a gunshot wound.

A preliminary investigation revealed the male victim and a known assailant were involved in a verbal altercation followed by an assault. The suspect (s) fled the scene

in an unknown direction. The victim was transported to an area trauma center where he remains in stable condition.

Detectives from the Criminal Investigative Bureau have assumed the investigation. Deputies are asking anyone with information to please contact Det. J. Buck at [Joshua.Buck@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:Joshua.Buck@calvertcountymd.gov). Please reference case #23-64345.

Press Release from CCSO

# Investigation Ongoing into Huntingtown Man's Murder

## Pennsylvania Man Charged in Killing

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The investigation is continuing in both Maryland and Pennsylvania into the murder of Joseph Shymanski, 51, of Huntingtown.

Detectives from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigative Bureau (CIB) with the assistance of Mifflin County Regional Police Department on Sept. 7 discovered human remains in that Pennsylvania county that are believed to be linked to the murder of Shymanski.

The sheriff's office in a release said, "While we have yet to formally identify the remains discovered, we do believe they are associated with our ongoing investigation."

Shymanski was reported missing on Sept. 4. According to the sheriff's office, "Upon developing this new information, detectives from the CIB traveled to Reedsville, Pennsylvania and executed several search warrants. The suspect, Brandon R. Holbrook, 47 of Reedsville, PA, was arrested and charged with Murder-First Degree, Murder-Second Degree, and Assault-First Degree. He remains in Pennsylvania awaiting extradition. This was determined to be an isolated incident and there are no other suspects at this time."

A sheriff's office spokesperson said Shymanski and Holbrook knew each other through mutual acquaintances.

Shymanski was a popular photographer. A vigil in his honor was reportedly held last week in Washington, DC.

In a release, the sheriff's office said, "Detectives continue to investigate to ensure the (Shymanski) family receives the closure they deserve, and justice is served. Anyone with additional information is urged to contact Det. Wayne Wells at [wayne.wells@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:wayne.wells@calvertcountymd.gov)."

Mifflin County's agency issued the



Joseph Shymanski

following statement of Facebook: "The Calvert County Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's assistance in identifying any video surveillance from businesses and/or home cameras capturing murder suspect Brandon Holbrook's white Dodge pickup truck with a white bed cap during the time period of Sunday September 3rd to Tuesday September 5th.

"The pictured truck is identified as a 2017 Dodge Ram Bighorn bearing Pennsylvania registration ZMN4549. The front license plate holder has a John Deere vanity plate. The truck has a raised white bed cap matching the same color as the truck."

Washington, DC TV station WUSA has reported that the Calvert County Sheriff's Office used license plate reading technology in the area near Shymanski's home to spot Holbrook's out-of-state plates.

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Suspect Brandon Holbrook's truck

# State Board Rules School Board Violated Public Information Act

## Said School Board Should Have Released Line-Item Budget

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Maryland Public Information Act Compliance Board has ruled that the Calvert County Board of Education (CCBOE) violated the state's Public Information Act (PIA) when they refused to release a copy of their proposed FY 2024 line-item budget to a citizen.

When the request by Joshua Johnson, a citizen activist and member of the Calvert County Republican Central Committee, was denied, he filed a complaint with the state's ombudsman. The ombudsman attempted to mediate the situation, but the school board refused arbitration. It was then that Johnson filed an appeal with the state board, which issued its ruling on Sept. 6.

The ruling stated that the state's education code requires "the board of education's budget shall be made available to the public, on request, at the time it is submitted by the county board."

The ruling went on to say, "The CCBOE was obligated to disclose its proposed budget to the complainant when he requested it on April 14, 2023, after the proposed budget had been submitted to the Calvert County Board of Commissioners. The

CCBOE therefore violated the PIA when it denied inspection of that proposed budget. Accordingly, we order that the CCBOE disclose that proposed budget to the complainant."

The school board's main arguments for not releasing the budget were that it was executive privileged information and that it was in the middle of a deliberative process.

The public information board stated in its opinion, "Given our conclusion, it is not necessary for us to definitively determine whether the CCBOE could have properly invoked the executive or deliberative process privileges," adding, "We do, however, have some broad observations. First, it is not clear to us that the executive privilege... is available to county- and municipal-level executives in light of the privilege's focus on chief or high Executive officials—Presidents, Governors, and their immediate advisors—and constitutional separation of powers..."

The state board went on to say, "And, we doubt that the CCBOE's budget contains any 'diplomatic, military, and security-laden secrets'."

To invoke the "deliberative" argument, the state board ruled, "The CCBOE would need to explain why disclosure would be

contrary to the public interest—i.e., how disclosure would harm the CCBOE's decision-making process."

The board, in setting the stage for its decision, citing case law, asserted, "The presumption of the PIA is in favor of disclosure."

Johnson said he was a little surprised at the decision. He said, "Being in the state of Maryland, we're used to verdicts that don't necessarily come to the people's satisfaction, or what's right for us."

Johnson said about his pursuit of the issue, "There were too many questions and then not enough answers. One or two different things might be an anomaly, but when you're starting to look at three, four, five different things and some of that you've been made aware of. But the \$24 million surplus, the \$10 million ask last year when they had \$10 million in lush funds, it behooves all of us to ask the question."

He added, "The more I delved into this, finding out even recently \$25,000 at JW Jewelers for wristwatches. Our kids are struggling right now and worst test scores in history, we definitely need some transparency."

Johnson said since the decision, the line-item budget has been released to him and he's beginning to go over it.

He noted, "And now the question is, what form of punishment, what consequence was there for them to be able to withhold the information, initially starting back in October 2022."

The lack of a complete line-item school board budget has become a hot topic.

The school board and the county commissioners recently held a joint meeting to talk about an independent forensic audit of the school board budget. The majority of the school board at the meeting resisted the idea, but with the county agreeing to pay for it, it appears to be moving forward.

Johnson said the school board should jump on board with the audit. He noted, "You have a president of the Board of Education that is a senior auditor, that's concerning. That individual in and of themselves should be the first one asking questions."

"When there's a \$24 million surplus, they should be calling for the audit. It shouldn't be me; it shouldn't be the taxpayers. It should be with the responsible party."

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## Calvert Man Released From Life Sentence

By Guy Leonard and Dick Myers  
Staff Writers

A man who pleaded guilty to a violent crime back in 1978 in Calvert County that normally would have netted 15-to-20 years in prison, but instead resulted in a life sentence breathed his first breaths of free air in 45 years this upon his release this week.

Alfred Lee Brown, 65, was set free Sept. 7 from a state holding facility in Jessup after a state parole board granted his family and legal team's pleas for his release.

Tonya Alvin Brown a Calvert County resident, Alfred Brown's niece, said her uncle's spirits were high.

"They've always been that way," she told The County Times. "It's overwhelming, it's a lot to process right now."

"We are definitely excited."

Brown had admitted that on December 21, 1977 he knocked on the door of a home he intended to rob. An 81-year-old woman answered the door and Brown demanded money.

She turned over \$80. He also admitted taking some presents from an upstairs room. He was arrested at a store a short time later and charged with robbery and breaking and entering. While in a holding cell, six hours later he was subsequently charged with assault with attempt to rape.

Brown, who was 19 at the time, denied the assault with attempt to rape charge.

Brown is black and the woman was white; Brown did not have the benefit of



Alfred Lee Brown upon his release from prison.

a jury but his case was decided solely by then-Circuit Court Judge Perry Bowen, who has since passed.

According to Brown's attorney in 2018, who has also passed away, Melvin Bilal:

"What Al was charged with was a little-known common-law crime which a lot of research had to be done or someone above the level of a Calvert County State's Attorney had to come up with."

When Brown left the courtroom, he thought he was facing a maximum of 15 years in jail. When he reached the Hagerstown state prison, he found he was there for life.

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 JOSHUA JOHNSON ON THE RULING THE SCHOOL BOARD VIOLATED STATE LAW



**LOCAL** 4  
Murder investigation continues



**LOCAL** 6  
Zoning ethics bill proposed



**4 ON THE COVER**  
County gets new government building

## WEEKLY FORECAST

<b>THU, SEP 14</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 58°	<b>FRI, SEP 15</b>  Sunny Hi: 75° Lo: 55°	<b>SAT, SEP 16</b>  Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 57°	<b>SUN, SEP 17</b>  Mostly Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 62°
<b>MON, SEP 18</b>  Mostly Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 59°	<b>TUE, SEP 19</b>  Mostly Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 63°	<b>WED, SEP 20</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 63°	<b>THU, SEP 21</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 62°

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Arrested in Pa.**

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**Broadband Rollout  
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**BREAKING GROUND  
ON NEW COUNTY OFFICE**