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# St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

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**Domestic Violence on  
the Rise in St. Mary's**

**Speed Camera  
Ordinance Coming**

**County Spends \$350K  
for 3.5 Acres**

# PARENTS PROTEST SPORTS FEE HIKE

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## “SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO SAY ‘NO.’”

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Speed camera ordinance coming soon



**COMMUNITY 16**  
County government mourns former County Administrator



**ON THE COVER**  
Parents worried over possible youth sports fee hikes

## WEEKLY FORECAST

<b>THU, OCT 19</b>  Mostly Sunny Hi: 71° Lo: 57°	<b>FRI, OCT 20</b>  PM Showers Hi: 70° Lo: 52°	<b>SAT, OCT 21</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 67° Lo: 49°	<b>SUN, OCT 22</b>  Mostly Sunny Hi: 63° Lo: 42°
<b>MON, OCT 23</b>  Sunny Hi: 59° Lo: 40°	<b>TUE, OCT 24</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 61° Lo: 45°	<b>WED, OCT 25</b>  Mostly Sunny Hi: 67° Lo: 51°	<b>THU, OCT 26</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 55°



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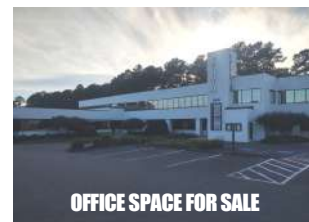
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# Domestic Violence Incidents On The Rise

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The latest reports on domestic violence incidents in St. Mary's County shows a disturbing spike from last year to the present day.

For the first nine months of 2022 there were a total of 378 reported domestic violence incidents; for the same time period this year there have been 457 such incidents reported.

Det. Joseph Bowling is the sole detective with the county sheriff's office dealing with domestic violence cases and believes there are several key factors that can account for the increase in cases.

"It's the nature of the beast," Bowling told The County Times. "There has been a population increase in St. Mary's County from last year to this year and crime as a whole has increased.

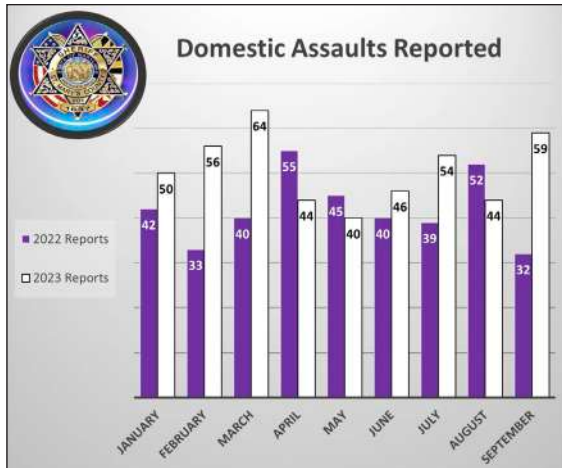
"It is partially due to economic issues."

Infidelity and financial issues often spark domestic assaults, Bowling said, and families who are having financial problems are more susceptible to domestic problems.

"The added stress to the relationship [sometimes] causes the assault," Bowling said. "Primarily, women are the victims of domestic violence but there are an increasing number of men who are reporting.

"It's a change in society where it's more of a normal thing for men to call."

The severity of cases has not increased,



though, Bowling said, saying that most incidents are minor.

But he warned that victims should act quickly to either exit the relationship, call law enforcement for assistance or seek a protective order to guard against the severity increasing.

"Reach out to law enforcement," Bowling said, adding that getting victims in touch with the Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy, which seeks to help victims navigate the system, is critical. "There are people out there willing to back them up."

Bowling warned that getting in touch with law enforcement immediately was key in fighting domestic violence, even if the incident could be considered minor.

"Tell us about the small stuff," Bowling said.

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

# Commissioners Approve \$30M In Bonds

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

To fund county capital construction projects that had already been approved, the Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted unanimously this week — with one of their number being absent — to approve the issuance and sale of \$30 million in bonds.

The last time commissioners authorized the sale of bonds to fund public projects was in August of last year, according to county documents.

The county's debt limit policy states that commissioners can retain a debt service of up to 10 percent of the assessable tax base of St. Mary's.

The current debt service is \$15.6 million or 5.13 percent of the county's total assessable base, according to county accounting documents.

The total county outstanding debt is \$166.5 million; the operating budget is \$304.1 million.

The additional \$30 million is scheduled to fund the next leg of FDR Boulevard extending out to Pegg Road at an additional \$9.4

million; \$2.9 million is set to be spent on drainage improvements for neighborhoods while an additional \$2.7 million is to be spent on upgrades to the adult detention center in Leonardtown.

For the public schools \$3.6 million of the \$30 million is set to be used on safety and security, while \$4.4 million will be spent on modernizing Mechanicsville Elementary School.

Also, \$2 million will go to Great Mills High School for a partial roof replacement; another \$2 million will be used for heating, air conditioning and ventilation upgrades at Town Creek Elementary School as well.

A total of \$12.1 million of the bond issuance will be used on public schools.

Some of the lesser expenditures include \$752,637 for completion of the Mt. Wolfe Road roundabout in Charlotte Hall and \$243,292 for preservation of the Patuxent Park neighborhood.

The county will also spend \$661,357 on the District 1 Sheriff's Office in Charlotte Hall.

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# Speed Camera Ordinance Coming Up for Debate



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

By next Monday, the residents of St. Mary's County should have a chance to see a draft of a proposed county ordinance to allow speed cameras on county roads, according to county legal staff.

"We are going to the [Commissioners of St. Mary's County] with a request for a public hearing," said Assistant County Attorney John Houser.

The request for the public hearing will be made at the Oct. 24 county commissioners' meeting, Houser said, and a vote on the ordinance should take place either "late November or early December."

"There's still going to be a draft attached [to the commissioners' meeting schedule] next week," Houser said. "There still has to be a public hearing."

Houser said the contents of the draft ordinance currently being worked on cannot be released to the public before next week.

The positioning of perhaps half-a-dozen speed cameras at intersections with elementary schools has been a signature goal of Sheriff Steve Hall's first year in office.

In a recent on-line survey given by the sheriff's office to residents an overwhelming majority of respondents said they would support placing such cameras at those intersections.

The sheriff's office is working with the state's attorney's office and the local state police barracks to combat aggressive and distracted driving in a campaign called "Slow Down St. Mary's."

The program has resulted in more than 2,700 traffic stops in about two months; 2,025 of them have been for speeding, according to the latest program tally.

The six traffic cameras would be mobile and could be placed at school intersections throughout the county.

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

# County Spends \$350K for 3.5 Acres

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Three of four county commissioners voting this week approved the purchase of 3.5 acres of land off of Willows Road on Bradley Boulevard for \$350,000 for use by the county's Department of Recreation and Parks.

This occurred while parents were angered by the possibility of youth sports fees increasing exponentially in the coming year, though elected officials said no decision has been made on fees to use county-run parks.

Commissioner Eric Colvin was the lone opposition vote to the purchase of the land — which cost the county \$100,000 per acre.

Arthur Shepherd, director of recreation and parks, said the three acres near the newly purchased Willows Recreation Center could be used for passive recreation and to provide more security for the standing facility by having oversight of the new acreage.

He said the site could also be used to advertise for department events and programming.

The former Willows Recreation Center will now be the home of the county run gymnastics academy.

"There's a tree line between the property and the gymnastics center," Shepherd said. "Raise the tree level there, increase safety. "We think that's a very good deal."

The additional property could be used to transfer indoor activities, such as summer camps, to the outdoors quickly, Shepherd said, as an example of how else the newly purchased 3.5 acres could be used.

"It enhances what we offer at the gymnastics center," Shepherd said.

"I'm going to vote against this," Colvin said in response to Shepherd's presentation. "Everything you said was accurate and fair. In my mind the funds could be used elsewhere."

Colvin said the property, which had been owned by Willows Run LLP, would better serve the county by remaining on the tax rolls.

"Sometimes you just have to say 'No,'" Colvin said.

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*Brought to you by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the Department of Aging & Human Services*

# Parents Blast Commissioners Over Proposed Sports Fee Hikes

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Commissioner President James “Randy” Guy said this week that, despite rumors of vast increases in fees pending for county-sponsored youth sports, no such decision has been made.

“No decision has been made on any kind of budget yet, until the five commissioners up here make a decision,” Guy said at the Oct. 17 meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County. “You may have heard something on social media about how we’re raising rates 500 percent.

“Nothing like that has been presented to us; so it’s all a false statement from somebody.”

Both Guy and Commissioner Mike Alderson referenced a recent meeting of the county Recreation and Parks Advisory Board where raising fees was discussed but no firm decision was made.

Advisory boards provide a degree of citizen input and oversight on county departments but only county commissioners can make the final authorization on matters regarding funding and fee increases.

“Do we sometimes talk about various ways to budget? Of course, we do,” Guy said. “But I don’t think [any] of us sitting here is going to pass on such a huge increase to our youth that are playing sports.”

Guy said he had been inundated with calls and e-mails from residents about the specter of rising youth sports fees, but there would be no decisions made on that issue until next spring.

However, parents were incensed at recent discussions about potential fee increases nonetheless.

They point to discussions about raising participation fees, which now stand at \$9.50, to \$33.65 per youth player or instituting a per-hour usage fee of \$10.

“The reason the county is looking to increase fees is to cover the salary of county employees inside county parks taking care of county citizens; the only county in



Southern Maryland to have that fee structure in place,” wrote St. Mary’s Little League President R.J. Bean in a social media post. “That is not acceptable.”

Parents continued their protests Tuesday night at a public forum with the commissioners.

Melissa Fort said that the mere mention of fee hikes was enough to make parents concerned whether the commissioners had made a decision or not.

“They’ve been mentioned to leagues but we have to prepare for next fall now,” she said. “Our children don’t equal salaries, they don’t equal a paycheck.

“You have all kinds of activities that don’t charge a service fee.”

It was a repeated complaint Tuesday night that numerous residents use the parks for tennis, pick up basketball games, walking and others without need of extra personnel to be on hand, yet youth sports teams were being saddled with the bill for those county employees.

The so-called “budget season” is underway with departments in county government being asked to send in their budget requests for the next fiscal year; the county commissioners have already been asked to consider raising the overall amount of funding available for non-profit groups — such as youth sports leagues — as league leadership have complained about costs rising so high as to price certain children

out of being able to participate.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt had such a conversation in public with Arthur Shepherd, director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, last month.

At the Oct. 5 meeting of the county’s Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, Shepherd told board members that, since that prior conversation, there had been no discussion with elected leaders about fees.

At the Oct. 5 meeting, Shepherd said that he would like to see additional parks and recreation staff at many of these sporting events for safety and security reasons.

This was one of the justifications for potential fee increases.

Board member Donald DeGraves said he did not disagree with the need for more staff at heavily attended events but he had heard from league leadership and their worries about such a steep participation fee increase.

“That is a going to be significant amount of money that is going to have to be raised by every single particular program,” DeGraves said.

Shepherd said that figure was not likely to be the final fee amount.

“We probably won’t get there,” Shepherd said. “That is the maximum number... that most likely won’t happen.”

Board member Dave McDonough said he was weary of complaints and concerns



about the future of youth sports in St. Mary’s being in danger.

McDonough said that immediately following the pandemic there was state grant money available to youth sports groups if only they would reveal their financial information and allow it to be inspected.

Shepherd said two local sports teams and the BMX track group were the only ones to receive such grant money.

“I have a hard time listening to the violin that says ‘Oh, the sports leagues are in trouble because fees are going up, because costs are going up, because inflation is going up,’” McDonough said. “The commissioners seem to be working as best they can for the participants who are challenged to pay those monies.

“I think the leagues have to take some of this on, too, rather than just trying to, basically, get as cheap a use as they can out of the county.”

DeGraves continued to question the need for increased fees when the costs of providing county staff at events and games should be a consideration for budgeted salaries.

“They’re already paying to \$200 to \$250 a year to play in these leagues,” McDonough countered. “They’re already paying a lot of money to play, why do they think they should get to use the facility for free?”

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# Mary Bohanan, Beloved by Many, Passes Away

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

A woman known for her community service and love of St. Mary's County, Mary Bohanan, died last week after more than a decade of battling cancer. She was 65.

Her brother, former state senator Roy Dyson, said she and her husband brought ice cream to a pool party just a few weeks before she passed away.

"She looked like she was in the best of health," Dyson told The County Times. "You'd thought she'd beaten it."

"The ones who fight it like she did are amazing; if it hadn't been for that drive to beat it she wouldn't have lived that long."

The wife of former state delegate John Bohanan, Mary was born into the local Dyson family and grew up in Great Mills where she would eventually join the family hardware and lumber business, helping to make it a continuing success.

Mary went on to become the events coordinator at Historic St. Mary's City, where she also flourished.

"She loved working down there, she really did," Dyson said. "She was extraordinary."

Historic St. Mary's City honored her for her work and for the spirit she brought to her job.



Mary Bohanan

"She had a smile that would brighten any room and a heart that never stopped giving. It's inspiring how she would bring light into any situation," a St. Mary's City social media post honoring Bohanan stated. "Mary's positivity, inspiration, and joy were gifts that she shared with everyone around her. Her presence will be deeply missed, but her legacy will continue to live on through the memories that she created with those who were lucky enough to know her."

A celebration of Mary Bohanan's life will be held Oct. 22 at the pavilion adjacent to Trinity Episcopal Church in St. Mary's City at noon, Dyson said.

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# Oyster Festival This Weekend

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

This weekend the gates will open at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds in Leonardtown to let residents in for one of the most popular events of the year — the 57th annual Oyster Festival.

Central to the festival is the annual oyster cookoff, which leads to prizes for top recipe and bragging rights for culinary excellence using the native bivalve as the main ingredient and the U.S. Oyster Shucking Championship which engages top oyster shuckers from around the country to come to St. Mary's and compete for the honor of being the best oyster shucker among them.

The winner of the national title gets a trip to Galway, Ireland to compete to win the ultimate prize of being named the world champion shucker.

"We've tried to increase activities for young people this year so that whole fam-

ilies can enjoy it," said Tari Moore, event organizer, of the two-day event. "We'll have more food vendors than ever before."

"A food truck will be coming down from Maine and will be selling lobsters."

Moore said the local Viking Axe Throwing crew, usually based at Shepherd's Old Field in Leonardtown, will be open to give visitors a new and exciting activity to try.

"And you'll be able to get oysters any way you want," Moore added.

Visitors will be able to sample not only local oysters but from around the region.

Double T Oyster Ranch of Tall Timbers will be present, as will Mad House Oysters of Hoopers Island on the Eastern Shore.

Johnson Bay Oysters, also from the Eastern Shore, will have oysters on hand.

Shore Thing Shellfish, LLC of St. Mary's and Nomini Bay Oysters from Virginia will join the tasting tent, too.

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Russet  
Potatoes  
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Baked Beans  
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10.4 To 10.7-Oz., Selected  
General Mills  
Cereals  
**2/\$6**



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Sweet Baby Ray's  
BBQ Sauce  
**2/\$6**



15.5 To 16-Oz., Selected  
Bush's  
Chili Beans  
**2/\$3**



15.25 To 19-Oz., Selected  
Campbell's  
Chunky Soups  
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WED 18	THURS 19	FRI 20	SAT 21	SUN 22	MON 23	TUES 24
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**2/\$3**



16-Oz. Borden American Cheese Singles

**3.98**



64-Oz., Selected Sunny D Citrus Drink

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16 Oz. Selected Pillsbury Ready To Bake Cookie Dough

**3.98**



Honey Or Smoked Kretschmar Virginia Ham

**4.98**Lb.



Great For Game Days! Big Kahuna Sandwich

**5.98**Lb.

## Bakery & Deli Fresh



19.5 Oz., Dutch Apron Pumpkin, Red Velvet Or Carrot Cake Rolls

**6.58**



White Or Yellow Cornershop American Cheese

**5.98**Lb.



22-Oz., 8-Inch, Bakery Fresh Pumpkin Or Sweet Potato Pie

**4.98**



## Liquor and Beer



10-Oz. Cans 24-Pack Bud Light

**19.89**



12 Pack, 12-Oz. Cans Arnold Palmer Spiked Half and Half Tea

**15.99**



12-Oz. Cans 18-Pack Miller Lite

**14.99**



12-Oz. Bottles 12-Pack Corona Extra & Light

**16.99**



1.75L Jim Beam

**28.99**



1.75L Tito's Vodka

**30.49**



1.75L Crown Royal

**42.99**



1.75L Captain Morgan Original

**25.99**



750ml, Red Merlot, Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon Or Red Blend Josh Cellars Wine

**14.98**



750 ML Josh Cellars Prosecco

**14.98**

## Wines of the Month



750 ML Punctum Organic Wines

**6.99**



750 ML K Cellars Wines

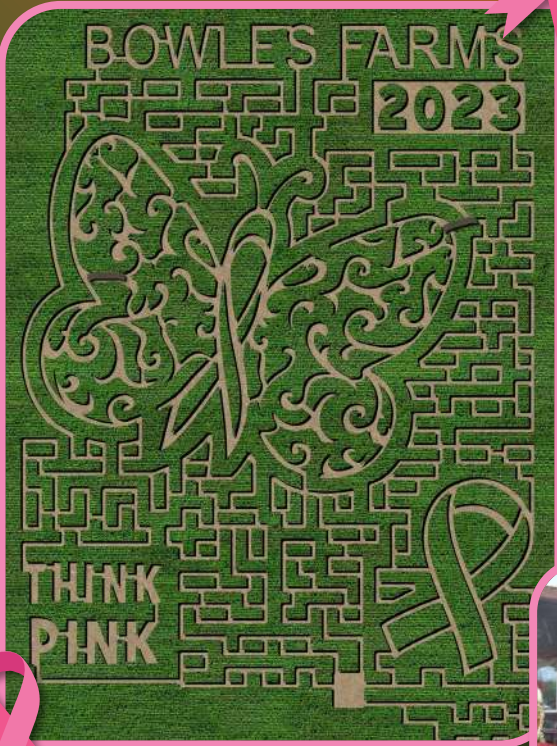
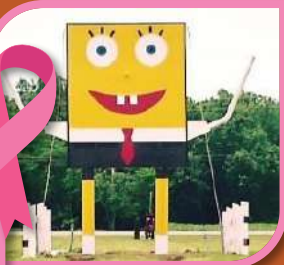
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Kids' Play Area  
Barnyard Animals  
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Cupcake Shop



## What's Happening this Weekend:

**Classic Truck Show (Oct. 21, 10am-3pm):**  
Baltimore-Washington American Truck  
Historical Society Fall Gathering. Show off your  
classic vehicle and enjoy a Fall day at the farm.



**Jeep Trunk or Treat (Oct. 22, 12pm-3pm):**  
Bring your kids dressed in costume and let them  
have some fun with Get Over It Jeep Club of Southern  
Maryland. The Jeep Club will be decorating Jeeps and  
giving out candy to the kids (*while supplies last*).

Fall Season runs through  
Sunday, October 29th

Saturdays: 10:00am – 6:00pm  
Sundays: 10:00am – 5:00pm

Admission: \$15 per person (kids 3 & under free)

**BowlesFarms.com • 301-475-2139**

## Legal Notices

### COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**Planned Infill and Re-development District (PIRD) Zoning Overlay Request**  
Property Location: 22800 Lawrence Avenue, Leonardtown

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 4:15 p.m. at the Town Office, 22670 Washington Street, regarding Tax Map 127, Parcel 260. The purpose of the hearing will be to present for public review and receive public comment the request for a Planned Infill Re-development District overlay zone classification for the parcel located at 22800 Lawrence Avenue. Copies of the documents are available for public review at the Leonardtown Town Office. The public is invited to attend and/or send written comments to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or to Leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov to be received no later than November 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By Authority:  
Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

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

CASE NO: C-18-CV-23-000331

**Jack Raleigh**  
801 SW 8th Way  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33315  
**Plaintiff**

v.

**Linda Simon**  
3354 Wescott Drive  
Palm Harbor, Florida 34684

**Susan Buick**  
2624 26th Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94116

**Leslie Burkhalter**  
106 Sandgate Court  
Millersville, Maryland 21108

**Kenneth C. Willard**  
1420 12th Street  
Oakland, California 94607

**ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN, claiming any legal or equitable right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the property described in the complaint adverse to the plaintiff's title, or any cloud on the plaintiff's title to the property.**

**Defendants**

### NOTICE OF ORDER OF DEFAULT

The Court being satisfied that no reliable mailing address is available for the Defendants All Persons Unknown, the Plaintiff is hereby Ordered to give notice of this Order of Default by publication one time in a newspaper of general circulation in St. Mary's County in lieu of mailing in accordance with Maryland Rule 2-613(c).

Take notice that an Order of Default for failure to plead to the Complaint in this action has been entered pursuant to Maryland Rule 2-613(a) on the 3rd day of October, 2023. You may move to vacate this Order within 30 days of the date of this publication pursuant to Maryland Rule 2-613(c).

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

# ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

## Mechanicsville Man Sentenced to Prison for Sex Abuse of a Child

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Randy Dindlebeck, 28, of Mechanicsville, Maryland, was sentenced to 75 years in prison with 24 years of active incarceration for felony sex abuse of a minor and related offenses.

A St. Mary's County jury convicted Mr. Dindlebeck in May of 2023, after a three-day jury trial, for a series of sexual abuses against the same child between July and September 2021.

During the sentencing hearing, the victim's mother requested Mr. Dindlebeck be sentenced to the maximum penalty of 75 years. The State supported and echoed the child's mother's request for the maximum sentence due to Mr. Dindlebeck's violation and exploitation of his position of trust and the heinous nature of the offenses committed.

Mr. Dindlebeck was sentenced as follows:

- Count 1, Sex Abuse of a Minor: 25 years, with 15 years to serve;
- Count 2, Sex Offense Third Degree: 10 years, with 3 years to serve;
- Count 3, Sex Offense Third Degree: 10 years, with 3 years to serve;
- Count 4, Sex Offense Third Degree: 10 years, with 3 years to serve;
- Count 5, Sex Offense Third Degree: 10 years, suspended; and
- Count 6, Sex Offense Third Degree:



10 years, suspended.

Each sentence was ordered to run consecutive to the one(s) before it, for a total sentence of 75 years in prison with 24 years of active incarceration. Additionally, Mr. Dindlebeck will be placed on the sexual offender registry for life.

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. Detective Corporal Trevor Teague of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

The Honorable Joseph Stalanonis presided over the case.

## Identity Sought For Theft Suspect

At approximately 5:41 p.m., on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, the pictured subject entered Advance Auto Parts in California, MD, walked around the store for a short time, selected a set of Honda brand floor mats, and fled from the business, failing to pay for the items.

The suspect is described as a male, approximately six feet tall, with a thin build, bearing distinctive arm tattoos. He left the store, driven by another subject, in an older model gold-colored Honda Accord with an unknown registration.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspect and/or this incident is asked to contact Dep. Michael Walker at Michael.Walker@stmaryscountymd.gov, or 301-475-4200, ext. 8092. Please reference Case #55241-23.

Citizens 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 receiving a response, continue the conversation. Note: Tip239 is case-sensitive



and must be typed in the message block as shown. With Crime Solvers, tipsters may remain anonymous.

Tipsters may be eligible for a cash reward if the information leads to an arrest.

## Four Juveniles Injured in UTV Crash, Collision Unit Investigating

At 5:11 p.m. on Friday, October 13, 2023, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Deputies were dispatched to the area of Holly Bank Drive and Burning Oaks Drive in Mechanicsville, MD, for a reported collision involving a Utility Task Vehicle (UTV).

Preliminary investigation indicates a Massimo Buck UTV, driven by a juvenile and carrying four juvenile occupants, was traveling on Holly Bank Drive when, for reasons yet unknown, the UTV left the roadway, resulting in the ejection of all occupants.

Four juveniles were transported to Children's National Hospital in Washington D.C., three by helicopter and one by ambulance. The fifth occupant did not require further treatment.


The SMCSO Collision Unit was summoned to the scene and assumed the investigation. Initial indications point to operator

error as a contributing factor.

The Sheriff's Office is seeking witnesses to the collision or events leading up to it. Those with information can contact Sgt. Brian Connelly at 301-475-4200, ext. 8010, or by email at brian.connelly@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Witnesses can also call Crime Solvers, 24/7, at 301-475-3333. To text Crime Solvers, open your message app and enter 274637 in the "TO" field, then type "Tip239" in the message block and select "SEND". After receiving a response, continue the 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. You may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.




**Philip H. Dorsey III**  
*Attorney at Law*

## LEGAL SERVICES

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# NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

## Navy Unveils New National Cyber Range to Bolster Defense Cybersecurity

The Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) cut the ribbon on the Department of Defense's newest National Cyber Range at Naval Air Station Patuxent River on Oct. 16, 2023.

The range will serve as a pivotal test asset for the entirety of the DOD, defense partners, and other agencies supporting cybersecurity training and test efforts.

"NAWCAD's National Cyber Range is an American asset that makes flight lines and air wings of the future safer and stronger," said NAWCAD Executive Director, Steve Cricchi. "This wide-reaching investment protects warfighters from increasingly advanced cyber enemies—something we can all feel proud of."

Cyber ranges are virtual environments that help technology developers test their systems for digital vulnerabilities to improve protection from cyber-attacks, using malware and other realistic offenses in a secure environment. The primary focus for the new NAWCAD facility is cyber test and training initiatives for aircraft, their subsystems, and supportive technologies.

"On top of being the most capable,



defense technology is also required to be cyber resilient," said NAWCAD's National Cyber Range Deputy Director, John Ross. "We harden warfighter systems by performing vulnerability assessments and recommending mitigations—ultimately preventing adversaries from stealing our data or defeating our technology."

NAWCAD's National Cyber Range sig-

nificantly expands the DOD's capacity for cyber testing and training, and will reduce the time required for testing. The aircraft- and subsystem-focused facility joins the ranks of three other ranges in the National Cyber Range Complex, each with primary focus areas: Eglin, which serves the Air Force; Charleston, dedicated to sea-based technologies on submarines and ships; and

Orlando, which supports DOD's operational mission force training. The integrated network of cyber ranges, designed to the same rigorous standards, uses a common core architecture and toolset, enables system tests across all classification levels, facilitates distributed test events on land or at sea, and supports exercises of varying scales.

The range at Naval Air Station Patuxent River will bring more than \$20 million of revenue to St. Mary's County and create multiple jobs spanning computer engineers, scientists, cyber security personnel, cyber test and evaluation experts, and other business professionals. The new cyber range amplifies NAWCAD's role as the largest employer in southern Maryland, and the region's leading source of STEM jobs.

NAWCAD's National Cyber Range is the latest of multiple developmental test facilities built through a long-standing partnership between the warfare center and the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Test Resource Management Center.

To learn how your test team can leverage the National Cyber Range, contact John R. Ross (301) 342-6035.

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## Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Now Available in St. Mary's County

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have approved the distribution of the updated COVID-19 vaccine to combat the newest strains of the virus circulating in the United States. Most adults and children age 6 months and older are advised to get the updated COVID-19 vaccine this fall season. The updated COVID-19 vaccine can be administered at the same time as this season's updated flu vaccine.

Most people can get the updated COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to them. The vaccine will be covered by several health insurance plans, including most private, Medicare, and Medicaid plans. Uninsured children and uninsured adults also have access to the updated vaccine through the Vaccine for Children and Bridge Access Programs.

The updated COVID-19 vaccine is available through local health care providers and pharmacies. SMCHD will offer the Covid-19 vaccine to children aged 6 months through 18 years of age through scheduled clinics. Clinic details can be found at [smchd.org/covid-19](https://smchd.org/covid-19). SMCHD will also offer the updated Covid-19 vaccine to uninsured adults at the SMCHD Health Clinic in Leonardtown on Tuesdays and Fridays

from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. by appointment. To make a vaccine appointment, please call SMCHD at 301-475-4330.

Vaccination remains the best protection against COVID-19-related serious illness, hospitalization, and death. Vaccination may also be associated with a lower likelihood of post-COVID conditions ("Long COVID"), which can develop during or sometime after infection and involve symptoms such as extended fatigue, confusion/"brain fog", and breathing problems.

"Staying up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccination, including getting the new version of the vaccine updated for current COVID-19 strains, continues to be a key defense against serious COVID-19 illness and post-COVID conditions," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "Most adults and children are eligible for this updated vaccine. Please talk with your personal health care provider about timing the new vaccine if you have recently had COVID-19 infection or another COVID-19 vaccine."

For more information about COVID-19 and precautions to avoid illness, please visit [smchd.org/covid-19](https://smchd.org/covid-19).

## Free Flu and COVID Vaccines Offered to Children in St. Mary's

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) will be hosting free flu and COVID vaccine clinics for children ages six months – 18 years. No appointments are necessary. These clinics are being scheduled in lieu of the onsite school-based flu vaccine clinics normally provided by SMCHD with the St. Mary's County Public Schools.

Clinics have been scheduled for the following dates and locations:

- Friday, October 20, 2–6 p.m.  
St. Mary's County Health Hub (drive-thru)
- Friday, October 27, 2–6 p.m.  
St. Mary's County Health Hub (drive-thru)
- Saturday, November 4, 12–3 p.m.  
Charlotte Hall Library
- Wednesday, November 8, 3–6 p.m.  
Spring Ridge Middle School

School-Based Health Center

- Saturday, November 18, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Margaret Brent Middle School  
School-Based Health Center

"Vaccinations are an important part of preventing infection and serious illness from Flu and COVID-19," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "We hope parents will take advantage of these convenient clinics to get their children vaccinated this fall. Local pharmacies and medical practices are also offering flu vaccine and the updated COVID-19 vaccine, though some may have age restrictions."

For more information about seasonal flu please visit: [smchd.org/flu](https://smchd.org/flu)

For more information about COVID-19 please visit: [smchd.org/covid-19](https://smchd.org/covid-19)

For questions about vaccinations, please call SMCHD at 301-475-4330.

## County Government Mourns Dr. Rebecca Bolton Bridgett

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County join all St. Mary's County Government employees in mourning the recent and untimely passing of former St. Mary's County Administrator Dr. Rebecca Bolton Bridgett.

Dr. Bridgett served as the County Administrator from April 15, 2013, through January 31, 2022.

During her tenure, she implemented and provided oversight to several significant operational and capital improvement initiatives, including but not limited to: disciplined and conservative project and program management, guiding the county through the COVID-19 pandemic, and bringing the Garvey Senior Activity Center and Leonardtown Library, the Animal Shelter, the Sheriff's Office district stations, and the Detention and Rehabilitation Center to fruition.

Dr. Bridgett's work was well respected, her decision-making sound, and county citizens and employees alike benefited from her citizen and employee first approach.

"She was much loved. She was committed to her family, work, and community," said Commissioner President James



Dr. Bridgett

"Randy" Guy. "She had a standard of excellence like no other. She was honest, forthright, and quick-witted and will be sorely missed. We join with all of county government in expressing our deepest sympathy to her family and friends."

Commissioner President Guy has ordered the Maryland State and St. Mary's County flags to be flown at half-staff in St. Mary's County, effective immediately, and returned to full-staff at sunset on the day of Dr. Bridgett's interment.

## Pet OF THE WEEK

### MEET KAT

A true friend reaches for your hand, and touches your heart!

Hello, my name is Kat! My Care Center Pals say I'm a STUNNING FIVE-MONTH-OLD FELINE who is the HOLLYWOOD STARLET of the cat world! At first, I'm all mysterious and elusive, but deep down, I yearn to be the UNDISPUTED DIVA of your living room. With my DAZZLING GOOD LOOKS and a penchant for attention, I'm essentially the Mariah Carey of the cat world! I LOVE TOYS, especially those tantalizing strings. I'll keep you on your toes, just like a tabloid journalist chasing the latest celebrity scoop. GET READY for a KAT-astrophic showbiz experience right in the comfort of your own home! Please come MEET ME during adoption hours Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm.

BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! ALWAYS OPT TO ADOPT, please don't shop!!

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



## SHELTIE PUPPIES FOR SALE

Take a look at the litter at Zimmerman's Produce, 25920 Friendship School Rd., Mechanicsville. All puppies will be checked by a veterinarian and ready for pickup November 1st.



# Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



## October's Beginnings & Endings

Here it is October and like always I don't know where the other months have gone. And to add to the feeling of time slipping away too fast, you have people posting on Facebook, "Only such and such shopping days left until Christmas". And of course, the more recent years' timetable of "The Countdown to Christmas" commercials on the three TV channels that start Christmas on Halloween weekend. I know everyone talks about and posts photos of Christmas displays that come out in September and early October. I don't care for it that early myself since my husband and I normally wait until the last two weeks before Christmas to do the majority of our shopping. I got in that habit a long time ago, because picture framers or at least the first shop I worked at for 18 years, the old U-Frame-It, later known as Two Rivers Gallery & Framing, would have our crazy Christmas rush all through November and December and my bosses would say all work will be ready in the last two or three weeks before Christmas, or rush orders by 2pm. on Christmas Eve. And my boss never said no to framing even if it was on Christmas Eve. So that's when we received the balances for orders and had money for Christmas shopping.



Another thing about October, and it is a good thing, is it is my anniversary month for starting or ending things. I started picture framing on October 29th, 1981. I opened my first shop near the Tea Room at The Maryland Antiques Center on October 29th, 2003, then moved over to my other shop across the parking lot in October of 2006. And I closed my wonderful frame shop and art gallery on October 13th, 2013, which I miss so much. The customers were, and are, my friends. I miss having the space when I need it to work on big projects though. All those worktables around the shop were so nice. I believe there were other side jobs I held over the years that I started or ended in October too. I did Avon, Mary Kay, cocktail waitressed a few places, was a hostess at the old O Club on base, worked at Walden Sierra, was a substitute teacher, and worked on a short term 3 month but ended up about 6 months contract for Compliance Corporation which was supposed to help fulfill orders and close out custom picture framing division on Base. The commander at that time wanted people to go out and use local businesses.

One of my favorite October beginnings has been writing the Wanderings of an Aimless Mind column for 15 years this October. I know looking for my columns has been a little disjointed the last year or so. The County Times set me on a bi-weekly schedule almost a year ago, which I still sometimes mess up on...and I hear about from a few readers... Charlie, this is especially for you :) This column, in fact, should have been last week. Internet and computer problems have plagued me and our neighborhood this year, and many of you know my husband has had health issues which keep my mind preoccupied; sometimes I just can't get the words and sentences to come out logically and correctly, or we are told fairly quickly we need to make a trip to Washington Hospital Center. Luckily he is at a good, healthy point now. Also, taking on more and more responsibility as full-time pool secretary for my husband's pool business has both been amazing and crazy at times. Life is full and life is good though. We take time to sit outside in our calming firepit area with a drink in hand when possible, and we always find time for a few concerts, winery trips, and to do fun local things as much as possible. You know we love to spend lots of time with our bossy, loving, crazy hound dog Mindy.

I wanted to let you all know, again, as I do every October, how much I appreciate your kind words, your corrections (like about old growth vs new growth trees Brad), your emails, calls, and the occasional beautiful original way of communication, handwritten letters. I really like it when you tease my husband with, "Ooh, I read about you in the paper this week". Sometimes he deserves it for funny things but especially for all the wonderful ways he has enriched my life. The only anniversary not in October is our wedding anniversary in which we will celebrate our 22nd on the 17th., but that is as it should be. Our anniversary should stand alone, apart from any other dates or memories...only the memories we have made together.

To each new October's adventure

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

## FINANCIAL FOCUS

### Start moving toward retirement security

It's not as well-known as Halloween, but National Retirement Security week happens every October – the third week, to be precise — and while it doesn't involve ghosts and goblins, it does deal with something even more frightening: the risk of not being able to enjoy a comfortable retirement. Through various events, this occasion highlights ideas about building retirement security. What steps can you take?

Here are some suggestions:

- Don't underestimate your longevity. Consider this: 65-year-old men can expect to live another 20 years, while 65-year-old women can anticipate almost 22 more years, according to the Society of Actuaries. And these figures are just averages, meaning you could well exceed these ages, perhaps by many years. So, in thinking about how much money you'll need as a retiree, be aware that you could spend two, or even three, decades in retirement.
- Don't underestimate health care costs. When you retire, some of your expenses — such as transportation, wardrobe and other costs associated with your career — will drop. Others will not and may even increase. Health care is a prime example: Many people assume that Medicare or their Medicare Advantage plan will take care of virtually all their health care costs in retirement, but that's not the case. Generally speaking, you could plan on spending \$4,500 to \$6,500 per year on health care costs during retirement, excluding the large expenses connected with long-term care. Your actual costs could be higher or lower, depending on your health, prescription drugs and supplemental insurance coverage, but make sure you plan for sizable health care costs in your projected retirement budget.
- Contribute as much as you can afford to your retirement plans. Try to put in as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan and try to increase your contributions whenever your salary goes up. You may also be eligible to contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA, which offers tax benefits and a wide variety of investment options. (Contributions to a Roth IRA may be limited based on your income.)

Once you reach retirement, you can still make some moves that could help boost your financial security:

- Maintain an appropriate investment mix. When you retire, you might be tempted to shift most of your portfolio into highly conservative investments to "lock in" gains and avoid being over-exposed to market volatility that could cause short-term losses. Yet, even in retirement, you should still own some growth-oriented investments that can potentially help keep you ahead of inflation. In fact, it's important to periodically rebalance your investments back to your preferred mix to avoid taking too much or too little risk, so you may want to consult with a financial advisor.
- Identify a suitable withdrawal rate. You don't want to take out so much from your portfolio each year that you run the risk of outliving your money. So, you'll want to determine an annual withdrawal rate that can reduce this danger. A common withdrawal rate to start retirement is 4%, but your own rate should be based on several factors: your age, size of portfolio, other sources of income and so on.

It can be challenging to make all the moves necessary to help achieve retirement security — but it's worth the effort.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

*Contributed by David McDonough*

*Financial Advisor at Edward Jones*

*Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302*

*Leonardtown, MD 20650*

*301 997 1707*

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# In Remembrance

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.

**Roger Combs, 84**



Roger Louis Combs, 84, of Leonardtown, MD passed away peacefully on October 11, 2023 at Solomons Nursing and Rehab Center with family by his side.

He was born on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1938 in Great Mills, Maryland, to the late Charles Notre Alexander Combs and Agnes Eva Aud.

Roger was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, MD. He attended Little Flower School in Great Mills, MD. He worked for Stuart Petroleum as a tractor trailer driver for over 20 years, delivering jet fuel to military bases. He married the former Patricia Anne Thomas on August 11, 1962 at Holy Angels Catholic Church, Avenue, MD. They spent 25 years together before her passing on February 27, 1988. He was a member of Holy Face Catholic Church in Great Mills, MD.

Roger was well known in St. Mary's County, having worked for Charlie's Villa in Callaway, MD, for seven years, and as a member of the Friendly Tavern softball team. He enjoyed fishing and bingo and spending time with his family and his friends (special friend, Janet), many of

whom he met while living at Cedar Lane, Leonardtown, MD. He was known for his kindness and smile, and wonderful recall of local people and places in St. Mary's.

He is survived by his daughters, Connie Anderson of California, MD and Vickie Ingram (Greg) of California, MD; sister, Leona Lucas (Franklin) of West Chester, PA; grandchildren, Dana Ingram, Kevin Anderson (Oksana), Rachel Ingram, John Ingram; great grandchildren, Evan, Savannah, Raelyn, and Willow. In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his grandson, Johnnie Ingram, and his siblings Irma Hayden, Julia Tyler, Catherine Clarke, Mary Hall, Gilbert Combs and Thomas Combs.

The family will receive friends on Monday, October 23, 2023 from 10:00 to 11:00 am, with a funeral service being officiated by Reverend Scott Woods at 11:00 am, at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will follow at Holy Face Catholic Cemetery, 20408 Point Lookout Road, Great Mills, MD 20634.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's County Historical Society, P.O. Box 212, Leonardtown, MD 20650 and or ACTS, P.O. Box 54, Bushwood, MD 20618.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

**Mary Bohanan, 65**



Mary Katherine Dyson Bohanan, age 65, passed away on October 11th, 2023 surrounded by family at her home in St. Mary's City, MD. She battled cancer valiantly, living a

happy life despite learning she was terminally ill. That unwavering optimism was inspirational to fellow cancer patients she met along her 12 year battle.

Mary is survived by her husband John L. Bohanan, Jr. whom she married in 1987 at Holy Face Church, and their 4 sons Devin, Mark (Katelyn), Brent, Alexander Truitt, and her two cherished grandchildren Mason and Bryce.

She is also survived by her siblings Roy, Lee (Marsha), Vi (BC), JC (Sandy), Lynn, Patricia, and Steve (Cindy), as well as numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews.

Born on September 28, 1958, she was the daughter of the late LeRoy Benedict and Marie Meise Dyson. Raised in Great Mills, MD, she and her 7 siblings lived next to two other Dyson families, forming a neighborhood of 26 cousins. She was affectionately known as 'Kath' until her younger brother, with a difficulty pronouncing, called her 'Gaff,' a nickname that stayed for life.

Mary attended Little Flower School before graduating from Great Mills High School, where she served as secretary of the class and finished with the 6th highest grade point average. Mary went on to receive her Bachelors of Science from Salisbury University with honors in 1980. She and many of her classmates remained close friends with many of her high school classmates and met frequently for reunions.

After college, Mary embarked on two cross-country adventures, exploring the beauty of the United States before becoming a Municipal Planner near Denver, Colorado. In 1982, she returned home to care for her ailing father and eventually joined the family business, Dyson Lumber Company. There, she excelled and spent most of her career, spearheading efforts to modernize the business by introducing automated technologies and other efficiencies.

Making a difficult career change late in life, Mary bravely launched her own business before discovering her true passion as the Events Manager at Historic St. Mary's City, where she thrived for the last seven years, earning the admiration of brides, vendors, and customers for her infectious enthusiasm.

Mary was also a dedicated community volunteer, generously giving her time to organizations like Christmas in April and Relay for Life.

Her real passion was her devotion to raising four sons. In addition to taking on most parenting duties while her husband served as an elected official, she actively supported her sons in every school activity or sport they participated in. She spent countless hours volunteering as team mom for football, soccer, swim

team, tennis, and wrestling. She even earned an official title as Team Parent Organizer for the US Naval Academy crew team.

Mary found joy in celebrating her beloved friendships, especially through cherished getaways and spending time in Ocean City for beach week each year, a tradition that started 19 years ago with five families and continuously grew over the years.

Mary will long be remembered for lighting up a room with her smile and positive demeanor. She had the rare ability to make everyone feel special and included. Anyone was welcome to share a meal, lean on her for support, seek her advice, or just soak in her smile. She will be sorely missed by all who were fortunate enough to know her.

The family will welcome friends at Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 5:00 PM, with Reverend John Ball leading prayers at 7:00 PM. A funeral service will take place on Friday, October 20th at 10:00 AM at Trinity Episcopal Church in St. Mary's City. A Celebration of Life is scheduled for Sunday, October 22, 2023, at 12:00 Noon under the Pavilion at Historic St. Mary's City.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to:

- The St. Mary's County YMCA Project: <https://operations.daxko.com/online/2043/OnlineGiving/Donation.mvc>
- Hospice of St. Mary's County: <https://giving.medstarhealth.org/medstarhealth/get-involved/donate/hospice>
- Or your local Fire and Rescue Departments

**Benjamin Swann, 95**



Mr. Benjamin Gorman "B.G." Swann, age 95, of Oxford, NC died on Wednesday, October 11, 2023. He was born in Piney Point, Maryland on February 2, 1928, to

his late parents, Benjamin Gorman Swann and Anita Guyther Swann.

Benjamin was a man of quiet faith and fortitude. He served in the Army at the end of World War II and was stationed in Japan. He re-enlisted in the Air Force and was a radio operator on a C124 during the Korean War. He was stationed in Korea. He then returned to St. Mary's County, Maryland where he started working for the telephone company (C&P) and retired 33 years later. He was known for his wit and humor, his kindness and his woodworking.

Benjamin is survived by his wife of 70 years, Barbara Thompson Swann and his daughters; Donna Jean Swann Landry, Tina Marie Swann Davidson, and Janet Swann Ross (Andy); his grandchildren, Heather Landry Whitehead (Trey), Nikki Tingen, DeLauren Jeffreys (Ryan), Laci Davidson, and Jesse Griffin (Sarah). His beautiful great-grandchildren, Ava, Cade, Benjamin, Kennedy, Zoey and Cayden, will miss him

**Sacred Heart Church**  
 ANNUAL OCTOBER  
**Drive-Thru Dinner**  
 23080 MADDUX ROAD  
 BUSHWOOD, MARYLAND 20618  
**Sunday, October 22, 2023**  
 11:00 a.m. 'til

**MENU:**

<b>Fried Oysters</b>	<b>Stuffed Ham</b>	<b>Turkey w/Dressing</b>
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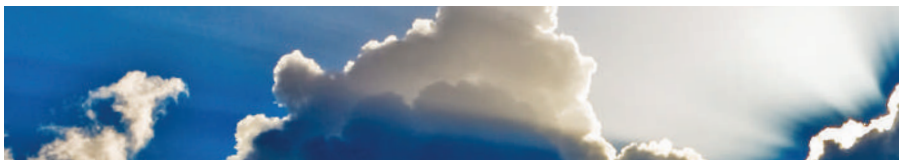
**Parsley Potatoes, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, and Rolls**

~~~~~

**Cake Table Available**

**Drive-Thru---Carry-Outs Only**  
**\$30.00** (Make Checks Payable to: **Sacred Heart Church**)

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



and also his extended family and friends too numerous to name.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, October 20, 2023, at St. James Catholic Church at 10:00 am. Visitation will follow after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Flowers are welcome and accepted, or you may make donations to a Hospice Facility of your choice.

The Swann family is being honorably cared for by Gentry-Newell & Vaughan, 503 College Street, Oxford, NC 27565.

**Michael Bailey, 61**



Michael Andrew Bailey went home to be with the Lord on October 11, 2023 at the age of 61.

He was born on December 29th, 1961 to Phillip and Dorothy Bailey

from Bushwood, Maryland.

He has lived in Fulton, Missouri with his wife Jan Bailey for the past 25 years.

Michael was a stone and brick mason by trade and enjoy countless hours on the golf course with family and friends. He loved and followed the Maryland Terrapins faithfully. Cheering on the Terps and feasting on Maryland blue crab brought Michael years of pleasure. A perfect evening might include classic rock, Malone and the Lads, his cousin Sean, his friend Walt and some family time around a fire pit. The family would like to thank MU Health Center/Ellis Fischel for their wonderful care and support.

Michael is also survived by his mother Dorothy "Duff" Bailey, brother Lester Bailey (Kaye), his beloved nieces and nephew Crissy Lyon Jones, Jacqy Bailey, and Johnathan Bailey. sister-in-law Tammy McGinnis, step children Justin Peery (Shayna) and Jill Phan (Bryan), step grandchildren Jared Peery, Emma Bassett, Hartley Bassett, Hailey Phan, and Cohen Peery along with numerous aunts and uncles, cousins, in-laws and dear friends.

His father Phil Bailey preceded him in death.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date in Maryland.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests you place a phone call to someone you love or help someone in need. Condolences may be left for the family at [www.maupinfuneralhome.com](http://www.maupinfuneralhome.com).

**Mike Kreul, 79**



J. Michael "Mike" Kreul, 79, of Shelburne NH, passed away on October 4, 2023. He was born in Baltimore, MD on May 31, 1944, the son of the late John

and Mary (Monius) Kreul. Mike was raised and educated in Maryland, graduating high school in 1962 before attending Cornell University, where he earned his bachelor's

degree in Electrical Engineering in 1966.

Mike was employed by the US Navy, (NESEA, ST INIGOES, MD) where he worked on radars as an electrical engineer. Following his retirement from civil service, he became a scuba instructor and swift water rescuer, and spent several years as a professional ski instructor at Sunday River ski area. Mike was a member of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, Professional Ski Instructors of America, and greatly enjoyed his years living in Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean.

Family includes his wife Elizabeth Thompson of Shelburne, NH; son David Kreul and wife Michelle of Lexington Park, MD; brother Dr. William Kreul and wife Kathy of Parkville, MD; a sister, Margaret Haines and husband Ken; grandchildren Will Kreul of Maryland, Joseph Sutliff and wife Danica of Maryland, and Chris Carter and wife Tisha of Virginia; and great-granddaughters Melanie and Amaya. He was predeceased by a grandson, Michael Kreul.

A celebration of Mike's life will be held on a date to be announced in 2024. Those who wish may make donations in Mike's memory to the Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire by visiting [www.reefrenwalbonaire.org](http://www.reefrenwalbonaire.org).

**Lewis Abbott, 76**



Lewis Abbott, "Lou", 76, of California, MD, formerly of Cincinnati, OH, passed away on October 11, 2023 in Washington, D.C. Born on May 18, 1947 in Cincinnati,

OH, he was the son of the late Maxine Abbott and the late Ralph Abbott. Lewis was the loving husband of Patricia Abbott, whom he married in St. John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD on December 4, 1971. He is survived by his children Kenny (Becky) of California, MD and Jenny of California, MD, his sister Linda of Auburn, IN, and two grandchildren Laura (Kyle) of California, MD and Doug of California, MD.

Lewis attended Naval Post Graduate School and was a Logistician for the Federal Government, retiring in 2002. He served in the United States Navy for 30 years, until 1998, and was a Vietnam War Veteran. Lewis enjoyed competitive shooting, darts, and car shows. He was a life member with Sanner's Lake Sportsmen Club and the VFW. Above all, Lewis was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, October 19, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held on Friday, October 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the funeral home chapel. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD.

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.



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Leonardtown, MD 20650  
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30195 Three Notch Road  
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622  
301-472-4400

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[www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com)

*Sell it - Buy it*  
at *Auction*

**Mechanicsville Vol. Rescue Squad Community Auction**  
(Chicken Dinners Available)

Friday, October 20, 2023 – 6 pm (Doors open at 4:30)  
27636 Mechanicsville Rd., Mechanicsville, MD (Moose Lodge)

**Grocery Auction – Hughesville VFD/EMS**

Saturday, November 4, 2023 – 5 pm  
Hughesville Vol. Fire Dept. – Hughesville, MD

**Stauffer Brothers Community Public Auction**

Saturday, November 11, 2023 – 8 am  
41400 Friendship Court, Mechanicsville, MD  
(Assisting Randy Ridgely and others for this large community auction.)

*Coming Soon*

We are working on our next

**Online Collectible and Estate Auction**

Advertising Signs/Items • Maritime Items • Oyster Cans •  
Blacksmith Forge, Anvil • Vintage Coke, Pepsi Coolers •  
Tools • Household Items • More

Check Website or Facebook frequently for updates and more information, including open/close dates, auction preview date/time, pictures and more!

We plan to have this auction online for bidding within next week or so.  
[www.FarrellAuctionService.com](http://www.FarrellAuctionService.com)

# 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.

### Medicare Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment for Medicare Part D prescription drug plans will continue through December 7, 2023. By now, everyone enrolled in a Part D drug plan should have received their 2024 annual notice of changes, which states the changes in premiums, co-pays, and Extra Help status. To compare your options for 2024 visit [Medicare.gov](http://Medicare.gov).

If you need assistance call one of our SHIP Counselors at the Northern Center 301-475-4200, ext. 3104; Loffler Center 301-475-4200, ext. 1654; or Garvey Center 301-475-4200, ext. 1064.

Assistance with the cost of Medicare Part D drug costs is available through the Maryland Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program and the Social Security Extra Help Program.

### Cognitive Function Yoga Session

Instructor, Judi Lyons, will lead this 90-minute workshop at Northern Senior Activity Center on Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 2-3:30 p.m. Cognitive Function Yoga is an accessible yoga practice which improves multiple domains of cognitive function, including attention, processing speed, executive function, and memory. This engages both hemispheres of the brain using cross-lateral movements and coordination tasks – making it ideal for anyone who wishes to sharpen their mental function, as well as individuals with a history of traumatic brain injury (TBI) or stroke. Judi Lyons/Mindful Motions Md. is YACEP®, E-RYT® 200, EMYoga® Certified, RYT® 500 Therapeutic. Register and pay the \$15 fee by visiting [www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging](http://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging) and click “View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs.” If assistance is

needed, leave a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

### Veterans Resource Day

The Department of Aging & Human Services is proud to host Veterans Resource Day on Friday, Nov. 3, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the University of Maryland – Southern Maryland, located at 44219 Airport Rd, California, MD.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) will be on site from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. to answer questions and assist with claims processing!

There will be more than 20 organizations serving veterans on-site. Join us for a presentation!

- Protecting Yourself Against Fraud & Identity Theft  
Presented by Navy Federal Credit Union 10-11 a.m.
- Learning about Service Animals

Presented by MK9 Service Dogs  
12:30-1:30 p.m. – NEW TIME

Free lunch will be provided at 12 p.m. by Mission BBQ.

This event is free and open to the public. Veterans, active service members, their friends, and their families are all welcome to attend Veterans Resource Day.

Do you want to skip the registration line? Register online at [www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/veterans](http://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/veterans)! Online registrants will be eligible for a special prize! Online registration closes at 12 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2.

Many thanks to our generous event sponsor: SMECO!

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

# ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Historical Romance Novel and Craft Program

Come and discuss *The Duchess Deal* by Tessa Dare at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, October 21 from 2 - 4:30 p.m. While discussing the book, participants will have a chance to make a craft that would be adored by ladies of the time period. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org)

### Genealogy Basics

Interested in researching your family's past? Join us in exploring how to start researching! This session includes introductory tips, advice, and various resources / strategies to use when beginning. Lexington Park Library on Monday, October 23 from 6 - 7 p.m. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Introduction to Microsoft Excel

Learn the basics of Microsoft Office's computer spreadsheet application in this introductory class at Charlotte Hall Library on Wednesday, October 25 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Excel is most often used to make lists or calculate columns of numbers. We will get you started with the basics like creat-

ing, saving, and formatting the spreadsheets. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Halloween Bash!

It's our most spectacularly spooky event of the year! All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will hold a Halloween Bash: Lexington Park Library on Wednesday, October 25 from 6 - 7 p.m., and Charlotte Hall and Leonardtown Libraries on Monday, October 30 from 6 - 7 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of autumnal activities, ghostly games, and trick or treating adventures through the library! No registration is required to attend this family friendly event! Grab your ghostly pals and don your best costumes for the spookiest soiree of the season!

### Dr. Frankenstein's Library: Escape Room

You are invited to the enter Dr. Frankenstein's Library but become trapped! Do you have what it takes to make it out? This event will be held at Lexington Park Library on Thursday, October 26 from 3:30 - 6 p.m. and is intended for tweens and teens ages 10-18. Registration is required on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org). You have 20 minutes to escape from Dr. Frankenstein's clutches! Do you and up to four

friends have what it takes?

### The Discovery Of St. Mary's Fort With Travis Parno

Join Travis Parno with a presentation on St. Mary's Fort at Charlotte Hall Library on Friday, October 27 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Registration is required on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org). In the spring of 1634, approximately 150 European colonizers arrived on the shores of what is today the St. Mary's River and gave the land they claimed the name "Maryland." Within days, they began construction of St. Mary's Fort, a wooden fortification that would be their home for the next eight years. The archaeological remains of St. Mary's Fort lay hidden until recently. In this presentation, Travis Parno, Acting Executive Director of Historic St. Mary's City, shares the story of the rediscovery of St. Mary's Fort, highlighting the latest finds from the dig site. Artifacts recovered from the excavations will be available for viewing.

### Native Plant Swap and Seed Swap: at The Front Yard

If you're new to gardening with native plants, this event is the place to get started! Meet and chat with native-plant

enthusiasts, view native plants in the Front Yard gardens, and take home free plants and seeds at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, October 28 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. If you're an experienced native gardener, please spread the joy by bringing your favorite plants and seeds to swap and share. Strange as it sounds, we're trying to prevent the spread of invasive jumping worms, so please follow these simple steps when bringing your plants to the event:

- Dig up your plants.
- Shake the dirt off the roots.
- Gently rinse the roots clean.
- Label each plant (include the botanical name if you can).
- Bring them to the Swap & Share in a bucket of water or wrapped in wet paper and tucked in a plastic bag.

For more information, contact Liz Curtz, Friends of St Clements Bay, at [curtze@gmail.com](mailto:curtzeli@gmail.com)

Participating partners include St. Mary's County Master Gardeners, St. Mary's County Master Naturalists, Butterfly Alley and Friends of St Clements Bay.

# 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, Oct 20

### Raffle Sales Golf Cart

Raffle Tickets for Sale until Nov. 8th Fundraiser for 2nd Dist. VFD&RS 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Tickets: 1 for \$15.00 or 3 for \$35.00; Do not need to be present to win.

Contact Dee Dee at 240-561-2750 or email [fundraising@sdvfdrs.org](mailto:fundraising@sdvfdrs.org)

Golf Cart Specs:

- 2023 Electric Vehicle STAR-Classic 36-2 + 2
- 4 Passengers with rear flip seat
- Metallic silver with beige seats and top
- Head & tail lights, brake lights, turn signals
- Six 6 volt batteries, off-board charger, battery indicator
- Horn, reverse beep, parking brake
- High / low-speed switch
- Tinted windshield
- 2 Year bumper to bumper warranty
- 4 Year suspension warranty

### Prime Rib Dinner

HVFD Social Hall  
24801 Three Notch Rd., Hollywood  
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Prime Rib Dinner sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood VFD. Friday, October 20, 2023 from 5-8 pm in the HVFD Social Hall.

\$25 per plate. Meal includes Prime rib, baked potato green beans, salad with choice of three dressings (Ranch, Italian or French), roll and dessert.

\*\*This will be a Sit-In or Carry-Out Event. Please call Lynn Brady at 240-538-2503 for a Sit-In or Carry-Out time slot.

## Sat, Oct 21

### Fall Craft & Vendor Show

Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department  
22733 Lawrence Ave., Leonardtown  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fall is coming and so is a great Craft & Vendor Show! The Auxiliary of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a Fall Craft and Vendor Show. The event will be held on October 21st from 9am—3pm inside the fire truck bays. We will have a large variety of crafters and vendors offering unique items for purchase! Shop local and buy gifts or treat yourself! Space is still available! Please email [lvfdcraftvendor@gmail.com](mailto:lvfdcraftvendor@gmail.com) if you are inter-

ested in renting a table.

\*\*\*Don't get scammed\*\*\* Only this email will be used to schedule crafters and vendors! Payment is never electronic!

### Lost City of St. Mary's

Historic St. Mary's City  
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Join HSMC for a Free Trick-or-Treat Halloween extravaganza! Play games, go onboard Maryland Dove ship to talk to pirates, have your fortune told, and have a spooktacular time! Donations appreciated.

Parking on Old State House Rd. Info: 301.994.4371 or [info@hsmcdigshistory.org](mailto:info@hsmcdigshistory.org)

### U.S. Oyster Festival

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds  
10 a.m to 4p.m.

Being surrounded by water and fresh seafood, it only seems fitting that St. Mary's Maryland is home to the Annual U.S. Oyster Festival. This weekend event, Saturday, October 21st, and Sunday, October 22nd, brings fresh and local oysters by the bucket load. You can enjoy them raw, grilled, fried, steamed, and everything in between! Watch as contestants put together amazing oyster

dishes for the cook-off (you can even purchase a cookbook) and gather for the main event, the shucking competition.

There will be many activities to enjoy, including family-friendly shows, live music throughout the day, shopping with local vendors, a beer tent, and more!

Advance tickets are \$15 for one day or \$20 for a two-day pass. Attendees 10 and under are admitted free and no ticket is required.

This is one weekend you won't want to miss in St. Mary's, get your tickets today!

## Sun, Oct 22

### Sacred Heart Church Annual Fall Drive-Thru Dinner

Sacred Heart Parish Hall  
23080 Maddox Rd., Bushwood  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church is hosting their Annual October Drive-thru Dinner on Sunday October 22nd from 11am until the food runs out. Cost is \$30. Menu includes; fried oysters, stuffed ham, turkey with dressing and gravy, parsley potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, cole slaw and rolls. Bake sale table available.



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# COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

## CRAFT / VENDOR FAIR

November 4 • 12 - 6 pm

**Free Admission**

**Over 35+ Carnival Attractions**

**Ticket Auction!**

*Battle Dome Laser Tag, Zip Line,  
32' Rock Climbing Wall*

*Mobile Ninja Warrior Course*

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*Mind Winder, Human Tumbler*

*24' Raiders of The Lost Temple Slide*

*High Voltage Xtreme Arena, Meltdown*

*Carnival Fair Fun Park, Pony Rides*

*Black Ops Obstacle Course*

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Nachos & Much More!



**The King's Christian Academy**

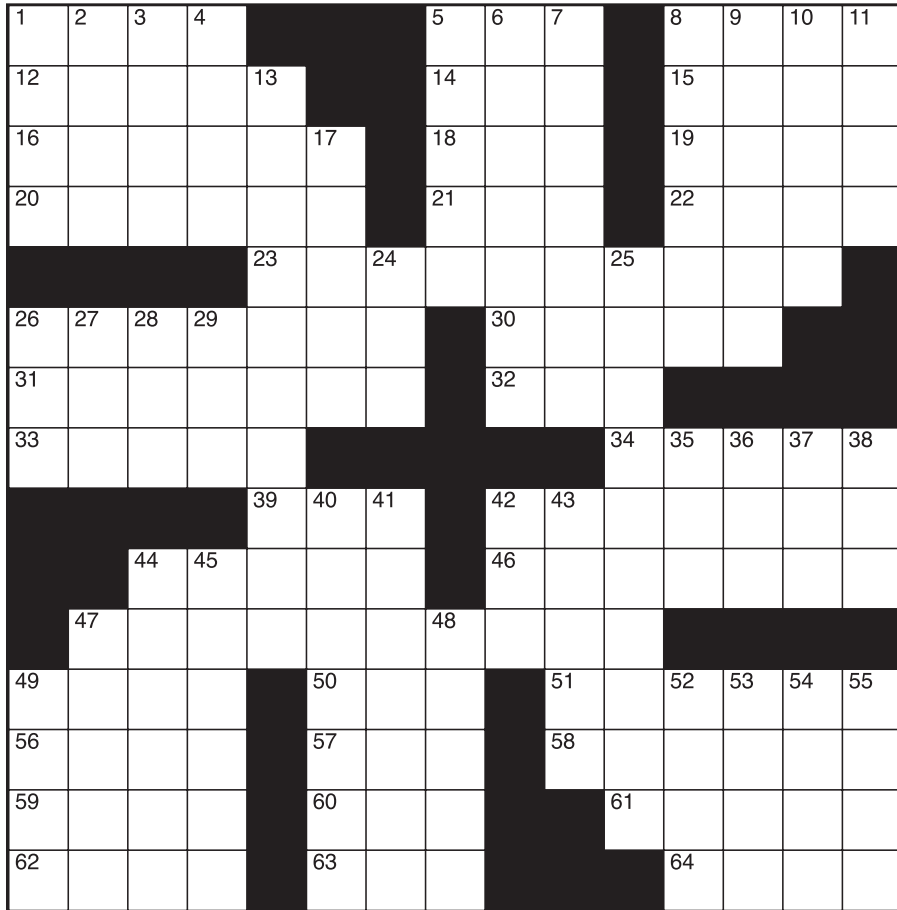
**Callaway, MD off Rt. 5 / 301-994-3080**

**www.KCAeagles.org ♦ Rain Date: November 11**







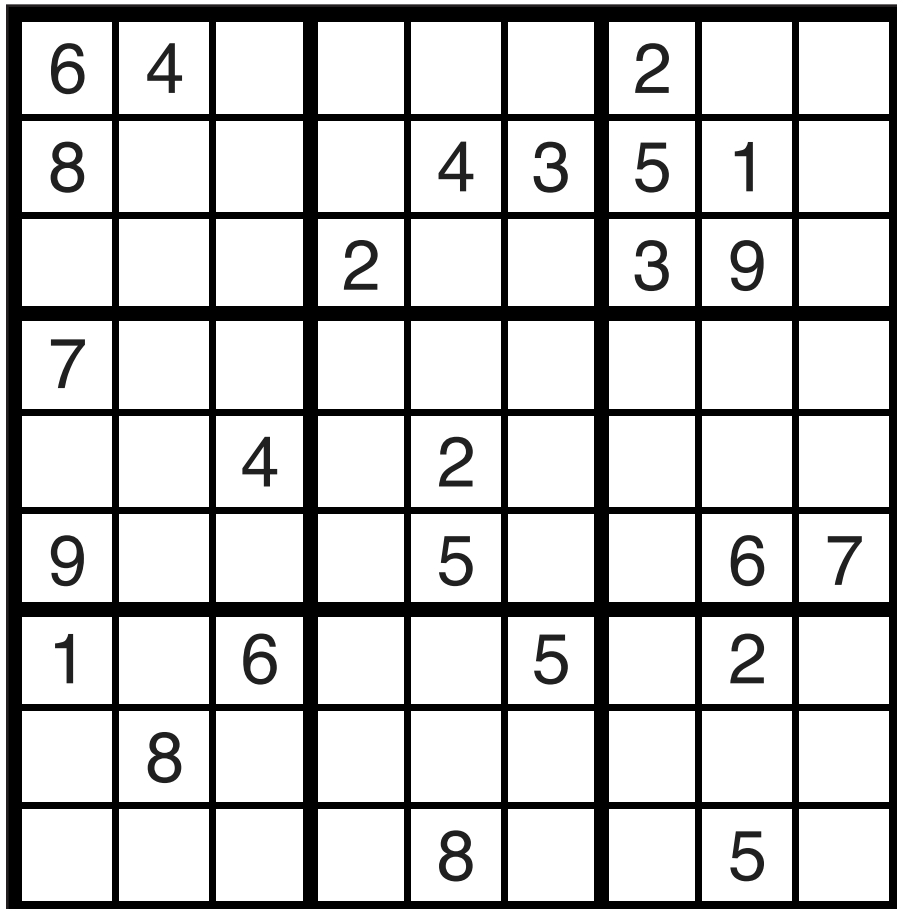


CLUES ACROSS

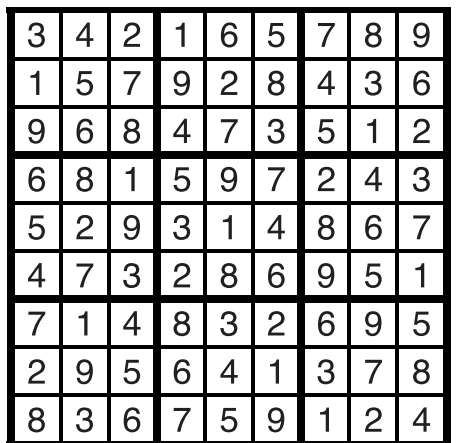
- 1. A device to disengage without a key
- 5. Subdivision
- 8. Network of nerves
- 12. Lounge chair
- 14. Ocean
- 15. C. European river
- 16. Bowl-shaped cavity
- 18. \_\_\_ Caesar, comedian
- 19. Lyric poems
- 20. Tia's sister
- 21. A way to develop
- 22. Cows collectively
- 23. Areas close by
- 26. Slightly disreputable
- 30. Made a mistake
- 31. One who cites
- 32. Food stall: \_\_\_ pai dong
- 33. Narrow valley between hills
- 34. Members of people living mainly in the Congo
- 39. More (Spanish)
- 42. Classroom implements
- 44. Cognizant of
- 46. One who tells on others
- 47. Free from slavery
- 49. Thick piece of something
- 50. Containing two nitrogen atoms between carbon atoms
- 51. Removed entirely
- 56. Late rocker Turner
- 57. Appreciated
- 58. Observation expedition
- 59. Opposite of subtracts
- 60. Unit of work
- 61. Wreckage on the sea bed
- 62. Affirmative! (slang)
- 63. Witness
- 64. River in England

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A dissenting clique
- 2. Japanese city
- 3. Spiritual leader
- 4. Second letter of Greek alphabet
- 5. Musical term
- 6. Ruled over
- 7. Fortified wine
- 8. First year player
- 9. Moved in a circular way
- 10. Adolescents
- 11. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
- 13. Someone who serves in the armed forces
- 17. Bring up
- 24. Factual written account (abbr.)
- 25. Having three sides
- 26. Annoy
- 27. Hustle
- 28. American WW2 leader
- 29. Stale atmosphere
- 35. US Treasury
- 36. Sound unit
- 37. They \_\_\_
- 38. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 40. Places to play video games
- 41. Medical event
- 42. When you hope to arrive
- 43. Fixed prices
- 44. Popular Boston song
- 45. Valley in Indiana and Illinois
- 47. Omit when speaking
- 48. German explorer of the Congo Basin
- 49. Stick around
- 52. From a distance
- 53. Heroic tale
- 54. Amounts of time
- 55. Eat



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



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# 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.

## Fri, Oct 20

### On Pins & Needles

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

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. For library resources on this topic, click here [410-535-0291](https://CalvertLibrary.info) or [301-855-1862](https://CalvertLibrary.info).

## Sat, Oct 21

### Halloween in the Garden

Annemarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.; advance timed-entry tickets required

It's everyone's favorite Halloween tradition at Annmarie! Join us for a day of Halloween fun and games with more than 50 community booths spread out across the garden with treats and family fun for everyone! Dress up and come enjoy an awesome day of trick-or-treating, a DJ dance party, games, great photo opps, music, and yummy food and drinks! Advance timed-entry tickets required, \$5/person (\$7 at the gate, if not sold out); age 2 & under free; members free; reduced cost tickets for SNAP card holders available. Rain or shine event, no pets, no smoking. Details: [www.annmariegarden.org](http://www.annmariegarden.org)

### Experience Calvert Festival

North Beach  
12 p.m.

Enjoy family fun activities and all the things that make Calvert County the place to visit! Start with family fun activities and continue throughout beautiful North Beach "The Jewel of the Chesapeake Bay". Taste the flavors of Calvert-great seafood, locally brewed beer, vintage wine, children's activities and more! Shop local businesses and enjoy the history and views that makes

Calvert County so unique. Come early, stay late! Rain Date October 22. FREE

### Clothes Closet Open House

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
25 Church St. Prince Frederick  
9-11 a.m.

Open House event, providing free professional clothing for women. Sponsored by Commission for Women; 301-758-8465; <https://www.calvert-women.org>

### Garden Smarter: The Hidden Lives of Trees

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
10-11 a.m.

We will examine how trees of the same and different species communicate and provide support for each other. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### NDC Theater Aladdin Jr

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

Join Aladdin and his pals as he attempts to win Princess Jasmine's heart by outwitting the evil Jafar with the help of a magical Genie. Limited seating: advanced tickets suggested. [www.ndctheater.org](http://www.ndctheater.org)

## Wed, Oct 25

### Job Seeker Resources – Skillbuilders

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

Maryland Department of Labor, Veterans Program, Senior Community Service Employment and Job Service representatives will be in person to meet with those seeking employment or career change. Walk ins welcome on the second and fourth Wednesday

of every month. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Overcoming 7 Challenges: Skill Builders

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

Overcoming seven challenges that Interfere with your Success This workshop offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center encourages you to move forward from the most common challenges that interfere with your success. Registration ends 24 hours before the event. By registering for this class, you are agreeing to share your contact information with Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center (AJC) staff who conduct this workshop. For additional information or to request one-to-one assistance, please contact AJC Job Service Specialist Gayle Howe at: [gayle.howe@maryland.gov](mailto:gayle.howe@maryland.gov) For more library resources on this topic, visit Calvert Library's Jobs and Careers page online, or visit us in-person! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862.

### Reading Buddies: Young Readers

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
6:30-7:30 p.m.

At this event, elementary aged children will do fun activities and read out loud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating. It's a great way to socialize and build reading confidence! Register for the event. Bring favorite books, or pick one of ours when you get here—we have plenty! Stuffed animals are welcome! Read and engage in fun activities with teen volunteers. Have fun! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Thu, Oct 26

### Little Minnows: Otters and Friends

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

This month's theme is Otters and Friends, 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.

## Upcoming

### Bad Art Night

Annemarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center  
Friday, October 27  
4:30-6:30 p.m.

It's an outrageous night of BAD ART MAKING. Adults-only are invited to be inspired by the works in our galleries, then undertake some unconventional and unorthodox art-making. We'll have all the supplies you'll need to have at it. Finished artwork will be displayed for all and then cast your vote for "The Best of the Worst." Prizes will be awarded! It's a great night to let loose, get "creative", and have some fun!

Cash bar, bad snacks and lively music will add to the fun. \$7/person, members free. Must be 21. Reservations not required, just come. Details: [www.annmariegarden.org](http://www.annmariegarden.org).

### Hound of the Town

North Beach Boardwalk  
9023 Bay Avenue, North Beach  
Sunday, October 29  
12-2 p.m.

A costume parade just for dogs and dog lovers! Owners will walk their furry friends along the parade route where they will be introduced and judged by a panel of judges. The prize categories include: Best Dog Costume, Funniest Costume, Best Overall Hound of the Town, Best Dog/Owner Costume Combo, and Most Original Costume. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the parade. Please note only dogs can be entered in the dog parade! Registration begins at noon. \$10/dog. 443-646-2415

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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



# Letters to the Editor

## Thanks from the Fair Board

The Calvert County Fair Board would like to publicly thank everyone who helped to make our recent fair the success that it was. It takes a lot of people lending much support to hold a successful event and we feel fortunate that so many helped to support the 2023 Calvert County Fair.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who gave so generously of their time and talents; the businesses, organizations, and individuals who took ads in the Fair Book or brochure, helped to sponsor events, trophies or plaques, and awards or set up booths; the wonderful staff of Calvert County Parks and Rec. and Calvert County Office on Aging that took charge of Senior Citizen and Special Needs Day; the Career and Technology Academy for allowing students from Food Production to assist with the preparation and serving the bag lunch for our seniors and special needs persons; to Steve Weems, Former Calvert County Commissioner, for his help in Judging and participating in the Pie Eating Contest; the local contractors who generously provided equipment and supplies; Morgan E. Russell, Excavating and Hauling for providing their equipment for the track; the many judges who shared their expertise; the local newspapers for their coverage; the local fire and rescue departments; the deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and the troopers from the Maryland State Police who were on call; Lt. Jason Dean who was in charge of security at the Fair and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Tom Phelps for working out the traffic plan for Youth Day and county road staff for helping make the plan work; the Joy Riders who assisted with the parking; the Calvert County Board of Education; the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners; the 4-H Livestock Members; Miss Tranquility, Olivia Eyler, and her court and Lord Calvert, Brett Sheranko and his

court who were official greeters at the gate; Pastor Wilson Parran for Blessing the Fair; Calvert High School NJROTC under the command of Chief Kevin Peck and his Cadets for their participation in the official opening of the fair ceremony and Everard Johnson, and his Family, for providing the horses and family riders as part of the Opening Ceremony Parade.

We would like to thank the John Brady family for coordinating the Poultry Building. We would also like to thank Gail Hatfield for overseeing the Livestock Barns and thank Debbie Jones, James Bateman, and Robert Lee Trossbach for their help in the Livestock Barns during the Fair. Thanks to the University of MD Extension, Calvert County, for their help in the 4-H and Youth Building and to the Calvert Soil Conservation, Calvert County Farm Bureau, and the Chesapeake Garden Club for working in the Farm and Garden Building.

Thanks also to the local talent groups and individuals who performed free of charge; those who set up food or commercial booths; the College of Southern Maryland for the use of their parking lot, and to those who brought cans and dry or boxed foods to the Fair on Wednesday night and on Youth Day.

We would like to thank all those who prayed that we would have dry weather at the Fair this year and their prayers were answered as we only had drizzle a couple of days.

In addition, we would like to thank those who proudly brought their exhibits, for without exhibits, we wouldn't have a county fair. Last, but certainly, not least, we thank all of those who came and joined in the fun. We hope to see you back again next year!

Larry Titus,  
President

## Striped Bass Survey Results Announced Index Below Long-Term Average



During the annual survey, Maryland Department of Natural Resources fishery managers examine 22 sites located in four major striped bass spawning areas. Maryland Department of Natural Resources photo

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources today announced results of this year's juvenile striped bass survey, which tracks the reproductive success of Maryland's state fish in the Chesapeake Bay. The 2023 young-of-year index is 1.0, well below the long-term average of 11.1.

"The warm, dry conditions in winter and spring during the past several years have not been conducive to the successful reproduction of fish that migrate to fresh water for spawning," said DNR's Fisheries and Boating Director Lynn Fegley. "In response, we're working with the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission to support management actions we can take now to protect striped bass and improve spawning success. The Department is also considering additional state-specific actions to increase protections within Maryland."

Efforts to rebuild the Atlantic Coast population have been underway for several years and are ongoing. Low levels of spawning stock in recent years have spurred action by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which manages the overall population of striped bass along the Atlantic coast, including the Chesapeake Bay. In May, the Commission put in place an emergency measure that bars anglers from harvesting fish larger than 31 inches, a step to better protect large fish. In early 2024, the Commission will vote on additional regulation changes aimed at reducing striped bass deaths caused by coastwide fishing activity, including the Chesapeake Bay.

In previous years, Maryland has taken several management actions aimed at rebuilding the spawning stock—including a recreational one-fish daily catch limit, a two-week summer closure, changes in slot size, and moving season start and end dates—but changing environmental conditions may be hindering the ability for the striped bass population to quickly bounce back.

Striped bass spawning activity is temperature-driven and historically adult fish migrated to the Chesapeake Bay to spawn in April and May, which aligned with the seasonal arrival of zooplankton and other microscopic food sources that larval striped bass eat. However, recent winters have produced less-than-average snowfalls in the region and therefore less snowmelt to cool the rivers and streams where striped bass spawn.

Research has also shown Spring zoo-

plankton production in the Bay is being altered by warmer winters. Fishery scientists are continuing to investigate whether higher temperatures earlier in the year are affecting the survivability of juvenile striped bass.

Despite the challenges striped bass face, historic spawning data have shown the ability of the overall striped bass population to increase quickly under the right environmental conditions. The species can have several years of poor recruitment followed by a productive spawning year that can bolster the overall population long-term.

Other anadromous species with similar spawning behavior such as white perch, yellow perch, and herring also experienced below-average reproduction this year.

"It's important to remember that increasing the size of the striped bass stock does not guarantee strong reproduction," said Fegley. "We will continue to work with other coastal states to rebuild the population so spawning can succeed when conditions are right."

Previously, favorable environmental conditions for striped bass such as heavy winter snowfalls or higher spring rainfalls have helped produce stronger juvenile year classes. Nutrient pollution reduction efforts throughout the Bay watershed have also reduced the instances of hypoxia affecting striped bass and other fish.

Biologists captured more than 47,000 fish of 63 different species while conducting this year's survey. Encouraging results were documented regarding two species lower on the food chain. Menhaden abundance was the highest measured in over 30 years. Bay anchovy abundance was the highest measured since 1974. These species are very important to the ecology of the Bay as a food source for many other species of fish and wildlife.

During this annual survey, fishery managers examine 22 sites located in four major striped bass spawning areas: the Choptank, Nanticoke, and Potomac rivers, and the Upper Chesapeake Bay. Biologists visit each site three times per summer, collecting fish with two sweeps of a 100-foot beach seine net. The index represents the average number of recently hatched striped bass captured in each sample.

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science conducts a similar survey in the southern portion of Chesapeake Bay.

Press Release from MD DNR.

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# CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of October 2 – October 8, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,881 calls for service throughout the community.

**Burglary: 23-71572**

On October 8, 2023, at 11:25 p.m., Deputy R. Jones responded to the 11600 block of Asbury Circle in Solomons, for report of a burglary that had already occurred. Investigation revealed sometime between 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., unknown suspects forced entry into the residence through a screen window and stole \$40 in US currency, a Visa Mastercard, and 5 checkbooks. The estimated value of stolen property was \$190. The estimated value of damaged property is \$150.

**Littering: 23-70037**

On October 3, 2023, Deputy McCourt responded to the 1500 block of Calvert Beach Road in St. Leonard, for the reported littering. Contact was made with the complainant who advised for the past few months an unknown subject has been dropping bags of human feces in the middle of St. Leonard Road between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m. Deputies continue to investigate.

**Theft: 23-69878**

On October 1, 2023, M/DFC Burgraff responded to the 1200 block of Back Creek Loop in Solomons, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between Sept. 29 and Oct. 1, an unknown suspect (s) stole the victim's bicycle and a vehicle bike rack. The bicycle is described as a 36" SixThreeZero bike and is all black in color. The estimated value of stolen property is \$800.00.

**Theft: 23-69882**

On October 2, 2023, Deputy Bowen responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office for report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between Sept. 22 and Sept. 27, a Virginia registration plate (trailer tag) had been stolen from a parked trailer at a residence in the 5800 block of Hickory Road in St. Leonard. The estimated value of stolen property is \$99.00.

**ARRESTS**



Michael Joseph Keller

On October 6, 2023, DFC Plant observed **Michael Joseph Keller**, 60 of no fixed address, in the area of the Giant Food located at 10790 Town Center Blvd. in Dunkirk. Keller had been indefinitely trespassed from the Giant and had two active warrants through the Calvert County Sheriff's Office. Keller was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

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

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

## Defendant Pleads Guilty to Dunkirk Bank Robbery

Silas M. Moore, 37, of Washington, DC, pleaded guilty on Oct. 13 in the Circuit Court for Calvert County to armed robbery, use of a handgun in the commission of a crime of violence, and unlawful possession of a regulated firearm.

The charges stem from an incident that occurred at the M&T Bank in Dunkirk on May 1, 2023. An individual, later identified as Moore, entered the bank, produced a note demanding money, and displayed a handgun. He fled with \$1,000. Detectives initiated a pursuit of the getaway car and a high-speed chase ensued. he defendant and three alleged accomplices were ultimately arrested and the money and weapon were recovered.

Sentencing for Moore is scheduled on October 23, 2023. He is facing up to 40 years imprisonment.

On September 5, 2023, an accomplice,



Denise Blacknell, received a sentence of 23 years, with eight years of active incarceration.

*Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney*

# Federal Grant Monies Slated for Pool Roof, HVAC System



The Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center in Prince Frederick

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is proposing to allocate \$1.25 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to begin design and construction preparation for a replacement of the roof and heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) system at the Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center in Prince Frederick. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$8.5 million.

The Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center (HAC) is at 130 Auto Drive. Before an Oct. 17 public hearing at which no one spoke, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Robert Branham explained, "Due to the age and the increased demand on the HVAC system, it has become inefficient and prone to frequent breakdowns. The existing roof of the aquatic facility is now showing signs of significant damage, including leaks, cracks, and deterioration in the operation of the roof panels. Immediate action is necessary to prevent further deterioration and to maintain the structural integrity of the building."

Branham said the monies proposed to be used from ARPA funding come from savings from other ARPA projects. He said the final budget estimate for the project would come after a feasibility study.

"Further funding requirements will be proposed in future budget cycles," he said.

Branham said the roof and HVAC system were original to the 13-year-old building. Commissioner Mike Hart said, "It's a shame. I've got plastic sheds older than that that sit outside. I don't do anything to it."

Branham responded, "I think, my opinion, part of the conditions that we deal with are the nature of an auditorium and the humidity and the chemicals."

Hart said, "It's from the design from the beginning," and Branham agreed. He said the replacement of the roof and HVAC system would rectify the situation. "There was a study done and I would assume that the projections are to last longer than a new facility needing a new roof and HVAC in 13 years."

The commissioners kept the record open for 10 days and will take a final vote after that.

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

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# Proposal Would Consolidate, Change Some Polling Places

## Little Comment at Public Hearing

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Judging from the reaction at an Oct. 17 public hearing, county residents are on board with a proposal to consolidate or change some polling places in the county for the May 14, 2022, primary election. The hearing was held by the Calvert County Election Board at the Southern Community Center in Lusby. The record will remain open until Oct. 27.

Election Administrator Gail Hatfield explained the changes were the result of a change in voting habits to more use of early and mail-in balloting combined with a change in election and legislative district as the result of redistricting.

Hatfield also said some parts of the county have difficulty getting enough election judges.

One of the guidelines in choosing polling places, Hatfield said, "Where we don't have any legislative lines that we want to go through a precinct. We cannot have that because then you have half of the people voting in one legislative district and half voting in another. So, we need to keep our precincts inside of the legislative district in which they're actually at."

Hatfield said, "From 2020, our mail-in ballots increased tremendously. We had four percent is all the people that voted. I was lucky if I had 200 ballots. I went from 200 ballots to 20,000 ballots in the 2022 election."

"We went up to almost 24 percent of the voting turnout is now in absentee ballots and 23 percent are now showing up to vote early," she said which has led to a decline in in-person election day voting.

In the past election two additional early voting locations were added, one of which was in a trailer behind Fairview Library. That proved to be inadequate for some people to access.

For the next election, Hatfield has worked with the Department of Parks and Recreation to establish a temporary location at Ward Farm Park. She said there

isn't enough time to come up with a permanent polling place in Dunkirk for the next election.

Instead, the proposal is to consolidate three polling places, at Fairview Library, Northern Middle School, and Northern High School into one at the larger high school.

She said, "Northern Middle School is a small room, it's a small cafeteria, there's not a lot of parking. It's a little more difficult to get in and out of the middle school. So, we want to slide the voters that are in the middle school now and over to the high school because the high school is a huge room."

The county election district redistricting enlarged the 1<sup>st</sup> Election District, creating a situation where there would potentially be too many voters at Mutual Elementary School. So, the proposal is to add a new precinct at St. Leonard Elementary School to split the potential numbers.

The other proposals involve the Lusby area. One would consolidate the small and difficult to access polling place at Patuxent Elementary School into the other existing polling place in the same general area at the Southern Community Center.

The other plan would consolidate the existing polling place at Mill Creek Middle School, which also is small and difficult to fund, to the nearby existing polling place at Patuxent High School, which has plenty of space.

Hatfield said, "The southern end is where we have the most difficulty finding election judges to work."

At the public comment portion only several people spoke in person and via Zoom.

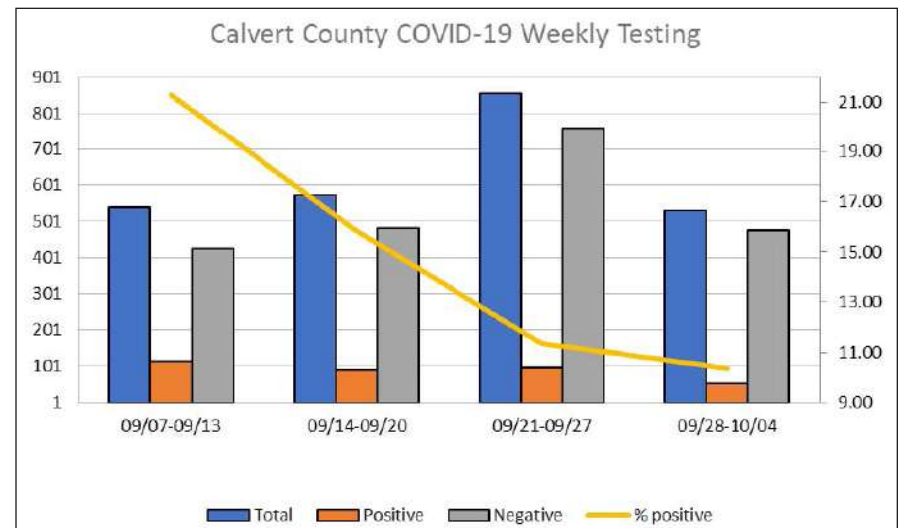
James McQueen said, "This is brilliant, this works. I did eight poll days out here (Southern Community Center) for early election. I also was the judge at the middle school and had plenty of downtime, so it was not crowded and here nobody had any issues with the parking."

"And also, I see it's cost effective," he added.

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

# It's Flu Season, Get Vaccinated

## That's the Health Department's Message



By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

It's flu season, and, "We can reduce the likelihood of severe disease with vaccinations to prevent those people from landing in the hospital," said the health department's Supervisor of Community Health Dr. Michelle Folsom.

Dr. Folsom was sitting in for Health Officer Dr. Laurence Polsky at the semi-annual report to the county commissioners sitting as the Board of Health on Oct. 17.

She said, "Influenza, I want to remind everyone, typically presents as an upper respiratory or a lung condition. Most commonly it presents as a cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, fever, body aches, and occasionally GI symptoms, although that's not generally the most common presentation. Treatment can be initiated with medications."

She said the health department has administered 575 influenza vaccinations to youth in the public schools at no cost. A rollout of a second round is expected next week to include some of the non-public schools.

The health department has scheduled a drive-through flu vaccine clinic at 141 Schooner Lane, the same location as the previous Covid vaccinations. It'll be on Nov. 4, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"All are approved for the flu vaccine, six months and above," she said, adding, "For people who are older who would like to take advantage of the high dose vaccine, that will also be available and there will be no out-of-pocket costs."

"Our new registration system goes live in two weeks in advance of the actual clinic," she added.

Flu shots can be taken at the same time as the new Covid booster. Folsom says that Covid shot only needs to be received once, and that applies to those who have not previously received any Covid shot.

Pharmacies are the best place to get those shots, although some doctor's offices also have them, she said.

"Everybody knows that Covid infections are still present in our community," Dr. Folsom said.

She noted, "Over the course of the summer, testing and positivity did increase. We did see lower overall hospitalization and death rates because we have early access to vaccination and treatments. Unfortunately, the folks who do land in the hospital and/or pass away, we do look at their records for things like vaccination. And many of them were not up to date or were unvaccinated."

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccines are also available. She said, "This is a confusing one for some because it's a new vaccination that's been approved for both the youngest and the oldest in our population. It does land a lot of kids and a lot of older folks in the hospital. So, this is why they've now approved this vaccination."

She said, "For children younger than five years of age... (there are) somewhere upwards of 80,000 hospitalizations every single year for RSV. And for people 65 and over, it can be almost double that."

Shots are more readily available for RSV now for senior citizens than they are for the youngest.

For those getting all three shots, Dr. Folsom said getting them all at the same time may be a little too much, but two at a time should be manageable.

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# Commissioners Meet with Legislators

## Strong Push for Local Bid Preference

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Calvert's state legislative delegation was urged to try again to get a law passed giving the county commissioners authority to implement a preference for local businesses making bids. The request came at a joint meeting of the commissioners and lawmakers on Oct. 17.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathy Maney said, "Those folks that are supporting this, along with the Chamber of Commerce, our partners are ready to go to fight in Annapolis to help you do what you need to do in order to get this through so Calvert County will have the opportunity to at least offer this to our businesses."

County Attorney John Norris explained, "We do today have a reciprocal preference so that if a company is the lowest bidder on a Calvert County project, but their home county, where they have the principal office, has a local preference, we apply that as a penalty up to \$25,000. So that, the Calvert County businesses that are not in the same equal playing field in that home jurisdiction, have an advantage here, bidding on local projects. This is the next evolution of that. It allows the public to come together and decide what it means to be considered a local business through a public hearing process. And what it means to the taxpayers that the local business that pays personal property tax, that pays real estate, that pays income tax means to them. And how important it's to keep that business local."

Commissioner President Biddy Hance said, "The very first capital project that I think I voted to approve was a Prince Frederick firehouse, which was an \$11 million project and a local construction company in Calvert County lost that bid over \$17,000. We just bid out the county administration building, which is \$36 or \$37 million. And a construction company in Calvert County lost that bid over about \$400,000. It bothers us that our local businesses are missing out on these projects over not a lot of money."

The commissioners were told that this year there is a new chairman of the committee that would handle the bill. Last year's

chairman held it up.

Del. Jeffrie Long (D: 27B) said "There was this misconception from some members that it was bad policy practice in different jurisdictions that they didn't want to repeat. So, we were doing our best to come combat and push back against that."

Del.; Mark Fisher (R: 27C) said the delegation supported the legislation. But he said more help was needed from the Maryland Chamber of Commerce "not just on this legislation, but on the massive amount of anti-business legislation that comes to the committee that I sit on. The Chamber has been often silent."

### Panhandling

Another bill that has been requested previously, Norris said, would piggyback on existing laws Allegheny and Cecil counties "that would allow a Calvert County qualified organization, that means a fire company or education, religious, fraternal civic, veterans or charitable organization, to apply for a permit, but generally precludes people from soliciting donations or cash from a vehicle inside the right of way."

The Democrats in the delegation expressed reservations about the proposal that is supported by State's Attorney Bob Harvey.

Long said, "I think it's very important that we look at this one very hard, that as a public safety, it's getting to be more of an issue in Prince Frederick. When somebody comes out of Safeway Shopping Center, my mother, 85-year-old widow, and you got this person not knowing if he needs drugs, needs a Pepsi, needs some food. So, we need to look at this very hard."

Sen. Michael Jackson (D: 27), a former Prince George's County sheriff, said he was a supporter of public safety, "but if it's a safety issue, how is it safer for certain charitable groups to be there, but not safer for the homeless population and for others." He also said it may be a legal issue to allow some but preclude others.

Commissioner Mike Hart said, "Certain organizations, a lot of times they're marked on their clothing.

Like if you have a certain organization

like the Lion's Club that's sitting out there, they're wearing some type of identification."

### Gambling Revenue

Another return bill (for the third time), Norris said, was "For an increase in the state admissions and amusement tax revenue. Currently, Anne Arundel County receives six percent of the state admissions and amusement tax. Calver County receives four."

The extra tax revenue, he said, would go to "the Calvert County Department of Recreation and Parks capital projects for park improvements." Lost revenue has been estimated by Fisher's office at \$750,000 annually.

Fisher explained why he believes the bill has failed previously: "There's gambling in Chesapeake Beach. There are three places that have gambling machines. Way back in the day, there was an argument between some folks that were elected back then and the Rod 'N Reel over whether there should be gambling at all. I think there were some issues at that time of the sitting county commissioners. Senator Miller decided to impose the tax as you see it here. And most of the disagreements were over the fact that Prince George's wanted gambling first, because we didn't have statewide gambling, but Calver County and Anne Arundel counties had these machines."

Fisher said the Donovan family which owns the Rod 'N Reel have continued to lobby against the increase.

"Rod 'N Reel sent out a mailer county-wide to say that Mark Fisher wants to raise taxes," he said.

Fisher said, "I do believe it's a good idea to have a conversation with Rod 'N Reel, with Mr. Donovan and others, and explain do you want more of that money to stay local or do you want the \$18 million to go to the state?"

### Citizen Proposals

This year the commissioners solicited proposed legislation from the citizenry, and several were received, including one from Calvert Citizens United, which Fisher has agreed to introduce, called "Calvert County Ethics Consequences of Violation."

Fisher explained the bill would address



Del. Mark Fisher

the issue raised during the previous commissioner board's term in which then commissioner Kelly McConkey voted to include property he owns in Huntingtown into an expanded town center. The group challenged it all the way to the Maryland Supreme Court, which ruled they could not overturn a law that had been codified by the legislature.

Fisher said, "Obviously that's (McConkey's) a pretty clear violation of the ethics code. The question is why couldn't more have been done? And it was no one's fault."

He added, "Probably in a perfect world, what should have happened is the individual, under law, if we had this in place, would've been required... to recuse himself after being called out as a result of voting their property into the town center."

Myra Gowans of Calvert Citizens United, said the existing state legislation goes back to two court cases called Sugarloaf and Kenwood in which elected officials were allowed to vote on zoning cases even though they had conflicts of interest.

She said of the Maryland Supreme Court, "unfortunately, seven justices actually say in a 27-page opinion, we cannot do anything about this. We cannot eliminate state law. That's for the legislators, and they have to do that."

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# Marine Industry Program Steers Young Adults to Careers In Local Boatyards

By Tim Flaherty  
Contributing Writer

Kaleb Donnelly-Cookson of Lusby wasn't happy as a mechanic working on cars. "It's the same thing over and over," he said. Not to mention that the pay arrangement he had with his previous employer left him dissatisfied.

Then Donnelly-Cookson applied for and was accepted into a paid internship program overseen by the Marine Trades Association of Maryland (MTAM). He now is in the midst of a six-week training program and introduction to the world of yacht maintenance and repair while he interns at Washburn's Boat Yard in Solomons.

"The Maryland Trades Industry Partnership, or MTIP is a collaborative program run by the association to recruit young adults who want to pursue a career in the marine trades," says Emily Decker, the Workforce Development Coordinator for the MTAM. Donnelly-Cookson's internship through MTIP is partially paid for by a grant from the state of Maryland, according to Decker. Washburn's makes up the difference in pay for his six-week stay. At the end of the six weeks, which will be the second week in November, he could be offered a permanent position at Washburn's, seek employment elsewhere in the marine industry, or decide boatyard life is not for him and seek another career.

Donnelly-Cookson, a 2021 graduate of



Bill Brandon (right), Vice President of Washburn's Boatyard in Solomons, discusses propeller maintenance with intern Kaleb Donnelly-Cookson. A 21-year-old graduate of Patuxent High School, Donnelly-Cookson is in the midst of a six week internship program sponsored by the Marine Trades Association of Maryland and partially funded by a state grant program.

Patuxent High School, is spending his time at Washburn's rotating between departments, working on gasoline engines, diesel engines, fiberglass repair, electronics, boat painting and detailing, and marine HVAC. His supervisor at Washburn's is Bill Brandon, the company's vice president who is also an officer with the MTAM. "This is really, in my opinion," Brandon said, "an on-the-job

training program that is more like a 'welcome to the industry, come check it out and see how it fits' option for young people."

Donnelly-Cookson says that of the different disciplines he is sampling, he is most interested in working on marine gasoline engines. "But I am willing to try anything," he added. "Working on boats seems to be a lot more interesting that working on cars because there is so much variety. No two boats and no two problems seem to be the same."

The MTIP was begun in 2014 with a slightly different format. "It was a summer internship program aimed at high school students," Brandon explained. "The kids were placed at various boatyards and marinas around the state for six weeks in the summer. We found that wasn't the right target market. A lot of the kids were too young for what was happening, and it was the wrong time of the year." The program then evolved into a year-round effort targeting young adults.

Decker said her office aims to place 60 young people annually into marine industry

internships and help another 20 incumbent industry workers explore further options in the marine trades. "This year we had 38 young adults apply for and be accepted for the internships," she said. "Since the program began nine years ago, about 400 young people have gone through the program."

Although the Marine Trades Association of Maryland oversees the program by doing the paperwork, recruiting applicants, and maintaining an organizational structure, Brandon emphasized that the state grant program that helps fund the interns' pay is crucial to the continuation of this effort. "It's what allows me to let him (Donnelly-Cookson) explore and learn rather than turn wrenches to make money. It's a chunk of money that Washburn's still has to invest in the interns who may not make us a dime during their stay. The state grant doesn't cover all of Kaleb's pay, but it makes it palatable to have him here learning. At the end of six weeks, we can say, 'hopefully this is an industry you are interested in,' then we can talk to him about long-term employment with us."

Washburn's has previously had "five or six" such interns under Brandon's tenure at that boatyard, and he said he had two more when he ran a boatyard in Baltimore. Two of the interns have stayed in long-term jobs at Washburn's, and one more took a permanent position at the yard in Baltimore.

Other boatyards and marinas in Calvert County have participated in the past. Drum Point Marine, Zahniser's Safe Harbor, and Spring Cove Marina, all in Solomons, have had MTIP interns, according to Decker. She added that Reliable Marine in Solomons, Flag Harbor Boatyard and Marina in St. Leonard, and Zimmerman Marine in Solomons, have all signed-on to participate and will be employing interns in the near future.

Those interested in applying for the MTIP internship program are urged to apply through the Marine Trades Association of Maryland website, or inquire at an MTAM member marina or boatyard.

## Calvert Man Killed In Prince George's Pedestrian Accident

The Prince George's County Police Department's Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Unit is investigating a fatal pedestrian collision in Fort Washington. The deceased pedestrian is 24-year-old Austin McCollum of Chesapeake Beach.

On October 15, 2023, at approximately 1 a.m., officers responded to the intersection of Indian Head Highway and Old Fort Road for a pedestrian collision. The preliminary investigation revealed the involved driver was traveling northbound on Indian Head Highway when he struck the pedestrian in the roadway. The driver remained on the scene. McCollum was pronounced deceased

on the scene.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to call the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Unit at 301-731-4422.

Callers wishing to remain anonymous may call Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477), or go online at [www.pgcrimesolvers.com](http://www.pgcrimesolvers.com), or use the "P3 Tips" mobile app search "P3 Tips" in the Apple Store or Google Play to download the app onto your mobile device. Please refer to case number 23-0061338.

Press Release from Prince George's County Police Department.



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“IT BOTHERS US THAT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES ARE MISSING OUT ON THESE PROJECTS OVER NOT A LOT OF MONEY.”

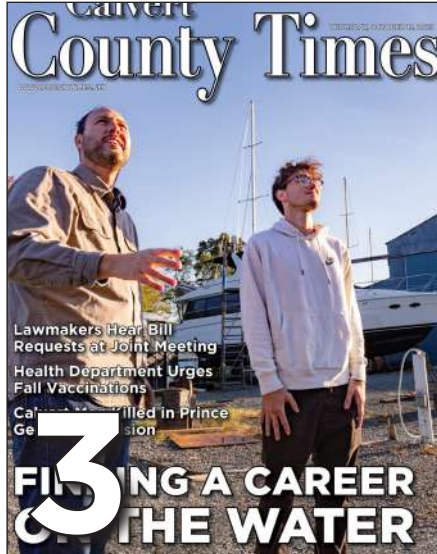
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**LOCAL 4**  
Commissioners, legislators meet



**LOCAL 5**  
New roof planned for aquatic center



**ON THE COVER**  
Program teaches students marine maintenance

## WEEKLY FORECAST

| THU, OCT 19                     | FRI, OCT 20                   | SAT, OCT 21                      | SUN, OCT 22                      |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                 |                               |                                  |                                  |
| Mostly Sunny<br>Hi: 70° Lo: 57° | PM Showers<br>Hi: 69° Lo: 52° | Partly Cloudy<br>Hi: 67° Lo: 49° | Mostly Sunny<br>Hi: 62° Lo: 43°  |
| MON, OCT 23                     | TUE, OCT 24                   | WED, OCT 25                      | THU, OCT 26                      |
|                                 |                               |                                  |                                  |
| Mostly Sunny<br>Hi: 58° Lo: 41° | Sunny<br>Hi: 61° Lo: 45°      | Mostly Sunny<br>Hi: 67° Lo: 51°  | Partly Cloudy<br>Hi: 70° Lo: 55° |



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**Lawmakers Hear Bill  
Requests at Joint Meeting**

**Health Department Urges  
Fall Vaccinations**

**Calvert Man Killed in Prince  
George's Collision**

**FINDING A CAREER  
ON THE WATER**