

**FREE**

**SMECO RATE  
TIMING QUESTIONED**

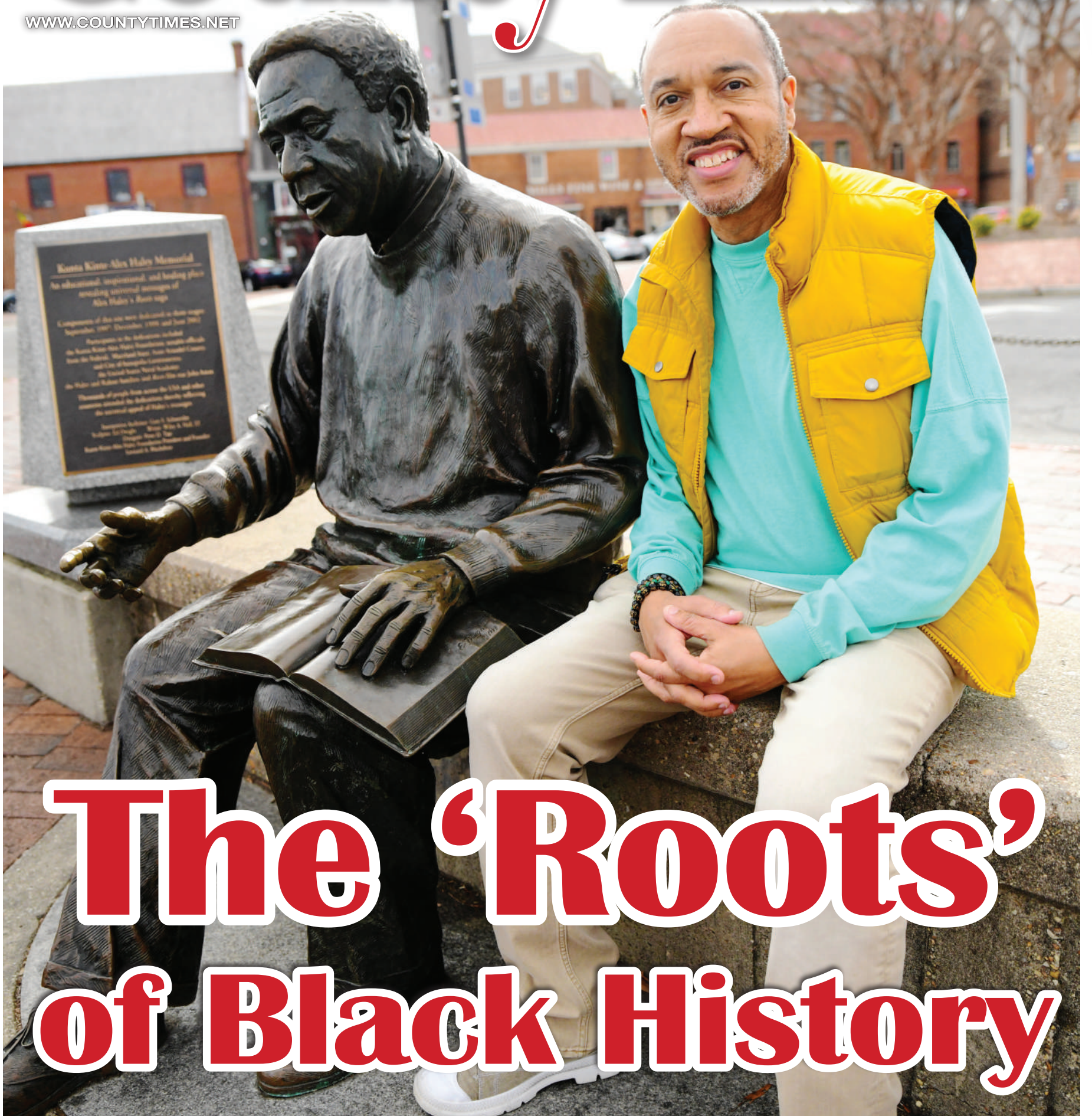
**THIRD SOLOMONS  
JUMPER SURVIVES**

**STATE OF  
CHEESAPEAKE BEACH**

# Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

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# The 'Roots' of Black History



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**ROOTS 12**  
Chris Haley sitting next to his uncle Alex Haley's statue on Annapolis city dock.



**LOCAL 5**  
Sadly, another bridge jumper



**ENTERTAINMENT 19**  
ArtWorks featured artist

**“IT’S NOT REALLY FEASIBLE FOR US TO LAND DISCHARGE IN PRINCE FREDERICK.”**  
WATER & SEWER CHIEF CHRIS HALL ON \$60 MILLION PLAN.

## WEEKLY FORECAST

<b>Thu 2/24</b> 42°   37°F  PM Showers	<b>Fri 2/25</b> 61°   32°F  AM Showers	<b>Sat 2/26</b> 44°   32°F  Partly Cloudy	<b>Sun 2/27</b> 54°   30°F  Mostly Sunny
<b>Mon 2/28</b> 42°   29°F  Mostly Sunny	<b>Tue 3/1</b> 51°   40°F  Partly Cloudy	<b>Wed 3/2</b> 54°   37°F  Partly Cloudy	<b>Thu 3/3</b> 54°   41°F  Partly Cloudy

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For staff listing and emails, see page 23



# SMECO Rate Increase Timing Questioned

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's recent rate increase of roughly 27 percent on electrical power to customers has left many customers reeling, with some elected leaders pondering why the utility cooperative did not inform customers of the coming rate hike until one week after it had been approved by the state's Public Services Commission.

St. Mary's County Commissioner John O'Connor was among the first to seek more answers from the utility regarding the rapid increase.

SMECO made the announcement about the increase Feb. 1, but noted in their statement that the increase had been approved on Jan. 26.

Customers had already been using larger amounts of electrical power to heat their homes; SMECO representatives have already said that January had some of the lowest temperatures so far this year.

"The explanations given by SMECO are embedded in law with the Public Service Commission and is adequate," O'Connor told The County Times. "Of course, like many, I am not happy with it."

"I'm satisfied that this increase was not related to anything other than the rising costs in the United States."

The commissioner said, however, that the increase seemed poorly timed.

"The current rates are undoubtedly high and went into place at the worst possible time," said O'Connor. "SMECO did acknowledge that they could have communicated better, to include letting local government know so we could be better informed."

SMECO spokesman Thomas Dennison said much the same in a brief interview with The County Times this week.

"The timing is very difficult because it's hitting in February," Dennison said. "It's an unfortunate timing."

In looking back at power rates be-



SMECO Chief Executive Officer Sonja Cox

fore the large increase, O'Connor said the evidence showed that power consumption was outpacing a cap SMECO had on rates that forced the increase.

O'Connor estimated that the coming rate increase began to show up as early as November of last year.

"There was 90 days of exceeding the 5 percent cap that forced the change," O'Connor said.

"The PCA (Power Cost Adjustment) adjusts to reduce the impact of market fluctuations on the cost of energy to members," Dennison said.

"When the PCA is more than five percent, up or down, of the residential energy charge for three months in a row the Maryland Public Services Commission requires us to file for a rate adjustment."

SMECO is a cooperative which purchases electric power from all across the country to provide it to its members, which are all part owners of the cooperative.

SMECO has no generating capacity of its own, other than a few nascent solar farm projects, but it is also the only option for virtually all of Southern Maryland as a provider of electrical power.

It is an effective regional monopoly. Aside from the executive leadership at SMECO, it is also governed by a 15-member board of residents elected by members from all the counties in



SMECO Government and Public Affairs Director Thomas Dennison

which SMECO provides power.

The latest tax records available publicly for the fiscal year ending in 2019 show that SMECO had total revenues of \$459.7 million and total functional expenses of \$455.3 million

The utility generated a net income of \$4.4 million.

For the fiscal year ending 2019 SMECO reported \$1.05 billion in assets with \$820.9 million in liabilities.

The total net assets came to \$228.8 million.

The top tier of executive salaries were high.

President and CEO Austin J. Slater, who has since retired and been

replaced by Sonja J. Cox, earned \$616,373 for the fiscal year ending 2019 in compensation.

The prior fiscal year, Slater earned \$1.13 million in executive compensation; for 2017 he earned \$523,477.

The next four executives serving under the CEO's position all earned annual salaries close to or above \$300,000 for those three same fiscal years, the public data shows.

The third tier of five executives all earned annual salaries in the high six figures with a ceiling of about \$200,000 but not dropping below \$150,000 for those same three years.

The members of the board of directors all earn a stipend for their efforts, ranging from about \$25,000 to a little over \$40,000.

SMECO offers a program to ensure customers can regulate their own monthly bills.

Monthly bills fluctuate because energy use usually goes up in summer and winter and down in spring and fall. To reduce the impact of these variations, budget billing allows customers to pay the same amount each month. Residential customers can sign up for SMECO's budget billing plan by going to [smeco.coop/AccountManager](http://smeco.coop/AccountManager).

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



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## Planning Commission Rejects Limits to Prince Frederick Growth

By Dick Myers  
 Editor

The Calvert County Planning Commission has rebuffed efforts to limit multi-family residential development in the Prince Frederick Town Center.

At its Feb. 16 meeting, the planners, on a 3-2 vote with one abstention, denied a motion to limit residential density to 10 units per acre instead of the 14 units proposed in the draft of the town center master plan update.

The motion that was denied was made by Wilson Freeland and seconded by John Toohey. Member Lisa Williams abstained, as she has a number of times during the town center update process.

The planners earlier did vote to limit to a maximum of five to 10 units the density in the "Old Town District" along Main Street.

Later in the meeting, in a separate action on a 3-2 vote, the commission rejected a request submitted by the county commissioners for consideration of tightening regulations for transfer of development rights (TDRs) to require the purchase of more for multi-family development.

The motion against that argued that the decision on TDRs should be made as part of the town center plan update and not separately.

Freeland and Williams recused themselves from participating in that discussion and Commission Chairman Steve Jones broke the tie to recommend against the change.

There is currently a sliding scale for development rights transfer in the Prince Frederick, Solomons and Lusby town centers. The change would have raised it from one TDR for every multi-family unit to a TDR for every bedroom a unit has.

Several of the county commissioners have expressed concern about the growth of multi-family units in the county.

Another controversial aspect of the town center draft is the inclusion of planning for both phases of the Prince Frederick Town Center expansion.

According to the draft plan, the



existing town center had a maximum buildout of 4,058 units. The Phase One expansion would allow for 1,400 more and the Phase 2 expansion, along Route 231 out to the college, would allow for 4,566 more.

Long-Range Planner Jenny Plummer-Welker recommended language be put in the plan update that says, "Add information from the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan about the expansion and the zoning map amendment process that would need to be followed to officially expand Prince Frederick's Town Center boundary."

The planners unanimously adopted Plummer-Welker's recommendation.

Plummer-Welker noted "The comprehensive plan states the proposed Phase Two expansion will be considered through the updating of various other plans, including the county transportation plan, Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan, and other infrastructure plans as may be appropriate."

She added, "The Prince Frederick Phase Two expansion should occur only after these plans are updated as well as meeting future adequate public facilities regulation considerations, including meeting established water, sewer, and public safety criteria. Expansion of the Prince Frederick Town Center will require amending the town center master plan and the zoning for the town center."

Plans for expanding the sewage treatment capacity in Prince Frederick by pumping it to the Solomons sewage treatment plant were presented Feb. 15 to the county commissioners (see separate story).

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



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# Plan: Send Prince Frederick Sewage to Solomons

Price Tag: \$60 Million

By Dick Myers  
Editor

The Calvert County six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) has a lot of big-ticket items. But one is huge --- \$60 million.

Actually, that's the price tag for two projects that are closely connected, so much so that the county is submitting a state grant request for both bundled together.

The project was unveiled during the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Feb. 15 meeting. It involves sending sewage from Prince Frederick via force mains to the Solomons Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) where it will be treated. Cost: \$23 million.

The second part of the project involves the upgrade of the Solomons WWTP for enhanced nitrogen removal (ENR). Cost: \$37 million.

Chief of the Water and Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works Chris Hall told the BOCC, "We've been doing soil studies and so forth and found out that it's not really feasible for us to land discharge in Prince Frederick. So, we're proposing expanding the Solomons Wastewater Treatment station and pumping Prince Frederick effluent down there."

The two projects are part of what is called the Enterprise Fund in the CIP, which means that users pay the cost instead of the money coming from all taxpayers out of the general fund.

Enterprise Fund projects usually are paid upfront with bond issuance and then the bond is paid off with those user fees, which of course are paid for by property owners, who are taxpayers. In the case of businesses, the costs are often passed on to their customers.

The commissioners were told the county should learn this summer whether all or part of the project will be paid for with state grants.

But not to worry, said County Administrator Mark Willis. "The grant money that they're talking about is funding that the citizens of this county pay into anyway. So, it's not if we're going to get some, we're going to get some, whether it's all of it for one project or 50 percent for another, nobody knows that. But the reality is the Bay Restoration Fund, every water and sewer customer pays either



County Administrator Mark Willis

quarterly or annually on their bill. So, we're actually getting our own money back over a longer period of time. So, there is grant money. We just don't know what that amount is."

Willis noted, "That wasn't an internal decision simply by water and sewer division. That was with assistance from the Maryland Department of the Environment to get to that point." Willis said the state agency encouraged the county to pursue the project.

The County Times was told by the county's Communications Department that the project "will not be increasing capacity in the Prince Frederick service area; it will be conveying flow from Prince Frederick to Solomons for treatment at the Solomons WWTP."

"The Solomons WWTP is a groundwater discharge plant using rapid infiltration basins," a department spokesperson said.

The Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan update calls for expansion of the town center in two phases (see separate story) that could more than double the population. The planning commission was told, however, that there is enough capacity in the existing Prince Frederick WWTP.

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

# Solomons Bridge Jumper Survives

Third Jumper of 2022



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Another person jumped from the top of the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge Feb. 19, the third in the last few weeks, but this person survived, said Calvert Sheriff Mike Evans.

"As far as I know she is still alive," said Evans, noting the female jumper was still in a hospital in Baltimore.

The person jumped in the late afternoon, Evans said, and Calvert sheriff's deputies who were close by received the emergency call and got to the top of the bridge to spot where the jumper had landed.

Those deputies were then able to direct the U.S. Coast Guard rescue boats to pick up the jumper, said Evans.

"They found her pretty quick," Evans said. "She was treading water but then she went under."

"They were able to get her out." The county commissioners from all three Southern Maryland counties have agreed to seek state support in finding ways to prevent suicides and suicide attempts from both the Gov. Thomas Johnson and Gov. Harry W. Nice/Mac Middleton Route 301 bridge replacement project.

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# Public Hearing Set for Chesapeake Beach Plan

*Very Little Residential Grown Allowed*



By Dick Myers  
Editor

After several years of intense work on the part of the Chesapeake Beach Planning and Zoning Commission, the proposed update of the town's comprehensive plan is now in the hands of the town council. At the regular Feb. 17 town meeting, the council set Tuesday, March 29 at 7 p.m. as the time for the public hearing on the plan. The council has the final say.

At the council's Feb. 8 work session, Planning and Zoning Administrator Chris Jakubiak gave a briefing on the plan which includes room for very little additional residential growth.

The plan, Jakubiak said, "would call for an increase of about 230 new households over the next 20 years. But to put that into context, 174 of those are already approved. And by virtue of the fact that last year was the busiest year we've had, most of those 174 have been permitted and are under construction or occupied already. And those are the town's new residents in the Heritage subdivision. We estimate that once the houses in the Heritage are built, the last two phases of Richfield Station are built out, there might be about 50 to 60 new households that could be built under the current plan and its recommendations."

Jakubiak added, "There's not much potential for outward expansion of the town."

He said the county land surrounding the town are "lands that have been preserved through the county's farm preservation program, which have basically created a permanent green belt around the town." County zoning requires a minimum of one acre but allows for clustering.

"There's very little to no growth planned through the year 2040 in the town's draft plan. There's no annexation plan. And given that there really is no growth impact,

community facilities are going to be adequately sized for the next 20 years. Unlike many municipalities, the town has already invested in expanding its water and sewer facilities," he said, "and the school facilities will be adequate too for the next 20 years."

Rather than a focus on subdivisions, Jakubiak said the plan focuses "on the existing neighborhoods, especially the older traditional cottage neighborhoods, the waterfront kind of parts of the town, to establish a joint planning area and coordinate with Calvert County and North Beach, and hopefully update the 1990 Northeast Sector plan, which was a plan that dealt with community facilities and especially open space, natural resources and sensitive areas."

He said, "The town's wetlands and remaining forests play important roles in the health of the town, particularly with respect to environmental health and water quality and flood remediation. Parts of the town are built on made land. It was a very important for us to understand that a lot of the land that we think is solid is not solid. It's very fluid below our feet. The flood plain is extensive and sea level rises are projected, and it's likely to make more areas vulnerable to flooding. And those areas that are at risk of flooding now will be at a heightened risk in the future."

The plan does include some room for commercial expansion, he said, including a commercial gateway focal point at MD 260. "There is commercial zoning there now, and the planning commission's recommending some expansion. In other words, adding more commercial to that area, to create the depth of lots and to create space for parking, to create a vibrant pedestrian zone and an attractive gateway into the town from the west."

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Items from several local estates including: Mini Vans; Oyster Cans; Maryland, St. Mary's County and other Local Books/Items; Golf Clubs & Related Items; Musical Instruments; Furniture; Hobart Generator/Welder (9 hrs showing); Framed Prints (some by local artists, some signed & numbered); Tools; Camping/Sports Items; & More.

**Auction Preview: Friday, FEB 25, 2022 - 4 pm to 7 pm.**

Preview at Westfield Farm

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**\*\*\* Online Auction will close Tuesday, March 1, 2022 beginning at 6 PM \*\*\***

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# Chesapeake Beach ‘State of the Town’ Issued

By Dick Myers  
Editor

“We are positioned well for 2022,” said Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat “Irish” Mahoney during the annual State of the Town address delivered at the regular Feb. 17 town meeting. Unlike some previous reports that featured Mahoney almost exclusively, this year’s report included a video moderated by Town Administrator Holly Wahl and with department heads and other staff giving recorded reports on their subject areas.

Mahoney said at the beginning he was most proud that the town would be introducing later in the meeting a proposed budget that featured the sixth straight year of tax reductions for citizens.

He said, “As we begin 2022, it is important to reflect on the events of the previous year. The year 2021 provided the opportunity for us to focus on our community, show compassion to our neighbors and persevere together. Community is more important than ever, and community is what sets Chesapeake Beach apart. Thank you for continuing to check on your neighbors and taking the measures necessary to stay safe.

“Our theme for this year’s State of the Town is Community, Compassion, and Preservation. Our citizens continue to demonstrate the importance of Community and display Compassion. Our town council remains focused on the Preservation of our natural resources, small-town charm and fiscal responsibility. The town council continues to review and implement legislation to preserve our small-town charm and proceed forward with innovative ideas to improve the quality of life for citizens while making a positive impact on our natural resources.

“Before we share the progress of the town over the last year, I want to share that these efforts would not be possible without the perseverance of our town staff and the many volunteer hours of our citizens serving on our boards, commissions, Volunteer advisory groups and committees.”

Regarding the town’s finances, the report said”

Revenues exceeded expenses by \$1,954,772 in the fiscal year 2021, resulting in an overall increase in net position for the Town, with total assets of \$49,326,999.

Reduction of property taxes for the fifth year in a row with a tax reduction of \$62,469 in FY21 and a total reduction of \$249,913 during this administration.

Debt reduction in FY21 of approximately \$1.79M with total debt reduction of approximately



Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney

\$5.9M during this administration.

Overall reduction of expenses by \$2.3M in FY21.

Capital connection fees received totaling \$1.128M in FY21 expecting approximately \$723,000 for connection to water and sewer in FY22.

Received \$2.97M from the American Rescue Plan to help offset losses due to COVID-19.

Balanced budgets with sufficient reserve,

The administrative accomplishments detailed by Wahl included:

Awarded \$851,520 in grant funds from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Fund.

Awarded 100 percent design funding for the Safe Routes to School sidewalk from Beach Elementary School.

Awarded a \$75,000 Coastal Resiliency Grant.

Held 60 public meetings with approximately 3,000 unique views of public meeting recordings.

Expanded yard waste collection from every other week year-round to every week year-round at no additional cost to the town.

Inspected 152 residential dwellings and issued 157 rental licenses.

Resolved over 100 recorded Public Work orders.

Opened up Kellam’s Field to the public Monday – Friday from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. with anticipation of further open green space availability.

Created an Operations Manager position reorganizing the recreational amenity management program to increase town resident amenities.

Initiated 90 code enforcement violations, with 75 cases success-



Chesapeake Beach Town Administrator Holly Wahl

fully closed.

Infrastructure improvements included:

Richfield Station water tower cleaning, painting and logo contracted for completion.

Added 50 new residents from the Heritage Woods to Town Water and Sewer connectivity.

Executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Calvert County Board of Commissioners to establish sewer connectivity to 40 town residents in the Highlands Community.

Infrastructure Implementation of a new analytics water reading system, with the ability to monitor 1,514 meters or over 60 percent of the water meters.

Retrofit and installed 300 plus meter pit lids to read MXU’s from the water tower.

Replaced aging storm water infrastructure. Upgraded Mears Ave wet well with new hardware and alarm systems.

Maintained over 50 miles of water and sewer lines with over 35 pumps required to be on-line 24/7, 365 days.

Maintained over 2,380 water laterals, meters, pit, MXU’s and over 2,380 sewers clean out and laterals.

Maintained three water towers, 13 sewer pump stations, 1 storm water pump station, 17 generators, and 4 back-up pumps.

*dickmyers@countytimes.net*

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## Public Hearing Set for Drum Point Tax District

The Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 15 at 7 p.m. at the Southern Community Center, 20 Appeal Lane, Lusby, MD 20657, for the purpose of receiving testimony from the public on the Special Tax District Petition of the Drum Point Property Owner's Association (DPPOA). The public hearing time, date, and location may be revised by the announcement of an emergency, such as inclement weather, without further publication and may be confirmed on the County website or by calling any number listed below on the date of the hearing.

DPPOA has submitted a Petition to extend the existing Special Taxing District that expires on June 30, 2022, for an additional five years at an increased levy. The purpose of the District is to fund improvements for the benefit of the property owners within the subdivision. The levy DPPOA has requested is \$175 per lot in the Drum Point subdivision per year. The estimated income from this levy is \$248,325 annually. All funds remaining in the existing district are proposed to be carried forward to this district. All funds generated by the special taxing may be spent only in accordance with the express provisions

of the ordinance creating the district and any agreement executed by DPPOA's Board and the Board of County Commissioners.

Following the Public Hearing, the Board of County Commissioners may deny the petition or grant the petition, with or without amendment.

All persons interested, or their agents or attorneys, may appear before the County Commissioners on the date and time noted above and be heard concerning the proposed Special Tax District. Copies of the Petition filed by the DPPOA may be obtained at the Department of Public Works, 100 Skipjack Road, Building B, Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678.

Property owners and interested persons may attend the meeting in person or virtually by using the following Zoom information:

(1) U.S. toll-free number: 888-475-4499 or 877-853-5257  
Meeting ID: 899 4188 8251  
Passcode (if asked): #  
Request to speak: \*9; or

(2) Join Zoom meeting from the internet: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89941888251>

*Press Release by Calvert County government.*

## Dunkirk Bank Robber Captured in St. Mary's

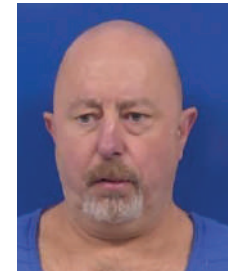
By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Calvert County Sheriff's deputies arrested and charged a Mechanicsville man this week with attempting to rob a PNC Bank operating inside the Dunkirk Giant Food Store.

Craig Steven Best, 56, has been charged with armed robbery, robbery, first-degree and second-degree assault and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony for allegedly brandishing a firearm to a teller at the bank station in the store on Feb. 14, according to charging papers filed against Best in Calvert County District Court.

Charging papers stated that Best was seen canvassing the area of the grocery store before the attempted robbery; when he approached the teller, he announced his intention to rob the bank and raised his shirt to show the handgun concealed in his waistband.

The attempted robbery went sour, though, apparently when, after the teller delayed giving Best any money, the suspect fled the scene.



Craig Steven Best

The teller told police she was in fear of her life during the robbery attempt.

Sheriff's deputies who reponded initially could not find Best in the area but surveillance

recordings of the area, and numerous anonymous tips from citizens, identified Best as the suspect described by police.

The day after the robbery, Calvert detectives went to Best's residence on Lee Road in Mechanicsville and observed him exit the residence, get in a black pickup truck but then re-enter his residence.

The detectives tried to establish contact with Best several times before he surrendered without incident.

Best made suicidal statements after his arrest.

"I wish I were dead," detectives said they heard Best say.

*guyleonard@countytimes.net*

## Community Conversation Set on Substance Abuse

The Calvert County Local Behavioral Health Authority The Calvert County Local Behavioral Health Authority is hosting "Community Conversations: Calvert County's Innovations on Addressing Substance Use Disorders", on March 23 from 6-8 p.m. at the Northeast Community Center in Chesapeake Beach.

Opioid-related overdose deaths have continued to rise during the Covid-19 pandemic, claiming the lives of over 68,000 individuals in the United States in 2020. Provisional data indicates that 23 of those deaths occurred in Calvert County.

Community Conversations will feature a presentation by Dr. Drew Fuller, the Medical Director of the Calvert Crisis Response, who discusses this epidemic as well as some of the solutions Calvert County has implemented to address it. Following the presentation a panel discussion and Q&A session will provide residents the opportunity to ask questions and learn about the evidence-based treatment options that are available in Calvert County. Panelists include:

- Corporal Nick DeFelice - Calvert County Sheriff's Office
- Amy Young - Family Peer

**Children's Mental Health Matters.org**  
A MARYLAND PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Support Specialist at Maryland Coalition of Families

- Denise Dickerson - Clinical Supervisor for Criminal Justice/Crisis Response Programs, Calvert County Behavioral Health

- Kara Harrer, PharmD - Pharmacy Director, Calvert Health Medical Center

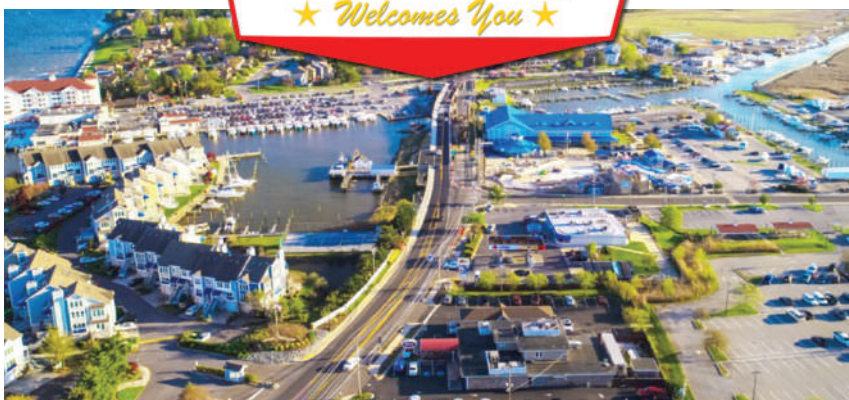
- Lauren Joeckel, MA, LCPC, CCDC, ICADA, CRC, CCTP - Clinical Director, Avenues Recovery

Virtual participation will also be available via Zoom.

Interested community members can register to participate by emailing [katie.wandishin@maryland.gov](mailto:katie.wandishin@maryland.gov) or calling 443-295-8582.

*Press Release from Calvert County Health Department Local Behavioral Health Authority*

### Comprehensive Plan Document For Review



Visit [www.planchesapeakebeachmd.gov](http://www.planchesapeakebeachmd.gov) to view the Town of Chesapeake Beach Comprehensive Plan. A public hearing has been set for March 29th at 6:00 PM. Visit [www.chesapeakebeachmd.gov](http://www.chesapeakebeachmd.gov) or call Town Hall at (401) 257-2230 for meeting connection information.

### Public Notice

The Mayor and Town Council will hold a public hearing to accept public comment on the Chesapeake Beach Comprehensive Plan 2021 Update at a Special Town Council meeting to be held March 29, 2022 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please refer to the Chesapeake Beach website for remote access at [www.chesapeakebeachmd.gov](http://www.chesapeakebeachmd.gov)

Ordinance O-22-4, an ordinance of the Town Council of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, for the adoption of the Town of Chesapeake Beach Comprehensive Plan for Land Use Issues.

The complete Ordinance may be viewed upon request to [shumm@chesapeakebeachmd.gov](mailto:shumm@chesapeakebeachmd.gov) Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



# State School Board Votes To Rescind Mask Mandate

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The Maryland State Board of Education voted almost unanimously Feb. 22 to rescind its requirement that all students and public schools staff wear masks while in educational facilities.

The vote was 12 to 2 to return the decision to keep mask mandates or rescind them to local school board authorities.

That authority would return to local school boards March 1 if the Maryland General Assembly approves the state board's action.

"There are 24 local jurisdictions with intelligent board members... they are just as intelligent as us," said Dr. Jermelle Green, state school board member. "Local control needs to be returned to the districts."

Green said that local boards had all learned through the COVID-19 pandemic as had the state board what precautions needed to be taken to best suit their needs.

Brig. Gen. Warner Sumpter, her fellow board member, agreed.

Sumpter said the sooner the school systems could leave the pandemic behind, the better, as virtual learning had turned out to be mostly ineffective in continuing education for all students as they operated remotely.

"We've got a lot of heavy lifting to do for the loss of learning," Sumpter said.

In recent weeks Gov. Larry Hogan had lifted the requirement for wearing masks in all state government buildings as high levels of



vaccinations and boosters against the virus had helped to quash the spread of the latest Omicron variant of the virus.

Omicron had proven to be a highly contagious variant of the novel coronavirus but appeared to be somewhat less powerful than previous iterations of the disease.

Hogan subsequently pressured the state school board to examine the issue and encouraged parents from across the state to testify in support of rescinding the mandate.

"I want to thank the State Board of Education for heeding our call to rescind its school mask policy," Hogan said on social media following the decision. "This action aligns with the data and the science, the recommendation of the State Superintendent of Schools, and the guidance of medical professionals across the country."

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to all the parents who have spoken out in recent weeks. At a time when Maryland has the lowest COVID-19 metrics in the country, this is a major step for normalcy and the well-being of our students."

Hogan implored the legislature to act now.

"The General Assembly must now act swiftly to ratify the State Board's decision," Hogan said.

*guyleonard@countytimes.net*

# Mt. Hope Community Center Closure Delayed

The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation advises citizens that the Mt. Hope Community Center closure scheduled for Friday, Feb. 25 has been delayed to Monday, Feb. 28. The community center will close Feb. 28 until 4 p.m. due to construction on the communications tower. Normal hours of operation will resume Tuesday, March 1. Mt. Hope Community Center is located at 104 Pushaw Station Road in Sunderland.

For updates on Parks & Recreation services, park availability, field closures and more visit Parks & Recreation at [www.Facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks](http://www.Facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks) and follow @CalvertCountyParksandRec on Instagram.



Find information on Calvert County Government services online at [www.CalvertCountyMd.gov](http://www.CalvertCountyMd.gov). Stay up to date with Calvert County Government on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd](http://www.Facebook.com/CalvertCountyMd) and YouTube at [www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov](http://www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov).

*Press Release from Calvert County government.*

# Republican Files Against Gadway for Commissioner

By Dick Myers  
Editor

Mark Cox, Sr. of Huntingtown has filed as a Republican candidate for county commissioner from the 2nd District. He will challenge Chris Gadway, who was appointed to replace Tim Hutchins. Gadway has also filed.

Cox, 57, graduated from Calverton School. He and his wife of 33 years, Angela have two grown children who attended Huntingtown High School, and three grandchildren.

Cox said, "I grew up on a farm here in Huntingtown. I am a member of Huntingtown Methodist Church. I'm currently president of Calvert County Ducks Unlimited. I was a member of Huntingtown firehouse."

He owns Mark's Lawn Service, a small business.

Cox was a candidate for appointment when Hutchins resigned. Of his decision to run, he said, "I've always been into policy and in Calvert County, for being here all my life. But I guess I am running because I think I can add some value and diversity to the board of commissioners. We need a board that can connect to all citizens of Calvert County, not just some here, all citizens of Calvert County. We need consistency in the board and what I mean by that we need accuracy. We need fairness to all citizens, and I think I can be the bridge for that. We need transparency on the board, and I think I can add all these values to the board."

As to Gadway, he said, "I have met him a couple of times, at the central committee and I don't have anything I would just say about him."

Public safety is a major issue for him. "I think police, fire, EMS, and even included in public safety, mental health, the addictions."

"We just can't focus on fire or



Mark Cox

EMS, but we have to bring the mental health into this. We need resources and tools that are needed for that."

Cox said he told the central committee in his interview that the

county should "soft bill" for EMS service by billing the insurance companies.

He also said, "The schools are a top priority for me, but as you know, the county commissioners' only job is to fund MOE (Maintenance of Effort), which he said they exceeded."

"I think our kids have suffered the past two years. We need to find ways to get these kids back to speed in their education. And not only the kids in this generation, but all kids we need to provide them with the resources. There's been talk about lowering the bar for these kids. We have to support our teachers. I have raised two kids through our school system, and I just think that we need to do all we can for the schools and the kids."

When asked if that meant spending more money on education, he replied, "I think there's ways we could be saving in our school budget," adding, "I think we could operate in a more efficient way for the schools."

Cox noted, "I think that we have some topics that people don't talk about that we need to talk about. My main focus is going to be public safety, the schools, the kids, the commercial growth. We have the gas plant down there that pays taxes and I think that's coming up."

Cox's Facebook page is [MarkCoxforCalvertCountyCommissioner](https://www.Facebook.com/MarkCoxforCalvertCountyCommissioner).

*dickmyers@countytimes.net*

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For Daily News Updates On COVID-19 In St. Mary's And Calvert Counties Go To:

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[facebook.com/CountyTimesStMarys](https://www.Facebook.com/CountyTimesStMarys)





# CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of February 7, 2022 - February 13, 2022, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,518 calls for service throughout the community.

## Attempted Burglary: 22-63331

On February 7, 2022, Deputy R. McCourt responded to the 200 block of Fairground Road in Prince Frederick, MD for the report of an attempted burglary that had already occurred. The complainant advised unknown suspect(s) attempted to force entry into the residence on Jan. 28. Deputy McCourt observed damage to the front door and the deadbolt. No property was taken. The estimated value of damaged property is \$400.00.

## Theft: 22-7339

On February 11, 2022, Deputy R. Jones responded to Verizon located at 304 Market Square Dr. in Prince Frederick, MD for the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown male suspect entered the business, cut the cable on one of display racks and fled the store with an Apple iPhone 13 Pro Max. The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 5' 10" tall, wearing a black sweatshirt, black pants and a black surgical mask. The total value of stolen property is \$1,000.00.

## Theft: 22-6338

On February 7, 2022, Deputy T. Bowen received report of a theft that occurred in the 2100 block of Loblolly Lane in St. Leonard, MD. The complainant advised she received a package in her mailbox that had been tampered with and contents were missing.

Investigation revealed a Dicks Sporting Goods gift card was stolen. The value of stolen property is \$150.00.

## Theft: 22-6748

On February 9, 2022, Deputy Lee responded to 1100 block of Conner Ct. in Prince Frederick, MD for the report of a theft. The complainant advised unknown suspect(s) stole the rear Maryland registration plate from her vehicle. The approximate value of stolen property is \$135.00.

## Theft: 22-6331

On February 11, 2022, Deputy McCourt received report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between 10:30 a.m. on Feb. 10 and 8:10 a.m. on Feb. 11, unknown suspect(s) stole the rear Maryland registration plate from a vehicle that was parked in the Dunkirk Market Place located in the 10200 block of Southern Maryland Blvd. in Dunkirk, MD. The approximate value of stolen property is \$135.00.

## ARRESTS

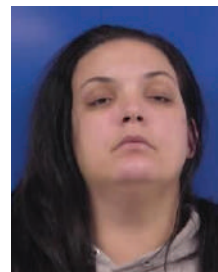
On February 11, 2022, Deputy Gough conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of the Chesapeake Ranch Estates Campground in Lusby, MD for an equipment violation. Contact was made with driver, **Calvin Eugene Holland, Sr.**, 40 of Prince Frederick, MD, who was wanted on an outstanding warrant through the Calvert County Sheriff's Office for a Failure to Appear for

Second Degree Assault and False Imprisonment. A search of Holland's person incident to his arrest revealed a metal pipe containing a burnt end, copper fibers and white powdery residue (suspected crack cocaine). Calvin was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was served his warrant and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Calvin Holland

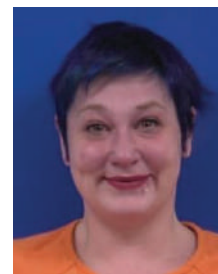
On February 11, 2022, Deputy Strong conducted a traffic stop in the area of Rudolph Lane in Lusby, MD. Contact was made with the driver, **Kelly Greenan**, 32 of Lusby, MD, who advised she had caused an accident, but couldn't recall the details. Greenan admitted to taking controlled dangerous substances earlier in the day. A K-9 search of her vehicle was conducted resulting in a positive alert. A search revealed a cut straw with a white powdery substance on one end, a pill grinder and two strips of Suboxone. Greenan was transported



Kelly Greenan

to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Marijuana and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Negligent Driving, Reckless Driving and other traffic related charges.

On February 10, 2022, DFC DeLeon conducted a traffic stop in the area of S. Solomons Island Road and Ball Road in St. Leonard, MD for an equipment violation. Upon making contact with the driver, **Kimberly Elaine Poston**, 27 of Sumter, SC, Poston began yelling and cursing at the DFC DeLeon. Poston was irate and hostile and made several threats against the deputy and attempted to rush the traffic stop. Poston continue to yell and curse while failing to comply with the deputy's commands while actively resisting arrest. Poston was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with Disorderly Conduct, Refusing to Obey a Lawful Order, Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer, and various traffic violations.



Kimberly Poston

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

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# MARCH MADNESS

MARCH 4

First Friday  
Leonardtown

## Check out the First Friday Specials

### ST. MARY'S COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

22660 WASHINGTON ST.  
240-309-4061

Join us for a very special Art Show featuring work by Bert Hindman (Memories Photography) and Jack Nutter (Nutter Photography). Meet both of our fabulous artists from 5 to 8 PM during our Opening Reception, enter to win a raffle prize, and visit our Gallery & Gift Shop on First Friday!



### OLD JAIL MUSEUM

41625 COURT HOUSE DR  
Stop by the Old Jail Museum and Visitors Center from 12 pm to 7 pm

For more info [www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum)

Used from 1876 until 1945, visit the museum and learn more about how jails operated at that time, as well as Leonardtown's Underground Railroad history. The museum has a great museum store full of local and commemorative items and is the official Leonardtown Visitor Center, where you can find info about all the fun things to do in town.



### NORTH END GALLERY

41652 FENWICK ST.  
301-475-3130

Whether you are adding to a collection of work by an emerging artist, redecorating your home or office or looking for a special gift, North End Gallery is the place to find outstanding work by Southern Maryland artists. Join us on First Friday, March 4 from 5pm - 8pm for Art & Wine Date Night and meet many of the members who also staff the gallery on a daily basis.



### THE YELLOW LINE

Join us on Friday March. 4th 6:00 -8:00 to make your own celtic knot pendant out of air dry clay. We have the tools, the clay the paint, the beads, and the leather to top off your pendant!

Ages 5 and up ( 10.00 per person)  
Can't stay? You can buy a kit to take with you! Grab n' Go kits 10.00 per kit.



### PORT OF LEONARDTOWN

23190 NEWTOWNE NECK RD

Hey, Jazz Fans!

Sax Appeal has been invited for a return engagement at Port of Leonardtown Winery for their First Friday on March 4th from 5:30 to 8:30. Come out and enjoy our blend of classic and new jazz and some adult beverages on their heated patio! Can't wait to play live, again!



### SHEPHERDS OLD FIELD MARKET

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Specials throughout the Market



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LEONARDTOWN  
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## Maryland Day At St. Clements Island Museum

Friday,  
March 25, 2022

Great For Families

10AM – 5PM

Celebrate the founding of Maryland and St. Mary's County with free museum admission and water taxi rides all day.

Free official ceremony at 2pm

More Info: [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum) or 301-769-2222



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# Digging Up the 'Roots' of

By Dick Myers  
Editor

It's a distinctly Maryland story. The year was 1767. Kunta Kinte, a member of the Gambian Mandinka tribe, is kidnapped and transported on the slave ship "Lord Ligonier" in harsh conditions across the Atlantic, where it unloads on the Annapolis city dock. Kunta Kinte is sold into slavery on a Virginia plantation.

Today, near where that sale took place, is an imposing statue of author Alex Haley telling his story to children sitting in front of him. That story is the story of Kunta Kinte, and Haley's family retold in the hugely popular "Roots" published in 1976 and shortly thereafter in an even more popular eight-part television miniseries.

It's also a Maryland story because of Alex Haley's nephew Chris Haley, director for the Legacy of Slavery at the Maryland State Archives.

Haley, a frequent speaker in Southern Maryland, spoke Feb. 9 at Calvert Library in Prince Frederick for a Black History Month event sponsored by Bayside History Museum, Calvert libraries, the John Hansen Daughters of the American Revolution and the NAACP.

Haley was introduced by Grace Mary Brady, curator of the Bayside History Museum and retired Historic District Planner for St. Mary's County. Haley worked with Brady on the Underground Railroad Project.

Brady said, "The cultural impact of his (Alex Haley's) book inspired millions of Americans to search for their ancestors. Today we have genealogy societies, libraries, archives, genealogy database services, DNA companies, and television programs, which continue to keep individuals connected with their ancestors."

Chris Haley called his uncle, who died 30 years ago this month, "Arguably the father of American genealogy."

The title of his talk was "We called him Palmer," because, "When I was growing up, that's literally what we all called him in the family. We never called him Alex. We always called him Palmer or Uncle Palmer because it was a family name."

He added in an interview with The County Times, "Truth be told the only reason why I and anybody else in my family says Alex now is because everybody else does."

Chris Haley was 17 when Roots was published. He was a student at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, DC and an aspiring

actor.

His father and uncle were close, but Alex was quite a bit older, and he left home when he was 15, Chris Haley said. "They were as close as an older brother and a younger brother would be when they're that distant in age and their life experiences were so distant."

The family didn't anticipate the success. "When Uncle Palmer was coming back and forth and he was doing these speeches at the Library of Congress and they would always be sold out, it was always kind of flattering and exciting to us, but I don't know how much we really gathered how huge it could possibly be. I certainly didn't sense or think it was ever going to be as huge as it was because I remember distinctly fantasizing about it would really be crazy if I had a famous relative, but even then when you have those thoughts, I think often in and of itself, that thought means it'll never happen because now you're fantasizing about it. When it did happen to the degree it happened, I don't think any of us were prepared for that."

The stories in Roots were not familiar for Chris and some family members. "I think that we were certainly just fascinated by it because, at least in my family, we hadn't heard the stories all the time."

Reflecting over the luxury of decades, he said of the success of Roots, "I feel like it was of the United States of America because when it came out in 1976. That in and of itself made it a historic time for the whole country to think about its history. And so within that it's the mid 70's. You've gone through the civil rights movement, which was the 50's and the 60's. You've had some of the horrible events of the late 60's with the assassinations of major civil rights figures, such as Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King within the 60's, Medgar Evers, Malcolm X. And then in the beginning of the 70's, you start having what's called black exploitation movies. They were movies that really lionized heroic African American figures, male and female as being figures that black people could feel excited about watching and cheering for."

"There's become more of a representation of African Americans, but there's still not a representation of the history of African Americans existence in America, like their background, what they went through, the equivalent of when we talk about the Revolutionary War, we talk about Washington, we talk about Jefferson, we talk about Ben-



Birthday cake at Prince Frederick Library to mark what would have been Alex Haley's 100th birthday this year.

jamin Franklin. There was none of that for black people."

"So, I think that that type of energy that had generated itself in some smaller aspect of the media," he said, "led itself to this is going to be a broad story about a black family that lives through a large expansive time, which speaks to the history of black people."

He admitted as a teenager and aspiring actor, "A part of me that had that in my mind, which is like, wow, this is a big movie. I could get a part."

And going to a Catholic high school that was 50/50 white and black, he wondered, "a part of me was how are people reacting to this? Are people going to be angry?"

Haley was asked what most impressed him as a 17-year-old reading the book about his family. "I think it was Kunta Kinte because I was around that age. I think I related to what he was going through as a young man who was trying to make a place for himself, not necessarily make a name for himself, which is what I was trying to do." So, it was sort of a coming-of-age book for him.

"It was that still that journey of trying to find himself, he's trying to do good things. He's trying to grow up," he said. "He's trying to show his parents that he is growing up. And I was going through the same thing. And then the world sits upside down and is terrible. And it's awful."

Haley wrote a poem that is included with this article. "As I wrote my poem, there was that thought, because I'm watching the TV show and I'm literally thinking you can't

help but pull for him to escape. You can't help but pull for him to beat off his kidnapers so that he can go back home and let other people know there that you have to watch out because there are these slave catchers who are here outside of our village."

But the reality is, he said, "There never would've been a Chris Haley if Kunta had never been captured in the Gambia and then brought to America. And so, I think as much as anything, that was what made it hard to watch, because you can't help but root for the hero in a story."

He noted, "And yet when it's your family and it's a genealogically-based story, even if some things you can't know what he actually said, you can't know who he actually met." He added, "He's just one of 96 enslaved people who nobody cared (about). They just cared that this person, this black male, could do some chores is all they can about. But from my perspective, as a descendant, it means everything, that this person survives."

"And through that serendipity, they are in their current incarnation of humanhood today because someone else survived, whatever they endured."

Of Roots impact on genealogy, Haley said, "It's my impression that it encouraged everybody to look at their history, whether black, white, indigenous, whatever, because it was still ultimately a family story."

Roots, he said, tells that "Black people were like white people. That means these people are like your people. And that means you had somebody back in the day who



# Black History

probably had the rough times just as good times and met somebody and started flirting. And then they started going out and then they got married. Then they had kids and they struggled at their job, but you've never seen them. You don't know who they are, but through this thing called genealogy, not the history of the figures that we have statues about such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, the family history of those persons who are important in your life because they preceded you. And because they preceded you, because they existed, you exist. That's what I think helped make Roots something that resonated with everybody, because there was that commonality of people."

Haley ended up at the Maryland Archives, he said, "Because I wanted to learn how to do research. I wanted to do stories about black, male vocalists... Sam Cook, Marvin Gaye, Jackie Wilson."

If you wanted to find out about Julius Caesar, he said, "In the Roman time they didn't have birth certificates. It wasn't until 1898 (in Maryland), but I wouldn't have known that until I came to a historical institution such as the Maryland State Archives to find out what there was and what there wasn't in the of historical documents that can indicate and certify and confirm and identify an individual's life, death, or vital statistics."

But he is still writing (poetry) and is also working on a book (ala Roots) about his mother's side of the family,

"People would say to me, we already know your genealogy. And I would say, well, that's only one part of the story because my mother was involved too," he said.

He's been at the Maryland Archives since December of 1993. Of the Legacy of Slavery Program, which he runs, he said, "I'm very proud of it. I was there virtually at the beginning of it, which is in 2001."

He said, "The core tenant of it is to create a database, which is filled with biographical data of hundreds of thousands of free and enslaved blacks, and emulates who lived primarily during the time of slavery. People who are completely unknown and giving people the opportunity, the foundation through which they could possibly find information about their forebear, because many people who are enslaved were not documented by any means other than maybe a first

name, a gender and their financial value. In subsequent records as certificates of freedom sometimes. And manumission sometimes then an individual who is freed within those documents will have both names in there and will have more of a physical description displayed or included in those documents."

Also valuable, he said, are runaway ads and census records. "They provide a lot of information about African Americans or people who were enslaved people who were free during that time period (1830 to 1880) who were otherwise not documented in any way, except perhaps by virtue of them being the property of another individual or being kept in a second-class citizen status by other individuals." The project has assembled about 40,000 records.

He has a book that he picked up at the North Beach Town Hall many years ago that he periodically enters dates of events he's attended, like the talk at the Prince Frederick Library.

"I think in years to come when probably I'm not even here anymore, that it could be a historical document, which is to say that, I think that part of what can be interesting and exciting and yet touching about artifacts of historical significance is not the big grand proclamations that are made or that are preserved and saved in museums and documentaries are written about them. But such as the things that perhaps one does see on who you think you are, or African American roots, where you would find this document, which is what I want this to be, where it's almost like a ledger that says specifically at this time, at this place, these people were in attendance."

He said, "That little book represents a moment in time where an individual, years from now, could maybe say, 'I could have sworn my great grandmother said that one time she went to hear this talk by a descendant of Alex Haley at the Prince Frederick Library. I could have sworn she said that. I don't remember what the day is,'" he said, adding, "And, then they'll come to the Maryland State Archives or whatever, and there'll be this volume and it will be random places where C gave talks over the course of his career, and they'll be this date, February 9, 2022."

Editor's Note: Chris Haley will be speaking at Sotterley Plantation in Hollywood on March 16 at 7 p.m.

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

# ROOTS

## *This Part of me*

*By Chris Haley*

Whenever I watch ROOTS  
Whenever I can stand it---  
For it is not an easy watch  
It is not a relaxing narrative  
It is not comfortable to feel for  
the character  
The character who is you  
Your forebear  
Without whom you would not  
be here---

It is not easy to root for Kunta  
To cheer for him  
To hope "the African" escapes.  
Because you know that  
For your great granddaddy to  
find freedom  
Is for you  
To not be here  
To vanish from this earth  
To disappear from the type-  
writer pounding this page.  
You feel his pain  
Taste his agony  
You empathize with the mas-  
terful performance  
Of a Louis Gossett, Jr.  
The tear-jerking innocence  
and pride  
Of a Levar Burton  
Who plays the part you  
wanted.  
But it goes much further than  
that  
Your life is past  
Decade-old resentment  
For the part you swore was  
yours.

You wish you could call your  
uncle  
And tell him how much you  
appreciate  
Are affected by the tale, yet  
again But he is gone.  
He can revel in his words no  
more. You can rejoice in his  
story  
in your own history  
Your uncle's offering to the  
world  
Still, ROOTS is not an easy  
watch. What will be your  
legacy?  
How will you measure up  
To Kunta

Kizzy  
Chicken George  
Matilda  
Tom Murray  
Irene  
Will Palmer  
Cynthia  
Bertha, your grandmother  
Simon, your grandfather  
Julius, your father  
Ida, your mother

George, your uncle  
Alex, your uncle, the world  
knows  
Knew  
What do you do  
What do you do?  
What do you do  
To be you?  
You don't know  
But you're trying  
Every day ---  
You're trying  
And one day  
You will find it  
Your purpose  
Your place in the family's  
memory  
The world's memory.  
Until then  
It will be difficult  
To watch ROOTS  
Your beginning  
One-fourth of your beginning  
Which has made it so hard  
To find  
To save  
Your present.  
The gift of Uncle Alex  
The determination of Kinte  
The residue of fame  
With which you grapple  
Yours to court  
Yours to discern  
Yours to earn

Yes  
Say your name Kunta Kinte  
, say it at the slave driver's  
urging  
By the whip  
Toby.

Say your name, Chris  
Have others say it  
Because it is your name  
Not because it evokes in  
other's.

ROOTS is not an easy watch  
Root for the hero to escape  
But make that hero you  
And free the shadow  
Of a time so proud and  
prominent.  
Find your track  
Be your own driver  
Don't let your family  
Stand in the way  
But push on  
Resolved  
The Mandinka warrior  
remained  
So you would know  
This dilemma  
Which you could  
Which you would  
Have no other way.



# What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their Feb, 23 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick.

1) SPR-2018-286, **Calvert Gateway**, Lot 4, located at 10825 Town Center Boulevard, Dunkirk, on a 4.3-acre lot, zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed 15,890 square foot building for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. This project is on private water and sewer. The submittal was accepted December 19, 2018. Agent: Bay Engineering.

2) SPR-2020-315, **Dunkirk District Park-Tennis Courts/Parking Lot**, located at 10750 Southern Maryland Boulevard, Dunkirk, on one parcel consisting of 81.42 acres, zoned Dunkirk Town Center. The submittal proposes additional amenities and parking to the existing public park. Scope of the project consists of three groups of tennis courts, parking lot and an ADA accessible restroom building in the back portion of the park. Also being proposed is a new on-site septic system, connection to existing on-site water well and site electrical service for lighting the tennis courts and parking lot. The submittal was accepted October 28, 2020. Agent: WBCM.

3) CSPR-138210, **First Lutheran Church Addition**, located at 6300 Southern Maryland Boulevard, Huntingtown, currently on one parcel consisting of 5.6 acres, zoned RCD. An approved Replat with a second parcel owned by the Church, will bring the total acreage to 8.1 for the proposed project. The submittal proposes construction of a one story 2,900 square

foot addition with basement to the existing church. Existing classroom trailer will be removed upon completion of this project. The submittal was accepted March 24, 2021. Agent: Wilkerson & Associates.

4) SPR-138176, **Armory Square**, located at 435 North Solomons Island Road, Prince Frederick on 12.95 acres, Zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District. This project proposes approximately 109,050 square feet of new commercial buildings, parking lots, utilities and related infrastructure. The submittal resumed agency review May 5, 2021. Agent: Barrett & Associates.

5) CSPR-138218, **Barstow Convenience Center**, located at 340 Stafford Road, Prince Frederick on three separate parcels consisting of 83.07 acres, Zoned RCD/EC. The project proposes replacement of the existing recycling center with a new facility that includes improved customer parking, vehicular circulation and separating public vehicles from County vehicles. Site utilities will be connected to services currently supplying the existing maintenance building. The submittal was accepted June 23, 2021. Agent: WBCM.

6) CSPR-138320, **Dunkirk Gateway Business Center**, Lot 11, located at 10375 Town Center Boulevard, Dunkirk on 2.66 acres, Zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed 10,395 square foot building for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. This project is on private water and sewer. The submittal was accepted July 28, 2021. Agent: Bay Engineering.

7) SPR-142728, **Lusby Villas**, located at 11770, Lusby Parkway, Lusby on 26.23 acres, Zoned Lusby Town Center, Village Residential Office District. Proposed 276 Multi-Family Apartment Units, community center, associated

parking lots, utilities and related infrastructure. This project is on public water and sewer. The submittal was accepted September 22, 2021. Agent: Barrett & Associates.

8) CSPR-142742, **Magnolia Ridge**, located at the corner of Dares Beach Road and Fox Run Boulevard, Prince Frederick on 31.20 acres, Zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, Village District. Proposed 96 multi-family apartment units and 164 townhouse units with associated site improvements. This project is on public water & sewer. The submittal was accepted October 28, 2021. Agent: Barrett & Associates.

9) CSPR-142744, **Dominion Energy Regional Park**, located at 10495 S. Solomons Island Road, Lusby, on 179.44 acres, Zoned RCD. Proposed Phase I, includes multi athletic fields, bathroom facilities, pavilions, trails, a mountain bike course and pump track, totaling 14,495 gross square feet of development. 650 parking spaces are provided per the approved Park Master Plan. This project is on public water & sewer. The submittal was accepted November 17, 2021. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates, Inc.

The following Major Subdivision Proposed Project List for Upcoming Review was also submitted at the same meeting:

1) SD-138121, **Rebecca's Field**, Lots 1-14, located on Cox Road, in Huntingtown, within one-mile buffer of Huntingtown Town Center. 14 lots, on one parcel, consisting of 51.058 acres. Zoned RCD, Tier III. As this project is in Tier III, a public hearing is required prior to preliminary approval. Submittal accepted August 26, 2020. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates.

2) CSD-2020-089 **Wyatt's Ridge**, Lots 1-24, located on Skinners Turn Road in Owings. 24 lots proposed on one parcel, consist-

ing of 100.368 acres. Zoned RCD, Tier III. As this project is in Tier III, a public hearing is required prior to preliminary approval. Submittal accepted December 16, 2020. Agent: Collinson, Oliff & Associates.

3) CSD-2020-090, **Bowen's Pride** Section II, Lots 1-12, located on N. Solomons Island Road in Huntingtown, within one-mile buffer of Prince Frederick Town Center. 12 lots proposed on one parcel, consisting of 34.32 acres. Zoned RCD/FFD, Tier III. As this project is in Tier III, a public hearing is required prior to preliminary approval. Submittal accepted December 16, 2020. Agent: Barrett & Associates.

4) CSD-2020-092, **Armory Square**, Lots 1 & 2, located between N. Solomons Island Road and Armory Road, Prince Frederick. 2 commercial lots proposed on two parcels, consisting of 12.95 acres. Zoned Prince Frederick Town Center-Newtown District, Tier I. Submittal accepted December 16, 2020. Agent: Barrett & Associates.

5) CSD-2021-097 **Lusby Villas, Commercial Subdivision**, Lot 1, located on Lusby Parkway in Lusby. One commercial lot proposed on one parcel consisting of 24.87 acres, Zoned Lusby Town Center, Village Residential Office District, Tier I. Submittal accepted February 24, 2021. Agent: Barrett & Associates.

6) CSD-2021-201, **Saint Pierre Estates**, located at 80 Towe Lane, Prince Frederick, on a 10.27 acre parcel, zoned Residential District and entirely within one mile of the Prince Frederick Town Center. A Private Right-of-Way is proposed for five lots. This submittal was accepted November 17, 2021. Agent: Wilkerson and Associates, Inc.

Information provided by Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning.



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## Southern Maryland Housing Inventory Continues to Lag

As the new year rang in, many homebuyers had hoped new options would be plentiful as we turned a corner from an extremely competitive market in 2021. Unfortunately, the trend of historically low inventory levels across Southern Maryland appears to continue driving the market.

For the past five years, January has served as a rebound point in the market. Not once in that timeframe have active listings continued to decline from December into January -- until this year.

Across the region, at the time the Southern Maryland Association of REALTORS® (SMAR) compiled the most recently available housing market data, there were a total of 328 active listings. That is down approximately 4 percent from last month and 25.3 percent from last year.

On top of diminished levels of inventory, what does appear on the market is quickly being purchased. Looking at the median days on the market over the past month, the total came in at 10 days across the region, which is up slightly year-over-year but is still significantly lower than the five-year average of 34 days.

As inventory levels decline and the days on the market remain low, this creates optimal conditions for home sellers, as home prices continue to soar. Both the median and average sold prices over the past month saw double-digit percentage increases when compared to the same time last year.

Additionally, Southern Maryland last month saw such a drop in inventory that the market is now faced with the fewest months of supply it has seen in five years. Months' supply refers to the number of months it would take for the current home inventory to sell at its current pace.

Typically, somewhere between three to six months of inventory is considered a healthy market. Southern Maryland has approximately 0.48 months of inventory after last month.

"While previous real estate 'seasons' were predictable, recent history has demonstrated an annual 'open season' to buy, sell invest and relocate," SMAR 2021-2022 President Gregg Kantak said. "Nonethe-



less, it remains a time for buyers to enter the market while interest rates remain relatively low."

Housing market statistics from each county in the Southern Maryland region can be found below:

### Calvert County

Units Sold: 118 (+8.3%)

Total Sales Volume: \$53,703,922 (+31.6%)

Average Days On The Market: 26 (-4 Days from January 2021)

Median Sold Price: \$417,500 (+26.5%)

### St. Mary's County

Units Sold: 105 (-29.5%)

Total Sales Volume: \$38,597,974 (-23.29%)

Average Days On The Market: 18 (-5 Days from January 2021)

Median Sold Price: \$355,000 (+14.3%)

Visit <https://www.southernmarylandrealtors.org/pages/housing-statistics/> every month for additional details about the housing market in Southern Maryland. A video breakdown of the local statistics can be found on the SMAR YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ET45Jm8ShQ>

Statistics for this article were compiled with cooperation from Bright MLS, a leading housing market data source and a real estate listing service for Realtors® throughout the region.

Press Release from SMAR

## SMADC Now Offering Cottage Food Testing Reimbursement Producers

*A funding initiative to increase opportunity for Southern Maryland farmers to expand their inventory of Cottage Food products*

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a Division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is pleased to announce a new funding initiative to increase opportunity for Southern Maryland farmers to expand their inventory of Cottage Food products.

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) provides an extensive list of 'allowable' non-potentially hazardous/non-perishable Cottage Food products that can be made and sold by a Cottage Food business. However, some popular recipes that producers would like to offer their customers such as moist quick breads (banana, pumpkin, zucchini, etc.), and some cake frostings, icings and glazes are not on the 'allowable' list as they may be considered potentially hazardous.

"The good news is that Maryland Department of Health Cottage Food Guidelines now provide the opportunity for foods in the moist bread and icing categories to be tested if a cottage food producer believes their recipe should be considered non-potentially hazardous," explained Susan McQuilkin, SMADC Marketing Executive. "Recipes verified as shelf-stable can then be sold directly to consumers at farmers markets, from a home kitchen, and at public events."

In recognition that recipe testing is an additional cost burden for many small farm enterprises, SMADC is now offering Cottage Food testing reimbursements of up to \$250 for Certified Laboratory



tests for one recipe to be evaluated for up to 10 Southern Maryland Cottage Foods farm vendors/producers. Testing evaluation is to assure submitted moist bread and icing recipes are non-potentially hazardous when stored and sold under normal conditions (without refrigeration) and will not support the growth of microorganisms that can cause foodborne illness.

To apply for SMADC Cottage Food recipe test reimbursement funding, please complete the application form on the 'News' page at [smadc.com](http://smadc.com). Funding is limited to 10 Southern Maryland producers on a first come first served basis, upon submission of supporting Certified Laboratory test results and associated invoice/s. For more information on Maryland Cottage Food Business Guidelines including testing requirements, and other Cottage Food resources visit the MDH Office of Food Protection website.

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## Candidate Primary Filing Deadline Extended



The Calvert County Board of Elections announces that the deadline to file as a candidate for the 2022 Primary Election has been extended to Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 9 p.m.

Prior to filing, the candidate should make sure they have established a candidate campaign committee and have completed the appropriate financial disclosure for the office they seek. Certain financial disclosures must be notarized beforehand.

Candidate packets with the nec-

essary paperwork to file candidacy are available at the Election Board office, located at 30 Duke St. in Prince Frederick.

Maryland's 2022 Primary Election will be held Tuesday, June 28, 2022. Visit [www.elections.maryland.gov](http://www.elections.maryland.gov) to register to vote, look up voter information, request a ballot, become an election judge and find more information about the 2022 Primary Election.

*Press Release from Calvert County government.*

## New, Expanded, Relocated Businesses Announced



Calvert County is committed to fostering a dynamic and competitive business climate to ensure economic growth and sustainability. New businesses are a sign that the Calvert County economy continues to thrive. These new businesses help stimulate the economy and provide employment opportunities for local residents.

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners and the Department of Economic Development congratulate the following new, expanded and relocated businesses:

#### New Businesses

- Conev Construction  
Lusby, 410-231-1719
- VR Group  
Prince Frederick, 443-295-3282
- Workflow Leadership & Design  
Chesapeake Beach,  
907-654-4655
- Next Level Home Inspections  
Huntingtown, 240-585-1958

#### Expansion

- Calvert School of Dance  
2196 South Solomons Island Road, Suite 2,  
Prince Frederick, 410-535-3320

#### Relocation

- Red Octopus Tattoo,  
24 Old Field Lane,  
Prince Frederick, 410-535-9095

The Calvert County Department of Economic Development works to help all businesses succeed, from small, local businesses to large, national enterprises. For information on the Department of Economic Development and the many services the county offers the business community, contact the department at 410-535-4583 or 301-855-1880, or by email at [info@ecalvert.com](mailto:info@ecalvert.com).

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at [www.CalvertCountyMd.gov](http://www.CalvertCountyMd.gov).

*Press Release from Calvert County government*

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## Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park Opening

The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of Ward Farm Recreation and Nature Park. The ceremony will be held Tuesday, March 8 at 2 p.m. at 10455 Ward Road in Dunkirk. Citizens are invited to attend and enjoy the many amenities offered at the new park.

"We are ecstatic to celebrate this momentous occasion with our community," said Parks & Recreation Director Shannon Nazzal. "Although this is merely the first phase of what we have planned for Ward Farm, we are excited to invite citizens to enjoy the current amenities and look forward to the many years of active and passive recreation opportunities this park will offer."

The new park currently features multiple multi-use athletic fields, nature trails, paved pathways and a fishing pier. Future construction will add boardwalks overlooking

ponds and wetlands, a nature/environmental center, picnic shelters, a disc golf course, playgrounds, camping space and more.

The Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park property was purchased by the county government in 2013 and the master plan for the park completed in 2015.

For updates on Parks & Recreation services, park availability, field closures and more visit Parks & Recreation at [www.Facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks](http://www.Facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks) and follow @CalvertCountyParksandRec on Instagram.

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

*Press Release from Calvert County government.*



# St. Mary's College Announces VP/Equity and Strategic Initiatives

St. Mary's College of Maryland President Tuajuanda C. Jordan has appointed Dereck J. Rovaris Sr., as vice president for equity and strategic initiatives. He will join St. Mary's College in mid-April and will report directly to the president.

"Dr. Rovaris will be an invaluable addition to our community," Jordan said. "His experience and wealth of knowledge will aid in amplifying existing programs. By helping us develop and implement new programs, the College can both fulfill its mission and become a place where all who enter our community have the greatest opportunity to thrive.

"I have no doubt in his ability to forge meaningful connections with our students, faculty and staff. I look forward to him fully developing and integrating the work of the Inclusive Diversity, Equity, Access and Accountability (IDEAA) unit into the fabric of what we do as an institution."

In this newly developed position, Rovaris will serve as a strategic adviser on matters related to inclusion, diversity, equity and access across the campus. He will drive sustained impact, amplify successful structures, implement policies and programs, and build new campus initiatives.

"I am excited to be joining such an amazing institution. At this point in my career there were many options, but none 'checked the boxes' like St. Mary's College of Maryland," Rovaris said. "Upon my visit to campus I had the opportunity to meet wonderful faculty and staff, but I was most impressed by the students. It will be a pleasure to work with such an engaging community as we lead equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice initiatives and practices for the National Public Honors College."

Rovaris has over 30 years of higher education experience. He most recently supported Louisiana State University as



Dr. Dereck J. Rovaris Sr., vice president for equity and strategic initiatives

vice provost for diversity, equity and inclusion where he served as chief diversity officer and supervised all diversity initiatives. Prior to that role, Rovaris served four years as associate vice chancellor for academic and multicultural affairs at the University of Louisiana Health and Sciences Center. While there, he envisioned and developed strategic diversity initiatives that promoted an institutional climate that equally welcomed, nurtured, and respected the culture and contributions of all members of the community. His time there was preceded by a two-decade career at Xavier University of Louisiana where he led several units and award-winning programs.

Rovaris has a number of publications and serves on a variety of boards and nonprofit committees. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas, his master's degree from Xavier University of Louisiana, and his PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

*Press Release from St. Mary's College of Maryland*

## TRUE OR FALSE - PROBATE

Contributing Writer:  
Lynda J. Striegel

I have often heard from clients that they have a Will so their loved ones will not have to go through probate. True or false? False. When you die, if you are holding property in your sole name, that property must go through the probate process to be distributed to your loved ones. It doesn't matter whether you die intestate (without a Will) or with a Will.

What does holding property in my sole name mean? For real estate like your house or for cars and trucks, for example, the title to the property is in your name alone. If you hold any property this way and you die, then the property has to go through the probate process to be distributed to your loved ones.

The probate process in Maryland takes between 8-12 months. Why so long? One reason is that under the process, creditors are allowed 6 months to come in and claim against an estate. Another reason is pure chaos. When a person dies and a probate proceeding is required, the personal representative or executor has to find all of the person's property in order to report on it to the Register of Wills. Since many people are not at all organized about what they own, the personal representative has to reconstruct the estate before they report on it. One of the filings is called an "Inventory". This is a listing of all the property held by the deceased when they die. If the deceased has not been an organized person it can take a long time to figure out what they owned when they died. For example, if the deceased has not left a detailed list of investments they have, often the only way to know for sure what the deceased owns when they die is to wait for the mail for at least 3 to 6 months for quarterly or semi-annual reports on dividends or interest. Keep in mind that all filings made during the probate process are publicly available.

What does the probate process require? It is a process where filings are made detailing the assets and liabilities of the estate, the expenses of the estate and the monies left over to be distributed to the beneficiaries of the estate.

There is administrative probate, which is where the executor of the estate makes filings with the Register of Wills, or judicial probate, where the filings are made with the Orphan's Court. If a beneficiary challenges the Will or any filings made by the personal representative, the matter goes to judicial probate where the Orphan's Court judges decide on the challenge. Without challenges, most probates are administrative. To find out what filings are necessary in a probate proceeding, go to the Register of Wills website.

Some clients say that the personal representative has no liability for making filings in a probate proceeding. False. The personal representative is a fiduciary—that means they are under a duty to settle and distribute the estate in accordance with the terms of the Will and the law. Fiduciaries cannot act in their own self-interest. They must make sure investments are reasonable and monitored and they must make full and accurate reports to the Register of Wills or Orphan's Court.

Most people faced with the duties of a personal representative consult an attorney and ask them for help to prepare the reports for filing. This costs money in legal fees, but gives the personal representative some comfort that they are correctly performing their duties.

What about "registering" your Will with the Register of Wills. Clients have said that

their Will is not effective because it has not been "registered" with the Register of Wills. False. A Will doesn't have to be filed with the Register of Wills or the Orphan's Court to be effective. If you think you will lose your Will, then paying a small fee to the Register of Wills office to keep your original on file is a convenience to you. Otherwise, the effectiveness of a Will depends on whether it is properly executed, not whether it is filed somewhere. You can keep your Will in a safe place. But, the original Will is necessary to open the probate proceeding so make sure your loved ones can find it.

Some clients have said "I don't need a Will because everything will go to my spouse when I die." False. If you die without a Will and you have a spouse and children, then the estate (property held in your sole name) will go 50-50 to the spouse and the children. The only way your estate will go solely to your spouse when you die is if you have said so in your Will.

If all of your property is held in joint name with your spouse and you die then your spouse will take sole ownership of the property. And, there will be no probate because you have not held any property in sole name when you die. So, with a married couple, it is not unusual for one spouse to die and leave everything to the other spouse and have no probate. However, when the surviving spouse dies holding all the property in their sole name there will be probate.

If your Will says your personal representative doesn't have to file a bond, that means no bond is required. False. Even if the Will says no bond, the Register of Wills requires a nominal bond be filed, usually costing the estate \$100.

The only clear alternative to probate is a Living Trust. True. With a Living Trust, all property of the deceased has been placed into the name of that person's trust so that when they die there is no property held in sole name, so no probate. The person creating and funding the trust is called the Grantor and the Grantor may also be the Trustee. When the Grantor/Trustee dies, a successor trustee is appointed under the trust to take over. Having a Living Trust is the only way to avoid probate. But, the Living Trust provides other benefits. First, it is private, transfers to beneficiaries are immediate (no waiting 8-12 months) and there are no legal fees upon such transfers. With a Living Trust all property is accounted for when creating the trust so there is no chaos trying to figure out what a person owns when he or she dies—it's all set forth in the trust. The Living Trust also offers protection is a Trustee is incapacitated. In that event, the successor trustee simply uses all the assets in the trust for the benefit of the incapacitated person without having to do more. Can there be probate even if a person has a Living Trust? Yes, if the person has forgotten to place property into the name of the trust, that property must go through probate. However, a different form of will, called a "pour over" will is used in the probate process. This will states that the Living Trust is the guiding principal for the disposition of assets.

The probate process needs to be understood by anyone considering whether or not to create a will or a living trust.

Join us for our free seminar on Wednesday August 15th at 11am our offices at 8906 Bay Avenue in North Beach. Call 301-855-2246 to save your spot. See you there.

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## CTA Principal Chosen Administrator of the Year

The Maryland Career and Technical Administrators (MCTA) chapter of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) named Carrie Akins, Principal of the Career and Technology Academy as the 2022 CTE Administrator of the Year. She is being recognized for her demonstrated commitment to Career and Technical Education (CTE) through her innovation, accomplishments, and contributions to the CTE community.

Carrie Akins oversees all CTE programs for Calvert County Public Schools in addition to serving as the Principal of the Career and Technology Academy (CTA). Since her arrival in 2019, she has intentionally found ways to improve the school, build collaborations with industry partners, and promote CTE in the county. In her short tenure in both administrative roles in Calvert County, she has already demonstrated tremendous success in evoking positive change, such as obtaining grants totaling over \$450,000 to expand services and add new CTE programs, creating a brand for CTE and expanding business partnerships which resulted in \$20,000 in scholarship funds for student certifications. She recently worked to include the Apprenticeship Maryland program as part of CTE programs for the district which will provide an important connection between classroom learning and employer training needs.

Dr. Susan Johnson, assistant superintendent of Instruction, said in a letter to MCTA, "Mrs. Akins is a student first principal. She works to ensure that all students have equal access to programs.



Principal of the Career and Technology Academy  
Carrie Akins



She shifted from an application process to a registration process that ensured students regardless of academic status had access to programs. Mrs. Akins supports her teachers regarding programs ensuring they have time with business partners and instructionally ensuring that best practices are used in the classroom."

She will be formally recognized at a MCTA virtual Spring Membership meeting on Thursday, March 24 at 10:45 a.m. along with the other state CTE award recipients.

*Press Release from CCPS*

## CSM Announces Dean's List for Fall Sessions

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has released its dean's list for the 2021 fall sessions. Students who have earned 12 or more credits at CSM are eligible to be considered for the dean's list. At the end of the fall, spring and summer sessions, full- and part-time students who have completed at least six credits during the semester and have earned a term grade point average of 3.5 or better will be included on the dean's list. For more information about CSM, visit [www.csmd.edu](http://www.csmd.edu).

The following are those on the Dean's List from Calvert County

### Broomes Island

Drue Bowman, Mia Kwiatkoski, and Charles Sherman

### Chesapeake Beach

Lavina Battle, Amber Carroll, Jack Carver, Ethan Dabbs, Logan Davis, Dana Godfrey, Matthew Jarman, Anthony Johnson, James Johnson, Joshua Landau, Ella Lively, Grace Malba, Timothy mckirgan, Sarah Meador, Kailey Miller, David Morris, Emily Nolen, Claudia Otchere, Kaitlyn Pumphrey, Carlie Reynard, Courtney Romba, Cayley Schofield, Eileen Seeley, Jordyn Talbott, Jenna Tompkins, Ngoc Truong, Megan Weatherbeem, and Jayla Wilson

### Dowell

Cassandra Wills

### Dunkirk

Sarah Ashe, Kailey Catucci, Peyton Curl, Katie Garrett, Katelyn Grierson, Hunter Huxoll, Ricky Jiang, James Jones, Rachel Lachance, John Paul Lavalley, Hunter mcnamee, Peter Phillips, Ashley Shrawder, and Cole Smith

### Huntingtown

Grady Armacost, Preston Arnstein, Areeba Asim, Madison Barkley, Ashley Barnett, Angela Boley, Jacob Brickell, Brendan Buck, Brittany Carver, Tremayne Cobb, Larae Collins, Lauren-Ashley Comer, Madison Cucuzza, Alexander Droneberger, Aryanna Ferguson, Shawna Ganley, Amber Gieske, Giuliano Guttadauro, Brienna Harkness, Zachary Harkness, Cierra Hutchins, Julie Johnson, Jenna Jones, Breanna Kekesi, Bailey King, Luke Krenik, Catelynn Kreutzer, Grace Madison, Joshua Marlowe, Izzamar Marquez, Hanna mccllelland, Ashley mcmullen, Melissa Merritt, Kimberly Miller, Courtney Morrone, Michelle Mosher, Harley Noel, Angela Patterson, Katherine Pawulak, Elizabeth Poissant, Shannon Prout, Alexander Robinson, Susan Robinson, Michaela Rodriguez, Andrew Schneider, Camren Scott, Shelby Snyder, Blake Stolarik, Rachael Tarrants, Connor Thrasher, Hannah Tucker, Hayli Tucker, Cameron Vinson, Connor Weishaar, and Jessica Williams

### Lusby

Deanna Baca, Jennifer Bendfeldt, Tyson Blackwell, Elizabeth Blasy, Noa Bourne, Amber Bowen, Kendall Bowlan, Edward Carter, Shontierra Carter, Moanna Dixson, Keegan Dorman, Mat-

thew Duncan, Collin Felix, Brianna Gross, Thomas Haina, Laila Hawkins, Miranda Hood, Caleb Hostetler, Anthony Hutton, Aidan Iberg, Shalanda Jefferson, Erin Jensen, Taylor Jones, Jonathan Kennedy, Katelyn Kennedy, Kayla Kern, Kensley Ketchum, Jayden King, Stephanie Kitchen, Calvin Klapper, Kristyn Lambert, Pauline Lawrence, Levin Lucas, Tasneem Luto, Michelle Metcalfe, Jonathan Noll, Raleigh Padgett, Alex Rhoten, Meagan Ryan, William Scaggs, Daniel Severson, Lily Severson, Mykenna Shymansky, Cole Smith, Tieshia Smith, Abigail Stabler, Sarah Stack, Skylar Stahl, Lydia Waddell, Stacey Warner, Amari Weems, Amanda Werner, Jenna Wilder, andm Christian Withers

### North Beach

Frank Henderson, Jordan Licurgo, Savannah Miles, Sydney Nauman, and Alexis Stefanic

### Owings

Taylor America, Courtney Anderson, Maggie Barrick, Madison Bishop, Abigail Boley, Mary Buettner, Jacob Burley, Nicholas Carey, Cassidy Cooper, Camdyn Gregory, Rachel Hewitt, Shannon James, Madison Kotoriy, Rebecca Means, Isabella Russo, Shanane Sanchez, Maura Smith, Ana Teselle, Nathaniel Traquair, Kylie Varney, Danielle Vercauteren, Mackenzie Wheelock, Madison Williams, and Bryana Young

### Port Republic

Symphony Avery, Meredith Baxter, Cheryl Dee Delapaz, Brianna Douglas, Erica Fortney, Courtney Jones, Liam Marshall, Tori Thrasher, and Jennifer Tjia

### Prince Frederick

Alivia Aiken, Morgan Baker, Phillip Brown, Rachel Carson, Alana Cawood, Jenna Cockrell, Kelly Coulby, Kingnova Cupid-Ramirez, Alissa D'Agostino, Jonathan Davis, Mary Davis, Tyler Fling, Kevin Garman, Tanner Goshorn, Shyanne Hall, Aryan Kakadia, Hannah Lunczynski, Justin macwilliams, Mary Meiggs, Branden Milam, Briana Morgan, Rachel Nelson, Kevin O'Dell, Tyra Robinson, Madison Scrivener, Sagar Shrestha, Lakia Smith, Vanessa Surat, Alejandro Valdez, Briana Welch, Anela Yusuf, and Christiana Zell

### St. Leonard

Owen Bevard, Evaleigh Cooley, Angelina Dean, Parker Donnelly, Todd Drake, Alison Farrall, Lauren Faucette, Amanda Fick, Briana Garcia, Claire Jenkins, Shane mckenzie, Cade Meredith, Emily Mutchler, Lacie Russell, Morgan Spaulding, Justin Turner, Sarah Wilttrout, Erin Brown, Laura Childs, Kaylee Curran, Patricia Massie, Allison Mitchell, and Kelly Windsor

### Solomons

Michael Barnett, Katrina Crabtree, Sierra Hammons, Riley O'Brien, and Ryleigh Wilson

### Sunderland

Sierra Elliott, and Cailan Ryan



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# Kathy Strouss: Artworks@7th Featured Artist for March



Sunflower



Beach Waves



Six Sailboats

Kathy Strouss says: "I grew up in central Pennsylvania and have strong ties to the people and places in that state. My college years were filled with design, art and business classes at Mansfield University, Pennsylvania. After college, I sought out a career in the Federal government and moved to the Washington, DC area in 1982. I worked for the US Navy, US Coast Guard Headquarters, and supported our nation after 9/11 at the Department of Homeland Security

Headquarters in 2003. "Along the way in my government career, I never lost my love for art and painting. I participated in gallery shows or Christmas markets whenever time allowed during my federal service. I spent three wonderful years living and

working in Southern Spain in the 1980s and it resulted in my love for travel along with painting. After I retired in 2010, I combined travel with photography and art.

"I've visited wonderful European museums with the artwork of Botticelli, Picasso, Joaquin Sorolla, Monet, and Van Gogh. Some of my foreign trips included studying and painting with international artists. While I paint

mostly watercolors, I also design watercolor Batiks using a process I learned while studying with Kathie George, a Mixed Media artist.

"I have exhibited with the Annapolis Watercolor Club, Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, Baltimore Watercolor Society, Maryland Federation of Art, local Annapolis venues and Gallery 57 West. My artwork is also shared on Instagram - #kstroussart.



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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.

## Thursday, February 24

### Little Minnows

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

This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Preschoolers ages 3 – 5, with an adult, are invited to join us for story time and a craft you can do on-site or take home, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This month's theme is Whose Tracks are These?

### Transfer Thursdays

College of Southern Maryland  
1 a.m., Zoom.

CSM hosts transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Representatives from two different institutions will be available to chat with students and help navigate their future transfer experience. RSVPs are required to access Zoom

information. Free. <https://www.csmd.edu/student-services/transfer-services/transfer-fairs/index.html>

## Friday, February 25

### Maritime Performance Series with CHRYSALIS

Calvert Marine Museum, 7p.m.

Chrysalis, featuring Jody Marshall on hammered dulcimer and piano and Jim Queen on fiddle and guitar, serves up plenty of toe-tapping fun with lilting jigs, rollicking reels, and happy hornpipes from traditions on both sides of the pond. The duo's far-reaching musical proclivities treat audiences to a repertoire ranging from Bach to the Beatles, and even an American Songbook standard or two. Performance is in the museum's Harms Gallery starting at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online at [bit.ly/MaritimeConcerts](http://bit.ly/MaritimeConcerts), and \$25 at the door.

## Saturday, February 26

### Lenten Music Concert

Saint Nicholas Lutheran Church, 1450 Plum Point Road, Huntingtown, MD  
4-6 p.m.

A special concert of Lenten music performed by Twilibrocen. Lent is a season of penitence and reflection, but also one of renewal and hope. This special program of Renaissance music will explore all of these facets. The program will include well-known composers of the era, such as Orlandus Lassus, Carlo Gesualdo and Tomas Luis de Victoria, as well as North American premieres of lesser-known works by Lambert de Sayve.

This ensemble combines the intimate sound of early brass instruments (16th-17th century) and voices. The members of the ensemble are Crossley Hawn (soprano), Kristen Dubenion-Smith (alto), Jacob Perry, Jr. (tenor), Patrick O'Connell (cornetto), Michael Holmes (sackbut) and David Searle (artistic director, sackbut). They and Jacob have sung with many of the finest early music ensembles in the country and perform regularly at Washington National Cathedral and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Patrick, Michael and David perform with the Washington Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble and other renowned early music ensembles, including the Washington Bach Consort and North Carolina Baroque Orchestra.

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

Children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a carryout craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. This month's theme is Who Eats What?

### Transfer Thursdays

College of Southern Maryland  
1 a.m., Zoom.

CSM hosts transfer institutions virtually each Thursday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Representatives from two different institutions will be available to chat with students and help navigate their future transfer experience. RSVPs are required to access Zoom information. Free. <https://www.csmd.edu/student-services/transfer-services/transfer-fairs/index.html>

## UPCOMING

### Saving Native Bees

Your Yard, Your Garden, Your Community Can Plant a Difference. Chesapeake Beach Green Team invites you to join them for an exciting talk with Wildlife Scientist Sam Droege on March 5th from 10-12 p.m.

This event is brought to you by the Town of Chesapeake Beach Green Team in coordination with the Calvert County Parks and Recreation. You may register through Calvert Parks and Recreation <https://webtrac.co.cal.md.us/wbwsoc/webtrac.wsc/splash.html> with activity code 410111. Walk-in's are also welcome.

### Calvert Arts Festival

Sample the best wines and craft beers from Southern Maryland makers at 16th Calvert Arts Festival Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at All Saints' Episcopal Church. A \$15 fee to taste wines/beers gives you a souvenir tasting glass and wristband. No fee to shop from outstanding local juried artisans. Enjoy delicious food and beverages, live entertainment, children's crafts, raffles & more. Tour our 1692 church & labyrinth. Event is rain or shine. Save money: reserve your wine/beer glass at <https://www.EventBrite.com/e/Calvert-Arts-Festival-2022-tickets>. Age verified for alcohol tasting by picture ID at festival. Proceeds benefit local charities that aid County children. Free parking at All Saints' Church, Rts 2 & 4, Sunderland, MD, and nearby Sunderland Park & Ride.

## Monday, February 28

### Mt. Hope Community Center to Temporarily Close

104 Pushaw Station Road, Sunderland, MD

The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation advises citizens that the Mt. Hope Community Center will temporarily close on Monday, Feb. 28 until 4 p.m. due to construction on the communications tower. Normal hours of operation will resume Tuesday, March 1. Mt. Hope Community Center is located at 104 Pushaw Station Road in Sunderland.

For updates on Parks & Recreation services, park availability, field closures and more visit Parks & Recreation at [www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks](http://www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks) and follow @CalvertCountyParksandRec on Instagram.

## Thursday, March 3

Sea Squirts

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# In Remembrance

The Calvert County Times runs complimentary obituaries as submitted by funeral homes and readers. We run them in the order we receive them. Any submissions that come to dickmyers@countytimes.net after noon on Mondays may run in the following week's edition.

## Doris Benesh



Doris Benesh of St. Leonard, Maryland passed away on February 20, 2022. Doris was born on July 22 to the late Russell and Helen Estep. She was the loving wife to Charles Benesh and mother to Richard and Susan.

Doris was a homemaker who loved her family beyond measure. She enjoyed traveling, reading, and sewing. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Charles and son, Richard. She is survived by her daughter, Susan Evans and her husband Mike and grandsons, Eric Evans and his wife Traci and Charles Evans and his wife Cassie. Doris was blessed with five grandchildren namely; Sophia, Mason, Maddyn, Chase, and Vivianna.

The service and interment will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Doris' name may be made to Calvert Hospice, P.O. Box 838, Prince Frederick, MD 206781 410-535-0892; Link:

<https://calverthospice.org/>.

Serving as pallbearers will be Mike, Eric, Charles, Mason, Tim, and Ryan Evans

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

## Ginger Lucille Beach-Green



Ginger Lucille Beach-Green, 59, of Prince Frederick, MD, passed away on February 11, 2022, at home. She was born on September 8, 1962, in Washington, D.C. She was raised and spent much of her adult life in Bowie, graduating from Bowie High School.

Ginger wore many hats throughout her life, starting her path as a volunteer at a local hospital. She bartended at Chi-Chi's, and worked as a manager at both Stidham Tire and Sears. After starting a family and settling in Prince Frederick, she would move her efforts to volunteering at her kids schools and activities.

Entertaining family and friends was something she enjoyed most of all. Known for always hosting holiday parties and get-togethers, she had a heart of gold and an eye for a good time. She made sure everyone around her was happy and taken care of. Shopping was highly adored by Ginger, and you could often find her perusing for the best deals. She loved TJ Maxx, thrift stores and Amazon.

Ginger loved to cook for family and friends. She made the world's best crab dip, pineapple upside down cakes, spaghetti sauce, and "trash bag cole slaw," but you'd be

hard-pressed to get a recipe from her! It was always "just some of this and some of that."

She is survived by her husband, John Green; children, step-children and grandchildren, Nikki Randall (Zoey Hrotic), Jessica Auth (Troy), Jerry Randall, Wendy and Chris Appel, Jennifer and Daniel Blankenship (Cassidy and Caleb), and Caroline and Kyle Conroy; mother, Barbara Beach; brother, John Beach; and many extended family members and cherished close friendships. Her father, Donald G. Beach, and son-in-law Shawn Hrotic, preceded her in death.

The family would like to thank Calvert Hospice, their nurses and staff, for keeping her comfortable in the last months of her life.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests either donations to be made to the Colorectal Cancer Alliance, or for you to just do something nice for someone—buy a gift for a child in need, bake a cake, make a card, tell someone you appreciate them. That's what would have made her most happy.

Funeral arrangements by Rausch Funeral Home.

## Ralph D. Bartholomew, "Bart"



Ralph D. Bartholomew, "Bart", of Calvert County, formerly from Rhode Island, passed peacefully on Monday, February 7, 2022, at the age of 69. Bart always had a smile for all he met, and he faced life challenges and courageously fought his recent battle with that same infectious smile. He had a passion for fishing and crabbing and loved to share his expertise with his family and friends - especially the kids. He enjoyed the smiles on their faces, hearing their screams and laughter when they caught their first crab. Bart took pleasure in shooting the breeze, hanging out, kicking back in his yard that overlooked the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay. He loved the family reunions he and his wife, Lue, would host there. Bart was an avid Patriots fan, but he managed to split his love between them and the Steelers, as many of his family are Steeler enthusiasts. He was a jokester and appreciated a good laugh! His bright smile and his kind, loving, generous spirit will be deeply missed. May he rest in peace.

Bart was preceded in death by his parents, Harold W. and Beatrice (Pigeon) Bartholomew, and brother, James A. He is survived by his loving wife Lue (Smith) Bartholomew and stepsons, Joseph, Mark (Colleen) and Wayne (Patty) Ruby. Beloved pap to Jacob, Rebecca, Cameron, Seth, and Maiah Ruby and great grandpap to Vivian Ruby. Beloved brother-in-law to Kay LaFace; beloved uncle to Missy, Bethany, Tina and Kenny. Bart is also survived by his loving Aunt Carol and Uncle Donald, brother Richard L. Bartholomew and sister Janet C. Agin.

Celebrate Bart's life by going fishing or crabbing, raising a glass with a friend, or by donating to your favorite charity.

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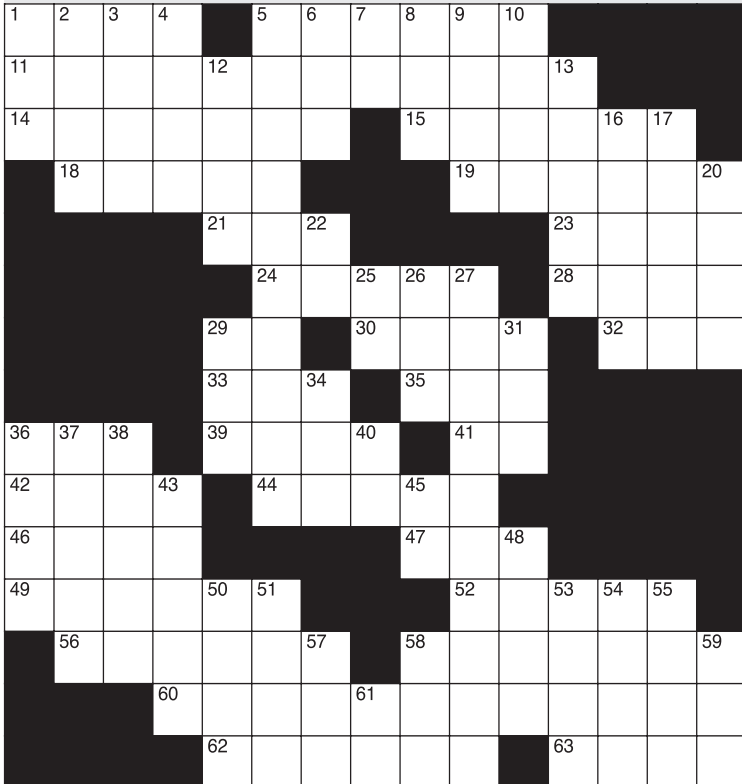


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# GAMES & PUZZLES



**CLUES ACROSS**

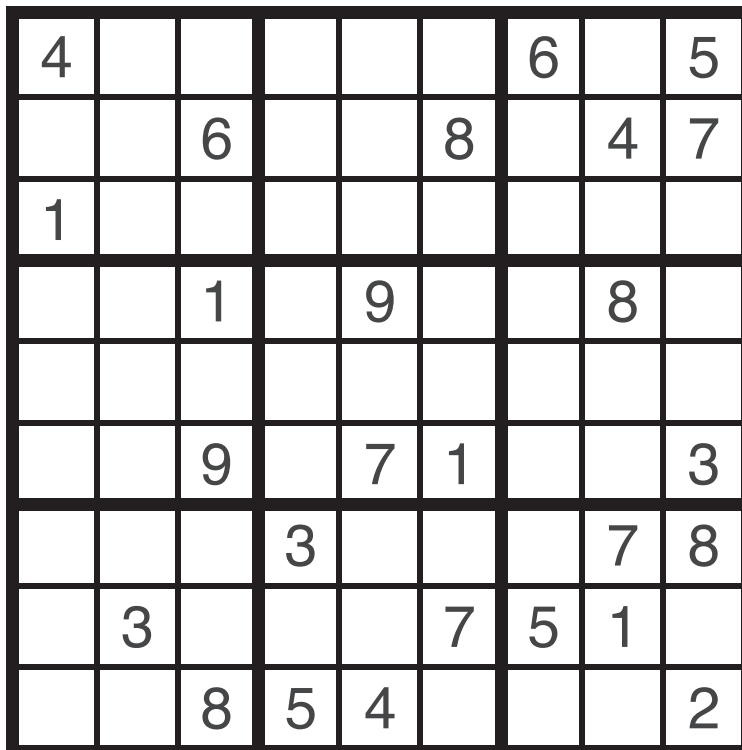
- 1. Constrictors
- 5. Abounding in rocks
- 11. Speed
- 14. German city
- 15. Lacking sympathy
- 18. Visionaries
- 19. Wastes away
- 21. One precursor to the EU
- 23. Nursemaid
- 24. Unconsciousnesses
- 28. Baby's word for father
- 29. Equal to 64 US pints (abbr.)
- 30. Senses of self-importance
- 32. Midway between south and southwest
- 33. When you hope to get there
- 35. Electronic data processing
- 36. Passports and drivers' licences are two
- 39. Fishes
- 41. Air Force
- 42. Personal

- computers
- 44. Ecological community
- 46. Wings
- 47. Halfway
- 49. Cool, calm and collected
- 52. Jewelled headdress
- 56. Musical composition
- 58. \_\_\_ Falls
- 60. Repeating remarks
- 62. Periods in one's life
- 63. Hyphen

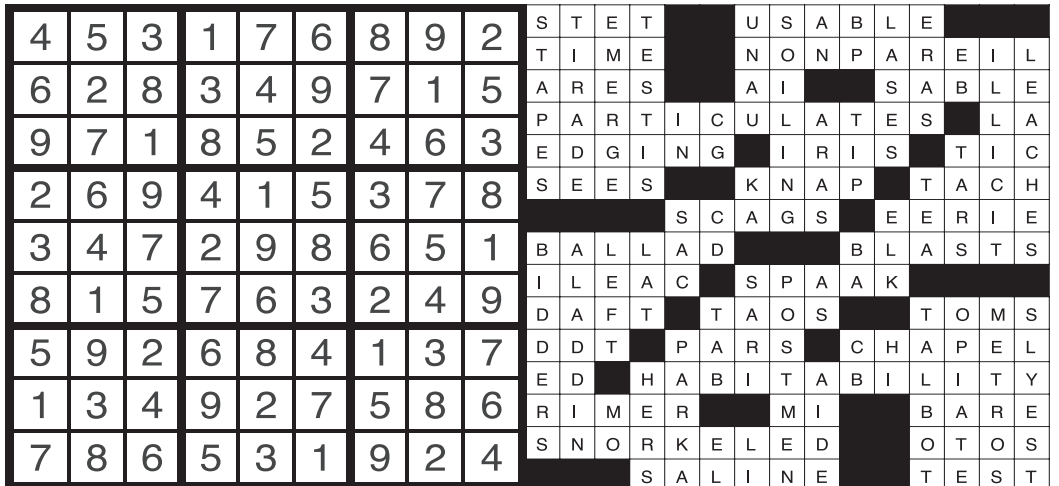
**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. \_\_\_ Humbug!
- 2. Devices that alert pilots (abbr.)
- 3. Grocer
- 4. One point east of southeast
- 5. Subjects to hostility
- 6. Work unit
- 7. Atomic #56
- 8. British thermal unit
- 9. "Elusive Butterfly" singer
- 10. Fastened over animal's neck
- 12. Deceive
- 13. Rechargeable power source
- 16. Ancient sage

- 17. Consist of two elements
- 20. "Pygmalion" writer
- 22. "The Centennial State" (abbr.)
- 25. Of I
- 26. Get older
- 27. Brotherhoods
- 29. Buzzing insect
- 31. Sunscreen rating
- 34. Brew
- 36. Leader
- 37. Indigo bush
- 38. Burn with a hot liquid
- 40. Junior's dad
- 43. Horse mackerels genus
- 45. Morning
- 48. Unit of linear measurement (abbr.)
- 50. Double curve
- 51. Small, twisted bunch
- 53. Developed
- 54. Mars crater
- 55. Humanistic discipline
- 57. Word element meaning ear
- 58. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- 59. Wood residue
- 61. It cools your home



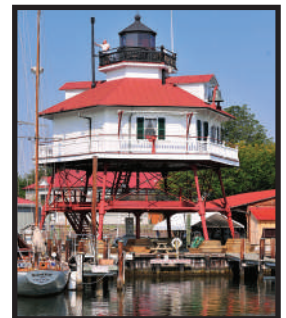
**LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**



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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 Calvert 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 Calvert County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The Calvert County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



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