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**POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD  
RECEIVES THREE COMPLAINTS**

**INSIDE**

# Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

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“...FOR THOSE THAT HAVE COME HERE, IT'S NOT WHAT THEY CAME FOR.”

COMMISSIONER PRESIDENT BUDDY HANCE ON TRAFFIC.



**LOCAL 5**  
Calvert commissioners make ethics rules changes.



**7**  
Calvert's fair opening soon



**LOCAL 6**  
GOP, Dem face off in District 3 General Election

## WEEKLY FORECAST

Provided by [www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com)

THU 9/22		84° /53°	A thunderstorm in spots
FRI 9/23		68° /47°	Mostly sunny and cooler
SAT 9/24		72° /55°	Mostly sunny and pleasant
SUN 9/25		84° /59°	Warmer with sunny intervals
MON 9/26		79° /57°	A thunderstorm in spots
TUE 9/27		77° /58°	Mostly sunny and beautiful
WED 9/28		74° /56°	Plenty of sun
THU 9/29		73° /57°	Sun through high clouds



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# Police Accountability Board Receives Three Complaints

## Mediation an Option for Sheriff's Office

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Since the new state-mandated police accountability system began on July 1, the Calvert County Police Accountability Board (CCPAB) has received three citizen complaints against police officers. All have been with the Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), and all have been for alleged false arrest.

Those complaints, according to procedure, have been forwarded to the police agency and are still under investigation. Once the investigation is complete the outcome will be forwarded to the CCPAB, which will in turn forward it to the newly formed Administrative Changing Committee which will investigate and determine the disciplinary action, if any.

According to CCPAB Chairman Wilson Parran, their website offers a tracking system for complaints, so residents can view their status.

The CCPAB held its second meeting on Sept. 14. At the meeting CCSO head of the Professional Standards Division Capt. Brent Parrott gave a briefing on their procedures. "We conduct complaint investigations for consistency, fairness, and strive to accomplish these tasks with professionalism, integrity, compassion, and respect, in order to retain the highest standards of public trust," he said.

Parrott said once received, "The complaint is assessed by staff and operations and the employee's affected bureau commander. After the assessment of the complaint, the case is assigned to an inves-



tigator for an investigation. Now that could be either at the field level to a sergeant or corporal, or it could be to an investigator in the office of professional standards. It depends on what the allegation is and how severe it is."

The sheriff's office does offer mediation through the Calvert County Mediation Center. He said, "We're the first agency in the state of Maryland to go to something like that. It's actually worked well for us. We don't mediate all cases."

Parrott said, "It's a confidential alternative to the traditional complaint process. It offers a different way of handling the concerns or frustrations of a citizen and police officers after interacting with one another."

Prior to the option the resolution might have been in the officer's favor, leaving the citizen frustrated.

"The mediator in a case like that is a neutral party, trained and experienced in assisting citizens and officers and talking through and attempting to resolve their differences that they may have had in



their interaction."

The outcome of the mediation is the resolution of the complaint. Parran asked for the CCSO to inform the CCPAB when that happens.

Parrott said an example of when mediation may be used is if "the citizen didn't like the way the officer talked to them. Now, we make the officer aware of the complaint. They may not feel that they said anything inappropriate or their attitude they thought was fine, but maybe the citizen didn't."

He said the process is used only for "minor complaints."

Also, at the meeting the CCPAB received a briefing on the national police accreditation system called CALEA, or the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies. Parrott said his agency was once accredited but did not pursue renewal. He said Sheriff Mike Evans chose not to do so because of the manpower required to accomplish it. Parran noted that CCSO would soon have a new sheriff at its helm, so perhaps that might change.

The Maryland State Police are CALEA accredited, according to Southern Troop Commander Capt. Shane Bolger, in a presentation to the CCPAB.

Complaints against an MSP officer are not sent to the CCPAB, but instead to a state accountability board made up of three members appointed by the governor and one each by the Maryland Senate president and House speaker.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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# Commissioners Talk Traffic Development Requirements Reviewed

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

As the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) investigates ways to expand their Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO), they're also looking at ways to beef up what they already do. Currently the ordinance has requirements for roads and schools and the expansion could cover things such as water and sewer, recreation, and emergency services. At a Sept. 20 work session, they looked at how roads were being handled and seemed to come to the conclusion that the ordinance doesn't go far enough.

For instance, the ordinance requires roads in town centers to be no worse than a Level D, which means waits of 25 to 35 seconds at unsignalized intersections and 35 to 55 seconds at signalized ones.

It also requires improvements to the nearest minor arterial road.

Other counties have more stringent requirements.

Those current requirements didn't sit well with the commissioners and at the work session they gave an earful to Director of Public Works and Transportation Kerry Dull and the county's transportation consultant John Rectanus of the Wallace Montgomery firm.

For instance, this observation from Commissioner President Buddy Hance: "If I'm going to move something big (on weekends), I try to be on Route 4 by 8 a.m. and by noon it's just nuts. And even on weekdays now, I don't know what the traffic study's going to say, but even on weekdays it used to be from nine to 11 was a pretty good time to move. Not anymore. So, there's some dynamic has changed, and I don't know if it's an increase in traffic or people's just normal movements, but something has altered the traffic in Calvert County post COVID that was not the same pre COVID."

Commissioner Mike Hart observed, "With all working from home, I'm doing this on my lunch break. Well, when your lunch break might have been in DC or Annapolis, but now you're working for home. So, your lunch break will be in your backyard."

Commissioner Chris Gadway also observed, "During the last couple years as more and more people wanted to get out into nature and out into the community,



we are seeing a lot of people coming into the county."

The county does consider peak hour volume where the state, in a study prepared prior to the county's last transportation study in 2017, averaged volume over the entire day. Hance said, "We don't believe that averaging is an appropriate way to assess those intersections. Yes, it looks good. It helps your report card, you get a better level of service when you do that. That doesn't help you when you're sitting there (at the peak and wait for three cycles of a light.)"

Hance observed, "I think we're the only jurisdiction in the state that has that unique characteristic where you can't disperse traffic. Everybody's forced on Route 4."

Because of the way a subdivision road impact is calculated, Hance noted, "I've been told, we've never had a project where they said there was a traffic impact."

He added, "At the end of the day, it's about the tolerance of our citizens and what they believe. We had a transportation expert come to us a year or two ago, and he said, your traffic's not as bad as DC. You don't have any traffic problems. There's a different tolerance level in Calvert County than there is in Washington, DC. I don't think that our citizens would agree that we don't have a traffic problem because it's not like DC."

Of the increased traffic, he said, "It's been quite an adjustment for those of us that have been here. And for those that have come here, it's not what they came for."

At the end of the discussion, Hance asked Dull, "Have we given you direction?"

Dull responded, "I have plenty of notes and have direction. I'll be working with (Director of Planning and Zoning) Mary Beth (Cook) to put those into action for the review that's coming forward with you."

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

# Commissioners Enact Ethics Changes

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has enacted 14 changes to the county's ethics code. Eleven of them are required by changes to state law, and the other three have been recommended by the State Ethics Commission. All were recommended by the county ethics commission.

The ethics code guides the ethics commission in its considerations of conflict-of-interest challenges.

The changes were enacted after a public hearing Sept. 20 that included a briefing on the proposal from County Attorney John Norris and Calvert County Ethics Commission Chairman Matthew Raymer.

Raymer noted the commission does not do independent investigations but only acts on complaints or requests for advisory opinions. "We are not a proactive board," he advised.

The optional amendment changes include:

- Excluding exchange-traded funds and mutual funds from the definition of an "interest." The rationale: "exchange-traded funds and mutual funds are not under sufficient control of a filer to warrant diluting the financial disclosure statement with this extraneous information."

- Requiring that "lobbyists who serve on county boards and commissions and are disqualified from participating in a specific matter, to file a statement of recusal."

- "To begin to plan for the public being provided internet access, through an online registration system, to the financial disclosure statements submitted by local elected officials, candidates for office, and heads of principal departments."

The changes also include a "mandatory amendment (that) creates a 'reverse' post-employment restriction of one-year for lobbyists who become officials or employees. This does not apply to un-



County Attorney John Norris

compensated or minimally compensated (less than \$10,000) board or commission member or elected official."

Another change prohibits the acceptance of gifts from associations engaged in representing counties or municipal corporations.

Still another amendment prohibits "retaliation against an individual for reporting or participating in an investigation of a potential violation of the Calvert County Ethics Code."

Before enacting the changes, the commissioners asked a few questions. President Buddy Hance wanted to know if he attended a Maryland Association of Counties meeting and they took him to lunch, would he have to report it. Norris said if it was more than \$20, he would.

Only one public comment was received, by regular contributor Joseph Cornier of Owings. He observed that Commissioner Kelly McConkey had left the meeting prior to the discussion. McConkey has been embroiled in a legal battle with the ethics commission.

Cornier said when a public official recuses himself from a discussion, he/she should be required to explain the reason. Cornier said for all anyone knew, McConkey was just going to the bathroom.

Later in the meeting, Hance recused himself from a discussion about transfer of development rights, although he did not explain his reasoning for doing so.

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

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# Grasso, Roberts Contend for Third District Seat

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Catherine Grasso was chair of the Republican Central Committee when she was one of the county citizens who filed an ethics complaint against Commissioner Kelly McConkey over his vote on the comprehensive plan. Earlier this year, prompted by his actions, she stepped down from her post to run against McConkey in the Republican primary. She easily prevailed and then a month later the Maryland Court of Special Appeals upheld the ethics violation against McConkey.

Now she has another challenge, this time in the Nov. 8 General Election against political newcomer, Democrat Darrell Roberts of Huntingtown.

Roberts was raised on a farm in Kentucky and joined the U.S. Navy after high school. He served on a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. While in the Navy he met his wife Ginnie and they've been married for 30 years.

Roberts, 50, moved to Pennsylvania after his service and became a union sheet metal worker. "I went to night school, joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard...and I got deployed after September 11<sup>th</sup>." His unit was sent to Kosovo, and he was an infantry squad leader.

Upon returning he started working through his union with a program called "Helmets to Hard Hat. He said, "It is a national non-profit that works with veterans as they're transitioning from their military career to civilian life."

He was introduced to the county through a friend and fell in love with it. That was eight years ago. His children attended public school here and he coached youth sports.

"I made a move over to the Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers International Union, where he is



Darrell Roberts

director of organizing.

It's his first political experience. "I saw things here in the county where I was, like, hey, I can help here. I've always been serving at some level or another," adding, "I think service is really important in our lives."

He said, "I feel like there needs to be a bridge here for help, just assistance and just listening and communicate effectively with the different departments and the different groups here in the county."

He said, "I have extensive experience in budgets. I had millions of dollars that I had to help raise. And then of course, administer."

He said at his non-profit, "It didn't matter if you were a Democrat or Republican," adding, "What mattered was we were trying to help people and we were doing it successfully."

As to county issues, he said, "I've been meeting with many of the department heads here in the county and I've heard that there are many items that will be coming up in the next group of county



Catherine Grasso

commissioners... whether it's the master plan, the town centers, or looking at where does our future lie?"

Roberts said, "Schools is one of the of the reasons we moved here." He said his eldest daughter, who recently married a Marine, "was very happy with her education."

As to growth, he said, "I think there's a balance there that we have to find. We don't want more traffic, adding, "We have to make sure we have the infrastructure necessary if we are going to grow. I don't think one person can answer that question effectively. The county has to decide if we're ready to grow, if we need to grow more. And I think we're hearing those voices now. So, any growth needs to be balanced and strategic. It needs to be well thought out and planned. And the entire process must be transparent."

Grasso, who lives in Dunkirk, said during the primary, "I saw before McConkey, (Evan) Slaughenhoupt and how he ran things and how we grew with what ap-

peared to be not even a plan that's good for the county, not even a plan that takes into consideration our farming community, our water community, the runoff that we have, the high-density growth. It doesn't even look in Prince Frederick like traffic was even considered, what this would do to us."

She also was very critical of the school board for their handling of the pandemic.

In a prepared statement to her followers, she wrote, "Years ago when my husband Frank was serving in the United States Army overseas, I came to Calvert County on a fishing trip with a coworker and her husband. I thought that Calvert County was a beautiful county but could not imagine living this far from family. What did these people of Calvert County do for a living? Fast forward three years and we purchased property in Dunkirk. And two years later we built our home in Calvert County. We've raised our three children in the jewel of Maryland. As years have gone by, our jewel has started to tarnish with high density growth and overabundance of traffic, a polluted toxic river and Chesapeake Bay, critical race theory taught in our schools under the guise of equity, and little regard for our farming community."

Grasso grew up in Washington, DC. "My grandmother was an Irish immigrant. I am the oldest of eight children from an Irish Catholic family. My dad was a DC police officer and I'm extremely proud of my blue-collar background."

She has an associate degree and started out working in labor unions and later for the Justice Department and then the Department of Agriculture where she managed her department's budget and then shifted to grain inspection.

*dickmyers@countytimes.net*



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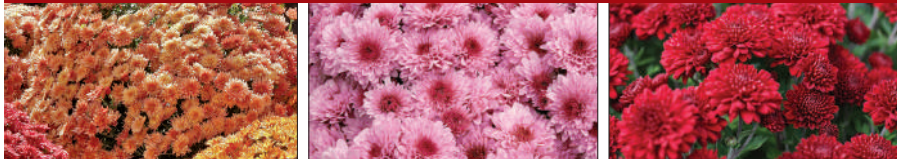
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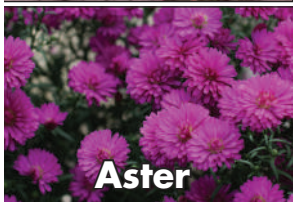
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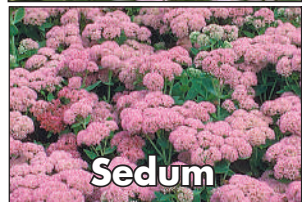
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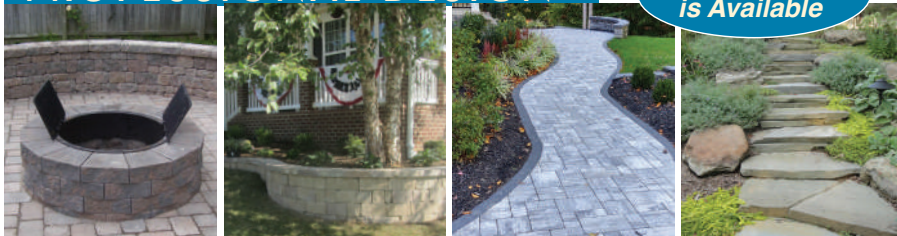
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**It's Time for the 135th Calvert County Fair**



By Dick Myers  
 Staff Writer

Although the gates of the Calvert County Fair don't officially swing open for the public until Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 5 p.m., there's plenty going on behind the scenes until then. It'll be the 135th fair, with a COVID-19 hiatus in 2020.

The fair bills itself as showcasing "the best of the area, including agricultural, 4H, contests and prizes, local entertainment, as well as a carnival."

According to the fair website, [https://www.calvertcountyfair.com/?page\\_id=132](https://www.calvertcountyfair.com/?page_id=132), "The first Calvert County fair was held in 1886 on the farm of Dr. Talbott in Smithville (now Dunkirk). His heirs, the Eisemans, still own this farm. This event was primarily a display of cattle and tobacco and a get-together for the men. Originally, horse racing was a popular part of the event. These were basically social events, and while there is little known about the early efforts for a fair, it is believed that these gatherings did continue as smaller events during the early years of the century."

The website also includes much historical information about the fair in modern times.

The fair is run by a dedicated board of directors and many other volunteers without whom such an endeavor would be impossible.

Auditions for the Fair Idol contest have already occurred, on Sunday, Sept. 11 and Monday, Sept.

The unofficial opening of the fair occurs Sunday, September 25 at 2:30 with the Miss Tranquility and Lord Calvert pageants. It's

held in the fair auditorium, and everyone is invited.

Children's Contest registration is at the Fair Main Building. In-person Registration dates are Sunday, Sept. 25, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and Monday, Sept. 26, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 26, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. is entry day (including baked goods). Youth can register in the Youth Building. All must be registered by 7 p.m. On Tuesday, Sept. 27, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. baked goods will be received (adults only). Please include 3x5 recipe card. Judging begins at 10 a.m.

Also, on Tuesday from 12-8 p.m. poultry and livestock entries are received. Pre-Registration is required. No early livestock arrivals are permitted.

Wednesday, Sept. 28th is Feed the Needy Night. You can enter the fair for \$1 or a 14 oz. or larger can of food.

Entertainment will be performing at various times throughout the day including Rhinestone Roper Wild West, Ninja Experience, and chainsaw carvings (Joe Stebbing Jr.)

At 4 p.m. the fair officially opens and at 5 p.m. the carnival opens (Sneak Preview Night)

On Wednesday at 6 p.m., be sure to be there for the official opening ceremonies. Calvert County Idol contest will start at 7 p.m. in the pavilion. Exhibit buildings close at 9 p.m. and the fair closes at 10 p.m. for the night.

Next week's Calvert County Times will have information about the remaining four days of the fair.

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

# What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their Sept. 21 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 4R, 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) 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

3) CSPR-138320, **Calvert Gateway**, Lot 11, Retail Building, 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

4) 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, New Town District. Proposed 96 multi-family apartment units and 164 townhouse units with associated site improvements. This project is on public water and sewer. The submittal was accepted October 28, 2021. Agent: Barrett & Associates

5) CSPR-142795, **Calvert Gateway**, Lot 12R, Retail Building 'A' located at 10380 Town Center Boulevard, Dunkirk, on a 4.04 acre lot, zoned Dunkirk Town Center. Proposed 15,493-square-foot building for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. This project is on private water

and sewer. The submittal was accepted February 23, 2022. Agent: Bay Engineering

6) CSPR-142807, **STR Gymnastics & Dance**, located at 655 Skinners Turn Road, Owings, on multiple lots totaling 1.9 acres, zoned light industrial (I-1), using private water and sewer. Proposed 10,800-square-foot building for holding classes in gymnastics (7,400sf) and dance (3,400sf). The submitted plan indicates a possible address change due to dual road frontage. The submittal was accepted March 23, 2022. Agent: Wilkerson & Associates

7) CSPR-142755, **Armory Towns**, located at 46 Armory Road, Prince Frederick, on two lots totaling 0.85 acres, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, Old Town Transition District, using public water and sewer. Proposed nine two-story townhomes totaling approximately 7,560 square feet. The submittal was accepted April 27, 2022. Agent: COA

8) CSPR-142828, **Magnolia Ridge West** located at Armory Road and Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, on multiple parcels totaling 24.497 acres, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District. Proposed approximately 91,000 square feet creating 79 townhomes. This project is on public water and sewer. The submittal was accepted April 27, 2022. Agent: Barrett & Associates

9) CSPR-142842, **Sunset Terrace Condos**, located at 14474 & 14478 South Solomons Island Road, Solomons, on two lots totaling .42 acres, zoned Solomons Town Center. Proposed 19,191-square-foot, three-story building for mixed use: 1,000 square foot commercial retail space and 18,191 square foot for eight condominiums with parking and site improvements. This project is on public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted July 27, 2022. Agent: COA

10) CSPR-142856, **Solomons Condominiums**, located at 14516 & 14518 South Solomons Island Road, Solomons, on two lots totaling .67 acres, zoned Solomons Town Center. Proposed 34,483-square-foot, four-story building for mixed use: 2,450-square-foot commercial retail space and 32,033 square foot for 13 multi-family condominiums with parking and site improvements. This project is in the Critical Area and on public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted July 27, 2022. Agent: Barrett & Associates

Information provided by Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning.



# Letters to the Editor

## Calvert Citizens United

Greetings Neighbors, herein is Calvert Citizens United's update regarding the long awaited, unprecedented Maryland Supreme Court hearing before seven justices (on September 12th). CCU appealed the Board of County Commissioners' 2019 approval (without consideration for citizens time-consuming energy, participation, pleadings and overwhelming objections) of the Comprehensive Plan. CCU is in possession of 100 pages of backroom meeting minutes (obtained through a Freedom of Information Request). Every page outlines the sellout to four local Builder/Developers.

Beginning 2019, how has CCU come to fund \$115,000.00 in legal fees to our attorney, G. Macy Nelson? Quite simply, our aggrieved taxpaying citizens contributing to the cause. And why is that? Citizens are standing together to protect the smallest, most fragile county in the state. During this campaign season, citizens have forcefully and publicly stated to the candidates, "leave Calvert alone and protect our quality of life".

On July 12th, Calvert Ethics Commission received its lower (COSA) Supreme Court ruling. The three judge panel found Commissioner Kelly McConkey in violation of both Maryland/Calvert Code of Ethics. Further, McConkey should have recused himself from the proceedings. Also, McConkey is responsible for ALL legal fees in connection with voting his Huntingtown property into the Town Center then simultaneously voting to approve the Comprehensive Plan. On the heels of this COSA ruling, Maryland Supreme Court granted CCU's Writ for a hearing based upon Taxpayer Standing. In this matter, the granting is unprecedented!

After three grueling years in Circuit Court, Attorney Nelson argued that Commissioner McConkey was obligated to recuse himself from voting because he had seconded the motion placing his property into Town Center. Four of the seven justices asked questions and Nelson supported his analysis with case law, even quoting the court's retired Chief Justice and mentioning the recently released opinion regarding McConkey's loss in the lower court. A recently appointed Justice honed in on the 'SUGARLOAF' ruling. Just like the U.S. Supreme Court, it can take six months or more for the Court to rule!

'Sugarloaf' is Maryland law that in essence states, "any elected legislators have the obligation and authority to vote on passage of Comprehensive Plan(s), Zoning, MasterPlan(s), and the like EVEN IF there is, or appears to be, a conflict of interest on the part of the voting legislator". 'Sugarloaf' legislative maneuvering PROTECTS all elected officials "who MAY be so inclined to vote one's own properties into law". This is exactly what McConkey accomplished with his 2019 self-serving vote.

Deputy County Attorney John Mattingly argued for BOCC and McConkey for just 18 minutes (not his allotted 30 minutes). His concluding statement to the seven Justices (our highest, most dignified Court steeped in historic case law and analysis) went this way. Justices, you must follow SUGARLOAF case law because MD Legislators refuse to remand or modify it. Addressing this one of a kind, highly technical legal matter, Mattingly glibly stated, "Justices, it's all about the SAUSAGE, NOT what goes into it". Succinctly put, he's saying who cares if Ethics Laws or Codes were broken. The Maryland Legislature has denied our Supreme Court authority to prohibit matters of backroom dealing and self-serving law. Clearly, SUGARLOAF is the Maryland Legislature working against taxpaying citizens.

Secondly, due to CCU Director Frank Grasso's scheduling conflict, he will be listed with the State Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT) as Frank Grasso, Director (Emeritus). Since the inception of CCU, Mr. Grasso has served all our neighbors with dedication and commitment. CCU totally recognizes his energy in "steering this ship".

Lastly, CCU is absolutely committed to our neighbors by seeing this precedent-setting lawsuit through to its winning conclusion! Imagine this, our Citizens' lawsuit, at this moment in time, is the most significant issue facing the Supremes. CCU will continue to call out the hypocrisy of county administrators. Please VOTE intelligently! Legal fees are hefty; when we all contribute to the Tip Jar, we all win! All work since 2018 is done by CCU Pro Bono.

Thank you for donating whatever amount works for your family to Calvert Citizens United, PO Box 1018, Huntingtown, MD 20639. The end is in sight; you've made this happen!

*Myra Gowans, Founder  
Calvert Citizens United, Inc.*

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor include your name & town of residence.  
Email: [DickMyers@countytimes.net](mailto:DickMyers@countytimes.net)



# CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of September 5, 2022 – September 11, 2022, deputies of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 1,489 calls for service throughout the community.

## Burglary: 22-51113

On September 5, 2022, DFC Anderson responded to the 600 block of Carlsbad Court for the report of a burglary. Investigation revealed an unknown suspect (s) forced entry into the residence after throwing a large rock through the basement window. The suspect (s) stole five beers from a mini-fridge, fireworks, and stickers for the Chesapeake Ranch Estates HOA tags. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$800. The value of the stolen property was \$40.

## Damaged Property: 22-51542

On September 7, 2022, Deputy Lee responded to the 2600 block of Apple Way in Dunkirk, for the report of property destruction and a possible burglary. Investigation revealed an unknown suspect caused damage to the victim's sliding glass door. The double pane sliding glass door had been shattered and the door was discovered slightly ajar. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$2,000.

## Damaged Property: 22-52450/52455

On September 11, 2022, Deputy Dailey responded to two separate residences in the 6000 block of Gordon Drive in Sunderland, for the report of damaged property. The complainants advised sometime between 9:30 p.m. on Sept. 10 and 10 a.m. on Sept. 11, an unknown suspect(s) shot both of the

victim's vehicles with a suspected BB or pellet gun. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$1,000 per vehicle.

## Fraud

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office has received several reports of checks being stolen and altered after they have been placed in the mail. The Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) is investigating these crimes in conjunction with the United States Postal Inspection Service. Please consider alternative means of money transfer as this crime trend remains active.

## Theft: 22-51867

On September 8, 2022, Deputy Tavares responded to Walmart located at 150 N Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a male suspect entered the store inquiring about two iPad Air 5s and two iPad cases. An employee retrieved the items and the suspect grabbed the iPads from the employee and fled the store. The suspect is described as a black male wearing a black hoodie, white face mask, ripped blue jean shorts, white socks, and black shoes. The total value of stolen items was \$1,149.76.

## Theft: 22-52225

On September 10, 2022, Deputy McCourt received a report of a theft. The complainant advised a handicap placard was stolen from his unlocked vehicle while parked

outside the Walmart located at 150 Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$50.

## Theft: 22-52396

On September 11, 2022, Deputy Dymond responded to the Safeway located at 80 West Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, for a reported theft. The complainant advised a male suspect exited the store with approximately \$60 in stolen merchandise and fled the area in a silver four-door Chevrolet with Maryland tags. The suspect is described as a white male with a full beard, approximately 30 years of age, wearing glasses, a black baseball cap, and a black t-shirt.

## ARRESTS

On September 7, 2022, Deputy Strong responded to the Walmart located at 150 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of an intoxicated subject. Deputies arrived on scene and discovered **Dennis Marvin Erich Jr.**, 53 of Prince Frederick, bleeding from his upper lip. Deputy Strong encountered Erich earlier in the day as he was passed out in the grass on the side of Rt. 4 from intoxication. Erich was evaluated on scene and cleared medically. In-



Dennis Marvin Erich Jr.

vestigation revealed Erich had been indefinitely trespassed from the property. Erich was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

On September 7, 2022, Deputy Hendrickson initiated a traffic stop in the area of Little Cove Point Road and Foxview Lane in Lusby, for a traffic violation and expired registration. Sgt Moran and his K9 partner arrived on scene and conducted a K9 sniff of the vehicle which yielded a positive alert. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed a Ziplock bag containing suspected Fentanyl, a burnt spoon covered with a white powdery substance (suspected cocaine), a white rock substance (suspected crack cocaine), a burnt crackpipe, and a white paper fold containing a suspected crack rock. The driver, **Robert Walter Smith**, 55 of Bowie, was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with four counts of CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.



Robert Walter Smith

*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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# 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, September 22

### 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 Squirrels!

## Saturday, September 24

### Dee of St. Mary's Public Sail

Calvert Marine Museum  
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Join us on a 2-hour public sail aboard the historic vessel Dee of St. Mary's, and experience the Patuxent River aboard an iconic Chesapeake Bay Skipjack. Guests will have an opportunity to help raise and lower the sail. Capacity allows for 30 guests. If there is inclement weather, you will be notified by the crew prior to the cruise. Cost is \$35 for ages 13 and up; \$15 for children ages 5-12. Children under 5 are not permitted. To register, visit: <http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/238/Dee-of-St-Marys-Cruises>

### Hulbert Footner Room Ribbon Cutting

Historic Linden, 70 Church St.  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Event begins 10 a.m.

Footner Talk - 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Formal Recognitions and Ribbon Cutting: 11 a.m.

Second Footner Talk:

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

### Tours of Footner Room:

11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Event Concludes: 1 p.m.

This event is free and open to all. The occasion is the Footner family's donation to Calvert County Historical Society—a complete collection of Hulbert Footner's books and personal items, his typewriter, pigeon-hole desk, reading lamp, manuscript chest, and settee. This largest and most extensive, intact and complete collection of Hulbert Footner known will now be located at Historic Linden.

### BarkBQ & Meow Mixer

Calvert Animal Welfare League  
1040 Prince Frederick Blvd.

Prince Frederick

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vendors, Smokin Fatties BBQ food truck, Luckydog Ice, Ask the trainer, bake sale, yard sale, DJ, raffle baskets, SOMD sweets LLC and dogs and cats for adoption.

### Rock n Roll for Rescues; Hubcaps Dinner & Show

Holiday Inn, Solomons

5:30-10:30 p.m.

Benefit of Humane Society of Calvert County. Live event featuring The Fabulous Hubcaps. Tickets include Show, music & dancing as well as dinner, dessert, coffee, tea & water.

Alcoholic beverages will be available for sale. Enjoy 50/50's, gift raffles and more! Show is 6-10. [humanesocietyofcalvertcounty.org/products/rock-n-roll-for-rescues-hubcaps-dinner-show](http://humanesocietyofcalvertcounty.org/products/rock-n-roll-for-rescues-hubcaps-dinner-show)

### Omega Pi Omega Casino Night & Auction Fundraiser

Calvert Elks Lodge,

1015 Dares Beach Rd

Prince Frederick

8 p.m.

Please join the Omega Pi Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated for our 90s-themed Casino Night and Action Fundraiser. Tickets are \$65 per person which includes admission and \$10K in "funny money." There will be a cash bar and food truck available as well as silent auction and prizes for the best 90s costume. Proceeds will benefit our chapter's programs in Calvert County. Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite@: [TINYURL.COM/2P8R4XV8](https://www.eventbrite.com/2P8R4XV8)

For more information please contact: [opowaysandmeans@gmail.com](mailto:opowaysandmeans@gmail.com)

## Tuesday, September 27

### Calvert Chamber's Candidates Forum

450 Solomons Island Road S  
Prince Frederick, 6:30 p.m.

The Calvert Chamber's Business Advisory Committee invites the business community and concerned citizens to the 2022 Candidates Forum hosted by the Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department. Take this opportunity to hear from the candidates seeking your vote in the upcoming election on November 8th. The event is FREE to attend, OPEN to the PUBLIC and registration is not required.

For more information contact the Chamber office at 410-535-2577.

## Thursday, September 29

### 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 Squirrels!

## ONGOING

### Wm. B. Tennison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum,  
Month of Sept.

Wednesday through Friday  
2 p.m.;

Saturdays and Sundays

2 p.m. and 3:10 p.m.

Relax and enjoy a leisurely one-hour cruise on the river aboard the Wm. B. Tennison, a log-built bug-eye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. If there is inclement weather, you will be notified by the crew prior to the cruise. Cost is \$7 for adults, and \$4 for children 5-12 years, and children under 5 ride for free when accompanied by a paying adult. For more information and to register, visit: <http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/237/Wm-B-Tennison-Cruises>

## UPCOMING

### 8th Annual Craft and Vendor Show

Huntingtown United

Methodist Church

Saturday, October 15

9:30a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Come celebrate and support our local talent. And get an early start on our Holiday shopping!

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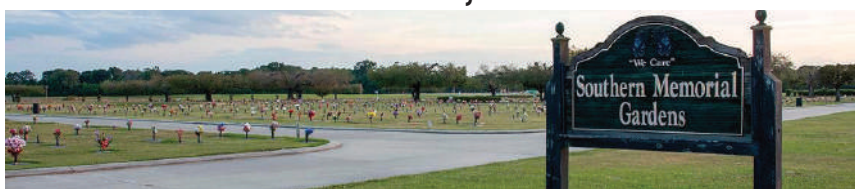
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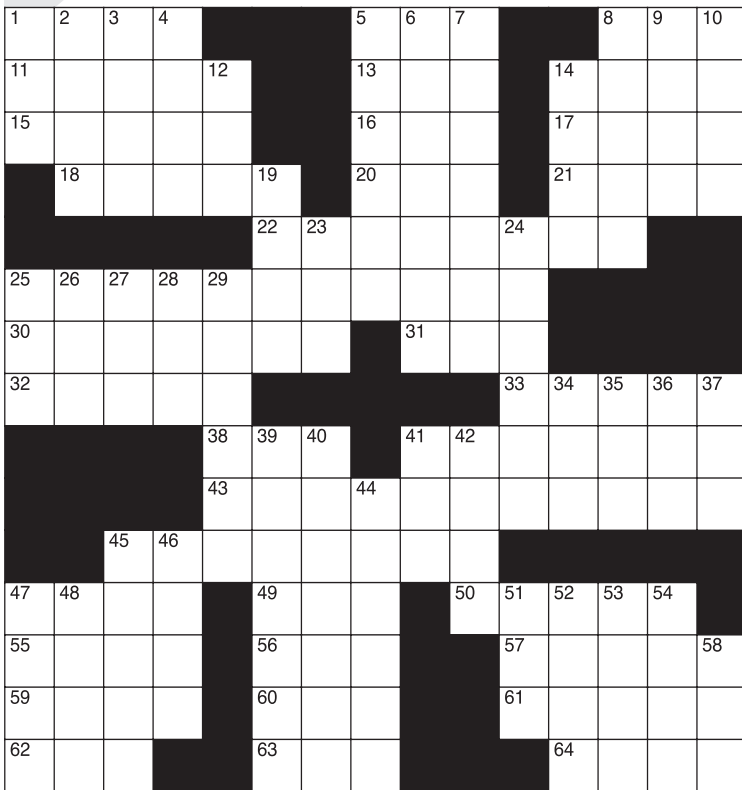
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# GAMES & PUZZLES



**CLUES ACROSS**

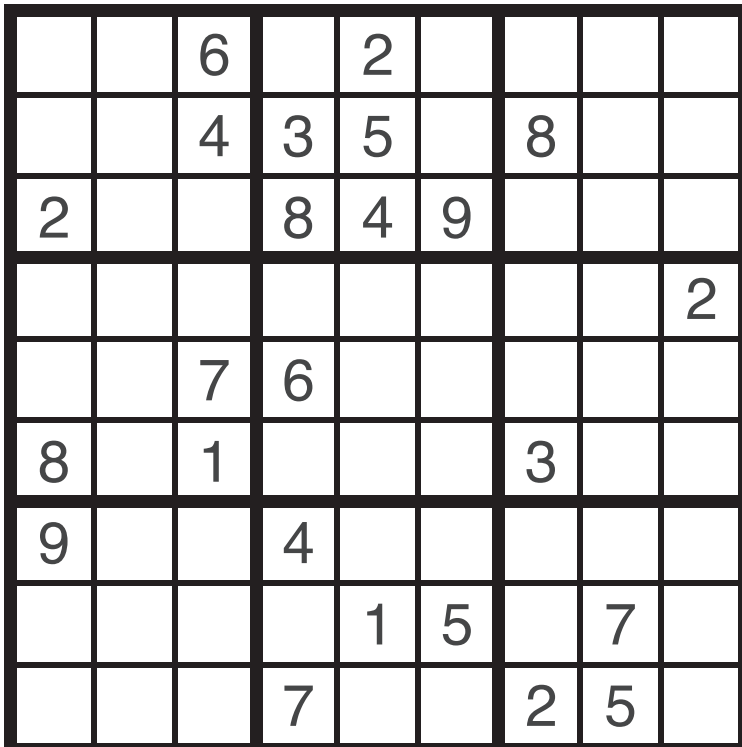
- 1. Fall down
- 5. Gas usage measurement
- 8. Golf score
- 11. A superior grade of black tea
- 13. Wrath
- 14. Eating house
- 15. Delay leaving a place
- 16. People now inhabiting Myanmar
- 17. Canadian flyers
- 18. Walks back and forth
- 20. Frequently
- 21. Humans have two
- 22. Surrounds with armed forces
- 25. Made proper
- 30. Medical buildings
- 31. Patty Hearst's captors
- 32. Hits with a drop shot
- 33. Italy's PM 1919-20
- 38. Promotions
- 41. En \_\_: incidentally
- 43. Queens baseball team
- 45. Commoner
- 47. Expenses in insurance world (abbr.)

- 49. Payroll firm
- 50. Broadway actress Daisy
- 55. Skipper butterflies
- 56. Hint
- 57. Daniel \_\_, French composer
- 59. English children's author Blyton
- 60. Midway between east and southeast
- 61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 62. Patriotic women's group
- 63. The woman
- 64. Tall, slender-leaved plant

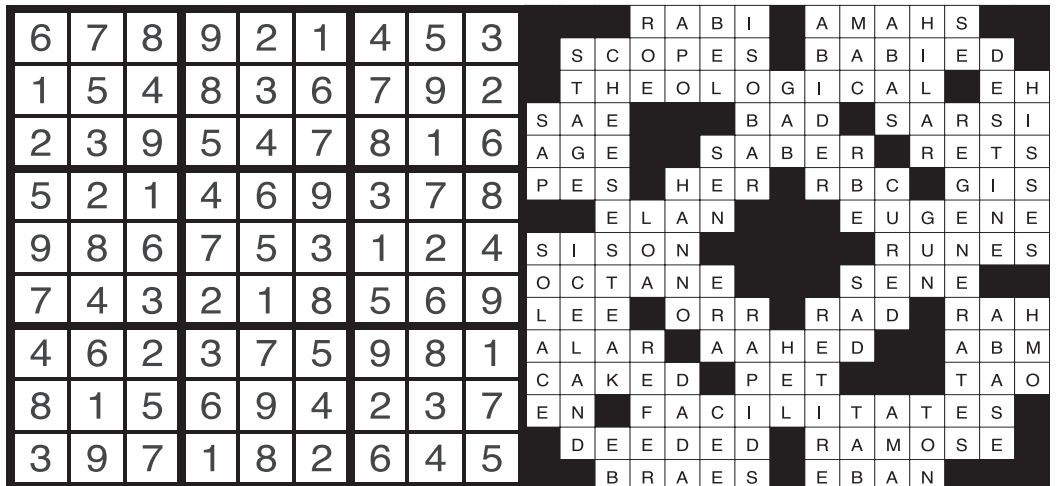
- 19. Invests in little enterprises
- 23. They help in tough situations
- 24. Industrial port in Poland
- 25. Type of screen
- 26. Peyton's little brother
- 27. Alcoholic beverage
- 28. Newspapers need it
- 29. Herbal tea
- 34. Distinctive practice
- 35. Exercise system \_\_-bo
- 36. Explosive
- 37. Belonging to a thing engage in them
- 40. Of the Swedes
- 41. Meadow-grass
- 42. "Rule, Britannia" composer
- 44. Hooray!
- 45. Greek city
- 46. One way to do it by example
- 47. Imitated
- 48. "Game of Thrones" actress Headey
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Drought-resistant plant
- 53. A French abbot
- 54. One point east of northeast
- 58. Get free of

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- 2. Jump
- 3. Eaten as a vegetable
- 4. Residual paresis after anesthesia
- 5. Brunchtime staple
- 6. Makes money off of
- 7. Refined
- 8. Nocturnal S. American rodents
- 9. From a distance
- 10. Officials
- 12. It helps you see
- 14. Central Canadian indigenous person



**LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**



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

To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the St. Mary's 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 St. Mary's County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The St. Mary's County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



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# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Friday, Sept 23, 2022

**Autumn Bazaar—Craft Sale**  
Northern Senior Activity Center  
29655 Charlotte Hall Rd  
Charlotte Hall  
8:30a.m. to 4p.m.

Our crafty seniors are taking over the Social Room to display and sell their creations! Support a local artist by purchasing handcrafted items such as crochet hats and paintings. The quilting crew will be displaying their finest work as well. No registration needed to attend. Drop-in only.

## Saturday, Sept 24, 2022

**The Journey High School Pilgrimage to St. Clements Island MD**  
St. Clements Island  
8a.m. to 8p.m.

The Pilgrimage is for high school-aged children. They will experience a music concert featuring Joe Melendrez, K-9 Demonstrations, State and County Police, Fire, Rescue, DNR, hands-on safety prevention activities, keynote speakers, team building, and lighthouse tours, treasure hunt, mass, adoration, confessions, and more. Registration of \$45 is required and includes all events, transportation to and from the island, lunch, and dinner. [www.southernmaryland.org/the-journey](http://www.southernmaryland.org/the-journey)

**First Annual Walk for Recovery**  
Public square  
Leonardtown  
9a.m. to Noon

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) will host the inaugural St. Mary's Goes Purple Walk for Recovery on Saturday, September 24, 2022 from 9:00—12:00 p.m. in Leonardtown Square. This family-friendly, free walk will celebrate those in recovery, help end stigma surrounding mental health and addiction, and bring awareness to the disease of addiction and how it impacts our community.

The Walk for Recovery is open to all interested community members and businesses. Join us to show your support for those in our community who have or are in recovery from a substance use disorder. Registration is highly recommended but not mandatory to attend.

**Register online at: W4R-SMC.  
[eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)**

This event will feature music, giveaways, free Naloxone/Narcan training, behavioral health resources, and fun activities, including face painting, a drum circle, scavenger hunts, and rock painting. Attendees will receive a t-shirt and a water bottle (while supplies last).

"Community plays a critical role in recovery," said Tammy Loewe, Behavioral Health Director at SMCHD. "With your support, we hope to

raise awareness about this important cause and to share the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover."

For more information about the Go Purple initiative to end stigma relating to mental health and substance use disorders, please visit [smchd.org/gopurple](http://smchd.org/gopurple).

**RiverFest- A Celebration of the St. Mary's River**

18751 Hogaboom Ln  
St Marys City  
11a.m. to 4p.m.

RiverFest- A Celebration of the St. Mary's River

Celebrate the St. Mary's River at the 17th annual RiverFest, on Saturday, September 24, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. Discover 101 ways to protect and enjoy our waterways, enjoy live music, try kayaking and seining, and enjoy tours of the new Maryland Dove. Visit exhibits about local flora and fauna and take home a free Bay?Friendly Backyard booklet. Come face-to-face with birds of prey, snakes, terrapins, and other seldom-seen neighbors. Join the ceremonial Wade-In at 2 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

To inquire about vending or exhibiting at our event or helping to support the event through a sponsorship, please email Emma Green at [emasmrwa@gmail.com](mailto:emasmrwa@gmail.com).

[emasmrwa@gmail.com](mailto:emasmrwa@gmail.com).

To learn more about the St. Mary's River Watershed Association and our work, please visit [www.smrwa.org/index.html](http://www.smrwa.org/index.html)

See you on the river!

## Sun, Sept 25, 2022

**"Seven I am's of Christ"**  
First Missionary Baptist Church  
46370 Pegg Lane  
Lexington Park  
4p.m. to 7p.m.

You are cordially invited to join us! First Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Roderick W. McClanahan, will host the "Seven I Am's of Christ" on Sunday, September 25, 2022, at 4:00 pm (doors open at 3:30pm). The empowered group of seven local Guest Preachers that will give the Spoken Word will include Pastor Henry Briscoe, Pastor James Bell, Sr., Pastor John Butler, Sr., Pastor James Spence, Jr., Lady Elisa Height, Bishop Dennis Swaringer and Bishop Rodney Thompson.

The occasion will be held in the church sanctuary; as well as virtually. The virtual phone number is 617-691-8533 or virtual meeting ID: [join.freeconferencecall.com/fmbc0](https://join.freeconferencecall.com/fmbc0). For additional information please contact First Missionary Baptist Church at 301-863-8388. We are located at 46370 Pegg Lane, Lexington Park, MD 20653.

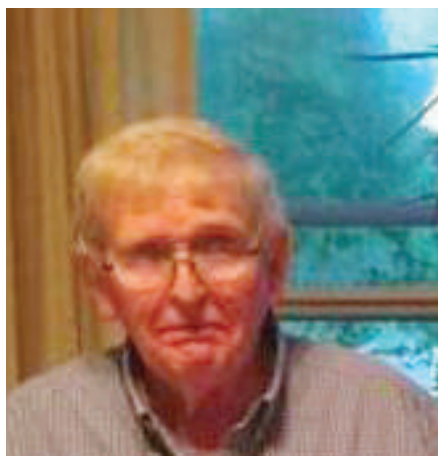
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**Daniel Joseph Coleman**



Daniel Joseph Coleman, 78 of California, MD passed away on September 12, 2022 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD with his loving family at his side.

He was born on September 12, 1944 in Jersey City, NJ to the late John Francis Coleman and Rose Carey, immigrants from Ireland and Scotland respectively.

In 1962 Dan graduated high school in Jersey City, NJ and attended St. Peter's College. His first job was as a runner on Wall Street. He spent his career with the Department of Defense at the Naval Air Station Patuxent River as a Computer Systems Analyst until his retirement in 1998. He met the love of his life, Joan Pamela Coleman, while working for Computer Systems Division, NAS. They married in May of 1967 and had three children, Sandra, David and Christopher. Together they celebrated over 55 wonderful years of marriage.

Dan was a delicious cook and made the best home fries. He looked forward to his regular card games of poker and pitch with his friends and liked to gamble on occasion. He volunteered to complete his friends' and family's taxes and did this for many years at no charge. He just enjoyed helping them out and visiting with them. Dan enjoyed taking his family on yearly summer vacations to Ocean City. In retirement, he and his wife traveled extensively across the United States, including Hawaii and cruising to Alaska.

Dan was a gregarious and outgoing man with a terrific sense of humor. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife Joan; his children Sandra Coleman of Valley Lee, MD, David Coleman (Laura) of Gaithersburg, MD and Christopher Coleman of California, MD; his grandsons, Derek Coleman and Adam Coleman; and extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents.

All services will be private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral

Home, P.A.

**Ann Genevieve Hunt**



Ann Genevieve Hunt, 84 of Mechanicsville, MD passed away on September 8, 2022 at St. Mary's Nursing Center, Leonardtown.

Genevieve was born on February 16, 1938 in Leonardtown, MD to the late John Freeman Mattingly and Agnes Elizabeth (Bowles) Mattingly.

Genevieve is a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. She is a 1956 graduate of St. Mary's Academy. On June 14, 1958 she married her beloved husband, Joseph M. Hunt at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Together they celebrated over 64 wonderful years of marriage. She spent her entire career in the banking industry with over forty years at First National Bank, a Mercantile Bank in Leonardtown, MD. She retired as the Assistant Vice President and Controller.

She was an avid golfer and enjoyed golfing with her husband and friends. She was a five time ladies champion at Wicomico Golf and Country Club. She enjoyed golf trips to Shenvalee Golf Resort in New Market, VA and going on boating adventures with her husband and friends. She was a delicious cook, and made the best crab cakes. She also enjoyed church dances.

In addition to her beloved husband, Joe, Genevieve was also survived by her sisters, Dorothy McFadden of Leonardtown, MD, Mary Catherine Sipe of Dallastown, PA; and many extended family and friends. In addition to her parents, she is also preceded in death by her siblings: Aubrey Mattingly, Agnes Browning, Wade Mattingly, John Freeman Mattingly, Noema Hutzell, and Donald Mattingly.

Family will receive friends on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., with a Memorial Service celebrated by Reverend Chip Luckett at 11:00 a.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will follow at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery, 21370 Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Memorial contributions to the Newtowne Manor House, c/o St. Francis Xavier Church, 21370 Newtowne Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

**Barbara T. (Gray) Ferguson**



Barbara T. (Gray) Ferguson, 81, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania passed away suddenly on August 1, 2022 at her home. Barbara, known as "Bobby" was born September 13, 1940 and was the daughter of the late Albert Joseph Gray, Sr., and Ida Elizabeth "Bessie" (Hill) Gray of Chaptico, Maryland. Bobby graduated from Margaret Brent High School in 1958. On August 1, 1959, Bobby married the love of her life David (Dave) L. Ferguson, at Our Lady of

the Wayside Church in Chaptico. Bobby was a stay at home mom for her 5 Children. She was a great seamstress, making clothes for her children, and beautiful Christmas presents for her family. She attended Mass daily. Bobby stayed active walking 2 to 3 miles every day, she also enjoyed gambling and McDonalds. She especially loved spending time with her beloved children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and her family in Maryland. Bobby is survived by her children: Jill Tomnay (Ray), Brian Ferguson, Kevin Ferguson (Tammi) all of Pennsylvania, and Tammie Meder (Joe) of Florida, and son-in-law Mark Necessary of Florida, and her grandchildren: Travis, Ryan, Kent (Jessica), Karly, Troy, Miranda, Ava, Samantha, Victoria, Danielle and Abbey, also her great-grandchildren: Gatlin, Malena, Raine and Indra. She is also survived by her siblings: Marian Murdock (Gail), Pat Gray (Betty Ann), Rita Murphy (Jack), Judy Frank (Charlie), Michael Gray (Debbie), Elaine Joy (John), Glenda Mast (Wayne) and Maureen Abell (Timmy), as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Bobby is predeceased by her parents, her husband Dave (1/4/2015), her daughter Kimberly Necessary (11/4/2013), and her sister Ida Gray Dishinger (1/12/2022). Prayers were held on August 5, 2022, and a Mass of Christian burial was celebrated August 6, 2022 at St. Valentine Church, Bethel Park. Interment was beside her husband in The National (Military) Cemetery of the Alleghenies, PA.

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# FINANCIAL FOCUS

## FAILURE TO PLAN: IS IT PLANNING TO FAIL?

Benjamin Franklin once said, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." But as you chart your financial course, what steps should you take to help you keep moving forward to where you want to go?

Consider these suggestions:

- **Establish and quantify your goals.**

Throughout your life, you'll have short-term goals, such as an overseas vacation or a home renovation, and long-term goals, the most important of which may be a comfortable retirement. You'll want to identify all your goals and put a "price tag" on them. Of course, it's not always possible to know exactly how much it will cost to achieve each goal, but you can develop reasonably good estimates, revising them as needed.

- **Create an investment strategy to achieve your goals.**

Once you know how much your goals will cost, you can create the appropriate savings and investment strategies to potentially help you reach the needed amounts. For your retirement goal, you will likely need to contribute regularly to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. But for shorter-term goals, you may need to explore other types of investments. For all your investment moves, though, you'll need to consider your risk tolerance. You won't want your portfolio to have such a high-risk level that you're constantly uncomfortable with the inevitable fluctuations of the financial markets. On the other hand, you won't want to invest so conservatively that you jeopardize your chances of achieving the growth you need to reach your goals.

- **Control your debts.**

We live in an expensive world, so it's not easy to live debt-free. And some debts, such as your mortgage, obviously have value. But if you can control other debts, especially those that carry high interest rates, you can possibly free up money you can use to boost your savings and investments.

- **Prepare for obstacles.**

No matter how carefully you follow the strategies you've created to achieve your goals, you will, sooner or later, run into obstacles, or at least temporary challenges. What if you incur a large, unexpected expense, such as the sudden need for a new car or a major home repair? If you aren't prepared for these costs, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments – and every time you do that, you might slow your progress toward achieving your goals. To help prevent this, you should build an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses.

- **Review your strategy.**

When you first created your financial strategy, you might have planned to retire at a certain age. But what if you eventually decide to retire earlier or later? Such a choice can have a big impact on what you need from your investment portfolio — and when. And your circumstances may change in other ways, too. That's why it's a good idea to review your strategy periodically to make sure it still aligns with your up-to-date objectives.

None of us can guarantee that our carefully laid plans will always yield the results we want. But by taking the right steps at the right times, you can greatly improve your chances.

*Article was contributed by David McDonough  
Financial Advisor at Edward Jones.  
Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr Suite 302  
Leonardtown MD, 20650  
301 997 1707*

# Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



## EYES, OR THOUGHTS, OF THE BEHOLDER

My husband and I are definitely polar opposites on many things. Robert likes summer and heat, while I like fall through spring. He can stay out in the heat working on pools all day, or at home mowing and weeding in the blazing sun and high humidity. I, personally, don't like to sweat, which is probably why exercise and I have never gotten along. Even walking out from the shade into the sun can cause me to become an immediate wringing wet mess.

This must be why he loves hot sun and beach life vacations – he loves the ocean, with a bit of bright lights big city not far away for some nighttime fun. My idea of vacations mean quaint bed & breakfasts with the emphasis on great breakfasts. If the B & B's are located near a cluster of wineries, or mountains, even better. My other favorite place would be a log cabin on a quiet lake with lots of trees. I always love vacations based on historic homes and museums, but you can imagine that this would not be a fun vacation for Robert, unless there was a softball or football museum to visit.

I am thinking about all this because its getting time to plan our November anniversary trip. We've gone to The Tides Inn in Irvington, Virginia for many years because of the beauty and the fact of them hosting a food, oyster, and wine festival on the premises. But after 8 years of going there, with the exception of going to Luray during the pandemic, Robert is ready for a change. I have found out though how hard it is to find beach or other vacations areas with any fun events tied in during November. I started out looking in Maryland and Virginia like always but have extended down through South Carolina. I still have time, so I'll find someplace fun for both of us. Every year I go through this.

We don't agree on many things in life, thank goodness I guess, or life might get boring. A good debate keeps us energized and our aging minds alert. We know we love each other every day, and as is said, we even like each other most days which is really nice, though we aren't at the "winter all-day togetherness" time yet either.

Other areas of contention, like in many marriages, are one person's "happy, comfortable clut-



ter" versus "get rid of it" mentality. I'll let you guess which one is which. There is always the ever-present how to put on toilet paper and paper towel rolls or where to hang wet towels or whose TV show is better. The list goes on for every couple I imagine.

A few days ago, I noticed another difference in how we see, or interpret things. Robert has one of my paintings downstairs in what I call his "spa bath" with the whirlpool tub. He was pointing out to me how in this sunset painting of Choptico Wharf he could feel such calm when staring at the cross made by the sunset on the water. I never noticed that when I was painting it, but Robert is a very spiritual person. After he mentioned it, I could see the cross in the painting. Then he pointed out the clouds and how they resembled a rabbit. Of course, now all I can see is this humongous racing rabbit cloud.

It reminded me of a painting I did 25 or more years ago of a line of yellow and purple irises at old Mulberry Fields mansion, south of Leonardtown. To me they were always irises, and for the late friend that bought the painting, I think they were irises at first too...until another friend of ours said, the yellow irises looked like chickens with raincoats...yes, forever after, that painting will always be known as chickens with raincoats. And that's all I could see in the painting after that as well. I suppose it is true that how we see, or think about things, is truly in the eye of the beholder, or interpreter...or unless I have some sort of unresolved childhood issues with rabbits and chickens.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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



# The Way We Were...

History and Stories of St Mary's County from long-ago to just yesterday

## THOMAS GERARD

The Gerard family was one of the most powerful Catholic families in England. The family's Maryland connection can be traced to Dr. Thomas Gerard who helped finance and eventually moved to the Maryland colony.

Dr. Thomas Gerard, whose brother and sister were on the Ark, was the family member designated to settle and develop holdings in the New World. In 1638, Dr. Gerard arrived with his family settling at Coltons Point on land granted to him by Lord Baltimore which he named St. Clements Manor (which included St. Clement's Island itself). In time the manor grew to one of the largest in the Colony embracing about 20,000 acres. Frances Scott Key, the author of what would later become the US National An-

them, was born on land within St. Clements Manor.

it for his wife Susannah, an Anglican, as a place where she and her servants could worship. In protest of certain taxes that they thought unfair, the Assembly issued the first declaration of Independence in America and Governor Fendall proclaimed Maryland a republic leading to the so-called Revolution of 1659. However, the rebellion collapsed in 1660, and Lord Baltimore in a furious letter dated August, 24, 1660, instructed his brother Philip Calvert, then Governor, to deal harshly with Messrs. Gerard, Fendall, Hatch, Slye, and others who took a leading part in the revolt. They could be sentenced to death, banished from the province, and lose all their property.

Gerard's lands and property were seized

and he was banished. He retired temporarily to his holdings in Westmoreland County, Virginia, a 3,500-acre manor, known as Gerard Preserve. A few months later, however, he petitioned the Maryland Council for a pardon which was promptly granted. However, he was forbidden to hold office or to have a voice in elections.

Dr. Thomas Gerard's daughter, Anne Gerard became the 2nd wife of Col. John Washington, the great grandfather of President George Washington. When Anne died, her sister Frances became the 3rd wife to President George Washington's great grandfather. None of Dr. Thomas Gerard's three sons long survived him. John died first in 1678 leaving a son John (who had no sons) and a daughter, Rebecca who married Charles Calvert (Governor of Maryland from 1720 to 1727). After John's death, this line of the Gerard family became extinct.

When Thomas Gerard died in 1673, he was known to be the richest man in the Maryland colony.

Learn more about the history St Mary's County at [www.stmaryshistory.org](http://www.stmaryshistory.org)



Dr. Thomas Gerard



# St. Mary's County Fair 75 Years Strong

Best of luck to this year's competitors in livestock, home arts, farm and garden, arts and crafts and 4-H departments!

A special thank you to the St. Mary's County Fair Association, the Maryland Agricultural Fair Board, the University of Maryland Extension Offices, the Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation, and the many other volunteers that make the St. Mary's County Fair successful every year!

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# St. Mary's County Fair Celebrating 75 Years



Thanks to the St. Mary's County Fair Board and all the volunteers that make the county fair so special.  
- Senator Jack Bailey

**Re-Elect Jack Bailey District 29 State Senator**

Paid for by friends of Jack Bailey, John "Jay" Raley Treasurer



# St. Mary's County Fair

## THURSDAY • SEPTEMBER 22 OPENING DAY

- 3:00 PM** Gates open to public
- 4:00 PM** Exhibit Buildings open to public
- 4:00 PM** 4-H Photo Challenge begins
- 4:30 PM** 4-H Livestock Judging Contest (SR)
- 5:00 PM** Carnival opens (ride all evening wristband for \$30.)
- 5:30 PM** 4-H Horse Drill Team Performances (GS)
- 6:00 PM** 4-HH Market Goat Fitting & Showing, & Market Goat Show (SR)
- 6:00 PM** Pig Races
- 7:00 PM** Chain Saw Artist Rick Pratt and Family
- 7:00 PM** Official Opening (Tolerance Hall)
  - Color Guard by Cub Scout Pack 1203
  - "The Star Spangled Banner," Spring Ridge Middle School Chorus, Phoebe Kammerer, Director
  - Introduction of the Queen of Tolerance Court
- Welcome, John Richards, President, St. Mary's County Fair Association
- Crowning of the Queen of Tolerance
- 7:00 PM** Miniature Horse Pull (GS)
- 7:30 PM** Pig Races
- 9:00 PM** Exhibit buildings close
- 10:00 PM** Carnival closes
- Lion's Mobile Screening Trailer (Vision & Hearing)(4:00pm - 7:00pm)
- Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales on display
- Glass Blowing Demonstrations
- Southern Maryland Wood Carvers (ARTS)
- Maryland Ag Education Showcase Trailer on display
- Chee Chee the Clown Balloon Twisting
- Visit the County Government exhibits in the Fair/Stage Auditorium

## FRIDAY • SEPTEMBER 23 SCHOOL DAY

- 8:00 AM** 4-H Livestock Show starts (SR)
- 8:00 AM** 4-H Horse and Pony Show starts (GS)
- 9:00 AM** Exhibit Buildings open to public
- 9:00 AM** SoMD Robotics Demonstration (PAV)
- 10:00 AM** Horticulture ID Contest (4-H)
- 10:00 AM** Carnival opens (student pricing & tickets per ride: (10:00 AM - 5:00 PM))
- 10:00 AM** Decorated Wagon Contest (ARTS)
- 12:00 PM** Spring Ridge Middle School Rhythm Club (FSA)
- 1:00 PM** Spring Ridge Middle School Band, Steve Giannuzzi Director (PAV)
- 1:00 PM** Reggie Rice's Magic of Laughter (Tent)
- 2:00 PM** Speech Contest Joie Samuelson Chairperson (Tolerance Hall) "The Star Spangled Banner" Great Mills High School, Sara Nelson, Director
- 2:00 PM** Deo Cantamus Children's Choir
- 3:00 PM** Registration for Kiddy Tractor Pull (PAV)
- 3:00 PM** Reggie Rice's Magic of Laughter (Tent)
- 4:00 PM** Kiddy Tractor Pull (PAV) 7th District Optimists
- 4:00 PM** St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department K-9 Demonstration (GS)
- 5:00 PM** School Day Activities End,
- normal entry & regular carnival ticket prices resume
- 6:00 - 8:00 PM** WMDM live remote broadcast
- 6:00 PM** Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales Demonstration (GS)
- 6:00 PM** 4-H Cake Auction (GS)
- 6:00 PM** Bicycle Drawing (OF)
- 6:00 PM** Gracie's Guys and Gals (FSA)
- 7:00 PM** St. Marys Community Fellowship (Tolerance Hall)
- 7:00 PM** Light Weight Horse Pull (GS)
- 7:30 PM** Boot Scooters (PAV)
- 9:00 PM** Exhibit buildings close
- 10:00 PM** Carnival closes
- Pig Races: 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 3:30PM, 5:00PM (times may vary)
- Chain Saw Artist Rick Pratt (FM): 12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:30 PM, 6:00 PM
- Lion's Mobile Screening Trailer (Vision & Hearing)(11:00 - 7:00)
- Glass Blowing Studio Demonstrations
- Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales on display
- Southern Maryland Wood Carvers (ARTS) Maryland Ag Education Showcase Trailer on display
- Chee Chee the Clown Balloon Twisting
- Visit the County Government exhibits in the Fair/Stage Auditorium

## SATURDAY • SEPTEMBER 23 PARADE DAY

- 8:00 AM** Open Class livestock show (SR)
- 9:00 AM** Exhibit buildings open
- 9:00 AM** Fair Parade Registration begins (Tech Center)
- 10:00 AM** Carnival opens
- 10:30 AM** Fair Parade begins (Tech Center) "The Star Spangled Banner" Leonardtown High School: Potomac Voices Education Bldg Kyle Teston, Director
- 11:00 AM** Amateur Class Jousting Tournament (GS)
- 12:30 PM** Leonardtown High School Orchestra (PAV) John Oplinger Director
- 12:30 PM** Davis Dent Stuffed Ham Demonstration
- 1:00 PM** Grand Jousting Parade and Professional Class Jousting Tournament
- 1:00 PM** 4-H Visual Presentation Contest (4-H)
- 1:00 PM** Reggie Rice's Fool of Illusions (Tolerance Hall)
- 3:00 PM** Southern Maryland Concert Band (PAV)
- 3:00 PM** Reggie Rice's Fool of Illusions (Tolerance Hall)
- 4:00 PM** WMDM live remote broadcast
- 5:00 PM** Reggie Rice's Fool of Illusions (Tolerance Hall)
- 6:00 PM** 4-H Livestock Auction (SR)
- 6:00 PM** Bicycle Drawing (OF)
- 6:30 PM** Suttler Post Clydesdales Demonstration (GS)
- 7:00 PM** Heavy Weight Horse Pull (GS)
- 9:00 PM** Exhibit buildings close
- 10:00 PM** Carnival closes
- Pig Races: 12:00 PM, 2:30 PM, 4:00PM, 6:00 PM (times may vary)
- Chain Saw Artist Rick Pratt (FM): 12:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM
- Lion's Mobile Screening Trailer (Vision & Hearing) (11:00 AM- 7:00 PM)
- Southern Maryland Decorative Painters (Arts & Crafts Bldg) 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
- Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales on display
- Glass Blowing Demonstrations
- Blacksmithing Demonstrations (FM)
- Southern Maryland Wood Carvers (ARTS)
- Chee Chee the Clown Balloon Twisting
- Don't miss the Butterfly Safari
- Maryland Ag Education Showcase Trailer on display

## SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 25 FAMILY DAY

- 8:30 AM** Open Class Horse Show starts (GS)
- 9:00 AM** Exhibit buildings open
- 10:00 AM** Baby Show starts (FSA)
- 10:00 AM** Antique Tractor Pull starts (Tractor Track)
- 11:00 AM** Carnival opens (ride all day wristband \$30 avail.)
- 12:00 PM** Meet and Greet the Queens
- 1:00 PM** Chesapeake Country Cruzers (PAV)
- 1:00 PM** Chopticon High School Peace Pipers (outside Tolerance Hall) Sarah Lorek, Director
- 1:15 PM** Gospel Music (TENT)
- 2:30 PM** Mystic Caravan Dance (PAV)
- 2:00 PM** Gospel Music (TENT)
- 3:15 PM** Gospel Music (TENT)
- 4:00 PM** Gospel Music(TENT)
- 4:30 PM** Glass Blower Art Auction
- 4:45 PM** Gospel Music (TENT)
- 5:00 PM** 4-H Contest Results announced (SR)
- 6:00 PM** Bicycle Drawing (OF)
- 6:00 PM** Exhibit buildings close
- 6:00 PM** Carnival ticket sales stop
- 7:00 PM** Carnival closes
- Chain Saw Artist Rick Pratt & Family: 9:30AM, 11:30 AM, 2:30 PM
- Pig Races 11:30, 12:45, 2:45
- Lion's Mobile Screening Trailer (Vision & Hearing) (11am - 5pm)
- Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales on display
- Glass Blowing Demonstrations
- Blacksmithing Demonstrations Jamie Abell (FM)
- Southern Maryland Wood Carvers (ARTS)
- Chee Chee the Clown Balloon Twisting
- Maryland Ag Education Showcase Trailer on display
- Don't miss the Butterfly Safari
- Visit the County Government exhibits in the Fair/Stage Auditorium

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## CONGRATS

— to all the volunteers and participants on 75 years of the St. Mary's County Fair! This annual tradition brings out the best of our community.



# 75 Years of the St. Mary's County Fair

*Special  
Pull-out  
Section*



# County Fair To Have Its 75<sup>th</sup> Opening

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

With the exception of just one cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the St. Mary's County Fair has operated for 75 years continuously.

It's set to open today at 4 p.m.; John Richards, president of the fair board, said the longevity of the fair, while significant, wasn't nearly as important as the real reason people come all four days through Sunday, Sept. 25.

"They don't care how long it's been going on," Richards said. "They just come to have a good time."

It's four days of livestock displays, including competitive 4-H projects of animals raised for sale by young people in the club, as well as horse pulls every night except Sunday night.

The pig races, though, for those who love them, will be on all four days of the fair, Richards said.

The St. Mary's County Fair started in 1947 on Camp Calvert Road in Leonardtown but in just a few years moved to its current site on the fairgrounds across from the Leonardtown Middle/High School complex.

Run solely by volunteers, the fair generates enough revenue to keep the grounds maintained — and growing in recent years — so that many other organizations can utilize the area.

"We get the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and the Oyster Festival and the Crab Festival and Shop with a Cop," Richards said. "We even hold rabies clinics there."

Richards was sanguine about the three-quarters of a century the fair has been operating.

He expected residents to come out by the thousands this year as they do each year.

"People can make of it what they will," Richards said of the 75<sup>th</sup> opening. "It's sort of a milestone, I guess."

Richards has been president of the fair board since 1984 but credits the success of the fair to the cadre of dedicated volunteers doing much of the heavy lifting in organizing the ebb and flow of the event, including bringing on vendors and scheduling exhibits, which includes farm equipment as well as livestock, and setting up carnival rides.

"I couldn't be here without all of them," Richards said. "If my wife weren't fully with me on this, I couldn't do this, either."

This year's fair will have many of the same attractions as before, including carnival rides, food and drink vendors and livestock shows as well as projects from students on



display from around the county.

But there will also be a few unique attractions, Richards said, to include a butterfly safari tent which allows visitors to feed butterflies and learn about their life cycle and how they survive in nature.

Local comedy illusionist Reggie Rice will also have a special event at the fair he is set to perform on Friday — he plans to be suspended about 30 feet in the air while confined in a strait jacket and attempt an escape to plummet down into a padded dumpster.

Rice is doing the escape to bring attention to the plight of those suffering mental illness and the need for more access to treatment.

Visitors to the fair will also notice an increased presence of law enforcement in the form of St. Mary's deputies and state police, who will be on hand to observe possible gang members.

Their presence will be do deter what happened in July when members of two factions of young offenders, according to the sheriff's office, fought in the parking lot of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department summer carnival.

One 16-year-old male was shot and killed in the melee; the alleged shooter was captured a short time later.

"We are in constant communication with the sheriff's office," Richards said of security preparations.

He said six uniformed sheriff's deputies will be there as well as state troopers; Sheriff Timothy Cameron has said that plainclothes deputies will also be in the crowd to conduct surveillance.

The first day of the fair will be a "wristband day" as will Sunday, Richards said, which means getting a wristband at the fairgrounds entrance allows for all-day carnival rides.

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





# PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION

# News

## Navy Evaluates New Crash Crane, Increasing Capability and Availability

The Navy's Common Aviation Support Equipment program office (PMA-260) is currently evaluating Electromagnetic Environmental Effects (E3) on a Crash and Salvage Crane (CSC) at the Aircraft Anechoic Test Facility in Patuxent River.

Electromagnetic waves within the Radio Frequency (RF) spectrum are used for communication, radar and information networks aboard ships. The E3 evaluation currently underway in the Aircraft Anechoic Test Facility will determine the CSC's compatibility with the RF environment.

RF cannot be seen or felt, but it can negatively affect other electrical systems if those systems are not properly protected. Testing will determine if the CSC has an appropriate level of emissions, can withstand a general level of radiation across the whole RF spectrum, and can withstand high levels of radiation tailored to frequencies in its operational environment.

"The new amphibious and carrier CSC designs will ensure the warfighter has the safest, most modern and reliable equipment possible for years to come," said

Jim Choflet, PMA-260 Crash Crane team lead.

CSCs are critical pieces of equipment because no flight operations are allowed on ships without an operational CSC running on standby. They are used for lifting and moving disabled aircraft on carriers and landing helicopter dock flight decks. The new version, designed by industry partner Allied Systems Company, replaces the legacy carrier and amphibious assault crash cranes.

The legacy CSCs were designed decades ago and have been a workhorse in the fleet for many

years, having exceeded their anticipated life expectancy. They have become increasingly difficult to maintain due to obsolescence issues.

The carrier CSC (CCSC) and the amphibious CSC (ACSC) variants are very similar. The CCSC has a heavier counterweight than the ACSC, and the lighter ACSC has beams within the width of the crane that increase its stability. The similar designs, along with the new electronic controls greatly simplify maintenance over the legacy cranes.



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## County Times

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## Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb  
Contributing Writer

Rockfish are active now, chasing schools of peanut bunker in the rivers and creeks.

The mouth of Cuckold Creek in the Patuxent has marauding rockfish daily smashing the surface and attracting birds. Lure casters are doing well with about every third fish being a keeper at 18 inches. There was a 35-pound red drum in the mix and latched onto the lure of a surprised fisherman this week.

The fish are up and down the river enjoying the feast of the tiny alewives and silversides. Trollers, jiggers, and lure casters are getting plenty. Some bigger stripers are in the shallows taking surface poppers and bucktails. some are approaching 30 inches.

The Potomac has stripers enjoying the cooling weather, and many fishermen are getting their two a day, 20 inch minimum. The moving tides at Swan Point have been excellent. There are slot reds in the shallows around Point Lookout, and some nice trout.

The fish will be moving down river and congregating from Ragged Point to Vermar Beach.

The spanish mackerel are thinning out quickly as the days shorten and temperatures cool. The bluefish are



Bruce Henry shows off an 11 1/2 inch perch from St. Jeromes Creek.

still plentiful and will stay until November. Blues and spanish are taking trolled spoons fished behind planers. Some of the bluefish are 3 to 4 pounds.

Bottom fishermen and surfcasters are still getting spot, but the action is slowing as the fish begin to head south.

The pier at Point Lookout is yielding spot, and those using live spot for bait are getting nice bluefish. There are also some flounder being reported.

## ★ ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

### Virtual Author Talk with Olivia Dade

Join the Library for a Virtual Author Talk with Romance Author, Olivia Dade on Saturday, September 24 from 2 – 3 p.m. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Introduction to Proposal Writing

Are you new to proposal writing or want a quick refresher? If so, you don't want to miss one of our most popular classes! Thursday, September 29 from 5 – 6 p.m. This live, virtual course is taught by a representative from Candid, the providers of the Foundation Directory Online database. This database allows grant seekers to search for potential funding sources from the profiles of 235,000+ foundations, corporate donors and grantmaking public charities, who have offered a million plus recent grants. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Lawyer in the Library

FREE civil legal services in your community! 1-on-1 Civil Legal Advice. No appointments necessary. Assistance is provided on a first-come, first-served basis to financially eligible individuals at Lexington Park Library on Thursday, September 29 from 12 – 2 p.m. Maryland Legal Aid attorneys and paralegals, law

students, and volunteer attorneys will provide brief, one-on-one advice on a variety of civil legal issues.

### One Maryland One Book 2022 Author Tour

Maryland Humanities and College of Southern Maryland welcome Naima Coster to La Plata. The award-winning author of *What's Mine and Yours* will discuss her novel, answer questions, and sign books. *What's Mine and Yours* is a multigenerational saga featuring two North Carolina families. They collide in ways that neither is prepared for when Black students from the east side of the county are integrated into the predominantly white schools on the west side. This program will consist of 30-40 minutes of interview-style discussion with Ashley Teagle, CEO of the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (SMRLA), followed by 15-20 minutes of audience Q&A. Naima Coster will sign books for approximately an hour after she speaks. This event is open to the public. Registration is not required. Non-flash/still photography is permissible at this live event, however, video and audio recording are not permitted. This event is coordinated in partnership with Charles County Public Library, Calvert Library, St. Mary's County Library, and Southern Maryland Regional Library.



### Intro to Microsoft Word

Join us for this introductory in-person class to learn how to use word processing software at Leonardtown Library on Thursday, October 6 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. Have you been meaning to learn how to use the computer to write letters or other types of documents? We'll cover the basics of creating, saving, and formatting documents so you can get started with Microsoft Word! We'll also introduce you to resources available on the library website to continue to develop your computer skills. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Cricut – Fall Wreath with Felt Leaves

Unlock your crafting potential by learning how to use the Cricut cutting machine to make your own Fall Wreath with felt leaves at Leonardtown Library on Friday, October 7 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Have you heard of the Cricut craze and you want to find out what it's all about? Join us for this introductory, in-person class in the Leon-

ardtown Maker Space where you'll learn the basics of how the Cricut cutter works as well the use of Cricut Design Space. You'll create your own Fall Wreath to take with you! After learning the basics, you'll be able to return to the Maker Space during open hours to use the Cricut on your own to create whatever you can imagine! Visit the Maker Space website to see open hours and learn about all it has to offer! Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### LexiCon

We are excited to announce that Lexi-Con 2022 will be live and in person this year at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, October 8 from 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.! Lexicon is an event for people of all ages who love comic books, science fiction, fantasy, and superheroes! Is your team ready to win our Trivia Deathmatch? Get your costumes ready for the Cosplay contest! Join us for author talks, trivia, a cosplay contest, workshops, and prizes! Please remember that the Library is a family place and the event is a family-friendly Con.

# ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

## Theft Suspect Sought

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identity of the person pictured and the drivers of the affiliated vehicles in a serial-theft investigation. On Monday, July 4, 2022, and Saturday, July 9, 2022, the suspect loaded up carts with merchandise and fled the California Target store without paying for them. On both occasions, the suspect had others pick him up in the vehicles pictured. On Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 7 pm, the suspect once again entered the Target store and loaded up a cart with items and was headed for the exit when he abandoned the cart and fled the store.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspects or these incidents is asked to call Deputy James Morgan at 301-475-4200, ext. 78170 or email james.morgan@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case numbers 33937-22, 35482-22 and 38600-22



about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

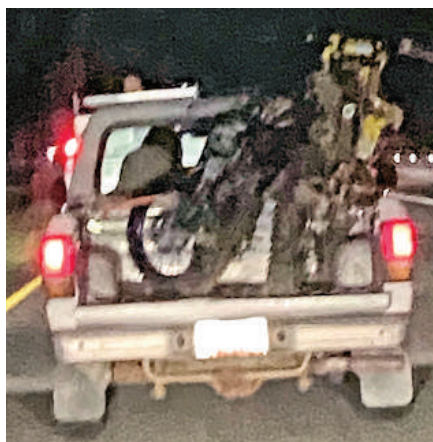
Citizens may remain anonymous and contact the St. Mary's County Crime Solvers at 301-475-3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information

## Stolen Motorcycles in Mechanicsville Under Investigation

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking information on the whereabouts of two stolen motorcycles. On September 16, 2022, at approximately 4:00 a.m. suspects stole two motorcycles from a shed in the 38000 block of Harding Way in Mechanicsville. The stolen motorcycles, a 2022 Yamaha YZ85 and a 2001 Suzuki RM250, were loaded onto the pictured white Ford Ranger and were later seen in Baltimore City.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of the motorcycles or suspects involved is asked to contact Deputy Jessica Wilson at (301) 475-4200 extension 78138 or by email at Jessica.Wilson@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at (301) 475-3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime



Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

For official news and information, follow the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office on Twitter @firstsheriff.

## Lexington Park Man Arrested With Stolen Handgun

On September 20, 2022, DFC. Wimberly conducted a vehicle stop in the 21900 block of Spring Valley Drive in Lexington Park. The operator of the vehicle was identified as Rondell James Thompson, age 23 of Lexington Park. During the vehicle stop, Thompson proceeded to drive away, and ultimately stopped the vehicle and fled on foot. Thompson was quickly apprehended and located in the vehicle was a loaded handgun with a 50 round drum magazine (high-capacity magazine). Investigation determined the handgun recovered was reported stolen in August of 2021. In the trunk of the vehicle was a bookbag which contained a sufficient quantity of suspected marijuana.

Thompson was arrested and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown and charged with the following:

- Regulated Firearm: Stolen
- Assault Weapon/Magazine Use
- Loaded Handgun on Person
- Handgun in Vehicle
- CDS: Possession of Firearms
- Possession of Firearm by Prohibited Person




Rondell James Thompson

Thompson remains incarcerated at the detention center on a no-bond status.

Citizens may remain anonymous and contact Crime Solvers at (301) 475-3333, or text a tip to "TIP239" plus their message to "CRIMES" (274637). Through the Crime Solvers Program tipsters are eligible for an award of up to \$1,000 for information about a crime in St. Mary's County that leads to an arrest or indictment.

For official news and information, follow the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office on Twitter @firstsheriff.




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

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### Editor's Note

The above arrests are not an indication of guilt or innocence as the cases have not been adjudicated.



## County Honors Sommerville Legacy on Rt. 5 in Leonardtown



Photos courtesy of Ceandra Scott

## Legal Ads

### THE COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 4:15 p.m. at the Town office at 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD.

The purpose of the hearing will be to receive comments on Ordinance No. 211 – Chapter 62. Development Impact Fees. An ordinance for the purpose of: increasing the amount of wastewater impact fees payable upon the issuance of occupancy permits in the Town of Leonardtown.

Comments will also be received on Ordinance No. 212 – Chapter 150 – Water and Sewer of The Code of The Town of Leonardtown. An ordinance for the purpose of amending § 150-18 (Payments and Charges) of the Code of Leonardtown to provide for a late fee for delinquent utility accounts. Full text is available on-line at [www.leonardtown.somd.com](http://www.leonardtown.somd.com) or at the Town Hall.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 4:00 p.m. on October 11, 2022 to: [leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov](mailto:leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov) or mail to The Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request.

By authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

### ST. MARY'S COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE

The St. Mary's County Arts Council is accepting resumes for a full-time Executive Director. Responsibilities involve professional, administrative and management duties in providing daily oversight of ongoing Arts Council activities. The Executive Director oversees the day-to-day operations of St. Mary's County Arts Council. The full job description can be found at <https://www.stmarysartscouncil.com/exec-director-2022>.

A bachelor's degree or a minimum of five years of experience in similar job responsibilities is required. Supervisory and leadership experience is a plus. Strong preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate a passion for the arts and who reside in St. Mary's County. The annual starting salary is \$55,000. Send letter of interest, resume and three professional references to [SMCACapplications@gmail.com](mailto:SMCACapplications@gmail.com). Deadline to apply is October 15, 2022.



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# Troopers Arrest Man Charged In 2021 St. Mary's Fatal Impaired Driving Crash

Maryland State Police arrested a man who was indicted this week in connection to a fatal four-vehicle crash that killed two people last year in St. Mary's County.

The suspect, Kevin Eugene Luther, 42, of Lexington Park, Maryland was indicted on Tuesday by a grand jury in St. Mary's County. An arrest warrant was issued and Luther was taken into custody without incident on Thursday at his residence. Troopers from the Leonardtown Barrack, CED-Central South, CED-Firearms Enforcement Unit, the STATE Team and the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force assisted with the arrest.

Luther is charged with two counts of negligent manslaughter, two counts of vehicular homicide while impaired and related offenses. He is being held at the St. Mary's County Detention Center pending an initial appearance before a District Court commissioner.

The charges stem from a crash that occurred at 6:50 p.m. on Aug. 31, 2021. On that date, troopers from the Maryland State Police Leonardtown Barrack responded to Pegg Road in the area of Spring



Kevin Eugene Luther

Valley Drive in Lexington Park, Maryland for a report of a multi-vehicle crash. Due to the seriousness of the incident, the Maryland State Police

Crash Team, which investigated the case, was also called to the scene.

According to investigators, an Audi S4, driven by Luther, crashed head-on with a Nissan Rogue in the center turn lane of Pegg Road. The Nissan then sideswiped a Ford Escape, which overturned. As the Ford overturned, it struck another Nissan.

The driver and passenger of the Nissan Rogue, identified as Sherish Lynn Guthrie, 53, and Hilda Gale Kanney, 73, both of Lexington Park, Maryland, were declared deceased at the scene. Luther was transported to MedStar St. Mary's Hospital for treatment of his injuries. The road was closed for about four hours following the crash.

# Revitalization Project Hearing Next Week

The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) and the Metropolitan Commission (MetCom), per Section 113-5 of the St. Mary's County Code, will hold a Public Information Meeting - Open House format Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Carver Recreation Center, at 47382 Lincoln Ave., Lexington Park, to provide information regarding the Southampton Revitalization Project.

The DPW&T, MetCom, and engineering consultant CSBI are preparing design plans for the Southampton Revitalization Project that will include improvements to the County maintained roads and public water/sewer systems over the next several years. Improvements will include the reconstruction of roads, sidewalks,

driveway aprons, storm drainage system, new stormwater management facilities and improvements to the public water and sewer systems. Additional information will be provided at the open house meeting. Project construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2023, beginning with Phase 1 and working systematically through the three phases.

Please contact the Department of Public Works & Transportation at 301-475-4200 ext. 3525 for more information or if you cannot attend the meeting and would like to provide comment.

Any reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities should be requested by contacting the Public Information Office at (301) 475-4200, Ext. 1342.

# Bingo Scratch-off Delivers \$50,000 Prize to St. Mary's Mom

A Lottery fan from Southern Maryland was at one of her favorite retailers, playing her lucky numbers in Pick 5, when she decided to give the \$20 Bonus Bingo X20 game a try.

"I was looking at the scratch-offs," she said, "and I looked at the bingo ticket and I said to myself, 'Let me buy one.'"

When she didn't win, the persistent player bought a second Bonus Bingo X20 scratch-off at the California retailer and enjoyed a very different result. While she didn't reveal one of the game's \$500,000 top prizes, the St. Mary's County mother of one did land a \$50,000 prize.

"I was shocked," she recalled. "I said to myself, 'Is this right?'" No other customers were in Wildewood Wine & Spirits at 23415 Three Notch Road at that moment so she asked the store clerk for help. The clerk confirmed the win and she went home to show the



instant ticket to her son, who also verified her \$50,000 prize.

The happy winner plans to pay bills with her newfound fortune and put the rest of the money into her savings account. A food service supervisor for Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland, the winner said news of her big win spread fast among her co-workers. "I told a few people and they already broadcast it," she said, smiling.

The Bonus Bingo X20 game is still packed with prizes even though the instant ticket went on sale in August 2020. There are four unclaimed \$500,000 top prizes remaining along with two more unclaimed \$50,000 winning tickets and 58 unclaimed \$10,000 winners.

## Pet

OF THE WEEK

### MEET OLIVIA

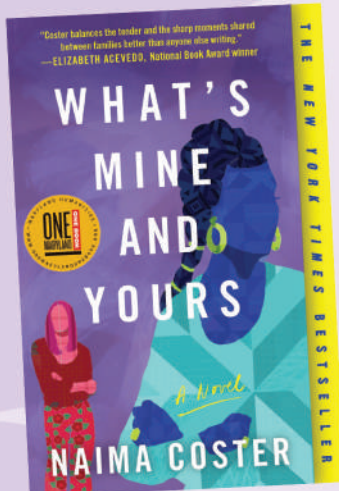
Turtles may not be the strongest, fastest or smartest animals. But that doesn't stop them from being totally awesome!

Hello, my name is Olivia. The TCAS gang says, "What a pretty name for a PRETTY GIRL!" I'm a yellow-bellied slider turtle. We sliders aren't known for being cuddle bugs but we do have AMAZING INDIVIDUAL PERSONALITIES that endear us to our owners! If you think I would be a GREAT ADDITION to your family then I'm ready to move into your home now. Simply email [animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov](mailto:animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov) to schedule an appointment to meet me ASAP. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt from TCAS, you are literally saving a life.

To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Tri-County Animal Shelter Southern MD or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/tri-county-animal-shelter>

## TRI-COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

# READ then TALK!



The 2022 One Maryland One Book selection is **What's Mine and Yours** by Naima Coster

This multigenerational saga features two families that collide during school integration in one North Carolina county.

Join communities across Maryland in the shared experience of reading the same book. Visit your public library for book discussions and related programs.



Meet the Author!  
Tuesday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m.  
College of Southern Maryland  
La Plata Campus Fine Arts Center



# Business Park Shooting Suspect Faces Multiple Charges

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The man arrested last week for allegedly opening fire on a commercial office building in Lexington Park in broad daylight faces numerous reckless endangerment and a first-degree assault charges.

Sidney Spry, 27, a former software engineer working for and then fired from Mantech remains in custody on a no-bond status at the St. Mary's County adult detention center in Leonardtown.

Charging papers filed against Spry, a Rhode Island native, state that Mantech employees had reported Spry had made a threat against them on Aug. 25, after the defendant had filed a whistleblower complaint against two employees at the company.

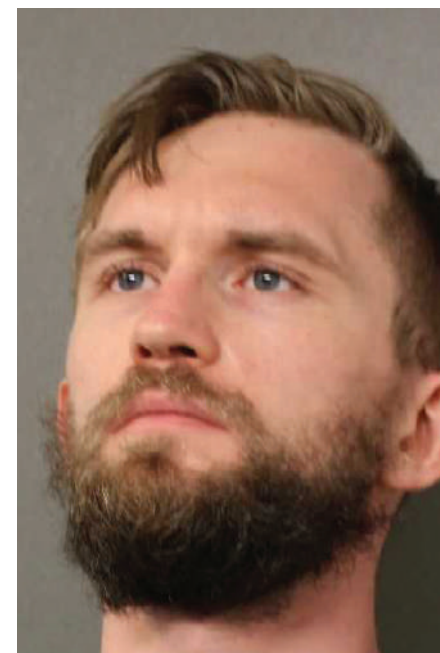
Police found that the two persons Spry had filed the complaint against were responsible for hiring and terminating Mantech employees.

The lawyer at the company who dealt with Spry's whistleblower complaints said Spry threatened in a phone conversation that he would "shoot them" if he didn't get what he wanted as a result of his complaint.

The shooting occurred Sept. 14, striking the top floor of the building located at 446610 Exploration Drive; witnesses said they saw a white male fleeing the scene in a silver-colored KIA, which matched the description of Spry's vehicle.

Police who arrived on the scene immediately after the shooting found several 9mm Luger handgun casings; the majority of rounds that struck the building were on the right-hand corner of the top of the building.

Police said they believe that the main target of Spry's alleged shoot-



Sidney Spry

ing spree was the employee at Mantech responsible for firing him.

There were about 20 employees in the area of the shooting, police said, and each resulted in a charge of reckless endangerment lodged against Spry.

The sheriff's office tactical team arrived at Spry's apartment in Aberly Crest off of Willows Road to apprehend him and after a standoff of several hours he was taken into custody without incident, police stated.

Sheriff's deputies found two guns in Spry's apartment, a Smith and Wesson 9mm pistol and a Polymer 80 non-serialized 9mm; both were loaded.

The Smith and Wesson was found in the tank of the apartment of toilet, police said.

Police also found 9mm casings in the area between the hood of Spry's car and the windshield where the windshield wipers operated, deputies reported.

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

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# Library Director Warns of Privilege Suspension for Moving Books

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

County library staff report that certain card holders are either withholding books they have checked out or concealing them on book shelves in an effort to ensure young people cannot view them, Michael Blackwell, director of the St. Mary's County Memorial Library system said this week.

The materials, Blackwell said, were related to the LGBTQ+ community.

The push to either not return such materials or find ways to conceal them on library shelves from young people comes from a conservative Christian group called CatholicVote, Blackwell said, which has encouraged their followers to engage in what they have called the "Hide the Pride" movement.

It is designed to counter the LG-BTQ+ pride movement.

There have been between 10 to 12 occasions when library staff have dealt with this problem, Blackwell said at the Sept. 19 meeting of the library board of trustees.

"That turned out to be not so smart because at the library when

you check them out we know who you are," Blackwell said. "Now what they do instead is come to the library, find books they find objectionable and move them... putting them on the back of the shelf."

The CatholicVote website encourages such activism on the part of their followers, but it does inform them to return library books on time and send letters protesting such materials to their library boards.

Blackwell warned that visitors to the library who engage in such behavior risked having their library privileges suspended.

"We are watching you; we have a suspect," Blackwell said. "It's not such a good thing in terms of your library use."

Locally, Blackwell said, the library system has not seen an increase in the number of challenges to any of its library materials but that does not reflect nationwide statistics.

"The ALA (American Library Association) is seeing record numbers of challenges to books happening," Blackwell said.

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

# County Shifts Funds to Airport Improvements

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

In 2020 the Commissioners of St. Mary's County authorized the sale of \$30 million in general obligation bonds to finance numerous public construction projects.

Approximately \$11 million of that, explained Chief Financial Officer Jeanett Cudmore, to county commissioners, was used towards the Garvey Senior Center and Library Complex in Leonardtown.

Cudmore explained that \$231,264 remained from the proceeds of that bond sale that were surplus to the Garvey Senior Center project; she recommended the commissioners use their authority to shift that money to continued improvements to the St. Mary's County Airport.

The funds would be of immediate use, she said.

"That project is spending all the time so we'll be able to draw down those funds immediately," Cudmore said.

Commissioners approved the measure unanimously.



The airport improvement project will allow larger aircraft to access the facilities there, according to county planning documents.

The existing parallel taxiway will be relocated to provide an extra 240 feet to allow for increased wingspan of larger planes.

The existing main runway will be extended by 1,200 feet in addition to the current 4,150 feet length.

The total cost of the project, which includes moving Lawrence Hayden Road, is \$51.9 million, the vast majority of which is funded by the Federal Aviation Administration.

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

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## Inalienable Rights in the 21st Century



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JELANI COBB



MARA LIASSON



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AUDITORIUM

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A distinguished national panel will examine the question, "Can the inalienable rights referenced by the fathers of the Constitution exist for all Americans in the 21st century?"

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**ST. MARY'S** COLLEGE of MARYLAND  
*The National Public Honors College*

**Sell it - Buy it at Auction**

**Charles County Fair 4H Livestock Auction**  
Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022 @ 6:30 pm

**Charles Co. Fair Wood Carving & Glass Blowing Auction**  
Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022 @ 4 pm

**St. Mary's County Fair 4H Clubs Cake Auction**  
Friday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 (Prior to Lightweight Horsepull)

**St. Mary's County Fair 4H Livestock Auction**  
Saturday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm – Main Livestock Showing

**Online Auction for the Estate of Jimmy Banagan**  
"Coming Soon" (September/early October).

**Mechanicsville Rescue Squad Aux. Auction**  
FRI, OCT 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM - Mechanicsville Moose Lodge

**Fall Harvest Auction**  
(Mums, Pumpkins, Fall Produce, Locally-Raised, USDA Meats – Quilts – Crafts – More)  
SAT. OCT. 8<sup>TH</sup> @ 4 PM - Westfield Farm – Mechanicsville, MD

**Grocery Auction:** Hughesville VFD – SAT, OCT 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 5 PM

**Grocery Auction:** Mother Catherine Acad. THURS NOV 17<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm

**So. Md. Farm & Country Christmas Auction**  
SAT. DEC. 10<sup>th</sup> (start time to be determined)  
Westfield Farm – Mechanicsville, MD

**Tri County Livestock Auction**

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the Month – Auction begins at 4 PM  
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**Hewitt Reveals Surveillance Tactics in Gang Fight**



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Commissioner Mike Hewitt told attendees at the annual State of the County luncheon that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County are continuing to support the sheriff's office in its ongoing fight against the gang-related violence that has plagued Lexington Park, particularly with allowing the agency to switch funds it already has to rent residences near suspected gang activity to conduct surveillance operations.

Hewitt made the statement in response to a question about what the commissioners could do to further support for the agency in dismantling the gang and gun violence problem that has erupted in the county's major urban center for the past two years.

"With more resources our sheriff's office can do more," Hewitt said, calling the monies used "emergency funds" during the question and answer period.

Hewitt explained in another interview shortly after the question period that the sheriff's office had been in contact with commissioners to inform them of what

the agency was doing with budget money that was not exactly meant for surveillance activities.

Hewitt said suspected gang members could expect to be surveilled by the sheriff's office.

But, Hewitt said during the question period that the community had to step forward and help law enforcement in their fight against the two rival factions that were attempting to divide up the Lexington Park community.

This included telling law enforcement who members of the rival criminal factions were and what they were doing, Hewitt said.

"Violent crime has been a real challenge and it's getting worse and worse each year," Hewitt said. "We cannot give up on Lexington Park, we've got to keep at it."

Hewitt said the most effective thing the commissioner board could do to combat the problem was continue to provide resources to the sheriff's office.

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# Fight Locks Down Great Mills High School

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Witnesses to a Sept. 20 fight at Great Mills High School say that a brawl in the gym of the school between two young males quickly disintegrated into a “riot between two groups of guys” that precipitated a heavy law enforcement response to lock-down the school in the early afternoon.

“It started in the gym, everybody was playing basketball,” a student speaking on condition of anonymity told The County Times. “Then it was just two groups of guys fighting.”

“The teachers, they couldn’t break it up; some students had to jump in to break it up.”

A parent who went to retrieve their child from the school in the aftermath of the melee, said some parents were able to enter the school’s cafeteria, where the melee apparently spread, through a back door and fight other parents and the children of other parents.

Witnesses described a scene of utter confusion and in some cases panic; there was at least one reported stabbing that took place in the cafeteria, numerous sources reported.

“I’m positive it [the fight in the cafeteria] was related to what happened in the gym,” the student said.

Jason Babcock, sheriff’s office spokesman, acknowledged there were reports of injuries and stabbings, but they were not accurate.

“There were no reported injuries and no stabbings,” Babcock said.

The sheriff’s office statement on the incident said: “On Tuesday at 1 p.m., School Resource Officer Cpl. Gerard Muschette called for additional deputies to Great Mills High School to respond to a large disturbance in progress,” the statement read. “Classes were placed on lockdown. Two juvenile apprehensions were made. A 14-year-old male of Leonardtown was charged with second-degree assault and disorderly conduct and a 16-year-old female of California was charged with disorderly conduct.”

“The investigation into the disturbance is continuing. The St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office has additional deputies at Great Mills High School and other schools this



week.”

The incident had members of the community badly shaken and angered.

“That school’s off the chain; I’m sick of it,” the parent, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said. “It’s too many kids in that space.”

“A lot of Lexington Park is forced into that school.”

Beejay Dothard, principal at Great Mills High School, said there were about 1,800 students this year.

The day before the fight and lockdown at the school, Dothard said he did not believe there were more fights or disturbances at his school than at other high school in St. Mary’s.

The County Times had reached out to Dothard for an interview because of complaints received about continuing fights and disturbances at the school.

Two students were arrested for making threats of violence at Leonardtown High School the day prior to the fight at Great Mills, though no actual acts of violence were committed.

“We’re working to do more peer mediations,” Dothard said in a Sept. 19 interview of actions being taken at the school to stop fights before they start and encourage students to “make more positive decisions.”

Dothard said he “would challenge that parent to meet with me” who believed the violence at the school was not under control.

Dothard, who has served as assistant principal at both Great Mills and Leonardtown high schools, said he believed his cur-



rent school had an undeserved reputation.

“It’s unfortunate a few incidents give our school a bad name,” Dothard said. “We have an amazing set of kids.”

The anonymous student who witnessed the violence at Great Mills High School this week said there was a pervasive feeling of tension throughout the building.

“It’s not always fighting, but it’s like little fights or arguments or fights that are about to start that they [teachers and security guards] break up.”

Great Mills High School also has a school resource officer assigned to it by the sheriff’s office.

Many disturbances and fights occur during lunch times, the student said, when there are often students who are roaming the hall when they should not.

There are not enough teachers or security guards to monitor or control all of their

movements, the student said.

“It’s not really a bad school,” the student said. “But it’s all the gang related activities they bring inside with them.”

The student said she often heard young men speak about gang-related activities in the hallways of Great Mills High School.

The student said they only feel safe in certain classes, and not in others.

The parent speaking anonymously said that parents at the school have yet to band together to seek any change.

“Nobody does anything,” the parent said. “Everyone’s going to let it be.”

They also said they feared for their children’s safety while at school.

“It’s just frustrating,” the parent said. “It’s hard to be at work and not be stressed all day about this.”

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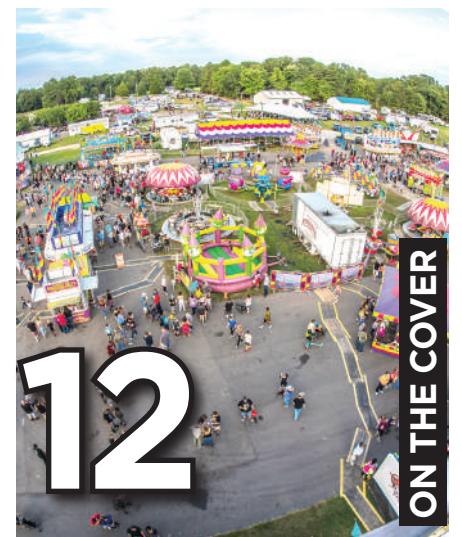
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“WE CANNOT GIVE UP ON LEXINGTON PARK; WE’VE GOT TO KEEP AT IT.”  
 COMMISSIONER MIKE HEWITT ON STEMMING VIOLENT CRIME



**LOCAL** 5  
 County shifts funding to airport improvements



St. Mary's County Fair begins today











**COMMUNITY** 8  
 County dedicates highway to Sheriff Joseph Lee Somerville

**12** ON THE COVER

## WEEKLY FORECAST

Provided by [www.accuweather.com](http://www.accuweather.com)

THU 9/22		<b>84°</b> /53°	A thunderstorm in spots	MON 9/26		<b>79°</b> /57°	A thunderstorm in spots
FRI 9/23		<b>68°</b> /47°	Mostly sunny and cooler	TUE 9/27		<b>77°</b> /58°	Mostly sunny and beautiful
SAT 9/24		<b>72°</b> /55°	Mostly sunny and pleasant	WED 9/28		<b>74°</b> /56°	Plenty of sun
SUN 9/25		<b>84°</b> /59°	Warmer with sunny intervals	THU 9/29		<b>73°</b> /57°	Sun through high clouds





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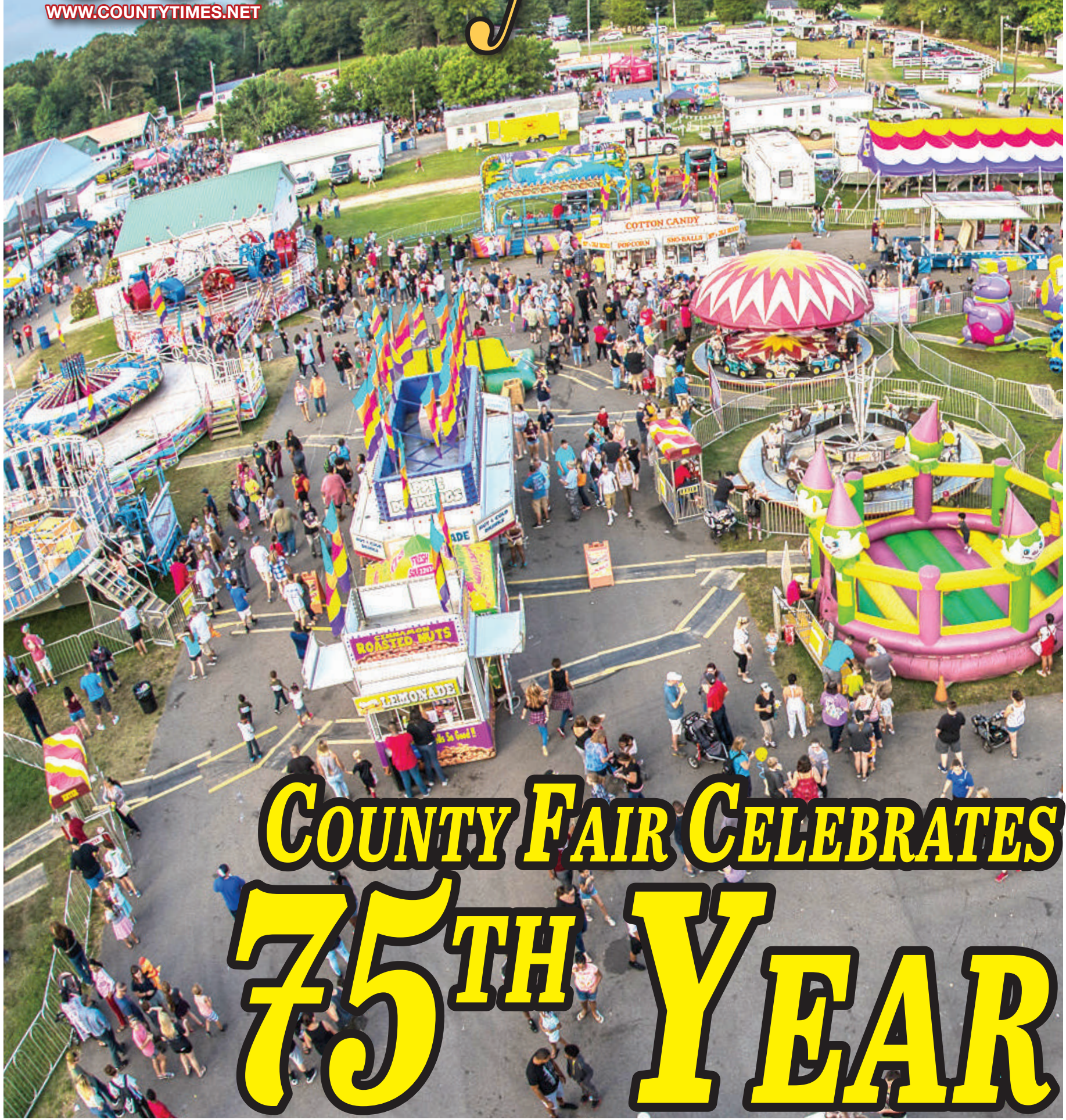
**FIGHT LOCKS DOWN GREAT MILLS HIGH SCHOOL**

**INSIDE**

# St. Mary's County Times

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