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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

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**Property value
assessments skyrocket**

**Police Accountability
Board makes first report**

**Protecting SoMD's green
infrastructure**

**County Floats
Water Bill Fix**

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LOCAL 6
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WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, JAN 26</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 50° Lo: 31°</p>	<p>FRI, JAN 27</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 44° Lo: 31°</p>	<p>SAT, JAN 28</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 52° Lo: 36°</p>	<p>SUN, JAN 29</p> <p>Mostly Cloudy Hi: 54° Lo: 38°</p>
<p>MON, JAN 30</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 51° Lo: 37°</p>	<p>TUE, JAN 31</p> <p>Mostly Cloudy Hi: 50° Lo: 43°</p>	<p>WED, FEB 1</p> <p>Showers Hi: 51° Lo: 35°</p>	<p>THU, FEB 2</p> <p>AM Rain/Snow Hi: 38° Lo: 22°</p>

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Commissioners Begin Repeal of Water Billing Ordinance

Hundreds Complained of Unexpected Increases



Commissioner Mark Cox

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has begun to try to make right the public relations nightmare caused by the sending out over the holidays of unexpected water bill increases of thousands of dollars to

hundreds of customers.

The BOCC at their Jan. 24 meeting initiated the process to repeal Resolution 32-16, the current Water and Sewer Allocation Policy, adopted on Sept. 27, 2016. Staff was directed to schedule a public hearing to repeal the resolution which prompted the county's public works department to send out notices that the customers were being allocated an additional equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) due to increased water usage, pushing their bill into a category significantly higher.

County Administrator Mark Willis took blame for the faux pas at the commissioners' Jan. 10 meeting, the first for the three new county commissioners.

At the Jan. 24 meeting, Willis said, "The current audit process and quarterly billing with less-than-optimal billing technology, limited full transparency to residential and commercial customers."

In requesting the repeal of the offending ordinance, Willis said, "While we are seeking guidance, we may not get it exact. We want to get it exact and as we move forward, what we say here today in the authority that we request as we come back before the board with additional work sessions to make this happen, we

may propose at that time a tweaking of the guidance that would then have to be obviously approved by the board at that time as well. But we want to make sure we get it right going forward."

Willis noted that since the water and sewer service is an enterprise fund, in which customers pay for the service used, some way needs to be developed to capture those costs. Willis proposed a tier system in which customers pay extra costs for additional water usage above the current baseline of 18,000 gallons per quarter. That is a system used in St. Mary's, Charles and the DC suburbs.

He said, "At this point, we don't know about physical impact, but that will come forward as we move into additional work sessions."

Willis observed, "We really want to create a more robust and outreaching and customer-friendly educational program, not simply how to save water, but the impact of saving water, or a better understanding of what it costs to maintain both the towers that hold the water, the drip, the wells that go in the ground, how we get the infrastructure to the residential and commercial customers, as well as what happens to it after that."

But those bills received over the Holi-

days, Commissioner Mike Hart said, you can throw them in the trash.

Commissioner Mark Cox, one of the new board members blindsided by the controversy, said, "We've gotten a lot of phone calls on this and we've been very transparent in what we have done, but there's many moving parts to this billing to software to meters and customer service. And I just want to put it out there to the citizens that we are not going to do this next week, next month until we get it right."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "We're not trying to hide anything. I've been accused of trying to drag this out. Why didn't we just fix it two weeks ago? There's a process that was gone through to create this system. We've got to go through that same process to make changes. You can't just make a motion today and be done because we have to have something on the books to operate under. And if it takes, as Commissioner Cox says, weeks or a couple months, we're going to do that to make this right."

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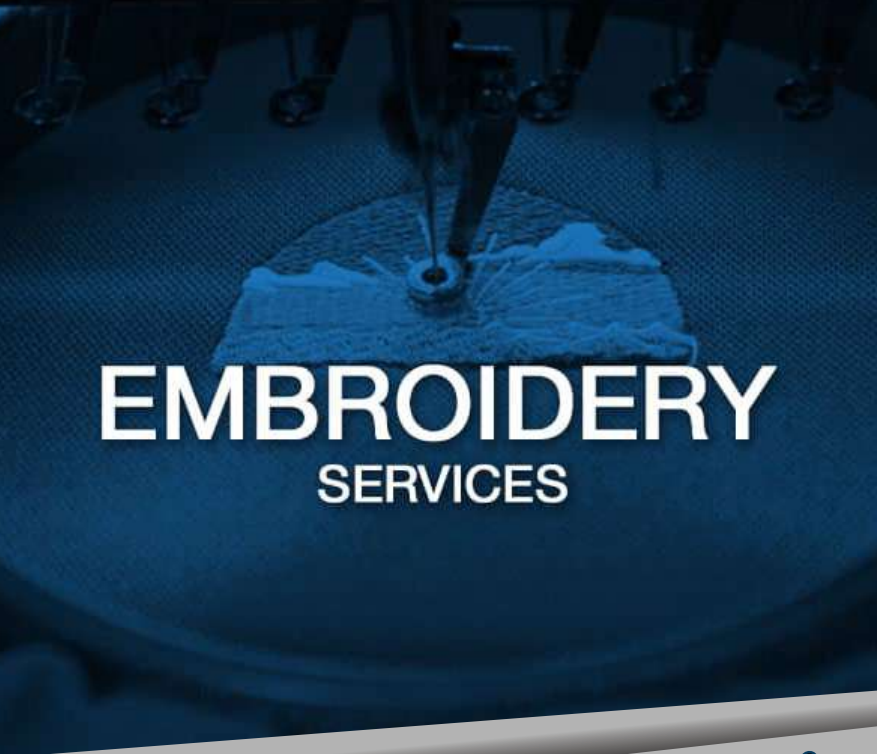
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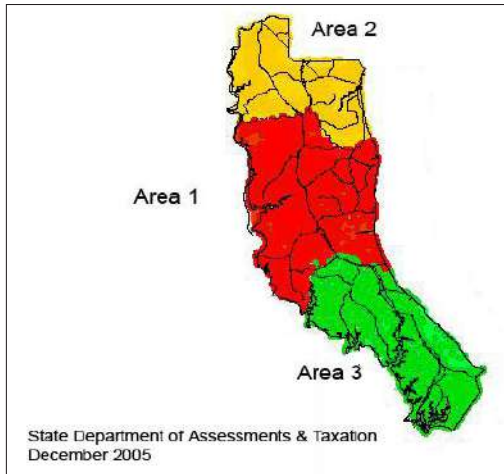


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Calvert Property Reassessments Rise 18.9 Percent



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Property reassessments for the lower one-third of Calvert County were up 19.9 percent as of January 1, 2023, according to the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT).

Assessments were up in the same triennial evaluation for what the state calls

Group 3 by 19.87 percent just for residential properties and 8.1 percent for commercial properties.

The state department recently announced its 2023 reassessment of 779,573 “Group 2” residential and commercial properties. In Maryland, there are more than 2 million property accounts which are split into three groups, each appraised once every three years. The overall statewide increase for “Group 2” properties was 20.6 percent over the past three years according to SDAT.

The overall statewide increase was higher than 2022’s 12 percent increase, representing an average increase in value of 22.2 percent for all residential properties and 15.8 percent for all commercial properties over the three-year period since the last “Group 2” reassessment for January 2020 prior to the pandemic.

“All 23 counties and Baltimore City experienced an increase in residential property values for the fifth consecutive

year, while commercial property values also increased in all 23 counties and Baltimore City. This is a good indicator that the market remains strong and growth is steady here in Maryland,” said SDAT Director Michael Higgs. “The Department’s real property assessors continue to work hard to ensure that all of Maryland’s properties are assessed uniformly and fairly. As part of our Tax Credit Awareness Campaign, each reassessment notice includes information about the Homeowners’ and Homestead Tax Credits, which save Marylanders more than \$260 million in taxes each year.”

The 2023 assessments for “Group 2” properties were based on an evaluation of 89,880 sales that occurred within the group over the last three years. If the reassessment resulted in a property value being adjusted, any increase in value will be phased-in equally over the next three years, while any decrease in value will be fully implemented in the 2023 tax year. For the 2023 reassessment, 96.4 percent of Group 2 residential properties saw an increase in property value.

Property tax assessment notices were mailed to Group 2 property owners on Tuesday, December 27, 2022. A map of which properties fall into Groups 1, 2, and 3 and their respective years for reassessment can be viewed on SDAT’s website here. For additional statistics and information, please visit the Department’s Statistics & Reports webpage.

The Homeowners’ Tax Credit provides relief for eligible homeowners by setting a limit on the amount of property taxes that are owed based on their income. Residential property owners who complete a onetime application and meet certain eligibility requirements can also receive a Homestead Tax Credit, which limits their principal residence’s taxable assessment from increasing by more than a certain percentage each year regardless of their income level. Although statewide legislation caps the increase at no more than 10 percent per year, many local governments have capped property taxes at lower percentages.

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Prince Frederick Town Center Plan Back to Drawing Board

St. Leonard Could Follow Dunkirk

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As work continues on updating the Prince Frederick and Dunkirk town center master plans, the Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning is trying to decide what town center update to do after that. They’re inclined to do St. Leonard.

Long-Range Planner Jenny Plummer-Welker told the planning commission at their Jan. 18 meeting, “We’re not quite ready to start the third master plan, but I at least want to start to have you thinking about which one. When staff came to you originally, we had recommended that Lusby and Solomons be the third and fourth in line. Staff would like you to consider doing St. Leonard next instead of Lusby. St. Leonard was most recently updated in 2013. Also (for) the St. Leonard Master Plan the comprehensive plan recommended expanding the town center to include the St. Leonard Elementary School parcel.”

Plummer-Welker added, “I would like to come back next month and have a discussion and an action for you to direct staff on what plan to start next. We believe that St. Leonard would be a less complicated than Lusby, and so we’d like to work on a less complicated one for our third one.”

Plummer-Welker explained. “At the time when the St. Leonard Master Plan was in development, there was a discussion about expanding the town center to include the St. Leonard Elementary,



which was built in 1996 so that it would be part of the town center. We could then petition for it to be part of St. Leonard’s priority funding area, which then would allow for not having to go through the exemption process if the St. Leonard Elementary needed to be expanded or any state funding used at that time. So that was the reasoning in 2013. And the comprehensive plan that was adopted in 2019, just took that adopted master plan idea forward.

Commission member Steve Jones observed the commissioners just removed Huntingtown High School from that town center’s master plan and said putting St. Leonard Elementary in seemed inconsistent.

Plummer-Welker said, “When the elementary school was being proposed to be built in St. Leonard, the state asked,

why are you building it outside of a priority funding area? And we pointed out that it was immediately adjacent to the St. Leonard Town Center. And so, we did get approval for construction of it adjacent to the town center.”

Huntingtown High School is across Routes 2/4 from the surviving Huntingtown Town Center in the recent commissioner decision to shrink that town center.

Jones observed that he believed it was the school board’s wish the schools to be in priority funding areas such as town centers.

That decision by the commissioners, which also reduced the size of the Prince Frederick Town Center, has also thrown back the process of updating that town center. Plummer-Welker said, “Staff is currently reviewing the most

recent draft to make edits so when we come back to you, they will incorporate the amendment and the revisions that you requested us prior to the comprehensive plan amendments. So, when we bring that draft back, you’ll have the opportunity to review it and then direct staff to either make revisions or proceed to the public hearing process, at which time the staff will send it out to the agencies and up to the state clearinghouse. It requires a 60-day review process prior to the planning commission holding its public hearing. The public will have an opportunity to comment on that draft and speak at the public hearing at which time you can make revisions as you wish. Eventually the planning commission will have the opportunity to vote to recommend adoption to the Board of County Commissioners.

As to the revision of the Dunkirk Town Center Master Plan, Plummer-Welker said, “We are currently in phase two also for Dunkirk. Prince Frederick is towards the end of phase two; Dunkirk’s near the beginning of phase two. Staff will be reaching out to other departments and agencies to assist with writing the various sections and chapters for that. And we will bring that draft to you for review. And it follows a similar public process.”

Plummer-Welker said the Prince Frederick changes will be ready for the planning commission in late winter or early spring, with Dunkirk to follow.

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Pre-K Concerns Aired on Education 'Blueprint'

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The first draft of the first phase of Calvert County's implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is due to be released Feb. 1 with the school board receiving it on Feb. 8 after review by the county's Blueprint Committee.

The county committee is composed of members appointed the county commissioners and school board, with County Administrator Mark Willis and the school system's Blueprint Coordinator Dr. Joe Sampson as co-chairs. The two gave an update to the commissioners on Jan. 24.

Sampson reminded the commissioners of the five policy areas or "pillars" of the legislatively-mandated education reform that was the offshoot of the Kirwan Commission:

- Early childhood education
- High-quality and diverse teachers and leaders
- College and Career Readiness
- More resources to ensure all students are successful
- Governance and Accountability

The rollout of full-day pre-K drew the most discussion at the meeting. Noting the importance of early childhood education, Commissioner Mike Hart wondered whether it was just going to be offered to lower income parents.

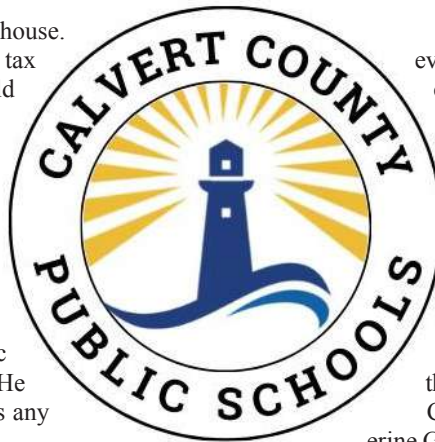
Hart said, "We don't know what's going

on at mom and dad's house. We see a W-2 or a tax return, but they could have medical bills. Are we going to tell somebody no because of what their income tax return says, that their child can't go to school and we're going to use public funds to fund it." He wondered if there was any flexibility.

"If mom and dad are successful, we're penalizing them for being successful by saying, well, you can't use our system," he added.

Sampson said, "So the way I understand it is that it's going to be offered on a sliding scale. So yes, the priority is for low-income families. I know in Calvert County we are not going to have an issue where we're going to have to turn people away, but across the state, that may be a different situation."

Sampson added, "There could be some flexibility in that. I don't know, that's yet to be determined, but it is a phase-in process, so it's not going to happen all at once. And districts aren't moving to full-day pre-K all at one time, which would then cause hardships for some of those students that you mentioned."



Sampson noted, however, there could be a charge for some families able to pay for their children to attend all-day pre-K, but he insisted that was still a work in progress.

Hart responded, "It should have nothing to do with mom and dad. It should be that child."

Commissioner Catherine Grasso agreed with Hart.

"Where's the diversity in this to exclude children just because of their family's income? I don't get it."

Blueprint Committee member Dona Osteno, president of the Calvert Education Association, said, "The reason for the phasing in (of pre-K), it's not excluding anyone because pre-K is not mandatory like kindergarten is. So, there is a reason behind that phase in process. So, I do not want anyone in the community to think that we are excluding three- or four-year olds from a mandatory program."

Committee member Melissa Goshorn said, "Pre-K is a big deal because right now, as Mr. Sampson mentioned, we have to change our half-day programs to full-day programs. We are going to run into space issues. So, as we look at the financing just of that one pillar alone, we're

going to run out of space. And, we already have a lack of private pre-K providers in this county and day-care providers to where many of our parents don't have a place to send their kids today. That is going to continue to be a problem as we have to tap into those private providers and get their help in providing pre-K."

Committee member, retired educator Dr. Michael Shisler said the county needs to be mustering all the resources available. "We need to be talking to our legislatures because the way the Blueprint is written today is going to end up causing some issues that we're not prepared to handle."

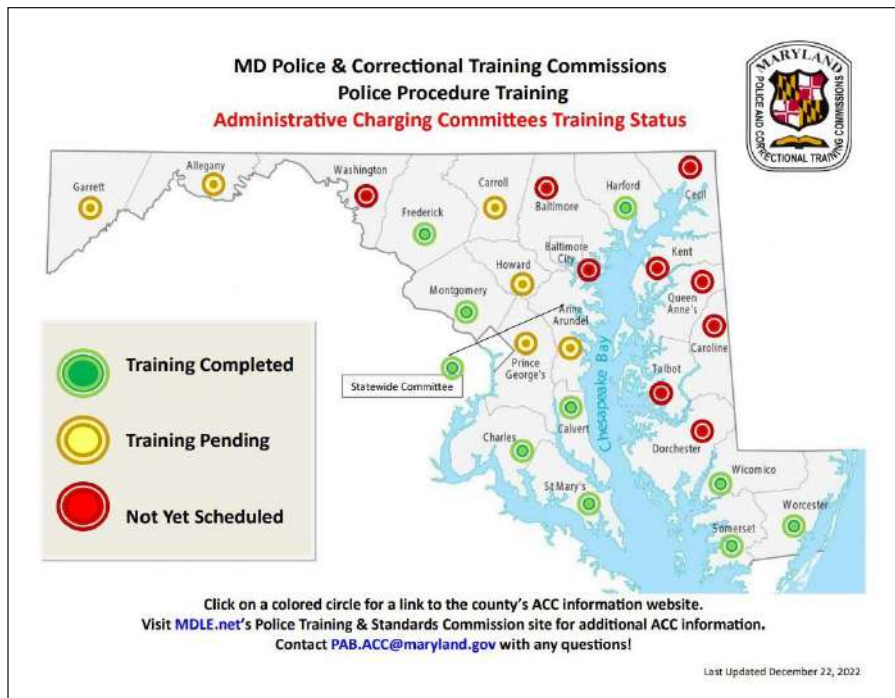
Committee member and former county commissioner Wilson Parran said, "This is a long process. This started around 2015, 2016, and as you heard, Dr. Sampson said it goes into the 2030s. A lot of change. I'm impressed with the amount of time spent to make sure that we do address the issues and get the plan together."

He added, "As we drill down now at the local level, clearly there will be a need for more specificity and how it will be applied and executed in the county."

The public will get another chance to log in at a public meeting on the Blueprint Implementation Plan in late February at a date and place not yet announced. It must be sent to the State Board of Education by March 1.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

First Police Accountability Report Presented



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) got a progress report at their Jan. 24 meeting on the six-month-old police accountability initiative in the county, which is also being rolled out statewide.

Police Accountability Board (PAB) Chairman Wilson Parran, noting there

was an election in the last six months ad a new sheriff, said, "Normally you would have some recommendations in terms of enhancements or process improvements, but we wanted to make sure that we met with the sheriff, and we worked through that together. So, we have had meetings, very successful meetings I feel, to get us an opportunity to hit the road running."

Parran noted regarding the PAB's responsibility, "The law says we need

to put a process in place to receive complaints from the public of police misconduct, and also to hold monthly meetings with law enforcement to improve matters of policing. We were also to review the outcome of the disciplinary matters considered by the charging committee, and also to provide an annual report to you at the end."

The complaint procedure is in place and a means of tracking complaints is now online. Citizens can make complaints either to the PAB or directly to the sheriff. In either case the other is advised of the complaint. Once the sheriff's office receives the complaint, investigates and makes a finding, it's forwarded to the Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) for review and determination.

Through Dec. 19, 36 complaints had been filed with the ACC. Parran said, "As we look at that number, I don't know what your reaction might be. Some may say, well, that's a high number, or that's a low. The main thing is if these complaints are coming in, going through an investigative process, we look at it and they point to opportunities to either improve policy if that's the case or it is not sustained or exonerated. So, we look at it from the standpoint of, do we have an administrative charge or not?"

Parran said, "In October, we worked with the state and the state put together a five-day training process for the ACC and

we were the first to be trained in the state."

Parran is also a member of the ACC. ACC Chairman Scott Deacon reported, in addition to Parran, "one of the other folks is a pediatric nurse practitioner, still working. One's a mental health professional. One of them is a physicist. And one of them has 28-years' experience as a federal investigator. This is a great team."

Deacon said, "We are going to be open and transparent in everything we do. There's a hundred percent chance we're not going to get it a hundred percent right every time. That's just the way it is. But we're going to work through it. And our real goal is within these three years (their term), with the people that come behind us, what made us think that was so hard? So hopefully we'll do well with that."

Sheriff Rick Cox said, "My job as a sheriff, I feel, is to keep our citizens safe, communities or schools, and also be able to make a complaint on our deputies to as well. This is all new to us. I have concerns at this point, meeting with every sheriff in the state. And I think we're going to work through those concerns. I think it's a work in progress, but I have a lot of projects on the table, and this is one of them."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Route 231 Crash Kills Huntingtown Woman

Maryland State Police are investigating a crash that killed one and injured another early Wednesday morning in Calvert County.

Shortly before 12:45 a.m., troopers from the Maryland State Police Prince Frederick Barrack responded to the 1800 block of Hallowing Point Road in Prince Frederick, Maryland to investigate a report of a motor vehicle crash. According to a preliminary investigation, a 2007 Nissan Maxima was traveling east on Hallowing Point Road east of Heather Road. The Nissan crossed over the right shoulder line and struck the face of the guardrail. The Nissan continued to travel off the road and overturned and struck a

tree on the right shoulder of east bound Hallowing Point Road.

The driver of the Nissan, Shamia Saree Robinson, 24, of Huntingtown was declared deceased at the scene. The front seat passenger of the Nissan, a 25-year-old male, was transported by ambulance to University of Maryland Capitol Regional Medical Center for treatment of his injuries. No other injuries were reported.

Anyone with information on this crash is asked to contact the Maryland State Police Prince Frederick Barrack at 410-535-1400. The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Prince Frederick Man Dies from Single-Vehicle Crash

Maryland State Police are investigating a fatal single-vehicle crash that occurred Monday evening in Calvert County.

Shortly after 6:45 p.m., troopers from the Prince Frederick Barrack responded to the 200 block of Steeple Chase Drive in Prince Frederick, Maryland, for a report of a vehicle that struck a building. According to a preliminary investigation, a Ford Explorer was traveling south from a commercial parking lot approaching the intersection of Steeple Chase Drive and Armory Road. The vehicle failed to come to a complete stop at the stop sign, accelerated into a slight left turn, struck a curb and light pole and entered a lower commercial parking lot. The Ford Explorer came to rest at a

brick/concrete support pillar to a building.

The driver of the Ford, Larry Hilton Mackall, 63, of Prince Frederick needed to be extricated from the vehicle. He was transported by ambulance to CalvertHealth Medical Center, where he died. The Calvert County Sheriff's Office and EMS/Fire personnel also responded to assist.

The Calvert County building inspector responded to the scene to investigate the structure and it was deemed safe. No other injuries were reported. Anyone with information on the case is asked to contact the Maryland State Police Prince Frederick Barrack at 410-535-1400.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

13th Annual Maritime Performance Series Returns

Tickets Available Now

Tickets are available now for the 13th Annual Maritime Performance Series at the Calvert Marine Museum. Guests will delight in the harmonious talent each of these groups bring to the stage. Performances are in the museum's Harms Gallery starting at 7 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online at Winter/Spring 2023 Maritime Performance Series | Calvert Marine Museum, MD - Official Website, and \$25 at the door.

Friday, Jan. 27 – THE KEN AND BRAD KOLODNER QUARTET

Regarded as one of the most influential hammered dulcimer players in the US, Baltimore's Ken Kolodner has joined forces with his son Brad Kolodner, one of the finest practitioners of the clawhammer banjo, to perform original and traditional old-time music. The dynamic father-son duo pushes the boundaries of the Appalachian tradition by infusing their own brand of driving, innovative, tasteful and unique interpretations of traditional and original fiddle tunes and songs. Rounding out the quartet is the mid-Atlantic's go-to bassist Alex Lacquement (Charm City Junction, The Bumper Jacksons, Letitia Van Sandt) and one of the best-known purveyors of old-time music, WV multi-instrumentalist Rachel Eddy.

Friday, Feb. 17 – ASH & ERIC

The married couple's new album *Sure* (May 2022) is "a tale of love... [with] some heartaches and a pinch of disputation along the way." Hailing from the gritty heart of New England, the two find consolation in discovering beauty in the challenges of life. Their musings reflect the hope and pain we all experience, sung in voices as vulnerable and honest as their lyrics. Their songs feel like a warm welcome, a shoulder to lean on, and a hand to hold at the end of a long day. Their warm harmonies,

swirling acoustic guitars, and easy stage presence have earned them a dedicated following in the emerging US folk scene, performing with folk legends like Livingston Taylor, Mark Erelli, and Vance Gilbert.

Friday, March 24 – THE EASTMAN STRING BAND

Soaring harmonies, high energy instrumentals, and heartfelt originals punctuate each performance of Tim and Savannah Finch with The Eastman String Band. Tim and Savannah Finch began playing music together at the Friday night jams once held at Tim's music store, "Good Deale Bluegrass" in Deale, Maryland. Their band consists of a cast of some of the finest players in music, which prominently includes renowned fiddler Jon Glik. Fusing the roots of bluegrass with Americana, together they have released two all original albums.

Friday, April 28 – LULU'S FATE

Lulu's Fate performs a mix of music from the Appalachian, southern string band and country blues traditions, as well as early swing, gospel, original tunes and covers ranging from Hank Williams to Tom Waits. Comprised of Tom Espinola on mandolin and guitar, Kristen Jones on cello, and singer Kara Bolling, the trio blends virtuosic instrumentals with lush three-part vocal harmonies to create new interpretations of traditional tunes. Lulu's Fate is based in the Washington, D.C. metro area and has performed at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Takoma Park Folk Festival, Washington Folk Festival, Kingman Island Bluegrass & Folk Festival, Institute of Musical Traditions and numerous coffeehouses and house concerts throughout the area.

For more information on the Maritime Performance Series, please contact 410-326-2042, ext. 8080 or email Laura.Cole@calvertcountymd.gov

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New Hermit Crab Species Found at Calvert Cliffs



Calvert Cliffs is a great place to collect fossil shark teeth, whale and dolphin bones, and shells. Many scientifically important fossils have come from these world-famous cliffs. The shells commonly found on the beaches belonged to gastropods (snails) and bivalves (clams) that once inhabited this area. When snails (both modern and fossil) die, their shell may become home for other creatures. In this case, prehistoric and now-extinct hermit crabs decided to make whelk snail shells their home. Two different species of snails preserve the remains of two new species of hermit crab. These kinds of finds are exceedingly rare along Calvert Cliffs—only five comparable specimens have ever been found.

The international team of paleontologists that named these new hermit crab

species included Calvert Marine Museum (CMM) Paleontology Collections Manager, John Nance, and CMM Paleontology Summer Intern, Adam Lindholm. John and Adam worked with colleagues from the Netherlands, Jonathan J.W. Wallaard, René H.B. Fraaije, Barry W.M. Van Bakel, and John W.M. Jagt to describe these amazing new finds.

The species *Pagurus hazenorum* (Figure 1) honors Robert and Margee Hazen, long-time friends of the CMM and avid fossil collectors. The species *Paguristes timoni*, is named after Timon of Athens, a hermit and misanthrope, a tragic character in ‘Timon of Athens’ a play by William Shakespeare.

The team’s paper on the discovery can be read at <https://www.mapress.com/zt/article/view/zootaxa.5227.3.7>

Campaign to Honor WWII Vets Runs Through May 1

Citizens are invited to honor a World War II veteran with a memorial paver brick on the Veterans Patio at the “On Watch” memorial statue in Solomons. The Calvert County Department of Public Works, General Services Division, is coordinating the annual campaign, which runs through May 1, 2023.

The “On Watch” memorial statue is an 8-foot bronze statue by Maryland artist Antonio Tobias Mendez commemorating the people and work done at the Solomons Amphibious Training Base during World War II. This facility, the nation’s first amphibious training facility, was active from 1942-1945 and its effect on the area continues to be felt today. The statue was unveiled in August 2007.

The monument commemorates those

who served the United States during World War II. The cost of each brick is \$100 and is tax deductible. Purchasers will be notified when engraving and installation are complete. Gifts made toward the memorial brick campaign are used for the maintenance and care of the statue and grounds, located at 14485 Dowell Road in Solomons.

An application is available online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/OnWatch. To learn more, contact Theresa Windsor at 410-535-1600, ext. 2565.

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

Moody Blues at North Beach Gallery

February 2 - February 26, 2023
Open House February 4, 1 – 4 PM
The month of February brings Moody Blues to the Artworks@7 Gallery.

The color blue has multiple meanings to the world of art. Musicians, through a melancholic blend of notes soberly describe their mood of woe and heartbreak, while visual artists use the color blue to express moods of tranquility and peace. Such as Mike Smalley’s “Wave”, Tracey Vernon’s “Love is Blue” Donna Tizol’s “Blue Hare” and Suzanne Nawrot’s blue wire wrapped pendants. What’s your February mood? Experience the moody blues through the art of Artworks@7th artists.

In addition to the monthly theme, the gallery invites you to welcome two new artists to the Co-op. Ray Bogle, a potter, specializes in the art of Western Raku. Ray Saunders, one of our 2022 featured artists, brings his photography to the gallery. Calvert County is rich with artistic talent and the gallery is thrilled to support these local artists.

Money spent locally stays in the local economy and continues to strengthen the economic base of the entire community.



Small local businesses make indispensable contributions to communities and neighborhoods. Supporting local artists allows them the opportunity to continue to serve their communities. You will often see members of Artworks@7th supporting local charities and organizations by participating in art shows, teaching workshops, and donating items for fundraisers.

ArtWorks@7th is located at 8905 Chesapeake Avenue (near 2nd street) in North Beach, Maryland. Our hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

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landscape is also one of its most overlooked. The region's "green infrastructure" provides critical ecological services for the benefit of all people. The forests, meadows, bogs, and marshes attenuate stormwater, soak up excess nutrients, store carbon, and provide habitat for the smallest to the largest animals in the region. According to Maryland Greenprint maps, this green infrastructure provides \$1.74 billion per year in ecosystem services to Southern Maryland. Our working landscapes add \$3.2 billion to the regional economy.

Unfortunately, this green infrastructure is growing dangerously thin, as hunters, fishermen, farmers, and land stewards can attest. Already, Maryland has seen extensive land loss from development, and the future land loss projections are similarly bleak. In 2022, the American Farmland Trust (AFT) published a report titled "Farms Under Threat 2040: Choosing an Abundant Future," which predicts the three most likely scenarios for future farmland conversion in the United States. For Southern Maryland, the numbers are shocking. With steady "business as usual" landscape conversion, the five county Southern Maryland region is projected to lose 40,500 acres of farmland to development by 2040. However, the most popular development trend of recent years

has been a low density, single use zoning model known as urban sprawl. Should this trend continue, Southern Maryland's landscape is at risk of succumbing to "runaway sprawl," which could cost us 58,800 acres of farmland by 2040, according to AFT.

Land is a finite resource, and the green infrastructure provided by natural landscapes is not easily renewed. Once gone, replacing it becomes very expensive, if not impossible. To counteract development pressures and ensure our region's most valuable green infrastructure is permanently protected, we need aggressive action from land conservationists. For this reason, the Southern Maryland Conservation Alliance (SMCA) was formed in 2021, strengthening the efforts of conservation actors in the five-county Southern Maryland region. With more than 35 affiliate organizations, SMCA aims to not only ramp up the pace of land preservation in the region, but also redirect the conversation surrounding rural lands and their multifarious benefits.

With the Biden Administration's goal to preserve 30% of the U.S.' natural lands by 2030, this is a ripe opportunity to reimagine the way we interact with and relate to land. Rather than valuing land foremost for its development potential, SMCA hopes to reinforce the intrinsic value of natural landscapes to people, the economy, and wildlife. In order to achieve the ambitious land preservation goals defined for our state and our region, we must reframe the conversation to prioritize these values.

This article has been the first in a series of articles by SMCA about revisioning the future of rural lands in Southern Maryland. Let's keep the conversation going in article No. 2, which will discuss the history of rural land use and landscape loss on the east coast.

Think Southern Maryland?

Think big rivers, deep deciduous forests, abundant ecological services, and a rich cultural heritage.

Bounded on the west by the Potomac and on the east by the Chesapeake Bay, Southern Maryland is teeming with ecological diversity. The Patuxent, Maryland's largest river with headwaters in the state, courses through the center of Southern Maryland, touching all five counties. Maryland's first capital, St. Mary's City, as well as its current capital, Annapolis, are located in Southern Maryland, so it's no surprise that much of the early history of both the state and the country transpired in this region.

Early colonists settled in Southern Maryland for its temperate climate, rich

farmland, and abundant access to waterways. However, the region's history extends far before the arrival of colonists. The Piscataway Confederacy had already established villages and practiced a very sustainable form of agriculture that we could learn from today.

Maryland's history is inextricably tied to its landscape. Naturally, so are its current culture and economy inseparably linked to the land. Southern Maryland's waterways are ideal for boaters and fishermen. Its deciduous forests are the largest in the state, supporting a wide variety of wildlife, a timber harvest industry, and dozens of miles of hiking trails dotted throughout the region.

However, one of the most indispensable components of Southern Maryland's

is growing dangerously thin, as hunters, fishermen, farmers, and land stewards can attest. Already, Maryland has seen extensive land loss from development, and the future land loss projections are similarly bleak. In 2022, the American Farmland Trust (AFT) published a report titled "Farms Under Threat 2040: Choosing an Abundant Future," which predicts the three most likely scenarios for future farmland conversion in the United States. For Southern Maryland, the numbers are shocking. With steady "business as usual" landscape conversion, the five county Southern Maryland region is projected to lose 40,500 acres of farmland to development by 2040. However, the most popular development trend of recent years

Hoyer Receives Briefing at Calvert Health on New Tech

Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement today after receiving a briefing on the Da Vinci Robot technology at Calvert Health, which Congressman Hoyer helped secure \$950,000 for in the FY 2023 Omnibus legislation:

"It was great to hear from the talented doctors and leadership at Calvert Health and learn more about the Da Vinci Robot technology, which will soon be in use to better serve and care for people suffering from illnesses like cancer while also attracting more medical talent to the region. Access to quality health care is critically important for our people, and this new advancement for Calvert Health will enhance the services provided in our County. I was glad to work with the leadership at the Calvert Health system to secure \$950,000 for this critical technology and thank them for their hard work to make sure this initiative is up and running for patients.

"Unfortunately, Calvert County residents have some of the highest cancer rates compared to others in Maryland. This new resource will allow them to bring a higher standard of care for surgeons and assist in attracting top talent to their medical staff. I look forward to continuing to partner with Calvert Health to advance their health care operations and strengthen their ability to care for Marylanders in the years ahead."

The Da Vinci System consists of a surgeon's console that is typically in the same room as the patient, and a patient side cart with three to four interactive robotic arms controlled from the console. The arms hold objects and can act as scalpels, scissors, graspers, and more. The surgeon uses the controls of the console to maneuver the patient side cart's robotic arms. It is most often used for prostatectomies, cardiac valve repair, and for renal and gynecologic surgical procedures.

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CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of January 9 – January 15, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,566 calls for service throughout the community.

Burglary: 23-2494

On January 12, 2023, detectives assigned to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) responded to Mellomar Golf Park located at 6215 Scaggs Road in Owings, for the report of a commercial burglary. Investigation revealed sometime between 5 p.m. on Jan. 11 and 8:45 a.m. on Jan. 12, an unknown suspect (s) forcefully made entry to the shop and stole an array of items including power tools, candy bars, and a golf cart. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$4,830.00.

Burglary: 23-1827

On January 9, 2023, Deputy Dawson responded to the 10400 block of Southern Maryland Blvd. in Dunkirk, for the report of a burglary that had already occurred. The complainant advised an unknown suspect (s) made entry to the building and used the bathroom. The toilets were found extremely clogged and full of feces, paper towels were observed stuffed in the toilet, and soaking wet carpet was discovered throughout the lower level of the building. The estimated value of damaged property to the septic/drainage system and water damage to the carpet is \$2,200.00.

Theft: 23-1961

On January 10, 2023, DFC Anderson responded to the Sneades Ace Home Center located at 11861 HG Trueman Road in Lusby, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a suspect entered the store and stole a Stanley folding saw. The suspect is described as a black male with a beard, wearing a gray baseball cap, a black hooded sweat-

shirt, dark-colored jeans, and blue tennis shoes. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$15.99.

ARRESTS



On January 9, 2023, Deputy Tavares responded to the 12100 block of Gringo Road in Lusby, for the report of a burglary in progress. Deputies arrived on the scene and discovered a female suspect, **Laytonya Nichole Dixon**, 45 of Lusby, sitting on the front porch with a metal baseball bat. Dixon was observed to have lacerations and blood on her hands and feet as a result of broken glass. Investigation revealed Dixon arrived at the residence and began destroying the front porch and front door windows in an attempt to gain entry to the home. After not being able to get into the residence, Dixon began to smash car windows on multiple vehicles parked in the driveway with the baseball bat. EMS personnel arrived on the scene and checked Dixon medically. Dixon was transported to CalvertHealth for minor injuries received and released shortly after. Dixon was then transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where she was charged with Home Invasion, First-Degree Burglary, Malicious Destruction of Property Value \$1000+, Theft: \$100 to Under \$1500, and Malicious Destruction of Property Valued Less than \$1000.

On January 9, 2023, Deputy Strong conducted a traffic stop in the area of Parran Road and Leos Way in St. Leonard, for a traffic violation. Investigation revealed the driver, **George Frederick Gerlach**, 62 of St. Leonard, was oper-



ating the vehicle on a suspended license. Gerlach asked deputies if he could smoke a cigarette during the traffic stop and advised his medications were in his cigarette box. Nine loose pills of Oxycodone and Dextroamphetamine (both controlled dangerous substances) were recovered from the cigarette box. A search of Gerlach's person revealed a metal straw which he identified as a "pill crusher". Gerlach was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



On January 9, 2023, Deputy McCourt responded to the Chick-fil-A located at 806 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for a disorderly subject. Investigation revealed **Nyequaan Jacquice Washington**, 25 of no fixed address, was in the establishment behind the counter attempting to access the kitchen while being disorderly and aggressive with staff. Upon making contact with Washington, he fled on foot across Rt. 4. Washington repeatedly took a fighting stance toward deputies and continued to resist.



Washington was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Disorderly Conduct, Failure to Obey a Reasonable and Lawful Order, Trespassing: Private Property, and Obstructing and Hindering.

On January 14, 2023, DFC Anderson conducted a traffic stop in the area of The Bitter End and Harbor Lane in Lusby, for a vehicle traveling at a high rate. Upon making contact with the driver, **Darrion Cortez Williams**, 20 of Lusby, a strong odor of cannabis was emitting from the vehicle. Williams was asked to exit the vehicle but refused to do so. A vehicle search revealed a large double-blade, dagger-style knife. A search of Williams's person revealed a metal grinder used for Cannabis. Williams was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Concealing a Deadly Weapon, Failure to Obey a Lawful Order and Resisting Arrest.

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

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 with the listing details by 12 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication.

Thu, Jan 26

FREE Quit Tobacco Classes

Calvert County Health Department
975 Solomons Island Road
Prince Frederick
6-7 p.m.

Free classes to assist with quitting tobacco or vaping. January 12 through March 2. One hour a week for eight weeks. Medication aids are free if insurance doesn't pay. Group support is especially valuable. Registration required: email: jane.dodds@maryland.gov, call: 410-535-5400, ext. 359, or visit calvert.health.org

Reading Buddies

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Children that need some extra help with reading build confidence by reading with teens! With snacks, games, and reading incentives! A program for K-5 graders to practice reading in a relaxed and welcoming group space! A fun event that inspires a love of reading, offers great social activities for shy or anxious children and teens, and promotes positive interactions between children of all ages. Teens get to participate in a meaningful experience by encouraging children and helping them with their reading skills. They can also earn a service hour for school. Parents: Please register your child for the event. Stuffed animals are welcome, or borrow one of ours while you read, 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Jan 27

Maritime Performance Series

Calvert Marine Museum
7 p.m.

Featuring Ken & Brad Kolodner Quartet. The dynamic father-son duo pushes the boundaries of the Appalachian tradition by infusing their own brand of driving, innovative, tasteful and unique interpretations of traditional and original fiddle tunes and songs. Rounding out the quartet is the mid-Atlantic's go-to bassist Alex Lacquement and one of the best-known purveyors of old-time music, West Virginia multi-instrumentalist Rachel Eddy. Performance is in the museum's Harms Gallery starting at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online at bit.ly/MaritimeConcerts and \$25 at the door, unless otherwise noted.

On Pins & Needles

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

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Jan 28

MakePlayLearn

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach
2-3 p.m.

Take building and creativity to a whole new level at the library. We provide the space, building bricks and other building materials. You provide the imagination, 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Mon, Jan 30

Grooving and Moving

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach
10-10:45 a.m.

Fans of Storytime will enjoy dancing, singing, and playing as they learn about music. Suggested for ages 2-5. Join us for Grooving and Moving Mornings where we will use music and movement to start the day! This program features opportunities for children to explore music elements such as rhythm, tempo, and dynamics. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Landlord-Tenant Law: Know Your Rights & Responsibilities

Calvert Library (virtual) 6-7 p.m.

Investigator Beth Silverman of the Howard County Office of Consumer Protection will provide an informative workshop on a tenant's rights and responsibilities. Hear about: How to shop for a rental application fees and when they should be returned; security deposits and to what they can and cannot apply, differences between leases and month-to-month tenancy, what should be in a lease, how rent increases should be communicated, what to do if there's a dispute with your landlord, early termination and eviction, rental scams; and much much more. Please register with an email address to receive an immediate registration confirmation with a link to join the class/event. This email will also con-

tain the dial-in information if you wish to participate by telephone. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Thursday, February 2

Sea Squirts: "Who" is out at night? Owls

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

Children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25 - 40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Cost is free with admission.

Ongoing

Southern Maryland History: Through Ebony Eyes

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
3819 Harbor Road, Chesapeake Beach
Month of January

The exhibit is a collaborative effort of graduate students from American Association of University Women, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, the Calvert Branch of the NAACP, the Calvert County Historic Preservation Commission and the Calvert County Historical Society. It includes state-of-the-art story maps and artifacts, 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Art in the Stacks: Photography by Gary Scribner

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
Month of January

Calvert Library invites you to enjoy exhibits of local art in each of our locations all month. Calvert Library's Art in The Stacks is delighted to exhibit the amazing photographs of local artist Gary Scribner for the months of November through January at Fairview Library. Gary has traveled to all 50 US states and over 35 countries capturing landscape photos on film and digital media since the early 1970's. During his travels, Gary has also enjoyed capturing street scenes of ordinary people in cities he has visited, some of which will be in this exhibit. Additional works on display include "silhouette" black and white nature works and a mystery photo of "hands reaching for the sky. Check out his website @ www.scribbleimages.com, 410-257-2101.

Upcoming

Southern Maryland Bluegrass concert series

Calvert Elks Lodge #2620, 1015 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, Sunday Feb. 12, 2 p.m.

Featuring Lonesome River Band. Since its formation decades ago, Lonesome River Band continues its reputation as one of the most respected names in Bluegrass music. Five-time International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) Banjo Player of the Year, and winner of the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass, Sammy Shelor leads the group that is constantly breaking new ground in acoustic music.

Tickets for each show will be available at the door for \$20 per person. Under twelve are admitted free with a paid adult. Food and beverages will be available for sale and there will be a 50/50 raffle as well as door prizes. The doors open at Noon and the shows will begin at 2 p.m. with the announcement of an upcoming surprise event. Information for each show can be found at www.somdbluegrass.com or by calling 301-737-3004.

First Fossil Friday!

Calvert Marine Museum
Friday, Feb. 3
1-4:30 p.m.

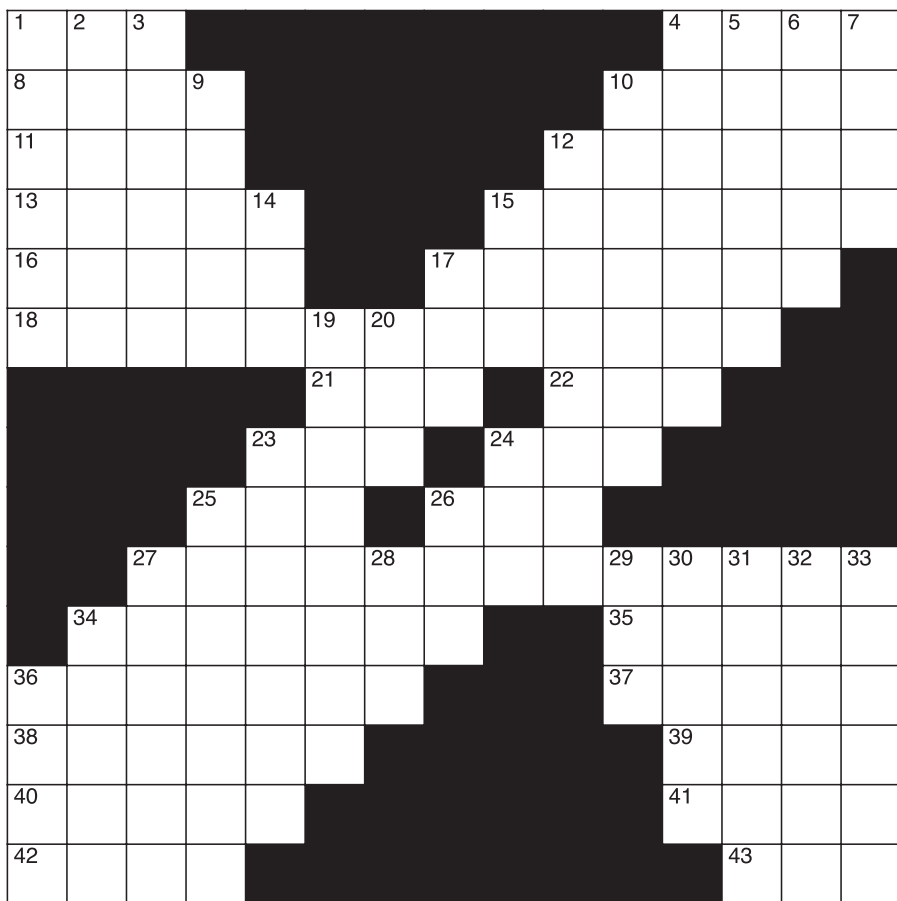
Fossil hunters, bring your fossil finds from the Calvert Cliffs or other local areas to be identified! This service is provided for free; however, admission fees apply for access to CMM exhibits.

Maritime Performance Series with Ash & Eric

Calvert Marine Museum
Friday, Feb. 17
7 p.m.

The married couple's new album Sure (May 2022) is "a tale of love... [with] some heartaches and a pinch of disputation along the way." Hailing from the gritty heart of New England, the two find consolation in discovering beauty in the challenges of life. Their warm harmonies, swirling acoustic guitars, and easy stage presence have earned them a dedicated following in the emerging US folk scene, performing with folk legends like Livingston Taylor, Mark Erelli and Vance Gilbert. Performance is in the museum's Harms Gallery starting at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale. Tickets are \$20 online at bit.ly/MaritimeConcerts and \$25 at the door.

FUN & GAMES

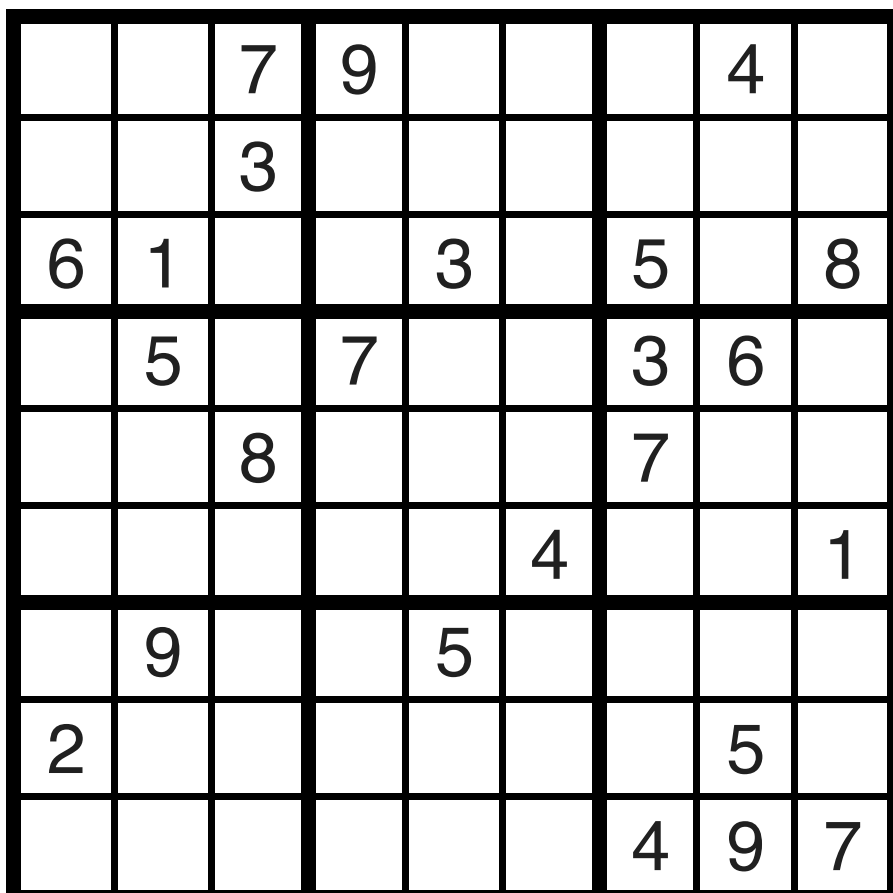


CLUES ACROSS

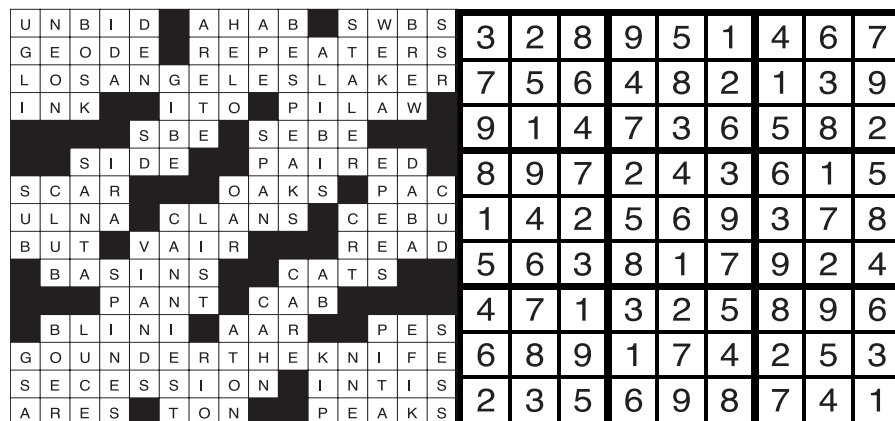
- 1. Tax collector
- 4. Fishes without the line touching water
- 8. Brooklyn hoopsters
- 10. Actress Lathan
- 11. A metric for athletes
- 12. Food storage location
- 13. Colossus
- 15. Desolations
- 16. Accustom to something unpleasant
- 17. ___ Kubrick, filmmaker
- 18. You might ask this at Thanksgiving
- 21. Arkansas city
- 22. Gave food to
- 23. Request
- 24. V-shaped open trough
- 25. Make lively
- 26. It accompanies feather
- 27. Blonde bombshell
- 34. One who revolves
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Charity
- 37. Having the shape of a cube
- 38. Unwind
- 39. Believed by some to be the supreme being
- 40. Checks or guides
- 41. Leak slowly through
- 42. Top-quality
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Part of your foot
- 2. It's at the back of the eyeball
- 3. Where things stand
- 4. Offered
- 5. Contains pollen
- 6. Boisterous get-together
- 7. Asserts out loud
- 9. They're in the sky
- 10. Canonized
- 12. A politician's official stances
- 14. It can catch fish
- 15. British thermal unit
- 17. Helps little firms
- 19. Where patients go for treatment
- 20. Large red deer
- 23. Pokes holes in
- 24. "Star Wars" hero Solo
- 25. One in a hospital
- 26. Scandinavian god of battle
- 27. Famous cat
- 28. ___ Angeles: City of Angels
- 29. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 30. City along the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away
- 34. Rare species of rodent
- 36. Suppress



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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Jan 26

Book Chatter with Author Kaye Harrison

Northern Senior Activity Center
29655 Charlotte Hall Rd
Charlotte Hall
11 a.m. to Noon
Cost: Free

Martha Baker's Book Chatter reading group is welcoming a special guest—Kaye Harrison, author of the supernatural romance trilogy, "Transcendence". Ms. Harrison will join the group to discuss details of the trilogy's second book. Kaye will also sign & sell copies of her books. Typically, Book Chatter is a closed group. However, due to the special occasion, anyone is welcome.

Fri, Jan 27

SMTMD Acoustic Open Mic

Christ Church Parish Hall
37497 Zach Fowler Road
Chaptico
7p.m. to 10 p.m.

Come to Christ Church Parish Hall in Chaptico to enjoy some fine acoustic music performed by local talented singers and songwriters. Musicians of all skill levels are warmly invited to perform. The admis-

sion is \$7; performers are admitted free of charge. Contact Michael Smith smtmd-mike@gmail.com in advance if you'd like to sign up to perform. Visit www.smtmd.org for more information.

Ken & Brad Kolodner Quartet

14200 Solomons Island Road
Solomons
7p.m. to 9p.m.

The dynamic father-son duo pushes the boundaries of the Appalachian tradition by infusing their own brand of driving, innovative, tasteful and unique interpretations of traditional and original fiddle tunes and songs. Rounding out the quartet is the mid-Atlantic's go-to bassist Alex Lacquement and one of the best-known purveyors of old-time music, West Virginia multi-instrumentalist Rachel Eddy. Performance is in the museum's Harms Gallery starting at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. with beer and wine for sale.

Tickets are \$20 online at bit.ly/Mari-timeConcerts and \$25 at the door, unless otherwise noted.

Sat, Jan 28

Live Boxing in St. Mary's County

Willows Recreation Center
46961 Bradley Blvd

Lexington Park
3p.m. to 6p.m.

LIVE BOXING in Southern MD presented by the Knowledge Boxing Center! Southern Maryland SMOKE 4!

15 exciting bouts of ACTION as our fighters put their skills to the test and lay it all on the line!

Tickets available at www.knowledgeboxingcenter.com

VIP: \$50 (includes exclusive Balcony seating and wait service)

Ringside: \$30

General Admission Adult: \$20

General Admission Kids (10 & under): \$10

More at the door, so order your tickets early!

Sanctioned by USA Boxing

Appraiser Fair at St. Clement's Island Museum

St. Clement's Island Museum
38370 Coltons Point Road
Coltons Point
10a.m. to 3p.m.

You may have a hidden treasure in your attic or garage and not even know it! Visit with expert appraisers as they determine the value of your prized possessions at St. Clement's Island Museum.

Appraisers for various types of items will be available at the museum. Only items that can be hand-carried will be

appraised. Space is limited and items will be viewed on a first come, first serve basis.

As of now, appraisers include those for fine arts, coins and currency.

****PLEASE NOTE**** While admission is FREE, there are various small costs for item appraisals (Normally \$5 each; cash and check only). For the fine arts category, there is a two-item limit per person. This category may close early due to high attendance. Due to the popularity of this event, prepare for long waiting times.

Call 301-769-2222 or visit www.facebook.com/events/643172116986490/ for more info.

Wed, Feb. 1

Leonardtwn Lions Club Guest Speaker

Olde Breton Inn
21890 Society Hill
Leonardtwn, Maryland 20650
7pm -8pm

Margo Geary, interventional pain management physician with the Centers for Advanced Orthopaedics in Leonardtown, will discuss non-operative and non opioid treatments for a variety of pain issues including neck and low back pain, radiating pain, knee pain, and neuropathic pain.

Interested Community Welcome 7pm
Dinner \$20, Presentation FREE 7:30 Free
Call for reservations. 240-577-0029

St. Mary's Department of Aging & Human Services

Programs and Activities

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

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

Want to Try Mah Jong?

Are you interested in helping a Mah Jong group get started at the Loffler Senior Activity Center or have you always wanted to learn how to play? We are looking for experienced as well as learning players! If you are one of these and want to get in on this opportunity, games will take place on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. Leslie Farrior is an experienced player who will be coordinating play. Drop ins welcome. For more information, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1658.

The Power of Healing Sound Music + Yoga for Mind, Mood, & Immunity

Harmonize body, mind, and spirit by combining accessible yoga movement with the power of Solfeggio healing music. These sounds enhance cognitive function, balance emotions, and strengthen immunity. Enjoy this mat & chair yoga experience with Judi Lyons at Northern Senior Activity Center on Monday, Jan. 30, from

1-3 p.m. Immunity Tea and e-handout included. Judi Lyons/Mindful Motions Md. is YA-CEP®, E-RYT® 200, EMYoga® Certified, RYT® 500 Therapeutic. To register & pay the \$20 fee, click the "View & Sign Up for Activities & Programs" button at www.stmarysmd.com/aging. Accommodations can be made for those requiring registration assistance by leaving a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

Mardi Gras in Charlotte Hall

This New Orleans party experience at Northern Senior Activity Center on Tuesday, Feb. 7, from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., is sure to delight you! In the spirit of Mardi Gras, we'll have all kinds of fun starting with giving you a supply of beads and coins. As you partake in our indoor parade, you'll find a street corner performer, the Barter (bring one, take one) Room, a Fat Tuesday pancake station with Cafe du Monde coffee, Bourbon Street mocktails, sounds of jazz and other surprises. Come dressed

the part and a chance to win the Creative Carnival Costume contest! The event fee is \$3 payable at registration. The herbed pork loin & mashed sweet potato lunch is \$6 for those under 60 years of age & by donation for over 60 - payable day of event. To register, click on the "View and Sign Up for Activities and Programs" button at www.stmarysmd.com/aging. Accommodations can be made for those requiring registration assistance by leaving a message at 301-475-4200, ext. 3115.

Watercolors with TL Ford

Try your hand at watercolors on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the Loffler Senior Activity Center. Local author and artist TL Ford will guide you through a small painting of roses, suitable for Valentine's Day. Cost of \$25 includes the use of professional grade supplies and materials, plus instruction- suitable for beginners as well as advanced students. Advance registration and payment are required and can

be accomplished at www.stmarysmd.com/aging or leave a message on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660.

Trouble Hearing on the Phone?

No need to struggle hearing on the phone if you can see your callers' words displayed in real time. Thanks to a federally managed program, ClearCaptions is available for free to those who have hearing loss that necessitates use of captioned phone calls. For home use, you will not need a landline, but you will need internet access. For mobile use, you will need a mobile data plan and an iPhone or iPad device. ClearCaptions representative Rupali Dewan Tetrick will be discussing and demonstrating the latest devices on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the Loffler Senior Activity Center. Register for this presentation at www.stmarysmd.com/aging or leave a message on our reservation line at 301-475-4200, ext. 1660.

ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

Identities Needed for Burglary Suspects



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is seeking the identities of the two pictured individuals in a burglary investigation, including malicious destruction of property. On Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023, at 10 pm, the two suspects broke into a classroom trailer at Ridge Elementary School, caused damage inside of the classroom, stole a fire extinguisher and caused more damage outside of the building.

Anyone with information about the identities of the suspects or this incident

is asked to call Deputy Miles Chase-Johnson at 301-475-4200, ext. 78175 or email myles.chasejohnson@stmaryscountymd.gov. Case # 2683-23

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.

Charles County Sheriff's Office Seeks St. Mary's Suspect



Charles County Sheriff's Office detectives assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division are seeking the whereabouts of Wayne Joseph Brooks, 30, of Leonardtown. Brooks has open warrants charging him with violating an out-of-state protective order, telephone misuse, and electronic mail harassment. He also has an open warrant in another county for stalking. Brooks is 6'4", 180 lbs., and has brown hair and brown eyes.

His last known address was in St. Mary's County. Anyone with information about the whereabouts of Brooks is asked to call Det. Nauman at 301-609-6581. Tipsters who want to remain anonymous may contact Charles County Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-TIPS. Tips can also be submitted online at www.charlescounty-crimesolvers.com. Crime Solvers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for the tip that leads to Brooks' arrest.

Marbury Man Arrested for Intent to Distribute



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office arrested and charged a 36-year-old Marbury man with several Controlled Dangerous Substance and Intent to Distribute charges on Thursday.

Following a traffic stop and a search of the vehicle, Trayvon Donfin Richardson was charged with three counts of Possession with Intent to Distribute and three counts of CDS Possession: Not Marijuana.

On Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, Sgt. Christopher Beyer conducted a vehicle stop in the area of 18700 Three Notch Road in Mechanicsville for a circuit court search and seizure warrant. A search of the vehi-

cle, occupied by Richardson, located a black digital scale with suspected cocaine residue, along with a large amount of cash on Richardson's person.

Arriving at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, Deputy Casey Hill located a twisted plastic bag on Richardson's person that contained more than three grams of cocaine, approximately one gram of Fentanyl and 21 10 milligram Oxycodone pills.

An additional circuit court warrant was executed at Richardson's residence at the 28200 block of Mechanicsville Road. Recovered in the search was unused packaging material and an additional digital scale with CDS residue on the weighing surface.

Richardson remains incarcerated at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center pending a bond hearing.

Reckless Endangerment in Lexington Park Under Investigation


On Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, at 8:19 pm, a St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Deputy reported hearing shots fired in the area of Hancock Road in Lexington Park, as well as multiple witnesses who reported shots being fired in the area. Upon investigation, multiple shell casings were located in the roadway of Hancock Road, and a residence on Midway Drive was struck by a projectile, but there were no reported injuries from the incident.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division

responded and continued the investigation.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call Cpl. Austin Schultz at 301-475-4200, ext. 71953 or email austin.schultz@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.




Philip H. Dorsey III
Attorney at Law

LEGAL SERVICES

-Serious Personal Injury Cases-

LEONARDTOWN: 301-475-5000
TOLL FREE: 1-800-660-3493

EMAIL: phild@dorseylaw.net



www.dorseylaw.net

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

In Remembrance

William Greenwell, 83



William "Clarence" Greenwell, Sr., 83, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away on January 17, 2023 in Callaway, MD. Born on September 5, 1939, he was the son of the late Emily Greenwell (McGee) and the late Frederick Greenwell. William was the loving husband of 61 years to Margaret Rose Greenwell (Gray), whom he married on November 25, 1961 in St. John Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children Frederick Leonard Greenwell (Ruth) of Mechanicsville, MD and Kimberly Ann Greenwell (PJ Joy) of Leonardtown, MD, as well as his seven beautiful grandchildren Brandy Lopshire (Chris) of Mechanicsville, MD, Michael Joy of Leonardtown, MD, Austin Greenwell of Leonardtown, MD, Abby Greenwell of Mechanicsville, MD, Allison Greenwell of Leonardtown, MD, Sarah Davis of Mechanicsville, MD, and Jenny Davis of Mechanicsville, MD. William was preceded in death by his children William Clarence "Bud" Greenwell, Jr. and Charles Anthony Greenwell, and his siblings Dick Greenwell, Sis Greenwell (Gray), and Charles Greenwell.

"Clarence" was a doorman for the Architect of the Capitol, Washington, D.C. for 28 years, retiring in 1995.

He was a wonderful husband, a wonderful Dad/Popie and a wonderful friend. Anyone that knew him would agree he was the most kind-hearted man ever. He was so selfless and would do anything for anybody! My sister-in-law Ruth called him "Saint Clarence"! And that he was!

"Clarence" worked hard every single day for everything he had and provided for

his family! We never wanted for anything and if we did we really didn't need it, lol. He always had a new vehicle in the yard, and of course, his truck was his prized possession throughout the years.

We spent many hours on the family farm, having cookouts, birthday parties, cutting grass, and planting a summer garden. He spent many hours cutting firewood, loading/unloading and stacking for the winter, and, of course, for others, if needed.

He enjoyed playing softball for 30 years along with shooting pool close to 60 years. He also LOVED rabbit hunting with his friends (he would go every day if he could) and at one time he had 17 beagle dogs. He would raise them and train them himself sometimes, and as kids we loved playing with them when they were puppies. Wonderful memories!

Every summer he looked forward to our annual family vacation to Ocean City! He enjoyed just sitting outside in the early morning with his cup of hot coffee just watching people go up and down the boardwalk. He loved watching his grandkids swimming in the pool and he would just be smiling.

Right when September would come around Dad would begin talking about the St. Mary's County Fair. He loved watching the horse pull-ups, walking through the buildings, looking at all the animals, and just sitting watching, talking, and eating.

His wardrobe was always consistent with things he loved; Washington Redskins, Baltimore Orioles, and Jeff Gordan "24"! You can also bet whenever they were on TV he would be sitting in his recliner watching.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday,

January 25, 2023 at 1:00 PM in St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Leonardtown, MD with Father David Beaubien officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be PJ Joy, Jason Gray, Blake Gray, Randy Johnson, Leonard Bean, and Pete Laroche, Jr. Honorary pallbearers will be JC Abell, Michael Joy, and Austin Greenwell.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com.

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

Joshua Moore, 33



Joshua Alan Moore, "Smokey" 33, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on January 18, 2023 in Leonardtown, MD. Born on April 13, 1989 in Leonardtown,

MD, he was the son of Mary Jane Moore of Mechanicsville, MD and the late Dale Jerome Moore, Sr. Joshua is survived by his son, Jayden Moore, of Mechanicsville, MD, his siblings Dale Moore (Stephanie) of Mechanicsville, MD, Mindy Sampson

(Chris) of Mechanicsville, MD, and Justin Moore (Taylor) of Mechanicsville, MD, his grandfather, Joseph Leo Harding, Sr., as well as his nieces and nephews McKenzie Moore, Cole Moore, Caden Sampson, and Ryan Sampson.

Joshua attended Chopticon High School and was a landscaping specialist. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, working, and spending time with family.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 26, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, January 27, 2023 at 11:00 AM in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Mechanicsville, MD. Interment will follow at Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery, Helen, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Dale Moore, Justin Moore, Jayden Moore, Ray Downs, John Paul Lafon, and Darron Showalter. Honorary pallbearers will be Chris Sampson, Ricky Kuhn, Walter Denney, Zach "Nephew", Steve Long, and Donnie Faucette.

Condolences may be made to the family at www.mgfh.com.

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

*A Tribute to the Loved One
Whose Memory Lives
On Forever in Your Heart*

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

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



REMEMBRANCES
IN PRINT & ONLINE

County Times
St. Mary's County • Calvert County

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Wanderings *of an* Aimless Mind by Shelby Oppermann



Cell Phone Blues

If someone hasn't told you to back up all your current cell phone's data to the cloud and anywhere else you can think of backing it up to then please do so as soon as you can. Two Sundays ago, I was messaging with a friend one minute, put my phone down for a bit and when I picked it up to message her back I was locked out...for good. When I started adding bank and credit cards into my Google Pay account at some point Google required a 4 number pin for me to get into my account each time I picked the phone up. Annoying, YES, but I knew it would help to keep my data more secure. But the phone suddenly wouldn't accept the pin. I kept re-entering and re-entering until a message came up that stated after 5 more attempts all data would be erased from my phone.

For the next 3 or 4 hours on that Sunday, I spoke to people all over the world with names of Albert, Fred, Francesca et al on our landline phone and via chat on our computer. What I kept hearing from Samsung, Google, Verizon Wireless, Best Buy and phone repair places was that all they could do is erase all data as well. All my albums and contacts, and all sorts of things would be gone, nothing could be transferred. I found many of my photos on Google Photos, but only up to 2019. I couldn't get in my Verizon Wireless account or many other accounts because of the newer two-step verification procedures where they send a pin to your phone. I don't know how many times I had to say back to the representatives after they kept saying as soon as you verify the code we sent to your cell phone we can talk to you. And I had to keep saying I can't get in my phone because it is locked. I'd hear in return, "Then we cannot help you". Everyone, whether on the phone or in the stores, were extremely nice. One representative said, you know it is so nice that you are calm and not yelling at me.

After I spoke to all those people I headed to all those same brick and mortar stores and tried to get help. This went on for several days. I also had not registered my Samsung phone when we bought it in 2019. Everything was transferred over that day at the store and I thought all was right with the world. Big Tip: Register your phone, so if you are ever in a locked out position, they can help you online. Even at one main Verizon store when I asked if they could get into my Verizon account since I couldn't, I was told they couldn't get in.

N.B. My stepdaughter said that I-Phone users don't have this issue about being permanently locked out, but I am an old dog now and can't learn any new tricks.

Finally, I knew it was time to buy a new phone, but how. My old cellphone was past its storage capabilities anyway. This time however I decided to call the Verizon Wireless store in Charlotte Hall. The cell phone Gods must have been looking down on me that day, because I got a sales representative named Chauncey Goff on the phone who seemed to understand all that I was telling him even if I couldn't understand it myself. I was tired, worried I had lost everything and not sure how to find it. So I went in the next day, and Chauncey got right in my Verizon account, got me a good deal on a new Motorola phone with twice the storage capability and transferred everything he possibly could over to the new phone, and told me how to find things in the cloud I didn't know were stored there.

I was a little sad that my archived voicemails of loved ones who have passed, like my cousin Bobby who passed away on Christmas Day, and my middle brother, and other family members didn't come through. Though all current voicemails did. It also didn't save texts and photos before October 19th for some reason. But it looks like all photos are in the cloud or synced on Facebook.

Another regret is that I didn't get a photo of Chauncey that day, but I was just too excited and happy he was so knowledgeable and helpful. So, if you need a new Android phone you know where to go – Thank You Chauncey! Don't forget to register and backup everything! On a side note, I let my old cell phone's battery run out, and just for kicks I decided to charge it up today. Guess what? Yes, the pin worked and I am uploading things to my desktop now. It figures.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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

St. Mary's Gymnastics Academy Competes at Hill's Maryland Classic



The St. Mary's Gymnastics Academy is proud to announce another successful meet performance by the USAG team. The team competed January 13-16, 2023, represented

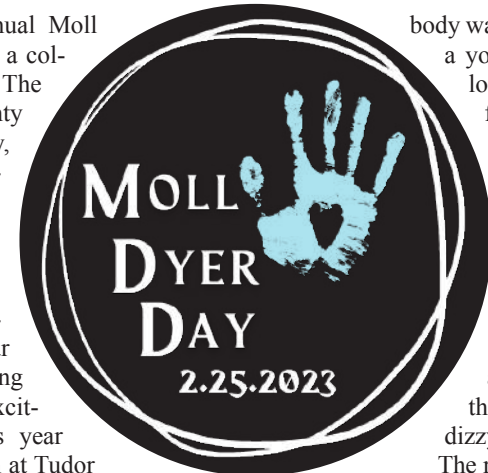
by 29 athletes, levels 2 through Xcel Diamond at the Hill's Maryland Classic hosted by Hill's Gymnastics in College Park, Maryland.

The St. Mary's Gymnastics Academy is proud of the achievements of all who competed this past weekend, with most gymnasts qualifying for states which will be held this Spring. Complete scores are posted at: stmaryscountymd.gov/hillsclassic.

For more information on St. Mary's County Gymnastics, please visit stmaryscountymd.gov/gymnastics or call (301) 862-1462.

Leonardtown Honors Local Legend on Moll Dyer Day

The second annual Moll Dyer Day event is a collaboration between The St. Mary's County Historical Society, the Commissioners of Leonardtown, Visit St. Mary's MD, and the Leonardtown Business Association. The first year was a resounding success, and the exciting plans for this year include a reception at Tudor Hall, an opening ceremony at the



Moll Dyer Rock, a family-friendly Spirit Hunt through Leonardtown, a paranormal investigation, and many other special offers and activities hosted by local Leonardtown businesses, including an evening performance by world-renowned Mentalist Duo: The Evasons at the newly renovated, The Rex Theatre.

In 2021, Leonardtown Mayor, Dan Burris, proclaimed February 26th as Moll Dyer Day, to be commemorated annually on the last Saturday in February, in a touching ceremony that was held at Tudor Hall Manor, the home of the famed rock that bears her now faded handprint.

Many know the legend of Moll Dyer, but it's not as widely known that in the late 1600's, Dyer was a real woman who lived just south of what is now Leonardtown. She is believed to have been a healer who often aided the community. However, when an epidemic of influenza arose during the winter of 1697, the Town inhabitants looked to lay blame and named her as its cause. Accused of witchcraft, Dyer was set upon by a mob fearful of the sickness. When they set fire to her small cabin, Dyer escaped into the surrounding woods on a bitterly cold night in February 1698. Her

body was found days later by a young boy looking for lost livestock. She was found with one hand frozen to a large rock and the other outstretched to the sky. Legend has it that Moll put a curse on the land and on the rock. It's rumored that anyone who touches the rock may become dizzy or even fall ill.

The rock was moved from the Old Jail Museum in 2021 where it sat for almost 50 years to Tudor Hall Manor, the home of the St. Mary's County Historical Society, where the organization oversees the preservation of this important piece of Southern Maryland history. The Society has helped build a platform and protective covering to shelter the rock from the elements. Since its move, the rock has seen a steady flow of visitors who often leave trinkets and small gifts for Moll.

Peter LaPorte, Executive Director for the St. Mary's County Historical Society, notes the significance of this event and why this story continues to resonate with us to this day, "The Legend of Moll Dyer and the rock that bears her name are known well beyond Leonardtown and St. Mary's County," said Mr. LaPorte. "We're happy that she and her legend convey across the 325 years since her death an important message for us all. That is, to be kind."

This enduring message from The Legend of Moll Dyer, "Be Kind" has been chosen as the continuing theme of this year's event.

Find more information and a complete list of activities and events at VisitLeonardtown.com/MollDyerDay.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Council (the "Council") of The Commissioners of Leonardtown (the "Town"), will hold a public hearing to consider an Ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation debt in one or more series in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$9,000,000.00 (the "Bonds") to be issued under the State of Maryland's Local Government Infrastructure Financing Program, pursuant to the authority of Sections 4-101 through 4-255 of the Housing and Community Development Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended (the "Act"). The purpose of the Bonds is to provide all or a portion of the funds necessary to (i) finance and/or refinance costs of a project generally referred to as the wastewater treatment plant expansion project, (ii) fund reserves, and/or (iii) pay costs of issuance and other related costs of the Bonds, subject to the further provisions of such Ordinance.

PLACE OF MEETING: Town office, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD

TIME: 4:15 p.m.

DATE: Monday, February 13, 2023

All interested parties are encouraged to attend the public hearing or to submit written comments as described below.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO: leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov or by mail to The Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650 and must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2023.

The full text of the Ordinance is available online at www.leonardtown.somd.com or at Town Hall.

The public hearing is required by the Act. The Ordinance may be passed (i) as introduced or (ii) as amended, either at the Council meeting held on the same day as and following the public hearing or at a subsequent Council meeting.

Pursuant to the Act, the Ordinance will become effective (i) upon its passage by the Council and approval by the Mayor, or (ii) upon its passage by the Council over the Mayor's veto; provided that, the qualified voters of the Town have the right to petition the Ordinance to referendum in accordance with Town Charter Section 211. Pursuant to the Act, the Ordinance must also be approved by the Town Administrator.

Special accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities upon request made to Town Administrator Laschelle McKay at: 301-475-9791 or laschelle.mckay@leonardtownmd.gov.

By authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

THE COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commissioners of Leonardtown will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 4:30 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. 215 – Chapter 60 – Critical Areas of the Code of the Town of Leonardtown. An ordinance for the purpose of amending Chapter 60 – Critical Areas of the Code of the Town of Leonardtown § 60-7 – Growth Allocation to correct certain minor errors inadvertently enacted by Ordinance No. 204.

Full text is available on-line at 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 February 13, 2023 to: 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

12 Quilts of Valor Awarded



Front Row (left to right): Robert Gates (Navy - 20 years), Lee Vines (Navy - 4 years), John Wright (Navy - 22 years) and Brittany Henry (Navy - 6 years).
Back Row (left to right): Harley Cook (Navy - 18 years), Rich Slavik (Navy - 27 years), Brian Olson (Navy - 22 years), Vincent Mankowski (Marines - 20 years), Kristy Thompson (Navy - 10 years), Gerald Williams (Navy - 30 years), and Purple Heart recipients James Smith (Army - 4 years) and Dorie Lear (Marines - 6 years)

On behalf of Quilts of Valor, PAX Sound of Freedom awarded 12 quilts to local veterans at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington Park on January 21, 2023.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a non-profit organization established and operated in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. To date the national organization has presented 336,061

quilts to active duty personnel and veterans.

If you, a family member or friend served in the U.S. armed forces, you are entitled to receive a Quilt of Valor. If you have any questions about Quilts of Valor or are interested in helping the local group produce quilts, please contact PAX Sound of Freedom group leader, Cecilia Cooney, at (240) 925-4243 for additional information.

★ ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library



College Financial Aid Opportunities for Maryland Residents

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has a multitude of scholarship and grant opportunities for students attending a Maryland college. Do not miss out on these Maryland opportunities by not knowing deadline dates and where to access the applications. Marsha Wilcox, Assistant Director of Office of Student Financial Assistance at St. Mary's College of Maryland, will join us at Charlotte Hall Library on Tuesday, January 31 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. to discuss the MHEC site, deadline dates, scholarships, and grants offered by the state of Maryland. There will be time after the presentation to meet with Mrs. Wilcox and OSFA staff to answer questions. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Cricut Class: Rolled Paper Flowers

Learn to use the Cricut cutting machine by making your own rolled paper flowers at Leonardtown Library on Friday, February 3 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 Leonardtown Makerspace 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 rolled paper flowers to take with you! After learning the basics, you'll be able to return to the Makerspace during open hours to use the Cricut on your own to create whatever you can imagine! Visit the Makerspace website to see open hours and learn about all it has to offer! No experience is needed and all materials are provided. Register on www.stmalib.org.

The Growing Brain: Childcare Provider Workshop Series

FREE Core of Knowledge training for childcare providers. The Growing Brain

is an innovative course from Zero to Three that provides a toolkit of how the brain develops step-by-step, neuron-by-neuron. Units 1 & 7 are in-person at Leonardtown Library on Saturdays from 9:15am-12:15pm; doors open at 9am. Units 2-6 are online via Zoom on weeknights from 6-9pm. The Zoom Room will open at 5:50pm. Licensed childcare providers will receive 3 Core of Knowledge Hours for each unit completed. Units 1-6 provide 3 hours in Child Development; Unit 7 provides 2 hours in Child Development & 1 hour in Curriculum.

Register on www.stmalib.org for any or all of these units:

Sat, Feb 4, 9:15am-12:15pm at Leonardtown Library: Unit 1: The Basics

Weds, Feb 8, 6-9pm on Zoom: Unit 2- Factors Affecting Brain Growth & Development

Weds, Feb 15, 6-9pm on Zoom: Unit 3- Communication and Language Development

Mon, Feb 20, 6-9pm on Zoom: Unit 4- Cognition and Executive Function

Weds, Mar 1, 6-9pm on Zoom: Unit 5- Social-Emotional Development

Weds, Mar 8, 6-9pm on Zoom: Unit 6: Understanding Behavior

Sat, Mar 18, 9:15am-12:15pm at Leonardtown Library: Unit 7-Play

California Dreaming

Ever dreamt of visiting California and discovering everything it has to offer? Join us at Lexington Park Library on Monday, February 6 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Our presenter, Ms. Vogentanz, will provide the opportunity to discover California. She will discuss a plethora of things; including tourist attractions, Olympics in California, adventures, the eco-system, cities, food, wine trails, major universities, hidden unknowns, etc. Ms. Vogentanz is a world traveler and is well versed on everything California. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Pet OF THE WEEK MEET PRINCESS



A Boxer can teach you everything you need to know about how to enjoy life!

Hi, my name is Princess. It's a very good name for me because I'm a LOVELY, AFFECTIONATE 1 YEAR OLD Boxer mix. I LOVE getting out to enjoy car rides, sleeping in the bed with you, and lazing in the sunshine in a fenced in yard. Now, I prefer male dogs over female dogs which is not unusual for my PRINCESS STATUS. I'm an active girl that will really enjoy getting a BarkBox monthly. If you are looking to add REAL ROYALTY to your FAMILY then hurry and email animalshelter@charlescountymd.gov to schedule an audience to meet me ASAP! BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! When you choose to adopt, you are literally saving a life. ADOPT DON'T SHOP!

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



Free Legal Expungement Clinics at St. Mary's County Health Hub

Williams, McClernan, and Stack, LLC (WMS) and the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) announce free legal services to support expungement of certain criminal records at the St. Mary's County Health Hub, located at 21625 Great Mills Road in Lexington Park. Free legal help will be provided by Williams, McClernan, and Stack, LLC to those seeking expungements of certain types of criminal records as allowable by Maryland law.

The first WMS legal clinic at the Health Hub is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2023 and will continue to be offered on a monthly basis. St. Mary's County residents can schedule appointments for this or future legal clinics by contacting the St. Mary's County Health Hub at 301-904-8949 or via email at: smchd.healthhub@maryland.gov.

"Criminal records oftentimes can be an impediment to obtaining employment and housing, which can adversely affect a person's health," said Marsha Williams, Attorney at Williams, McClernan, and Stack, LLC. "Expunging qualified crimi-

nal records can open up opportunities for people to have a better quality of life which is why Williams, McClernan, & Stack, LLC, is pleased to partner with the St. Mary's County Health Department to provide expungement services to St. Mary's County residents."

"People trying to get a fresh start in their life sometimes find it difficult to get a job or even stable housing because of a poor decision from their past, even though they may have already been rehabilitated from their crime," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "Not having a job or steady housing impacts their ability to take care of their health. Helping people to become productive citizens and stay off the streets is important to advancing health equity in our community."

For more information about services offered through William, McClernan, and Stack, LLC, visit wmslawyers.com

For more information about services offered at the St. Mary's County Health Hub, visit smchd.org/hub.

St. Mary's County History Day Submissions Due by Feb. 27

Registration is now open for St. Mary's County History Day, hosted by Historic Sotterley in partnership with St. Mary's Public Library and Maryland Humanities. St. Mary's County History Day is a district-level contest that is part of National History Day. The goal is for students to practice in-depth academic research and create unique projects about each year's theme in one of five categories: paper, exhibit, documentary, website, or performance. It is a chance for students to develop critical skills that they will use throughout their schooling and careers.

This year's theme is Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas. Students must register on our History Day website with a teacher or parent and have until February 27th to submit their projects. The winner of St. Mary's County History Day advances to the state-level contest and will have the opportunity to move on to National History Day.

Additional information and resources can be found on our History Day website and on NHD.org.

Students can register at www.md-smcdc.nhd.org!

St. Mary's County Farmers Markets Open for Winter

St. Mary's County Government encourages all community members to visit the Barns at New Market and the Home Grown Farm Market this winter for locally grown and locally made products ranging from eggs, meats, and cheeses to soap, craft beverages, and baked goods.

Questions may be directed to the Department of Economic Development, via email to lisa.ledman@stmarysmd.com or by calling (240) 309-4022

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Mechanicsville
Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
[Facebook.com/theBarnsatNewMarket](https://www.facebook.com/theBarnsatNewMarket)

Home Grown Farm Market
21078 Three Notch Road
Lexington Park
Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
[Facebook.com/HomeGrownFarmMarket](https://www.facebook.com/HomeGrownFarmMarket)

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Could you cope with long-term care costs?

We all want to stay healthy and live independently throughout our retirement years. Unfortunately, that won't be possible for some of us, so it's a good idea to be prepared for health-related challenges — such as the need for long-term care.

As you may know, long-term care covers a variety of services, ranging from occasional visits from a home health aide to full-time residency in a nursing home. But while these types of care may vary in duration and intensity, they all have one thing in common — they're expensive. Genworth, an insurance company, reports these median annual costs:

- Over \$100,000 for a private room in a nursing home
- Over \$60,000 for the services of a home health aide

Furthermore, Medicare typically pays very few of these expenses, which means the burden of payment will likely fall on you — or, even worse, on your adult children if you can't afford the care you need.

Of course, you could hope that you will avoid these costs simply by not requiring any type of assistance — but the odds aren't necessarily in your favor. In fact, someone turning 65 today has an almost 70% chance of needing some type of long-term care services in their remaining years, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

So, how can you protect yourself from the potentially enormous costs of long-term care? You could decide that you'll pay out of pocket — if so, you'll need to incorporate into your retirement budget a reasonable estimate of potential long-term care costs, and you may need to make some significant changes to your saving and investment plans. And the earlier you begin, the better.

Your other option is to purchase some form of long-term care insurance. Essentially, three types of coverage are available:

- **Traditional long-term care insurance** — A traditional long-term care policy covers long-term care expenses in your home or at a nursing facility. But policies will differ in terms of what services are covered and how benefits are paid. And you may also be able to choose whether you want inflation protection. Also, with some policies, you can deduct the premiums from your state and federal taxes. (Your tax advisor can evaluate a policy you're considering for potential tax benefits.)
- **Hybrid long-term care insurance** — In addition to providing coverage for home health care or a nursing home stay, a hybrid long-term care policy also offers a death benefit, so if you never need long-term care, your family could benefit from the policy's proceeds.
- **Life insurance with a long-term care rider** — You can find a life insurance policy that lets you add long-term care coverage through a "rider," or optional add-on. With this type of policy, you can use some of the death benefit to pay for your long-term care needs.

Which policy is best for you? There's no one right answer for everyone. A financial professional can help you evaluate all your options within the context of your overall investment and protection strategies. But keep in mind that all long-term care policies tend to get more expensive as you get older, so if you're considering this type of coverage, you may want to get started sooner rather than later.

*Article was contributed by David McDonough
Financial Advisor at Edward Jones
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Leonardtown, MD 20650
301 997 1707*

Healthy St. Mary's Partnership Named Healthy People 2030 Champion

The Healthy St. Mary's Partnership (HSMP) has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a Healthy People 2030 Champion. Healthy People 2030 is the fifth iteration of the Healthy People initiative, which sets 10-year national objectives to improve health and well-being nationwide. Healthy People 2030 Champions are organizations that are working to help achieve Healthy People objectives. These Champions are committed to working toward Healthy People's overarching goals and objectives in their own communities.

"We are proud of all of our community partners working together through the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership to advance the Healthy St. Mary's 2026 plan and the national Healthy People 2030 vision," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer and HSMP Co-Chair. "As a Healthy People 2030 Champion, it will be wonderful to collaborate with new partners nationwide so that we can better achieve health improvement for our St. Mary's

County residents."

The HSMP released its annual update to the Healthy St. Mary's 2026 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for St. Mary's County. The CHIP for St. Mary's County provides a community blueprint for improving the health of local residents from 2021-2026. The plan provides insight into health solutions for the long term and presents a road map for achieving optimal health for all. Good health provides the foundation for a healthy community and economy.

The Healthy St. Mary's Partnership (HSMP) is the county's local health improvement coalition of public and private community partners, as well as individual residents, working together to improve health. HSMP is seeking representation from local organizations, agencies, and individuals who are interested in supporting the HSMP mission and collaborative process! Membership is free and open to all. Learn more online at: healthystmarys.com.

Determined Player Captures Long-Awaited \$50,000 Prize

A fast food manager for 18 years just won her ticket to a luxurious vacation, thanks to the Maryland Lottery. The Southern Maryland resident won a \$50,000 top prize on the \$50,000 Cash scratch-off.

"I've been trying to win some big money," said the happy woman, explaining that big prizes remained elusive in the past. Her luck changed earlier this month, when she visited Fastop #52 in Leonardtown and bought three instant tickets.

"I bought one — no winner. The second one — no winner," she said. "The third one said, 'See Lottery agent.' I had scanned it and I got so nervous." The store clerk, who was nearby, saw her reaction after the winner scanned the lucky ticket. "She knew something was up," the winner told Lottery officials. "She said, 'Somebody just won \$500 on that game.'"

The St. Mary's County resident quickly left the store and phoned her boyfriend with the good news. She was on her way to a doctor's appointment and couldn't show him the ticket until later. In the time since she discovered her \$50,000 win, where did

she hide the instant ticket?

"I took that ticket everywhere with me," she said, laughing at the memory. She even took it to work and kept it safe from prying eyes until she could claim the prize at Lottery headquarters in Baltimore. "I kept it close to my heart."

In addition to taking a vacation, the scratch-off fan plans to put part of the prize into her savings account "for a rainy day," she said.

The St. Mary's County retailer also benefits from the game's sale. Fastop #52 located at 23952 Point Lookout Road in Leonardtown will earn a \$500 bonus from the Lottery for selling a \$50,000 top-prize winning scratch-off.

The \$50,000 Cash game is ranked No. 2 in the Lottery's Top 40 Scratch-offs. Since it went on sale on Dec. 29, the scratch-off has awarded nearly 10 of its 160 \$50,000 top prizes. The ticket also still has 166 unclaimed \$5,000 prizes along with nearly 1 million other prizes ranging from \$20 to \$500.



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PATUXENT RIVER NAVAL AIR STATION *News*

Military, Civilian Divers Complete Critical Sustainment at Undersea Range



Members of the Naval Aviation Training Systems and Ranges program office (PMA-205), Army and civilian divers at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) recently completed a month-long inspection and sustainment operation on critical pieces of undersea infrastructure in Kauai, Hawaii.

The PMRF is world's largest instrumented, multi-dimensional testing and training range, providing thousands of nautical miles for anti-submarine warfare aircrew training and evaluation of performance of anti-submarine warfare platforms and equipment. It is the only range in the world where subsurface, surface,

air and space vehicles can operate and be tracked simultaneously.

"Sustainment of the PMRF is critical because this range allows warfighters extraordinary flexibility in planning and conducting realistic multi-participant, multi-threat operations to train crews, evaluate tactics, and test weapon systems," said Capt. Kevin McGee PMA-205 program manager, whose team supported the effort.

At PMRF, cable conduits run offshore from the beach to various points on the range. The cables connect more than 1,000 square miles of sea floor, and are instrumented with hydrophones and underwa-

ter communication devices to an onshore range operations center, allowing range participants to be tracked in real time from the surface to the sea floor.

Weather and swell induced damage to cables at PMRF can be severe, with swell heights reaching 25 feet or more during storm seasons. Damage to the cables can include abrasion, corrosion and sand scouring, requiring continual preventative maintenance and repair to keep the range operational.

"In recent years, repairs to underwater cables in diver depths at ranges in southern California cost the Navy more than \$10 million. The Navy plans to prevent this from happening at PMRF through aggressive and continual preventive maintenance measures," said Mike Dick, a civilian engineer diver from PMRF Underwater Tracking Systems.

To complete this work, divers from PMA-205, PMRF Underwater Tracking Systems and military divers from the Army's 7th Engineer Detachment inspected thousands of feet of cable, completed cable stabilization, and installed anodes in water depths reaching more than 100 feet. Lt. Cmdr. Paulstephen Chierico, who supports PMA-205, completed seven

dives at PMRF this year.

"There is a common background between military trained divers, you can embed with a team, and with people who they have never met before and immediately trust them with your life. It was a great experience working with civilian and Army divers for this truly joint mission," said Lt. Cmdr. Paulstephen Chierico, PMA-205 ocean facilities team lead.

Aggressive sustainment is vital to keeping the existing ranges at the PMRF operational until PMA-205's Undersea Warfare Training Range Program recapitalization is complete. The team recently completed installation of a new underwater junction box site that informed the critical design review for the planned ranges and helped in establishing the best routes for instrumented cables.

About PMA-205

PMA-205 provides full life-cycle acquisition of naval aviation training platforms, general training systems, training range instrumentation systems, and distributed mission training centers to provide U.S. Navy and Marine Corps pilots, naval flight officers, aircrew, and maintainers with the training equipment required to provide lethal capability and operational readiness.

CH-53K lifts F-35C in external load test

A CH-53K King Stallion heavy lift helicopter from Marine Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron (VMX) performed an external load certification lift of an inoperable F-35 Lightning II airframe in December at Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, Maryland. The lift was to evaluate the load and inform future lift capabilities.

The CH-53K is the most powerful helicopter ever developed by the United States government. This new-build helicopter will continue to fill the CH-53E Super Stallion mission as a pillar of logistics and assault support for the U.S. Marine Corps efforts, but with significant improvements such as state-of-the-art, fly-by-wire technology reducing pilot work load, contributing to aircraft stability, and improving overall safety. The recent full rate production decision for the CH-53K is validation of the aircraft's value to the U.S. Marine Corps and last month's test lift is one more demonstration of its performance and reliability.

The NAS Patuxent River F-35 Integrated Test Force (ITF) test team, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) Cargo Lab, and others ensured a successful lift and flight by conducting load certification testing, sling configuration analysis, and cargo characteristics documentation

were completed as required. Data from the tests will inform the flight envelope for future events. An earlier crane test lift verified the sling, rig, pitch and bank attitudes of the jet, and control surface states.

The aircraft lifted is a developmental test carrier variant F-35C fighter jet that had accrued 750 flight hours during 450 test flights between 2010 and 2016. The F-35C and rigging weighed about 22,000 pounds after removal of its mission and propulsion systems, outer wings, and additional equipment.

The CH-53K is currently cleared to conduct a 27,000-pound external lift and is projected to be cleared for a 36,000-pound external lift, nearly three-times more under high, hot conditions than its predecessor, the CH-53E.

In September 2021, the CH-53K performed its first operational mission by lifting a Navy MH-60S Knighthawk helicopter from a 12,000-foot mountain top in California. That aircraft weighed approximately 15,000 pounds and was successfully transported 23 miles to Fallon, NV.

"This type of mission is precisely what the K was designed and built to do," said



Col. Kate Fleeger, program manager for the Heavy Lift Helicopter Program Office (PMA-261). "It continues to prove its value in support of Marine Corps operations, transporting equipment that no other rotary wing platform can lift."

The CH-53K entered its full rate production and deployment phase in December and is on schedule to declare Full Operational Capability in FY2029.

The F-35 Lightning II Joint Program Office (JPO) leads the life-cycle program

management of the F-35A, F-35B, and F-35C; the fifth-generation joint strike fighter (JSF) air system of choice for the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, international partners and foreign military sales customers.

Heavy Lift Helicopter Program Office (PMA-261) manages the cradle-to-grave procurement, development, support, fielding and disposal of the entire family of H-53 heavy lift helicopters.

Lexington Park Pair Arrested for Intent to Distribute Narcotics



A traffic stop Tuesday morning by St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office deputies resulted in several Controlled Dangerous Substance charges including Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics for a Lexington Park man and woman.

Amber Nicole Queen, age 28 of Lexington Park, and Barry Nathaniel Booker, age 61 of Lexington Park, were both charged with six counts of CDS Possession: Not Cannabis; CDS Possession Paraphernalia and CDS Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics. Queen was also charged with Possession of Contraband in Place of Confinement.

On Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023, Deputy



First Class Tyler Westphal was traveling southbound on Three Notch Road near North Shangri-La Drive in Lexington Park when he observed a 2007 Chrysler 300 with equipment violations. DFC Westphal conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and Booker was identified as the vehicle operator while Queen was the front seat passenger. A K-9 responded to the scene and scanned the vehicle, resulting in a positive alert.

A search of the vehicle was conducted, which located a \$5 bill that contained a white powdery substance, believed to be crack cocaine, and a small plastic baggie containing Oxycodone tablets. Inside of

the vehicle's trunk was a shoulder bag containing a large number of narcotics, along with a digital scale and other packaging material indicative of narcotics distribution. Also contained in the bag were two baggies of more suspected crack cocaine, one weighing 21.8 grams and the other 3.2 grams. There were also numerous pill bottles located, with individually wrapped bags of CDS.

One bottle contained a large bag of suspected heroin. Other bottles contained a quantity of Oxycodone tablets and 27 separate suboxone strips were also located in the same bag with other CDS. A quantity of Dextroamphetamine tablets was also located in a pill bottle in the same bag along with a scale and numerous empty clear bags.

Also seized was a large quantity of US currency.

On Queen's person, a small baggie with a white powdery substance and a hard white powder substance was located. Transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown by Deputy Taylor-Lynn Kril, Queen was searched and was found to have concealed a straw and clear baggie with white residue.

Both Queen and Booker are being held at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center.



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Commissioners, School Board Discuss Enrollment Trends



Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith told county commissioners this week that the school system is continuing to focus on improving and maintaining the buildings and other infrastructure it has rather than focus on any new construction.

But, Smith, said, enrollment has bounced back somewhat from the pandemic shortfalls and fears of an economic downturn could bring more students back to classrooms from homeschooling or other private instruction.

There are currently approximately 17,500 students enrolled in St. Mary's public schools from pre-K through 12th grade, Smith said.

"We have seen a complete rebounding at the high school and middle school level with enrollments similar to what they were in 2020 before the [COVID 19] pandemic," Smith said told county commissioners and board of education members during a Jan. 24 joint meeting. "We do not see that complete 100 percent rebounding across our elementary schools.

"We find our kindergarten enrollment lagging behind what it had been."

There are still plenty of young students that could be enrolled in the formative grades, Smith said, but parents are choosing other options and keeping their children close.

"A lot of that has to do with parents and the choices that they are making; we don't believe there are fewer children eligible to be in kindergarten," Smith said.

The school system is projected to add a few hundred children each year moving forward, Smith said.

"We have the capacity, currently, at elementary, middle and high school..." to meet foreseeable student

needs, Smith said.

Only Leonardtown High School has above 100 percent student capacity.

"Our CIP projects are predominated not by expansion and ultimately additional buildings but indeed it's taking care of the infrastructure and the investments we already have," said Smith.

Still, the county could see a rapid influx of students if economic conditions drive parents to put them back in classrooms.

"The economy is going to be a real challenge in the next several years," Smith said. "In the event of an economy that cools... and says that everyone needs to come into the workplace and not work from home, that usually drives more children to public schools.

"That could happen quite quickly; we have about 1,300 students enrolled in home instruction."

The school system tracks the academic progress of homeschooled students at the beginning and ending of the school year.

"We keep track of that; most of them are under an umbrella organization and we check their progress at the end of the year," Smith said. "That's basically a middle school rolling back into the population of St. Mary's County public schools.

"Most of it would probably be at the elementary level; these are all things we need to be aware of."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Discipline Workshop for Families, Providers

On Thursday, January 26, 2023, there will be a Conscious Discipline Parent and Childcare Provider Workshop from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the St. Mary's County Library, Leonardtown Branch, at 23630 Hayden Farm Lane in Leonardtown, Maryland 20650 (Meeting Room 1). Conscious Discipline Master Trainer, Amy Speidel, returns to St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) to present another helpful workshop for SMCPS Pre-Kindergarten families and childcare providers. This workshop is titled, "Conscious Discipline Calming Strategies for Parents and Providers," and participating and registered providers are able to receive Core of Knowledge training credit through MSDE for this workshop.

Participants will learn how adults can teach self-regulation by modeling their own ability to manage in difficult situations. There will be time to learn an "I Love You" ritual to share with your child(ren) and an opportunity to ask questions. Parents/childcare providers need to register at <https://www.smcps.org/news/conscious-discipline-parent-and-childcare-provider-pre-kindergarten-workshop-on-thursday-january-27-2023>

Childcare will not be available for this workshop.

Please contact Ms. Lynn Trehern, Early Childhood Instructional Resource Teacher/Coach, at pltrehern@smcps.org if you have a question regarding this workshop.

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Plan for Auto Parts Dealership Approved



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The plan for a 7,453 square-foot auto parts dealership in Hollywood got an initial approval this week after a unanimous vote from the county planning commission.

The project — O'Reilly Auto Parts — is proposed to be placed on Mervell Dean Road on two acres as part of the town center designation for Hollywood, which continues to see steady growth.

The land upon which the store would be built is vacant, according to county planning documents, and is sparsely wooded.

The store would include 37 parking spaces under the current plan, though the county's zoning ordinance requires just 30.

The developer also put forward a plan for public water and sewer service for the new facility, which the planning commission also approved.

Final approval for the public water and sewer connection must be given by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

The property where the store would be built would be beside the parcel that contains the Dollar General store.

When the planning commission approved the concept site plan for the auto parts store the included provisions that any road improvements required by the State Highway Administration and that there be no servicing of vehicles in the parking lot.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Commissioners Approve Hearing For Hollywood Fire Tax Increase

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Leadership with the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department say that increasing costs coupled with declines in fundraising mean they need to pursue an increase in the local fire tax to continue meeting their operating expenses.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted unanimously at their Jan. 24 business meeting to allow the fire company to move ahead with a public hearing in the request to be held Feb. 16 at the fire company headquarters located on Three Notch Road.

The fire company is requesting that the .044 cents on every \$100 of assessed property value be increased to .056 cents for every \$100 of assessed value.

According to county finance documents the increase would increase the average property owner's tax bill by \$37.20.

The number of households that would

be impacted by the increase is roughly 5,800, county documents stated, and would bring in an estimated \$1 million in revenue for the company rather than the current \$791,122 it now is projected to receive from the tax.

Bill Mattingly, fire house president, said the volunteers were asking for the maximum allowable increase in the fire tax.

The fire company records show they have a yearly average of about 850 calls for service for the last five years and about 125 active volunteer members.

William Rector, assistant fire chief, told commissioners that the cost of the personal protection equipment for firefighters has increased 40 percent since 2020 and fuel costs have increased by 20 percent.

Likewise, apparatus maintenance has increased by 31 percent on average over the last three years, Rector said.

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Commissioners Approve Two New Prosecutors

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Citing rising crime rates in recent years, State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling petitioned the Commissioners of St. Mary's County for funding for four more positions — two new attorneys and two paralegals — to help with the case load.

Sterling argued that other counties, such as on the Eastern Shore and in neighboring Calvert County, had smaller populations than St. Mary's but had equal or greater numbers of prosecutors to try defendants.

There are 13 attorneys employed in the State's Attorney's Office now, but with an increasing case load, Sterling said, more help was needed.

Sterling's request also included the reclassification of a senior legal assistant to a paralegal, bringing the total cost of the request to \$302,894, according to county documents.

"Our murder rate in the five-year crime trend has gone up 250 percent," Sterling told commissioners. "The rape rate has gone up 20 percent.

"The motor vehicle theft rate has gone up 24.6 percent."

Worcester County has 20 prosecutor slots with 16 of them filled, Sterling said, while Cecil County has 17 prosecutor positions but 15 of them are filled.

Worcester County has a population of



State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling

approximately 52,000, or roughly half of St. Mary's, Sterling said.

Calvert County has a population of 92,000 and a total of 16 prosecutors, Sterling said.

St. Mary's County also only has one investigator in the State's Attorney's Office, Sterling said while other counties with comparable populations have between three and six investigators to follow up on cases.

Sterling said she just hired a victim/witness advocate to work in her office but that is still behind other jurisdictions such as Calvert County's State's Attorney's Office which has seven such advocates.

Worcester County has six victim witness advocates, she said.

The commissioners also approved a new computer software case management system for Sterling's office at their Jan. 24 meeting at a cost of \$227,950 with annual costs thereafter of \$48,550.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

St. Clement's Island Museum

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St. Mary's Man Sentenced to a Year and a Day For Actions During Capitol Breach

A Maryland man was sentenced today to 12 months and one day in prison for a felony charge related to his actions during the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. His actions and the actions of others disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the presidential election.

John D. Andries, 37, of Piney Point pleaded guilty on August 23, 2022, in the District of Columbia to obstruction of an official proceeding. In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Court Judge Rudolph Contreras ordered \$2,000 restitution and three years of supervised release.

According to court documents, on Jan. 6, 2021, Andries illegally entered the Capitol Building through a broken window near the Senate Wing Door at approximately 2:15 p.m., just two minutes after rioters' initial breach at that location. Once inside, he proceeded to the Crypt and was among

rioters who attempted to push past U.S. Capitol Police officers. Eventually he and others were able to surge forward past the officers and further into the building.

Andries then went up the stairs to the second floor. He crossed through Statuary Hall and made his way to the halls outside the House of Representatives Chamber. There, he filmed himself and talked to the camera, making statements such as "Think they're scared yet," and "I think the police have gotten the message, we ain't back'n down." He eventually left the Speaker's Lobby area and exited the Capitol. He filmed himself again on the portico outside the building, stating that, "I think we're on the right side of history." Andries remained on the grounds, and at approximately 4:25 p.m., pushed against officers trying to disperse the crowd. He sat on a ledge and refused to move, leading officers to physically drag him away from the Capitol Building.

Andries was arrested on Feb. 4, 2021, in St. Mary's County, Maryland.

This case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and the Department of Justice National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland.

The case was investigated by the FBI's Baltimore Field Office. Valuable assistance was provided by the FBI's Washington Field Office, the Metropolitan Police Department, and the U.S. Capitol Police.

In the 24 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 950 individuals have been arrested in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 284 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement. The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with tips can call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or visit tips.fbi.gov.



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Two Charged with Murder In Great Mills Man's Death



Michelina Goodwin



Larry Murphy

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A man reported missing a few days before Christmas was actually murdered by his girlfriend, investigators with the Maryland State Police Criminal Enforce-

ment Division allege in court documents, who was able to persuade another man who was allegedly at the crime scene to help hide evidence of the killing and dispose of the victim's remains.

According to charging documents filed in St. Mary's County District Court,

James Volodimir Nalborczyk, 50, had been reported missing Dec. 21 though his girlfriend Michelina Desiree Goodwin had told his family that she would break up with him soon.

According to Goodwin, charging papers stated, Nalborczyk had gone to Virginia in a "company work truck."

But investigators said they soon found that Nalborczyk had been murdered, court papers stated.

When they confronted Goodwin at her residence on St. Joseph's Circle in Great Mills she told them she was there on Dec. 11 with the other defendant in the case — Larry Joseph Murphy — when there was an altercation and she retrieved a gun from "behind the door of her bedroom and pointed it at Nalborczyk," charging papers stated.

"She said the gun went off, striking Nalborczyk in the back and killing him.

Goodwin said Murphy helped her to dispose of the victim's remains — apparently he had been dismembered — in locations in Lexington Park and as far away as Nanjemoy in Charles County, police alleged.

Goodwin also told police that Murphy had helped her hide evidence and destroy evidence of the murder in "various ways," court papers alleged.

The disposal of the remains is believed to have occurred Dec. 17, state police investigators stated in charging documents, though Murphy denied culpability in the alleged murder.

"Murphy stated he was with Goodwin and Nalborczyk before going downstairs for a brief time," according to charging papers. "Murphy attempted to enter the area where Goodwin and Nalborczyk were in the house when Goodwin told Murphy to go back downstairs.

"Murphy stated that he went outside of the house and did not witness Nalborczyk being shot; Murphy also said that he never saw Nalborczyk again, and denied helping Goodwin dispose of Nalborczyk's remains."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Ivanchev Found Guilty of Negligent Manslaughter in Couple's Death

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A St. Mary's County jury found Alexander Ivanchev guilty last week of negligent manslaughter after a four-day trial on his

role in the deaths of Melody Russell, 29, and Shawn Bailey, 27, a young pair who were engaged to be married before being killed in fiery crash Ivanchev caused.

Ivanchev, 40, of Lexington Park is being held without bond pending sentencing.

The crash occurred on July 30, 2021 when Ivanchev's vehicle collided with the one Bailey and Russell were in and their vehicle burst into flames at the intersection of Route 5 and Golden Beach Road.

Ivanchev's vehicle was moving at about 100 miles an hour when the crash occurred according to law enforcement reports at the time.

A video recording of the crash in which Ivanchev's vehicle can be seen speeding up the north-bound right turn lane next to a long line of cars before smashing into the car driven by Bailey and Russell.

The couple had recently become engaged to be married; when Ivanchev's vehicle struck theirs it exploded and burst into flames.

Both were declared dead on the scene.

Ivanchev was badly injured in the crash and was eventually released from confinement to await trial.

Ivanchev's passport was confiscated; he is originally from Bulgaria.

The trial had been postponed several times and Ivanchev has been in and out of incarceration since his initial confinement when he was arrested in March of 2021 for driving a vehicle — a tractor — near his St. Mary's City home to move firewood, according to police reports.

Ivanchev had been prohibited by court order from driving as a condition of his release.

Ivanchev's defense counsel had argued in court filings that he had suffered a head injury before the crash and that the injury contributed to or likely was the cause of the crash.

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Aleksandar Ivanchev

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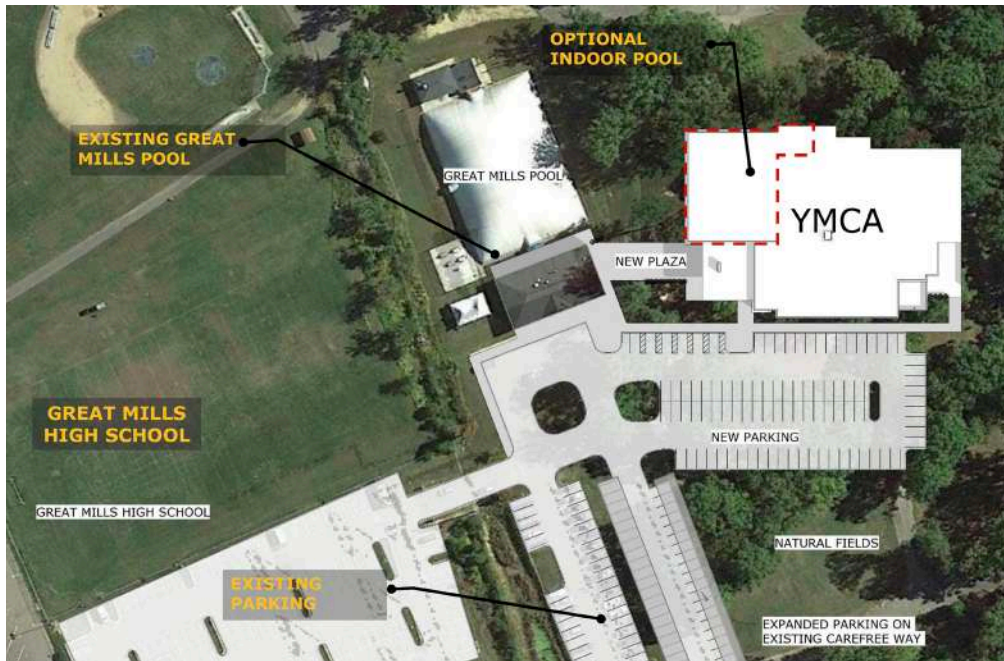
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Elected Leaders Want Conditions on YMCA Funding



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Last year the Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted, with just one voice in opposition, to seek bonding authority to put public funds — \$15 million — behind the construction of a YMCA community center to be built on Great Mills Road near the county-owned public pool.

It was the culmination of much debate, research and planning into the design, placement and funding of a much-awaited project; the decision was to have the county fund the \$15 million and the YMCA of the Chesapeake raise \$4 million to build the new facility with the YMCA managing what the county owned and guiding the programming there.

Civic activists, who, on occasion clashed with commissioners over the seemingly slow pace of deliberations to make the facility a reality, were pleased and declared a level of victory in the affair.

But now those same activists are crying foul over efforts by state-level elected officials — one of them a former county commissioner who has long opposed county funding for the project — to put conditions on the tax payer money that would fund the greatest portion of the construction budget.

In an open letter to the press, the head

of the St. Mary's County Democratic Central Committee, Julie Randall, claimed that Del. Matt Morgan and the recently elected Del. Todd Morgan were refusing "to forward for state approval \$15 million in bond authority for the construction of the YMCA in the county."

"After years of discussion, planning and public input, the county commissioners entered into a formal agreement last year with the YMCA for the building of a YMCA, with the county agreeing to contribute that \$15 million to the project," Randall continued. "The project's total cost is expected to be just over \$22.1 million and all costs of operation will be assumed by the YMCA when construction is completed."

Randall said in the missive that both delegates made clear at a Jan. 10 joint meeting of the delegation and the new county commissioner board that they wanted the YMCA to pursue state or federal funds for the project rather than burden the county with the costs.

"It's no secret that Del. Todd Morgan, as a county commissioner, opposed the YMCA, even though the facility is proposed for the district he was supposed to represent, and abstained in the 4-0 vote to move forward in July of 2022," the missive continued.

But Matt Morgan, now in his third term

as a St. Mary's representative, said local Democrats are wrong about what the local delegation is pursuing regarding funding for the YMCA.

The deal between the county and the YMCA was peculiar, Matt Morgan said, in that all other facilities that the YMCA of the Chesapeake have built and operate have all been privately funded.

This was the only one of their projects that put tax-payer money on the line, he said.

"The \$15 million for the YMCA is unlike any other project in St. Mary's," the District 29A representative told The County Times. "This is the first time where the public money would be available before the private money was.

"We want to be fiscally responsible with the public's money."

During the Jan. 24 meeting of county commissioners, Commissioners Mike Hewitt said the funding was going forward for the project.

"We need people to understand this is a process we're working through," Hewitt said. "For those who say it's not being supported by the delegation, that's not the case as I see it."

Commissioner Eric Colvin said also that commissioners were watching to see that the YMCA would hold up its end of the bargain.

"I have no intention of moving ahead with the project if the fundraising has not been done," Colvin said.

Morgan said he has crafted a draft bond bill that would give the county the bonding authority to raise the \$15 million in tax-payer funds for the YMCA contingent upon the YMCA raising their \$4 million portion of the project budget.

"Nobody was talking about building anything this year," Morgan said. "This incentivizes the YMCA to go out and fund raise.

"This is so they actually have to commit to what they say they are going to do; this is all to protect the tax payer."

Morgan said he crafted the bond bill with the support of Todd Morgan and Dis-

trict 29 Senator Jack Bailey.

The most recent row over the YMCA project reveals the level of acrimony that has followed its proposal through the political corridors of power in St. Mary's and now in the Maryland General Assembly.

The concept of a community center, which morphed into a YMCA, in St. Mary's to provide programs, activities and even some job training and educational services to some of the most allegedly underserved residents here has met with widespread approval.

But it's placement in a neighborhood that has suffered not only economic decline but significant violent crime spikes in recent years has raised concerns not only over safety but equity.

Matt Morgan was quick to point out that the design of the YMCA calls for building an integral pool next to an already-existing county owned aquatic facility.

"The northern end of the county has none of these resources," Matt Morgan said. "It seems the people who talk about equity care about it the least."

Todd Morgan said putting conditions on the YMCA funding was an equitable solution and that in his 12 years as commissioner, the board voted to invest about \$70 million in public funds in various programs and projects for the Lexington Park area.

Matt Morgan expected the bond measure to pass this session in Annapolis.

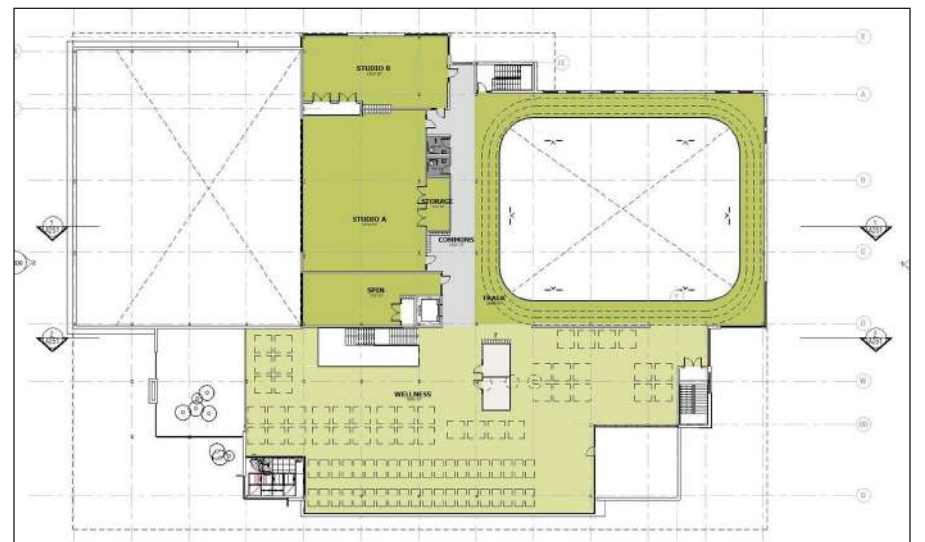
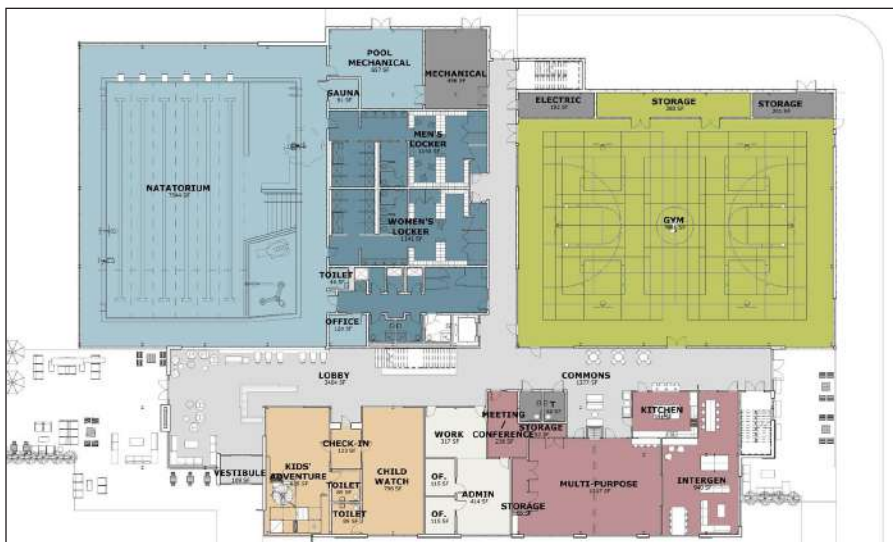
He said the local Democratic Party should support his measure as it would help ensure the project's eventual success.

"I know Ms. Randall and the local Democratic Party have an issue with this in that they're not always the most responsible with tax payer money," Matt Morgan said.

In her missive, Randall said the legislation being pursued could scuttle the deal between the county and the YMCA.

"This move by the legislative delegation, i.e. the Delegates Morgan, indicates either ignorance or lack of respect for the work the county commissioners and citizens have already put in to negotiate with the YMCA and it adds unneeded risk to the substantial public fundraising still required," Randall wrote.

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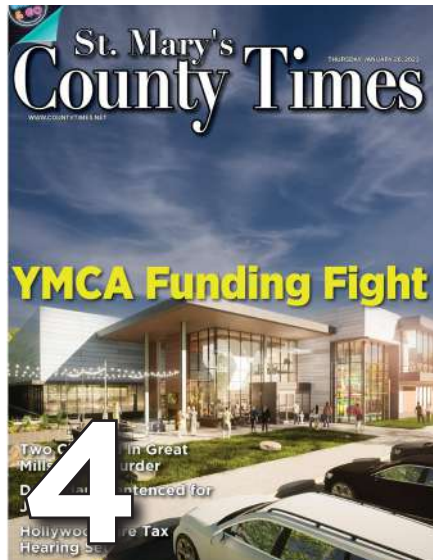
“IT SEEMS THE PEOPLE WHO TALK ABOUT EQUITY CARE ABOUT IT THE LEAST.”
 DEL. MATT MORGAN ON THE ROW OVER YMCA FUNDING



LOCAL 5
Two Charged in Missing Man's Murder



LOCAL 7
Commissioners Approve New Positions for State's Attorney's Office



4 ON THE COVER
State leaders want conditions on YMCA funding

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JAN 26 Mostly Sunny Hi: 51° Lo: 30°	FRI, JAN 27 Mostly Sunny Hi: 45° Lo: 31°	SAT, JAN 28 Mostly Sunny Hi: 52° Lo: 36°	SUN, JAN 29 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 54° Lo: 39°
MON, JAN 30 AM Showers Hi: 52° Lo: 37°	TUE, JAN 31 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 52° Lo: 43°	WED, FEB 1 Rain Hi: 52° Lo: 35°	THU, FEB 2 AM Rain/Snow Hi: 39° Lo: 22°




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