

Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023

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**Commissioners OK
School Budget Audit**

**Cosgrove Appointed
Public Works Director**

**Arrest Made in
Fatal Shooting**

BAY DISASTER
WITH NORTH BEACH HEROES

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“WE MUST LOOK OUT FOR OUR FUTURE WHILE ALSO BEING FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE AND TRANSPARENT.”

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Commissioners OK schools budget audit



LOCAL 5
Arrest made in fatal shooting



ON THE COVER
Author plumbs the depths of ship wreck

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, AUG 3	FRI, AUG 4	SAT, AUG 5	SUN, AUG 6
 Partly Cloudy Hi: 83° Lo: 68°	 Showers Hi: 77° Lo: 67°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 67°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 71°
MON, AUG 7	TUE, AUG 8	WED, AUG 9	THU, AUG 10
 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 89° Lo: 72°	 PM Showers Hi: 85° Lo: 67°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 67°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 70°

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Commissioners Move Forward With School System Budget Audit

Majority of School Board Oppose

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is moving ahead with hiring a firm to do a performance audit of the Board of Education budget. But the majority of the school board at a July 31 joint meeting opposed the idea and went into defensive mode about the board's budgeting and fiscal oversight. School Superintendent Dr. Andrae Townsel also said he felt the audit wasn't necessary but promised cooperation with the endeavor.

At the meeting Commissioner President Buddy Hance said his board had agreed to pay for the audit. At the meeting the framework of the audit was hammered out and once finalized will be used to solicit bids to conduct the audit.

Hance said at the beginning of the two-hour session, "When you say audit, everybody thinks, what are they doing wrong? Well, they're not doing anything wrong. It's more of an evaluation of things that you do just to make sure you're doing as best you can."

County Administrator Mark Willis said a performance audit "means an assessment of an entity's or program's practices to determine whether the entity or program is oper-

ating economically and efficiently. Whether corrective actions for improving its performance are appropriate."

But Board of Education President Inez Claggett quickly became defensive: "I would like to ask our board of county commissioners what specifically has occurred at the school system to bring you all to this point where you feel a performance audit is necessary?"

Hance responded, "I don't think that any particular thing happened. As I said in opening comments, I think the ask for \$24 million caught some people by surprise and generated a lot of discussion about where's the money going."

Claggett asked, "Are you aware that the school system is audited on several different occasions by several different entities and currently we both share the same auditing firm, that does our annual financial statement review?" Hance said he was.

"We're audited too, but I don't think the intent of those audits is the same as the intent of this audit," Hance said.

Claggett then asked, "Do you understand that we're also audited by the Office of Legislative Audits, which does a performance audit of the school system and has outlined some findings in the past which

have been corrected. There are a few that are repeat findings in the school system is still continuing to improve processes and procedures to make sure that those findings are corrected."

The state was critical of the school system's procurement policies.

Commissioner Mark Cox said, "it's a good day for Calvert County when two of its elected boards come together for the common goal of improving our education foundation for the people and for the children of this county. And we must look out for our future while also being fiscally responsible and transparent."

Claggett said, "So Commissioner Cox, when you read the budget book, are you stating that you don't understand based on our book where the funding is going?"

Cox responded, "So when the board came back to us back a couple months ago, they were asking for 24 extra million dollars. We agreed to \$13.414 million, which was not in the budget book. So next year with Blueprint coming down the pike, where are we going to be?"

Claggett said, "After the county commissioners approve their portion of funding to the school system, the school system does a reconciliation based on the funding that is approved. So, Mr. Johnson (chief financial officer) and Dr. Townsel are in discussions to do that reconciliation, to produce a final approved budget book that would show you how that \$13 million that the county has given us will be spent."

Normally the school board finalizes its budget in June prior to the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1.

School board member Dawn Balinski read a statement in which she said, "I believe that as the largest employer in Calvert County, we are a lean and mean organization. We are small compared to other counties around us, but we are mighty when it comes to performance. And we do a good job of spending Calvert's funds responsibly. So, on the one hand, I'd like the audit to take place because I do not believe that there would be any kind of sizable finding in that. If it would make you guys feel comfortable. And I do worry very much about the cost to us collectively as a county. I asked myself if it were up to me to spend money for this study, and to take up an untold number of hours of staff time for our staff who are already overworked, and have undergone audits over and over, would it be worth it?"

"And my answer to myself is no," she concluded.

Townsel said, "With the budget that we do have, we're going to show a return on investment in student achievement for sure.

That's one thing I can show taxpayers that your money is being well spent because of how our school district is performing."

Commissioner Todd Ireland took the lead in getting everyone to go over the list of potential areas for the audit that was presented by Willis and whittle them down.

During the discussion, Commissioner Catherine Grasso said, "I want to know the big picture. I want to know what I'm signing off on. I want to know how we're doing in all aspects of the budget. The BOE budget, for me, is an unknown, and I don't spend money in my home without knowing what I'm spending it on."

Several months ago, board member Lisa Grenis made a motion for an audit. She was supported by Jana Post, but the other three board members opposed. Balinski said at the time that she didn't oppose an audit but felt it could not be done in time to impact this year's budget.

At the joint meeting, Grenis said, "If we could find a two-percent savings, two percent of \$50 million is a lot of money."

The school system's Chief Financial Officer Scott Johnson was asked what he thought of the performance audit. He said, "There may be some benefit. But I certainly respect trustee Balinski's concern that there may not be sufficient benefit to pay for the cost."

Claggett, Balinski and board Vice President Antoine White continued to persist in their opposition to the audit throughout the meeting. After the unanimous commissioner vote to proceed with it, public comment was solicited and there was both support and opposition.

Joshua Johnson with Concerned Citizens of Calver County said, "It was concerning when we found \$23 million (in fund balance) when you're asking for \$24 million. And I think the biggest thing about this is the commissioners have come to the table and given \$13 and a half million on the idea that they want to see what's best for this community. The taxpayers also need to know that their money is spent well. Because if you take that \$24 million, almost a thousand dollars goes to every family here."

Jeri Bell, a former budget analyst for the City of New York, said, "I don't think you're going to find the cost savings that you're hoping to find in the audit as proposed."

Claire Hill said, "This is a mock meeting, much like in the movie Oppenheimer. You're attacking the people who are doing their job because you'll personally feel a need to control a nonpartisan group. This was an election stunt."

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Correction

In the story in the July 27, 2023 issue entitled "Federal Pandemic Funding Controversial in Chesapeake Beach," we reported that the vote on the library funding was 3-3 and that Mayor Mahoney had to break the tie. Actually, the vote was 4-2 in favor of the funding. The County Times regrets the error.

Symposium to Tell of 68-Year-Old Bay Tragedy

North Beach Residents Called Heroes

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The 68th anniversary of one of the Chesapeake Bay's deadliest disasters will be marked with a symposium at Calvert Marine Museum on Sunday Aug. 13.

The three-masted schooner Levin J. Marvel capsized off Fairhaven on Aug. 12, 1955. Of the 23 passengers and four crew members onboard, 14 people died and 13 survived. Had it not been for the heroic efforts of the citizens of North Beach more lives would have been lost.

Maritime reporter and photo-journalist Kathy Bergren Smith details the story in the book "Deadly Gamble" published last year by New Bay Books.

"The response from North Beach was just incredible," Smith said in a July 31 interview with The County Times.

According to Smith, the Levin J. Marvel was built in 1898 as a three-masted, cargo carrying schooner. It had no engine. "It was built for a really specific job, which was to carry lumber from Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. So, it was built to fit through the C and D Canal at the time. And it was a very successful class of schooner called a Chesapeake Ram schooner."

Trucks put that job out of business.

After World War II, Herman Knust, an employee of the B&O Railway, went on a Windjammer cruise in Maine, and became enthralled with the idea of doing something similar in the Chesapeake Bay. "So, he bought the Marvel and modified it," she said. "He took that cargo hold and put cabins in it. He made a nice galley and a nice dining room, and he built a lounge up on the deck."

The Marvel was abandoned after the business was sold. Smith said, "In 1954, this fellow came along, John Meckling, who had not very much money, but he was a big dreamer and very mechanically inclined."

"He thought if anybody could get this old thing going, it would be him," she said. He made minimal repairs, but it really wasn't in good shape.

On that fateful trip they left their dock in Annapolis with Hurricane Connie heading up the East Coast and hurricane warnings flying to the south. They docked in Cambridge. The captain's belief, she said, "If this storm does materialize, we'll be safely tied in Cambridge, well away from the Bay."

Smith said, "The warnings were lifted because it looked like that the storm was turning out to sea. And so, Meckling decided that even though there was a storm warning still flying, they figured they'd get the outer bands of it. He figured he could make it back to Annapolis. And that was the gamble." She noted they could have just bused their passengers back to Annapolis.

Smith explained, "They left Thursday afternoon. And, the wind really knocked down, and it became very still, calm before the storm sort of thing. And so, it took them a very long time to get down the Choptank River into the Bay. They got into the Bay in the early morning hours. At that point,



Mechling had turned the radio off and didn't get the update that the storm had changed its course and was heading directly up the Bay."

She went on to say, "He got out into the Bay during when the storm was really building, and they lost their sails. There was no way they could turn and head north toward Annapolis.

Missing the rivers to the north, she said, "His last real chance was Herring Bay. That's where he landed. He took the ship into Herring Bay about a mile and a half off of Fairhaven. And he dropped anchor there, and it broke up in the afternoon."

Instead of trying to get unto harbor, she said, "He tried to save the ship probably because that was his business."

Smith said, "The ship really just fell apart, literally. And everyone was flung in the water. Now this is mile and a half off of Fairhaven, and you've got the northeast wind blowing people to shore, essentially, unless they were blown away."

A 26-year-old athletic woman started swimming towards shore. Smith explained, "It took her four hours to get to shore and came up onto North Beach where there was a line of cottages, the beach area along the waterfront where the county line is."

"This girl washed up on shore, and these people came out of their beach cottage, and they were mostly summer cottages there. And they saw this apparition of this young girl literally climbing out of the water. And she said, 'there's 26 other people'."

North Beach citizens sprang into action. "The lady that owned that cottage, she just started calling everybody in town to come down to see what they could do to help. Apparently, it was just a spectacular immediate response. People came to the beach, they drove their cars and put their lights on."

Smith said, "Really the most dramatic rescue was by two guys. Six people, including the captain, made it to a duck blind, about a hundred yards off of shore of this North Beach area. And one of the women was waving frantically her bright yellow,

southwestern rain hat, and they saw it from the beach. But there was very little way to get out there because the big fishing boats from Rod and Reel were bottoming out because the seas were so large. It's very shallow there."

"And so there were two guys who were part of the volunteer fire operation," she said, and "they were World War II vets. They came out in a little tiny 16-foot skiff and rescued the people two by two off of that duck blind."

She noted, "All the surrounding jurisdictions turned up, the cops and state police and Coast Guard, everybody was responding to this. The community was all out there. People were making coffee and bringing it to the first responders, bringing blankets and clothing, et cetera down."

"The people formed a human chain along the jetty down there to be sure that if people washed up onto those rocks, they could get them up."

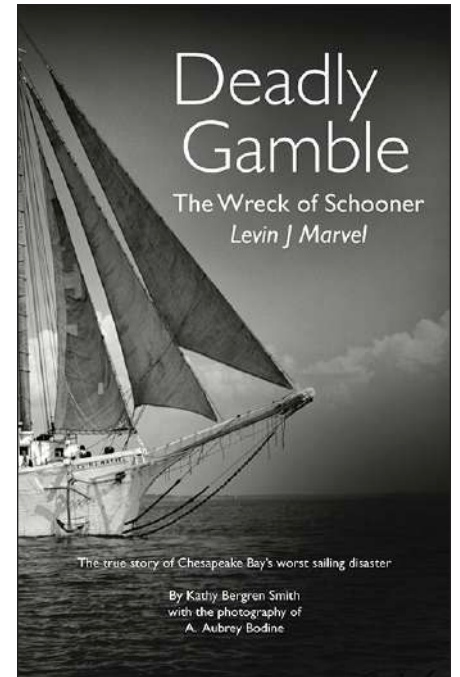
Of those rescuers, she said, "They ended up getting the Carnegie medal for heroism and all sorts of other awards."

The captain was charged with manslaughter but ended up only being found guilty of negligence.

A Coast Guard inquiry was launched. They had no jurisdiction over those types of passenger vessels. "They saw this as an opportunity to get the attention of Congress to enact legislation that would give them jurisdiction to regulate passenger vessels. And that was what happened," she said.

Smith found out about the incident attending another Coast Guard inquiry in which it was mentioned. And then by happenstance she was visiting her niece in Key West who put her in touch with Captain Bill Verge, who is executive director of the Coast Guard Cutter Museum ship, the USCGC Ingraham there.

She explained, "He sat with me on the fantail of this historic ship and told me this amazing story that occurred when he just completed his junior year of school in Severna Park. He and his friend Steve had



taken a job that summer as deck hands on the Marvel. And he spent the days just telling me the whole story. I was spellbound. He's on his 80's now, but everything he told me checked out."

He wasn't on board that fateful day. He with a friend who were trying to make arrangements to buy the ship.

Verge will be one of the speakers on Aug. 13, noon to 4 p.m. at Calvert Marine Museum. The agenda is as follows:

- **12 p.m.:** "The Deadly Shipwreck That is Still Saving Lives" with Dr. Susan Langley, Maryland State Underwater Archeologist
- **12:45pm:** "Local Responders/Local Heroes" with Diane Donovan Harrison of the Calvert County Historical Society
- **1:30pm:** "A Survivor's Story and Those Who Were Left Behind" Panel Discussion with John Ferguson, a Levin J. Marvel passenger who survived, and Maggie Roberts Barkin, whose parents were LJM passengers. Moderator Kathy Bergren Smith, author, Deadly Gamble
- **2:15pm:** "The Court Case" with Bill Verge, LT., USCGR, (Ret), deckhand on the Levin J. Marvel and Chairman/CEO of the Miami Dade Historical Maritime Museum, Inc. d.b.a. USCGC Ingraham Museum
- **3 p.m.:** "The Deadly Gamble" with Kathy Bergren Smith, author
- **3:45 p.m.:** "How the Marvel Changed Federal Boating Safety Laws" Panel Discussion with Dale Rausch, CAPT., USCGR, retired; and Marc Cruder, CDR., USCG, retired. Moderator Bill Verge.

Artifacts from the Levin J. Marvel will be on display.

The event is a partnership of The Calvert County Historical Society, Calvert Marine Museum, New Bay Books and Author Kathy Bergren Smith, author.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Suspect Charged in Yardley Hills Murder

Calvert County Sheriff's Deputies responded on Aug. 1 around 3:10 p.m., to the 1600 block of Mint Court, Yardley Hills in Prince Frederick, for the report of a shooting. Deputies arrived on scene and located Dakarai Nivek Milburn, 23 of Prince Frederick, suffering from a single gunshot wound to the chest. Life saving measures were attempted, but Milburn was pronounced deceased on the scene.

Detectives quickly apprehended the suspect, Anthony NMN Hill, 28 of Washington D.C.

A handgun was recovered on scene. This was an isolated incident.

As a result of the investigation, Hill has been charged with First-Degree Murder, Second-Degree Murder, and an array of handgun offenses. Hill is being held on a no bond status.



Anthony NMN Hill

Anyone with information about this incident, is asked to please contact Det. J. Buck at Joshua.Buck@calvertcountymd.gov.

Press Release from CCSO.

New Speed Camera Sites Announced



The Calvert County Safety for Students Enforcement Program is in effect year-round. The speed cameras will be moved randomly between the school zones. As a courtesy, the locations of the cameras are posted on the Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) website and Facebook page.

The goal of the cameras is to reduce the number of speeding offenses in school zones, reduce accidents in school zones, maximize the enforcement operations of the Sheriff's Office, and to provide a deterrent to potential future violators. To this end, a new automated speed enforcement site will be in the 2400 and 2500 block of Solomons Island Road in Huntingtown, in the northbound and southbound school zones of The Calverton School.

The current location of all speed camera enforcement sites consists of:

- Huntingtown Elementary School
- Northern High School
- Northern Middle School

- Dowell Elementary School
- Mt. Harmony Elementary School
- Windy Hill Elementary School
- Calvert Country School
- Mutual Elementary School
- Mill Creek Middle School
- Cardinal Hickey Academy
- St. Leonard Elementary
- The Calverton School

Automated Speed Enforcement Cameras are activated Mondays through Fridays from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in designated school zones. Violators must be travelling 12 mph over the posted speed limit for the camera to activate and a citation to be issued. A school zone speed camera violation is a \$40 fine with no points. Citations are issued to the registered owner of the vehicle.

For a complete list of speed camera locations, go to the Calvert County Sheriff's website at <https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/2066/Speed-Cameras>

Press Release from CCSO

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Respect for Law Awardees Honored



Pictured (l-r) Optimist Club of Calvert President Krista Brezina, Honorees Kevin Bauer, Kaitlin Sewell, James Strain, Allison Walton, Robert W. Burggraaf, and Solomons Optimist Club Treasurer Allen Fissel.

Seven honorees from various Calvert County law enforcement agencies were honored for their dedication to their professions and the community at the 54th Annual Respect for Law Awards Banquet on July 24, hosted by the Calvert-Prince Frederick and Solomons Optimist clubs. This year's honorees were Corrections Deputy First Class James Strain, Assistant

State's Attorney Allison Walton, Calvert County Sheriff's Master Deputy Robert W. Burggraaf, Maryland State Trooper First Class Kevin Bauer, Animal Control Officer Kaitlin Sewell, Public Safety Dispatcher I Theresa Anderson and Maryland Natural Resources Police Officer First Class Allison Higgs.

Commissioners Announce New Director of Communications

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is pleased to announce Eryn Lowe has been appointed as the director of Calvert County Communications & Media Relations (CMR).

Lowe has been professionally active in the field of communications for over 15 years, with experience in public relations, strategic communications, marketing, web design and business development. As director, Lowe is responsible for managing the daily operations, activities and services of CMR to ensure effective and cohesive internal and external communications. Her work involves planning, developing and implementing integrated county communications strategies and policies, including establishing goals and objectives for the organization, strategic and crisis communications, media relations, advertising, public information, social media, video and graphic services, print design and production, and statistical research and reporting.

"In her time with Calvert County Government, Eryn has routinely proven her commitment and dedication to keeping citizens and employees informed. We are confident she will continue to excel in her role and we recognize her open-minded leadership skills and collaborative approach, leading her team by example," said BOCC President Earl F. "Buddy" Hance. "The BOCC is confident her experience will continue to serve CMR and the residents of Calvert County well for years to come."

"Throughout her tenure, Eryn fostered an effective communication strategy that positively impacted our community," said County Administrator Mark Willis. "I look forward to watching her leadership and expertise continue to enhance our communication efforts and keep our residents well-informed about the county's initiatives and services."

Lowe holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of North



Eryn Lowe

Carolina at Wilmington. She is also a member of the Public Relations Society of America and the National Association of Counties. Lowe started her career with Calvert County Government in October 2018 as a communications program specialist. Lowe was promoted to deputy director of CMR in 2020.

Prior to joining Calvert County Government, Lowe fine-tuned her communications skills while serving the credit union industry for 11 years, overseeing design concepts, performing analytical analysis, managing all marketing materials, and implementing product development programs for new and existing markets. Lowe worked directly with the Board of Directors and shareholders to oversee branch operations and business development to increase share of wallet and exceed targeted revenues.

Press Release from Calvert County government

Public Works Director Appointed

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is pleased to announce John A. "JR" Cosgrove Jr., has been appointed as the director of the Calvert County Department of Public Works.

Cosgrove is a dedicated and effective leader with more than 22 years of experience in engineering, project management, formulating proposals, overseeing budgets, coordinating capital projects and executing project bids. As director, Cosgrove is responsible for Water and Sewer, Solid Waste and Recycling, Highway Maintenance, General Services, Capital Projects, Project Management and Inspections, Fleet Maintenance, Mosquito Control, Real Property Management and mailroom operations. The department provides technical engineering, construction management, maintenance and operations services.

"It is a pleasure to announce this appointment and recognize the hard work and dedication JR has provided to Calvert County," said BOCC President Earl F. "Buddy" Hance. "JR has distinguished himself through his hard work and critical thinking and has served Calvert County and our citizens honorably. I look forward to many years of collaboration as we continue to work for the best interest of Calvert County and our residents."

"During his time with Calvert County Government, JR has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, dedication and a commitment to serving our community," said County Administrator Mark Willis. "His experience has proven invaluable in tackling various challenges and driving effective solutions. We have full confidence in his ability to lead Public Works with excellence and continue to enhance the county's infrastructure."

Cosgrove holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Maryland and became a Maryland Professional Engineer in 2006. He began his tenure with Calvert County Government as the Public Works division chief of capital



JR Cosgrove

projects before being promoted to deputy director in 2020. He has served as the acting director of Public Works since January 2023.

Prior to joining Calvert County Government in 2018, Cosgrove mastered his professional skills working for a private engineering firm in Calvert County. For 18 years, he worked completing commercial and residential design plans, executing project bids and coordinating projects cross departmentally between engineering and survey teams. Cosgrove is a seventh-generation farmer in the county, and he owns and operates a farm in St. Leonard with his wife. His family has resided in the county since the late 1600s, and Cosgrove is actively involved in the community through multiple agricultural volunteer organizations.

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.

Press Release from Calvert County government

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Commissioners Highlight 200 Days of Accomplishments

Committed to transparency and accountability to Calvert County citizens, the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has diligently applied a fiscally responsible approach during its first 200 days in office to improve the quality of life for all residents. Since taking office, the commissioners have demonstrated a strong commitment to fostering an open and transparent government while prioritizing key issues such as improving community engagement and customer service, enhancing public safety, improving infrastructure and supporting economic growth.

Public Safety

The safety and well-being of Calvert County residents is the BOCC's top priority. Commissioners work closely with local law enforcement agencies, fire departments and emergency services to enhance public safety measures, allocate necessary resources and support initiatives aimed at safeguarding the community. This commitment is reflected in the FY 2024 budget with the addition of four new Career Emergency Medical Services positions and additional funding for the Calvert County Sheriff's Office.

Education

Recognizing the importance of education and youth development, 41 percent of the fiscal year (FY) 2024 general fund operating budget and 22 percent of the six-year capital projects budget is dedicated to public schools. The commissioners approved a \$13.4 million increase over the funding provided in FY 2023 for education funding. The commissioners value collaboration and open discussion with the Board of Education and will hold a special meeting with the Board of Education at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center on Monday, July 31, 2023, at 6 p.m.

Economic Development

The BOCC has prioritized opportunities to stimulate targeted economic growth and job creation, while preserving the county's rural character by promoting small businesses, agribusiness and agritourism throughout the county:

- The BOCC has provided financial assistance to support small business and stimulate tourism revenue. The Department of Economic development awarded nearly \$1.2 million to 39 local small businesses across various industries this year through the Calvert County Small Business Assistance Grant Fund. The commissioners also approved the creation of a Tourism Development Incentive Fund, which is designed to provide up to \$25,000 toward fees and permits for Calvert County businesses and nonprofits to host special events in the county.
- Recognizing that locally owned businesses are the backbone of our economy, the BOCC has celebrated 68 new and expanded businesses since January 2023. Commissioners regularly visit



From left: Commissioners Mike Hart (Vice President), Catherine M. Grasso, Earl F. "Buddy" Hance (President), Mark C. Cox Sr. and Todd Ireland.

local businesses on milestone anniversaries to personally congratulate and thank them for their contributions to the Calvert County community.

Infrastructure

Recognizing the importance of reliable infrastructure, the commissioners have prioritized investments in transportation, utilities and public facilities. They have initiated vital infrastructure projects to improve roadways, upgrade water and wastewater systems and enhance public spaces, ensuring that Calvert County remains a desirable place to live, work and visit.

Technology

Leveraging the power of technology, the commissioners continue to explore new advancements and embrace emerging trends to drive innovation and improve the lives of Calvert County residents:

- Calvert County will benefit from a \$942,000 grant awarded to Comcast by the State of Maryland to expand broadband access to 36 homes and add nine miles of infrastructure in the county.
- This grant funding complements the significant work the BOCC is doing in partnership with Comcast to complete the broadband infrastructure buildout to all in Calvert who request it. Through the FY 2024 budget, the BOCC increased its ongoing investment in Technology Services to improve the county's digital, citizen and government experience through technology and leadership.

Community Engagement

The commissioners have actively pursued opportunities to improve communication and gather feedback from citizens:

- The BOCC released a bi-annual community survey that aims to help officials better understand residents' priorities and concerns on county services and overall quality of life.

Results will be made available to the public along with how the county plans to improve or maintain services based on citizen feedback. The next survey will begin soon and will be announced in a press release and on social media.

- The commissioners invited citizens to submit suggestions for state legislative requests to help shape policies that directly impact the Calvert County community. Suggestions can be submitted through a new online form at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/LegislativeRequest. Legislative requests may be submitted until July 31, 2023.
- The commissioners continue to increase local access programming coverage of public meetings, numerous short educational videos, the "Live at Linda's" animal adoption series and official livestream of local Independence Day fireworks shows. All programming is accessible on Comcast channel 99 and 1070 HD and www.youtube.com/CalvertCountyGov.

Customer Service

Recognizing that local government is first and foremost a customer service organization, the commissioners have taken steps to streamline services internally and externally to provide the best possible experience for citizens:

- The county implemented an online permitting guide and application and payment portal, allowing citizens to conveniently view requirements, apply, check status and pay for permits online, starting at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Permit. Since the new online application system went live in January, the average permit review time has been reduced by more than half, from 62 days to less than 26 days.
- Appeal Landfill is now accepting

electronic payment using credit and debit cards.

- Initiated improvements for water and sewer metering and billing, including an online portal for customers to register for updates and submit questions and suggestions at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/WSPortal.
- The BOCC awarded the construction contract for a new county administration building in the heart of Prince Frederick to serve residents with county government functions from one location.

Planning for the Future

Recognizing the importance of managed growth, the BOCC has implemented projects, initiatives and strategies that aim to balance smart growth with environmental protection and community needs:

- The commissioners have prioritized active engagement with the community to gather input and incorporate public perspectives into the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance update process to ensure that decisions align with the aspirations and needs of the community.
- The BOCC is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for residents of all ages. Adults age 60 and older currently make up nearly a quarter of the county's total population; this number is projected to increase by over 30% in the next 25 years. The Age-Friendly Community initiative is working to enhance housing, public transportation, health services and other programs that will enable older adults to continue living independently, with the resources and support needed to maintain a high quality of life. Residents are invited to complete an online survey, which is available at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/CommissionOnAging.
- The Breezy Point Beach & Campground shoreline restoration project has officially begun, marking a significant step toward the preservation and revitalization of one of Calvert County's coastal treasures.

Citizens are encouraged to stay engaged with the BOCC through their meetings, which are broadcast live on Comcast channel 99 and 1070 HD and on the county website at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Meetings. Those interested can also stay up-to-date on important information by subscribing to the BOCC weekly newsletter, "Calvert Currents," at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/Newsletters. For questions, please contact the Communications & Media Relations Division of the Office of the County Administrator at 410-535-2003.

Press Release from Calvert County government

CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of July 17– July 23, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,648 calls for service throughout the community.

Property Destruction: 23-50970

On July 18, 2023, Sgt. Morder received a report of property destruction. The victim arrived at the Sheriff's Office to report that an unknown suspect(s) egged her vehicle while parked in the 100 block of Alton Court in Prince Frederick. The estimated value of damaged property is \$500.00.

Property Destruction: 23-51548

On July 21, 2023, Deputy Tavares responded to the 300 block of Laurel Drive in Lusby, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised at approximately 11 p.m. on July 20, an unknown suspect(s) slashed two tires on two separate vehicles. The estimated value of damaged property is \$375.00.

Theft: 23-51671

On July 21, 2023, responded to the 7-Eleven Convenience Store located at 15 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. Investigation revealed a younger looking black male with a hoodie pulled tight to his face entered the store and grabbed 5 packs of Vuse Vapor cigarette cartridges from behind the counter and left the store without paying for the items. The estimated value of the stolen property was \$199.95.

ARRESTS

On July 22, 2023, DFC Wilder initiated a traffic stop with lights and sirens on a



Darius Trevon Carr

vehicle traveling 72 mph in a 25-mph zone in the area of N. Solomons Island Road and Langley Lane in Solomons. The suspect vehicle, a Chevy Camaro failed to stop and sped through a red light and continued

north on HG Trueman Road. The Camaro continued northbound Rt. 4 at speeds in excess of 110 mph before it turned off onto Southern Connector Blvd. Deputies observed the Camaro turn into the parking of Rausch Funeral Home where it drove over the curb and into a grassy area and spun out. The driver, **Darius Trevon Carr**, 27 of Bowie, was ordered out of the vehicle and placed under arrest. A search of the vehicle revealed a set of 'brass knuckles' on the floorboard. Carr was transported to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office where he was charged with Concealing a Dangerous Weapon, Reckless Driving, Negligent Driving along with other traffic related charges.

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

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

Detectives Seeking Identity of Theft Suspects



The Calvert County Sheriff's Office is investigating a theft that took place at the Fox Run Liquor Store located at 617 Solomons Island Road N. in Prince Frederick, on July 22.

Investigation revealed the suspects pictured below stole a large quantity of liquor from the store.

If you can identify these suspects, or have information that may assist this ongoing criminal investigation please contact Dep. K. Fleenor, of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office at email: kyle.fleenor@calvertcountymd.gov. Please reference case # 23-51898 when providing information.

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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.

Fri, Aug 4

First Fossil Friday!

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

Fossil hunters, bring your fossil finds from the Calvert Cliffs or other local areas from 1 – 4:30 p.m. to be identified! This service is provided for free; however, admission fees apply for access to CMM exhibits.

Wed, Aug 9

Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social

One-Room Schoolhouse
3100 Broomes Island Rd. Port Republic
Free Admission, First Serving of Ice Cream is Free!

Bring a lawn chair and enjoy local, farm fresh ice cream while visiting the original, fully restored Port Republic One-Room Schoolhouse. You'll see where the Calvert County fourth grade students experience a day of history. There will be activities for the children, artifact display, and live music by the Calvert County Dance Band. The

One Room Schoolhouse has accessibility for those who use a wheelchair or walker.

Thu, Aug 10

Sea Squirts: Messy Art

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

Children 18 months to 3 years, accompanied by 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. The cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

Ongoing

Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department Carnival

Calvert County Fairgrounds
140 Calvert Fair Drive
Aug. 1-5
6 p.m.—11 p.m.

Join the Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department for the annual carnival at the Calvert County Fairgrounds.

Clear the Shelter

Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter
5055 Hallowing Point Rd., Prince Frederick
Month of August

The shelter will waive adoption fees for adoptable animals during this campaign, made possible through a collaborative effort between Friends of the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter and the Board of County Commissioners. Regular adoption procedures still apply during the event.

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter is an open admission animal shelter managed by the Animal Shelter Division of the Calvert County Department of Public Safety. Shelter hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To schedule an intake appointment, call 410-535-7387. Animals of all ages are available for adoption, including dogs, cats, rabbits, roosters, pigs and more. For more information about adopting from the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter visit www.CalvertCountyAnimalShelter.com.

Upcoming

68th Anniversary Symposium: The wreck of the *Levin J Marvel*

Calvert Marine Museum,
Sunday, Aug. 13, noon - 4:30 p.m.

Join survivors, *Deadly Gamble* author, and local historians for an anniversary symposium of: The wreck of the *Levin J Marvel* that tragically claimed 14 lives in 1955 on the Chesapeake Bay. Speakers include: Dr. Susan Langley, Maryland State Underwater Archeologist; Diane Donovan Harrison, Calvert County Historical Society; John Ferguson and Maggie Roberts, survivors; Bill Verge, LT., USCGR, (Ret), deckhand; Kathy Bergren Smith, author; Dale Rausch, CAPT., USCGR, (Ret); Marc Cruder, CDR., USCG, (Ret). Artifacts from *Levin J Marvel* will be on display. Admission to the *Levin J Marvel* Symposium is FREE. Regular admission applies for CMM galleries and exhibits. Co-sponsored by the Calvert County Historical Society.

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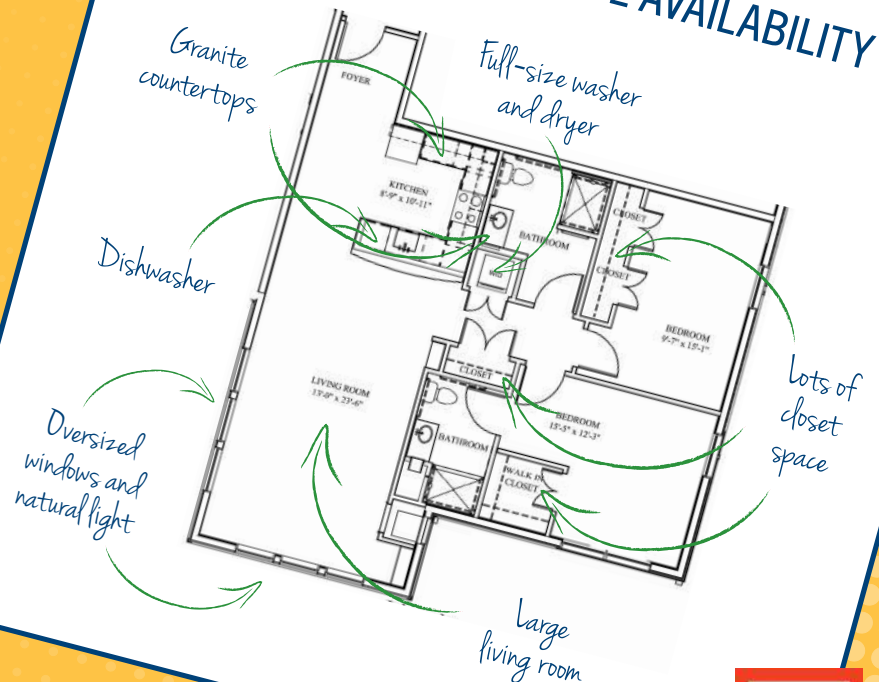
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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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, Aug 3

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

American Legion Post 221
21690 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00pm. E-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301*481*6625 for more information. Tell them you saw the announcement on the SoMD Internet Calendar.

Sat, Aug 5

SOMD Church Cluster Youth Event/ School Supply Drive

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd., Mechanicsville
12 pm to 5 pm

Come join us for a day full of fun! Food, Games, Water Activities, Community

Fellowship and School supply distribution. Swimwear and towel recommended. Children must be present to obtain supplies. Questions contact Tracy Slack at teen.adult.ministry.mtzion@gmail.com or 301-785-3933

National Lighthouse Weekend at Piney Point Lighthouse

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
44720 Lighthouse Rd., Piney Point
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Head to Piney Point for a fun and FREE open house weekend in recognition of National Lighthouse Day, which is celebrated at the museum each year on or near August 7th. Enjoy tours of the museum, Potomac River Maritime Exhibit, lighthouse tower, the Keeper's Quarters, and grounds. Call 301-994-1471 for more information.

growingSTEMS—Combat Robotics Summer Camp

The Hive—A growingSTEMS Center
Commerce Avenue, Hollywood

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

growingSTEMS is happy to offer a Combat Robotics summer camp focused around Termite Class Combat Robots! Competitors in grades 3-7th are able to participate in this 2-day camp. Each camp will run on Saturday and Sunday, 10-3PM each day.

Camp sessions will be available for August 5-6th.

There will be 12 slots per camp and each camp will be limited to 3 of each robot design.

All competitors must pre-register for the event, walk-ins are not accepted. Registration and more information can be found on our website—www.growingstems.org/product/termite-class-combat-robot-summer-camp/

Sun, Aug 6

Vendor Show

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department
24801 Three Notch Rd., Hollywood
10 a.m. to 2 p.m

The show features home-based independent consultants who sell manufactured merchandise for several well-known businesses. The Ladies' Auxiliary members will be selling lunch items. There will also be a bake sale and a 50/50 raffle. Admission is free.

For additional information contact: vendorshow@hvf7.com

Fri, Aug 11

R&B Celebration

Leonardtown Wharf
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Featuring The Rise Band & Show from 5PM-6 PM and Latrice Carr from 6 PM—8 PM. On the Water's Edge at the Leonardtown Wharf (sponsored by Jimmy Hayden of RE-Max 100 and Homes for Heroes). The evening also includes R&B line dance lessons with Renee Stevens. Originally scheduled June 24, 2023.

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In Remembrance

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.

Victor Govier



Victor Govier peacefully passed away on June 29, 2023, with family at his side, under the care of Hospice.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Liz (Yvonne) son, Kevin (Alazne), daughter, Samantha, and four wonderful grandchildren.

Per Victor's wishes, a service will not be held. A celebration of life will be planned for sometime in the near future.

Victor, along with his British sense of humor, will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Hunter Sansbury, 15



Hunter Rex Sansbury, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away unexpectedly on July 16, 2023. He was born on July 2, 2008, in Maryland to parents Scott Sansbury and Megan Colvin.

Hunter recently completed his freshman year at Chopticon High School where he enjoyed playing football and hanging out with friends. He loved spending time with his family, especially his brothers and sisters, playing basketball, listening to music, and keeping up with sports statistics of his favorite teams and players.

Hunter was predeceased by his grandfathers, Gilbert Dale Downey and William Shumaker, and great-grandmother Gladys "Nonnie" Buckler. He is survived by his parents, Scott Sansbury (Amanda), and Megan Colvin (William), his grandparents, Jacqueline and Joseph Holson, Dan and Claudia Sansbury, Susan and Bruce Posey, Sandra Helbert, and Cathy and Joel Richards. He is also survived by his siblings, Cole Sansbury, Landon Gatton, Madden Sansbury, Freya Colvin, and Willow Colvin as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Hunter will remain in our hearts and be greatly missed by all of his family and friends.

The family received friends for visitation on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory. Friends and family wore Chopticon High School or any sports team apparel during the visitation in honor of Hunter.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Mechanicsville Braves Youth Football and Cheer Club Inc. Email contact information: bravesinfo.

MBYFC@gmail.com.

Condolences can be made to the family at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, P.A., Charlotte Hall, MD.

Mary Lou Shorter, 86



Mary Lou Shorter, 86, of Leonardtown, MD passed away peacefully in Washington, D.C. on July 29, 2023 with her loving family by her side.

Born on December 12, 1936 in Leonardtown, MD, she was the loving daughter of the late Maude Cryer Nelson and Richard Nelson. Mary Lou was the loving wife of the late Albert (Rabbi) Shorter. She is survived by her children Louis (Danny) Goode of California, MD, her sisters Dorothy (Dotsy) Nelson and Linda Dean (Randy), step-daughter Kim Hicks (Jack) of Leonardtown, MD, grandchildren Brian Goode (Anne) of Leonardtown, MD, Darrell Goode (Laura) of Drayden, MD, and Stacy Goode of Callaway, MD, as well as step grandchildren Mike Langley of Leonardtown, MD, Amanda Holt (Jeff) of Leonardtown, MD, and Angle Owens of Leonardtown, MD. Along with 13 great grandchildren. Mary Lou was preceded in death by her brothers Joseph (Butch) Nelson and Richard (Dickie) Nelson.

Mary Lou lived life to the fullest and was always on the go. She enjoyed having lunch with her granddaughters. Mary Lou was an avid bingo player and was a very sociable person. She loved talking with friends and family on the phone and in person. Mary Lou loved to cook for her family- cookies, ice cream, and anything else in the house.

Mary Lou was a sweet lady, but she never held back if she had something on her mind; you were going to hear about it.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, August 2, 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 funeral service will be held on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 10:00 AM in St. George Episcopal Church, Valley Lee, MD with Rev. Greg Syler officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Brian Goode, Darrell Goode, Joey Nelson, Timmy Nelson, Buddy Dean and Mike Langley.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Leonardtown Vol. Rescue Squad Leonardtown, MD.

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.

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A View From The BLEACHERS



WASHINGTON'S REDEMPTION

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

His escape had been years in the making, accelerating when hope of a retrial was dashed with the execution of a fellow inmate who could have vouched for his innocence. He used a simple rock hammer to painstakingly tunnel through a concrete wall softened by age and moisture. The main weapon of this grand grasp at freedom and revenge was his tenacious, bold, clever and steadfast mind.

Eventually the pivotal night arrived. The details – including a financial trap for the warden and his corrupt operation - were set. From his cell, he climbed into the tunnel hidden behind a poster and shimmied through the wall and into an opening above a sewage pipe. With a storm raging, he waited for the crack of thunder, nature's diversion, before striking the pipe with a rock. He violently hammered the pipe until it exploded with a blast of human waste, climbed in and crawled hundreds of yards underground – beyond the prison walls and under its exterior fence – until the pipe dumped him into the river. He rose, the river and rain washing him clean, physically and spiritually. His face projected pure salvation.

That was how Andy Dufresne escaped Shawshank Prison, regained his freedom and skipped off to a Mexican beach to live out his days. He was an innocent victim: wrongly convicted of murdering his wife and her lover. This being a movie, “The Shawshank Redemption” told Dufresne’s story and wrapped his happy ending in a bow.

Dan Snyder’s ownership of the Washington football team promised no such redemption for its players, coaches and fans. There was no obvious rock hammer, no great mind to hatch an exit strategy, no weakened infrastructure to exploit and no sewer pipe to crawl through (had there been, supporters of the Burgundy and Gold would have gladly done so). No, Snyder appeared to be the hope-sapping, dream killing burden to bear until his personal expiration date.

Ah, but his absolute depravity intervened. Snyder’s best contribution to our beloved franchise was being so awful, so vindictive, so incompetent and ultimately so dangerous to the fabric of the NFL, that he compelled the league and its band of 31 other owners – a tight fraternity wired for shameless self-protection – to break ranks and nudge him out the door.

Unlike “The Shawshank Redemption” where the warden met a disturbing end, Snyder exits with \$6B for the franchise he worked to destroy for 25 years with on-field incompetence and off-field disgrace. Hard to say if that matters. Snyder’s price for a clear conscience might be \$6B, but I hope not.

Enough about “him”. Josh Harris and a new ownership team is in place. Whatever this regime ultimately achieves, right now it, simply by not being “him”, has granted franchise loyalists redemption. The alumni who built the legacy of this once proud franchise – guys like Art Monk, John Riggins, Darrell Green and Sonny Jurgensen – deserve it. Current players who have had to perform in Snyder’s darkness deserve it. Media who have covered a soap opera more than a football team deserve it. And the fans, whose great memories of this team and of Sundays with friends and family...deserve it perhaps most of all.

There are two more applicable references from “The Shawshank Redemption.” Dufresne had a passion for geology and the fascinating things “pressure and time” have created on our planet. In the end, it was pressure – from sponsors, the media, minority partners, the NFL, fans willing to turn away from what they once loved and the brave women who exposed the moral rot of Snyder’s regime – and time...patience from all the above...that led Snyder to conclude that taking \$6M and disappearing was his best option.

Lastly, Dufresne was a hopeful soul. When speaking of it while incarcerated, “Red”, Dufresne’s best friend in Shawshank Prison, cautioned, “Hope is a dangerous thing. Hope can drive a man insane. It’s got no use on the inside. You better get used to that idea.” Faithful supporters of Washington football, those whose hearts were trapped inside Snyder’s walls, had gotten used to that idea. But we’re on the outside now and it’s okay to hope again.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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Farmers Feeding St. Mary's Events Announced

From local farmers to your plate! The second annual Farmers Feeding St. Mary's program will offer farm fresh produce free to the community.

There will be two food distribution dates/locations for this program:

- Thursday, August 17, 2023
1 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Bay District Volunteer Fire Department
46900 S. Shangri-La Dr,
Lexington Park
- Saturday, September 16, 2023
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
U-Haul Moving & Storage parking lot
46041 Signature Lane,
Lexington Park

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



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

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County, the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services, the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development, Feed St. Mary's, and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are pleased to offer this valuable community event!

For more information, please call (301) 475-4200, ext. 1050, or visit stmaryscountymd.gov.

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| GYMNASTICS | CONTEMPORARY |
| BODY PERCUSSION | MUSICAL THEATER |
| DRUMMING | CARDIO FOR ADULTS |
| JAZZ | |

Ages 2 - Adult

GraciesGandG@aol.com

44150 Airport View Drive
Hollywood, MD 20636

Pet OF THE WEEK

MEET KING



Nothing makes you smile more than looking into the face of someone who loves you!

Hi there, my name is King. My loving Care Center Pals say I'm looking for a castle of my own! I'm a LOW KEY, 2-YEAR-OLD who likes to take things slowly until I get to know you. After that, I'm ready to go! I love to go on WALKS, HIKES, play at the BEACH and more. I would LOVE to be your BEACH BUDDY. I walk well on the leash and I even know some commands. I also seem to like other dogs so if you have another dog at home, we can arrange an audience (meet and greet) for us. Wouldn't you love to come home to my ROYAL SMILE everyday? You know you don't want to miss a king so come visit Monday-Friday 11am-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm. BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! And remember, ALWAYS OPT TO ADOPT, please don't shop!

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





Wharf Fest 2023

Parking Guide & Map



ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

- The Wharf Waterfront Park**
 - Information Booth
 - World's Largest Rubber Duck
 - Live Music
 - Golf Activities
 - 1/2 Hour Cruises
 - Kayaking & Duck Raft Rides
 - Games & Activities
 - Food Vendors
 - Restrooms
- Leonardtwn Square & LTown Alley**
 - Live Music
 - Vendor & Craft Fair*
 - Duck Scavenger Hunt* (Sheets available in Town Hall & Info Booth)
 - Dining & Shopping in Leonardtown Square
 - Restrooms

PARKING LEGEND

- Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School
- Governmental Center*
- Leonardtown Elementary School
- St. Mary's Ryken
- Overflow Lot (Handicap Parking Only)

LANDMARK LEGEND

- 1 Leonardtown Wharf
- 2 Shepherd's Old Field Market
- 3 Leonardtown Vol. Rescue
- 4 Leonardtown Elementary School
- 5 St. Mary's Hospital
- 6 SMECO
- 7 Captain Francis Walter Duke Elementary School
- 8 Garvey Senior Center & Library
- 9 Leonard Hall Recreation Center
- 10 St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office
- 11 College of Southern Maryland
- 12 Town Hall
- 13 St. Mary's Ryken
- Leonardtown Vol. Fire Dept.
- Shuttle & Trolley Stop
- Old Jail Musuem & Visitor Center

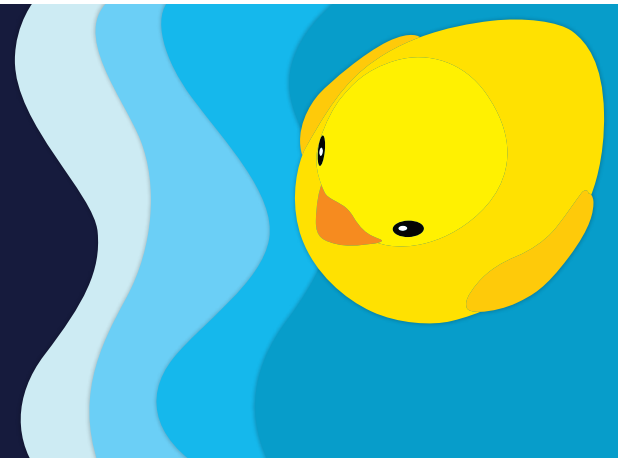


(Map not drawn to scale)

*Only available Saturday & Sunday

WHARF FEST 2023

Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of Leonardtown Waterfront Park
Featuring the World's Largest Rubber Duck



- 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Teen and Adult Open Studio** at Wine & Design facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd
- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center.** facebook.com/theoldjailmuseum
- 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Daily live music** Wharf Fest Weekend at the Wharf and in Leonardtown Square. facebook.com/wharffestweekendmusic
- 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Kid's Games & Activities** at the Wharf 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Waterman Heritage Presentations** by Phil Langly of Fish the Bay Charters at the Wharf facebook.com/fishthebaycharters
- 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Half Hour Cruises at the Wharf** with Phil Langly of Fish the Bay Charters facebook.com/fishthebaycharters
- 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Kayak Rides** with Patuxent Adventure Center at the Wharf from facebook.com/patuxentadventurecenter
- 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Golfing activities** with Above Par Golf at the Wharf facebook.com/AboveParGolfandEntertainment
- 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. "All About the Ducks"** - Community Art Show at St. Mary's Arts Council Gallery & Gift Shop. facebook.com/smcartsCouncil
- 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Kid's Games & Activities** in The Leonardtown Square and LTown Alley. visitleonardtownmd.com/wharffest
- 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Vendor & Craft Fair** in The Leonardtown Square and LTown Alley. visitleonardtownmd.com/wharffest
- 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. "Sizzling Hot Art"** - Member Art Show at the North End Gallery facebook.com/North.End.Gallery.Leonardtown
- 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Live music in the Square** featuring Funkzilla. visitleonardtownmd.com/wharffest
- 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Daily live music** Wharf Fest Weekend at the Wharf. facebook.com/wharffestweekendmusic
- 2 p.m. Live Boxing** presented by the Knowledge Boxing Center at the Rex Theatre. Facebook.com/TheRexTheatre
- 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Art Workshop** "Starfish Family" at Wine & Design. facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd
- 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery** featuring Faith Noel and food provided by Grizzly Mountain Grill. facebook.com/portoftownwine
- 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Live music at the Brudergarten Beer Garden** at Shepherd's Old Field Market featuring Unfinished Business band. facebook.com/brudergarten
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Art Workshop** "Sunflowers on the Beach" at Wine & Design facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

Sunday, August 6

- 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. root SUP & Fitness** offers Hard Core rootCamp facebook.com/rootsupfitness
- 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Make & Take Workshop** at Board and Brush (Kid Friendly) boardandbrush.com/leonardtown
- 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Kids Open Studio (12 and under)** at Wine & Design facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd
- 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Teen and Adult Open Studio** at Wine & Design facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd
- 11 a.m. Free Pool every Sunday** at Action Lounge and Billiards facebook.com/ActionLounge
- 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Kid's Games & Activities** in Leonardtown Square and LTown Alley. visitleonardtownmd.com/wharffest
- 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Vendor & Craft Fair** in The Leonardtown Square and LTown Alley. visitleonardtownmd.com/wharffest
- 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Golfing activities** with Above Par Golf at the Wharf facebook.com/AboveParGolfandEntertainment
- 12 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Live music in the Square** featuring John Lusky. visitleonardtownmd.com/wharffest
- 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Kid's Games & Activities** at the Wharf. visitleonardtownmd.com/wharffest
- 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Daily music** Wharf Fest Weekend at the Wharf. visitleonardtownmd.com/wharffest
- 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Waterman Heritage Presentations** by Phil Langly of Fish the Bay Charters at the Wharf facebook.com/fishthebaycharters
- 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Half Hour Cruises at the Wharf** with Phil Langly of Fish the Bay Charters facebook.com/fishthebaycharters
- 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Kayak Rides** with Patuxent Adventure Center at the wharf from facebook.com/patuxentadventurecenter
- 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Art Workshop** "Sammy the Sloth" at Wine & Design facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd
- 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Family Roller Skating** at Leonard Hall Recreation Center every Sunday during the summer facebook.com/leonardhallrecreationcenter
- 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery** featuring Daniela Bubb and food provided by Aunt Titty's facebook.com/portoftownwine
- 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Art Workshop** "Fireflies at Night" at Wine & Design facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd
- 8 p.m. "One Love" Hydrax Reggae Tribute Show** at the Rex Theatre (21+) Facebook.com/TheRexTheatre

The information included here is accurate at the time of printing, and is subject to change.
Please visit the event page for current information.

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ST. MARY'S
Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

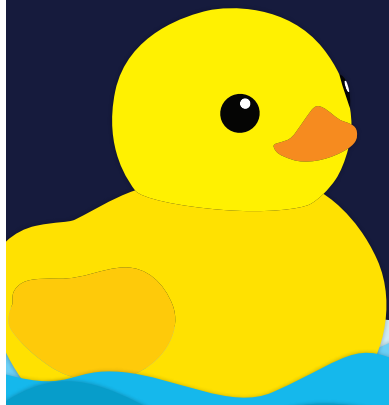
21585 Peabody Street
Leonardtown, MD
301-475-8000
www.smnci.org

- Long-term care
- Rehabilitation services
- Respite care

To schedule a tour or speak to admissions, please call 301-475-8000 ext. 125

Thank You to Our Wonderful Sponsors:





AUGUST 4-6

First
Friday
All Weekend!
Leonardtown

FREE



Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open Houses
Aug. 5 • Sept. 2 • Oct. 7 • 11AM-2PM

Learn more about one of the nation's best-preserved one-room African American schoolhouses and its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County

18287 Cherryfield Road • Drayden, Maryland
Facebook.com/DraydenSchool

Friday, August 4

5:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Variety of fitness classes including Spin Circuit, rootCamp, Flow and aerial yoga are offered by root, SUP & Fitness. facebook.com/rootsupfitness

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. What The Duck Barre at SPICE studio. facebook.com/spicestudio

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Brunch at Antoinette's Garden facebook.com/AntoinettesGarden

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center facebook.com/theoldjailmuseum

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Kid's Games & Activities at the Wharf

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Waterman Heritage Presentations by Phil Langly of Fish the Bay Charters at the Wharf facebook.com/fishthebaycharters

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Half Hour Cruises at the Wharf with Phil Langly of Fish the Bay Charters facebook.com/fishthebaycharters

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Kayak Rides with Patuxent Adventure Center at the Wharf facebook.com/patuxentadventurecenter

11 a.m. - 5 p.m. "Sizzling Hot Art" - Member Art Show at the North End Gallery facebook.com/North.End.Gallery.Leonardtown

11 a.m. - 8 p.m. "All About the Ducks" - Community Art Show at St. Mary's Arts Council Gallery & Gift Shop. facebook.com/smartscouncil

12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Adult Art Club at The Yellow Line Art Studio facebook.com/theyellowline.co

12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Daily live music Wharf Fest Weekend at the Wharf. facebook.com/wharffestweekendmusic

1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Kid's Aerial Class (8-12) at root, SUP & Fitness. facebook.com/rootsupfitness

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Summer Roller Skating at Leonard Hall Recreation Center every Friday during the summer facebook.com/leonardhallrecreationcenter

4 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Duck Themed Storytime and a Craft brought to you by St. Mary's Art's Council & St. Mary's County Library on the lawn in front of St. Mary's Art's Council lawn. facebook.com/firstfridayduckstorytimeandcraft

5 p.m. "The Fowl Ball" - Bay Fibers Studio Opening with live music and art workshop, starting at 5 p.m. facebook.com/bayfibers

5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Audience Participation Drum Circle with Somar Drummers

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. "All About the Ducks" - Opening Reception at St. Mary's Arts Council Gallery & Gift Shop. facebook.com/smartscouncil

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. "Sizzling Hot Art" - Opening Reception at the North End Gallery facebook.com/North.End.Gallery.Leonardtown

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Live music in the Square featuring Dave Norris. Visitleonardtownmd.com/leonardtownmusicfest

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Kid's Games & Activities in LTown Alley

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Tape a Friend, Make a Friend art project in LTown Alley.

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. Glow Duck SCC - Class & a Glass at SPICE Studio facebook.com/spicestudio

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Synergy Acoustic Trio and food provided by Slim Chickens facebook.com/portoftownwine

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Mad Splatter Shack paint experience activity in Leonardtown Square facebook.com/madsplattershack

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Pick Your Project Workshop (16+) at Board & Brush boardandbrush.com/leonardtown

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Kids Open Studio (12 and under) at Wine & Design facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Teen and Adult Open Studio at Wine & Design from facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. "Welcome Aboard" - Art Workshop at The Yellow Line Art Studio facebook.com/theyellowline.co



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FROM LOCAL
VINES




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Live music every weekend!
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Open 7 days a week Noon - 6 pm • 23790 Newtowne Neck Road

PARKING SHUTTLES/TROLLEY

Friday 8/4: 9:30 AM-6:30 PM
Saturday 8/5: 9:30 AM-6:30 PM
Sunday 8/6: 11:30 AM-4:30 PM

Shuttle buses & trollies will be transporting visitors from the parking lots down to the wharf. Parking in town is extremely and we highly recommend taking the shuttle/trolley.

PARKING SHUTTLES

RIDE THE
LEONARDTOWN TROLLEY

LEONARDTOWN TROLLEY
Friday 8/4: 5 PM-10 PM
Saturday 8/5: 2 PM-10 PM
Sunday 8/6: 11 AM-5 PM

TRACK THE TROLLEY



The Leonardtown Trolley will be running its normal schedule and route throughout the neighborhoods and the tracker will be active.

Saturday, August 5

7:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Choose from a variety of fitness classes with SPICE Studio, including strength classes, yoga, and Barre at SPICE Studio. facebook.com/spicestudio

9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Zumba Fitness Around Town under the pavilion at Port of Leonardtown Park. facebook.com/zumbafitnessaroundtown

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Make & Take Workshop at Board and Brush (Kid Friendly) from boardandbrush.com/leonardtown

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Kids Open Studio (12 and under) at Wine & Design facebook.com/wndstmaryscountymd

Do you want to advertise on this page?

Contact Jen Stotler: 301-247-7611 or jen@countytimes.net



Wharf Fest 2023

LEONARDTOWN WHARF WATERFRONT PARK
15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



- The World's Largest Rubber Duck
- Live Music , Games & Activities, Duck Scavenger Hunt
- Kayak Rides / Rubber Duck Rafts
- Cruises & Waterman Heritage Presentations
with Captain Phil
- Art Exhibits, and Vendor & Craft Fair
- Free Shuttle/Trolley Rides
- Food, Drink and More!

WHEN

FIRST FRIDAY WEEKEND
AUG 4 & 5, 2023/ 10 AM - 6 PM
AUG 6, 2023 / 12 PM - 4 PM

WHERE

Leonardtown Wharf
LTown Alley
Leonardtown Square
*With additional events & activities at local
area businesses (various times & locations)*

For More Info: Visit LeonardtownMD.com/WharfFest



NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Patuxent River Navy Flying Club Offers Gateway to Aviation Exploration, Education

Within the fence line of Naval Air Station Patuxent River, the Patuxent River Navy Flying Club (PRNFC) is a beacon of recreational and educational flying. The PRNFC provides an exclusive chance for active duty, reserve, and retired military personnel, Civil Air Patrol members, government employees, DoD contractors, and their immediate families to explore the exciting world of aviation.

The club's doors are open to a variety of people, and is dedicated to providing cost-effective, safe, and enjoyable experiences for its members, whether improving their piloting abilities, exploring aircraft engineering, or developing a passion for general aviation.

"We celebrated 59 years this year," said Amanda McHugh, PRNFC Club Manager. "We were established back in 1964 and are one of only three Navy flying clubs still in operation."

The PRNFC is a place to meet people interested in flying who are looking for both recreational and educational possibilities. The club's primary goal is to give eligible patrons an understanding of general aviation but also assists naval aviators in maintaining their pilot skills when assigned to non-flying billets.

PRNFC promotes a culture of cooper-

ation and a common appreciation for aviation by welcoming a broad membership; by offering eligibility to fly with the club to so many, PRNFC opens the skies to a wide variety of would-be pilots. This open-minded attitude makes sure that a range of people can take part in the club's activities and gain from the range of aviation expertise its instructors provide. Membership fees vary by rank, with E-6 or above being \$33 monthly, and E-5 or below being \$15 monthly. The club also offers a family plan, which is \$39 monthly.

"We are able to keep costs down because our instructors offer their services at very reasonable rates and our aircraft are supported by current and former Navy maintainers who practically volunteer their services," said McHugh. "We are able to capitalize on this generosity and offer an exceptional product."

For those who want to gauge their interest in joining PRNFC, regular meetings are held with members who can answer their questions. The meetings are held at the PRNFC Clubhouse at Building 336, 22340 Cedar Point Road the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. PRNFC additionally provides

attendance through Zoom Meetings in the event that in-person presence is not possible. Aspiring members are encouraged to visit the club's Facebook page at www.prnfc.org, which has intriguing stories as well as a place where they can interact with current members and post comments.

"We also meet socially once a month to discuss club business and present a safety briefing, usually about a relevant aviation topic; a service not offered with our competition," added McHugh.

Additionally, e-mailing the club allows for arranging appointments and requesting additional details about joining.

"I would like pilots who fly at Pax, those on non-flying billets or whom have retired and are still in the area to become a part of the club," said McHugh about what she would like the public to know about PRNFC. "We are always looking for experienced people to help our club grow and add to our experience base. We also want to spread the word to anyone looking to learn. A career as a pilot is very exciting; no two days are alike. And with the current pilot shortage it is a lucrative choice as well. Even if you just want to learn for fun, it's a great hobby."

Aviation enthusiasts, both licensed pilots, and students seeking their wings, have a variety of possibilities available to them through PRNFC. The club provides members with flight activities without experiencing significant economic challenges by making light aircraft operations available at a lower cost. Additionally, PRNFC offers reservations for instructors, allowing members to get personalized flying training in line with their goals and skill level. Members may improve their understanding of aviation, develop their flying abilities, and become more passionate aviation fans by taking advantage of the resources and experience made accessible by PRNFC.

"We are able to offer all the standard flight training, from recurrence flights for experienced pilots, to introductory training for someone looking to learn from the ground up," explained McHugh. "We also offer a ground school class in-person every Fall. For those who like to learn in a collaborative classroom setting, this beats the impersonal computer-based training hands down."

For more information, visit www.prnfc.org/ or email McHugh at amandahayden@hotmail.com.

Farmers Feeding St. Mary's



The second annual Farmers Feeding St. Mary's County Program will offer free, farm fresh produce at two community events in 2023!

Thursday, August 17

**Bay District Volunteer Fire Department
46900 S. Shangri-La Dr, Lexington Park, MD**

1-7 p.m.

While Supplies Last

Saturday, September 16

**U-Haul Parking Lot
46041 Signature Lane, Lexington Park, MD**

9 a.m.-1 p.m.

While Supplies Last

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County, the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services, the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development, Feed St. Mary's, and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are pleased to offer these valuable community events!

For more information, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1050, or visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION



Chill Deals



4 To 6-Oz., Selected Yoplait Yogurt

10/\$6



12-Oz. Kraft American Cheese Singles

2/\$7



64-Oz., Selected Turkey Hill Tea Or Lemonade

2/\$4



16-Oz., Quarters Imperial Spread

2/\$3



46-Oz., Selected Turkey Hill Ice Cream

2/\$5



Buffalo Chicken, Pepperoni, Margherita, Sausage & Pepperoni, BBQ Chicken Flatbread Pizza

6.98 Ea.



Sliced to Order! Kretschmar Genoa or Hard Salami

7.98 Lb.

Bakery & Deli Fresh



12-Oz., Chicken Salad Or Selected Palmetto Pimento Cheese Spread

5.98



Deli Fresh Kretschmar Swiss Cheese

8.48 Lb.



7.2-Oz., Selected Snack Factory Pretzel Crisps

2/\$7



16-Oz. Butter Or Cinnamon Keto Pound Cake

7.98



9.3-Oz. Sour Cream Or Nutty Crumb Bakery Fresh Dunkers

3.98



9-Ct., Selected Flavored Mini Donuts

4.98

Liquor and Beer



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

16.99



10-Oz. Cans 12-Pack Coors

9.99



10-Oz. Cans 24-Pack Bud Light

19.89



12-Oz. Cans 12-Pack White Claw Or Bang Mixx

15.99

1.75L Crown Royal

42.99



1.75L Tito's Vodka

30.49



750ML Hendrick's Gin

30.99



750-ml Jack Daniel's Whiskey

21.99



750ML Marc Cellars Wine

9.99



750 ml Seaglass Wine

10.99

Wine of the Month

750-ml., Chardonnay or Chateau St. Michelle White Wines

7.99



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73% Lean Fresh Ground Beef Patties
3.98 Lb.
73% Lean Family Pack Fresh Ground Beef 3.48Lb.

Certified Angus Beef T-Bone Steaks
12.98 Lb.

USDA Inspected, Bone-In Country Style Pork Ribs
2.48 Lb.

11 To 12-Oz., Selected Nathan's Beef Franks
3.98

12-Oz., Selected Smithfield Sliced Bacon
2.98

24-Oz., Selected John Soules Breaded Chicken
8.98

FARM to TABLE

In The Husk White Corn Ears
5/\$2

3-Lb. Bag, Zesty Medium Yellow Onions
2.98

NC Grown Orange Flesh Sweet Potatoes
.78 Lb.

Great Healthy Snack Northwest Fresh Bing Cherries
2.98 Lb.

Fresh & Ripe Red Plums
2.68 Lb.

30-Oz., Selected Kraft Real Mayo
4.48

4.6-Oz., Selected Armour Vienna Sausages
5/\$5

24-Oz. Hunt's Manwich Sauce
2.68

14 To 16-Oz., Selected Kraft Salad Dressing
2/\$6

48-Oz., 4-Ct. Glass Bottles, Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Drinks
3.78

30-Oz., Selected Miracle Whip
5.98

5.5 To 7.25-Oz., Selected Kraft Macaroni & Cheese
2/\$3

6 To 10.75-Oz., Selected Doritos Snacks
2/\$7

7.5 To 8.25-Oz., Selected Sun Chips
2/\$6

7.8 To 13.7-Oz., Selected Kellogg's Cereals
2/\$6

WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

PRICES GOOD FROM August 2 THRU August 8, 2023

WE ACCEPT:

STORE HOURS:
Monday - Saturday 7am to 9 pm
SUNDAY 8 am to 7 pm

ST. MARY'S SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

Five Arrested for Burglary



Marcus Jamal Price



Jordan Dayvon Rice

On July 24, 2023, at 0012 hours, units responded to the Cloud Smoke Shop located at 22811 Three Notch Road for an alarm. Upon arrival, evidence of forced entry was realized. After making contact with employees, approximately \$2000 worth of merchandise was found to be stolen.

Shortly after units arrived at the business, a citizen contacted the St. Mary's County Emergency Communications Center providing suspect information and their location. They also indicated one of the identified suspects may be armed.

Units arrived at the provided address and with assistance of the citizen, developed evidence the named suspects were involved with the burglary at the Cloud Smoke Shop.

A perimeter was established and (6) individuals emerged from the residence. The potentially armed roommate was unac-

counted for, and a barricade was declared. The St. Mary's County Hostage Negotiations Team, Emergency Services Team, and Criminal Investigations Division responded and continued the investigation.

After several hours of attempting contact at the residence, a Search Warrant was authored for the residence and executed by the Emergency Services Team.

During the execution of the Search Warrant, (1) juvenile subject was located within the residence along with numerous items known to be stolen from Cloud Smoke Shop were recovered.

As a result of multiple interviews and the continued investigation, Marcus Jamal Price (Age 21) of California, Jordan Dayvon Rice (Age 21) of Huntingtown, and (3) juveniles were charged with Burglary and related offenses.

Identity Needed For Assault Suspects

On June 27, 2023, at approximately 12:40 AM, Deputies responded to the ABC Liquor and Lounge in California, MD for a reported active fight.

While there were several subjects involved, most have been identified. We are still seeking the identity of the two subjects pictured.

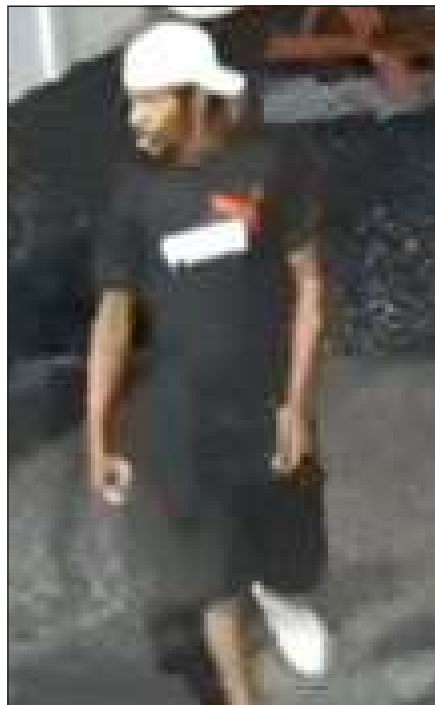
Anyone with information about the identity of the suspects and or this incident is asked to contact Deputy R. Allebach #392 at Raymond.Allebach@stmaryscountymd.gov or call 301-475-4200 ext. 8110. Case #34051-23

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

Type "Tip239" in the message block and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

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

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



Legal Notices

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

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

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

v.

Linda Simon
3354 Wescott Drive
Palm Harbor, Florida 34684

Susan Buick
2624 26th Avenue
San Francisco, California 94116

Leslie Burkhalter
106 Sandgate Court
Millersville, Maryland 21108

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

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

Defendants

NOTICE

Jack Raleigh has filed a petition/complaint/motion entitled: Verified Complaint to Quiet Title and for Adverse Possession in which Jack Raleigh is seeking a final decree that Jack Raleigh has absolute ownership and indefeasible title and right of disposition to real property known as 30 Acres N S Curley's Road.

Notice is hereby issued by the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County that the relief sought in the aforementioned Verified Complaint to Quiet Title and for Adverse Possession may be granted unless cause be shown contrary. All Persons Unknown are to file a response to the Verified Complaint to Quiet Title and for Adverse Possession on or before September 10, 2023.

Failure to file the response within the time allowed may result in a judgement by default or the granting of the relief sought.

This Notice shall be published in some newspaper published in this county at least once a week in each of three successive weeks on or before August 10, 2023.

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

Smith Island CRUISES

**DEPARTING FROM POINT LOOKOUT MARINA
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Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week is August 13 to 19

Comptroller Brooke Lierman has announced that Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week will return Sunday, August 13, to Saturday, August 19, with significant savings for consumers, especially parents doing back-to-school shopping, and a much-needed sales boost for retailers.

“Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week is an important opportunity for Marylanders, particularly families, to save some money while doing their back-to-school shopping,” Comptroller Lierman said. “The cost of new clothes and backpacks for families of any size can add up quickly.”

She added that “In addition to saving money by shopping from August 13 to 19, Marylanders can also support our local economy by shopping at a local store. We’re excited to partner with the Maryland Retailers Association and its membership to spread the word about the benefits of shopping at local retailers and receiving those sales tax savings.”

During the week, any single qualifying article of clothing or footwear priced \$100 or less – regardless of how many items are purchased in the same transaction – will be exempt from the state’s six percent sales tax. The first \$40 of any backpack purchase is also tax free. Although commonly associated

with back-to-school shopping, Comptroller Lierman reminds Marylanders that the tax-free savings apply to shoppers of all ages.

Throughout the week, the Maryland Retailers Association (MRA) will help the Comptroller in promoting the annual week of tax-free shopping on qualifying items.

“Small businesses make up the backbone of our communities, providing neighborhood stabilization, tax revenue for the things we care about, and philanthropy for local organizations,” said Cailey Locklair, President of the Maryland Retailers Association. “Marylanders can save money and support their community during Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week by checking out their nearest retailers and shopping locally.”

For more information about Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week, visit the Comptroller’s website at www.maryland-taxes.gov for a list of tax-exempt items, frequently asked questions, and valuable facts for shoppers and merchants.

The Comptroller’s social media pages will promote the special savings week, showcasing local retailers and encouraging shoppers to take advantage of the promotion. Retailers can visit our Shop Tax Free Maryland website to download and share our social media toolkit.

Dennis Point Marina Has New Owners

CrossCore Investment Group, a boutique real estate investment and management firm based in Washington, D.C., led a partnership that has purchased Dennis Point Marina and Campground in St. Mary’s County for an undisclosed price.

The property, located in Drayden on Cartheagena Creek, is CrossCore’s first investment in a leisure property, adding to interests in the multi-family, office, retail and hospitality sectors it’s been active in since the firm’s formation in 2004, according to a press release.

Andrew Cantor, Dan Grovatt and Matt Putnam, of Colliers’ Leisure Property Advisors group, represented the seller, Dennis Point Partners.

“Over the last several years, we’ve seen more investors add marinas and campgrounds to their commercial real estate portfolios,” said Cantor, senior vice president of Colliers. “Marinas have continued to perform better than other product types and have been less impacted by rising interest rates. Dennis Point provides a great entry into the market for this buyer, with a stable cash flow and a straightforward operation.”

Dennis Point is located just off the mouth of the St. Mary’s River, minutes from the Potomac River, and boasts nearly 3,200 feet of shoreline. The 49-acre property has 81 deep-water slips and a waterfront campground with 121 RV, travel-trailer and tent sites.



Amenities include a pool, golf cart and kayak rentals, ship’s store, cabin and housing accommodations and a seafood restaurant — Capt Pat’s @ Dennis Point. There is also a working boatyard that has the largest travel boat lift on the Potomac River.

“We’re excited to complete the acquisition of this special property and are honored to have the opportunity to oversee its next phase in the rapidly growing boating & RVing space,” said Greg Carney, managing partner of CrossCore. “The team is fully committed to making it the Chesapeake Bay’s premier crossover RV park and marina resort by delivering hospitality-anchored outdoor recreation opportunities in an exceptional waterfront setting. We’re grateful to the seller for the efforts extended during its many years of ownership and especially for the cooperation provided throughout a lengthy and complicated transaction.”

Press release from CrossCore and Colliers’ Leisure Property Advisors

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Second Person Charged in Transgender Murder

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Police have arrested and charged a Charles County woman with first-degree murder and being an accessory after the fact of a murder in the first and second degree stemming from the killing of a transgender person in Mechanicsville back in March.

Erin Nicolle Battle, 29, of Waldorf was arrested on a warrant July 10 and remains incarcerated at the county detention center in Leonardtown.

The murder occurred in the area of a local bar on Route 5 on March 24.

Four days later local CID investigators and police in Washington, D.C. arrested Darryl Parks, Jr. 29, also of The District and charged him with the murder of Isaiah Alexander Woodland, 18, of Lexington Park.

Woodland identified as a woman and went by the name Tasiya.

Parks is alleged to have waited outside the Mechanicsville bar in a vehicle with a woman — identified as Battle, his longtime girlfriend — and fired two shots into the chest of the victim after the victim exited the establishment.

According to charging documents filed against Parks in county District Court, he had been involved in an altercation with



Erin Nicolle Battle

Woodland at the same establishment in February.

Witnesses to the shooting say they heard Battle, who was sitting in the passenger seat of the car in which Parks was the alleged driver, say either “shoot him” or “do it” and then saw the male driver fire at the victim through the passenger side window, charging documents stated.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

County Looks to Deal with Panhandling

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county’s busiest intersection for traffic is Route 235 and St. Andrews Church Road but it also among the busiest in the county for one of the oldest trades known to mankind: panhandling, also known as begging.

Seeing persons in the median strips surrounding the intersection, and other intersections in St. Mary’s County, has become a common site and the county is experimenting with a way to potentially curb the practice.

County government has erected signs at busy intersections encouraging citizens to ensure that they are giving to a worthy cause by providing an on-line link to the many non-profits the county supports, which in turn provide services to the county that it would otherwise have to pay for with taxpayer dollars.

Some of these non-profits help the homeless, provide substance abuse and mental health treatment for the needy, as well as help provide food to the hungry.

“If you’ve been in the county the past few years you’ve seen it increasing along Route 235,” said Commissioner Eric Colvin of the pan handling issue. “We’ve had numerous people reach out to us [the county commissioners] as a whole and

individually about this.”

Some people, Colvin said, are concerned about whether those pan handling are in legitimate need, while other motorists are concerned about their own safety while being in proximity to those begging.

“Most of the people who have reached out are concerned about the safety of the individuals because they are dangerous intersections,” Colvin said. “Route 235 is one of the main corridors where the majority of the accidents happen.”

People have asked whether the county can outlaw panhandling, Colvin said, and the answer is a resounding “no” as panhandling is considered free speech and protected by the U.S. Constitution.

The new signs, Colvin said, state that it is entirely acceptable to deny the requests of panhandlers and that drivers should consider “giving to many, not just one.”

The signs also have phone numbers on them that panhandlers can call to help provide them food, housing and employment, Colvin said.

The signs are restricted to FDR Boulevard, he said, a county-maintained road, since the county is prohibited by the state from putting such signs at intersections with state roads, such as Route 235.

“We’ve asked but the state will not allow us to put up the sign,” Colvin said.





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SMECO Warns Customers About Scams

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) was recently contacted by customer-members who received phone calls from scammers targeting the Southern Maryland area. Scammers may identify themselves as SMECO employees and demand payment with prepaid debit cards or bitcoin in order to avoid having electric service cut off.

According to Tom Dennison, vice president of government and public affairs at SMECO, "Scammers often target businesses because they have higher monthly bills and they may have more than one person authorized to pay bills, making it easier to exploit the lack of communication between employees and business owners. But residential customer-members are at risk as well."

To cause further confusion, scammers can make the name of the utility appear on a customer's caller ID, and they have improved their ability to trick people by duplicating voice recordings and imitating utility phone systems.

Dennison said, "If customers receive a phone call from someone threatening to disconnect their power, they may hang up. If they want to verify account information, they can call SMECO directly. Our contact center is available at 1-888-440-3311, and it's printed on every customer bill." The following describes SMECO's routine for collecting payments from customers.

- SMECO will mail a termination notice if a bill is past due.



- SMECO calls customers who owe a past due balance using an automated phone system with a recorded message; rarely will SMECO employees make personal "collection" phone calls.
- Collection calls are made about 10 days before service is to be terminated. SMECO does not require payment at the time of the call.
- Unknown callers who give short deadlines and threaten to cut off service within an hour or two are probably running a scam.
- SMECO does not make collection calls or terminate service on weekends or holidays.
- If service is going to be terminated, a SMECO collector will knock on the

customer's door before turning off service.

- SMECO collectors will accept credit card payments, checks, or money orders, but they do not accept cash.

SMECO has issued alerts when customers have notified the cooperative that these scams are taking place. "Not only are scams a nuisance, but these crooks can steal thousands of dollars from unsuspecting residents and businesses," said Dennison. "We want to help prevent this type of crime by educating our customers whenever we hear about people being tricked out of their hard-earned money."

For customers who believe they have received a fraudulent email or phone call, some basic guidelines follow.

- Customers should use the phone number printed on their monthly bill and only give payment information over the phone if they initiate the contact.
- Customers should not provide personal information, banking information, user names, passwords, or account information to unauthorized callers or in an email.
- Customers should not provide Green Dot, Western Union, or Moneygram payments to unauthorized callers.
- Customers should never meet unauthorized callers at a local store or bank to make a payment—their personal safety could be at risk.

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St. Mary's Animal Adoption Center Nearly Full

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Animal Adoption and Resource Center in California has nearly reached its limit for space available for cats, dogs and other potential pets.

The county is reaching out to residents to open their hearts and their homes and adopt a pet from the new shelter that has not been operating for even a full year.

"We knew there was a demand for this kind of facility," said Tina James, shelter operations supervisor. "We're currently nearing capacity, it's a fluid situation."

"We're not overwhelmed but we're getting there."

Since the county moved away from sending animals to the now defunct Tri-County Animal Shelter in Hughesville it has now focused its animal control and rescue efforts on its California facility.

By putting the adoption and resource center in such a central location, James said, it has become much easier for county residents to go through with an animal adoption.

Conversely, it has been that much easier for residents to surrender animals that are not well suited for their particular home or who require more care than they can provide effectively, James said.

"We get a lot of people who get older or who just can't keep up with caring for their animal," she said.

Sometimes animal control officers have to capture loose or stray animals to take back to the shelter, other times they have to take animals into care from owners.

"Sometimes they just aren't being cared for in a way that meets basic humane standards," James said.

Humane care for animals is a simple formula at its most basic level, she said, and



includes adequate shelter, food and water and adequate veterinary care as needed.

"Some people adopt animals and to them they are like their children, they are part of the family," James said. "For others, they are just an animal in their care."

"And both are acceptable."

The state-of-the-art facility on FDR Boulevard was designed to provide modern, clean, safe and climate-controlled space for pets and other animals that needed a temporary safe space before moving on to their new homes.

The staff there work diligently, James said, to ensure that pets are getting the right family and vice-versa.

"We have a very low return rate," she said of their adoption successes. "We work with families to match them up with the right pet for their home."

"If they don't match up well that's not good for the animals, it's not good for the

people and it's not good for the shelter."

When a person chooses to adopt an animal from the shelter, whether dog or cat or some other pet, they getting an animal that has been well cared for while waiting for their forever home.

"All the animals here are fully vetted," James said of their medical status. "Each animal has up to about \$750 each of veterinary medical care."

"When they leave here, they are already altered and they are all up to date on their shots, are fully vaccinated and microchipped."

Each adopted animal also has been fully medicated against fleas and ticks, which on its own can be a tremendous expense in caring for a pet.

Currently there are 36 dogs and 60 cats awaiting someone to come and provide them a safe home, James said, while the shelter also has available for adoption a parakeet, a

rabbit, several guinea pigs and a rat, which, James said, "make great pets and can be litter trained."

"They are very smart, very sociable," she said.

Getting these pets adopted is critical to the shelter's ability to continue to help other animals in the wider community in need.

"It limits our ability to help other animals," James said. "We can't take in that next animal that needs help."

"We can't save that animal once we're at capacity."

No matter how much staff and the many partner volunteers there want to help, they could only do so much.

"You cannot build a shelter big enough to take care of every animal in need," James said.

Adoption fees for cats are \$40, while the fee is \$75 for dogs, she said.

"For dogs, you're paying 10 percent of the cost of what it would normally cost for that dog," James explained.

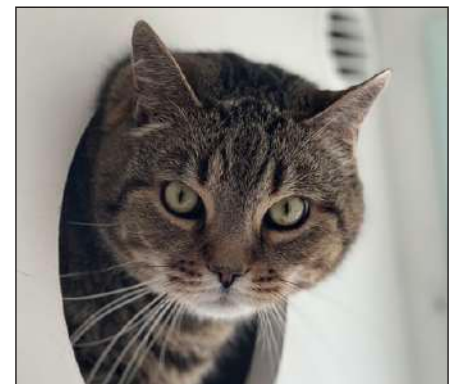
She said that some potential adoptive families get discouraged from taking in an animal when they see them in the shelter because they might not behave just as they would prefer to see them at home.

"For dogs that means they can be hyperactive but that's just because they are living in a shelter," James said. "It's stressful there and it's not an ideal environment."

Cats in a shelter may be more withdrawn and might not show that level of sweet affection of a relaxed house cat either, she said.

"But just give them a little grace and patience," James said. "Your next best friend could be waiting right here for you."

guyleonard@countytimes.net



Some of the adoptable animals currently available at the shelter. From left to right are Clyde, Nibs, Pansy, and Mika.

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County Times

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County Pursues Child Care for Employees

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county government is continuing its plans to provide child care for its employees but the Commissioners of St. Mary's County were met with some possible roadblocks to making that benefit available sooner rather than later.

The chiefs of the parks and recreation department and the public works department both briefed commissioners on plans to purchase a modular structure that could be made to look like a more permanent structure with a permanent foundation so as to not run afoul of zoning regulations with the Town of Leonardtown.

"We're looking at use and possession by May of 2025," said public works chief Jim Gotsch. "We're still trying to make that even faster."

Commissioner Eric Colvin seemed surprised by the slower-than-anticipated timeline for acquiring the facility and making it operational.

"Your monthly reports... said it was going to be by the summer of next year," Colvin said.

Gotsch said that working through the town's planning and zoning process as well as supply chain issues resulted in the new, slower timeline for the project.

"We still have not started procurement

for a modular structure yet," Gotsch said, noting he would continue to try to find ways to shorten the schedule.

The county is pursuing a child care facility for its employees as a way to recruit and retain talent for longer periods of time.

The county, like many other business entities, has many vacancies it needs to fill and providing child care is believed to be a way to ease burdens on county employees.

Under the new program, employees would not receive it as a free service, rather they would pay into it and the county would run the program much like one of its enterprise funds, such as the Wicomico Shores Golf Course, which is designed to pay for itself through user fees.

The building is proposed to be placed between the Chesapeake Building and the Leonard Hall Recreation Center on the county government campus in Leonardtown.

The capacity would be 73 children ranging in ages from infants to 4-year-olds in a space of 3,250 square feet, according to the county's proposal; 2,820 square feet of that



space would be set aside for classrooms.

The state's requirements for the facility beyond licensing, programming and staffing are extensive and must include a kitchen, multipurpose room, lobby, office space, restrooms, storage spaces as well as a playground with age-appropriate areas and security.

The county estimates yearly operating expenses to be a little over \$898,000, with the facility's construction costs to reach about \$1.9 million.

The project would also increase the county employee rolls as it would need qualified staff as well as a director with full-time benefits, according to county project proposals.

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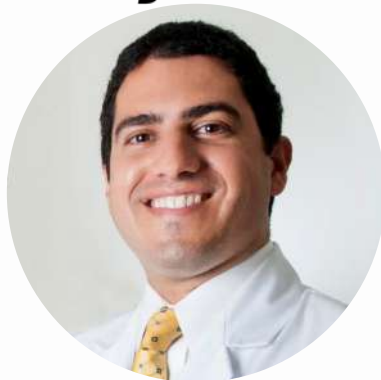
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Community Gardens Coming to Lexington Park



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Lexington Manor Passive Park on Three Notch Road will soon become the home of community gardens to benefit the greater Lexington Park neighborhood after the Commissioners of St. Mary's County agreed to a partnership this week between the Community Development Corporation and its own recreation and parks department.

"These community gardens have been a long time coming," said Arthur Shepherd, director of the Department of Recreation and Parks. "It's been part of the Master Plan that was approved in 2019."

The community garden program would be housed, Shepherd said, on land directly across from Three Notch Theatre on South Coral Drive.

What drives the initiative for the community gardens, Shepherd said, was the St. Mary's Healthy Partnership program promulgated by the health department to create opportunities for both greater physical activity and healthy foods.

The recreation and parks department will provide the land while the Community Development Corporation (CDC) will manage it, Shepherd said.

Other stakeholders in the program are the Lexington Park Rotary Club, Sierra Club, Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary's College, the county health and economic development departments, the Minority Outreach Coalition and other private citizens, county project documents show.

The community garden space will be open for rental of parcels, project documents state, with the fees being collected by the CDC.

Upon collection, the CDC will remit 15 percent of those fees to the recreation and parks department for deposit in the Recreation Enterprise Fund.

Construction of the garden, which would be fenced and locked when not in use, is slated to begin this summer.

Despite it being legal in Maryland now, cannabis plants would not be permitted in the community garden for cultivation.

Under Maryland law, growing of cannabis for legal sale is strictly controlled and restricted to licensed growers only

"That is definitely a regulation that would be taken very seriously," said CDC Director Taylor Smith.

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National Night Out Nets Community Take on Public Safety



Photos by Ceandra Scott

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Fostering community relations between residents and law enforcement is what National Night Out is for; and that also means gathering community concerns about crime in their neighborhoods.

“There are a lot of concerns about drugs and violent crime,” Sheriff Steve Hall said of community feedback to his deputies spread throughout the county on the evening of Aug. 1. “And always a hot topic is traffic.”

Hall said curbing traffic crashes, many of them injurious or fatal, on county roads, is one of his top priorities.

“We heard a lot of support for speed cameras,” Hall said looking back on National Night Out. “I hope to have those in place very soon.”

Hall said he and his staff are working to bring mobile speed cameras to six school sites around the county by the end of the year.

“They work and we need them,” Hall said of speed cameras. “I expect them to come very soon. I want to get that done before the

end of my first year [in office.]”

Hall said the turnout for National Night Out was greater this year than the agency had anticipated.

Initially, the sheriff’s office expected 27 communities to take part.

“It was incredible,” Hall said. “We ended up with 29 neighborhoods and about 2,000 people participating.

“It’s gratifying to see all the people coming together and cooperating to make this happen; it’s one of the best [National Nights Out] I can remember.”

Ensuring that deputies always had a good relationship with the community — which was the first line of defense in solving and preventing crimes — was key to agency success, Hall said.

“I want them to feel comfortable with talking to our deputies, knowing their faces and being able to come to them,” Hall said. “That’s what National Night Out is all about.”

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LOCAL 9
Commissioners find way to deal with panhandling



LOCAL 9
Second arrest made in transgender murder

ON THE COVER
Citizens, cops join for National Night Out

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MON, AUG 7 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 90° Lo: 72°	TUE, AUG 8 Isolated Storms Hi: 86° Lo: 66°	WED, AUG 9 Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 67°	THU, AUG 10 Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 69°



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